

**EXPLORING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH  
TEACHERS' CREATIVITY IN *MERDEKA* CURRICULUM:  
CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES**

**A THESIS**

Submitted to English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher  
Training Faculty of Syekh Nurjati State Islamic Institute Cirebon in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirement of Undergraduate Degree



Compiled by:

**LATIFAH**  
**Reg.Number: 2008103067**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF *TARBIYAH* AND TEACHER TRAINING  
STATE ISLAMIC INSTITUTE OF SYEKH NURJATI CIREBON**

**2024**

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**2024**

## ABSTRACT

*Latifah. 2008103067. (Exploring Junior High School English Teachers' Creativity in Merdeka Curriculum: Challenges and Strategies)*

The literature that acknowledges the importance of teachers' creativity in teaching English is becoming increasingly numerous. However, many studies state that teachers are not creative in teaching English, especially now that middle school grades 7 and 8 are using the new curriculum which is *Merdeka* curriculum. This study aims to find out the concept of teacher's creativity in the context of the *Merdeka* curriculum, also to explore the challenges do teachers face in teaching English creatively in the *Merdeka* curriculum, and teachers' strategies for teaching English creatively in the *Merdeka* curriculum. This research method is qualitative research method. Data collection techniques are literature review, observations and interviews. The instrument used is observation checklist combine with field note and semi-structured interviews. The researcher found that the concept of teachers' creativity in the context of *Merdeka* curriculum is a combination theory of creativity that is in line with the theory of post-method pedagogy by Kumaravadivelu (2006) and five learning principle in *Merdeka* curriculum (2020). Furthermore, there are 3 junior high school English teachers' challenges in teaching English creatively in the *Merdeka* curriculum; challenges on teacher, challenges on students, challenges on resources. Lastly, there are 7 junior high school English teachers' strategies in teaching English creatively in the *Merdeka* curriculum which contain many aspects in them.

**Keywords:** *Teachers' Creativity, Teaching English, Merdeka Curriculum, Challenges, Strategies, Junior High School Teachers*

**APPROVAL**

**EXPLORING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHERS'  
CREATIVITY IN *MERDEKA* CURRICULUM: CHALLENGES AND  
STRATEGIES**

Submitted By:

**LATIFAH**  
**Reg.Number: 2008103067**

Submitted to the English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and  
Teaching Training Faculty, IAIN *Syekh Nurjati* Cirebon in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements of Undergraduate Degree in English Education


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Cirebon

*Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh*

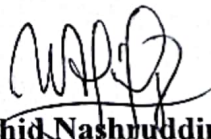
After guiding, analyzing, briefing, and correcting the writing of Latifah with registered number 2008103067 entitled **“EXPLORING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHERS’ CREATIVITY IN MERDEKA CURRICULUM: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES”** we are of the opinion that her thesis can be offered to be presented to the English Language Teaching Department, *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty, IAIN *Syekh Nurjati* Cirebon as a requirement of the completion of an undergraduate degree in English Education.

*Wassalamu 'alaikum Warahmaiullahi Wabarakatuh*

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## LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*

I acknowledge that this thesis entitled “EXPLORING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHERS’ CREATIVITY IN *MERDEKA* CURRICULUM: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES” is really my own writing with quotations from trusted sources and references by using the accepted scientific method of writing. Honestly, I have written this letter of authenticity in accordance with the truth. I am sincerely responsible for any risks that will happen in the future if it is proven to offend the ethics of scientific writing.

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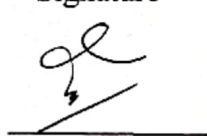







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## RATIFICATION

The thesis which is entitled “EXPLORING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHERS’ CREATIVITY IN *MERDEKA* CURRICULUM: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES” written by Latifah, with registered number 2008103067, has been examined on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It has been accepted by the examiners as one of the requirements for an Undergraduate Degree in the English Language Teaching Department at *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty, *Syekh Nurjati* State Islamic Institute Cirebon.

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## **DEDICATION**

First of all, I would like to thank Allah, the lord of the universe, who has provided me with a good life, strength, health, and knowledge so that I can finish this thesis writing. Peace may always be upon prophet Muhammad, to all his family, best friends, and us as his followers till heaven. I dedicate this thesis to my beloved parents, Mr. Abdul Rosyad and Mrs. Masriah. Thank you so much for all the prayers and support until this thesis is accomplished, Mom and Dad.





