

**COMPREHENDING POLYSEMOUS WORDS: A MIX METHOD
ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ABILITIES AND STRATEGIES**

THESIS

*Submitted of Partial Satisfaction of the Requirement for Undergraduate Program
in English Education Degree*

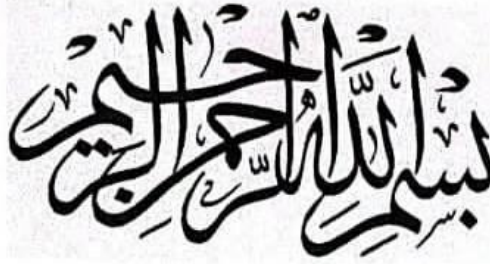


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2026 M / 1447 H

DECLARATION PAGE



"In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful"

I hereby state that thesis entitled "**Comprehending Polysemous Words: A Mix Method Analysis of Students' Abilities and Strategies**". This thesis is a piece of work mastered by myself.

I quote some theories of this research from several references and sources and they are properly acknowledged in my thesis. I do not copy or quote with the way that is against from the scientific society. From the statement above, I am ready to accept any judgment if it found there is these is scientific ethics contrary in my thesis or there is claim from another side towards the original work.

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APPROVAL PAGE

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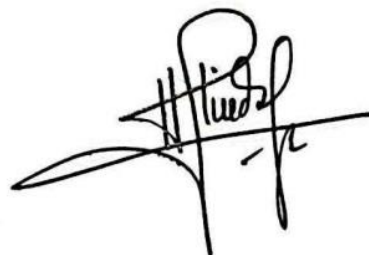
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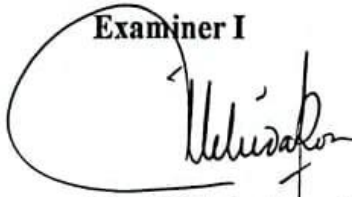
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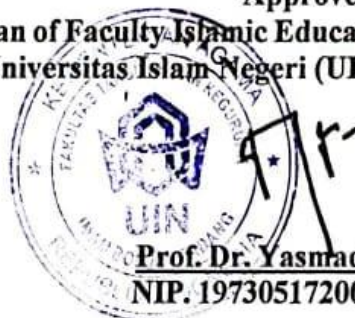
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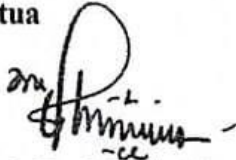
PENGESAHAN TIM PENGUJI

Skripsi dengan judul “Comprehending Polysemous Words: A Mixed-Method Analysis of Students’ Abilities and Strategies” yang ditulis oleh Anggun Fatimah Zahra, NIM. 2214050013 telah diujikan dalam sidang munaqasyah Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Imam Bonjol Padang pada hari Senin, tanggal 15 Juni 2026. Oleh karena itu telah diterima sebagai salah satu syarat untuk memperoleh gelar Sarjana Pendidikan (S. Pd) Program Strata Satu (S1) pada Jurusan Tadris Bahasa Inggris.

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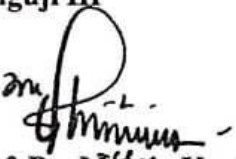
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DEDICATION

This work is wholeheartedly dedicated to:

Almighty Allah SWT, for His endless blessings, strength, and guidance that made this journey possible.

Our Holy Prophet Muhammad SAW, for bringing the truth and light into this world, whose endless wisdom serves as a constant reminder to strive for the best in everything I do.

My beloved parents, for their unconditional love, constant support, and for always believing in me without ever putting unnecessary pressure on my shoulders.

My dearest sibling, for being my ultimate source of joy, keeping me entertained, and offering a safe space free of judgment.

ABSTRACT

Anggun Fatimah Zahra, 2026, Comprehending Polysemous Words: A Mix Method Analysis of Students' Abilities and Strategies. Thesis.
Faculty of Islamic Education and Teacher Training.
Islamic State University Imam Bonjol Padang.
Supervisor (1) Prof. Dr. Hj. Martin Kustati, M.Pd. (2)
Dr. Rita Erlinda, M.Pd.

