

**PERSPECTIVES ON ENGLISH HOMEWORK AND ITS
CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS AT SMP NEGERI 8
PALEMBANG**

A THESIS

by:

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Language and Arts Education Department



FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY

INDRALAYA

2024

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Certify that the thesis entitled “Perspectives on English Homework and Its Challenges Faced by Students at SMP Negeri 8 Palembang” is my own work and I did not do plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethics and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia No. 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserved to the court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

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The Undersigned,



Azzahra Alissya Putri

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

My beloved family, my dad and my mom, who never stop supporting me and always pray for me. My dear sisters and brother, Mbak Adin, Sarah, Tiara, and Ayen. My lovely nephew, Inara. I deeply appreciate your continuous love, prayers, and support for me, both throughout this study and in navigating any challenges that come my way.

MOTTOS

لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا

“Allah does not charge a soul except [with that within] its capacity.”

(QS. Al-Baqarah: 286)

“The only time you should ever look back, is to see how far you have come.”

- **Berta Lippert** -

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**PERSPECTIVES ON ENGLISH HOMEWORK AND ITS CHALLENGES
FACED BY STUDENTS AT SMP NEGERI 8 PALEMBANG**

ABSTRACT


The aims of this research were to find out students' perspectives on English homework and the challenges they faced in completing English Homework. The participants of this research were six students of Junior High School 8 Palembang. The research method used in this study was qualitative and data collection was conducted by having semi-structured interview. The research results showed that the students expressed a positive perception regarding the existence of English homework. The students viewed homework as very important to improve their understanding in English lessons. They believed that English homework helped them to practice the material at home, thus deepening their understanding. In addition, students faced some challenges in completing English homework. These challenges ranged from difficulties understanding materials and lack of vocabulary, managing time effectively around a busy schedule, coping with distractions, dealing with negative emotions and a less conducive learning environment.

Keywords: *Perspectives, English Homework, Challenges*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The chapter presents: (1) The Background of the Study, (2) The Problems of the Study, (3) The Objectives of the Study, and (4) The Significances of the Study.

1.1 The Background of the Study

Nowadays, education has become a popular topic in recent years since it allows the majority of people to get involved with it. Education is a process that occurs at both personal and global levels of total humanity, which never stops participating in the educational process (Sofradzija et al., 2021). In addition, education is essential to human life. Both men and women need to get an education. They have the same right to get as much education as they want because there is no limitation to getting an education. In Indonesia, English is an important aspect of education, as it is an international language that must be studied by the Indonesian people (Isadaud et al., 2022). Maji et al. (2022) stated that English is an international language that is spoken by the majority of the world's population. Since it is so widely spoken, English has become the most common language in the world, with over a billion and a half people globally. Many people believe that English language is worth learning due to its crucial role as a global language, especially in nations where it is the native tongue and serves as the primary means of global communication (Faoziah, 2016).

In the Indonesian context, English is considered as a foreign language that is taught from elementary school up to the university (Pratiwi et al., 2022). English as a foreign language refers to the use of English solely for educational purposes in both formal and non-formal educational institutions (Faisya, 2021). English is prioritized as the most important foreign language to be taught in Indonesia, whereas neighboring nations like Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines use English as a second language. The process of learning English as a foreign language in Indonesia to this day, it still remains a struggle for most students in Indonesia. As a foreign language taught in schools, English is often considered as a difficult

language for Indonesian students to learn (Hapsari, 2018). In the pursuit of effective English language education, teachers employ a variety of techniques when teaching English to ensure that their students fully comprehend the topic of study. One such method is the use of homework assignments (Andriani, 2023).

Homework is an assignment given by the teacher for students to complete at home. Homework serves as a supplementary learning tool designed to reinforce classroom instruction and deepen students' understanding of the subject matter. According to Husna (2022), homework is one method that teachers employ to allow students to study at home in order to improve their understanding of what they are studying in school. Homework is a common educational practice that has long been seen as an important component of the teaching-learning process (Xu & Wu, 2013; Journal & Amiryousefi, 2016). Davidovitch et al. (2017) also added that homework is described as any study activities, tasks, or assignments completed by students outside of the formal setting of the classroom, usually without the presence of a teacher. Samah (2019) stated that homework is seen as an essential part of teaching and learning since it may assist students in improving their factual knowledge, comprehending their material, developing problem-solving skills, and creating self-discipline. Several researchers hold similar views on the concept of homework, and it is generally claimed that homework is an activity carried out in a non-school setting that is designed to increase students' knowledge and abilities and to make formal learning far more lasting. English homework in this study refers to the English tasks assigned by the teacher to students to complete outside of class time, whether done individually or in groups.

