

Nursing Students' Experience: The Implementation of the Nasional Plus Program at Universitas Advent Indonesia

Antonius Subrata Ndruru, Marlin Steffi Marpaung
Universitas Advent Indonesia

Article info	ABSTRAK
<p>Article history:</p> <p>Diterima: 11-3-2024 Disetujui: 25-4-2024</p>	<p>Abstract: The National Plus Program at Universitas Advent Indonesia aims to enhance student learning and improve education quality in nursing, particularly English language skills. This research explores nursing students' experiences with the program. A mixed methods approach was used, combining quantitative data from a Google Form questionnaire with 31 respondents and qualitative data from semi-structured interviews with 5 respondents. The study identifies categories, sub-categories, and sub-themes from these experiences, providing insights for UNAI and other institutions in designing and implementing similar programs. The findings suggest that the Nursing National Plus program positively impacts students' English language skills, enhancing their learning experiences and potentially opening up career opportunities abroad.</p>
<p>Keywords:</p> <p>Nursing National Plus Program English language skills</p>	<p>Abstrak: Program Nasional Plus di Universitas Advent Indonesia bertujuan untuk meningkatkan pembelajaran mahasiswa dan meningkatkan kualitas pendidikan keperawatan, khususnya keterampilan bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi pengalaman mahasiswa keperawatan dengan program tersebut. Pendekatan metode campuran digunakan, menggabungkan data kuantitatif dari kuesioner Google Form dengan 31 responden dan data kualitatif dari wawancara semi-struktural dengan 5 responden. Studi ini mengidentifikasi kategori, sub-kategori, dan sub-tema dari pengalaman ini, memberikan wawasan bagi UNAI dan institusi lain dalam merancang dan melaksanakan program serupa. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa Program Nasional Plus Keperawatan berdampak positif pada keterampilan bahasa Inggris mahasiswa, meningkatkan pengalaman belajar mereka dan potensial membuka peluang karier di luar negeri.</p>
<p>Correspondence Address:</p> <p>Antonius Subrata Ndruru, Pendidikan bahasa Inggris. Universitas Advent Indonesia Jl. Kolonel Masturi No.288, Cihanjuang Rahayu, Kec. Parongpong, Kabupaten Bandung Barat, Jawa Barat 40559 E-mail: antoniusndruru04@gmail.com</p>	

INTRODUCTION

English plays an important role in education as it is a global language used in a variety of international contexts, ranging from academic to professional (Selvi et al., 2023). Mastery of English allows individuals to access a wider range of educational resources, including literature, research, and technological information (Farhana et al., 2021). In addition, English proficiency enables effective cross-cultural communication and

opens doors of opportunity in global careers. By mastering English, students can increase social mobility and educational opportunities and have greater access to the opportunities of the rapidly growing global economy (Mika & Mardiana, 2023).

The National Plus Program in the health sector in Indonesia is held at various universities, especially the faculties of medicine, nursing, and dentistry. The goal is to create graduates with good English language skills, high clinical skills, and a deep understanding of global culture. The National Plus Program, an initiative of the Ministry of Education and Culture since 2015, aims to improve the quality of education in Indonesia, both academic and non-academic. The program focuses on learning in the healthcare field, not only emphasizing technical and clinical aspects but also placing emphasis on developing English language skills and understanding global culture. Thus, graduates are expected to become competent health professionals, ready to compete on the international stage, and able to overcome global challenges in the world of health (Erlita & Utari, 2021).

The implementation of the National Plus Program in nursing education in Indonesia marks a progressive step towards improving the quality standards of education in this field. The National Plus Program is designed to align the nursing curriculum with international standards, with the use of English as the language of instruction in several key courses (Damayanti & Listyani, 2020). This decision aims to prepare nursing students to participate in a global context, given the importance of cross-cultural communication in the health professions. In the literature review, the focus will be on the experiences of nursing students who participated in the National Plus Program, including the challenges and benefits of using English as the language of instruction (Sudana et al., 2023). With a deeper understanding of the student's experiences, this review is expected to provide better insight into the effectiveness of the National Plus Program in achieving the goal of improving the quality of nursing education in Indonesia and preparing students for the global demands of the healthcare world (Oktariani, 2023).

