

**LEXICAL DENSITY OF READING MATERIALS IN THE 'ENGLISH
FOR NUSANTARA' ENGLISH TEXTBOOK FOR 9TH GRADE OF
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASED ON THE MERDEKA CURRICULUM**

THESIS

Presented to

State Islamic University of Syekh Wasil Kediri

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of *Sarjana* in English Language Education



**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI
SYEKH WASIL
KEDIRI**

BY

SINTA MAULIDA SYAKIROH

NIM. 22202002

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF TARBIYAH AND TEACHER TRAINING
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SYEKH WASIL KEDIRI**

2026

TITLE PAGE

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KEDIRI

2026

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DECLARATION OF AUTHENTICITY

Name : Sinta Mulida Syakiroh
NIM : 22202002
Study Program : Department of English Language Education
Faculty : Tarbiyah and Teacher Training

I hereby state that the thesis I wrote with the title "LEXICAL DENSITY OF READING MATERIALS IN THE 'ENGLISH FOR NUSANTARA' ENGLISH TEXTBOOK FOR 9TH GRADE OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASED ON THE MERDEKA CURRICULUM" is completely my own work. All the sources of references used in this thesis have been fully acknowledged and properly cited. I understand that any form of plagiarism is a serious academic offense and I take full responsibility for the content of this work.

This thesis is to fulfill the requirements for the degree of Sarjana (S1) in English Education Study Program, State Islamic University of Syekh Wasil Kediri.

Kediri, 1st June 2026

The Researcher,



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METERAI
TEMPEL
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Sinta Mulida Syakiroh

NIM. 22202002

APPROVAL PAGE

This to certify the bachelor thesis of Sinta Mulida Syakiroh has been approved by advisors for further approval by the board of examiners.

LEXICAL DENSITY OF READING MATERIALS IN THE 'ENGLISH FOR NUSANTARA' ENGLISH TEXTBOOK FOR 9TH GRADE OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASED ON THE MERDEKA CURRICULUM

SINTA MAULIDA SYAKIROH

NIM. 22202002

Approved by:

Advisor 2



Nur Afifi, M. App.Ling, Ph.D.

NIP. 197707132003122003.

Advisor 2



Dr. Irma Khoirot Daulay M.Hum

NIP. 199003132022032001.

RATIFICATION SHEET

LEXICAL DENSITY OF READING MATERIALS IN THE 'ENGLISH
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JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASED ON THE MERDEKA CURRICULUM

SINTA MAULIDA SYAKIROH

NIM. 22202002

Has been examined by the board of examiners of Syekh Wasil State Islamic
University Kediri on 19 May 2026

1. Main Examiner

Chothibul Umam, M.Pd, Ph.D.

NIP. 197910222009121002

()

2. Examiner I

Nur Afifi, M. App.Ling, Ph.D.

NIP. 197707132003122003

()

3. Examiner II

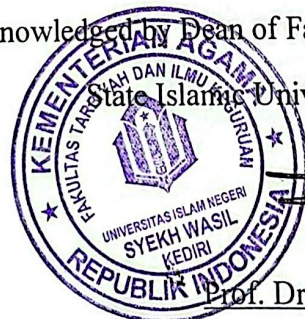
Dr. Irma Khoirot Daulay M.Hum

NIP. 199003132022032001

()

Kediri, 1st June 2026

Acknowledged by Dean of Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training




Prof. Dr. Hj. Munifah, M.Pd.

NOTA KONSULTAN

Kediri, 1st June 2026

Nomor : -
Lampiran : 4 (Empat) berkas
Hal : Bimbingan Skripsi

Kepada,
Yth. Dekan Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Ilmu Keguruan
Di
Jl. Sunan Ampel No. 07 Ngronggo
Kediri

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Memenuhi permintaan Ibu Dekan untu membimbing penyusunan skripsi mahasiswa tersebut di bawah ini:

Nama : Sinta Maulida Syakiroh
NIM : 22202002
Judul : Lexical Density of Reading Materials in the 'English for Nusantara' English Textbook For 9th Grade of Junior High School Based on The Merdeka Curriculum

Setelah diperbaiki materi dan susunannya, kami berpendapat bahwa skripsinya telah memenuhi syarat sebagai kelengkapan ujian akhir Sarjana Strata Satu (S-1). Bersama ini terlampir satu berkas naskah skripsinya, dengan harapan dalam waktu yang telah ditentukan dapat disajikan dalam Sidang Munaqosah.

Demikian agar maklum dan atas kesediaan Bapak kami ucapkan banyak terimakasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

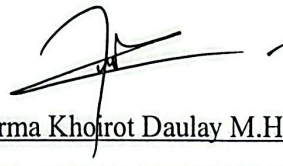
Advisor I



Nur Afifi. M. App. Ling. Ph.D.

NIP. 197707132003122003

Advisor II



Dr. Irma Khoirot Daulay M.Hum

NIP. 199003132022032001

MOTTO

For indeed, with hardship will be ease. Indeed, with hardship will be ease

(Al- Insyirah : 5-6)

"Long story short, I survived"

(Taylor Swift)

"it's okay to cry for a little while; we'll just keep trying and find our way out."

