

**IN-SERVICE AND PRE-SERVICE ENGLISH TEACHERS'
CHALLENGES IN SELECTING AUTHENTIC MATERIAL**

THESIS

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**UIN SUNAN AMPEL
S U R A B A Y A**

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teaching, pre-service and in-service teachers. In that situation, the overwhelming majority of pre-service English teachers found some challenges in choosing and selecting appropriate Authentic Materials for their students. They are still confused about which one is appropriate for their students at each level. So, this phenomenon needs further investigation to better understand the challenges of Authentic Material selection.

One of the objectives of this present study is to look into the differences in the challenges in selecting authentic material for two kinds of teachers, pre-service English teachers and in-service English teachers. This present study has two types of teachers because in-service teachers have many experiences in selecting and choosing Authentic Materials, but not all of them are easy to cope with. Also, the pre-service English teacher needs to be equipped with such provisions before entering the real classroom to practice, or they may face challenges that in-service teachers have never faced. It is because Authentic Materials, unlike the created ones, are not developed with a pedagogical goal.

As said before, this study involved two kinds of teachers. So, four pre-service English teachers of Sunan Ampel State Islamic University and four English teachers from Islamic Junior High School (MTsN) 2 Kota Kediri are included as the research subject. The reason to choose this school is that the teacher in this school has already used the Authentic Material, so they have experience in selecting and choosing this kind of material. Another reason is that this school has some wonderful achievements compared to the other junior school level in Kediri.

understands the students' situation during the lesson. And the last is teacher as evaluator. Here, the teachers evaluate the teaching and learning process. It means that they try to analyze whether the teaching and learning process that has been done can make the students learn based on the expectation or not. Usman in Arintonang also stated the competence that the teachers need as an evaluator. They are able and competent in doing the assessment, consistently follow the students' result that has been achieved time by time, and classify a group as intelligent, moderate, lack, or good enough in their classes.

Thus, as a teacher, their job is to deliver the material to the students and acquire some roles that may impact their students. Then, according to Marzano, there are three roles of teachers on a daily.¹⁸ The first is As a role model for students. Here, the teacher can influence the students in the school because the student may imitate the teachers' attitude and behavior. Students also may learn many things from their teachers. So, to become a teacher, they need to give positive vibes to their students. The second is as a problem solver on the spur of the moment. At this point, the teacher needs to be able to give their response to unexpected situations that may arise within or beyond the classroom activities. And the last is as a critical thinker. Becoming teachers, they will gradually develop their ability because, day by day, teachers often get new knowledge and new experience. Whether in listening to the students, understanding them, communicating to the students and others. In the school, teachers deliver the

¹⁸ Matthew Lynch, 2015, *3 Responsibilities Teachers Have (besides teaching)*, (<https://www.theedadvocate.org/3-responsibilities-teachers-have-besides-teaching/>, Accessed on Jan 23, 2021)

easily, and it can also be easy to be practiced directly. Inaccurate language is not provided in the textbook. Through Authentic Material, the students sometimes can know the other similar words in the target language and even the slang. Authentic material also may be inspirational for those who learn another language. It may be inspiring to the students because it contains a different visual than the textbook that the students commonly use. Authentic Material also often shows the real use of target language that can make the students enthusiastic about learning again and again. A piece of authentic material can be used for several assignments and activities. It is not like a textbook where one material only explains one topic. Sometimes one authentic material can be used for more than one material. This kind of material has massive options of styles, genres, and formality. If the textbook only provides a paper or a picture inside, the Authentic Material provides video, paper, song, etc. The next advantage is making the students excited to learn voluntarily by showing visually appealing authentic material and the real use of the target language. Frequently, it can make Authentic Material have its special insight from the students.

The other benefits of authentic material also may range from checking the students' understanding of language and presenting real language. In this case, the Authentic Material can show the real use of English to the students and how native speakers speak up by using the target language. As a result, the students can imitate what they have got directly. The third is providing opportunities to introduce cultural issues. By using Authentic Material, students may enhance their motivation because the material is different material (not only using textbooks), so

we can see that there are advantages provided by Authentic Materials, such as making the students aware of the situation around them. In contrast, the teachers also faced difficulties when they brought Authentic Material to the classroom. Then, what makes the difference between this present study and those previous studies is that this study focuses on the in-service and pre-service English teachers' challenges in selecting Authentic Material.

