

Unlocking Global Future with the Power of English: Community Service from English Experts to Indonesian Students in Pasuruan

Adibah Adibah¹

¹ Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Pasuruan.

*Correspondence email:
adibah.murthado@gmail.com

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Abstract

Mastering the English language is crucial for unlocking global career opportunities. To encourage students to learn this international language and prepare them for an English standardized test, a virtual webinar was held, featuring a native English expert and an English educator from Indonesia. The participants were 101 university students from a private university in Pasuruan who completed a survey to evaluate the webinar. The results showed that the participants became more motivated to delve deeper into learning English and taking the standardized test, including the TOEFL ITP. They also gained a deeper understanding of the power of English, particularly in terms of its impact on their cognitive skills and the international opportunities it offers. However, the study was still in its initial stage, and several in-person training series would have had a higher impact on the participants.

Keywords: English; Global career; English standardized test

Abstrak

Menguasai bahasa Inggris penting untuk membuka peluang karir di kancah global. Untuk memotivasi mahasiswa untuk belajar bahasa internasional ini dan mempersiapkan mereka untuk mengikuti tes standar bahasa Inggris, sebuah webinar daring dilaksanakan. Pemateri adalah seorang ahli bahasa Inggris yang merupakan seorang penutur asli dan juga dosen bahasa Inggris dari Indonesia. Partisipan di studi ini berjumlah 101 orang dan mereka telah mengisi survei untuk mengevaluasi kegiatan ini. Hasil dari survei menunjukkan bahwa para partisipan menjadi lebih termotivasi untuk belajar bahasa Inggris lebih giat dan mengambil tes bahasa Inggris, seperti tes TOEFL ITP. Mereka juga mendapatkan banyak informasi tentang kekuatan dari bahasa Inggris, termasuk dampak bahasa Inggris dalam keterampilan kognitif dan juga kesempatan berkarir di kancah global. Namun, kegiatan ini masih berada di tahap awal, pelatihan lanjutan dan berformat tatap muka akan lebih memberikan dampak positif kepada peserta.

Kata Kunci: Bahasa Inggris; karir global; tes standar bahasa Inggris



1. Pendahuluan

In the era of technological advancement, the English language has become more than just an additional skill; it has become a necessity for success (Tuxtayeva & Teshaboyeva, 2024). According to the English First Proficiency Index (2024), however, Indonesia ranked 80th out of 116 countries and was categorized as having low proficiency. Proficiency level among people in a small town like Pasuruan may be even lower despite being in the top 7 of Indonesia's economic scale (Central Bureau of Statistics Indonesia, 2018).

This fact is highly concerning, particularly for our young generations. Therefore, the international webinar with the topic of "Unlock Global Future with the Power of English" was held in Pasuruan. It aims to inspire, encourage, and motivate students to improve their English proficiency, thereby gaining better opportunities, a more successful career, and a better quality of life. Many benefits of English are aligned with the previous studies conducted by Hidayat, M. T. (2024) and Khoiruman, M. A., & Irawan, D. H. (2025), which state that English skills are significant for career growth, particularly in a competitive and multinational workforce.

2. Metode

This international webinar emphasized the importance of mastering English skills, particularly for the future. The method involved a survey, where a questionnaire was distributed to discover students' interest, motivation, and evaluation in studying English and taking standardized tests, including the TOEFL ITP.

The questionnaire was distributed virtually via a Google Form after the question-and-answer session at the webinar on May 8, 2025. A total of 101 participants completed the form, which has 10 questions to collect participants' demographics (gender and educational background), their motivation, and evaluation of the webinar.

3. Result of activity/ Discussion/ Analysis of Participant Response

This event, which was held virtually on May 8, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. WIB via Zoom aims to encourage and motivate students to enhance their English proficiency and take standardized English tests, such as the TOEFL, in support of their graduation requirements and future career goals. The speakers were Miss Nouran Al-Fashtakie, M.Hum., M.A., an English educator from Damascus, Syria, and Miss Adibah, M.A., an English lecturer and TOEFL ITP instructor from Pasuruan, Indonesia. The participants were 101 undergraduate students from Pasuruan, East Java, with 66.3% of them being female, and the rest (33.7%) being male.



Image 1. Flyer for the webinar

Based on the questionnaire with 101 responses, the results indicated that 36.6% (37 people) found the webinar informative, 47.5% (48 people) found it inspiring, and 72.3% (73 people) found it beneficial for their future endeavors. It demonstrates that the majority of students believe this community service benefits them, in terms of the information, insights, and inspiration it provides.

The webinar was divided into two sessions: Session 1 focused on the information and benefits of TOEFL ITP, while Session 2 explored the role and benefits of English from a broader perspective, including bilingualism, global opportunities, and the language of technology. The survey found that the participants stated that every part of the webinar was beneficial (44.6%), while 43.6% of them found Session 2 to be well-liked, and almost 11% preferred Session 1. Additionally, for session 1, the TOEFL ITP information session, the majority of participants (97%) found the explanation clear and compelling, whereas 99% of them found session 2 extremely clear and effective.

