

ABSTRACT

EVI KHOFIFAH HASAN. 2024. “EXPLORING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS’ CHALLENGES IN ENGLISH TEACHING UNDER *KURIKULUM MERDEKA*”. English Education Department, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Teachers’ Training, Siliwangi University, Tasikmalaya.

The *Kurikulum Merdeka* was introduced at the beginning of 2022 by the Indonesian Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, Nadiem Anwar Makarim. The implementation of the *Kurikulum Merdeka* in elementary schools poses challenges for teachers. The absence of English teachers in elementary schools forces classroom teachers to teach English subjects. Research findings indicate that elementary school teachers face challenges teaching English under the *Kurikulum Merdeka*. These challenges include a lack of professional development for teachers, teachers’ pedagogical competencies, characteristics of young learners or characteristics of students, and a lack of educational resources. This study was conducted at an elementary school in the Ciamis region, involving two classroom teachers who were responsible for teaching English. Data for the study were obtained through interviews and subsequently analyzed using thematic analysis.

Keywords: *Kurikulum Merdeka*, teaching English for young learners, elementary school.