

Obstacles to English Proficiency and How to Overcome them

An Analysis of the Indonesian English Learner

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Obstacle in English Proficiency and How to overcome it: Analysis for Indonesian English Learner

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Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, 2023

Abstract

Communication is a key to interacting with someone, and with language, people can understand each other. Language is basic human communication, it can be verbal or non verbal. Verbally is when people speak out what they are thinking like in conversation. Non-verbally can be writing, where people write their opinion to express what the person thinks. Communication is easy when you are talking with people that you know and understand well, as maybe you have a similar mother language. But what if you interact with people that are not familiar to you, or foreigners? In this modern Era, people around the world can communicate with each other with the help of modern technology such as Mobile phones, laptops with social media. One of the languages that most people in the world use is English. Indonesia has many foreigners that stay there for various reasons, such as holiday in Bali, work purposes, learning the language and many more. But the issue is that Indonesians themselves have difficulty speaking English and it impacts on how they think about English. This research will look at the factors on why Indonesians have difficulty learning English and find the solutions that people can use through the author's own experiences and interviewees' experiences, strategy and suggestions. The results showed various factors, such as culture, economic, geographic and individual. From a student perspective, this study encourages the reader to be more motivated to learn English, as these skills are needed as fundamental skills of communication within the multinational level.

Keywords : English Proficiency, Obstacle, improvement, solution.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of tables.....	6
List of Figures	7
INTRODUCTION.....	8
1.1 Background	8
1.2 Motivation	8
1.3 Research purpose	9
1.4 Research Questions.....	9
1.5 Contribution	9
1.6 Limits	9
LITERATURE REVIEW	11
English literacy.....	11
English in Indonesian History.	12
Obstacle in learning English in Indonesia.....	13
Relation between Education and Cultural context in English learning in Indonesia.....	14
Methods on improving English.	16
METHODOLOGY	17
Introspection.....	17
Interview	17
DATA ANALYSIS	18
Overview :.....	18
Results :	18
Introspection	18
Interviews.....	20
Main findings :	30
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION.....	32
APPENDIX A	35
BIBLIOGRAPHY	49

List of tables

Table 1: 4 factors that hinders Indonesian English development	20
Table 2 : Solutions that the interviewees give to improve English.....	21
Tables 3 : Main findings.....	23

List of Figures

Figure 1 : Motives in studying in Taiwan	30
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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is one form of cultures and many people have learned it since they are born. It is a form of communication for one to the other person. We learn our mother tongue languages from childhood and gradually develop until (you are old). Since the era of Columbus's voyage in 1492, communication with other languages exists as they need to give what intention that they want. Today, it is common that people from around the world can communicate with each other with just using devices, such as PC, Handphone with access to social media and other media streaming services. This promotes people to learn a language that everyone in the world will use to communicate with each other. The language that is used for both native and foreigner to understand each other / Lingua franca in the world is English. English has been a language that breaks the communication barrier to ease the conversation. According to English Explorer, English is considered to be the world's lingua franca since English is being used as the major language in many countries worldwide. English is also known to be the native language of many countries around the world and is being used in dealing with economic and political trades. English is very important to people as it brings many benefits. But a problem occurs in Indonesia, where the majority of people have a hard time learning English, even grasping the basics of the language. Indonesia's natural resource is being a consideration to the international forum, but the human resource is the opposite of it. Which is why English can be one of the method for people to have better skills and ability to communicate using foreign language.

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1.2 Motivation

According to data published by English First, English Proficiency Index (EF EPI), shows that Indonesia placed in the 28th place from 63 other country in the world with 52.74% of Indonesian having average English skill. Singapore is in 13th place (59.8 %) and Malaysia

is 12th (59.73%). Even though, this number seems high in percentage, many Indonesian does not have the active English skill, such as speaking, listening, reading and writing, instead Indonesian often focus more on TOEFL, TOEIC scores. This will lead to the low self esteem if they have to apply it in real life scenario. The motivation behind this research is to find the obstacles in the progress of English proficiency in Indonesia and how to solve the problem in various ways.

1.3 Research purpose

The purpose of this study is to identify the obstacle most people in Indonesia face in English learning in a individual, group, large scale and finding the possible solutions on handling the problem that hinder the English learning progress.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the obstacles that English learners face when learning English ?
2. How can learners face the problem / solution / recommendation for the problem?

1.5 Contribution

The findings of this research could help in giving ideas on solutions to the English proficiency obstacle. This research can look at the obstacles and look at the benefits of learning English, such as a higher chance to get a job, linguistic skills and a global network easily.

1.6 Limits

The problem of English proficiency happen in many countries, but this research will remain focused only on Indonesia, therefore the sample and data is related to Indonesian. The scale of the sample will not be large, because of the limited sources that the author have. Which is why it is assumed that the author can't ask a large number of people to answer the question. Second, the sample will be the people that the author have chosen carefully, looking at their background, CV and experiences with English. This way, the author can determined the people that the author interview, such as English professors, teachers, and Honor student in Australia. The main topic is about English, therefore may not have the same case as other languages that are being learned in Indonesia.

1.7 Delimits

The research will be conducted alone, and with limited resources. For the interview, it will not be conducted in face-to-face conversation, but via online meeting. At the time the author collect data, the author will not be in Indonesia and still remain in Taiwan. Compared to other research, the time I have is less than one year, 2 to 3 months to be precise, that means that the data that is gathered and analyzed is enough for this research. The location of giving the questionnaire is limited, the location the author choose is not many, (around 1-2 cities only.)

LITERATURE REVIEW

English literacy

Being literate in society in the 21st century is very common nowadays if compared to the centuries ago, where education can only be obtained for higher class. Literacy is being taught from young, since people that are younger are more curious, interested and forming an attitude on the things they learn. It is good to encourage children to learn the English language as a form of being literate, not only in school as a subject in class. But also apply the skills in the future. English has been around for a long time, which is why many people have studied English for centuries, either as a native language or as a second language. Every person that learns English has the ability to read, write, speak, and listen to English and it is called being literate in English. Most people learn English as one of the main subjects in school, or they learn it for many reasons, such as work purposes, hobby, or for study. But everyone has their own interest, especially students that still study in school. It can be said that English should be one of the interests of students as it is better to know something more, in this context is language. The more languages you know, the more you know about its culture. ¹According to Pandu Wismono, Language, as one of the cultural aspects, takes an important role in cultural development. When people learn a language, they will automatically learn about its culture. It means that English is a language that can bring along the culture from its language, for example their learning habits, their writing and reading style, and usually in the English textbook, it shows what other English speaking countries usually do, which directly gives information on the country's culture and habits.

Indonesia is one of the largest countries in Southeast Asia, with a population of approximately 280 million people. But the number of people does not reflect the human resource. Indonesia has been proven to have a hard time to read and write in general. The ministry of Education and Technology, Nadiem Anwar Makarim said, The low level of literacy in general in Indonesia is one of the fundamental problems that needs to be immediately

¹ Pandhu Wismono, "The Importance of English Language for Young Learners in Indonesia," (2013).
https://www.academia.edu/2485659/the_importance_of_english_language_for_young_learners_in_indonesia

resolved. He also mentioned that the scores from elementary schooler to Highschooler haven't achieved the minimal competence of literacy. This problem has been consistent with the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) for the last 20 years, which has not changed until now. According to Ratna Rintaningrum, The results of a study conducted by PISA (2015) on Indonesian students about reading literacy showed that Indonesia was ranked 64th out of 72 countries involved in the study.² This result is based on the Indonesian skill in Indonesian language literacy. With that evidence, it can prove that it will be harder for Indonesians to have literacy in English. The problem has been around for a long time as the modern age of technology develops. Ratna Rintaningrum mentioned that BPS data (2015) shows that 91.47% of school-age children prefer to watch television, and 13.11% like to read.³ This one-sided percentage between watching TV and reading books is one of the key factors of this problem.

