

**THE ANALYSIS OF THE MERDEKA BELAJAR IMPLEMENTATION
IN ENGLISH AT SMP NEGERI 80 JAKARTA**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Arranged by

PINSENSIUS RICHARD ZENO

1912150019



ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES

UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA

JAKARTA

2023

**THE ANALYSIS OF THE MERDEKA BELAJAR IMPLEMENTATION
IN ENGLISH AT SMP NEGERI 80 JAKARTA**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Bachelor's Degree (S.Pd) of English Language Education Study Program,
Faculty of Letters and Languages, Universitas Kristen Indonesia

Arranged by

PINSENSIUS RICHARD ZENO

1912150019



ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES

UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA

JAKARTA

2023



UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY OF UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

I, the undersigned below:

Name : Pinsensius Richard Zeno
Student Number : 1912150019
Study Program : English Language Education
Faculty : Letters and Languages

Hereby declare that the thesis paper entitled "The Analysis of the Merdeka Belajar Implementation in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta" is:

1. Created and completed by myself using the results of lectures, field reviews, books, and journal references listed in my final project's references;
2. It is not a duplication of a paper that has been published or used to obtain a bachelor's degree at another university, except for the parts of the source of information that are listed in a proper reference manner;
3. It is not a translation work from a collection of reference books or journals listed in the reference to the assignment.

If it is proven that I do not fulfill what is stated above, then this final project is considered null and void.

Jakarta, July 4th 2023



(Pinsensius Richard Zeno)
NIM: 1912150019



**UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS APPROVAL

As the assigned research supervisors of the following student:

Name : Pinsensius Richard Zeno

Student Number : 1912150019

Faculty : Letters and Languages

Has passed the thesis exam and confirmed that this thesis had been thoroughly examined, improved, and approved by the Board of Examiners of the English Language Education and the advisor.

Jakarta, July 4th, 2023

Advisor I

Parlindungan Pardede, M.Hum

NIDN: 0304026701

Advisor II

Hendrikus Male, S.Pd., M.Hum

NIDN: 0303077901

Head of English Language Education
Study Program

Hendrikus Male, S.Pd., M.Hum

NIDN: 0303077901

Dean of Faculty of Letters and Languages

Susanne A. H. Sitohang, S.S., M. A

NIDN: 0311127201



UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

APPROVAL FOR UNDERGRADUATE THESIS EXAM

On July 4th, 2023, a Final Assignment Session was held to fulfill some of the academic requirements to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in English Education Study Program, Faculty of Letters and Languages, Universitas Kristen Indonesia, on behalf of:

Name : Pinsensius Richard Zeno
Student Number : 1912150019
Study Program : English Language Education
Faculty : Letters and Languages

We certify that this student's thesis "The Analysis of the *Merdeka Belajar* Implementation in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta" was written under our supervision, and it has met the requirements to be defended in the under graduate thesis examination of English Language Education (ELE) of the Faculty Letters and Languages of Universitas Kristen Indonesia.

Board of Examiners

1 Dr. Lamhot Naibaho, S.Pd., M. Hum

2 Hendrikus Male, S.Pd., Hum

3 Parlindungan Pardede, M.Hum



UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS PUBLICATION STATEMENTS AND
APPROVAL**

I, the undersigned below:

Name : Pinsensius Richard Zeno
Student Number : 1912150019
Study Program : English Language Education
Education Faculty : Letters and Languages
Type of Final Project : Undergraduate Thesis
Title : "The Analysis of the Merdeka Belajar
Implementation in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta"

State that:

1. The undergraduate thesis is my original work under the direction of the supervisor and is not a duplicate of a written work that has been published or has been used to obtain an academic degree at any university;
2. The undergraduate thesis is not a plagiarism of the work of other parties, and if I/we quote from the work of others, it will be included as a reference in accordance with applicable regulations;
3. I give Non-Exclusive Rights Without Royalty to the Universitas Kristen Indonesia which has the right to save, transfer media/format, manage in the form of a database (database), maintain and publish my final work as long as it still includes my name as a author/creator and as a voter Copyright.

