

## THE STRATEGIES OF ENGLISH LEARNING FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS IN STAI AL – AZHARY CIANJUR

Didin Hidayat<sup>1</sup>, Ratih Andriani Khasanah<sup>2</sup>, Rusi Rahayu Rahmawati<sup>3</sup>, Rima Nurunnisa<sup>4</sup>, Ai Nur Maya Juwaenah<sup>5</sup>, Siti Latifah<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup>STAI Al-Azhary Cianjur

Email: [santriabah6886@gmail.com](mailto:santriabah6886@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>, [jinaan.agniya@gmail.com](mailto:jinaan.agniya@gmail.com)<sup>2</sup>, [rusirrahmawati@gmail.com](mailto:rusirrahmawati@gmail.com)<sup>3</sup>, [rimanurunnisa002@gmail.com](mailto:rimanurunnisa002@gmail.com)<sup>4</sup>, [juwaenahainurmaya@gmail.com](mailto:juwaenahainurmaya@gmail.com)<sup>5</sup>, [educasiislami@gmail.com](mailto:educasiislami@gmail.com)<sup>6</sup>

**Abstrak:** Bahasa Inggris merupakan salah satu bahasa universal dan memiliki peranan penting dalam dunia pendidikan, mulai dari tingkat dasar hingga perguruan tinggi termasuk perguruan tinggi Islam, sebagai kunci pembuka pintu ilmu pengetahuan dunia, sekaligus sebagai sarana komunikasi dan dakwah baik secara verbal maupun non verbal yang semakin massif di seluruh dunia. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan suatu strategi pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris yang efektif dan mudah dipahami bagi para mahasiswa, khususnya di STAI Al Azhary Cianjur. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis strategi pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris bagi mahasiswa di STAI Al Azhary Cianjur. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode campuran, yaitu metode kualitatif dengan cara menyampaikan survei berupa angket dan metode kuantitatif berupa wawancara kepada sejumlah mahasiswa di STAI Al Azhary Cianjur. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris di STAI Al Azhary dilakukan dengan berbagai metode pembelajaran yang bervariasi, mulai dari berlatih mendengarkan dan berbicara dengan dosen menggunakan Bahasa Inggris saat pembelajaran, menonton video/film dan menghafal ungkapan-ungkapan pendek dalam Bahasa Inggris, serta berinteraksi langsung dengan orang asing menggunakan Bahasa Inggris. Selain itu, metode yang digunakan siswa untuk belajar bahasa Inggris secara mandiri dan mudah adalah dengan mendengarkan lagu/musik bahasa Inggris dan melihat lirik dan terjemahan lagu, juga melalui media sosial dan aplikasi yang menyediakan pembelajaran bahasa Inggris secara online. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada berbagai strategi/metode yang dapat digunakan siswa untuk belajar bahasa Inggris secara efektif, mudah dan menyenangkan.

**Kata Kunci:** Strategi, Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris.

### **Abstract:**

*English is one of the universal languages and has an important role in education, from elementary to college level including Islamic colleges, as the key to opening the door to world knowledge, as well as a means of communication and da'wah both verbally and non-verbally that is more massive throughout the world. Therefore, an effective and easy English learning strategy is needed for students, especially at STAI Al Azhary Cianjur. This study aims to analyze the English learning strategy for students at STAI Al Azhary Cianjur. The research method used is a mixed method, namely a qualitative method by submitting a survey in the form of a questionnaire and a quantitative method in the form of interviews with a number of students at STAI Al Azhary Cianjur. The results of the analysis show that English learning at STAI Al Azhary is carried out with a variety of learning methods that vary, ranging from practicing listening and speaking with lecturers using English during learning, watching videos/films and memorizing short expressions in English, as well as interacting directly with foreigners using English. In addition, the methods used by students to learn English independently and easily are by listening to English songs/music and viewing song lyrics and translations, also through social media and applications that provide online English learning. This study*

*shows that there are various strategies/methods that students can use to learn English effectively, easily and enjoyably.*

**Keywords:** *Strategy, English Learning.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the world of education, from elementary to college level, including Islamic-based colleges, English plays a very important role. English is like a key to open the gates of world knowledge. As a global language, the presence of English is certainly not only needed as a medium of verbal communication, but also in various aspects of life such as guidebooks and educational resources, technology, economics, culture, and so on.

