

## English Teachers' Views On Changes To The Independent Curriculum In English Language Learning

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**Abstract.** The aim of this research is to determine teachers' perceptions of curriculum changes independence in the context of learning methods regarding changes in the independence curriculum. On in this research, the method used is a qualitative descriptive research method and the data obtained is from the results of interviews. Teacher perceptions towards changes to the independent curriculum itself aims at teachers' perceptions of curriculum changes independence, namely how teachers understand the concept of an independent curriculum, analyzing the impact of the curriculum independence in teaching and learning as well as obstacles and challenges in implementing the curriculum independent. Where the curriculum is a very important and determining component in implementation of education. And functions as a tool for achieving educational goals, if the goal if education changes then automatically the curriculum must also be changed.

**Keywords:** Teacher Perception, Challenge, Independent Curriculum.

### INTRODUCTION

The curriculum will continue to develop and undergo changes and improvements for improving the quality of education in a country. One form of refinement the latest curriculum from the Ministry of Education and Culture, Research and Technology is independent curriculum for educational units from elementary school to middle school upper or vocational school. Meanwhile in higher education, this improvement is carried out by developing the Independent Learning Campus (MBKM) curriculum to be one of them form of the seriousness of the ministry of education by continuing to improve the quality of education in Indonesia. The Independent Curriculum makes it easy for educators to implement it deeper learning, according to students' needs, and focused on character strengthening. (Dendi Wijaya Saputra, 2022).

An independent curriculum is a curriculum that uses a learning structure divided into two main activities, namely intracurricular learning which refers to learning outcomes that must be achieved by students in each subject, and a project to strengthen the profile of Pancasila students which refers to graduate competency standards students must have. The implementation of the curriculum cannot be separated from the teacher's role in implementing it because teachers as educators are the ones who will teach science to learners. Therefore, curriculum insight is important for students and teachers and prospective teachers starting from their views on the curriculum at which school is a place for distributing knowledge and values to students. Teachers can do it analyze and adapt to teaching materials consistently through curriculum developers if the teacher has knowledge about the curriculum itself (Rahmawati,

2023). This statement shows that an educator has a different view regarding his insight into the curriculum, besides that the curriculum also plays a role support the professionalism of educators. The aim of the research is regarding teacher perceptions of changes to the independent curriculum namely how teachers understand the concept of an independent curriculum, analyzing the impact independent curriculum on teaching and learning as well as obstacles and challenges in implementing the independent curriculum.

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The research method used is a qualitative descriptive method. This method is purposeful to describe the findings in detail according to the phenomena that occur. Creswell (2016) stated that qualitative research is research that explores and understand the meaning a number of individuals or groups of people derive from social problems. According to Guba & Lincoln (2005), researchers try to construct reality and understand its meaning, so this research really pays attention to processes, events and authenticity. Data collection conducted in November 2022 through unstructured interviews with teachers who implementing the Independent Curriculum. The main instrument of this research is supported by researchers by field notes. All data was collected systematically and studied descriptively. Meanwhile, in the data analysis section, an interactive cycle model is used. According to Miles, Huberman & Saldana (2014) with a series of processes starting from data collection, condensation, presentation, etc data verification.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This research produced 4 findings, namely:

1. Do you see curriculum changes as having a positive or negative impact on teaching English?
2. What are the main challenges faced by English teachers in adapting to curriculum changes?
3. Do you think that additional training is needed to help English teachers deal with curriculum changes?

The Independent Curriculum is an educational program that has various approaches learning in the classroom, according to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek), where learning content will work well because students will have enough time to learn the concepts and strengthen them their abilities. Instead, educators have the freedom to choose a variety the teaching methods they use. Thus, learning can be

adjusted with students' learning needs and interests. The independent curriculum is a breakthrough step to help teachers and school principals transform education to be more relevant, broad, and fun. so that students also understand the lesson more easily.

Curriculum changes can have positive and negative impacts on the quality of education. The positive impact is that students can learn by keeping up with increasingly advanced developments. Meanwhile, the negative impact is that changes in the curriculum that are so fast give rise to new problems such as decreasing student achievement, this is because students cannot adapt to the learning system in the new curriculum (Kurniawan , 2011). This is according to Elmore and Sykes (1992) that when a curriculum is developed and implemented in the school system down to the classroom, the implementation mechanism influences learning practices which in turn influences student learning outcomes. According Ernawati, Asni, Sadarma independent curriculum give the positive impact. Curriculum changes may vary depending on implementation. If such changes are supported by good research and effective implementation, they can have a positive impact on English teaching by meeting students' needs and keeping pace with language developments. However, improper implementation can cause negative impacts. The positive impact is that students can learn by following an increasingly advanced development process. Meanwhile, the negative impact of rapid curriculum changes can give rise to new problems such as reduced student achievement due to increasingly rapid curriculum changes. Students are more enthusiastic & interested in learning, especially with ice breaking which aims to activate students who are starting to get tired or to revive students' enthusiasm in getting the content of each lesson.

The challenges faced by teachers in changing the curriculum are; (Service: many activities that must be done accommodated, limited accessibility and communication barriers); (Head School: multiple role demands, styles leadership); (Teacher: unpreparedness psychologically, role demands, provide administrative requirements); And (Students: student diversity, environment family). The main challenge that will be faced is in adapting to curriculum changes involving a deep understanding of the new structures, learning tools and teaching methods required. In addition, it can include adapting to student needs that may change and adapting learning materials to remain relevant to new curriculum goals. Successfully overcoming these challenges requires teacher time, support and commitment (Sadarman). According Asni: There are several challenges in following curriculum developments by a teacher :

1. Insufficient infrastructure for the area such as books, internet, libraries and so on.
2. Facilities that support the fulfillment of students' needs in each learning material which is very influential in increasing potential interests, talents and good attitudes.
3. There is no preparation in understanding the material presented or explained to students in class.

To deal with curriculum changes, teachers really need additional training to help them prepare themselves before entering the classroom and implementing these curriculum changes. Thus the teacher must be able to have strategies that can help him, so that he can easily deal with these changes. Apart from carrying out additional training, teachers must also be active in learning many things in the curriculum changes. so that he is able to produce various strategies that he can easily implement in his teaching process. According Asni : Additional training is very necessary and needed. Additional training can be important for English teachers to help them cope with curriculum changes. This can ensure that they fully understand the new structure, the teaching methods required, and how best to meet students' needs in the context of the change. This means that additional training can enable English teachers to assess the extent of their ability to implement curriculum changes and whether good methods are used in teaching, whether standards for presenting material in the classroom can be achieved. With additional practice, teachers can also more easily find things that still need to be trained and developed in the teaching process.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Independent Curriculum is an educational program that has various approaches learning in the classroom, according to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek), where learning content will work well because students will have enough time to learn the concepts and strengthen them their abilities. An independent curriculum is a curriculum that provides freedom to schools to design learning according to students' abilities and character. Changes in the curriculum itself have given rise to several perceptions among teaching staff, some educators respond positively to climate change because they can increase their creativity as an educator and others feel worried because they feel burdened by the new curriculum and are unprepared for change In changing the curriculum, of course there must be support from the school to the students teaching staff, by providing training to increase teacher understanding towards the independent curriculum, as well as providing financial support to fulfill it needs in the teaching and learning process by implementing an independent curriculum. With the implementation of the independent

curriculum is expected to improve students' abilities in understand learning and can explore the potential that exists in the student so that it can be developed into a good competency.

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