This study investigated eleventh-grade students' comprehension of polysemous words, their difficulties, and the strategies they employed. Following an explanatory sequential mixed methods design, data were collected from 107 eleventh-grade students. The quantitative data were gathered through a 28-item multiple-choice test extracted from various contexts, including instructions and discussion prompts, within two official English textbooks: *Bahasa Inggris for Change* and *Bahasa Inggris Tingkat Lanjut*. Subsequently, qualitative data were obtained through semi-structured interviews with selected students representing high, mid, and low achievement groups to deeply explain the quantitative results. The quantitative findings revealed that the students' overall comprehension of polysemous words fell into the poor to fair category, with a mean score of 60. The qualitative data further elaborated that students' primary difficulties stemmed from their lack of familiarity with polysemous words in different linguistic contexts. To overcome these difficulties, the students mainly relied on the strategy of using dictionaries to look up the meanings of unfamiliar words. In conclusion, the integration of quantitative and qualitative data provides a comprehensive overview of students' vocabulary challenges, suggesting that explicit instruction on polysemy and contextual meaning shifts is highly recommended in EFL classrooms to improve students' lexical competence.

Keywords: EFL students, explanatory sequential design, polysemy comprehension, regular and irregular polysemy, students' difficulties, students' strategies

ABSTRAK

Anggun Fatimah Zahra, 2026. Memahami Kata-Kata Polisemik: Analisis Metode Campuran terhadap Kemampuan dan Strategi Siswa. Skripsi. Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan. Universitas Islam Negeri Imam Bonjol Padang. Pembimbing (1) Prof. Dr. Hj. Martin Kustati, M.Pd. Pembimbing (2) Dr. Rita Erlinda, M.Pd

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menginvestigasi pemahaman siswa kelas sebelas terhadap kata polisemi serta mengeksplorasi kesulitan yang mereka hadapi dan strategi yang mereka gunakan dalam memahami kata-kata tersebut. Mengikuti desain metode kombinasi urutan eksplanatori (*explanatory sequential mixed methods*), data dikumpulkan dari 107 siswa kelas sebelas. Data kuantitatif diperoleh melalui tes pilihan ganda sebanyak 28 butir soal yang diambil dari berbagai konteks, termasuk instruksi dan perintah diskusi, di dalam dua buku teks resmi: *Bahasa Inggris for Change* dan *Bahasa Inggris Tingkat Lanjut*. Selanjutnya, data kualitatif diperoleh melalui wawancara semi-terstruktur dengan siswa terpilih yang mewakili kelompok prestasi tinggi dan rendah untuk menjelaskan hasil kuantitatif secara mendalam. Temuan kuantitatif mengungkapkan bahwa pemahaman siswa secara keseluruhan terhadap kata polisemi masuk dalam kategori kurang hingga cukup (*poor to fair*), dengan nilai rata-rata 60. Secara khusus, polisemi iregular terbukti jauh lebih menantang bagi siswa dibandingkan dengan polisemi regular. Data kualitatif lebih lanjut menjelaskan bahwa kesulitan utama siswa bersumber dari ketidakfawalan (*lack of familiarity*) mereka dengan kata-kata polisemi dalam konteks linguistik yang berbeda. Untuk mengatasi kesulitan tersebut, siswa utamanya mengandalkan strategi penggunaan kamus untuk mencari makna dari kata-kata yang tidak dikenal. Kesimpulannya, integrasi data kuantitatif dan kualitatif memberikan gambaran komprehensif mengenai tantangan kosakata siswa, yang menunjukkan bahwa pengajaran polisemi secara eksplisit dan perubahan makna kontekstual sangat direkomendasikan dalam kelas EFL untuk meningkatkan kompetensi leksikal siswa.

Kata Kunci: Siswa EFL, desain urutan eksplanatori, pemahaman polisemi, polisemi regular dan iregular, kesulitan siswa, strategi siswa.