However, students may have different perspectives on homework, and they often face various challenges in completing their assignments. As stated by Keane and Heinz (2019) homework promotes the development of non-academic abilities such as enhanced self-direction, self-discipline, time management, and independent problem-solving, in addition to providing good academic benefits and improving overall student study skills. Husna (2022) also claimed that by assigning homework, students will be able to manage their time alone to practice answering various questions or reading material collected from multiple sources, either alone or with

the assistance of parents. While Mcpherson (2020) found that assigning homework requires students to spend their afternoons and evenings to complete homework after spending approximately eight hours a day in school. Thus, that time is unavailable for other activities such as relaxation, family time, sports, music, hobbies, and socializing. As claimed by Masalimova et al. (2023), homework can be stressful and frustrating, especially if it is poorly designed or given in too much amount. Furthermore, homework might take time away from more fun things such as playing outside or spending time with family or friends. Overly challenging homework can be a source of stress that is hard or impossible to overcome and can have a negative impact on students' academic performance and personalities. Some of these effects include discouragement, losing interest in or confidence in a subject, spending too much time on homework at the expense of other activities, or even forgetting to take breaks (Catalano & Catalano, 2018).

To understand the different perspectives on English homework, perspective should be defined. Perspective is the act of viewing something from a specific point in order to understand it or identify something that needs to be observed (Ranijayatri et al., 2021). Understanding how students perceive homework is crucial because they are the objects of the learning process. Student attitudes, preferences, and beliefs significantly influence their engagement with assignments. Some students may view homework as an opportunity for independent learning and skill development, while others might find it challenging or burdensome.

A study about perspective on English homework from Siritotet, Siska, and Ikhsan (2021) showed that high school students perceive that English homework is important, necessary and useful for them. Students enjoy doing individual and group homework. Some of them like a lot of homework but some of them do not. Faoziah (2016) also did a study on Students' Attitudes Toward Individual English Homework, the study showed that students in the above average strata (80-100) and average strata (60-79.9) had a positive perspective toward individual English homework. They regularly finish English homework at home on their own and turn it in on time in class. Meanwhile, students in the lower strata (0-59.9) displayed a negative perspective. They did not always do their English assignments for a variety

of reasons. Moreover, another study from Zheng (2023) revealed that Chinese School students seem to perceive homework as an essential part of their education in order to enhance their academic achievement, and they are prepared to make the time and effort required to finish it. As some students may find specific assignments challenging, the majority of pupils find homework to be acceptable. The differences between this study and those previous studies were this study focused on how the students perceive English homework and the challenges they faced in completing the homework. This study used a qualitative method. Interview was the instrument used in this study and the population was different from other previous studies. The population for this study consisted of students from Junior High School 8 Palembang.

Junior High School 8 Palembang is located in Jl. Urip Sumoharjo, 2 Ilir, Kec. Ilir Timur II, Kota Palembang, Sumatera Selatan. This is a public junior high school that serves the education of city middle school students. The school has an A accreditation and uses the Merdeka curriculum in grade 7 and 8, as well as the K13 curriculum in grade 9. The school allocates four hours per week for English lessons, which include all necessary curriculum fields of study, including English. Notably, homework remains a continuous aspect of student responsibilities at SMP Negeri 8, with English tasks commonly given once a week.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wanted to discover more about how students perceive English homework, which revealed their perspective also the challenges they faced. Therefore, this study is entitled **“Perspectives on English Homework and Its Challenges Faced by Students at SMP Negeri 8 Palembang”**

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the background above, the problems of this research are:

1. How do the students at SMP Negeri 8 Palembang perceive English homework?
2. What are the challenges they face in completing English Homework?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To find out the students' perspectives on English homework
2. To find out the challenges they faced in completing English Homework

1.4 The Significances of the Study

This study was expected to give some benefits to the teacher, students, institutions and further researchers.

First, it is expected that the results of this research can help the teacher to create a more supportive learning environment, ensuring that English homework assignments contribute positively to students' language learning outcomes.

Then, by understanding the perspectives and challenges that students face, it is expected to help students to do English homework assignments more effectively, thus fostering a positive learning experience.

Finally, by understanding this study, hopefully this study could be useful to future researchers as a valuable source of knowledge or a guide for similar future research.

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