The National Plus Program in nursing education in Indonesia is an initiative to improve the quality of nursing education by adjusting the curriculum to international standards (*ShanghaiInternational-NursingConferen2ce*, n.d.). The National Plus Program progressively integrates English as the language of instruction in several key courses, aiming to equip nursing students with cross-cultural communication skills that are crucial in the globalized world of health professions (Antón-Solanas et al., 2021). With a focus on a literature review of student experiences, the National Plus Program is expected to be effective in developing language and clinical skills, making students globally competitive. This program is considered an important pillar in producing a generation of nurses who are responsive to the changing demands of an increasingly globally connected healthcare world (Aminatun et al., 2022).

The challenges of implementing the National Program Plus include the complexity of integrating national policies and strategies, with the main obstacles being coordination between government agencies and adjustments to local policies (Hafel et al., 2022). In addition, aspects of human resources, technology, and budget are also critical factors that require continuous efforts. These difficulties must be overcome so that this program can run effectively and efficiently at all levels of government (Ahmadi et al., 2020).

For nursing students in Indonesia who take English courses in the National Plus Program, the main challenge lies in the level of understanding and mastery of English (Sari, 2021). Students who do not have a formal background in the language may have difficulty adapting to a less familiar learning process. In addition, cultural factors and understanding of health vocabulary in English are also barriers. In the face of these challenges, support and effective learning strategies are needed to help students optimize the benefits of the National Plus Program and develop their clinical and English language skills simultaneously (Kiftiyah & Ernawati, 2023).

Universitas Advent Indonesia (UNAI), managed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Indonesia Union Western Region, has 6 Faculties and 14 Study Programs that have all been accredited by the National Accreditation Agency (BAN-PT) and the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA). As one of the universities in Indonesia, Universitas Advent Indonesia adopted the National Plus Program in some faculties, including the Faculty of Nursing, to improve the quality of education. This National Plus program began in 2019 and until now. However, some students from abroad, such as Myanmar and Malaysia, cannot speak the Indonesian language. The National Plus Program aims to provide and accommodate foreign nursing students who want to work outside the country. Ma'rufa & Himmah (2023) Reported that through the National Plus program, nursing students benefit from improved English language skills, easier access to international literature, and a

broad understanding of global nursing practice, preparing them for professional challenges in an increasingly internationally connected world of work. (*The 3rd International Conference of Indonesian National Nurses Association*, n.d.). The objective of this research is to explore, label, categories, sub-categories, and sub-themes from the nursing students' experience during the implementation of the National Plus Program of the Faculty of Nursing at Universitas Advent Indonesia.

Some researchers have conducted some studies related to this study. A study was conducted by Muliana, (2020) entitled, "The Implementation of Full English Immersion Program in Indonesia: A Review. Another study was done Noorman Haryadi, (2020) with the title, "The Impact of the English Plus Program on Student Achievement.

METHODS

This research uses a mixed methods approach that combines quantitative data collection through Google Form questionnaires and qualitative data collection through semi-structured interviews (Popa et al., 2020). This method allows researchers to gain a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the phenomenon under this study, by placing a balanced emphasis on the numerical and descriptive aspects of data analysis.

Data Collection

This research obtained quantitative data by distributing questionnaires through Google Forms to 31 respondents who were involved in the Nursing National Plus program. Before the researchers collected the data through a questionnaire, the questionnaire was piloted to check the validity of the questionnaire. Qualitative data was obtained through interviews with 5 respondents. This approach allows researchers to combine both types of data to gain a more complete and in-depth understanding of the phenomenon under this study.

Data Analysis

This research uses mixed research methods with data analysis conducted statistically and thematically. For quantitative data analysis, the researcher used one of the statistical analysis applications, IBM SPSS. The analysis process began by downloading the data from Google Forms and tabulating the data into Ms. Excel file. The data was then analysed using descriptive statistical analysis to identify the frequency and percentage of the measured variables (Hardi & Rizal, 2020). As for qualitative data analysis, the researchers grouped the data, presented the data in the form of narrative text, and concluded the students' perspectives related to learning during the National Plus program (Willson, 2019).

RESULTS

The data from the distribution of questionnaires through Google Forms can be presented below:

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics Data

No. Response	Questions	Valid
	(X1, X2, X3, Y1)	
Overall Experience	1 - 6	31
Experiences that Improve English Language Proficiency	7 - 16	31
Steps Taken to Adjust to the National Plus Program	17 - 22	31
Suggestions for Improvement	22 - 27	31

Table 1 shows the validation of the questionnaire of this study. This validation was done by piloting the questionnaire before giving the questionnaire to the respondents.

