

## ABSTRACT

**Selly, Christina.,** 2024, *Identifying EFL Students' Experiences: Problems, Strategies, and Enhancement of Speaking Skills in The English Storytelling Contests.* Thesis. English Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training Education of Universitas Jambi in academic years 2023/2024. The first supervisor is Dr. RD. M. Ali, S.Pd, M.Pd. The second supervisor is Habizar, S.Pd., MESL.

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This research aimed to identify the experiences and outcomes of participants in storytelling contests with focusing on understanding the problems they encounter, the strategies they employ to overcome these challenges, and the potential impact of participation on their speaking skills development by EFL learners at Universitas Jambi. The site of this research was at Universitas Jambi with two of the fourth-semester students of the 2023-2024 academic year at the English Education Department, Universitas Jambi. This research employed qualitative study with a descriptive qualitative approach. Researcher used semi-structured interviews as the data collection. The results of this research indicated problems and strategies in storytelling contests for EFL learners and the impact of the enhancement of speaking skills. Participants face problems such as lack of vocabulary, anxiety, and developing techniques. These challenges are addressed through strategies like improving the vocabulary, adaptation of voice, self-control, and seeking guidance, supported by direct and indirect learning strategies. Engaging in these contests fosters significant development in speaking skills, enhances self-confidence, and deepens understanding of grammar and vocabulary. Apart from that, storytelling contests contribute to participants' growth as EFL Learners with proficient English abilities and critical thinkers, enhancing their overall communicative competence and personal development.