

## ABSTRACT

HENDRA SAPTIANDA 2024, *EFL students' challenges and strategies in presenting at conferences*. English education study program. Faculty of Teacher Training Education of Universitas Jambi in Academic Year 2023/2024. The first supervisor is Dr. Mukhlash Abrar, S.S., M.Hum. The second supervisor is Robi soma, S.Pd., M.Pd.

The purposes of this qualitative research were to explore EFL students' challenges in presenting at conferences and to identify the ways they overcome the challenges. In doing this research, the researcher used a case study approach for the design to provide a rich source of data on individual's experiences. There were 6 participants participating in this research and they met the inclusive criteria for the research, including active EFL students at English study program, having experience in presenting at conference and willing voluntarily participate in the research. In collecting the data, the researcher employed semi-structured interviews. The data were analysed by using thematic analysis (Braun & Clark, 2006). The results indicated that three themes of challenges were identified, including linguistics (grammar, academic vocabulary, and pronunciation), psychology (nervousness, lack of confident, fear of public speaking, and mental block), and performance issues (time pressure, environmental condition, lack of preparation, lack of experience, and topic uncertainty). This research also revealed that there were three identified strategies used by EFL students in overcoming those challenges, including self-management strategies (self-practice, preparation, improvisation, and joining English club), self-psychology strategies (taking relaxation, thinking positively, and avoiding eye contact) and help from others (help from lecturer and help from friend).

**Keywords:** Challenges in presenting at conferences, EFL students, Conference presentation, Strategies in presenting at conferences.