Table 2. Overall Experience

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	1	3.2	3.2
	N	2	6.5	9.7
	A	21	67.7	77.4
	SD	7	22.6	100.0

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Total	31	100.0	100.0	

From the results of Table 2 above, we can conclude that the lowest data from the overall experience is obtained for the highest data, A (Agree) with a frequency of 21 and a percentage of 67.7%, meanwhile, the lowest data is SA (strongly agree) with a frequency of 1 and a percentage of 3.2%.

Table 3. Experiences that Improve English Language Proficiency

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	N	3	9.7	9.7	9.7
	D	18	58.1	58.1	67.7
	SD	10	32.3	32.3	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

In Table 3, the results of experiences that improve English proficiency are obtained, the highest value is D (Disagree) with a frequency of 18 and a percentage of 58.1. at the same time, the lowest data is Neutral with a frequency of 3 and a percentage of 9.7%.

Table 4. Steps Taken to Adjust to the National Plus Program

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SD	5	16.1	16.1	16.1
	A	10	32.3	32.3	48.4
	N	9	29.0	29.0	77.4
	D	7	22.6	22.6	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

Table 4 explains the results of the steps taken to adjust to the national plus program. The highest data is A(Agree) with a frequency of 10 and a percentage of 32.3. In contrast, the lowest data is SD (strongly disagree) with a frequency of 5 and a percentage of 16.1%.

Table 5. Suggestions for Improvement

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	D	2	6.5	6.5	6.5
	N	6	19.4	19.4	25.8
	A	18	58.1	58.1	83.9
	SD	5	16.1	16.1	100.0
	Total	31	100.0	100.0	

Table 5 concluded that the highest value of suggestions for improvement is A (Agree) with a frequency of 18, a percentage of 58.1. Frequency 2 with a percentage of 6.5 is the lowest value.

Interview Results Data.

To ensure or to support data from the questionnaire, researchers interviewed 5 nursing students with semi-structured questions. Data from the interviews are described in the table below:

Table 6. Interview Results

Respondent	Tell about your experience joining the National Plus Program at the faculty of nursing	What experiences made you improve in English classes?	What experiences were challenges or obstacles during the English class?	Based on the challenges faced, what steps were taken to adjust to the English class?	What are some suggestions for improving the National Plus Program classroom experience?
R1	In this program, I	Vocabulary	Teaching	The lecturer makes	Learn more

Respondent	Tell about your experience joining the National Plus Program at the faculty of nursing	What experiences made you improve in English classes?	What experiences were challenges or obstacles during the English class?	Based on the challenges faced, what steps were taken to adjust to the English class?	What are some suggestions for improving the National Plus Program classroom experience?
	became more familiar with the medical vocabulary in English from each material taught. This helped me find journals when asked to make presentations in lectures.	increased, more terminology understood, and more confidence in speaking or English.	challenges from lecturers who use high-level English, so it is more difficult to use high-level English. So, it still takes time to learn and understand every lesson from the lecturer. It is still difficult to answer every question in English.	the material, so before the lecturer teaches, I first download the material and study it. In addition, I also look for references from journals or books.	English, and explore each, for lecturers, maybe for students who are just learning English, maybe use general English so that it is easy to understand.
R2	Feeling that I have a lot of experience because in this program activity, there are few participants so I am more confident because the class is in English so I can use English. For the benefits, I can get more new vocabulary, can organize the grammar a little and the pronunciation is getting better. For the atmosphere in the class, we are active but speak in English and Indonesian.	Because there is an emphasis on being able to speak English in the first semester, presentations in English, and when watching a lot of English so more trained in speaking English.	The first learning is not immediately able to speak English, so you must study again to better understand the material that has been conveyed by the lecturer. When discussing, I was appointed to speak/answer questions, I could not immediately answer, so I had to ask the lecturer again.	Have a mind to be able to speak English, get used to speaking English, and learn every lesson given by the lecturer, the point is to learn more.	Students: In the classroom, be more respectful of those who teach and put the mind to learn. -National Plus Program: Do not only accept students from test results but can see people who can learn English. Lecturer: Avoid any words that are not understood or may be explained in more detail. Test not only on paper but also through interviews. There is an additional program for guidance
R3	The first English test is still the original answer, so each one enters the range. In class they still use Indonesian, so if for example, the lecturer explains someone must translate.	What improved was the speaking part, confidence, to speak more fluently, and vocabulary also increased.	Self: Still lacking in vocabulary Friends: Some can speak English, and some can't speak English, especially for those who still can't we still have to translate again. Lecturer: When lecturers teach in English because they are still Indonesian, we are still passive so	Record every word that is not known and memorized for its terminology.	