English in Indonesian History

There is a reason behind why Indonesia's English proficiency level is lower compared to other countries in Southeast Asia. Looking back on history, Indonesia has been colonized by many countries, 6 to be precise, including Portuguese, Spain, Netherlands, France, British and Japan. Even after the end of World War 2, Indonesia was indirectly colonized through the Communist ideology that separates Indonesia. Until 30 September 1965, where the Indonesia Communist Party (Partai Komunis Indonesia) retaliate / coup against the government, which resulted in the G30S PKI or Thirtieth of September Movement. These events lead the Indonesian to have caution in handling foreign affairs, as they are taught to have a nationalistic mindset, to defend the country and not getting influenced by foreign power. According to Julia Eka Rini, English has never been considered an official language coexisting with the national language.⁴ Which means that Indonesia sees the function of English as education purposes, to get a score in an English subject or as a way to communicate with foreigners, but not as a form

² Ratna Rintaningrum, "Explaining the Important Contribution of Reading Literacy to the Country's Generations: Indonesian's Perspectives," (2019).

https://www.ijicc.net/images/Vol_5_Iss_3/Part_2_2020/5310_Ratna_2019_E_R.pdf

³ Ratna Rintaningrum, "Explaining the Important Contribution of Reading Literacy to the Country's Generations: Indonesian's Perspectives," (2019).

https://www.ijicc.net/images/Vol_5_Iss_3/Part_2_2020/5310_Ratna_2019_E_R.pdf

⁴ Julia Eka Rini, "English in Indonesia: Its Position among Other Languages in Indonesia," (2014).
<http://journal.wima.ac.id/index.php/BW/article/view/591/654>

of official language that people use daily. This may be one of the reasons why Indonesians mostly do not study English and improve their skills.

Obstacle in learning English in Indonesia

As English is a foreign language that serves the purpose of being a mandatory subject and gaining high test scores, some Indonesians are reluctant to learn applicable English skills in English. According to Siska Ariani Pupriandri, Most Indonesian students find it difficult to learn English. Moreover, English is not their mother tongue. This difficulty mostly lies in the difficulty of pronunciation and the pattern of English sentences which tend to be complicated. Different from the Indonesian sentence pattern. Besides that, difficulty in listening is also a trigger for students' lack of interest in learning.⁵

It is logical that someone that is not a native in English have problem in learning it. The difficulty between Indonesians is rather the same. Pronunciation is an important factor when talking in English, where distinct pronunciation can make others understand what the word is. Sometimes, when Indonesian pronounce things with a unique accent, other will think that it is a funny way to talk in English or it is called “medhok” in Indonesia. Medhok means a very thick traditional accent. People will be timid from the result of talking with a very thick accent, even with correct pronunciation and can be one of the factors that hinders English proficiency. Different grammatical rules between Indonesian and English can be an issue for Indonesian when learning English. The Indonesian language is much simpler compared to English. In a sentence, Indonesian does not used past, present, future verbs and grammar to express the detailed impression. Instead of using Verb2 in the sentence, Indonesian vocabulary only consist of present verb. Not being accustomed to the grammatical rules, vocabulary and native pronunciation can be part of the problem here. Indonesians have difficulty learning English.

Educational policy also may have an impact, possibly supporting why Indonesians have difficulty learning English. During 2013 of Jokowi’s early presidential era, He announce the new K13, or Curriculum 13. This curriculum aims to improve students moral and character through flexible and more freedom to the teacher on what the method to teach. But there is one controversy that people argue, which is the removal of English language subject in elementary school. This initiative is started to improve Indonesian kids native language as it is possible

⁵ Siska Ariani Pupriandari, "Indonesian Students' Interest in Learning English," (Nov. 2021). https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356001897_Indonesian_Students%27_Interest_in_Learning_English

that outside language, such as English may overwhelm the Indonesian language. According to Fawwazti Rasendria, The prohibition of English in primary schools has the potential to deepen the disparity between children from wealthy and poor families.⁶ She mentions that there will be a differentiation between students during Junior High School because of the diverse financial situation. During elementary school, even though students do not learn English in school, they can learn it through other method, such as Private tutor or going to a English learning institute. But to enroll in this English institution or hiring private tutor, money is involved. Wealthy families will have less problem in affording this resources, while family that has financial issues may not be able to afford this. This can lead on different English studying experiences, where students that study English will be more interested in English, and are not interested to those who are not.

Relation between Education and Cultural context in English learning in Indonesia

Indonesia has a strict relation with international influence, looking at the background and history that happened in Indonesia, and afterwards where there is a conflict between 2 super powers. Indonesia prefers not to follow either side. An example is where Indonesians reject westernization.

This rejection against westernization is based on preserving Indonesia's cultural heritage, in the midst of globalization, where information and influence can be spread very fast and on a large scale. According to Fishana Syariah Shoffi Unnidha, In the midst of globalization, westernization often poses challenges to maintaining the sustainability of local culture and raises debates about the loss of traditional cultural identity. Traditional culture is central to Indonesian identity because it reflects the rich history and ethnic diversity of the thousands of islands that make up this country.⁷ She mentions that if there is too much outside influence that can change the fundamental values of Indonesia, the national identity may be in crisis where people will be confused about their own national identity.

Using English is the example that Indonesian are influenced by western culture. According to Gentur Sahadewa & Fatma Ulfatun Najicha, In the socio-cultural aspect, westernization affects

⁶ Fawwazti Rasendria, "The Importance of English at Primary Schools in Indonesia," (May 2021). https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351993068_THE_IMPORTANCE_OF_ENGLISH_AT_PRIMARY_SCHOOLS_IN_INDONESIA

⁷ Fishana Syaria Shoffi Unnidha, "Indonesian Culture as the Heart of Identity: Resisting Westernization Amid the Current of Globalization," (2023).

identity local, for example is the language usage. The use of foreign language elements in everyday conversation can be because a shift in language if Indonesian are not using “Bahasa Indonesia” correctly.⁸ Most of the teenager and young adults are the most influenced by the foreign culture, where they experience the rise of handphone and social media. The less usage of Indonesian and traditional language with English. Some people argue that using half Indonesian, half English in a sentence has no development and instead makes people confused, where the mother tongue should be used grammatically and pronounced correctly. Therefore, some traditional people hardly reject outside influence, but there are some that open up to outside influence, getting new insight and many more. To handle this challenge, Indonesia is suggested to know between what can be there are things that are acceptable and things that are not, so as not to be completely influenced by outside parties and distort one's identity.

Educationally, The challenge that the author believe has a big impact is the abolishment of English classes in elementary school. Globalization era requires people to communicate with people across the world, supposedly using English. English as an internationally recognized language to communicate with each other. But with the abolishment of English classes in elementary school, it is one of the factors that hinders Indonesia from progressing further in English. Without development and guidance during elementary school, There will be differences in ability, where students who are well off usually learn English, and there are some who don't. This can create a disparity in which the students that do not know English will be not confident which may lead to the person despising learning English. According to Sjafty Nursiti Maili, teachers have a reason why English is needed, namely to make it easier for students to continue to the next level of middle school and not feel surprised when receiving an English subject.⁹ The importance of learning English early on can lead to the student improving better, as kids are usually more curious and interested in learning new stuff, which they can develop further in the future.

⁸ Gentur Sahadewa & Fatma Ulfatun Najicha, "Students' Contribution in Facing Westernization as Form of Maintaining Unity.," (2022).

⁹ Sjafty Nursiti Maili, "English in Primary Schools: Why It Is Needed and Why Is It Questioned ?," (2018).

