

AN ANALYSIS OF TWELFTH -GRADE STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF ENGLISH FOR TOUR GUIDING AND THEIR SPEAKING CONFIDENCE AT SMK NEGERI 1 KUPANG

ABSTRACT

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This qualitative descriptive study aims to analyze and describe twelfth-grade students' perceptions of English for Tour Guiding and their speaking confidence at SMK Negeri 1 Kupang. English plays an important role in tourism education because it serves as a communication tool for interacting with foreign tourists and supporting students' future careers in the tourism industry. Data collection was conducted through open-ended questionnaires distributed to 26 students and semi-structured interviews with 10 selected students from the Tourism Department. The collected data were identified, coded, categorized, and analyzed using Braun and Clarke's (2006) thematic analysis. The findings revealed that students generally have positive perceptions toward English for Tour Guiding. Two themes emerged regarding students' perceptions, namely the importance of English for Tour Guiding and tour guiding practice as a learning experience. Furthermore, four themes were identified in relation to students' speaking confidence, namely speaking confidence development, emotional challenges in speaking English, language difficulties in speaking English, and communication and coping strategies. The findings indicate that tour guiding practice provides meaningful learning experiences that help students improve their English-speaking skills and confidence despite facing emotional and linguistic challenges. It can be concluded that English for Tour Guiding contributes positively to students' language development and speaking confidence, while authentic learning experiences play a significant role in preparing students for communication in tourism-related contexts.

Keywords: *students' perceptions, English for Tour Guiding, speaking confidence, vocational tourism education, thematic analysis*

**ANALISIS PERSEPSI SISWA KELAS XII TERHADAP BAHASA
INGGRIS UNTUK PEMANDUAN WISATA DAN KEPERCAYAAN DIRI
BERBICARA MEREKA DI SMK NEGERI 1 KUPANG**

ABSTRAK

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Penelitian deskriptif kualitatif ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis persepsi siswa kelas XII terhadap Bahasa Inggris untuk *Tour Guiding* dan kepercayaan diri berbicara mereka di SMK Negeri 1 Kupang. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui kuesioner terbuka kepada 26 siswa dan wawancara semi-terstruktur kepada 10 siswa Program Keahlian Pariwisata. Data dianalisis menggunakan analisis tematik Braun dan Clarke (2006). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa siswa memiliki persepsi positif terhadap Bahasa Inggris untuk *Tour Guiding*. Mereka memandang Bahasa Inggris sebagai keterampilan penting yang mendukung komunikasi dengan wisatawan serta menunjang karier di bidang pariwisata. Selain itu, praktik *Tour Guiding* dianggap sebagai pengalaman belajar yang membantu meningkatkan kemampuan berbicara dan kepercayaan diri siswa. Meskipun demikian, siswa masih menghadapi beberapa tantangan, seperti rasa gugup, keterbatasan kosakata, dan kesulitan pengucapan. Untuk mengatasi hal tersebut, siswa menggunakan berbagai strategi komunikasi agar tetap dapat menyampaikan informasi dengan baik. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa Bahasa Inggris untuk *Tour Guiding* memberikan kontribusi positif terhadap perkembangan kemampuan berbicara dan kepercayaan diri siswa dalam konteks pariwisata.

Kata Kunci: *persepsi siswa, Bahasa Inggris untuk Tour Guiding, kepercayaan diri berbicara, SMK pariwisata, kemampuan berbicara.*