## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Herewith the researcher declare that the research paper wrote as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Sarjana Degree and submitted to the English Education Department, the faculty of Education and Teacher Training wholly constitutes my own original writing.

As for the other persons' works whose ideas are quoted in this paper have been referred to appropriately in accordance to the prevailing legal are intellectual ethic in the world of scientific writing tradition.

However, if the originality of this paper either partially or wholly is, later on, proved or it falls under convincing plagiarism, the researcher would be prepared to receive any consequences in the form of any sanction such as a losing my related academic degree obtained from the institution as well as other rules prevailing in Indonesia.

Serang, May 27th, 2025.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate

Praise be to Allah SWT, who has given guidance so that this thesis can be completed on time. Shalawat and greetings may continue to be bestowed upon the Prophet Muhammad, his family, friends and followers until the end of time. In this opportunity, the researcher would like to express gratitude to:

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The researcher realizes that this paper is far from perfection.

Therefore, criticism and suggestions from readers are expected for

further improvement.

Serang, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

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iv

# ABSTRACT (QUALITATIVE)

**Triana Ramadhanti.** SRN. 211230054. 2025. English Teacher's Strategy in Enhancing EFL Students' Critical Thinking On Using Problem-Based Learning Method (*A Qualitative Research at SMPIT Widya Cendekia and SMK Negeri 8 Kota Serang*)

This research examines the strategies employed by English teachers to enhance EFL students' critical thinking skills through the Problem-Based Learning (PBL) method. The research aims to identify the strategies implemented by the 8th-grade English teacher at SMPIT Widya Cendekia and the 11th-grade English teacher at SMK Negeri 8 Kota Serang in utilizing PBL to foster critical thinking in EFL students, as well as to explore the challenges encountered in its application. A qualitative case study approach was used in this research, with data collected through interviews, observations, and document. The participants of the study were English teachers from the respective schools during the 2024–2025 academic year. The findings reveal that both teachers employed similar strategies in implementing PBL, namely integrating technology (audio, video, and images) to present problems and learning materials effectively and using group discussions to encourage students to think critically through peer interactions. However, differences in implementation were observed between Junior and Senior High Schools. In Junior High School, ice-breaking activities were used to motivate students and stimulate critical thinking, whereas in Senior High School students were required to deliver presentations to build confidence and articulate their findings. The challenges faced by teachers in applying PBL are various starting from fluctuations in student motivation and engagement, the longer time required compared to traditional teaching methods, to variations in students' focus and concentration levels. In additionally, limited school facilities posed an additional obstacle in implementing PBL found at Senior High School.

Keywords: Critical Thinking, English Teachers Strategies, Problem-Based Learning.

#### THE ADVISERS' APPROVAL

This is to certify that the undergraduate research paper of Triana Ramadhanti, SRN, 211230054 entitled "English Teachers' Strategy In Enhancing EFL Students' Critical Thinking On Using Problem-Based Learning Method (A Qualitative Research At The English Teacher Of SMPIT Widya Cendekia And SMK Negeri 8 Kota Serang)"

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## ENGLISH TEACHERS' STRATEGY IN ENHANCING EFL STUDENTS' CRITICAL THINKING ON USING PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING METHOD

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## **DEDICATION**

I proudly dedicated this paper to my dearest parents (Mr. H.Endi Rasyad Mansurna and Mrs. Hj. Tita Rustiati) who permitted me to continue my study until undergraduate. Both of you instantiated me for never gave up and tought me how to be optimist. Thanks Bapak and Mama, for your unconditional love to my life, for never stop praying to my self, and for always supported me. Writer's hope kindness is respected by Allah SWT.

## **MOTTO**

"Allah does not charge a soul except with what it can bear"

"Q.S Al-Baqarah: 286"

"Life can be heavy, especially if you try to carry it all at once. Part of growing up and moving into new chapters of your life is about catch and release. What I mean by that is, knowing what things to keep, and what things to release. You can't carry all things. Decide what is yours to hold and let the rest go.

-Taylor Swift-

#### A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

The researcher, Triana Ramadhanti, was born in Pandeglang, Banten, on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2002. She is the third child of four siblings, from Mr. H. Endi Rasyad Mansurna and Mrs. Hj. Tita Rustiati. She finished her elementary education at SDN Pandeglang 4 in 2015, junior high education at MTS Negeri 1 Kota Pandeglang in 2018, and senior high education finished at SMA Negeri 1 Kota Pandeglang in 2021. She continued her education program at English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, the State Islamic University of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten.

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