

**THE EFFORTS OF NON-ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
GRADUATES IN ACHIEVING HIGH SCORE ON ENGLISH
PROFICIENCY TESTS: A NARRATIVE INQUIRY**

THESIS

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For the Degree of *Magister* in English Language Education



By:

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SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

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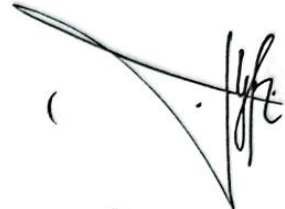
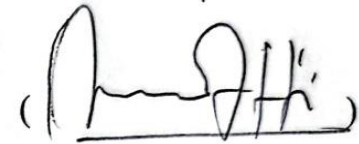
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This is to certify that this thesis has been approved by the thesis advisors for further approval by the board of examiners.

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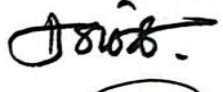



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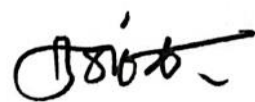
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I declare that:

1. In the result of my research there are no elements of plagiarism of research works or scientific works that have been carried out or made by anyone other than those that are quoted in this text and mentioned in the citation sources and references list.
2. Of in the future it turns out that the result of this study proves to contain elements of plagiarism and claims from other parties, I am willing to be processed according to the applicable laws and regulations.

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MOTTO

**If you can't handle studying's exhaustion,
you must be able to handle stupidity's
pains – *Imam Syafi'i***

DEDICATION SHEET

Alloh SWT

Muhammad SAW

Moh. Alex Masrofi, my beloved husband, who loves, embraces, supports, holds, advises me in the highest highs and the lowest lows.

Moh. Niki Insan Iman, my beloved son, who makes me stay up late and makes me stronger and stronger day-by-day.

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This master graduating paper is submitted to fulfill one of the research requirements to gain the master degree in Graduate School of Education of State Islamic Institution of Kediri.

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Last but not least, thanks to me for keeping the steps in finishing this master thesis. You did so much better than you in the past. I realize that this paper is not perfect, so I welcome criticisms and advice from the readers in order to make this paper better.

Kediri, 9th February 2023

Hima Nurul Hidayah

ABSTRACT

Hidayah, Hima Nurul. 2023. *The Efforts of Non-English Department Graduates in Achieving High Scores on English Proficiency Tests: A Narrative Inquiry*. Department of English Language Education, School of Graduate Program, State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Kediri. Advisors: (I) Dr. Ary Setya Budhiningrum, M.Pd. (II) Nur Afifi, Ph.D.

Keywords: *Effort, Achieving High Score, English Proficiency Test, Narrative Inquiry.*

The English Proficiency Test itself is a standardized test that people take to assess their ability to understand, speak, and construct comprehensive and understandable thoughts in English. It will always be related to the abilities mastered by EFL learners. EFL learners' abilities include literacy skills, understanding of English textbooks, and using proper and correct English. This paper aims to reveal the effort of participants in achieving high score in English proficiency tests. This paper concerns on IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) only.

The study was approached through narrative inquiry which primarily focused on Non-English Department Graduates' experiences in achieving high score on English proficiency tests, namely TOEFL and IELTS. A pilot study was done to identify the participants. The three participants were selected among eleven participants who had gave consent to be participants and intensively met the research participants criteria. Narrative frame and interview were used as the research instruments. The participants were asked to write their experiences in the narrative frame to have past, present, future order from their experiences. The interview was done after the participants finished writing the narrative frames. The interview was to gain deeper information about their efforts with achieving high scores in English proficiency tests, contemporary experience with using the English proficiency certificate, and aspirations for future English proficiency test model.

The researcher obtained four findings refer to four themes. The first is the preparation before taking the tests, which were participants' feelings, reasons and study preparation before taking the tests. The second is the taking English proficiency tests, which were participants' strategies in answering TOEFL and IELTS. The researcher listed the strategy as like skimming, taking note strategy, listening to podcast, brainstorming, etc. The third is benefitting achieving high score, which were participant used the certificate to apply for scholarship and graduate school overseas. The Last is aspiration of future English proficiency tests model, which was participants hope that the structure and the price would be the same like now. Finally, the efforts in achieving high score in English proficiency test were dynamic. The test takers need to prepare well in advance of the test in order to prepare physically, mentally, and financially before taking the English proficiency test.

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