

## CHALLENGES IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT SCHOOLS

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### Abstract

This paper discusses about the challenges that teachers face while teaching English language. Teaching English is a challenging task, especially when it is done in settings where the English language serves a very limited purpose. This research paper is important to highlight and investigate the challenges of teaching English and the viewpoint of English language teachers in facing the difficulties of teaching English in the classroom.

**Keywords:** English as a foreign language, vocabulary, grammar, method challenges, teaching English, English Teachers.

### Introduction

Teaching English as a foreign language refers to teaching English to students whose first language is not English (Chomsky, 1969, np). (TEFL) usually occurs in the students own country, either within the state school system or private ones. As a foreign language, there are so many things that make it quite hard to teach and, one of them is the exposure. English is a language that must be exposed or practiced many times. As a foreign language, using English language is a challenge for students because they can not use it all the time and in all the places. The other thing is the assumption in the students mind. And they can survive in their environment without mastering it. As Akbari (2015), said „Teaching English as a foreign language is a difficult task in developing countries in general and our country in particular because it is able to serve its speakers, teaching and learning becomes more important” (p. 394 - 401 ).

Generally, teaching English may sound similar to any other teaching, and school teachers usually facing a lot of challenges in and out of the classroom in a different ways (Songbatumis; 2017.np). There are many challenges that face English teachers such as:

- *Severe lack of training*

Before starting teaching, teachers should take theoretical and practical courses, as well as strengthen the English language. Teacher training sessions aimed at improving teacher knowledge of English and teaching methods. However, many things sometimes cause teacher skills to be lacking and this lack of employment can be attributed to a number of factors. These include wages, working conditions, lack of support, lack of independence, and curricular changes. For these reasons, the lack of teachers will inevitably lead to the deterioration of educational standards (Nunan, 2003,np).

- *Crowded class*

One of the issues that English language instructors face is that „the packed homerooms and the effect of such a condition can influence educating and learning” (Emery; 2012,np). Sometimes the class size is small, the student population is large, the walls between



classrooms are weak, and the noise will disturb other classrooms. In addition to many problems related to teaching large classes, such as „lack of desks and fixed chairs that are difficult to move; students sit close to each other, and it is imperative that the teaching and learning process requires a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere, otherwise teachers may not be able to meet students’ needs and achieve learning goals (Nurkamto;2003, Beckrand Westrup; 2000).

- *Limited access to resources*

There are many types of educational resources that can help teachers deliver lessons in a better way. Some examples of resources commonly available for English teachers include : Wi-Fi, projector, copier, textbooks, whiteboards, computers, other technologies (such as CD players), art supplies, and educational posters. Teachers may find themselves completely without these resources, or they may end up in a situation where supply is limited or not working properly and this lack of equipment hinders teachers to embody an effective teaching process.

- *Linguistic problems*

As we all know that the process of learning how to speak our first, second or third languages is different, we acquire the first language and learn the second and third languages. When we speak our native language, we inevitably need to learn vocabulary, sentences, grammar so on.

Here are some of the most common linguistic problems:

- Lack of environment.
- Grammar.
- Idioms and slang.
- Pronunciation.
- Low confidence

## Conclusion

One of the main problems of learning the language in some countries is that most of students do not have the ability to express themselves in a foreign language fluently after studying English in school for eleven years. In other words, they can not communicate in English. The research tried to examine the reasons for students’ failure to acquire the expected level of proficiency in the English language despite learning the English language for eleven consecutive years (from the first year of primary school to the last year of high school). It was proven that there are many problems in teaching English in the intermediate and high public schools. First, there are the problems related to teachers themselves in terms of experience and attitudes. Second, there are the problems related to teaching-learning environment and the availability of resources in the public schools.

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