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## The Factors Affecting High School Student's Interest in Choosing an English Education Program in College

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**Abstract**—The objective of this study was to understand the factors influencing students' decisions to enroll in English study programs at the tertiary level.. This research was qualitative. There were 33 Participant from Grade 11<sup>th</sup> of SMK PGRI CEPU. The result showed two Intrinsic Factor and Extrinsic Factor. The Intrinsic Factor were: 1) their good skill, 2) confused when choosing education program, 3) their own interests, 4) their not interest with English. Several extrinsic factor were: 1). Their choose not to continue because they don't have the money, 2) want to continue their family business, 3) their plan to get married, 4) parental expectations, 5) the desire to study at famous universities, 6) the superiority among others. The aim of this study was to investigate the rationales behind students' selection of English study programs in institutions of higher education. This qualitative research involved 33 participants from the 11<sup>th</sup> grade of SMK PGRI CEPU. The findings revealed two categories of factors influencing their decisions: Intrinsic Factors, including 1) proficiency in English, 2) uncertainty in choosing an educational program, 3) personal interests, and 4) lack of interest in English; and Extrinsic Factors, such as 1) financial constraints leading to discontinuation, 2) aspirations to continue family businesses, 3) plans for marriage, 4) parental expectations, 5) aspirations to study at renowned universities, and 6) the desire for academic superiority.

**Keywords**—Factors Affecting, Student's Interest, English Education Program

**Abstrak**—Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui alasan mahasiswa memilih program studi Bahasa Inggris di perguruan tinggi. Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif. Peserta yang berasal dari Kelas 11 SMK PGRI CEPU berjumlah 33 orang. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan dua Faktor Intrinsik dan Faktor Ekstrinsik. Faktor Intrinsiknya adalah: 1) kemampuan mereka baik, 2) kebingungan dalam memilih program pendidikan, 3) ketertarikan mereka sendiri, 4) ketidaktertarikan mereka dengan bahasa Inggris. Beberapa faktor ekstrinsik adalah: 1). Mereka memilih untuk tidak melanjutkan karena tidak mempunyai biaya, 2) ingin melanjutkan bisnis keluarga, 3) berencana menikah, 4) ekspektasi orang tua, 5) keinginan untuk kuliah di universitas terkenal, 6) keunggulan di antara yang lain.

**Kata kunci**—Faktor afeksi; Minat Siswa; Program Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

## INTRODUCTION

The selection of academic disciplines for tertiary education represents a significant choice for students aspiring to advance their educational pursuits. Today,

Senior High School students, particularly those in Grade 12, are faced with the task of deciding on the career paths they wish to pursue in the future. Securing a promise of a brighter future entails more than simply completing high school and depending solely on a high school diploma or similar qualifications (Fitria et al., 2022). The majority of job openings available to the public demand a bachelor's degree (S1) or at least a Diploma degree (D3) in a specialized field.

In the current era, the process of choosing academic fields for higher education holds significant importance for students aspiring to advance their educational pursuits. High school seniors, particularly those in the 12th grade, are currently faced with the crucial task of determining the career paths they intend to follow in the years ahead. It is essential to recognize that securing a promising future goes beyond completing high school and relying solely on a high school diploma or similar qualifications (Fitria et al., 2022). Many job opportunities in the public sector require a bachelor's degree (S1) or, at the very least, a Diploma degree (D3) in a specialized field.

Every student who plans to pursue higher education at the college level must choose a suitable field of study. However, the process of selecting a major is often challenging for students. Holmegaard et al. (2014) note that deciding to continue education beyond high school is a complex and lengthy social process. Students may face confusion when selecting a major as they consider various factors such as their skills, future career prospects, parental expectations, and personal interests.

Currently, universities in Indonesia and abroad offer a diverse range of majors for students to choose from, including fields like science and technology, social and legal studies, education and the arts, computer science, informatics engineering, languages, and more. In this particular study, the focus is narrowed to the English education major. The research aims to explore the reasons behind students' decisions to pursue English study programs at the tertiary level and gain insights into their perspectives on these programs. This research has the potential to assist prospective students in preparing for their future academic endeavors and support English Education department administrators in designing curricula. The study is titled "The Factors Affecting High School Students' Interest in Choosing an English Education Program in College."

Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL) involves facilitating children's English language acquisition by recognizing their specific needs and characteristics (Nurhadi, 2012). Consequently, educators must offer suitable activities that can both motivate (Mulyadi, 2021) and inspire them (Fitrianingsih, 2017). TEYL has become a mandatory course for students within the English education department (Nursalim, 2020). By the conclusion of this course, students are expected to grasp the fundamental concept of TEYL and utilize learning materials and ICT-based tools to enhance the

teaching and learning processes. The TEYL course serves as a foundation for future educators to deliver English instruction in primary schools (Darwis & Hasanah, 2020), a task that is considered quite demanding (Suwanto & Rahman, 2022).