Methods on improving English

There are many ways to learn English. According to Salwa Nuriska, Professor from Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology , there are two strategies that people can follow to learn English. First is to use various media and sources. In this modern day, most of the information is accessible to everyone to use, such as google.¹⁰ It can give you information to learn English in various ways that may suit the learner's learning style. Some may use visual media to see conversations between people that speak English using Youtube, listening to English songs and trying to understand the lyrics and the most used application that people access daily is social media. Social media is one of the best ways to learn English, since it can connect people from various countries to interact and likely, social media have the biggest impact as in Learning English through media and sources, up to 4.48 billion people access social media worldwide. Second strategy is practicing English in daily life. I think that this strategy gives the biggest progress in English speaking. Applying what you learn is the best way to memorize what you have read and listened to. Routinely doing this strategy will help learners to progressively improved in English

¹⁰ Salwa Nuriska, "Learning English as a Second Language," (2021).
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356221453_Learning_English_as_a_Second_Language

METHODOLOGY

Methodologies that are used in this research are Introspection and Interview. Introspection is conducted as a part of research as I am part of my own research topic, therefore the author can give some insight on finding solutions. The reason this research used Interview is trying to find perspective from the Expert of English and students and English learners. Expert in English such as professors, English teachers, Employees that has experience in English for many years to give their thoughts about on why within Indonesia, there is obstacle on improving literacy.

Introspection

- In addition to Interviews, the author will put my own experience as data with the provided interview questions. This includes, the author's own experience on learning English, the problem the author's face external and internally, and solution that I have found overcoming those problems.

Interview

- All of the interviewees are carefully selected and background check if they are fitable to be part of my interview. After carefully selecting the interviewees, the author have found 6 candidates that are suitable and willing to be part of my interviews. Interviews are recorded as part of evidence and will not be showed as public information as my policy on privacy of their information.
- All of the interviews transcript are being written in narrative analysis method., where the author describe what the interviewees are saying from the interview the author conducted.

DATA ANALYSIS

Overview :

This research is trying to find the factors that hinders the progression of English literacy in Indonesia and trying to find the solution through experts such as Professors, Teachers or people that find solutions with their own method.

Results :

Introspection

English has been big part of my life where the author started since the author was still in the 2nd till 4th grade of elementary school. English impacted on how the author view my life, being exposed to foreign culture, environment, the author interested in foreign affairs since little. In order to have part in that environment, English is one of the way to assimilate myself with International environment in my own country. the author have met, talked, converse with many people around the world, through English institution, Exchange program, and online communication to practice my English that being part of my hobby. Not only as a hobby to master English, the reason the author try to master English to its fullest because of the investment in having English skill in the future. Many people believe that English can be a beneficial thing to have if someone wants to develop further internationally, as English is one of the known languages in the world and considered as International Language. English does impact my life very much, where the author can be one of the tutor and honor students in my class. During highschool, the author can be a translator for an exchange international student from German and helped him to learn Indonesian, even though it is in English. the author can be in Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages to know many people around the world, converse with them, interact with them, gather to set some events together and with that, the author can learn our own each culture through English. With English, the author can have experiences in finding job. One of my best interest in jobs is teaching and I got an opportunity to teach people English with my ability. It was a great experience having to teach people something and they were able to understand my teaching. the author believe it all because of my investment in English, as a hobby and grew into mastering it.

But the author also see some problems that Indonesian face when learning English. Indonesians in general are very skeptical towards outside powers, especially the current rivalry between the USA and China. Indonesians are very nationalistic with their own country, and with that, they do not want to learn English to reject outside influence. But this is not the only reason why Indonesians have problems with English. Culture where Indonesians preserve traditional culture is very common between Indonesians. Traditional and Modern culture will always clash with each other, where modern culture is wide and rapid spread, where traditional is the opposite, where only certain people know a culture and the process of inheriting it is very slow. the author believe economics is part of the problem, but not necessarily the main factor. People in the higher class have more access to learning English, with exposure to the international environment, enrolling in international schools, having the best quality tutor to teach English and many more. Maybe it was different back then, but with the current modern technology, people can easily access information without any problem and faster connection. Geography does not have a big impact on this for the same reason as economics / finance. Technology is very rapid and widely spread, even within remote villages that have access to technology. Individuality is a very important factor in someone learning English. People have their own interest that it is hard to change it. If someone wants to learn English, they will try to use every resource possible, and give up their free time to learn English. It is the same with every language.

Solution that the author recommend is trying to use technology, with your phone, computer, laptop and many more gadgets. This kind of technology can be used to find a lot of information regarding learning English. You can use youtube to listen and watch videos, Instagram and tiktok to access English learning content, or in my experience,play with foreigners online in English. The last solution is the best one for me, as it is my hobby to play and the most effective way to learn as it is entertaining compared to formal learning, like in school.

Interviews

From the interview, the author find the similarities between the interviewees and their motivation on why they are learning English. Escaping from the current situation is very common for the interviewee. Two professors have similarity in their background, where they are from a lower middle class family and living in a rural area. Through English, they can change their current situation for the better. One interviewee also mentions that with English, they can have a higher chance of getting jobs in the international company. This shows that English can be one of the factors where people should learn English, to improve their life quality. Interviewee 3 mentions that:

Motivation on learning English is to escape the reality of my life, I was living in a rural areas and wanted to escape the situation. In rural areas, people mostly do not care about English at all, but im trying to have a change for myself through English.¹¹

But one respondent has a different reason on why they are learning English, this indicates that not all people that are learning English are trying to change the course of their life, rather to just enjoy their hobby through English.

Hobby, where I like to listen to English songs to understand the lyric and the words, but eventually them motivation began to developed over time to where im trying to study English fully.¹²

Each interviewees have a different perspective in having problems in English, but it is very clear that all of the problem relates to “how each generation receives English”. 3 Respondents have similarities in opinion on facing problems in learning English, where having a lack of modern technology and more traditional ways of learning is the issue they are having. Limitation of resource, technology, English textbook and curriculum that is very different with the current age. One respondent mentioned,

During Junior High School, the era is really traditional. It was like 30 years ago where we, the students, only learned vocabulary and grammar. If grammar, we only learn

¹¹ Interviewee 3. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 29th 2023.

¹² Interviewee 5. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 12th 2023.

about grammar. And for vocabulary ,we only memorize what is written in the textbook.¹³

One responded also mentioned that :

The school used to not provide good quality and quantity of English. In elementary school, I learned English through songs with lyrics on the CD. Which is different now, where many various sources can be used to learn English.. The formal English education started in Junior High School in my area, but it only covers the grammar and vocabulary, and no literacy practice such as writing, reading, listening and speaking. Even in Elementary school, I only learned color, shape, and number, for 6 years.¹⁴

But one respondent, which is are much younger, had different type of problem regarding in learning English. I still have some problem in reading until now. Listening too, but in the context of long conversation and University lectures and argument writing in academic paper.

This shows that different generation have different believe on English, where older generation are more likely to have issue in having a quality textbook, to the younger generation where the problem is not because of resources to learn English, rather how to advance in a higher level with English. Most of the interviewees find that English has impacted their life significantly, in the more positive side than the negative side. 6 out of 6 said that with English, they can improve their life, with financial improvement, social status improvement, and get real-life experience being independent outside Indonesia. One respondent, a professor said that:

In my opinion, English mostly has a good impact in my life. I can teach students English with my skill, I can go overseas to study and pursue higher education, so without English, my life will not be like this. I can also communicate with my friends, not only from Indonesia but also overseas. I can improve my career too, I continued my study in the US, I can travel and study in Germany, Also in Singapore, and Filipino. Language is a bridge to build a connection and social web for myself. ¹⁵

With English, the interviewees agree that English is very helpful in them finding jobs that they want. One of the interviewee state that “it is easier to find job if someone is proficient

¹³ Interviewee 3. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 29th 2023.