In the future, if there is a violation of Copyright and Intellectual Property or other Republic of Indonesia Legislation and academic integrity in my work, I am willing to personally bear all forms of lawsuits and academic sanctions that arise and release the Universitas Kristen Indonesia from all lawsuits applicable

Jakarta, July 4th 2023

Pinsensius Richard Zeno

MOTTO

“Inhale Courage, Exhale Fear”

DEDICATION

With sincere gratitude and a heart full of thanks, he would like to dedicate this thesis to all those who played a significant role in making this thesis possible. Without their support and contributions, this thesis would not have become a reality. To all the lecturers and staff of the English Language Study program and the Faculty of Letters and Languages, he extends his thanks for their support and guidance during his academic journey. Their wisdom and assistance have been invaluable in bringing this thesis to completion.

To his family, especially his parents, siblings, and all relatives, he expresses profound gratitude for their unwavering support throughout his academic journey. Their prayers and encouragement have been the driving force behind his achievements. He extends his heartfelt thanks to his friends, both within and outside the campus, for their support, companionship, and cherished moments shared during his studies.

Finally, he wishes to express his appreciation to everyone involved in the success of this thesis. May the findings of this research contribute positively and meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge and society. Thank you for everything.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First of all, the researcher would like to thank God Almighty for all His blessings and gifts during the study period until the completion of the thesis entitled “Analysis of the Implementation of the Merdeka Belajar in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta.” Without His invisible but real help, this thesis would not have been completed.

The researcher also expresses his gratitude to all parties who have provided inspiration, advice, and assistance in the process of preparing this thesis. The following parties to whom the researcher would like to express his deepest appreciation and gratitude.

1. Prof. Dr. Dhaniswara K. Harjono, SH. MH. MBA. as Chancellor of Universitas Kristen Indonesia, Jakarta.
2. Susanne A.H. Sihotang, S.S, M.A. as Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Languages.
3. Hendrikus Male, S.Pd., M.Hum. as Head of English Language Education Study Program.
4. Parlindungan Pardede, M.Hum. and Hendrikus Male, S.Pd., M.Hum as supervisors in this research.
5. All lecturers who have provided knowledge and guidance to him and all of the administrative staff who assisted in the administrative process.
6. The principal, teachers, and 7th grade students at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta.

7. My beloved parents, Jusia and Katarina Amina, for their motivation and prayers for the researcher.
8. All of the family, who have supported, helped financially, and prayed for the researcher to complete this thesis.
9. The researcher would like to thank the head of Yap Thiam Hien Dormitory, especially Ms. Sherlly and Ms. Ade Marpaung, who have provided guidance and support during his stay at Yap Thiam Hien Dormitory.
10. All his classmates in the class of 2019, his friends, and his seniors and juniors for their support throughout the study period.