With its massive use in almost all aspects of life, learning English has become an undeniable need. As we know, several Islamic educational references that use Arabic as the language of instruction are then translated into English, especially for learning in Western countries. By mastering English, we can also exchange information about Islamic knowledge. We can also preach using writings such as articles or compile Islamic study books using English so that they can be known and studied by a wider and more comprehensive audience.

In addition, the presence of English, especially at the Islamic college level, is very important because this language is a bridge to communicate and resolve misunderstandings among Westerners or non-Muslims who study Islam. We can help provide an explanation or understanding of Islam by using English.

However, in practice, learning English in Islamic college environments is considered a difficult subject, so several methods or strategies for learning English are needed that are easier to accept and understand and can be learned in a fun way, such as: learning English by memorizing short expressions, through listening to music/watching videos/films in English, through content on social media, and developing English language skills by speaking with foreigners.

With the use of several English learning strategies, it is hoped that it can be a way for students in Islamic colleges to learn English easily and enjoyably, especially for students at STAI Al Azhary Cianjur.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is a qualitative research with a classroom action research (CAR) method. According to Abdussamad (2021), a qualitative research method is a research method used to research natural object conditions, where the researcher is the key instrument, data collection techniques are carried out by triangulation, data analysis is inductive, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization. This method was also chosen because it allows researchers to be directly involved in the learning process. The stages carried out start from initial problem identification, action planning, implementation of actions by means of interviews.

### **Understanding English Learning Strategies**

The word strategy comes from the Latin *strategia*, which is interpreted as the art of using plans to achieve a goal. According to Kozna (1989) in general, it is explained in Lamatenggo (2020:22) that learning strategies can be interpreted as every activity chosen, namely those that can provide facilities or assistance to students towards achieving certain learning goals.

While Groppper (1990) said that learning strategies are the selection of various types of specific exercises that are in accordance with the learning objectives to be achieved. He emphasized that every behavior that is expected to be achieved by students in their learning activities must be able to be practiced (Lamatenggo, 2020).

Considering that learning strategies are so important for understanding something or a lesson, learning English also requires a strategy so that the goals of learning it are achieved. Likewise, each student has their own strategy implementation in studying each course that has been given by the lecturers as well as in learning English.

Based on the understanding of learning strategies above, it can be concluded that learning strategies, especially English learning, are methods chosen by teachers (lecturers) or students (students) to deliver learning materials so that it will make it easier for students to understand the material delivered. Starting from strategies in understanding vocabulary, sentence structure or in learning how to pronounce so that it is in accordance with the pronunciation of native speakers in this case foreigners.

## **Types Of English Learning Strategies**

### **1. Visual Method (video/film)**

Learning English through the Visual Method is the right choice of Method. This is because English is a subject that develops communication skills both orally and in writing, understanding and expressing information. By using the visual learning method, students can directly see and imitate the pronunciation of English vocabulary or expressions.

This method has been proven to help students be more actively involved in learning, while increasing their motivation to learn English. This strategy is effective because it utilizes the visual context to support English mastery.

### **2. Audio Method (Music/song)**

Learning English through the Audio Method (Music/Song) is an interesting choice of Method. It is undeniable that songs tend to attract people's attention more than other media.

Learning activities are more successful if they are related to the interests, desires, and goals of students. Nowadays, young Indonesians have a very great interest in songs. This is evidenced by the proliferation of music programs and events in the country that are more focused on young people. This song motivates listeners to imitate all or part of the lyrics. In addition, songs are also easy to understand and memorize. Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that songs are very influential in students' English language skills, because songs exist in every human life.

