

## ABSTRACT

Pramesti, Reghina Aulia. 2023. *Investigating Students' Strategies and Difficulties in Facing TOEFL Reading Section*. Thesis, English Language Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember. Advisor: (1) Anita Fatimatul Laeli, M.Pd., MCE. (2) Yeni Mardiyana Devanti, S.S., M.Pd.

**Key Word:** TOEFL, Reading Section, Strategies, Difficulties

English language has been used in worldwide communication. Because of that, for enhancing college students' English skill ability, most universities in Indonesia follow the TOEFL test as one of the graduation necessities. However, many students find TOEFL reading section especially, as one of the problems that they face when they take the TOEFL test. Therefore, it is important to do a research entitled "Investigating Students' Difficulties and Strategies in Facing TOEFL Reading Section". The kind of the research is mix-methods and the type is using exploratory sequential design. So, in the first stage conduct interviews and analyzed in qualitative to answer the first question in the research problem. Next, the scale/research instrument distributed and analyzed in quantitative to answer the second question in research problem.

This study's data is divided into two categories: primary data and secondary data. The primary data in this research from the result of the interview, and the secondary data from the results of the students questionnaire. The data was taken from the TOEFL group on the Telegram called "TOEFL Test Lab Bahasa". This group contains 889 students from all faculties at Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember who will take the TOEFL test. Only 60 of the 889 students were willing to participate in this research. The information was gathered from 60 students from all faculties who had taken the TOEFL test at Universitas Muhamamdiyah Jember.

From the research result, for the most difficult aspect that students faced is responding to implied questions. According to their explanation it was caused by inaccurate in responding to implied questions, limited time to comprehend the questions, and their limited vocabulary. And the strategies students used in TOEFL reading section are; repeat the reading text to increase understanding; using keywords to search for main idea; focus on what they read in the passage. It can be concluded that students need to practice more with TOEFL reading section questions, in this way they will increase their vocabulary, students will learn to manage time carefully when working on the reading section of the TOEFL test, and train themselves to think critically in answering TOEFL reading section questions, especially in responding to implied detail questions.