

**THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF VOCABULARY IN OVERCOMING  
GRAMMATICAL BARRIERS: A STUDY OF COMMUNICATION  
BETWEEN INDONESIAN AND NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS**

**TERM PAPER**



**By**

**Muhammad Ivan**

**2019130114**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE  
DARMA PERSADA UNIVERSITY  
JAKARTA  
2025**

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Submitted in part-fulfilment of requirements for obtaining  
*Sarjana Linguistik (S.Li)* degree



By

**Muhammad Ivan**

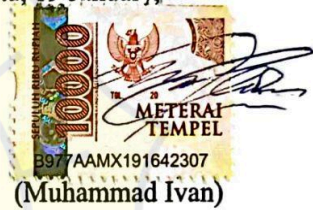
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2025**

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT PAGE


I hereby declare that the term paper is the result of my work and not plagiarism of another work, the contents have become my responsibility. All my research sources and quotes or references have been stated correctly.


Jakarta, 19 January, 2025



## LETTER OF APPROVAL

Recommendation of respective Supervisor, Academic Advisor, and Head of the Department, the term-paper submitted by Muhammad Ivan entitled “The Crucial Role of Vocabulary in Overcoming Grammatical Barriers: A Study of Communication between Indonesian and Native English Speakers” has been approved and forwarded to the English Language and Culture Department, Darma Persada University, for final evaluation before the thesis defense for obtaining *Sarjana Linguistik* (S.Li) degree to respective candidate.

Supervisor	Signature	Date
(Dr. Yoga Pratama, S.S M.Pd.)		Jakarta, March 26 <sup>th</sup> ,2024

Head of English Language and Culture Department	Signature	Date
(Dr. Yoga Pratama, S.S M.Pd.)		Jakarta, March 26 <sup>th</sup> ,2024

Academic Advisor	Signature	Date
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Name	: <b>Muhammad Ivan</b>
Student Number	: 2019130114


## TERM PAPER VALIDATION

On February 7 2025, the term paper has been academically tested and defended in front of


### THE BOARD EXAMINERS

Ones of whom sit as follow

Advisor

  
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**Dr. Yoga Pratama, S.S., M.Pd.**

Examiner

  
.....  
**Dr. Suranto, M.Pd.**

Head Board of Examiners


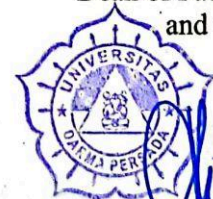
  
.....  
**Dr. Fridolini, S.S., M.Hum.**

Legally validated in Jakarta on February 12, 2025

Head of English Language and  
Department,

  
  
**Dr. Yoga Pratama, S.S., M.Pd.**

Dean of Faculty of Language  
and Culture

  
  
FAKULTAS BAHASA DAN BUDAYA  
**Dr. C. Dewi Hartati, S.S., M.Si.,**

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Jakarta, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Writer,



**(Muhammad Ivan)**

# THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF VOCABULARY IN OVERCOMING GRAMMATICAL BARRIERS: A STUDY OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN INDONESIAN AND NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigates the role of vocabulary acquisition in enhancing communication effectiveness between Indonesian speakers and native English speakers. The primary objective is to demonstrate that vocabulary knowledge contributes more significantly to communication success than grammatical accuracy, based on data collected from transcribed voice-call conversations. In this research, five conversation sessions were analyzed, involving four Indonesian speakers (Peter, Erika, Daniel, and Miel) and two native English speakers (Tristan and Robert), who were selected due to their frequent engagement in cross-cultural interactions. A qualitative approach is employed to examine conversational exchanges where key vocabulary enabled meaning to be conveyed, even when grammatical structures were flawed. Additionally, an experimental component is introduced to test comprehension using intentionally worsened grammar. The findings reveal that native English speakers can accurately understand the intended messages of Indonesian speakers as long as essential vocabulary is present, highlighting the dominant role of vocabulary in spontaneous interactions. However, it is important to note that these conclusions are contextual and may differ in formal settings where grammatical accuracy is crucial. Overall, this study contributes to the field of second language acquisition by emphasizing the priority of vocabulary expansion in language learning. The results indicate that enhancing learners' vocabulary significantly improves their communicative competence, enabling more effective interactions despite linguistic inaccuracies. These findings hold particular relevance for educational strategies aimed at improving English proficiency among Indonesian learners in practical and cross-cultural communication contexts.

**Keywords:** Vocabulary Acquisition, Communication Effectiveness, Second Language Learning, Grammar, Indonesian EFL Learners.

**PERAN PENTING KOSAKATA DALAM MENGATASI HAMBATAN TATA  
BAHASA: STUDI KOMUNIKASI ANTARA PENUTUR BAHASA  
INDONESIA DAN PENUTUR BAHASA INGGRIS ASLI**

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**ABSTRAK**

*Studi ini menyelidiki peran penguasaan kosakata dalam meningkatkan efektivitas komunikasi antara penutur bahasa Indonesia dan penutur asli bahasa Inggris. Tujuan utamanya adalah untuk menunjukkan bahwa pengetahuan kosakata memberikan kontribusi yang lebih signifikan terhadap keberhasilan komunikasi daripada akurasi tata bahasa, berdasarkan data yang dikumpulkan dari percakapan panggilan suara yang ditranskripsi. Dalam penelitian ini, lima sesi percakapan dianalisis, yang melibatkan empat penutur bahasa Indonesia (Peter, Erika, Daniel, dan Miel) dan dua penutur asli bahasa Inggris (Tristan dan Robert), yang dipilih karena keterlibatan mereka yang sering dalam interaksi lintas budaya. Pendekatan kualitatif difokuskan pada pemeriksaan pertukaran percakapan di mana kosakata utama memungkinkan penyampaian makna bahkan ketika struktur tata bahasanya cacat. Selain itu, komponen eksperimental diperkenalkan untuk menguji pemahaman menggunakan tata bahasa yang sengaja diperburuk. Temuan tersebut mengungkapkan bahwa penutur asli bahasa Inggris dapat secara akurat memahami pesan yang dimaksudkan oleh penutur bahasa Indonesia selama kosakata penting hadir, yang menyoroti peran dominan kosakata dalam interaksi spontan. Namun, penting untuk dicatat bahwa kesimpulan ini bersifat kontekstual dan mungkin berbeda dalam pengaturan formal di mana akurasi tata bahasa adalah yang terpenting. Secara keseluruhan, studi ini berkontribusi pada bidang penguasaan bahasa kedua dengan menekankan prioritas perluasan kosakata dalam pembelajaran bahasa. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa peningkatan kosakata pelajar secara signifikan meningkatkan kompetensi komunikatif mereka, memungkinkan interaksi yang lebih efektif meskipun terdapat ketidakakuratan linguistik. Temuan ini memiliki relevansi khusus untuk strategi pendidikan yang bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kemahiran bahasa Inggris di kalangan pelajar Indonesia dalam konteks komunikasi praktis dan lintas budaya.*

**Kata kunci:** *Akuisisi Kosakata, Efektivitas Komunikasi, Pembelajaran Bahasa Kedua, Tata Bahasa, Pembelajar EFL Indonesia.*