## **METHOD**

There are two categories of research methodologies, such as qualitative and quantitative. This research implements a qualitative research approach, which is a method of analyzing data without using statistics. This qualitative writing framework presents data in the form of narratives, either in the form of people's own words or other quotes, texts, or discourses. Sugiyono (2019) states that the qualitative approach is an achievement. The methodology employed in this research is characterized by its artistic and interpretative nature, emphasizing subjective interpretation, and creativity in the research process. After all, research data is related to the interpretation of data found in the field. The next step is to choose the data collection technique that will be used. Data collection techniques are ways used by researchers to collect data in research. In this study, researchers used several techniques, namely interviews and questionnaires. All data collected in the form of word order.

### **1. Questionnaires**

The questionnaire is a data collection method that is carried out by giving a set of questions or written statements to respondents to answer. It has three components: students interest, english education, and factor affecting.

### **2. Interview**

The questions will identify three aspects: students interest, english education and factor affecting.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

As indicated by the researcher in the preceding chapter, the collected data were categorized and analyzed in this section to explore the factors influencing high school students' inclination towards selecting an English education program at the university level. The findings presented in this chapter were derived from the analysis of questionnaires and subsequent discussions.

In the research the researcher analyzed about the factors affecting high school students interest in choosing an english education program in college. The researcher took the questionnaire from the book which is used by students Class 11<sup>th</sup> of SMK PGRI CEPU.

**Table 4.1** The Result of Questionnaire

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Result</b>
Interest of choosing English education program	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>High</b>
Not interest to choosing English education program	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Choosing another option (married, work and business)	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Lower</b>

Based on the table 4.1, the students feel that there are many considerations that go into choosing a study program. This is because students are still confused about skills and what they ambition. Some student choose not to continue because they don't have the money, want to continue family bussiness or married.

The total students of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students is 33 students. Most of them come from poor families. But quite a few also come from well-off families. The influencing factors are factors that come from within the student (internal) and factors that come from outside the student (external) From the answers to the questionnaire that has been distributed to 33 students with character that has been interpreted in qualitative form in the form of words. The steps taken in the data analysis process are after the data is obtained and collected from the respondents, the data is tabulated in tabular form, which is a qualitative form in the form of words. To facilitate data processing and further data analysis, the table is simplified or recoded. The table is simplified again or recapitulated according to the alternative respondent's answer, then the research results can be described as follows:

### **1. Intrinsic Factor**

Intrinsic factors do not necessitate external stimuli as they originate from within the individual, aligning with their inherent needs. According to Holmegaard et al. (2014), the decision to continue high school education is a complex and protracted social undertaking. Students may experience uncertainty when selecting a major, as they weigh various factors including their abilities, prospective careers, parental aspirations, and personal interests. It's intriguing to observe the impact of individual interest on students' language learning journeys, as highlighted by Hamanik (2008:33) in the context of the teaching and learning process. When students lack interest in a subject like english, it can hinder their motivation and hinder their learning progress. However, fostering a genuine interest in language learning can significantly enhance

students' academic performance and overall engagement. This notion underscores the importance of aligning educational pursuits with personal interests and needs, paving the way for more fulfilling and effective learning experiences

## 2. Extrinsic factors

According to Siti Rahayu Haditomo (1998: 189), including family, school and surrounding community. Surrounding community. Interests that occur in individuals are influenced by two determining factors, namely factors of desire from within and desire factors from outside. The decision to pursue an English major arises primarily from internal motivations, without external influence from parents, family, friends, or school recommendations. Other factors that contribute to this choice include the perceived prestige associated with being an English education student in society, the absence of alternative majors that capture their interest, the program's accreditation, its positive reputation, the perceived superiority of the program compared to others, access to clear tuition fee information, and the aspiration to study at their preferred universities. They fall in love and have a plan to get married.

## CONCLUSION

In the process of choosing a college major, it's interesting to consider how sustainability and environmental awareness can influence students' decisions. Exploring majors that align with sustainability practices, such as environmental science, sustainable development, or renewable energy studies, can provide students with opportunities to contribute to a more sustainable future through their academic pursuits. By integrating sustainability principles into their career choices, students can make a positive impact on the environment and society. Encouraging discussions and research on sustainable majors can inspire students to consider the broader implications of their academic paths and empower them to pursue careers that prioritize environmental responsibility. For future researchers, it is expected that they can conduct similar research by inviting more participants from various backgrounds. In the world of education, communication skills are important in conveying educational information, especially in continuing to higher education. Teachers, parents, and students themselves should understand that an appropriate communication style can promote better understanding as well as future professional achievements. In today's language teaching, discussion, recognition, and acquisition of communicative competence are essential for both teachers and students (Isnaini & Rohmah, 2022).

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