Online and Offline Students’ Presentation in Thesis Proposal: Challenges and Solution

**ABSTRACT**

Thesis proposal seminar is one of requirements for English Department students to process their thesis. Students should present their thesis proposal which provide information about their research. The presentation covers research topic, theoretical framework, and chosen methodology. This research focuses on the challenges of thesis proposal seminar both online and offline. This also identifies students’ solutions for making a good presentation. This is a descriptive qualitative research since it is used to describe the challenges of students and find out the solutions by questionnaire and in-depth interview. The subjects of this research are 35 students who have taken research and seminar subjects and has presented thesis proposal seminar offline and online in January–May. The findings show that students faced some challenges during thesis proposal seminar related to seminar preparation, topic’s mastery, students’ confidence and technical issues. To make a good presentation, students need to understand their research topic and research methodology well. They also need to plan their presentation by doing a lot of practices and having good preparation. These solutions necessarily encourage students’ confidence and motivation to do presentation effectively.

**KEYWORDS**

students; presentation; preparation; motivation

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**INTRODUCTION**

University students are students who enrolled at university or in a college. They are members of the community who are elite level because of their advantages, functions, roles and responsibilities. University students are treated as adults since they should be able to take greater control of how they spend their time and what they study (Ergün, 2018; Othman et al., 2019; Guest et al., 2021). Their education is their responsibility as they are considered to have a high level of intellectuality, precision in thinking, and planning in acting. Students are also candidates for intellectuals or young scholars in a society with various titles in society itself. Most higher education institutions require their students to experience learning through, and about, research and inquiry. This enables students to develop independent critical thinking skills along with oral and written communication skills.

Throughout the trip at university, students will meet the final phase that is writing thesis. Thesis proposal seminar is one of requirements for English Department students to process their thesis (Utami et al., 2021). Students should present their thesis proposal which provide information about their research. The presentation covers research topic, theoretical framework, and chosen methodology. In English Department there are two subjects that students have taken. Both are Research in ELT and Seminar (Linguistics/Language/Teaching). Research in ELT is subjects that learn how English Education Department students are able to design a research include linguistics, language or...
teaching (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2020; Portolés, & Martí, 2020). The subject of research in ELT taught in the fifth semester. In the end of the lesson, students are able to make objective of research, steps of research, research method, and to write thesis proposal and thesis report clearly. For seminar subject, students have studied about methods, steps to make thesis proposal, writing techniques, good presentation when presenting thesis proposal, and how to answer many questions from participant or advisors. In the end of the lesson English Education Department students have prepared for doing thesis seminar better. Seminar subject taught in the sixth semesters. Therefore, Students have to pass two subjects before making the real thesis proposal and doing thesis proposal seminar.

According to Sangadji and Sopiah (2010: 2), research is an investigation which is done carefully and continuously to solve a problem and to find something new. To write a thesis, the students need to write a thesis proposal as the research plan previously. By having a research plan, the students will have clear description regarding their research to be. Planning research is the beginning of activities in research that include an introduction to the issues and the background, purpose and benefits of the research, the premise to solve the problem, and determine methods of research. The next step is the implementation of research activities includes data collection, data processing and data presentation concludes with activities beginning. Activities end of the reporting of the research, the writing is on the implementation of research activities and results, which include presentation of data, analysis and conclusions of research results. In a research proposal, the final part of making the report does not constitute the scope of the research proposal. Before doing writing a thesis, students are required to start with writing a research proposal. Nasution (2009) said that the proposal aims to study the efficiency of the time, money and effort, if a comprehensive thesis proposal should be rejected entirely. Before researchers conduct research activities required to begin the most important thing is to make the study design. It is intended as a reference or guide researchers to study. The design or research design is the foundation for planning or designing research studies.

Thesis writing is of great importance for graduate students. Through the process, the students come to know how to do research and report the findings. Research proposal writing is the first step for graduate students to take. As Behling and Dillard (1984) indicated, “the proposal is a study plan that is to be followed in the course of the research effort” and “it gives continuity to the various steps and stages of the work to be done.” Besides, proposal writing, as a preparation of research, helps students gain an important focus of their studies and find the direction to proceed (Paltridge, 1997).

