

**EXPLORING ENGLISH PHONEMIC AWARENESS AMONG
COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**By
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**ANTASARI STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
BANJARMASIN
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EXPLORING ENGLISH PHONEMIC AWARENESS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

Undergraduate Thesis

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in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Sarjana Pendidikan

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BANJARMASIN
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I, the undersigned, Anandya Bilal Muttaqin, declare that this undergraduate thesis is my original work, gathered and utilized specially to fulfill the purposes and objectives of this study, and has not been previously submitted to any other university for any degree or other purposes. I also declare that the publications cited in this work have been properly acknowledged. If someday, it is proven otherwise, I understand that my degree will be revoked.

Banjarmasin, 24th December 2025

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ABSTRACT

Anandya Bilal Muttaqin. 2025. Exploring Phonemic Awareness Among College Students. Thesis. English Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, Antasari State Islamic University. Advisor: Dra. Andi Irlina, M. Hum

Keywords: Phonemic Awareness; College Students; Teaching Preparation; Narrative Inquiry

Phonemic awareness plays a crucial role in oral language development and constitutes a foundational skill for effective pronunciation and listening instruction in English language teaching. This qualitative case study investigates English phonemic awareness among Indonesian pre-service English teachers, with particular focus on (1) how students demonstrate awareness of English phoneme structures in pronunciation and listening contexts and (2) phoneme-related difficulties they recognize in oral language experiences. The participants were six English Education students at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin who were undertaking their teaching practicum. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings indicate that participants demonstrate phonemic awareness primarily at a conceptual and reflective level, especially following formal instruction in phonetics and phonology. Students showed the ability to recognize English phonemes as discrete sound units and to articulate sound-based challenges affecting their pronunciation and listening comprehension. However, this awareness was not consistently reflected in stable phoneme production or accurate perception during spontaneous communication. Several recurring phoneme-related difficulties were identified, including vowel contrast confusion, consonant substitution, weak articulation, phoneme–grapheme mismatch, and challenges in perceiving phoneme variation across English accents. These difficulties were perceived by participants as directly influencing their oral performance and comprehension. The study concludes that English Education students possess developing but incomplete phonemic awareness, which functions more as emerging metalinguistic knowledge than as an automated communicative skill. The findings underscore the need for explicit and sustained phoneme-focused instruction in teacher education programs to strengthen pronunciation and listening competence.

ABSTRAK

Anandya Bilal Muttaqin. 2025. *Exploring Phonemic Awareness Among College Students*. Skripsi. Program Studi Tadris Bahasa Inggris., Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan, UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. Dosen Pembimbing: Dra. Andi Irlina, M. Hum

Kata kunci: Kesadaran Fonemik; Mahasiswa; Persiapan Mengajar; Penelitian Naratif

Kesadaran fonemik merupakan komponen penting dalam penguasaan bahasa lisan dan menjadi dasar bagi pembelajaran pelafalan dan pemahaman menyimak dalam pengajaran bahasa Inggris. Penelitian studi kasus kualitatif ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji kesadaran fonemik bahasa Inggris pada mahasiswa Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris di Indonesia, dengan fokus pada (1) bagaimana mahasiswa menunjukkan kesadaran terhadap struktur fonem bahasa Inggris dalam konteks pelafalan dan menyimak serta (2) jenis kesulitan terkait fonem yang mereka sadari dalam pengalaman berbahasa lisan. Partisipan penelitian ini adalah enam mahasiswa Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris UIN Antasari Banjarmasin yang sedang menjalani Praktik Pengalaman Lapangan (PPL). Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara semi-terstruktur dan dianalisis menggunakan analisis tematik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kesadaran fonemik mahasiswa terutama muncul pada tingkat konseptual dan reflektif, khususnya setelah mengikuti mata kuliah fonetik dan fonologi. Mahasiswa mampu mengenali fonem bahasa Inggris sebagai unit bunyi yang terpisah serta mengidentifikasi permasalahan bunyi yang memengaruhi pelafalan dan pemahaman menyimak. Namun, kesadaran tersebut belum sepenuhnya terwujud dalam produksi fonem yang stabil atau persepsi bunyi yang akurat dalam komunikasi spontan. Beberapa kesulitan fonemik yang dominan meliputi kebingungan kontras vokal, substitusi konsonan, artikulasi lemah, ketidaksesuaian fonem dan ejaan, serta kesulitan memahami variasi aksen bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa kesadaran fonemik mahasiswa masih berkembang dan lebih bersifat pengetahuan metalinguistik dibandingkan keterampilan komunikatif otomatis. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan penguatan pembelajaran fonemik secara eksplisit dan berkelanjutan dalam pendidikan calon guru bahasa Inggris.

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Finally, I really hope that this research will be useful for the next researchers. I admit that this research paper is not perfect yet. Therefore, suggestion will be expected to make it better.

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December, 24th, 2025 A.D

Anandya Bilal Muttaqin

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