There is also a previous study about Authentic Material selection but focuses more on the criteria selected from the teacher, not the challenges that the teachers face when they select Authentic Material. And also, this study has two kinds of subjects: in-service and pre-service English teachers. The previous study only focuses on the in-service teachers, while pre-service teachers also need to be equipped with the ability to select material. Another is pre-service teachers may also have experienced something that in-service teachers have not experienced so that their experiences also need to be investigated.

participants. The activity after making an appointment was preparing the research, which was preparing the interview guide to help the interview process. The final step in the preparation stages was to prepare some tools that were utilized throughout the research.

For the second stage, the researcher interviewed some participants by asking questions and listening to some answers delivered by the subjects in the previously agreed place and time. Then, the recorder was also utilized to record the conversation for saving the proof data between interviewer and interviewee. This stage used several techniques to collect data. The first was making notes of information in the book note during the interview process as much as possible to write some important answers from the interviewees. But, there was no classifying the answer at this stage. The thing that was done was only to write any answers from the research subjects as much as possible. The second was recording the data. This technique was utilized to aid the researcher in recalling the information when transcribing. Of course, the researcher cannot recognize the answer from the participants at all. There would be some forgotten statements during the transcribing process that cannot be remembered. So this approach may also be used to double-check the answer in the book note.

The final stage is to do an analysis. After the data had been gained, they were analyzed, interpreted, and concluded the result.

All of the teachers found those kinds of material online because, as one of the in-service teachers said that everything we want can be found through the internet because now is the modern era. This statement was delivered in response to a question regarding the challenge of selecting Authentic Material as instructional material in the classroom.

“... that is because we are in the modern era right now. Everything can be obtained from the internet. Or if we do not find it on the internet, just take the simple one. Do not make it difficult, there are many sources besides textbooks. We only need to be smart to take advantage of it”. (I3)

The other was also supported by another teacher who said that it is quite difficult to find printed material. It is when the teacher was asked about access to Authentic Material.

“Not all materials are easy to find, right here, if you look for Authentic Material, you might look for it online. It is unlikely to look for printed one, what about printed ones?... If it is like the magazine, I have never seen this in Kediri’s bookstores, I have never seen it”. (I1)

Furthermore, both in-service and pre-service English teachers that have been interviewed used Authentic Material in two cases. The first is to deliver the lesson and the second is to give some entertainment by playing games or quizzes. The teachers also have various reasons for using authentic material as their instructional material, such as it can make the students fight in learning because there is something to focus on. It also makes the teaching and learning process variation so that the activity is not too monotonous and does not make the students feel bored easily. Authentic Material also can show the reality of English, show the other culture, and give a different atmosphere in the classroom. The following

“This is what most of my friends and I worry about. We need to understand our students in the class but, as you know, there are not only five or seven students in the classroom. There may be thirty or even more students in a class and we need to deal with all of them. This is that make me sometimes feel hard to select which authentic material that really appropriate to them because not all of the students are same”. (P4)

These statements show that the teachers need to understand their students, but they feel that it is not an easy thing to do. It is because not all students will easily understand the material. There are different students' abilities in the classroom. Sometimes, a student with a stronger command of the English language may readily comprehend whatever authentic material the teacher uses. Students with lesser levels of ability, on the contrary, were unable to understand despite the teacher presenting the same Authentic Material. So, the teachers also need to get the Authentic Material that fits with the majority of them.

Another challenge is when teachers need to identify suitable Authentic Material/suitable parts to achieve lesson outcomes and students' needs. Here the teachers also should find the material that is matched with both lesson objectives and their students' needs. It challenged the teacher because sometimes, the teachers cannot use all parts of Authentic Material to achieve the lesson objective. Consequently, the teacher needs to sort out which one can help them and their students achieve the lesson outcome, or it just makes spending more time in the class. Carefully selecting Authentic Material ensures that the right Authentic Material is brought into the classroom. The right Authentic Material not only facilitates Authentic learning, but also motivates and engages students in English language teaching. Furthermore, when the materials are appropriately selected,

Table 4.3.1 Teachers' Strategies to Solve the Challenge

In-service teachers	Pre-service teachers
No strategy	1. Browse many resources
	2. Read some articles, printed book or e-book
	3. Join seminar/workshop
	4. Ask guidance
	5. Understand the students' condition as well (students' level, students' interest, students' environment)

The table above shows that there is no strategy delivered by an in-service English teacher in solving the challenge, because they did not face the challenge in selecting Authentic Material. On the other hand, it is obvious from the table that pre-service teacher teachers did some ways to deal with such challenges when they selected Authentic Material. One of the teachers said that if the teachers want to use Authentic Material, they need to have a strong intention so that if they face the challenge, they will fight to do anything to solve the challenge that is met, even if it is a big challenge.