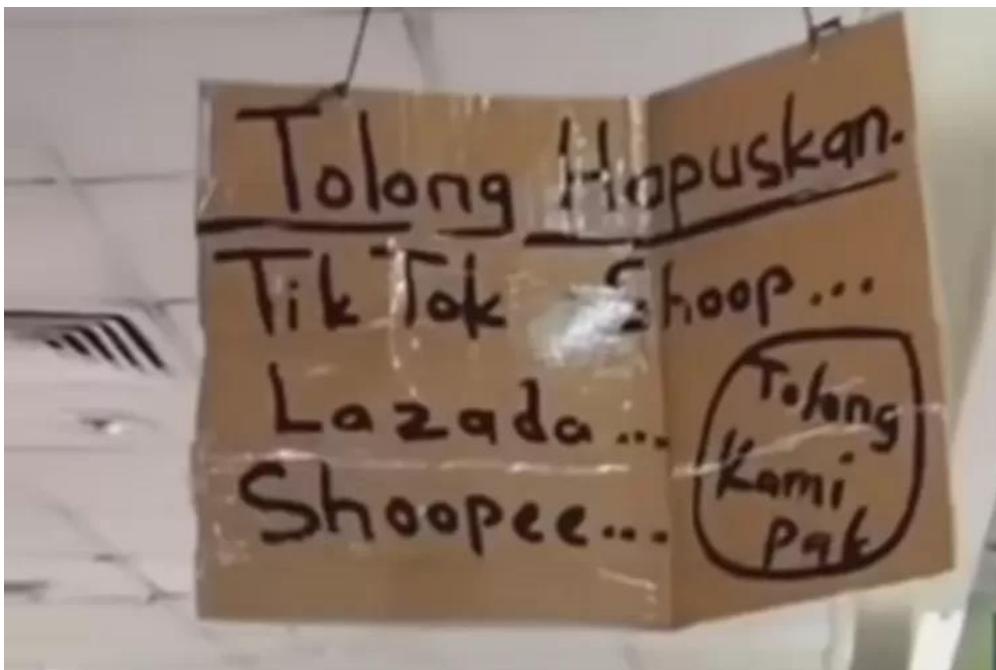
¹⁴ Interviewee 5. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 12th 2023.

¹⁵ Interviewee 3. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 29th 2023.

enough in English, in passive or active English.“. In this day and age, English is a mandatory skills to have for people to get jobs.

With basic English skills, most people will not have difficulty finding a job. My students mostly have part time jobs to prepare them to get a job or pursue higher education. And one of the key factors is having a basic English skill. Globalization is one of the factors why people should learn English. English is more internationally known.¹⁶

All of the interviewees agree that Indonesia has problems in literacy, even struggling in its own language. These problems heavily impacted on the progression of Indonesia's literacy skill that impacted in many ways, such as the low quality of education, believing in hoax very easily, people are unmotivated to learn and be better, and some may blame the situation that they are in, rather than trying to change. One recent example is the “Tanah abang merchant opens his voice for E-commerce to be shutdown”



Picture of cardboard from merchant in Tanah Abang demanding government to erase E-commerce.

Translation : “Please erase TikTok Shop, Lazada, Shoopee, please help us, sir”

¹⁶ Interviewee 2. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 15th 2023.

Many netizens have defended that the people there are too traditional and do not want to use new innovations, especially in the era of modern technology. Netizens despise the merchants because they blame other when they can start to learn how to use social media to promote their shop. This is the example where Indonesian have low literacy skill to understand something that impacted on how Indonesian can not process information and use it as a knowledge.

And several key points are found during the interview

Code	Description	Interview analysis
Culture	Culture has 2 impacts in English literacy, one is traditional culture and literacy culture. Culture is big part of Indonesia, therefore many people do not want their culture to be gone and the way to do it, is not to accept new modern way.	"I believe so, people from rural have different mindset compared to urban areas." "Indonesian mostly focus on "orality" or the tendency for speaking or much comfortable speaking compared with writing." ": Culture is very impactful in learning English. Many tribe's culture wanted to preserve local language and not learning foreign language. Therefore, they reject outside's influence so their culture will not disappear."
Economy	Economy or Financial have impacted English literacy in many ways, such as Better Education, Better resources, better technology, better living progress	"Yes, not only in international school. "The middle upper class kid often have a good English skills. Because they have more classes, can join English learning institution such as E.F. and many more bonafide places, and can reach or exposed to native English speaker." We know that international school helps student to interact with native speaker and have a direct conversation with them, But financial also helps students to have many resources, such as gadget to find things that they want to learn."
Geographical	Geographical differences has impacted city's development and leads to better infrastructure. Created development gap that impacted the quality of infrastructure, in this case is school.	"People living in the city accepts new stuff easier People living outside city reject new stuff" "Yes, If we compared Java and Sumatra, the technology, the infrastructure is different and compared with other small island. And all of this comes from infrastructure, technology differences. Therefore, English also have impacted because of this."
Individual	Each individual has different perspective on why learning English, such as better future through English, Hobby, mandatory subject, Family's background.	"Yes, every individual is unique. All of people have their own background, from family, culture, experiences, his/her perception for the future and every individual have different on learning English and the motivation" "Yes, clearly. Not only in English, but in every subject. Individual have different interest on learning something. Personality is various, can be a person;s background, not only his interest but his intellectual ability do impact too. For example, in Indonesia, many people wanted to learn Arab. But it is not mostly out of interest, but also from a religion background, where Indonesian mostly are Islam."

Table 1 : 4 factors that hinders Indonesian English development

All interviewees agree that these 4 factors can be the factor of why Indonesians are hindered in learning English, and they are also intertwined with each other, but 5 interviewees agree that individuals are the most impactful factor of someone learning English. Motivation and willingness of individuals have a higher impact than cultural factors, economic factors and geographical factors. But there are some interviewees that believe that there are hidden factors that one interviewee stated. Politics have played a role in hindering Education for students. One interviewee stated :

Corruption also plays a big role in English development in the Education sector. Nepotism also plays a big role in education. Government should have a more strict competency test, where only high quality teachers can teach students and give them an exchange program to another native english speaking country with the fund. So they know what is the culture there and what they can learn from working with people from another country.¹⁷

These are the 4 points that the author found during the interview. But there is one special case that the author finds, which is the political factor. One of the interviewees mentioned that she is very dissatisfied with the work environment of English students in her town, where the quality of the teacher does not represent the quality of the school. The example that she gave is a school with great reputation, but involved in nepotism and corruption, which means that the quality of the school can be damaged without the student's knowledge. This factor is rooted in corruption and nepotism in some cities, where benefits are not allocated to the right subject

Cultural Factor :

According to M. Marcellino, Cultural factor have impacted on hindering Indonesian to learn English.” Total obedience, unquestioning mind, and the belief that the old know all as well as that the teacher can do no wrong normally portray the learning atmosphere in many classes under study.¹⁸ Traditional way of teaching still lingers in school. This leads to less explorative ideas and opinions from the student, and the teacher should lead and guide students with their own way to study English.

¹⁷ Interviewee 1. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 9th 2023.

¹⁸ M. Marcellino, "English Language Teaching in Indonesia: A Continuous Challenge in Education and Cultural Diversity," *TEFLIN Journal*, 19(1) (2015).

Lilik Tahmidaten, Wawan Krismanto, mentioned that Indonesia does have issues in reading literacy. They divided the factors into 4 points, which are : 1. Wrong perception about reading ability , 2. development of reading ability is only based on school subject, 3. Some schools still have not used models, methods, strategy and media for varied studies, and 4. Some study materials given to the students are still in the *low order thinking* level.¹⁹

1. Wrong perspetion about reading ability

- Even though having the ability to read and understand something is important, most of the people in Indonesia believe that reading learning ends in elementary school, which should be continued until high school for advanced reading learning in school where students have understanding about literature that they read.

2. Development of reading abiity is only based in school subject.

- Each subject has different goals to teach students. Math learns about formulas, plus, minuses. Geography teaches about landscape, soil structure. In the perspective of curriculum, it is a very common viewpoint where each teacher should teach their respective subject. But core skills, like reading, should be taught. For example, Math teacher teaches how to read a graph, a geography teacher teaches how to read a map and many more.

3. Some school still not used model, methods, strategy and media for varied studies

- In recent years, this problem is getting handled slowly. Schools in Indonesia implement modern media, such as using PowerPoint presentations, online meetings, submitting homework and tests through websites, and many more. But some parts of Indonesia still have this problem because of various reasons, such as outer cities with low supply of electricity, which leads to less information coming, and less media to be used and studied for the students. This hinders student learning progress in some areas

¹⁹ Wawan Krismanto Lilik Tahmidaten, "The Problems of Reading Culture in Indonesia (Literature Study About Problem & Solutions)," (2019).

