

**INVESTIGATING EFL STUDENTS' CHALLENGES IN ACADEMIC SPEAKING:  
UNVEILING STUDENTS' VOICES**



**A THESIS**

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FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PURWOKERTO**

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Submitted to the English Language Education Study Program as a Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the S.Pd Degree

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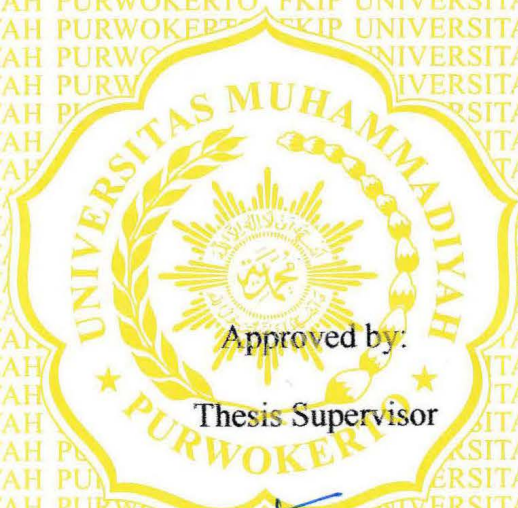


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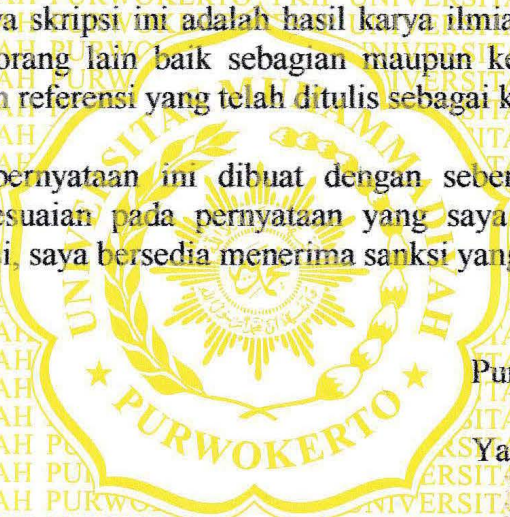
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## MOTTO

"Indeed, with hardship, comes ease"  
— 94:6 Qur'an



## DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my beloved family and friends who always pray for my success, support me with everything they can, and make me feel looked after.

I could not have become the person I am today without their presence in my life



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## ABSTRACT

Academic speaking proficiency is essential for English Education students preparing to become professional educators. This study explores the challenges faced by 58 sixth-semester students at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, focusing on fluency, vocabulary, pronunciation, anxiety, discourse structuring, interaction with lecturers, peer collaboration, and confidence. Using a quantitative approach and a Likert-scale questionnaire adapted from Anam (2023), the findings show that fluency, pronunciation, and anxiety were the main challenges, while positive results in discourse structuring and collaboration suggest a supportive environment. The study highlights the need for targeted teaching strategies, ongoing speaking practice, and anxiety-reducing methods.

**Keywords:** *Academic speaking challenges, EFL students*