### **3. Short Expression Memorizing Method**

Memorizing short expressions is one effective way to help students improve their English skills quickly and practically. This approach involves memorizing phrases, expressions, or sentences that are often used in everyday conversations, so that students can easily and habitually speak English by communicating without relying too much on word-for-word translation. Some examples of strategies that can be applied:

#### **1) Focus on Frequently Used Expressions**

Students can choose expressions or phrases that often appear in everyday conversations, such as greetings, general questions, and standard responses. For example:

"How are you?"

"Could you help me?"

"What time is it?"

2) **Group Expressions Based on Themes**

Students can memorize expressions in relevant categories, such as expressions for introductions, asking for help, or giving opinions. For example:

For introductions: "My name is...", "Nice to meet you." For asking for help: "Can you help me with this?", "I need some assistance."

3) **Practice by Speaking Directly (Conversation)**

Students can practice by speaking directly with lecturers or fellow students using memorized expressions. This is very important to hone their speaking and listening skills in English.

With this strategy of memorizing short expressions, students can understand improvements in several aspects:

- **Speaking fluency:** with this, students feel more fluent in speaking English because they have memorized expressions in everyday life.
- **Self-confidence:** Students are more confident in speaking English, because they are familiar with the vocabulary that has been memorized.

#### **4. Social Media / Application Methods**

The advancement of technology in this modern era has given birth to various kinds of social media and a variety of application choices whose existence has now become an inseparable part of the lives of global society. The various features and advantages of social media are able to provide easy access to interaction and communication for everyone from various circles and backgrounds.

The emergence of social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok to Youtube, as well as applications such as Ome TV, opens up opportunities for cross-country connections and communication. The use of social media and these applications is easy to learn and use. This can be utilized by the younger generation to learn English by utilizing social media and applications with several strategies, such as:

1) **Listening to how foreigners pronounce when speaking**

Students can listen to how foreigners speak, especially those who use English, through videos on YouTube or TikTok.

2) Practice speaking using English

Students can practice speaking using English directly, enriching vocabulary and increasing self-confidence by trying to find foreign acquaintances who speak English through applications such as Ome TV.

3) Making friends with foreigners

Students can make friends and actively participate in social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, by befriending each other and replying to comments or creating video content with foreigners using English.

## **5. Direct Conversation Method with Foreigners**

Learning English through direct conversation with foreigners is an effective method because it involves direct practice, increases self-confidence, and improves listening and speaking skills. Just as we can speak of course because of the help of parents or family who care for and educate us from babies to adults, thanks to interaction and communication, we can finally be good at speaking. Here are some strategies to maximize this learning:

1) Preparation Before Conversation

Prepare greetings and questions that we will say to the figures we will meet to speak English.

2) During Conversation

Daring to start a conversation using body language can help convey the meaning you want to say. Try to focus on listening so you can understand intonation, pronunciation, and grammar. Then ask simple questions to keep the conversation going.

3) After Conversation

Write down new vocabulary, practice independently, and ask your conversation partner what you need to improve.

4) How to Get a Language Partner

Joining an online community, joining a local event or language exchange group, volunteering or hosting foreign tourists can provide opportunities to speak directly.

