

ABSTRACT

Irmawati, Dewi 2025. Students' Challenges and Strategies in Improving English Listening Skills for Professional Contexts. A Thesis. English Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of *Universitas Jambi* in Academic Year 2024/2025. The first supervisor is Dr. Hustarna, S.Pd, M.A. The second supervisor is Dr. Nely Arif, S.Pd. M.Pd.

This study aims to identify the challenges faced by students when improving their listening skills in English in a professional context and to find ways for them to overcome these challenges. In this study, a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach was used. Eight students who completed the Listening and Speaking for Professional Purposes course in the English Education Study Program at Jambi University became research participants. The Miles and Huberman interactive model was used to analyze the data collected through semi-structured interviews. The results show that students face linguistic problems such as speaking fast, unfamiliar vocabulary, different accents, excessive use of formal language, and professional jargon. In addition, psychological factors such as anxiety, lack of focus, and stress affect their ability to listen. To overcome these problems, students use various adaptive strategies, such as repetition and adjustment of speech speed, recording and translating foreign vocabulary. These findings are expected to serve as a reference for instructors in designing more appropriate learning approaches to help students improve their listening skills in a professional context.

Keywords: *Listening skills, Learning strategy, Linguistic challenges, and Professional Contexts.*