Respondent	Tell about your experience joining the National Plus Program at the faculty of nursing	What experiences made you improve in English classes?	What experiences were challenges or obstacles during the English class?	Based on the challenges faced, what steps were taken to adjust to the English class?	What are some suggestions for improving the National Plus Program classroom experience?
R4	I joined this national program by looking at the brochure. So, after seeing the brochure, I became interested in taking the English version of the nursing faculty, after I came to UNAI and took the test. After taking the test I passed and took class A. Initially, I thought that I would be studying entirely in English, but after that, I realized that I would be using two languages, English and Indonesian.	So, English is my first language, but by joining this program I can better understand English, especially in the language of special terminology for nurses. Another thing is being able to interact with patients when they complain.	when they teach, we still must translate again. What has been my challenge and obstacle during this plus program is the lack of interest in learning from some students it makes the learning process very long and takes a lot of time to explain the lesson. So, for now I feel uncomfortable with the learning because of the mixed use of language.	Learn more to master/understand English and Indonesian related to the lessons. Must have careful preparation to study.	To register for the Plus program, if possible, do not only use tests but ask more in-depth questions to students to be interested or not. If possible, for some lecturers in teaching it is better to use English so that they are better at using English.
R5	I entered in the 7th semester, I participated because there were few students and because of Zoom and I wanted to be monitored. I felt that I would learn more from the class. The first week of class I didn't understand anything because there were many different terminology words in Indonesian and English, so what I did was I asked my friends to help teach me. So, day by day I learned to memorize vocabulary and every time the lecturer taught in English, I immediately looked for the translation.	After joining this plus program, I know where my skills are in English. That's why I keep learning, memorizing vocabulary, and starting to give opinions in English. I must get used to listening to English.	Still not confident in speaking English, because there are still few vocabularies that are mastered. And in class also the lecturer still lacks a lot of time in teaching so it's like less time to learn English.	Vocabulary must be added, download material and learn from the material before the lecturer teaches, and be more courageous to speak in English. If you want to understand more, maybe you can study or join a side class.	Delivering promotions for students well that learning English is not like they think (afraid)

Respondent	Tell about your experience joining the National Plus Program at the faculty of nursing	What experiences made you improve in English classes?	What experiences were challenges or obstacles during the English class?	Based on the challenges faced, what steps were taken to adjust to the English class?	What are some suggestions for improving the National Plus Program classroom experience?
	So, when I joined this plus program, I became more confident in speaking English.				

DISCUSSION

The implementation of the National Plus Program at Universitas Advent Indonesia has a very significant impact on the experience of each student who participates. From various experiences, students said that it was very difficult to learn English. However, this study reports that the results of their questionnaires and interviews explain that when they participated in this program, they got many benefits, such as more fluency in speaking English and an increasing vocabulary of each of them. From the results of the questionnaire on Overall Experience, the highest value is A (agree) with a frequency of 21 and the lowest data is SD (strongly disagree) frequency of 1, Experiences that Improve English Language Proficiency, the high data is A (agree) frequency 18 while the low data is SD (strongly disagree) frequency 3, Steps Taken to Adjust to National Plus Program, the highest data is frequency 10 and the lowest data is SD (strongly disagree) frequency 5, Suggestions for Improvement, the highest data is A (agree) frequency 18 and the lowest data is D (disagree) frequency 2. Meanwhile, the data from the interviews explained that on average each student strongly agreed to the National Plus program, especially in the English language learning program. Just as explained in research (Hidayat & Ariani, 2021) where the more a person learns English, the more his intelligence increases. The process of learning English involves understanding language structures, and vocabulary, as well as communication skills that can stimulate brain development and critical thinking skills. In addition, by learning English, one can also access more resources, information, and opportunities, which can overall improve their cognitive abilities and knowledge. This national plus program provides wider and more structured access to high-quality English language learning. With a strengthened focus on English language skills, students can improve their ability to communicate, read, write, and understand English better. The National Plus Program not only improves students' language skills but also opens doors to opportunities that can enhance their future at an international level.

CONCLUSION

From the results of this study, the implementation of the Nursing National Plus program at Universitas Advent Indonesia has made a positive contribution to students' learning experience in English. This experience not only teaches students to be fluent in English but can help nursing students broaden their horizons and also have the opportunity to pursue careers abroad. Therefore, efforts need to be made to overcome these challenges and continue to improve the program so that it can provide a more optimal learning experience for all nursing students who participate in this program.

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