4. Some study materials given to the students is still in the *low order thinking* level.

- Lilik Tahmidaten, Wawan Krismanto believe that Indonesia education curriculum is still outdated, where school's study material did not facilitate learning to understand readings. They mentioned that learning model is monotone and reading is only based on the school books. They believe that there are many books that may sparks interest of students with much more topic, ideas and variety of plots that student can read, relate and understand.

Economic factor :

According to Glenn, K.MHe stated that using multimedia with student learning methods has an impact on students ' learning results. Using multimedia such as computer, laptop, white board, projector, digital camera, scanner, printer, and software to the students, gives better results of development compared without using multimedia.²⁰ This supports the finding where schools that have better quality infrastructure, which are supported by a sufficient economic background, can hinder student learning experience. Compared to the situation in Indonesia, where many schools do not have established infrastructure, such as multimedia, the economy has an impact on student learning at school.

Educational Factor

According to Andi Asrifan and Anita Candra Dewi, both teacher and student have issues when facing K13 or Curriculum 13.²¹

They stated that the teacher's short time for English limited students' capacity to explore and perfect their skills. This supports Dardjowidjojo's (2000) assumption that the 2013 curriculum has fewer English learning hours than the previous one. This forces teachers and students to work harder to meet the learning goal in less time. Time is essential when learning something. Less time means less opportunity to learn, in this case English. With less time, students are encouraged to study more with less time and it is not the best situation for the

²⁰ K.M. Glenn, "Does Technology Combined Withinquiry-Based Lesson Increase Students' Learning?," *EDC , EdTech Research* (2004).

²¹ Andi Asrifan & Anita Candra Dewi, "Indonesian Curriculum Issues: Teacher Implementation and Student Perception of K13 in Elt " *Journal of Learning and Development Studies* 3 (3) (2023).

teacher, where they have to wrap much information and test into few points throughout the semester.

Students also have their own issue with learning English in the 2013 Curriculum in ELT practice. According to Andi's and Anita's finding from the student is. : Speaking English was the biggest challenge for pupils studying English. The student's statement led the researcher to believe that limited time to practice English due to English subject time caused difficulties in speaking English. Dardjowidjojo (2000) found that the number of hours a student spends in secondary school and the optional hours in elementary school should have resulted in high English proficiency by senior high school. The outcome defies expectations. It appears a high school graduate cannot speak English. Most of the students also have issues regarding the less time leads to less things to understand. With less time, students' English learning experience will get hindered and may be impacted in the future, where most people usually need English skills for jobs and many more.

Interviewee's opinions on the solution are very varied from each other, some are more traditional and some prefer modern ways to learn English. In the interview, I found some solutions from the interviewees.

Table 2 : Solutions that the interviewees give to improve English.

Solution
Reading, writing, listening daily helps me improve my English literacy development.
Using social media helps me improve my English literacy development, such as Instagram, Youtube, TikTok, Facebook, etc.
Talking to online strangers helps me improve my English literacy development, Such as Omegle, HOLA, Chatous, etc.
Hiring private English tutor helps me improve my English literacy development.
Using modern media technology helps me to improve my English literacy, such as watching Youtube video, playing games, Duolingo, ChatBot, etc

This five methods is the solution that can be used to improve someone's English. Reading ,writing, listening daily and hiring a private tutor is the traditional method from the older generation interviewee. Using social media, modern technology and talking to online strangers is what the younger generation suggested in order to improve in English. But many interviewees mentioned that each individual has a different style of learning, therefore when learning English, people can not follow someone's method 100 percent, but with learning from someone, they can grasp the basics and develop it with their own method. Technology also helps people, with any method of learning. Writing, reading, speaking, and listening can be done with the technology of the internet. I also added some additional 2 questions for the interviewees: if Indonesia will have better quality of life with English to see their opinions.

And the results are varied, where one interviewee has a different opinion than the other. 5 out of 6 interviewees agree that English can be the factor that develops Indonesian life. But one interviewee disagree with this statement and gives out his opinions, which stated :

We already have our natural resources, we only need to improve the human resources. We have a lot of manpower, but insufficient quality of manpower. With English, someone is considered valuable but you also need some set of skills. If you only can speak English without providing any skill, then it is not a valuable person.²²

He stated that Indonesia already have vast of natural resources and the quantity of manpower, but need some improvement in manpower quality. With English, there is a possibility of the person getting some sort of skill, but it does not guarantee the person can train other useful skill. Other interviewee opinion in this matter is that English is not the only factor on improving a country, there are many ways for a country to improve. He stated that :

“Not really. To improve a country, it is not based on having English skills. Like Japan, China (RRC), they are developed without knowing English. There are many indicators to be more developed, but it is not likely because of English.”²³

In the end, most of the interviewees agree that Indonesians do have obstacles in facing English, which are because of Culture, Economic, Geographical and individual factors. Each factor has different impacts on hindering English development in Indonesia, but the most important factor is the individual part. Individual factor means on how one perceives English, thinking is it important or not? Is it usable in the future or not? The other factor is just a supporting factor or as a background of one person. For example, Even if someone has stable financial stability, can afford to hire an English tutor, or go to an International school in the Capital City, if the person does not have the will or motivation to learn English, it is not possible to improve the English skill. Best solution from all the interviewees is to use Technology to its fullest. Using social media to access the English learning side is a good way to learn in an entertaining way. Visual and audio media like Youtube is very good because I can show what you are learning and also hear. With that, you can also look for songs with lyrics to try to understand the words and pronounce them correctly.

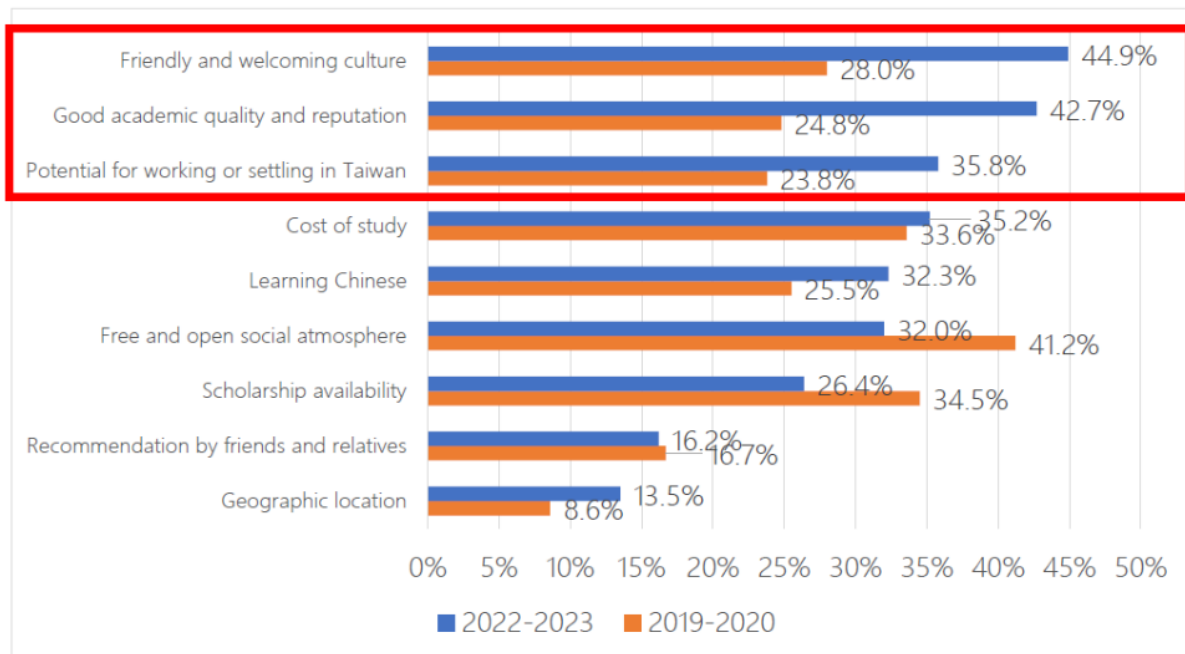
²² Interviewee 5. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 12th 2023.