“So many things we need to consider when we choose Authentic Material as our instructional material but, yaa because from the beginning my intention was quite strong, so I resolved to endure looking for it... if we want to make it easy, we actually can explain directly by writing on the board but, yes that was back to our intention to use the authentic material itself”. (P3)

According to the challenges that are faced by the pre-service English teachers, they also have some strategies to deal with. Browsing many resources was done by the teacher to get the appropriate Authentic Material that they want, that fits their desire and fits the students' needs. Thus, three of four pre-service English teachers in this study did this way. Then, a pre-service teacher claimed that one of the strategies is to read some articles, printed books or e-book to get more

		Select the appropriate video for the students by looking up the vocabulary and content	Read some articles or e-book Ask friends and lecturer
		Understand students	Read some articles or e-book Ask friends' suggestion
		Find appropriate song	Browse as many as resources Prepare it earlier
2	Pre-service teacher 2 (P2)	Find the right difficulties level of the students because there are many students' abilities in the class	Understand students' condition
		Select the appropriate video that matches with the curriculum, students' level, school environment, and lesson plan	Understand students' condition Read books or articles
		Select appropriate job vacancy	Read some sources to be more selective in selecting authentic material
3	Pre-service teacher 3 (P3)	Find something that fits with the topic	Look for many resources
		Find the video that matches with	

service teachers still lack experience compared with the in-service teacher who has already been used to this condition.

The second challenge is related to identifying suitable Authentic Material/suitable parts to achieve lesson outcomes and students' needs. From the findings, it can be clearly seen that the teachers sometimes still feel difficult to match the Authentic Material with the students in the classroom. It is right that there are many available resources of Authentic Material but, not all of them are proper to be applied in the classroom. Teachers' skills and knowledge are needed when they want to select Authentic Material. It happens because there are many students in the classroom with different abilities in understanding the material so that some of them sometimes argue that this kind of Authentic Material is easy for them and some of them feel it is hard.

At last, teachers need to get the Authentic Material that fits all of their students in the classroom, including their level, age, interest, and others. It is also in line with the researcher's experiences in selecting Authentic Material. Students' level is included in the criteria that the teacher needs to consider when selecting Authentic Material. This means that the teacher needs to pay attention to their students' level to know their ability, interest, and others. As a consequence, the teacher's decision to bring Authentic Material to the classroom is not useless material.

As stated in the literature review, teachers have some roles in the classroom, and one of them is the teacher as a motivator. Danela Tamo noted that one of the

articles, printed books/e-book. By digging through as many as possible, it can help the teacher get more insight. It is because different resources may provide distinct information that is not available in other resources.

Joining a seminar/workshop is one of the strategies that the teacher did. By joining the seminar, pre-service teachers may add their knowledge about Authentic Material, what is it, what advantages and disadvantages are provided, how to select, how about the access, and other aspects related to Authentic Material. Besides joining the seminar, teachers may also add their knowledge by watching you-tube to have additional information about Authentic Material.

As stated in the key term, a pre-service teacher is the candidate of the teacher. So, they still lack experience if it is compared with the in-service teacher. Here, asking for guidance and advice from the expert is important to prepare the best service for their students. Teachers need to look at students' characteristics such as students' age, students' level, students' interest, students' environment, and others. It needs to be done to minimize teachers' challenges in selecting Authentic Material because some drawbacks are also provided by Authentic Material. So when the teachers can analyze what is needed by the students well, it can minimize their challenges.

Many things may happen in the school, whether it is inside or outside the classroom. That is why teachers in the school need to deal with many things before bringing this kind of material to the classroom. It happens because sometimes, a kind of fear or something like panic from the students will also happen when they face unfamiliar things for them. It is normal to happen, and the

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