According to Kaushik and Walsh (2019), a thesis proposal is a document that presents a case for an idea and the action one proposes with respect to it. Undergraduate students have to write thesis proposal as quick as possible, because thesis proposal is one of step closer for making real thesis. Students have been passed the most difficult work of duty as a student of college. In writing thesis proposal is not easy as writing a diary. Writing is the first step for undergraduate students to take. Saehu et al. (2013) state that who are able to pass the gate mean that have performed several such stages of study as finding a topic, proposing a problem, defending the proposed problem, as the starting point and to supervisor. Actually, learning to make a thesis proposal must be conducted from the beginning of the semester by reading many examples of other thesis proposal seminar, journals, and supporting books during college.

In thesis proposal seminar, a presenter need a moderator for guiding seminar be successfully. The first session is presentation from presenter. Second is asking or suggestion from participants. The last is comment or suggestion from advisers. According to Nugraha (2018,p.14) there are many points of seminar successfully: (1) Time. Generally, there is a
limitation time for presenting a seminar, for 15-20 minutes. Presenter has to manage the time as good as possible because participants will be bored in the seminar; (2) Statement of Problem. Presenters have to prepare all of statement of problem which that will present in seminar. Surely, the presentation about statement of problem is appropriate with the written of proposal; (3) Understanding. Understanding in own proposal will make be easy for presenting the proposal in seminar. There are methods or question from adviser; and (4) Good Interaction. When any question from participants or advisers, good interaction for answer the question is important to avoid misunderstanding each other.

According to Mia (2016) there are some tips especially for English Education Department students for making thesis proposal seminar better such as: (1) Master of vocabulary. Vocabulary is the important point for learning language especially English language. Who is poor vocabulary will be difficult for speaking, because the first step for be able to speak foreign language is master vocabulary. The main of master of vocabulary is not must be perfect. If be able to speak fluently, it is not so bad; (2) Good of English communication skill. Good communication skill is very important for everyone to speak clearly. Especially in English language needs fluently communication each other; and (3) Answer Advisor’s Questions Clearly by English Language.

To answer many questions from advisors or participants clearly is very important because advisor or participants need perfect explanation from researchers as a maker the thesis proposal. In English Education Department, all of students who are presenting thesis proposal seminar or thesis have to use English language as communication in question and answer. Because of that students must be able to speak English clearly.

Miedijensky & Lichtinger (2016) presented a thesis seminar model aimed at promoting students’ self-regulation. Students’ perceptions regarding the contribution of the seminar to their learning process were characterized and the seminar’s effect upon their self-regulation expressions was examined (Hafnidar et al., 2021). Data was collected using questionnaires and analyzed thematically. The most significant components of the seminar, according to the students, were cognitive knowledge and guidance regarding thesis writing, along with peer learning, and changes in self-efficacy and ability to regulate time and emotion. Students demonstrated self-regulating mechanisms for planning, setting goals, monitoring, self-encouragement, and emotion control. The results emphasize the significance of self-regulation in thesis-writing.

Figure 1. The Seminar Framework
King (2002) adds that oral presentations generally help to bridge the gap between language study and language use. Good presentation requires learners to apply all four language skills in a naturally integrated way; it also encourages the learners to be active and autonomous learners. Another advantage of practicing oral presentations in the class is that it provides a student more authentic way of practicing English than simple speaking drills. The students get the scope to use their L2 to understand the topics they are presenting on and communicate this understanding to others. In fact, this is closer to real language use and gives learners a chance to develop research and critical thinking skills, as well as linguistic and communicative skills.

Delivering an effective oral presentation requires skills and knowledge among undergraduates at tertiary level, which however, is not always the case. Stapa et al. (2014) conduct a survey to determine problematic areas in delivering technical oral presentations involving 235 respondents from six engineering faculties in Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). They found out that generally students faced difficulties in language, content and delivery specifically due to limited knowledge in presentation skills, low self-confidence and low English language proficiency. According to Mahani Stapa, Asniza Murad and Norasni Ahmad (2014), students’ problem in the delivery of presentations occur in the forms of reading from notes or slides, intonation problems, problems in responding to questions from audience and lack of skills and knowledge in the delivery pace. They also reported that students feel stressed, worried and anxious when they are asked to deliver a technical oral presentation – and these are factors that contribute towards students’ low self-confidence in delivering technical presentations. Furthermore, the researchers also reported that students’ problems in language occur in the forms of incorrect pronunciation and limited vocabulary or word choices. It can be concluded that instructors face an uphill task in developing students’ skills in the three aspects. Instructors must equip students to have a mastery of knowledge and skills to present, possess high self confidence level as well as a mastery of English language proficiency to deliver an effective presentation.

