

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Study

English language teaching is an important component in English language teaching and learning in the contemporary global environment. The need for qualified English teachers is now increasing due to the increasing demand for English language skills in various fields. Due to the increasing demand for English teachers, English language teaching courses have been introduced in universities around the world. However, although English teaching is growing in popularity, there are still some problems to be solved. Some of these major challenges include the lack of research regarding trends and problems in teaching English as a language, which becomes an obstacle for teachers to design effective teaching methods and appropriate courses for their students because they do not have this information (Musa & Hassan, 2020).

As stated in the Al-Quran, chapter Az-Zumar verse 9:

أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَانِثٌ أُنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا رَحْمَةً  
رَبِّهِ ۚ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۚ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُوا  
الْأَلْبَابِ □

Here Allah SWT emphasizes that wise people who have more knowledge are a different group of individuals from

people who do not have knowledge. This is very relevant in the field of education, where competent academics and teachers need to spread it so that other people can also do the same benefit from it. In English education, this echoes the essence of the teacher as the central figure responsible for spreading research and information as a way of improving the quality of education for all (Rahman & Yusof, 2018).

So that one can understand how English education students succeed against challenges, there must be research into general trends within the field. Trends in research are drawn up to highlight what is essential and in what directions English language teaching development should move. Research trends are indicators of fresh innovation and change in a given area or subject. These trends might be explained by a wide range of issues, such as common research issues, research method, methodology or technology, and even discoveries or methodologies for research on an event (Baker, 2019).

In order to keep pace with current progress and discover new areas of collaboration or knowledge, researchers, academics, and professionals in a given area typically track research trends. The problem with this research was that after observation and research, it was discovered that no students of the Department of English Language Teaching (Teaching

English as a Foreign Language) of Antasari State Islamic University, Banjarmasin proposed topics or conducted research on trends.

Therefore, researchers sought to identify what is interesting among students majoring in English pedagogy, whether through technology or one of the four language skills mentioned. Why? Because you need to learn four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, according to the English major. These four skills are not contradictory in contrast, English Language Teaching Department students study these four language skills every year through a variety of research approaches (Smith & Pearson, 2021). Apart from these four skills, the most frequently used research topics for English language teaching students are grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary. Researchers also tried to understand what types of technology students used most in the last five years (Nashit, 2020).

Therefore, in an effort to study the tendencies of the English Language Education Department, the researcher attempted to compile this thesis. Writing a thesis is a course requirement for all students who have taken the ELT Seminar course. This thesis is the final project and is evidence of scientific practice and research that students have carried out for

several years, as has happened in other countries. According to the researcher, only EFL students who took part in the “Thesis Writing Workshop” conducted the research. Students take turns presenting their research proposals formally to receive feedback from peers and instructors (Iftani & Shofiya, 2017).

A thesis project is usually a mandatory first step in independent research for most students. There are hundreds of thesis projects completed every year. The content of the thesis project has never been explored in depth in research from a general perspective. The relevance of this topic in today's field cannot be overstated. Future Language learning and teaching is greatly influenced by students learning English. They can offer detailed insight into best practices and methodologies for teaching English as a second language. This understanding can make English language learning programs and learning outcomes more effective (Patel & Singhal, 2022). Therefore, researchers will discuss this topic "**RESEARCH TRENDS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF UIN ANTASARI BANJARMASIN**" in this thesis. Of course researchers are motivated to conduct this research.

## **B. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid confusion in this research, the researcher provides

definitions of the main concepts that are important to understand as follows:

### **1. Research Trends**

Research trends are intended to draw the attention of a particular field and cause significant changes in the subject of research focus, research methodology, or direction of the English Language Teaching Department. New examples of research trends are changes in research objects, application of new technologies, or new and diversiform methodological approaches.

### **2. Undergraduate Thesis**

A college thesis refers to the academic essay that students must write during their senior year in an effort to graduate. A thesis, simply put, is a well-reasoned hypothesis with evidence, analysis, and in-depth study of the research subject.

### **3. Content Analysis**

The technique used to examine the contents of documents, writings and other materials fairly and objectively is known as content analysis. Content analysis aims to differentiate, classify and quantify the elements presented in the content being studied, as well as realizing any resulting patterns or meanings.

### **C. Research Questions**

Based on the premise above, the research questions to be discussed are as follows:

1. What are the pre-dominant research topics explored by English Language Education Students over 2020-2024?
2. What types of research methodologies are commonly employed by the students?

### **D. Objective of Study**

The aims of this research are:

1. Identify significant trends that have emerged over the past five years, especially the language skills most frequently used in previous research and studies.
2. Discover the types of research methodologies commonly used by students and understand the contribution of current research to teaching and learning methods.

### **E. Significance of Study**

It is important to conduct a study on search trends among EFL students majoring in English Education at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin based on available data. The aim of this

research is to identify trends.

1. EFL student thesis topics;
2. “Gap/Niche” in the “Educational Background” section;
3. Research objectives;
4. Review relevant theories and previous research;
5. Future directions, research strategies used; and
6. Assessment, recommendation and research contribution forms published between 2020 and 2024.

The results of this research will then be useful in preparing a research roadmap and revising the current curriculum, especially regarding course evaluation which helps students understand how to conduct research and write research reports that are appropriate and in accordance with ethical standards for reporting scientific research.