

ABSTRACT

In today's globalized higher education, English as a Foreign Language (EFL) proficiency is vital, especially in countries like Indonesia. Intercultural learning environments offer opportunities for interaction among students from diverse backgrounds but also present challenges for domestic EFL learners, including limited vocabulary, varied accents, and different communication styles. While many studies focus on international students in English speaking countries, little research examines domestic EFL students interacting with other non native speakers. This study explores the communication strategies of Indonesian EFL students in formal interactions with international students at Jambi University. Using a qualitative case study approach, data were collected through classroom observations and semi-structured interviews, then analyzed with Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis. Findings reveal that students used sentence simplification, repetition, clarification requests, body language, and fillers to overcome language limitations. They also employed digital translation tools, mental translation, slowed speech, and self-correction to maintain conversation flow and prevent misunderstandings. Cultural differences and pragmatic awareness shaped their strategy choices. These results contribute to a deeper understanding of communication strategies in intercultural contexts involving non-native speakers.

Keywords: *Communication Strategies, EFL students, English Speaking, Qualitative Study, Communication Challenges*