

ABSTRACT

DEA AMELIA. 2026. "THE USE OF ENGLISH IN THE TEACHING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: INDONESIAN EFL STUDENT TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS". English Education Department, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Teachers' Training, University of Siliwangi, Tasikmalaya.

This study aims to investigate EFL student teachers' perceptions of the use of English during the Teaching Internship Program. This study employed a qualitative case study design involving two student teachers who conducted their teaching practice at a junior high school in Tasikmalaya. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and analysed using thematic analysis. The researcher categorized research findings into three themes: 1) student teachers' beliefs and motivation toward the use of English use; 2) perceived challenges and solutions in implementing the use of English; and 3) perceived reciprocal impacts of the use of English. The findings indicate that student teachers have positive perceptions of using English consistently as a means of increasing students' exposure to English. However, they encounter various challenges, both internal and external. To address these challenges, student teachers perceived several solutions, including code-switching, Total Physical Response (TPR) through gestures and demonstration, and instructional support strategies. In addition, the study reveals reciprocal impacts, in which students demonstrate increased engagement, while student teachers experience professional development. Therefore, using English consistently is recommended as an important pedagogical practice in EFL learning, while still considering adaptive strategies that align with students' needs.

Keywords: EFL student teachers, perceptions, teaching internship program, and the use of English