

## ABSTRACT

Challenges Faced by Teachers in Implementing HOTS in EFL Classroom

Lilis Agustina, Universitas Ma Chung;

Advisor:

Prof. Dr. Patrisius Istiarto Djiwandono & Lilis Lestari Wilujeng, S.S., M.Hum

The integration of HOTS into TEFL is seen as a promising approach to develop learners' communicative competence, promote a deeper understanding of English, and equip them with lifelong learning skills. To complete learning task, students need to be taught HOTS developed through a variety of teaching method which provided by government in 2013 Curriculum and *Merdeka Curriculum*. To know the implementation of HOTS in teaching English activity the researcher investigated the English teachers' perception about the implementation of HOTS in EFL classrooms through face-to-face interviews. The researcher also conducted class observations to capture the challenges faced by English teachers in implementing HOTS in EFL classrooms. The key informants in this research consisted of three English teachers in UPT SMPN 3 Wlingi who taught in different grades. The combination of the data from the results of the interviews, class observations, along with several supporting data answered the research problem. Based on the findings, English teachers' perceptions about the implementation of HOTS in EFL classrooms were related. They believed that HOTS should be applied in English teaching activities even though there is rial and error they faced because HOTS had benefits for students both in the academic settings and in developing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. However, the implementation of HOTS in EFL classrooms still needs the development because each teacher faced different challenges related to the students, teachers, and facilities. The challenges related to the students included the lack of vocabulary mastery, the lack of discipline, and low levels of concentration. The challenges related to teachers included limited mastery of teaching methods. Additionally, there were facility issues that posed challenges for teachers to implement HOTS in their classrooms, such as insufficient online materials and facilities for students, as well as limitations in teaching time.

*Key words: HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skill), TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), 2013 Curriculum, Merdeka Curriculum, Teaching Method.*