According to Been Rafanany in Anderson and Duarte (2013) there are five tips for making great presentations: (1) Treat participants as king. The audience is king. Participants are here to listen to what will present. There are many goals for the participants to come to program, whether they want to listen to what are presenting, or just give motivation. In the thesis proposal seminar is not only the participants that becomes but also the examiners. So the most important thing in the proposal seminar is how the examiners understand what are presenting and the message in it can be accepted by the examiners. Therefore, create presentations that are clear, simple, and easily understood by examiners and participants; (2) Spread ideas and move people. Examiners and participants not only want to understand what deliver when presenting but also what benefits they can get from what have presented. Remember, the presentation should not be boring but should be an interesting presentation but still looks formal; (3) Help participants see what you are saying. Designing the presentation that are going to do is indeed very important, when include image slides as additional media, do not make presentation not focused on what present because of images that can make the participants concentration divided. Thus, make a picture slide that focuses only on one idea, so that it is not distracted by confusing slides. So the participants easily understands; (4) Practice design not decoration. Decoration is the purpose of decorating or loading slides to be creative but excessive, so that the results of presentations look complicated and excited. In contrast to design, a good design will definitely suit the needs of the presentation even though it will make drawing elements or diagrams but still in the appropriate portion, so that when the presentations of the participants do not feel to disturbed by slideshow. Make a strong message that is in the picture or diagram so that it is functioning.
properly; and (5) Cultivate healthy relationship. As the presenter will interact with slides, testers and participants, they have to make a good relationship with participants. Reduce unnecessary text and focus on the core to be delivered. Perform exercises many times before appearing so that are more confident with own abilities. Make eye contact and good body language, to make presentation more convincing. So, the examiner and the participants are greater.

According to Mia (2016), there are many solution especially for English Education Department students. They are: (1) Practicing good pronunciation. Always practicing will make better for students. For several students pronunciation is so difficult for learning but more practicing and learning that will be master of pronunciation; (2) Practicing for good answering question by English. Question by English is difficult for several students. But as a English Education Department students must be able using English as a communication when thesis seminar. So practicing answer question when thesis seminar seminar is so important; (3) Improve communication skill in English. To improve language skill, especially English is very important because language without improving is nothing. Language has characteristic of develop, so students have to always improve English skill for good result. Any ways for improve English, practicing by own self or join course or community; (4) Good of vocabulary. Vocabulary is one of important skill to be master of English. Without vocabulary, students should be difficult for speaking or everything, because the first point that students have to be master is vocabulary. Vocabulary is easy skill for students during students always improve and increase any vocabulary; and (5) Learning good grammar of speaking. There is a quote “grammar is not important for speaking” but in the fact, students have to know grammar for good speaking. Without grammar, students who speak English should not perfectly or difficult understanding. Because grammar is for making clearly communication and make sure people understands from the sentences.

In English Department, undergraduate students have to prepare for good presentation when seminar. But not all of students is successful when presenting their proposal, such as nervous or forget about the outline of proposal. Not only nervous or forget but also students do not understand yet about the research, and students cannot explain as good as possible to participants. The researchers got the result from observation and experiences, which are English Education Department students still, have any challenges for taking thesis seminar proposal for good presentation, then students still need any solution for facing the challenges (Rahman et al., 2022). Students need to know what the problem of thesis proposal seminar at English Education Department.

In English Education Department students still have many challenges when presenting thesis proposal seminar, such as lack of public speaking in English language, error pronunciation, anxiety of foreign language, and nervous when presentation. Those challenges which is English Education students, especially for English research. Every challenge has the solution, no one problem or challenges that cannot finished.

Another situation in the world, every activities has changed because of Covid-19 outbreak, especially in education learning. Ministry of education gives some solution to do learning activity continuing. One of the solutions is online learning which utilized by some applications. Every lecturers and students have to be able to do in online learning as well as possible. For thesis proposal presentation, students utilize synchronization of presentation, such as zoom, google meet, and another application. According to Molay (2009, p. 6) there some preparation of online presentation successfully. Students have to plan out good schedule to do online presentation, rehearse the presentation to deliver the the paper clearly, create clear plan of the important content, nice environment when presentation, audio quality, some notes, and backup planning. In some condition, online and offline has different
challenges in presentation. Presenter can not to make a condition as offline situation, because the condition or the situation unpredictable in same time (Pernantah et al., 2022).

