

ABSTRACT

Rahmah, Aisyatur. 1222040010. (2026). *Second Language Acquisition of English among Vocational Tourism Students: A Case Study of SMK Pariwisata Gili Trawangan.*

This study examined the forms of environmental English exposure and social interaction experienced by three vocational tourism students in Gili Trawangan and analyzed how environmental exposure and social interaction supported their English acquisition. The study employed a qualitative case study design involving three students who represented frequent, occasional, and limited exposure profiles. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, six non-participant observation sessions, and supporting documentation, including workplace photographs, English menus, signs, promotional materials, hotel information, and digital service messages. The data were analyzed through coding, categorization, thematic analysis, cross-participant comparison, and data triangulation. The findings showed that the participants encountered spoken, written, digital, visual, and interactional English in bars, hotels, restaurants, family businesses, and public tourism settings. However, the value of exposure differed according to workplace role, frequency of customer contact, communicative responsibility, and opportunities to respond. Familiar routines, prior knowledge, visible objects, menus, gestures, repetition, slower speech, reformulation, assistance from tourists and coworkers, and digital tools helped make English more understandable. Repeated and meaningful interaction was associated with qualitative, task-specific SLA-related development, particularly recognition, contextual understanding, recall, reuse of familiar expressions, willingness to communicate, and reduced assistance in familiar tourism tasks. The evidence was most consistent in Noval's recurring bar-service tasks, varied with Syafii's role, and was more limited and highly supported in Geovara's shorter hotel and food-service exchanges. These findings should not be interpreted as broad or measurable proficiency gains. The study concludes that Gili Trawangan functioned as an informal English-learning environment, but the available evidence of task-specific development was strongest when exposure was comprehensible, repeated, socially supported, and connected with a real communicative purpose.

Keywords: environmental English exposure, second language acquisition, social interaction, vocational tourism students