

## ABSTRACT

**Chriamaretta.** 2025. Exploring the Challenges and Strategies in Teaching English as Foreign Language (EFL) to Preschoolers at One of English Institution in Muara Bungo. A Study of English Master Degree Students in Writing Their Theses. English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Jambi, **Advisors Prof. Drs. Syahrial., M.Ed., Ph.d. and Dr. Ella Masita, S.Pd., M.Pd., M.Sc**

**Keywords:** *Teaching strategies, EFL, preschoolers, early childhood education, language acquisition.*

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) to preschoolers requires effective strategies that align with their cognitive and social development. This research explores the strategies used by teachers in teaching EFL to preschoolers, focusing on how these strategies align with the theories of Piaget (1952), Pestalozzi (1894), and Vygotsky (1978). The research aims to analyze the challenges faced by teachers and identify commonly used teaching strategies. This research used a qualitative approach, collecting data through observation and interview with the teachers. The research findings reveal that teachers use interactive strategies such as songs, stories, games and visual aids to improve language acquisition. These strategies are in line with Piaget's cognitive development theory. In addition, this research also highlights the concept of language through physical and visual engagement from Pestalozzi's theory, which underlines that child learn best through sensory experiences and active exploration by touching, fingering and manipulating objects. Further, Vygotsky's sociocultural theory supports the importance of social interaction and scaffolding in language learning, as teachers guide students through meaningful communication and collaborative activities. Despite the effectiveness of these strategies, challenges remain, such as limited English exposure outside the classroom and diverse language proficiency levels among students. The results suggest that integrating multiple teaching strategies based on developmental theories can significantly enhance preschoolers' language learning. These findings provide valuable insight for teachers in designing effective EFL teaching strategies for very young learner.