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## MOTTO

“So, surely with hardship comes ease. Surely with (that) hardship comes (more) ease”

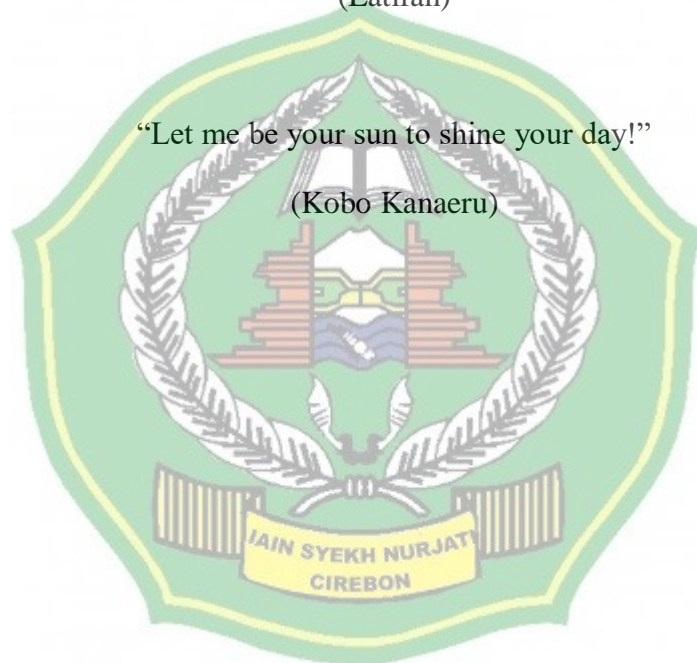
(Ash Sharh 5-6)

“You don’t need to show your process, but you need to win the battles!”

(Latifah)

“Let me be your sun to shine your day!”

(Kobo Kanaeru)



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*Alhamdulillahirobbil 'alamin.* All praises be to Allah SWT, the God of the universe, the most Gracious and the most Merciful, due to of His blessings, I could finish my thesis to attain the degree of Bachelor of Degree of Education or *Sarjana Pendidikan* in English Language Education. Peace and salutation may always be upon to the noblest of prophet Muhammad, his family, companions, and his followers, may Allah bless them and give them peace.

Next, I would like to express my highest gratitude and appreciation to my first supervisor, Mr. Wakhid Nashruddin, Ph.D. and my second supervisor, Mr. Nizar Ibnu, M.Pd. who have been very helpful, kind, and patient in providing me guidance, advice, ideas, assistance, and valuable time during the writing of this thesis. I have learned a lot of things from Mr. Wakhid and Mr. Nizar especially in the early stages of the study, its framing, methodology and development.

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I also express gratitude goes to the principal, head of the curriculum, and English teachers of two of school in Cirebon, who have permitted me to do the research in their school. Thank you for all supports, helps, guidance, and approval during the research process.

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Finally, my special gratitude belongs to my beloved parents, Mr. Abdul Rosyad and Mrs. Masriah for the endless love, prayer, support, guidance, for the meaningful advice, all sacrifices and for everything that keeps me going in life.

Cirebon, 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2024

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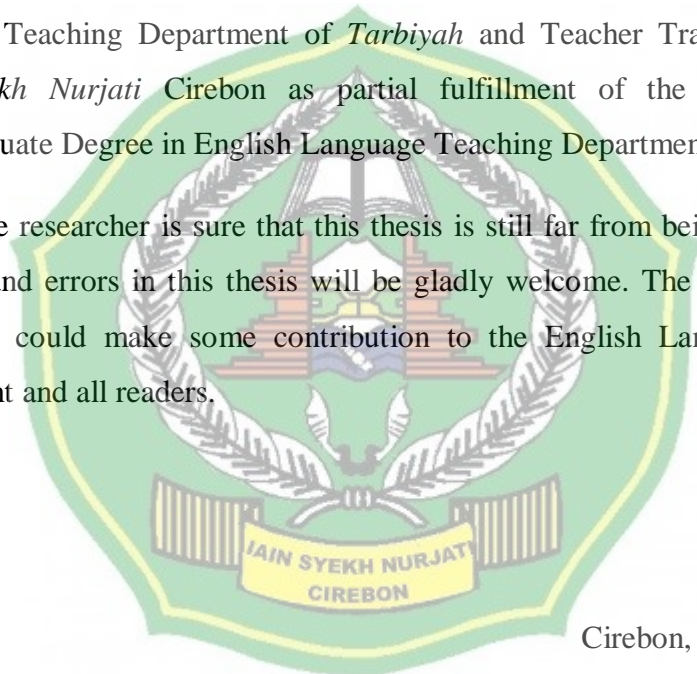


## PREFACE

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious and Merciful all praise and thanks belong to Allah, the Lord of the universe can be finished on time. May invocation to the prophet Muhammad (peace is upon him), his family, and followers up to the end of the world.

The research is entitled “**EXPLORING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHERS’ CREATIVITY IN *MERDEKA* CURRICULUM: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES**” which is submitted to the English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty of IAIN *Syekh Nurjati* Cirebon as partial fulfillment of the requirement for Undergraduate Degree in English Language Teaching Department.

The researcher is sure that this thesis is still far from being perfect, so all mistakes and errors in this thesis will be gladly welcome. The researcher hopes this thesis could make some contribution to the English Language Teaching Department and all readers.



Cirebon, 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2024

**The Researcher,**

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