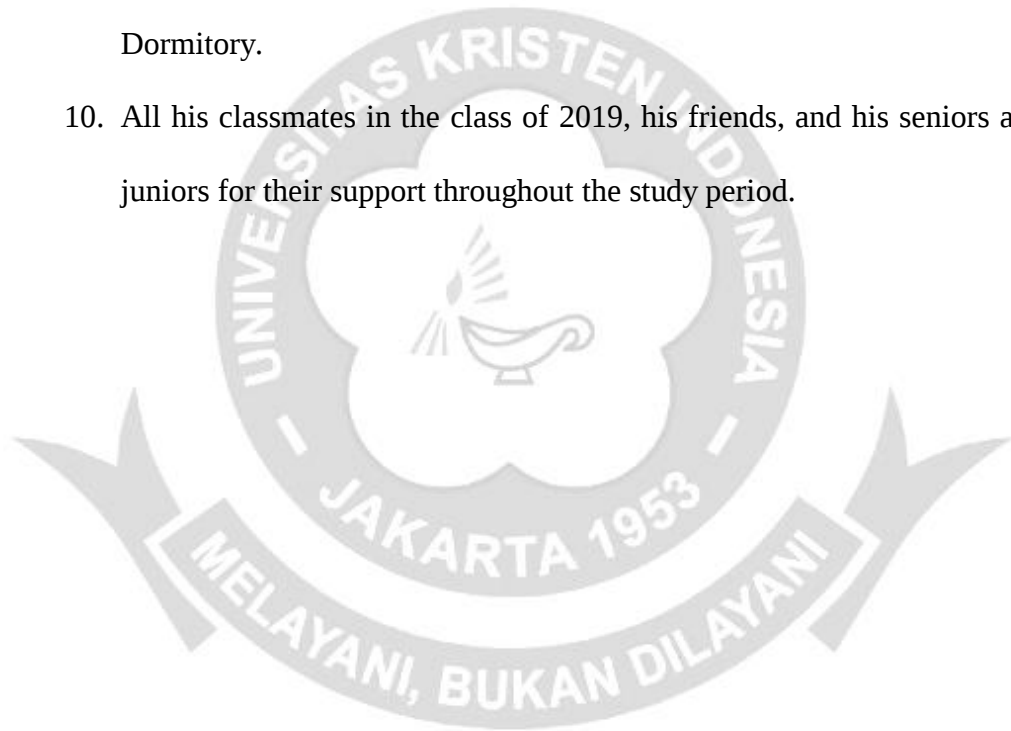


TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY OF UNDERGRADUATE THESIS	ii
UNDERGRADUATE THESIS APPROVAL	iii
UNDERGRADUATE THESIS APPROVAL FOR BOARD OF EXAMINERS .	iv
UNDERGRADUATE THESIS PUBLICATION STATEMENTS AND APPROVAL.....	v
MOTTO.....	vi
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xiii
LIST OF APPENDIXES	xiv
ABSTRAK	xv
ABSTRACT.....	xvi
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
A. Research Background	1
B. The Research Questions	4
C. The Objectives of the Study	5
D. The Significations of the Study	5
E. Research Scope.....	6
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK.	7
Literature Review	7
B. Previous Related Studies.....	24

B. Conceptual Framework	28
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	29
A. The Design of the Study	29
B. Subjects and Objects of the Research	29
C. Research Location and Time	30
D. Data Collection Techniques.....	30
E. Research Instruments.....	32
F. Triangulation	36
G. Mechanism of the Data Collecting	36
H. Data Analysis Technique.....	37
CHAPTER IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	39
A. Results	39
1. Implementation of the Merdeka Belajar in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta.....	39
2. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors in the Implementation of the Merdeka Belajar curriculum in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta	56
B. Discussion.....	63
1. Implementation of the Merdeka Belajar in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta	63
2. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors in the Implementation of the Merdeka Belajar curriculum in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta	74
CHAPTER VI CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	82
A. Conclusion.....	82

B. Suggestion	84
REFERENCES.....	86
APPENDIXES	91



LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1 Grid of Interview Guidelines for Principal.....	32
Table 3.2 Grid of Interview Guidelines for the Curriculum Representative.....	33
Table 3.3 Grid of Interview Guidelines for English Teacher.....	33
Table 3.4 Grid of Interview Guidelines for students.....	34
Table 3.4 Observation Guideline Grid.....	35
Table 4.1 Teaching Module Chapter 4 – Where’s the Cafe’	53



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework.....	28
Figure 3.1 Interactive Model According to Miles and Huberman.....	38



LIST OF APPENDIXES

Appendix 1. Principal Interview Sheet	92
Appendix 2. Vice curriculum Interview Sheet.....	94
Appendix 3. English Teacher Interview Sheet.....	95
Appendix 4. Student Interview Sheet.....	97
Appendix 5. Field Notes	98
Appendix 6. Checklist of Teaching Module Documentation Analysis.....	99
Appendix 7. Teaching and Learning Module	102
Appendix 8. Principal Interview Transcript.....	119
Appendix 9. Transcript of Curriculum Vice Interview	124
Appendix 10. English Teacher Interview Transcript	131
Appendix 11. Transcript of Student Interview.....	153
Appendix 12. Permission Letter to Conduct the Research	175
Appendix 13. Reply Letter Regarding Research.....	175
Appendix 14. English Teaching and Learning Documentation	177

Analisis Implementasi Merdeka Belajar dalam Bahasa Inggris di SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta

Peneliti:
Pinsensius Richard Zeno
(1912150019)