The researchers look for any solution for the challenges include practicing, high motivation, improve vocabulary, and learn how good presentation for seminar. All of the solution from experts, respondents, and researchers that will be the reference for making thesis proposal seminar be better. Because any challenges have to get any solution for making this research benefit for everyone. Especially for English thesis proposal seminar which is different with other major. English thesis seminar proposal have own strategies for making success seminar, not only for writing guide but also seminar guide. In English Education Department have own guide for students, so that students be easy for getting an example research or own rule of English Education Department.

In carrying out this research, the researchers only conduct tests in English Education Department students who were conducting and preparing thesis proposal seminar. So the limitation in this study is only on the challenges and solution faced by undergraduate students when presenting in thesis proposal seminar both offline and online.

RESEARCH METHODS
Department in Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training on A. Yani street KM 4,5 Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan. The biggest Islamic University in Kalimantan. The researchers choose this department because the researchers saw several students which is do not prepare for good presentation when thesis proposal seminar. The subjects of this research are English Education Department students in UIN Antasari Banjarmasin who have taken research and seminar subject and presented thesis proposal seminar. Selection the subject is very important step in conducting the research. The subjects is done thesis proposal seminar for successful or no presentation. The researchers chose English Education Department students of UIN Antasari, because in English Education Department, students still had problem when thesis proposal seminar and the result of thesis proposal seminar is still confused. The researchers took the data through instrument, both are challenges and solutions. The data above have collected by English Education Department students who faced thesis proposal seminar. After collecting data with questionnaire, interviews and documentaries, data will be analyzed. As presented in previous research, it is expected to identify the challenges of the undergraduate students in facing during presenting thesis proposal seminar. This study uses descriptive analysis based on Miles and Huberman which is data analysis as consisting of three concurrent flows of activities there are data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The result of this research and the discussion from data analysis result collected during the research. That is collected based on the result of questionnaire and interview that have done outside college for English Department Students who have done writing of thesis proposal and thesis proposal seminar.

Challenges of Writing Thesis Proposal

1. Understanding of systematic of written, every campus or department have own systematic for writing thesis. Back to the students for awareness writing well. Then students have to follow the rule as good as possible.
2. Finding literature of research, nowadays literature is easier than old, but students still confused for looking for any literatures in research.
3. Analyzing the result of thesis, students still confused for good result in the research. Sometimes too general for explanation. (Ramdani, 2018 p.35).

Challenges of Thesis Proposal Seminar

1. Students do not have special technique for good English presentation

   English presentation is different with Indonesia. For good presentation in English, students have to make sure for always practicing, because language without practice is nothing. Students must be diligent for getting any techniques for good presentation in English. Those technique is easy to get during always learning.

   ![Figure 2. The Result of Students’ Challenges of Thesis Proposal Seminar related to English Pronunciation](image)

2. Students still be nervous when presentation

   Unusual presentation in front of many people or stranger would made students still be nervous when presentation, more over answer question from participants and advisors. Students nervous should be lost if practicing or be habit talk in front of many people.

   ![Figure 3. The Result of Students’ Challenges of Thesis Proposal Seminar related to nervousness](image)

3. Students cannot answer question clearly in English

   Participants and advisors’ question is still hard for presenter, because students still be confused to answer clearly by English so that participants and advisor got the point from presenter’s explanation. One of factor students did not able to answer is poor vocabulary. Limited vocabulary should made students be difficult to explore large answer for the questions. Students feel be shy using English because unusual communication in environment.
Figure 4. The Result of Students’ Challenges of Thesis Proposal Seminar related to Lack of Vocabulary in Answering the Questions in English

4. Students are scared of public speaking by foreign language or pronunciation

For several students good public speaking in English is still hard. Because many skill have to learn for good public speaking. Especially in English for good speaking also good pronunciation. The function of Pronunciation is for distinguishing every word or meaning in English. Because in English there is same written but different meaning or vice versa.

Figure 5. The Result of Students’ Challenges of Thesis Proposal Seminar related to Public Speaking Ability

5. Students less confidence on own self (anxiety)

Several students still unbelief on own ability or anxiety on own self. Everyone have superiority so always believe on ability (Arafani et al., 2021). Any factors students feel anxiety, such as have a lack of speaking in English, scared of wrong, never trying. If students always feel not confidence should be anxiety forever

Figure 6. The Result of Students’ Challenges of Thesis Proposal Seminar related to Students’ Anxiety
6. Students lack preparation in English Seminar

English Education Department seminar is different with other major, in English Education Department students have to explain by English and the point of the research. Not only mental preparation but also the media for presentation such as laptop or LCD. Because English seminar without media should be bored for participants because there is no deep explanation for example.

