

**AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENT SKILL IN UNDERSTANDING
ENGLISH POETRY**

A THESIS



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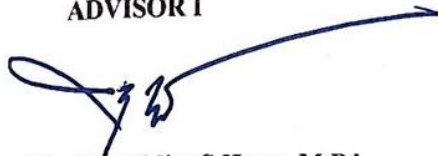
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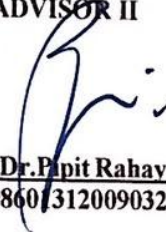
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State that the thesis I have written entitled "An Analysis of Student Skill in Understanding English Poetry" to fulfill one of the requirements for the Sarjana Degree in the English Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Pasir Pengaraian, is my own work. Any material in this thesis quoted from other sources has been clearly stated according to the norms and ethics of scientific writing. However, if it is later discovered that all or some parts of this thesis are not my own work or that I have committed plagiarism, I will accept the consequence that my degree may be revoked as well as other sanctions in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

Rokan Hulu, July 2026
The Researcher



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ABSTRACT

Della Afisha. 2026. An Analysis of Student Skill in Understanding English Poetry.

This research aims to analyze students' skills in understanding English poetry and to identify the difficulties they face in understanding poetic elements of sense and structure. This study employed a descriptive qualitative research design. The participants were 16 students who were interviewed through semi-structured interviews conducted via Zoom. The interview questions focused on students' ability to understand the general meaning of a poem, identify its theme, explain its message or moral value, understand figurative language, identify imagery, interpret symbols, determine tone and mood, and explain the influence of unfamiliar vocabulary and cultural or historical background. The data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis by organizing, coding, categorizing, interpreting, and drawing conclusions from the participants' responses. The findings show that most students had reasonable independence in understanding the overall meaning of poems, with 12 of 16 respondents demonstrating this ability. Approximately 69% of the respondents were able to explain the message or moral value of a poem, particularly when the language was relatively simple. Symbolism was the most difficult figurative language element, reported as difficult by 75% of respondents, followed by metaphor at 43.75%, while simile was generally considered the easiest. In addition, 37.5% of the respondents reported low confidence in interpreting symbols. Theme and imagery were the poetic elements most often considered easy to analyze. All respondents (100%) acknowledged that unfamiliar vocabulary and cultural or historical background influenced their understanding of English poetry. Based on the overall response patterns, students' abilities were categorized into three levels: high (25%), medium (56.25%), and low (18.75%). The study concludes that students generally possess a moderate ability to understand English poetry, but they still need support in interpreting symbolism, metaphor, and other implicit meanings, as well as in developing vocabulary and contextual knowledge.

Keywords: students' skills, English poetry, poetry comprehension, figurative language, symbolism, vocabulary, cultural background

ABSTRAK

Della Afisha. 2026. An Analysis of Student Skill in Understanding English Poetry.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kemampuan mahasiswa dalam memahami puisi berbahasa Inggris serta mengidentifikasi kesulitan yang mereka hadapi dalam memahami unsur puisi, khususnya sense dan structure. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Partisipan penelitian terdiri dari 16 mahasiswa yang diwawancarai melalui wawancara semi-terstruktur menggunakan Zoom. Pertanyaan wawancara berfokus pada kemampuan mahasiswa dalam memahami makna umum puisi, mengidentifikasi tema, menjelaskan pesan atau nilai moral, memahami bahasa figuratif, mengidentifikasi imagery, menafsirkan simbol, menentukan tone dan mood, serta menjelaskan pengaruh kosakata yang tidak dikenal dan latar belakang budaya atau sejarah terhadap pemahaman puisi. Data dianalisis menggunakan analisis isi kualitatif melalui tahap pengorganisasian, pengkodean, pengkategorian, interpretasi, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar mahasiswa telah memiliki kemandirian yang cukup dalam memahami makna umum puisi, dengan 12 dari 16 responden menunjukkan kemampuan tersebut. Sekitar 69% responden mampu menjelaskan pesan atau nilai moral puisi, terutama pada puisi dengan bahasa yang relatif sederhana. Simbolisme menjadi unsur bahasa figuratif yang paling sulit dipahami, yaitu sebesar 75% responden, diikuti metafora sebesar 43,75%, sedangkan simile secara umum dianggap paling mudah. Selain itu, 37,5% responden menyatakan memiliki tingkat kepercayaan diri yang rendah dalam menafsirkan simbol. Tema dan imagery merupakan unsur puisi yang paling sering dianggap mudah untuk dianalisis. Seluruh responden (100%) mengakui bahwa kosakata yang tidak dikenal serta pengetahuan tentang latar belakang budaya atau sejarah memengaruhi pemahaman mereka terhadap puisi berbahasa Inggris. Berdasarkan pola jawaban secara keseluruhan, kemampuan mahasiswa dikelompokkan menjadi tiga kategori, yaitu tinggi (25%), sedang (56,25%), dan rendah (18,75%). Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa mahasiswa secara umum memiliki kemampuan sedang dalam memahami puisi berbahasa Inggris, namun masih membutuhkan dukungan dalam menafsirkan simbolisme, metafora, dan makna implisit lainnya, serta dalam meningkatkan penguasaan kosakata dan pengetahuan kontekstual.

Kata kunci: kemampuan mahasiswa, puisi bahasa Inggris, pemahaman puisi, bahasa figuratif, simbolisme, kosakata, latar belakang budaya

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Rokan Hulu, [month] [year]

Della Afisha

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