

**DESIGNING A DIGITAL ILLUSTRATED ENGLISH
STORYBOOK TO BOOST ABSTRACT REASONING SKILLS
IN EARLY LEARNERS: A CASE STUDY IN AN INDONESIAN
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A THESIS

Submitted to English Language Teaching Department of *Tarbiyah* and Teacher
Training Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati* State Cyber Islamic University Cirebon
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement of Undergraduate Degree (S.Pd.)



SALMA HASNAA NABILLAH
Reg. Number 2108103031

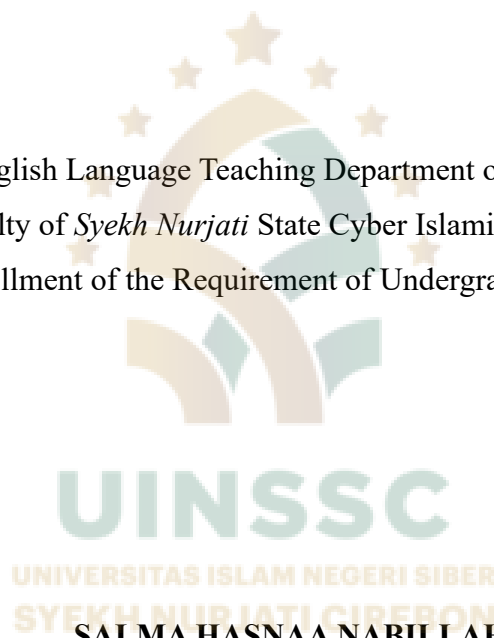
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING DEPARTMENT
TARBIYAH AND TEACHER TRAINING FACULTY
SYEKH NURJATI STATE CYBER ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY CIREBON**

2025

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2025

ABSTRACT

Salma Hasnaa Nabillah. 2108103031. *Designing a Digital Illustrated English Storybook to Boost Abstract Reasoning Skills in Early Learners: A Case Study in an Indonesian Primary School.*

The data from PISA 2022 show that Indonesia's reading ranking improved to 69th out of 80 countries. However, Indonesia's reading score in 2022 was still 359, which is below the OECD average of 476 points. This improvement is mostly due to external factors, such as the number and performance of other countries, not because of a real improvement in the quality of Indonesia's education. According to the latest data from UNESCO, reading interest in Indonesia is still very low. This means that only 1 out of every 1,000 Indonesians reads regularly and seriously. This low achievement is influenced by the effects of the continued use of traditional and teacher-centered teaching methods. In fact, the new curriculum essentially requires teachers to shift from traditional, teacher-centered learning to digital learning that promotes student-centeredness. To help solve this problem, the researcher created a digital illustrated storybook based on combines two brain-informed learning tools: *Reading for Emotion* and *Aesthetic Principles* to improve abstract reasoning and English literacy in early learners. This study uses a qualitative Research and Development (R&D) approach based on postmodernism and adapted rhizomatic theory. The results show that the digital storybook helps students improve their English and literacy skills. Both teachers and students gave positive feedback on the product, and it has the potential to be used as part of the Merdeka Curriculum. This research is expected to inspire more studies to create digital learning tools that are brain-friendly and make better use of technology to improve learning outcomes.

Keywords: *Digital Illustrated Storybook, Abstract Reasoning, Literacy, Pedagogy, Learning Tools.*

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APPROVAL

DESIGNING A DIGITAL ILLUSTRATED ENGLISH STORYBOOK TO BOOST ABSTRACT REASONING SKILLS IN EARLY LEARNERS: A CASE STUDY IN AN INDONESIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Submitted by:

SALMA HASNAA NABILLAH

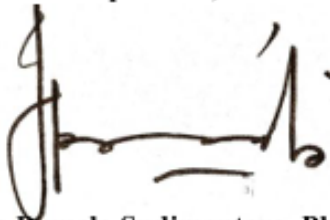
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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement of Undergraduate Degree