![Image](image.png)

**Figure 7.** The Result of Students’ Challenges of Thesis Proposal Seminar related to Students’ Preparation

7. Students do not understand research method clearly

Firstly, students did not know more about research method. During making thesis proposal students tried to learn about research method, but several students still did not know what the research method is for the research until when thesis proposal seminar participants or advisor asked about the research method, students still be confused for explaining what the research method is in students’ research.

![Image](image.png)

**Figure 8.** The Result of Students’ Challenges of Thesis Proposal Seminar related to the Understanding of Research Method

For the result of the research above, the researcher made a conclusion based on the data that English Department students still have less confidence for speaking up in front of people or stranger, the fact that what students said, they still be nervous for presentation. The next result for high challenge is presentation using English language by good pronunciation. Students still scared on wrong pronunciation when speak up of English. Those are still hard challenges for students.

In the other challenges of online presentation, the students need high internet connection which the important thing for online presentation. Students have to prepare in right condition or time to make a good plan for presentation, made a nice power points should be improving clear presentation, students did not prepare some notes for important contents which deliver
to other participants, some audio or other things for online presentation, students needed to buy or borrow who has device assistance such as tripod, lighting, microphone, earphone, etc.

The findings of questionnaire and interviews, the researchers have gotten the solutions from objects of research (students) for other students who should face thesis proposal seminar. (1) Students should be relaxed or practicing before seminar, that will be making good preparation. (2) Do not do the seminar together with other friend, because that should make students less focus on material of seminar. (3) Always come to friend’s seminar, because should got any good suggestion and comment from participants or advisors which can be reference for research. Then, (4) master the proposal as good as possible. Statements above are base on students’ experiences that have done thesis proposal seminar which give the solution for thesis proposal seminar well.

There are many solution suggested by theories, students, and researchers. They are: (1) Improve Good English Presentation. English students have to improve the ability for presentation especially in thesis proposal seminar. (Nugraha,2018); (2) More practicing. Trying and practicing that will make be enjoy. Ready for presenting and also give the best answer an opinion when seminar; (3) Understanding of research. Read other research, learn from it. Make sure understanding with own research, so make be easy for presentation; (4) Look for motivation. Motivation is the best effect for anything and can be a motivation that will make someone successful when doing something. Those especially can be from family, friends, or lecturer; and (5) Careful preparation. Prepare as good as possible, such as material, media, mental or another. Lack preparation will make less focus in the agenda, or will annoy the presentation.

From the statement above the researchers concluded that English Department students still need many strategies or stimulus for facing thesis proposal seminar as good as possible presentation. Actually, since fresh graduate students have to practice more time for making self confidence, so in the post graduate already have many skills and be able to face many challenges. No challenges that have no solution trust in ability and always do the best for bright future. Getting successful seminar, students have to arrange strategies especially in English seminar. There are any steps for students: (1) Training on good strategies of English seminar. Nowadays, many literature for training any strategies for seminar, based on journal, book, or internet. Look for information is very important for increasing seminar knowledge to be good seminar; and (2) Good planning for seminar. For any events, planning is really important for avoid bad result or situation. Students have to make any plan from the first agenda until the last agenda, for making the event is not chaotic.

The result of Jalal’s research is important planning for success seminar, without planning, should be difficult for did structural planning. Students also be able learning in another event before proposal seminar such as workshop, meeting, or individual learning.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research result of Exploring English Department students’ challenges when presenting Thesis Proposal Seminar, it can be concluded that there are four challenges during thesis proposal seminar related to seminar preparation (they cannot answer question clearly in English), topic’s mastery (students do not understand research method clearly), students’ confidence (still be nervous when presentation and be scared of public speaking by foreign language or pronunciation, and also have anxiety) and technical issues. In addition, there are three solutions that students have in thesis proposal seminar. To make a good presentation, students need to understand their research topic and research methodology well. They also need to plan their presentation by doing a lot of practices and having good preparation. These
solutions necessarily encourage students’ confidence and motivation to do presentation effectively.

REFERENCES


