

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) STUDENTS' FEELINGS IN FACING OBSTACLE WHEN LEARNING ENGLISH IN NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY: ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STUDENTS' VOICES



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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Education in English Education



ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI
K.H ABDURRAHMAN WAHID PEKALONGAN
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Demikian nota pembimbing ini dibuat untuk digunakan sebagaimana mestinya. Atas perhatian bapak/Ibu, saya sampaikan terima kasih.

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MOTTO

"ada api ada asap, matikan apinya untuk menghilangkan asapnya"

~ Author ~



ABSTRACT

English has emerged as an important global language, playing a vital role in fostering cross-cultural communication and international business. For students, developing English speaking skills is considered beneficial for both current academic achievement and future career opportunities. However, studying English in non-English speaking countries presents unique challenges for English as Foreign Language (EFL) students, especially for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) students. Therefore, this study aims to investigate their challenges and feelings when learning English in a non-English speaking country. In this study, there were four participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Phillipine, and Indonesia. Through a case study, and data collection techniques of semi-structured interview and documentation: Diary, researcher found that ASEAN students experience insecurity. The cause of this feeling is the language barrier that exists in the learning process. On the other hand, positive feelings are also felt by the participants due to the environmental and social support they receive in the learning process. In Addition, motivation issue to learn is also a significant factor. In conclusion, This study shows that ASEAN students who study English in non-English speaking countries feel mixed feelings where feelings of insecurity are more dominant. These feelings are caused by language barrier factors between lecturers and students. However, the social environment helps them in the learning process. Therefore researcher suggest to take a proper preparations for both the future international students or the university.

Keyword: English, Asean student, Student's feelings.

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of the Study

Language is a communication system that uses symbols, signs, writing and speech to express ideas and thoughts. This is acquired through interaction with the environment, allowing individuals to build cognitive structures. Language consists of three main components, namely semantics, syntax, and phonology (Moser, 1989). Language involves combining speech sounds into words and words into sentences to convey mental and emotional concepts (Daniel, 2013). Although primitive tool use may have existed before language, sophisticated tools and human cooperation depend on linguistic abilities (Kreuzbauer, 2020). Ultimately, language is an extraordinary tool that makes human culture possible and differentiates us from other species, so language is important for education. communication. societal development and (Kreuzbauer, 2020).

English has emerged as an important global language, playing a vital role in fostering cross-cultural communication and international business. The importance of English covers various fields, including science, technology, diplomacy, and education (Atasheva, 2024). For students, developing English speaking skills is considered beneficial for both current academic achievement and future career opportunities (Zannah & Hidayanti, 2024). In higher education, English has become the language of instruction in many countries, facilitating access to modern knowledge and scientific research (AL-Khalil, 2017). Because English language proficiency is very important for students' learning experiences and career prospects, educational institutions are encouraged to create a conducive environment for developing students' speaking skills in English (Aimen & Khadim, 2024).

However, studying English in non-English speaking countries presents unique challenges for English as Foreign Language (EFL) students (Wirantaka & Mardiningrum, 2023). In the context of this research, through pre-research interviews, researcher found a phenomenon where Association Of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) students, such as Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, who are enrolled in English Department in non-English speaking country, face some obstacles in learning english. The common difficulties which Asean or international students experience included language barriers, cultural differences, and limited exposure to the use of native English. Supported by Rintaningrum (2023), she states in her research that students often have difficulty understanding and forming meaning with this language due to the lack of an English-speaking environment. For this reason, this is relate to student feeling or experience such as how they feel when studying in a country that does not speak English and how they feel when facing the problems that arise.

To avoid misunderstanding, students who enroll at this university are students from inter-university cooperation programs. In addition, the student enrollment process is not based on English language proficiency. As a result, some of them still experience difficulties with English. This is also supported by the fact that English is considered a foreign language in their countries.

Referring to Sasaki (2012) said feeling itself is defined as a spontaneous resonance that arises in response to perceptual stimuli, drawing on past experience. Moreover student feeling is a reaction that arises from learning experiences that are influenced by various factors such as academic, social, and motivation. In addition, this term plays important role, understanding and addressing students' feelings can provide valuable insights for improving teaching methods, learning environment, and enhancing learning outcomes across various educational contexts (Kuwabara, 2019). Therefore, by the

phenomenon that researcher mention above, researcher conduct a research on how they feel and what factors cause that feeling when learning English in non-English speaking countries. Therefore, this study aims to investigate their challenges and feelings when learning English in a non-English speaking country. Researcher hope that this research can increase awareness about the importance of language readiness.

1.2 Formulation of the Study

From the problems that researcher found, the researcher concluded the main problems into three questions as follows:

- 1. How were Asean Students' feelings while studying English at non english speaking country?
- 2. What are the factors that cause these feelings to arise?

1.3 Aim of the Study

From the research question, the researcher aims to find the following information:

- 1. This research aim to investigate Asean student feeling while studying english at non english speaking country.
- 2. This research also wants to explore the contributing factors to the feelings that arise.

1.4 Operational Definition

1. Asean Student

2. Student Feeling

An "ASEAN student" refers to a student from a member country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

(oia.ugm.ac.id, 2025)

a reaction that arises from learning experiences that are influenced by various factors such as academic, social, and

motivation (Sasaki,

2012).

3. English : The English language

has evolved significantly over its 1500-year history, originating from Anglo-Frisian dialects and incorporating influences from various languages (Qizi, 2024).

4. Non English Speaking Country:

A country where English is not spoken as official or second language (Daukenova, 2020).

1.5 Significance of Study

1. Theoretical : In theory, this research contribute to

Martin and White's theory, and useful

as a reference for further research.

2. Empirical : Empirically, this research is useful for

providing a real picture of Asean students' problems in learning

English.

3. Practical : This research can be used as a basis

for preparation for international

students or relevant agencies.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary of Findings

Based on findings and discussions that aim to determine the feelings of ASEAN students in facing obstacles while learning English in non-English speaking countries and its factors, the findings reveal that all participants experience mixed feelings when facing problems while learning English. Positive feelings mostly occur because of the environment and social support for the learning process carried out by the participants. Negative feelings, on the other hand, generally arise due to language differences between participants and instructors. The most significant cause of the feelings they experience is the language barrier. In teaching English in the classroom, many instructors still predominantly use Indonesian, which makes it difficult for foreign students to understand the lessons.

5.2 Suggestion

In this section, the researcher would like to advise relevant agencies to pay more attention to the readiness of teaching English to foreign students, both at the ASEAN and global levels. Additionally, prospective international students planning to study abroad should also be prepared with language skills, whether in English or even the language used in the destination country. With proper preparation, this will help reduce issues related to the language being studied or the language used in daily life.

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