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Peace, blessings, and utmost gratitude be upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW, the ultimate guiding light and the perfect embodiment of wisdom. His timeless teaching and beautiful examples have been my constant source of inspiration, anchoring my heart and guiding my steps not just through this academic pursuit, but throughout my entire life.

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6. Prof. Dr. Hj. Martin Kustati, M.Pd, the rector of UIN Imam Bonjol Padang and Prof. Dr. Yasmadi, M.Ag., the dean of the faculty of Islamic Education and Teacher Training, for providing supportive academic environment during my studies.
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Padang, June 2026
Researcher



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TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION PAGE	i
DEDICATION.....	v
ABSTRACT	vi
ABSTRAK	vii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	viii
TABLE OF CONTENT	ix
LIST OF TABLES.....	xi
LIST OF GRAPH.....	xii
LIST OF FIGURE.....	xiii
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	xiv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
A. Background of the Study.....	1
B. Identification of the Problem.....	5
C. Scope of the Study.....	6
D. Formulation of the Problem	6
E. Purpose of the Study.....	7
F. Significance of Study	7
G. Definition of Key Terms	8
CHAPTER II LITERATURE RIVIEW	10
A. Related Theories.....	10
1. Vocabulary	10
a. Definition of Vocabulary	10
b. Types of Vocabulary	12
2. Lexical Ambiguities	13
a. Definition of Lexical Ambiguities	13
b. Main Source of Lexical Ambiguity	14
3. Mental Lexicon	20
a. Definition	20
b. Structure of mental lexicon	21
c. Mental lexicon and ambiguity process.....	21

4. Lexical Ambiguity in EFL learning	22
5. Students Abilities in Comprehending Polysemous Words.....	23
6. Students Difficulties in Comprehending Polysemous Words	24
7. Students Strategies in Comprehending Polysemous Words.....	26
B. Relevant Studies	28
C. Conceptual Framework	31
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD	34
A. Research Design.....	34
B. Research Setting.....	35
C. Population and Sample.....	36
D. Data Sources	37
E. Research Instruments	37
F. Data Collection Technique	41
G. Data Trustworthiness.....	44
H. Data Analysis Technique	45
CHAPTER IV FINDING AND DISCUSSION	49
A. Research Findings	49
1. Student' Ability in Comprehending Polysemous Words.....	49
2. Student Difficulties in Comprehending Polysemous Words.....	53
3. Students Strategies in Answering Questions.....	60
B. Discussion	65
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	68
A. Conclusion	68
B. Suggestion.....	69
REFERENCES.....	70
APPENDICES	74
AUTHOER'S BIOGRAPHY	143

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3. 1 Blue Print of Pilot Test	38
Table 3. 2 Status of Trial Result	40
Table 4. 1 Frequency Distribution and Percentage of XI-F1 Student Abilities	50
Table 4. 2 Frequency Distribution and Percentage of XI-F3 Student Abilities	50
Table 4. 3 Frequency Distribution and Percentage of XI-F4 Student Abilities	51
Table 4. 4 Frequency Distribution and Percentage of XI-F5 Student Abilities	52

LIST OF GRAPH

Graph 4. 1 Comparison Graph of Student Abilities Across Classes	53
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LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 2. 1 Conceptual Framework of Students' Comprehension of Polysemy. . 33

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Specification and Distribution of the Polysemy Test Items	75
Appendix 2 Pilot Test Questions.....	76
Appendix 3 Pilot Test Scores	85
Appendix 4 Item Validity Analysis	86
Appendix 5 Comparative Table Before and After Revised.....	87
Appendix 6 Instrument Test Final.....	101
Appendix 7 Students' Scores of the Final Research Test.....	109
Appendix 8 Interview Transcript	113
Appendix 9 Documentation	137
Appendix 10 Letter of Proposal Seminar Invitation	139
Appendix 11 Official Report of Proposal Seminar	140
Appendix 12 Research Permission Letter from the Faculty of Tarbiyah.....	141
Appendix 13 Research Permission Letter from Kemendikbudristek.....	142