

**ENGLISH TEACHERS' DIGITAL COMPETENCE:  
CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
MERDEKA BELAJAR CURRICULUM**

**A THESIS**

Submitted to the English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* Cyber State Islamic University Cirebon in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements of an Undergraduate Degree



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SYEKH NURJATI CYBER STATE ISLAMIC  
UNIVERSITY CIREBON  
2024**

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**2024**

## ABSTRACT

*Cempaka Arum. 2008103041. ENGLISH TEACHERS' DIGITAL COMPETENCE: CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MERDEKA BELAJAR CURRICULUM*

This study aims to identify the challenges faced by English teachers in integrating technology into *Merdeka Belajar* Curriculum. The main focus of this research is on the characteristics of Merdeka Curriculum and the indicators of Digital Competence for Educators, with the TPACK (Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge) model approach as an analytical framework. The research method used is descriptive qualitative, with data collection through in-depth interviews and observations. The results showed that teachers face various challenges, including: lack of adequate training, lack of confidence in using technology, unsupportive infrastructure, difficulty in finding and managing digital resources, and differences in technological competence between students and teachers. To overcome these challenges, some of the strategies implemented by teachers include self-learning, participation in webinars and trainings from the *Program Mengajar Mandiri (PMM)*, sharing experiences through the Subject Teacher Conference (MGMP) group, and developing interactive digital learning media.

Keywords: *digital competence, Merdeka Belajar Curriculum, challenges, strategies*



**APPROVAL**  
**ENGLISH TEACHERS' DIGITAL COMPETENCE: CHALLENGES IN**  
**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MERDEKA BELAJAR CURRICULUM**

**Submitted by:**

**CEMPAKA ARUM**  
**Reg Number 2008103041**

Submitted to the English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and  
Teacher Training Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* Cyber State Islamic University  
Cirebon in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements of an Undergraduate  
Degree

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Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

After guiding, analyzing, briefing, and correcting the writing of Cempaka Arum with registered number 2008103041 entitled **“ENGLISH TEACHERS' DIGITAL COMPETENCE: CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MERDEKA BELAJAR CURRICULUM”** we have opinion that her thesis can be offered to be presented to the Submitted to the English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* Cyber State Islamic University.

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## LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY

I acknowledge that this thesis entitled "ENGLISH TEACHERS' DIGITAL COMPETENCE: CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MERDEKA BELAJAR CURRICULUM" is really my own writing with quotations from trusted sources and references by using acceptable scientific method of writing. 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.



Cirebon, September 2024



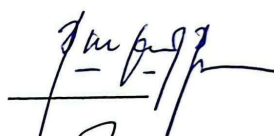



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The thesis which is entitled "ENGLISH TEACHERS' DIGITAL COMPETENCE: CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MERDEKA BELAJAR CURRICULUM" written by Cempaka Arum with registered number 2008103041, has been examined on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. It has been accepted by the examiners as one of requirements for Undergraduate Degree in English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty, *Syekh Nurjati* Cyber State Islamic University Cirebon.

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is lovingly dedicated to my cherished parents, Mr. Sutarsim and Mrs. Titin. Your love, prayers, and support have been my guiding light throughout this journey, and I am forever grateful for your encouragement. To my beloved siblings, Putri and Wulan, thank you for your love, care, and belief in me, your support has made all the difference. I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to my supervisors, H. Farouk Imam Arrasyid, M.Pd.I., M.Pd., and Khomarudin, S.Pd.I., M.Pd. I am profoundly grateful for the support and insightful guidance you have provided throughout this journey. Lastly, I dedicate this thesis to everyone who has nurtured me along this path.





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**MOTTO**

*IT WILL PASS*



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In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have supported me in the completion of this thesis. I am profoundly thankful to my supervisors, for their invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout this journey. My heartfelt appreciation also goes to my family for their support and belief in my abilities. Additionally, I extend my thanks to my friends and colleagues for their motivation and advice during this process. Lastly, I am grateful to all the participants who contributed their time and insights to this research, making this work possible. May Allah bless you all.

I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to:

1. Prof. Dr. H. Aan Jaelani, M.Ag., as the Rector of *Syekh Nurjati* Cyber State Islamic University Cirebon.
2. Dr. H. Saifuddin, M.Ag., as the Dean of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* Cyber State Islamic University Cirebon
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4. Hendi Hidayat, M.Pd., as the Secretary of English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* Cyber State Islamic University Cirebon
5. H. Farouk Imam Arrasyid, M.Pd.I., M.Pd., as my first supervisor.
6. Khomarudin, S.Pd.I., M.Pd as my second supervisor.
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8. My dear siblings, Putri and Wulan for always being there for me.

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10. All lecturers and staff of Syekh Nurjati Cyber State Islamic University Cirebon for their invaluable contributions.

Finally, I acknowledge that this thesis is a work in progress and may not be perfect. However, it is my sincere hope that it can be a helpful resource for the development of English teaching and learning processes. I also aspire that it may inspire other researchers interested in exploring similar topics.

Cirebon, September 2024

The Researcher



## PREFACE

In the name of Allah SWT, the Most Gracious and Merciful, all praises and thanks belong to Allah, the Lord of the universe, for allowing me to complete this thesis. I also send my invocations to Prophet Muhammad SAW, his family, and his followers until the end of time.

The research presented in this thesis is titled **ENGLISH TEACHERS' DIGITAL COMPETENCE: CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MERDEKA BELAJAR CURRICULUM**, which is submitted Submitted to the English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* Cyber State Islamic University Cirebon in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements of an Undergraduate Degree

I acknowledge that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, I take full responsibility for any mistakes or shortcomings it may contain. I welcome any suggestions or ideas from anyone interested in materials development to help improve this work.

I hope this thesis can contribute positively to the English Language Teaching Department, teachers, students, future researchers, and all readers in general.

Cirebon, September 2024

The Researcher

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