



# e-Lingua

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# VACATION @ ACADEMIC TRIP IN ACEH

The initial plan to only come for vacation has turned into an academic trip when I decided to connect with one of the universities here and tadaaaaaaa, my first sharing session with one of the elementary schools here. The day after, I was invited to do a sharing session with the postgraduates in UIN Ar-Raniry.

## First Day at one of the elementary schools

This one-day teaching English through creative methods in a rural school in Indonesia has been an amazing journey. By incorporating poem recitation, movements, repetition, and visual aids, I've witnessed a transformation in how students engage with language learning.

The combination of poetry and movements as tools has brought language to life. Students not only learn new words and expressions but also feel the rhythm and emotion behind them. Through recitation, they gain confidence in speaking English aloud, shedding inhibitions and embracing the language. Associating gestures with words helps in better retention and understanding. Students excitedly participate, using their bodies to express meanings, making vocabulary more memorable.

I also believe that repetition has been key to reinforcing learning. By revisiting words like 'sword' and 'pizza', students use English more effectively. It has boosted their confidence to speak without fear of making mistakes, fostering a more supportive and encouraging classroom environment.



Overall, these creative and fun approaches have not only enriched their vocabulary but also injected some interest in them to speak English. Witnessing the students' progress, increased confidence, and eagerness to communicate in English within a few hours has been greatly rewarding. It's a testament to the effectiveness of employing innovative, engaging methods in language teaching, particularly in rural settings.







Regarding time management, I've faithfully maintained a to-do list. I owe this to my high school principal Mr Abu bin Hassan. He started instilling this habit when I was 13 years old and thanks to him, his advice has helped me throughout many aspects of my life. My advice to students is to jot down everything daily. Allocate at least 90 minutes a day during weekdays and at least three hours on weekends for studies; this consistency is key. Skipping days can break the momentum, so avoid it if possible.

During my PhD, I mastered multitasking. Whenever my students worked on their practices in the classroom, I'd use that time to note down thoughts in my notebook. Passion is paramount. Choose a course and research topic that truly ignites your interest. For me, it was public speaking and confidence in communication, which became the focus of my postgraduate thesis. When you're passionate, you'll naturally push yourself harder.

Set goals and find motivation, especially during hard times. My goal was to earn my 'Dr' title by age 30, a goal I achieved in my early 30s. I found great motivation in a humorous quote: 'Spoke to my ex after 10 years. "Miss or Mrs?" he asked. "Dr." I said'. This quote pushed me through. I strongly feel that breaking down your 10-year goals into yearly, three-year, and five-year plans is very crucial.

## Second day at UIN Ar-Raniry

I feel grateful that I was given the opportunity to conduct this sharing session. In that session, I humbly shared ten tips that helped me effectively juggle 3 jobs and study when I did my PhD. First and foremost, having strong family support is important. Before diving into anything, ensure you have that foundation because, to me, family is everything. I am blessed to have a beautiful supportive family encouraging and cheering on me when I was down.



Next is to enjoy the journey. During my postgraduate study, I seized every chance to attend conferences worldwide for networking and knowledge. Among the countries I visited for conferences are Germany and Indonesia. From presentations at the conferences, I gained another lesson which is to embrace mistakes; they're part of the learning process. Use feedback constructively to enhance your research.

Moving on is to select a supportive research supervisor wisely. Research beforehand; it pays off. Reward yourself for achievements, whether with a holiday or a simple treat. Last but not least, prayer and faith are invaluable and magical. Above all, keep on praying and seek guidance from the above.

