

ABSTRACT

RONI RIZKI HUTABARAT 2022, *Exploring EFL Students' Challenges and Solutions in Writing Their Undergraduate Theses*. English Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training Education of Universitas Jambi in Academic year 2022/2023. The first supervisor is Dr. Mukhlash Abrar, S.S., M.Hum. The second supervisor is Nunung Fajaryani, S.Pd., M.Pd.

The purposes of this qualitative research were to explore EFL students' challenges and solutions in writing their undergraduate theses. In doing the research, the researcher used a case study approach for the design to provide a rich source of data on individuals' experiences. There were 10 participants participating in this research and they met the inclusive criteria for the research, including active EFL learners at English study program, completing thesis seminar stage, and willing to voluntarily participate in the research. In collecting the data, the researcher employed semi-structured interviews and documents (supervisors' notes). The data were then analyzed by using thematic analysis. The results indicated that four themes of challenges were identified, including linguistics and writing knowledge issues (grammar, vocabulary, paraphrasing, and referencing), psychological issues (lack of motivation and lack of confidence), media issues and resources issues (online platform, limited references, and inaccessible websites), and supervision and time management issues (unsupportive supervisor and poor time management). This research also revealed that there were three identified strategies used by EFL students in minimizing those challenges, including self-management strategies (doing positive activities, abstaining from thesis, and making schedule notes), technological helps (language apps, and entertainment/studying app), and help from others (help from supervisors; help from families and friends)

Key words : Challenges in writing thesis, EFL students, Case Study, Qualitative, Thesis