

**THE CHALLENGES FACED BY ENGLISH TEACHER IN IMPLEMENTING
THE MERDEKA CURRICULUM IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**

**By
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**ANTASARI STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
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2026 AD/1447 AH**

**THE CHALLENGES FACED BY ENGLISH TEACHER IN IMPLEMENTING
THE MERDEKA CURRICULUM IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**

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In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
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by

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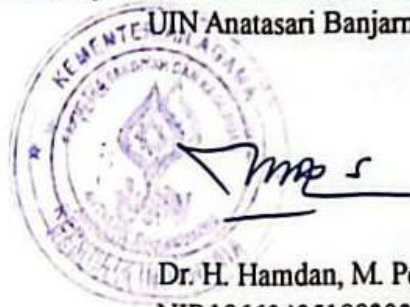
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ABSTRACT

KHALQI, MUHAMMAD NOOR. 2026. The Challenges Faced by English Teacher in Implementing the Merdeka Curriculum in English Language Teaching at Junior High School in Hulu Sungai Selatan. Thesis. English Education Study Program, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin. Advisor: *Hidayah Nor, M.Pd.*

Keywords: Merdeka Curriculum, Teacher's Challenge's, Teacher's Strategies, English Language Teaching, Junior High School.

This study aims to identify and comprehensively understand the challenges faced by English teachers in implementing the Merdeka Curriculum at the Junior High School level. Additionally, it seeks to describe the strategies employed by teachers to enhance the effectiveness of curriculum implementation in the learning process.

This research utilizes a narrative qualitative research method. Data were gathered through observation, in-depth interviews at MTsN 2 Hulu Sungai Selatan. The research subjects were two English teachers who have been implementing the Merdeka Curriculum since 2022. Data analysis involved data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

The findings indicate that; the main challenges faced by english teacher in implementing the independent curriculum are : (1). Supervision of the Implementing of the Independent Curruculum; (2). Student Dependent on Artificial Intelligence; (3). Insight Related to Differentiated Learning; and (4). Teacher Participant in PMM (*Platform Merdeka Mengajar*). Than the strategies can english teachers implement to increase the effectiviness of implementing independent curriculum (1). Study on the Implementation of the independent Curriculum; (2).Management of the Use of Artificial Intelligent in the Classroom; (3). Differentiated Learning Seminar; and (4). Teacher Assignment to Access PMM.

Teachers, schools, and future researchers are encouraged to collaboratively enhance the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum by improving teacher competence through continuous professional development, providing structured school support and facilities, optimizing the use of technology including AI and the *Merdeka Mengajar Platform*, and conducting broader and more in-depth research to strengthen effective English language learning practices.

ABSTRAK

KHALQI, MUHAMMAD NOOR. 2026. Tantangan yang Dihadapi Guru Bahasa Inggris dalam Menerapkan Kurikulum Merdeka dalam Pengajaran Bahasa Inggris di SMP Hulu Sungai Selatan. Tesis. Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan, Universitas Islam Negeri Antasari Banjarmasin. Pembimbing: Hidayah Nor, M.Pd.

Kata Kunci: Kurikulum Merdeka, Tantangan Guru Strategi Guru, Pengajaran Bahasa Inggris, SMP.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan memahami secara komprehensif tantangan yang dihadapi guru Bahasa Inggris dalam menerapkan Kurikulum Merdeka di tingkat SMP. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan strategi yang digunakan guru untuk meningkatkan efektivitas penerapan kurikulum dalam proses pembelajaran.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi, wawancara mendalam, dan dokumentasi di MTsN 2 Hulu Sungai Selatan. Subjek penelitian adalah dua orang guru Bahasa Inggris yang telah menerapkan Kurikulum Merdeka sejak tahun 2022. Analisis data melibatkan reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan/verifikasi.

Temuan menunjukkan bahwa tantangan utama yang dihadapi guru Bahasa Inggris dalam menerapkan kurikulum independen adalah: (1). Pengawasan Pelaksanaan Kurikulum Independen; (2). Ketergantungan Siswa pada Kecerdasan Buatan; (3). Wawasan Terkait Pembelajaran Diferensiasi; dan (4). Partisipasi Guru dalam PMM (Platform Merdeka Mengajar). Strategi yang dapat diterapkan guru Bahasa Inggris untuk meningkatkan efektivitas penerapan kurikulum independen adalah: (1). Studi tentang Pelaksanaan Kurikulum Independen; (2). Pengelolaan Penggunaan Kecerdasan Buatan di Kelas; (3). Seminar Pembelajaran Diferensiasi; dan (4). Penugasan Guru untuk Mengakses PMM.

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CONTENTS

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	ii
PLAGIARISM LETTER	iii
APPROVAL	iv
VALIDATION	v
ABSTRACT	vi
ABSTRAK	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	viii
CONTENTS	x
LIST OF APPENDICES	xii
CHAPTER I	13
INTRODUCTION	13
A. Background of Study	13
B. Definition of Key Term.....	4
C. Research Question	5
D. Objective of Study	5
E. Significant of Study	5
CHAPTER II	7
THEORETICAL REVIEW	7
A. Merdeka Curriculum.....	7
B. English Subject in Merdeka Curriculum.....	12
C. Implementation of Merdeka Curriculum Development in SMP	19
D. Challenges of Teaching English	20
E. English Teaching Strategies.....	26
F. Review of Previous Study.....	31
CHAPTER III	34
RESEARCH METHOD	34
A. Research Design	34
B. Research Setting.....	34
C. Participants / Subject	34
D. Data	34
E. The Technique of Data Collection	35
F. Data Analysis.....	36
CHAPTER IV	39
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	39
A. Findings.....	39
B. Discussion.....	49
BAB V	40

CLOSURE.....	40
A. Conclusion.....	40
REFERENCES	59
APPENDICES.....	63
CURRICULUM VITAE.....	74

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 : Transliteration.....	63
Appendix 2 : Guide Interview.....	64
Appendix 3: Interview Result	66
Appendix 4 : Research Letter.....	69
Appendix 5 : Seminar Proposal Letter.....	70
Appendix 6 : Thesis Consultasion Notes	71
Appendix 7 : Sertificat Of Comprehensive.....	72
Appendix 8: Riset Agreement Letter	73