

# Exploring the Challenges Encountered by English Teacher in Primary School in Thailand

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# INTRODUCTION

- Teaching and learning process occurs when there is an interaction between teachers and students.
- Teachers are key to effective teaching, but they face many challenges, especially in English language learning.
- This research explored the specific challenges faced by English teacher in primary schools in Prik Municipality, Songkhla, Thailand.
- It also examined the efforts teachers make to overcome these challenges.

# PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Previous research	Gap	This article
Assalihee & Boonsuk (2022) explored in the southern provinces of Thailand, identifying issues such as limited awareness of the importance of English proficiency, fragmented ELT policies, poor integration with real-life contexts, inconsistent textbooks, and impractical classroom arrangements.	This research did not explore about the efforts to improve in ELT outcomes	The authors discovered about the teacher's efforts to overcome the challenges in English teaching in primary school
Kaosayapandhu (2023) discussed that many teachers in rural schools lack the necessary training to teach English as a foreign language. This lack of professional growth may make it more difficult for them to teach students effectively and significantly.	This research did not identify the need for strategies to address the root causes of the challenges faced by rural schools	The authors identified the specific challenges faced by English teacher in primary school.

# NOVELTY

This research focused on the English teacher experiences in a primary school in Thailand and highlight the strategies to overcome the challenges

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What challenges do English teacher face in primary schools?
2. What efforts are being made to overcome these challenges?

# RESEARCH METHOD

Research design	Qualitative descriptive design
Research setting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Prik Municipality Primary School, Songkhla, Thailand</li><li>2. English teacher in Prik Municipality Primary School</li></ol>
Data collection	Open-ended questions
Data analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read the collected responses</li><li>2. Highlighting key points</li><li>3. Refining and organizing the key points into narratives</li></ol>

# FINDINGS & DISCUSSIONS

The research found that English teachers in Thai primary schools face several challenges related to students, teaching materials, and classroom conditions.

1. Students often lack exposure to English outside of the classroom, making them unfamiliar with the language. This can lead to a lack of motivation and disinterest in lessons. To address this, teachers have used ice-breaking activities and decorated the classroom with English vocabulary and pictures.
2. Teachers are constrained by limited class time, with English lessons lasting only 60-90 minutes per week. They also face challenges with insufficient access to and difficulty with digital media. Because of this, teachers often have to use paper-based or handmade materials.
3. Teachers must spend time adapting textbook materials, which often lack pictures and interactive activities, to make them more engaging for students. Furthermore, large class sizes and noisy environments make it difficult for teachers to maintain students' attention and control. Teachers have countered this by walking around the class and giving rewards like pencils or erasers to students who participate actively.

# CONCLUSION

- This research discussed about challenges experienced by English teacher in Prik Municipality primary school in Songkhla, Thailand, including: Students' unfamiliarity with English, students' motivation, limited class time, ineffective digital media, adapting the materials, and classroom conditions.
- Addressing these multifaceted challenges is crucial for improving the quality of English language education and fostering greater students' proficiency. This study focused specifically on Prik Municipality primary school in Songkhla Province, Thailand. Future research could broaden the scope to include more primary schools across different provinces or regions in Thailand to determine if similar challenges are exist throughout the country.