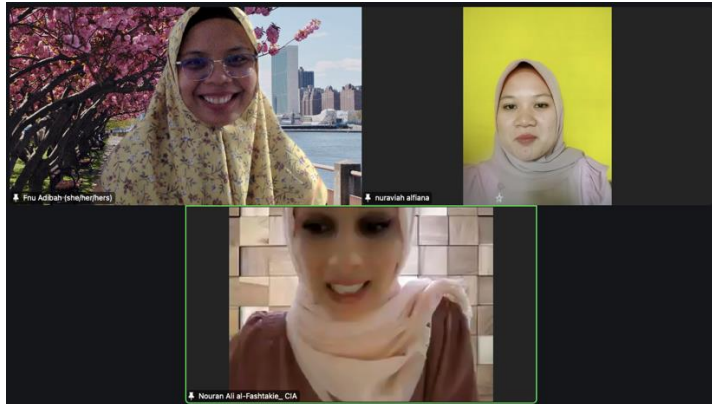


Image 2. Speakers during the Question and Answer Session

The results depicted that the participants enjoyed both sessions. The TOEFL ITP information, its benefits, and strategies are essential for students to take the necessary steps to prepare for the test and effectively implement strategies to meet graduation and workforce requirements. The study by Garcia-Ponce and Mora-Pablo (2023) confirms this result; their study found that the TOEFL ITP test could foster students' English proficiency and their readiness for globalization.

The most significant aspect of this webinar is to encourage students in Pasuruan to study and master the English language and take standardized tests, such as the TOEFL ITP. The majority of participants (98%) reported feeling motivated to study English after attending this webinar, and 75.2% expressed a desire to take the TOEFL ITP test.

The findings demonstrated that this community service met its goal of increasing students' motivation to learn English and preparing them for the test that will impact their future. It is because Session 1 displays the benefits and strategies of one standardized test, whereas Session 2 even explores the 'power' of English even further.

In terms of cognitive load, possessing a second language, such as English, increases cognitive flexibility and problem-solving skills, as supported by studies by Xia, An, and Guo (2022) and Sepioł (2025). Furthermore, mastering English can also open global doors for students, as it enables them to find jobs not only within their country but also abroad, in multinational companies in Indonesia, or even remotely. Recent studies conducted in Indonesia by Hidayat (2024) and Khoiruman and Irawan (2025) have found that English proficiency is a significant factor in career progress, and that a higher TOEFL score increases the opportunities for admission to global companies. Meanwhile, a survey by Pearson (2004) among 5,000 learners reported that possessing English skills boosts their income, increases job satisfaction, and broadens career options.

Students in Pasuruan also rarely encounter native English speakers in their day-to-day lives. Their meeting with a native English speaker, regardless of its virtual format and brief duration, could also boost their motivation and confidence in learning the English language. It aligns with several articles that investigate students' motivation when taught by native English speakers in Indonesian classrooms. Adara (2023) and Pratama and Fridolini (2021) reported that student motivation, particularly in vocabulary and speaking skills, increases when taught by native English teachers.

Regarding the evaluation of this community service, 61.4% of participants claimed that this webinar required no improvement, while the remaining 38.6% stated that room for improvement was necessary. Most participants (42%) noted that the duration should be longer, while 32.1% thought that this type of event should be held offline instead of online.

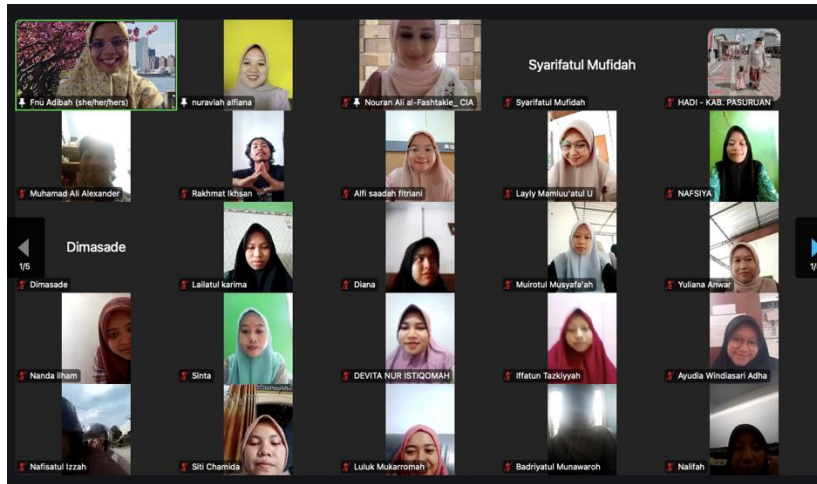


Image 3. Speakers with participants

The findings demonstrated that, in general, the participants were satisfied with the webinar; however, some stated that it should be longer and held in person on campus. In-person webinars might even benefit students even further; yet, the challenge is to find an English-native expert in Pasuruan. Therefore, this community service opted to organize an online seminar for students this time.

4. Kesimpulan

The virtual community service, entitled “Unlock Global Future with the Power of English,” successfully met its initial purpose of encouraging students to learn English, preparing them for an English standardized test, and equipping them for their global careers. The majority of participants were driven and had numerous questions by the end of the session, demonstrating their excitement and passion for the topic. However, in the future, in-person workshops should be conducted to enable students to engage with and implement English strategies in their tests and future careers.

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How Cites

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