²³ Interviewee 5. Interview. Conducted by Alvin Ditya Renata. September 12th 2023.

Cases for other countries

Countries around the world also struggle with their own problems related to language and education, which means that Indonesia's issues related to English and education will not have the same factor compared to other countries. The example that the author will give is comparing Taiwan and Indonesia. Statistically, Taiwan's education is better than Indonesia's, this leads to Taiwan having influence to invite foreigners to study in Taiwan until now.

Figure 1: Motives of studying in Taiwan



Source : <https://www.studyintaiwan.org/news/content/135>

Study In Taiwan conducted a survey about international enrolment in Taiwan. The statistics show many factors that support foreigners that study in Taiwan. With a huge number of 100.000 foreign students in Taiwan, it is encouraged for the locals to have some skills in English, and vice versa for foreigners to learn Chinese, in order to communicate. Combining the huge number of foreigners in Taiwan, academic advantages with direct help from the Government, it is clear that English development in Taiwan is rapid and even.

Indonesia on the other hand, has issues with English and has problems related to the lack of opportunities to apply English skills and the low quality of teachers in educational institutions, such as schools. According to Andre Rosser, Indonesia's education system is low in quality and the underlying causes are political. Indonesia's education system has been a high-volume, low-quality enterprise that has fallen well short of the country's ambitions for an “internationally competitive” system. This author that Indonesia have improved a lot for the number of schools that can be accessed to the kids, where there are many kids that can study and access knowledge,

But, he also mentioned that Indonesia’s education quality is “poor” even with the country’s best institutions. Indonesia has a lot of schools around the country, but still lacks the quality of students, teacher to compete within the international region. According to Oah Yarrow, Rythia Afkar, Eema Masood, and Bernard Gauthier, “ In Indonesian, in schools where the principal is absent for any reason, teachers are more than twice as more likely to also be absent, with teachers’ absence rate rising from 18.7 to 45 percent when the principal is not there.²⁴ This shows that in some parts of Indonesia, the teacher still lacks the quality to teach, where the teacher should be independent to guide students and teach students new knowledge that will be used for university or real life

Main findings :

Findings	Description	Key points
Obstacles that Indonesian face	To measure the problems that Indonesian faces with the perspective of English Professionals	Individual's motivation, How society perceive English impacts someone Culture preservation that rejects different culture Literacy issue in Indonesia, both Literacy in Indonesian and English language Different economic situation between individuals Regional differences In Indonesia
Solution for the Obstacles	Solutions that English professionals used to overcome the obstacles.	Practicing English with writing, Reading from English text and practice book Hiring English private tutor to improve English. Having more modern approach with the latest technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Using social media to access English based content for entertainment and educational purposes o Browsing the internet to access English learning information, English practice, and tutorials. o More active approach, using online communication application such as Omegle to talk with stranger online. o Watching youtube videos with the subtitle, listen to English songs with the lyrics on for reading, and listening skills. o Playing online games for the vocabulary, listening, narrative, plots, and entertainment purposes. o Using language learning application such as Duolingo.

Table 3 : Main findings

the results are very varied between interviewees, some but At the end of data collection, results have same similarities or are related between each other. Individual’s motivation have relation with how society perceive English, and culture preservation that rejects different

culture. Thick cultural values and custom may hinder the new, and more modern information, culture, and trends which usually comes from other country using English. Places that are more isolated to modern society, such as small city, villages, and remoted islands are numerous considering Indonesia has 16.771 islands, which makes this result very possible.

Literacy issues in Indonesia have relation with different economic situations between individuals and regional differences in Indonesia. Different financial backgrounds can lead to disparity between students in school, and after The K13 or Curriculum 13 Policy was initiated in 2013, the gap is larger between students that are wealthy and poor. Not only education, different regions can also be a factor in this problem. An island that is more crowded like Java, can be argued that the infrastructures are more developed compared to other islands like Sumatera, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Papua, East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara. If the infrastructure is better, then the public places to find information like library, are more updated and complete because of the easy access to information.

Solutions are different from each interviewees, where the older generation used to study in a more traditional manner, such as working on an English textbook, listening to songs and reading the lyrics behind the CD case, and learning English in school with the teacher. The younger generation can access technology very easily. Using social media, watching videos, using online communication tools, and playing games can be a solution to learning English, but in a more entertaining manner compared to traditional ways to learn it.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion :

This research looks at the obstacles that Indonesians experience when learning English and the methods on improving their English skills. Interviewees agree that Indonesians lack the basic skill of literacy, even with their own language. With the rise of modern technology that eases the access to communicate with people around the world, English is arguably needed to communicate with people from other countries.

The findings in the research shows that Indonesians do have problems in learning English, both internally and externally. Internal factor is mentioned where the author has experience in learning English. The author has a challenging period of learning English, hard time memorizing vocabulary, grammar and how to pronounce things correctly. Not only the author, all interviewees have problems when they start learning English, the same as many people when learning something new. All interviewees have mostly the same issue when learning English, where they struggle to memorize the English vocabulary, grammar and many more. But generation also plays a role in hindering English proficiency. Old education system, learning basic English, only using books to study, and not much resource to find meaning of the word with a dictionary.

Externally, the factors are divided into 4, which are Culture, Economic, Geographical, Individual and Political.

Cultural factors can be divided into two, first is the traditional culture and the second one is literacy culture. Some parts of Indonesia still have close relations with their old costumes, and it is common that people have to preserve this culture to show that Indonesia has uniqueness, which is “even though different, we are one”. But some people are not willing to open themselves, as they are afraid that their old costum may be gone because of time and the development in the world. Some argue that Indonesian literacy skills are lacking, where they are not willing to learn new things as it is hard, then ignoring it. This can be proven within this data analysis part of this research (Page 18). This shows that some people in Indonesia are not willing to follow technological development.

Economically, it is clear that people that are in the higher class have access to more resources to learn English with the most up to date technology that can support it. However, some argue that this situation is not why Indonesians have issues learning English. Even distribution of technology, such as handphones, computers, and laptops with access to the internet can be used by anyone at a cheaper price compared to years ago.

Geographical factors do have an impact, but it is not a main factor of the problem. Comparing Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia with other smaller countries, it is evident that the capital city has more influence to foreign culture as they are more open. Some places, maybe smaller city with isolated villages are likely to not have the same influence as they do not often meet foreigners, therefore they have no reason to learn English

Individual factor means how each individual perceives English importance in their life. All interviewees agree that this factor has the biggest impact on hindering Indonesian English proficiency. People have their own interest and it is known that we can not change someone's interest with ease. If a person wants to learn German, then it is not encouraged to learn English and focus more on learning German. Vice versa with English, if someone wants to learn English, then it is encouraged that the person focuses more on learning English.

Political factor occurs in some cases, but it does impact on the quality of the education given to students in school. Corruption is an act of of gaining power with illegitimate ways. In this case, one of the interviewee mentions that Nepotism happens in her city, which hugely impacts the quality of teacher in school, directly decreasing the student's quality and knowledge.

Suggestions :

The interviewees have provided solutions to the readers. This can be used and followed with their own suitable method. The methods are, reading, writing and listening daily, using social media to watch English based content, Using online communication applications to interact with people around the world, hiring private English tutor, and using modern technology. Interviewees agree that technology is the best and suitable solution in learning English and improving it. Technology can provide so many things, such as finding information related to English improvement, writing and listening to English conversations with automated and detailed corrections, and entertaining content that has the value in improving English.

Hopefully this research helps contribute in finding the obstacles that hinders Indonesian English proficiency and the methods and solutions on handling this problem with the perspective of the English professionals, such as professors, teachers, international workers and honor students with scholarships in Australia. These findings can be a reference and recommendations for the people that want to be better in improving their English literacy.

