

ABSTRACT

MEYLLA YUNI FAHIRRA, 2023. “**IDENTIFYING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS’ PUBLIC SPEAKING ANXIETY IN THESIS DEFENCE EXAMINATION: FACTORS AND STRATEGIES**”. English Education Department. Faculty of Educational Sciences and Teachers’ Training. Siliwangi University. Tasikmalaya.

The thesis defence examination is considered one of the most thrilling events because of the students’ public speaking anxiety. The pressure on students to present and defend their work and findings in front of examiners optimally and competently in order to pass their examination might be regarded as the most anxiety-provoking. Therefore, this research aims to find out the factors causing undergraduate students’ public speaking anxiety in the thesis defence examination and the strategies they applied to overcome it. Furthermore, to achieve the research aim, a descriptive case study was used as a research design. The research participants were three students who had taken the thesis defence examination and were classified as having a high-moderate level of anxiety. To collect the data, this research used semi-structured interviews, which were then analyzed using Qualitative Data Analysis from Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014). This research found five factors that cause undergraduate students’ public speaking anxiety in the thesis defence examination, including threatened by the audience, inferiority, fear of negative evaluation, communication apprehension, and fear of failure. Moreover, there are five strategies to overcome public speaking anxiety in the thesis defence examination, including preparing and practicing, attempting to think and imagine positively, implementing the relaxation response, making gesture and body movement, and learning from feedback.

Keywords: Undergraduate Students’ Public Speaking Anxiety, Thesis Defence Examination, Factors, Strategies