

ABSTRACT

Khairunnisa, Khansa S (2025): Exploring A Teacher's Challenges in Teaching English for Hospitality Major: A Case Study at SMK Ma'arif Terpadu Cicalengka

This study explores the challenges encountered by English as a Foreign Language teacher in teaching English for Specific Purposes (ESP) within the hospitality major at SMK Ma'arif Terpadu Cicalengka. Employing a qualitative case study approach, data were collected through semi-structured interviews, classroom observations, and document analysis. The findings revealed three primary categories of challenges: (1) teacher-related challenges, including the lack of formal ESP training, limited peer support, and difficulty in sourcing and adapting relevant materials; (2) student-related challenges, such as students' limited English proficiency, difficulties with vocabulary and pronunciation, and lack of confidence along with limited speaking practice; and (3) environmental challenges, including time constraints, inadequate teaching resources and facilities, and a lack of institutional and professional support. Despite the teacher's strong professional commitment, these challenges significantly hinder the effective implementation of ESP in the classroom. The study concludes that effective ESP instruction requires not only pedagogical competence but also systemic support in the form of professional development, curriculum alignment, and access to adequate teaching resources. This research contributes to the academic discourse by addressing the gap in studies concerning ESP instruction in vocational education within the Indonesian context and provides practical implications for educators, institutions, and policymakers in enhancing the quality of ESP implementation, particularly in the vocational schools.

Keywords: English for Specific Purposes, Hospitality Major, Vocational Schools, Teaching Challenges, Case Study