APPENDIX A

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Paragraph stating consent to interview

Hello and good evening, and thank you for participating in this interview. I will explain to you the purpose of this interview. My name is Alvin and i'm from Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, my research purposes is trying to find the obstacle that hinders Indonesian English development, not only finding the obstacle, I also try to find the solution coming from people that have overcome their problem in learning English, And I want to ask for consent to record this interview, this interview only for my research, which is private and for me only, and will not be published publicly.

Interviewee 1 = Freelancer that has experience working in English for 18 years.

What is your name and what is your current occupation ?

- My name is Interviewee, I teach students from Elementary school, teaching English in office for Active English, and teaching students with their IELTS, TOEFL.

Why did you learn English ? And what is the motivation behind it ?

- Reason : Because of parent's order and support
- Motivation :
 - o First, just obeying parents to study in Australia.
 - o Then the motivation grew to teaching someone,
 - o Not only because of that, she wanted to improve Indonesia's English education with the knowledge and culture of native English.

In the process of learning English, what problems did you face?

- First reason : Parents, having mindset of "English is hard" and do not want to learn English,

- Second reason : Schools do not provide a good source of books, where they use “Indonesian English” rather than native English.

Does English have an impact on your life?

- She can get many jobs because of her English, from teaching English in kindergarten to teaching managers in big companies.
- With her knowledge and experience teaching English from an English speaking country, I can give more “real” English experience to her students.

Does learning English make it easier for you to get a job or doing your job?

- It is easier to find job if someone is proficient enough in English, in passive or active English
- Using native English is not common in Indonesia, therefore it is better to have experience living abroad in an English speaking country.

Do you agree that Indonesia has problems in the field of language literacy (Indonesian and English language)?

- Looking at the English exam, the quality does not reflect the student’s competency for the material.
- Second. Accreditation system also does not reflect the quality of the students.

Does culture have an impact on learning English in Indonesia?

- Yes, people from rural areas have a different mindset compared to urban areas.

Does Financial/Economy have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, very likely.
- People living in the city accepts new stuff easier
- People living outside the city reject new stuff.

Do individuals have an impact on English language learning in Indonesia?

- Very much. When people value something, they will try to achieve or get the thing.
This topic is English.

What solution would you like to convey to English language students in Indonesia, so that they can develop literacy skills in English? Is there a more modern solution nowadays?

- Government should have more strict competency test
- Corruption also plays a big role in English development in the Education sector. giving them (English teacher) exchange program to another native english speaking country with the fund

Do you think that Indonesia has more opportunities in the international sphere, seeing the potential that Indonesia has if its population has skills in English?

- Yes, I believe. But there are some things that should be changed, such as improving Indonesia 's literacy.

Interviewee 2 = Professor in English department

What is your name and what is your current occupation ?

- My name is Interviewee 2, my occupation is Professor in Widya Mandala Catholic University in the English Department.

Why are you studying English? What is your motivation for learning English?

- Reason : First it is just a hobby, but seeing my uncle's life prosper with having English skills, it motivates me to learn English. English can be a key to getting a great future, it opens an opportunity for me to go further.
- Motivation : Seeing my uncle's prosper life with having English skill, it motivates me to learn English. therefore improving my life situation with English and education

In the process of learning English, what problems did you face?

- Traditional era, Only learning grammar and vocabulary with limited resources.

Does English have an impact on your life?

- I can become a lecturer in a University in the English Department,

Does learning English make it easier for you to get a job or doing your job ?

- Yes, it is easier to get a job when you have English skills. Not only for being a teacher, but to work especially this past year.

Do you agree that Indonesia has problems in the field of language literacy (Indonesian and English language)?

- Yes, According to OICD, Indonesia is the 5th from the lowest and considered as a non-book country.
- It is because that even in our own native tongue, we don't get the grasp on the basic
- Indonesian only grasp the broad knowledge, not the detailed one.
- In education, the tendency is only learning vocabulary and grammar, without the speaking, listening part of English.

Does culture have an impact on learning English in Indonesia?

- Yes, our culture has a tendency to lack discipline that impacts how people learn something.

- There is also a culture called “ewuh pakewuh”, where people do not want to point out mistakes as they are afraid of the backlash. This does not help improve someone’s ability.

Does Finance/Economics have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, upper class kids will have more resources to learn English compared to the middle and lower class.

Does Geography have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, clearly. Java, outside Java, rural and urban areas. But some places like Bali is a special case, where all of the Balinese have some English skill even without proper English class.

Do individuals have an impact on English language learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, clearly. Not only in English, but in every subject.
- Interest also motivates people to do something and it is from personality.
- Personality can be a person;s background, not only his interest but his intellectual ability do impact too.

Of these 4 factors, which do you think is more influential? Or they all have the same influence.

- Individuals

What solution would you like to convey to English language students in Indonesia, so that they can develop literacy skills in English? Is there a more modern solution nowadays?

- Modern technology is spread around Indonesia, so there is no issue of getting access to information about English through the internet.

Do you think that Indonesia has more opportunities in the international sphere, seeing the potential. Such as natural resources, that Indonesia has if its population has skills in English?

- Yes, seeing other migrant workers from other countries like the Philippines in Taiwan, they have more competencies such as nurse or teacher because they are more competent in their English skills.
- Solving the lack of technology also helps Indonesia improve drastically.

Interviewee 3 = Professor in English department

What is your name and what is your current occupation ?

- Name = Interviewee 3
- Occupation = Professor in Widya Mandala Catholic University in the English Department.

Why are you studying English? What is your motivation for learning English?

- Reason : Want to learn English to the fullest as a curiosity and hobby, but grew during university.
- Motivation : Trying to escape the reality of my life, I was living in a rural area and wanted to escape the situation, therefore I learn English and create achievement through English.

In the process of learning English, what problems did you face?

- Externally, The limitation of sources. Because of a lack of technology and knowledge.
- Internally, I was weak in listening and speaking English.

Does English have an impact on your life?

- Yes, it mostly impacted me in a positive way
- Can be a lecturer in a university, building bridges to international relations with foreigners.
- Can travel in Europe and Asia because of English.

Does learning English make it easier for you to get a job or doing your job ?

- Yes, with English, I'm accepted as a Lecturer in Widya Mandala Catholic University.
- I can also teach students to have real life skills while teaching them English.

Do you agree that Indonesia has problems in the field of language literacy (Indonesian and English language)?

- In the literacy problem, it is clear as day.
- In the city, people still learn and have English literacy. But in rural areas, it's still a hard thing to do for the people there.

Does culture have an impact on learning English in Indonesia?

- Of course culture has much impact. Indonesian mostly focus on “orality” or the tendency for speaking or much more comfortable speaking compared with writing.
- History, Religion, Culture are also one of the factors in someone learning English.

- Case example : Some may think that English is one of the ways on how Westerners influence Indonesian. President Joko Widodo mentioned that told the people that students should learn English when they are in Junior High School because they are afraid that Indonesia's culture will fade away because of English.

Does Finance/Economics have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, If someone is economically able, they have the facility to learn English with more resources. Vice versa, If someone is not able economically, it is harder for them to learn English

Does Geography have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, If we compare Java and Sumatra, the technology and infrastructure is different compared with other small islands. And all of this comes from infrastructure, technology differences. Therefore, English also has an impact because of this.

Do individuals have an impact on English language learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, every individual is unique. All of people have their own background, from family, culture, experiences, his/her perception for the future and every individual have different on learning English and the motivation

What solution would you like to convey to English language students in Indonesia, so that they can develop literacy skills in English? Is there a more modern solution nowadays?

- Nowadays, it is easy to learn English. You do not have to come to an English speaking country to study, but you can access modern technology. Such as social media, Youtube. So many sources are on the internet, written or oral and verbal.
- Playing games is one of the sources of learning English. Nowadays people mostly play multiplayer games online in English. They can learn English without a teacher.

Interviewee 4 = High School English teacher

What is your name and what is your current occupation ?

- Name : Interviewee 4
- Occupation : English teacher in Santa Maria Surabaya Highschool

Why are you studying English? What is your motivation for learning English?