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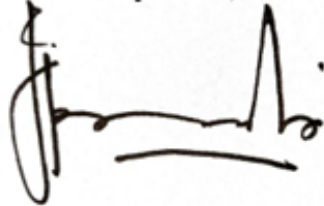
Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

After guiding, analyzing, briefing, and correcting the writing of Salma Hasnaa Nabillah with registered number 2108103031 entitled **DESIGNING A DIGITAL ILLUSTRATED ENGLISH STORYBOOK TO BOOST ABSTRACT REASONING SKILLS IN EARLY LEARNERS: A CASE STUDY IN AN INDONESIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL**, 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, Syekh Nurjati State Cyber Islamic University Cirebon as a requirement of undergraduate degree in English Education.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

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LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

I acknowledged that thesis entitled to **“DESIGNING A DIGITAL ILLUSTRATED ENGLISH STORYBOOK TO BOOST ABSTRACT REASONING SKILLS IN EARLY LEARNERS: A CASE STUDY IN AN INDONESIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL”** is entirely my own original work, conducted with the utmost integrity and adherence to academic and ethical standards. All references and citations have been accurately and appropriately documented in accordance with established guidelines and derived from reliable sources.

This letter of authenticity is issued based on factual circumstances. I assume full responsibility for the originality and accuracy of this scholarly work. Should any academic misconduct or plagiarism be identified in the future, I am prepared to accept any consequences in accordance with the applicable institutional regulations. Accordingly, I affirm that this declaration is made truthfully and in good faith for its intended purpose.

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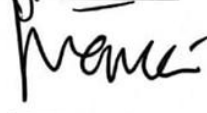
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RATIFICATION

Thesis entitled **“DESIGNING A DIGITAL ILLUSTRATED ENGLISH STORYBOOK TO BOOST ABSTRACT REASONING SKILLS IN EARLY LEARNERS: A CASE STUDY IN AN INDONESIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL”** written by Salma Hasnaa Nabillah, with registered number 2108103031, has been examined on June 4th, 2025. It has been accepted by the examiners as one of requirements for Undergraduate Degree in English Language Teaching Department at *Tarbiyah* and Teacher Training Faculty, *Syekh Nurjati* State Cyber Islamic University Cirebon.

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DEDICATION

First and foremost, I express my deepest gratitude to Allah, the Lord of the universe, for granting me a good life, health, boundless blessings, guidance, and strength throughout this academic journey. It is through Allah's divine grace that I have been granted the perseverance, wisdom, and determination to complete this thesis. May peace and blessings always be upon Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his family, his righteous companions, and all of us as his followers until we reach heaven.

This work is wholeheartedly dedicated to:

1. My dearest parents, Mr. Moch Arbani and Ms. Rosmegah, whose unwavering love, sacrifices, and prayers have been the foundation of my success. Your endless support, guidance, and unwavering faith in my abilities have given me the strength to overcome every challenge. Without your support, none of this would have been possible.
2. My family, including my cousins, uncles, and aunts, for their unwavering support and encouragement. Your presence has reminded me that I am never alone on this journey.
3. My esteemed thesis supervisors, Mr. Lala Bumela Sudimantara, Ph.D., and Ms. Maimunah, M.Hum., whose wisdom, patience, and invaluable guidance have played a crucial role in shaping this research. I am truly grateful for the knowledge and insights you have shared with me.
4. My esteemed friends and colleagues, both near and far, whose unwavering support has been invaluable to me. In particular, my heartfelt gratitude goes to Vivi Aviyati, who has continuously accompanied, encouraged, and uplifted me in every circumstance. Your kindness, shared struggles, and moments of inspiration have made this journey more meaningful. I am especially grateful for the serendipitous yet profound encounter that brought us together.
5. To myself, as a reminder that perseverance, dedication, and faith can overcome any challenge. This journey has been filled with trials and

hardships, yet through resilience and determination, I have arrived at this milestone.

6. Lastly, I dedicate this work to the pursuit of knowledge and academic excellence, in the hope that it will contribute meaningfully to the field and inspire future scholars to continue exploring and innovating.



AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Salma Hasnaa Nabillah was born in Cirebon, 10th February 2004. She lives at Aman Street, Neighborhood Unit 009/Community Unit 003, Cipeujeuh Wetan Village, Lemahabang Subdistrict, Cirebon Regency, West Java, Indonesia.



Her father's name is Moch Arbani, and her mother's name is Rosmegah. She is the only child in her family, she benefited from a consistently supportive family environment. This foundation has strengthened her motivation and commitment to continuous learning and self-improvement.

The researcher has a diverse educational background. She completed her elementary education at State Elementary School 1 Cipeujeuh Kulon for six years, followed by three years at State Junior High School 1 Lemahabang for junior high school, and three years at State Senior High School 1 Lemahabang for senior high school. Currently, she is pursuing her undergraduate studies at *Syekh Nurjati* State Cyber Islamic University Cirebon. Alhamdulillah, she is grateful for all the blessings that have accompanied her learning journey.

During her time at university, the researcher has gained various experiences through campus activities. She was awarded first place in the national poster competition at the Dema Talent Competition (Detection) organized by DEMA FITK in 2022. In 2023, she won first place in the digital poster competition held during the Festival Banking Days organized by HIMPASy FEBI, and also secured second place in the poster competition at the EDSA Festival organized by EDSA FITK. In addition to her achievements in competitions, she has taken on leadership roles, serving as the head of the 2024 Regular Community Service Program (KKN) in Gunungsari Village, Cirebon, and as the head of the 2024 Regular Teaching Practice Program (PLP) at MA Bina Cendekia, Cirebon. She has also participated in several academic webinars organized by the English Language Teaching Department, one of which was ELTRIS Episode 10 (ELT ECHO Journal) in March 2025.

MOTTO

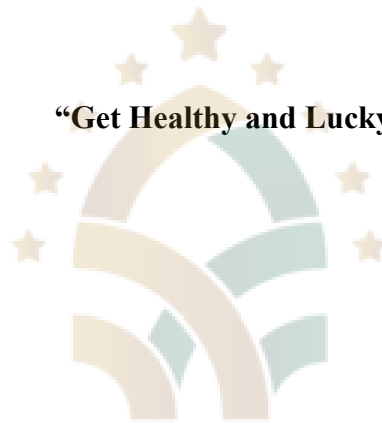
إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

(Inna ma‘al-‘usri yusra)

"Indeed, with hardship comes ease." (Qur'an 94:6)

“Per Aspera Ad Astra”

“Get Healthy and Lucky!”



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Alhamdulillahirobbil 'alamin. All praise and deepest gratitude are devoted to Allah SWT, whose boundless mercy, unconditional love, divine guidance, strength, and the gift of health have sustained me throughout the entire journey of completing this thesis. I also extend my heartfelt salutation and reverence to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, whose noble character, wisdom, and devotion to the pursuit of knowledge have continually inspired me. His life serves as a timeless example and a guiding light, reminding me of the values of perseverance, sincerity, and compassion in every step I take.

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I would especially like to express my sincerest appreciation to my two exceptional supervisors, Mr. Lala Bumela Sudimantara, Ph.D., and Ms. Maimunah, M.Hum. Their patience, kindness, and generosity in guiding me through this thesis have been invaluable. Their insightful feedback, constructive suggestions, and unwavering support have not only shaped the development of this thesis but have also profoundly influenced the way I view education and knowledge. They entrusted me with the freedom to explore ideas and build my thesis independently, while also introducing me to transformative concepts that significantly broadened my academic perspective.

Moreover, during this journey, I had the privilege of exploring interrelated disciplines such as transformative pedagogy, neuroscience in learning, multisensory and multimodal approaches, and the innovative method of reading for emotion and aesthetics in language learning. These enlightening concepts, which are still rarely

explored, have been eye-opening for me, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to learn them under the guidance of such inspiring supervisors. I deeply admire their wisdom, passion, and the generosity with which they shared their knowledge.