Pembimbing:
Parlindungan Pardede, M.Hum.
Hendrikus Male, S.Pd., M.Hum

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan melakukan analisis implementasi kurikulum Merdeka Belajar serta mengidentifikasi faktor pendukung dan penghambat dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris di SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta. Metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif deskriptif, dengan informan terdiri dari kepala sekolah, wakil kurikulum, guru Bahasa Inggris, dan siswa. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara, observasi, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerapan kurikulum Merdeka Belajar mampu menghadirkan pendekatan pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris yang lebih fleksibel dan mendorong partisipasi aktif siswa. Serta, kurikulum ini memberikan ruang untuk eksplorasi, diferensiasi materi, serta pengembangan keterampilan sosial dan akademik peserta didik. Namun, pemahaman terhadap komponen baru seperti Capaian Pembelajaran (CP), Alur Tujuan Pembelajaran (ATP), dan Projek Penguatan Profil Pelajar Pancasila (P5) masih berada pada tahap adaptasi. Penggunaan asesmen diagnostik sebagai dasar dalam perencanaan pembelajaran yang lebih tepat sasaran pada kurikulum ini. Siswa memberikan respons positif terhadap proses pembelajaran yang lebih interaktif, kolaboratif, dan kontekstual. Faktor pendukung implementasi antara lain kepemimpinan kepala sekolah yang visioner untuk menerapkan kurikulum di SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta, serta dukungan kebijakan dari Dinas Pendidikan Provinsi DKI Jakarta mendorong warga sekolah untuk menerapkan kurikulum ini. Sementara itu, faktor penghambat mencakup kurangnya pemahaman guru terhadap konsep kurikulum yang relatif baru, sumber daya pembelajaran seperti buku ajar bahasa Inggris berdasarkan kurikulum Merdeka Belajar masih belum ada, pelatihan dan seminar untuk guru terhadap konsep kurikulum Merdeka masih kurang atau cukup. Secara keseluruhan, keberhasilan penerapan kurikulum Merdeka Belajar sangat bergantung pada kesiapan, kolaborasi, dan pengembangan kompetensi guru secara berkelanjutan guna menciptakan pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris yang bermakna, adaptif, dan berorientasi pada siswa.

Kata Kunci: Kurikulum *Merdeka Belajar*, pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris, implementasi, faktor pendukung dan penghambat, penelitian deskriptif kualitatif

The Analysis of the Merdeka Belajar Implementation
in English at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta

Researcher:
Pinsensius Richard Zeno
(1912150019)

Supervisors:
Parlindungan Pardede, M.Hum.
Hendrikus Male, S.Pd., M.Hum

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the implementation of the Merdeka Belajar curriculum and to identify the supporting and inhibiting factors in English language learning at SMP Negeri 80 Jakarta. The research employed a descriptive qualitative method, involving informants consisting of the principal, vice principal for curriculum affairs, English teachers, and students. Data were collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The results indicate that the implementation of the Merdeka Belajar Curriculum has introduced a more flexible approach to English language teaching, encouraging active student participation in the learning process. The curriculum also provides opportunities for exploration, material differentiation, and the development of students' social and academic skills. However, understanding of the new components such as Learning Outcomes (LO), Learning Objective Flow (LOF), and Pancasila Student Profile Strengthening Project (P5) remains at the adaptation stage. The use of diagnostic assessment serves as an effective basis for designing more targeted learning plans. Students responded positively to the interactive, collaborative, and contextual learning environment fostered by this curriculum. Supporting factors include the visionary leadership of the school principal, which facilitates curriculum implementation, and the policy support from the DKI Jakarta Provincial Education Office, which encourages the school community to adopt the Merdeka Belajar framework. Conversely, inhibiting factors involve limited teacher understanding of the relatively new curriculum concepts, the unavailability of English textbooks aligned with the Merdeka Belajar Curriculum, and insufficient teacher training and workshops related to curriculum implementation. Overall, the success of the Merdeka Belajar Curriculum implementation highly depends on teacher readiness, collaboration, and continuous professional development to create meaningful, adaptive, and student-centered English learning experiences.

Keywords: *Merdeka Belajar* Curriculum, English language learning, implementation, supporting and inhibiting factors, descriptive qualitative research.