- Hobbies, where I like to listen to English songs to understand the lyrics and the words, but eventually motivation began to develop over time to where I'm trying to study English fully.

In the process of learning English, what problems did you face?

- The school does not provide good quality and quantity of English. In elementary school, the time that I learned English was through Songs with lyrics on the CD. Which is different now. But formal English education starts in Junior High School, but only with grammar and vocabulary. Elementary only learns color, shape, number, etc.

Does English have an impact on your life?

- Positive impact : Can communicate with foreigners, having an international social network. Can get various sources from local and international perspective,
- but there are some negative impacts from myself. The local language is getting forgotten because I am learning English, even though I still remember how to use it. Too much focused in English, my mother language also impacted

Does learning English make it easier for you to get a job or doing your job ?

- I can have a job as an English teacher with my knowledge and experience.

Do you agree that Indonesia has problems in the field of language literacy (Indonesian and English language)?

- Yes, clearly. Literacy culture in Indonesia is not good compared to other countries. Reading and giving constructive criticism is still inadequate.
- Indonesian are lazy to read something, let alone processing some reading, both quality and quantity,

- So many Indonesians easily believe hoax, fake news. This leads to problems.

Does culture have an impact on learning English in Indonesia?

- Yes, There is a term called “Unggah Ungguh ” or being polite to someone that is older than us. Usually someone older does not like new stuff coming because they do not want to learn and preserve older traditions. Therefore rejecting globalization and isolating themselves.

Does Finance/Economics have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- No, nowadays it is easier to access information with the internet. Both people that are high class, middle class and lower class have the same information through the internet. The main point to improve is to have the will to learn.

Does Geography have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, more metropolitan cities learn English as a necessity. Compared to Sorong City in Papua, Jakarta has better infrastructure and is more exposed to international forums. But it is not an issue because of the internet. Now, most places in Indonesia have the internet.

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Do individuals have an impact on English language learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, each person has their own motivation and characteristics. Someone’s background has a big impact on English learning development. Age, if introverts and extroverts also have an impact. Extroverts are more likely to easily learn languages. Motivation is also one of the factors.

What solution would you like to convey to English language students in Indonesia, so that they can develop literacy skills in English? Is there a more modern solution nowadays?

- To improve literacy culture, we need to focus more on reading and writing. We are mostly exposed to listening and speaking now. The reading ability is not yet good enough to be called “able”, let alone writing.
- Solution : They need to read more, but change the reading content. If the reading content is not authentic and not relevant with the reader’s interest, then the student or

learner will not learn English fully. Maybe trying to find a hot international topic, or local case study for knowledge. This helps them know more information while they practice English.

- Hobby could be a better method to learn English, listening to music and reading the lyrics, watching youtube, using social media for English learning content, or playing games and talking to other people in English.

Do you think that Indonesia has more opportunities in the international sphere, seeing the potential that Indonesia has if its population has skills in English?

- Yes, We only need to improve human resources. We have a lot of manpower, but insufficient quality of manpower. If you can only speak English without providing any skill, then you are not a valuable person.

Lastly, do you agree that if the people in Indonesia had basic knowledge of English, Indonesia would be more advanced than the current situation. (Solution implemented right now)

- Not really. To improve a country, it is not based on having English skills. Like Japan, China (RRC), they are developed without knowing English. There are many indicators to be more developed, but it is not likely because of English.

Interviewee 5 = High School English teacher

What is your name and what is your current occupation ?

- Name : Interviewee 5
- Occupation : English teacher in St.Louis High School in Surabaya.

Why are you studying English? What is your motivation for learning English?

- Finding passion in English, and it grew overtime to be a work.
- Motivation : To invest in English skill to find job in the future,

In the process of learning English, what problems did you face?

- There is too much vocabulary that we have to memorize, from the easiest to the words that we do not usually use.
- Speaking with correct grammar and pronunciation is also one of my problems till now.

Does English have an impact on your life?

- More confidence in finding a job.

Does learning English make it easier for you to get a job or doing your job ?

- Yes, I have more confidence in trying to find a job within an international region, such as HSBC with my English.

Do you agree that Indonesia has problems in the field of language literacy (Indonesian and English language)?

- Yes, but not Indonesian as general, but how generations perceive English.
- The more younger generation do not have issue in learning English, with technology and globalization where they are exposed to English
- Older generations are not exposed to English very often, therefore are not interested in learning English.

Does culture have an impact on learning English in Indonesia?

- Culture is very impactful in learning English. One of the tribe's cultures wanted to preserve local language and not learn foreign languages. Therefore, they reject outside's influence so their culture will not disappear.

Does Finance/Economics have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, not only in international school. We know that international school helps students to interact with native speakers and have a direct conversation with them, But finance also helps students to have many resources, such as gadgets to find things that they want to learn.

Does Geography have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes. Very impactful. The city's development impacts technology development. Society that will create differences between places. For example, between West Java and East Java, or Java Island with other islands.

Do individuals have an impact on English language learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, a person's motivation and purpose to learn English do have a big impact. Each person has a different goal, where some want to stay in Indonesia or want to go work outside Indonesia, which requires them to have English skills.

What solution would you like to convey to English language students in Indonesia, so that they can develop literacy skills in English? Is there a more modern solution nowadays?

- Start from what you like to do in English. If you like to listen and sing a song, then start with reading the lyrics and listening to the song.
- But if there are limited resources, be more active with the teacher with English conversation.

Do you think that Indonesia has more opportunities in the international sphere, seeing the potential that Indonesia has if its population has skills in English?

- Yes, with our vast natural resources, of course we can get more opportunities in the international sphere, we just need to upgrade our human resources skill, starting with English.

Lastly, do you agree that if the people in Indonesia had basic knowledge of English, Indonesia would be more advanced than the current situation. (Solution implemented right now)

- Yes, it will be much more improved. Not only do we learn the local and mother language, but with English, we can learn more sources of knowledge. The study is not only based in Indonesia, but Internationally where you can expand your knowledge to know everything better.

Interviewee 6 : University student that has scholarship in Australia

What is your name and what is your current occupation ?

- Name : Interviewee 6
- Occupation : University student in Petra Christian University

Why are you studying English? What is your motivation for learning English?

- Taught by parents since childhood
- Motivation : Preparing for the future, where jobs will require people to use English.

In the process of learning English, what problems did you face?

- I still have some problems with reading until now. Listening too, but in the context of long conversation and University lectures and argument writing in academic papers.

Does English have an impact on your life?

- Yes, I can be more expressive, because English has many words to express your exact feeling.

Does learning English make it easier for you to get a job or doing your job ?

- Yes, it is easier to get a job when you have English literacy and skill. In LinkedIn, many people tried to hire people that is fluent in English

Do you agree that Indonesia has problems in the field of language literacy (Indonesian and English language)?

- Yes, Indonesians do not like reading. They are not open to both sources where they like to believe hoax

Does culture have an impact on learning English in Indonesia?

- Yes. Different cultures have different perspectives on Culture, therefore it is different.

Does Finance/Economics have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, Financial situation of each person is different, which is why there is a gap between students with different backgrounds.

Does Geography have an impact on English learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, each development has an impact on many things, in this case English. Where the more developed the city is, they can easily access more knowledge.

Do individuals have an impact on English language learning in Indonesia?

- Yes, if you want to learn English and have the motivation, you will try to find a way to be better. But If you don't want to learn, you just do other stuff.

What solution would you like to convey to English language students in Indonesia, so that

Can they develop literacy skills in English? Is there a more modern solution nowadays?

- Use Duolingo, follow online English forums, and find English content on Instagram.

Do you think that Indonesia has more opportunities in the international sphere, seeing the potential that Indonesia has if its population has skills in English?

- Yes, with higher literacy in English, the tourism industry will have increased income. If more people have English literacy, promotion media, information media related to tourism can be accessed easily.

Lastly, do you agree that if the people in Indonesia had basic knowledge of English, Indonesia would be more advanced than the current situation. (Solution implemented right now)

- Yes, it would be different than now.

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