(Arash Buana)

DEDICATION

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. This thesis is entireheartly dedicated to:

1. First and foremost, Allah SWT the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, I dedicate this work. To the One who knows every silent prayer, every tear that was never shown, and every moment I almost gave up but chose to continue anyway. For the strength that came unexpectedly, for the patience that grew in the waiting, and for the path that was never easy yet always meaningful this is all by His will.
2. To my beloved mother, thank you for being my safest place in this world. For always trying to understand me, even in moments when I could not fully understand myself. For your endless prayers that never cease, quietly accompanying me in every step I take. For always making a way, even when things felt difficult, and for forgiving me in ways that only a mother can. You are my home the place I return to, no matter how far I go.
3. To my beloved father, thank you for your silent strength and unwavering effort. For always doing your best to provide, for trusting my process even when the results were not yet visible, and for carrying hopes for me in ways you may never say out loud. For every hard day you endured just to support me this achievement is built upon your sacrifices. This degree is for you, for both of you.

4. To my late grandfather, though you are no longer here, your influence lives within me. Your wish for your grandchild to become a teacher became one of the reasons I chose this path. Thank you for teaching me to stay connected with Allah (*habluminallah*) and to be meaningful to others (*habluminannas*). This accomplishment is a small tribute to your wishes and your legacy.
5. To my beloved grandmother, thank you for always guiding me to choose kindness and to do what is right. In your own gentle way, you have continuously reminded me to be a better person. Your love, your prayers, and your quiet strength have meant more to me than words can express.
6. To my extended family, thank you for your gentle presence in my journey. For choosing understanding over pressure, for giving me space to grow, and for trusting my process even when the results were not yet visible. Your belief allowed me to move forward without fear.
7. To my dearest friends Wita, Daffa, and Safa, Alif. Thank you for being witnesses to every version of me throughout this journey. You saw the moments I felt lost, exhausted, and unsure, yet you stayed. Thank you for the conversations that healed me, for the laughter that kept me grounded, and for simply being there when words were not needed. Growing with you has been one of the most meaningful parts of this process.

8. To my fellow companions in growth within campus organizations, especially DEMA Fakultas Tarbiyah (Kabinet SPARTA) and DEMA UIN Syekh Wasil Kediri (Kabinet OLYMPUS), thank you for shaping me I both seen and unseen, has carried me further than you know.
9. To my MENFOKOM mates, thank you for your constant understanding and support throughout this journey. Thank you for giving me space during my busiest moments and for stepping in to help when I felt overwhelmed, even taking over editing deadlines when I could not keep up. Your presence and support have meant more than words can express.
10. And finally, to myself, for choosing to stay when leaving felt easier, for continuing when everything felt heavy, and for believing, even in the smallest way, that I could make it through. Thank you for taking the risk to grow, for balancing responsibilities that once felt impossible, and for not giving up on the person you are becoming.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillah rabbil 'alamin, all praises to Allah who has given guidance and blessings for me to finish this thesis. Peace and salutation are always given to the last Prophet Muhammad SAW. Subsequently, express my great appreciation and thank you for those who have big contributions in helping me to finish this thesis and sincerest gratitude to:

1. Prof. Dr. H. Wahidul Anam, M.Ag., Rector of the State Islamic University (UIN) of Syekh Wasil Kediri.
2. Prof. Dr. Hj. Munifah, M.Pd., Dean of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, State Islamic University (UIN) of Syekh Wasil Kediri.
3. H. Burhanudin Syaifulloh, M.Ed., Ph.D., Head of the English Department, State Islamic University (UIN) of Syekh Wasil Kediri.
4. Nur Afifi, M. App.Ling, Ph.D. and Dr. Irma Khoirot Daulay M.Hum. My respectable advisors who guided me throughout my thesis. They made invaluable contributions and supported me during this study.
5. All of my lecturers in UIN Syekh Wasil Kediri.

Kediri, 13th May 2026

The Researcher

Sinta Maulida Syakiroh

NIM. 22202002

ABSTRACT

Syakiroh, Sinta Maulida. (2026). *Lexical Density of Reading Materials in the 'English for Nusantara' English Textbook For 9th Grade of Junior High School Based on The Merdeka Curriculum*. Department of English Language Education, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, State Islamic University (UIN) of Syekh Wasil Kediri. Advisors: (I) Nur Afifi, M. App.Ling, Ph.D. and (II) Dr. Irma Khoirot Daulay M.Hum.

Keywords: *lexical density, reading texts, textbook analysis, Merdeka Curriculum, text genres*

Reading comprehension is an essential skill in learning English, and the complexity of reading materials plays an important role in students' understanding. One aspect that influences text difficulty is lexical density, which refers to the proportion of content words in a text. In addition, the genres presented in reading materials also contribute to the characteristics and complexity of the texts. However, the representation of genres and the lexical density of reading materials in the *English for Nusantara* textbook for ninth-grade students still need to be examined. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the representation of genres in the reading materials and investigate the lexical density of the texts presented in the textbook.

This study employed a qualitative descriptive method with a document analysis design. The data were taken from selected reading texts in the *English for Nusantara* textbook for ninth-grade students. The analysis was conducted by identifying the genres based on their generic structures and language features, analyzing the characteristics of the reading materials, identifying content words and grammatical function words, and calculating lexical density using Ure's formula.

The findings show that the textbook contains various genres, including narrative, descriptive, recount, procedure, and report texts. Each genre reflects different characteristics of reading materials and contributes to different levels of lexical density. Report and descriptive texts tend to have medium lexical density because they contain more factual and descriptive vocabulary, while narrative and recount texts tend to have lower lexical density due to their communicative and story-based language features. Overall, most texts are categorized as low and medium lexical density, indicating that the reading materials are generally appropriate for ninth-grade students. However, the findings also reveal that students' reading comprehension may be influenced not only by lexical density, but also by other factors such as vocabulary mastery, reading habits, and familiarity with different text genres.

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