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Furthermore, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the principals, curriculum coordinators, and English teachers of the primary schools involved in this research. Their kind cooperation, support, and approval made it possible for me to carry out the research smoothly. I greatly appreciate their guidance throughout the entire research process.

Next, I would like to sincerely thank my fellow research colleagues in the Research and Innovation Forum, a community named by Mr. Lala Bumela Sudimantara, Ph.D. I am especially grateful to Laras, Nela, Nazwa, Nur, Gita, Aidah, Dwi, Vani, Zahwa, and Nabila. The discussions and collaborations we shared have significantly contributed to my academic and personal development.

Moreover, my heartfelt thanks also go to my fellow students in the 2021 cohort of the English Language Teaching program at Syekh Nurjati State Cyber Islamic University Cirebon, both those who have completed their studies and those still in progress. Time has passed so quickly, and it is hard to believe that our undergraduate journey has come to an end. I am also deeply grateful to all the members of ELTD-D (Classy) 2021 for the wonderful memories we have created throughout our college years. Although the pandemic hindered our studies for three semesters, I am thankful that we were still able to reunite at the end of our academic journey. I would also like to extend my gratitude to my friends from the Gunungsari Community Service Program (KKN) and the PLP program at MA Bina Cendekia Cirebon, as well as to all my friends and others whose names I cannot mention

individually. May we all continue to grow and strive to become the best versions of ourselves.

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I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to my beloved parents, Mr. Moch Arbani and Mrs. Rosmegah. Their endless support, prayers, and love have been the foundation of my strength. Through every moment of doubt and difficulty, they have been my unwavering support system.

Finally, I would like to extend a big thank you to myself. Thank you for persevering through every challenge and never giving up. Thank you for overcoming fear, laziness, and self-doubt to reach this point. Thank you for trusting the process over the past four years. I truly appreciate every lesson, achievement, and experience that has led to the completion of this journey and the conferral of my Bachelor's degree. *Alhamdulillah*.

Cirebon, 16th May 2025

The Researcher,

SALMA HASNAA NABILLAH
Reg. Number 2108103031

PREFACE

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. All praise and gratitude are due to Allah SWT, the Lord of the universe. May peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Muhammad SAW (peace be upon him), his family, and his followers until the end of time.

This research is entitled **“DESIGNING A DIGITAL ILLUSTRATED ENGLISH STORYBOOK TO BOOST ABSTRACT REASONING SKILLS IN EARLY LEARNERS: A CASE STUDY IN AN INDONESIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL,”** which is presented to the English Language Teaching Department, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, Syekh Nurjati State Cyber Islamic University Cirebon, as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the undergraduate degree.

The researcher fully acknowledges that this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, any errors or shortcomings found in this work are entirely the responsibility of the researcher. Suggestions and constructive feedback from all parties will be sincerely welcomed to improve this work in the future. However, the researcher hopes that this thesis will provide meaningful contributions to the English Language Teaching Department and to all readers.

Cirebon, 16th May 2025
The Researcher,

SALMA HASNAA NABILLAH
Reg. Number 2108103031

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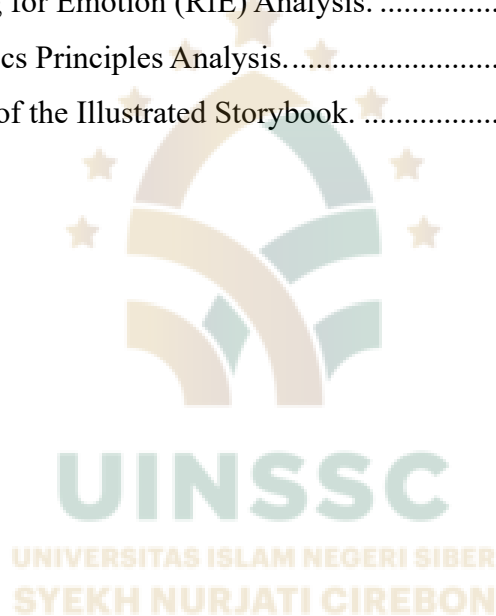
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