5) Be Consistent

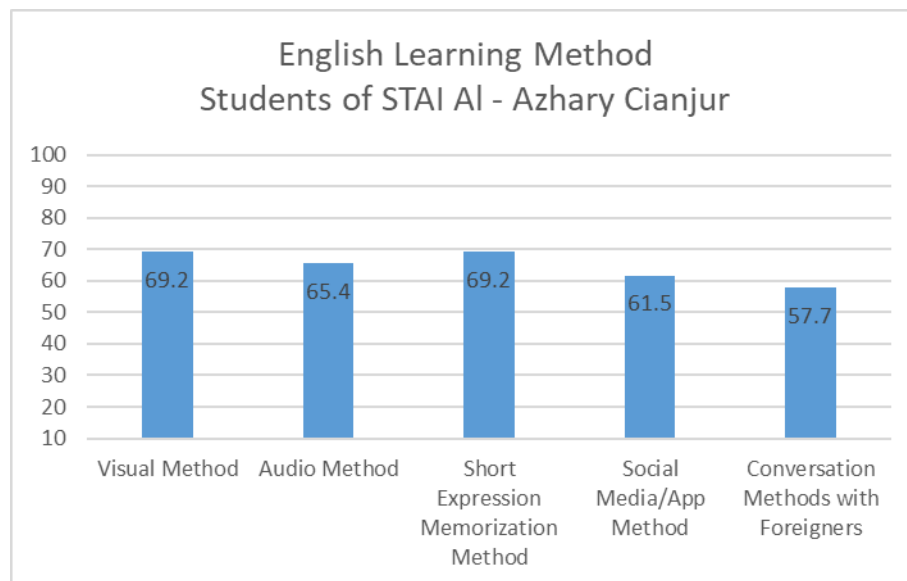
Practice continuously and your English language skills will improve

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We chose to take a quantitative research method with classroom action research in the form of interviews with several samples (STAI Al Azhary students) and conducting a survey aimed at several STAI Al Azhary students regarding English learning strategies.

Based on the results of the interviews we conducted, learning English at Al Azhary is quite enjoyable because the lecturers who teach have a teaching style that is not fixated on theory alone but rather provides opportunities for students to learn direct practice by speaking English during English lectures, providing learning with media watching English videos, practicing English with short expressions, and conducting interviews with foreigners using English.

However, on the other hand, there are several students who feel that the delivery of English learning by the lecturer is quite fast so that it is difficult to understand for students who are new to learning English or are not used to hearing conversations in English. So, students choose to learn English independently with several methods such as listening to English songs/music while looking at song lyrics and translations, watching English videos/films, and utilizing social media or applications to learn English.



**Diagram:** English learning methods for students of STAI Al-Azhary Cianjur

Based on the survey results from several questions we asked to a number of students at STAI Al-Azhary, it can be concluded that the most widely used methods are the Visual method (Video/Film) and the method of memorizing short expressions, which is 69.2%. Furthermore, the

second most used method is the Audio Method (Music/Song) as much as 65.4%. And the third most used method is through Social Media (Applications) which is 61.5%. While the least used method is the Conversation Method with foreigners as much as 57.7%. For more details, see the diagram above

## **CONCLUSION**

English plays an important role in the world of education, especially in Islamic universities, as a key to open the door to world knowledge and communicate in various aspects of life such as technology and culture. Learning English is not only necessary for verbal communication, but also for the exchange of information about Islamic science and da'wah so that it can be understood by a wider audience.

Learning English in an Islamic university environment is considered difficult, therefore a fun learning method is needed such as through memorizing short expressions, audio music, visuals (video/film), social media and direct conversations with foreigners. Several types of English learning strategies can be used by students to improve their English language skills.

The results of the study showed that the English learning methods or strategies most widely used by STAI Al-Azhary Cianjur students were the visual method (video/film) and memorizing short expressions, followed by the audio method (music/song) and social media/applications. While the method of direct conversation with foreigners is used less.

## **REFERENCE**

- Purnaningsih, Pari. (2017). Strategy for Utilizing Audio Visual Media to Improve English Learning Outcomes. Vol, 2. No. 1.
- Farhansyah, Muhammad., Mutmainah., Angraini, Fitria. (2023). Analysis of the Use of Songs to Improve Students' English Language Skills. Vol, 1. No. 1. Pages 10-20
- Nk, Sri Rahayuni. (2024). The Use of Social Media as a Learning Medium for English for Hospitality. Bima Journal: Center for Publication of Language and Literature Education, 2 (1), 269-278.
- Lamatenggo, Nina. (2020). Learning Strategy. Page 22