

ABSTRACT

This study focused on English teachers' understanding of the 2013 curriculum at five targeted junior high schools in Kuningan, West Java. It involved sixteen teachers using mix-method design. Since teachers are the key people who are interpreting the planned curriculum and giving life to it in the language classroom by means of their instructional and evaluation strategies, their understanding toward the curriculum is important to be noticed. Teachers' good understanding of the 2013 curriculum becomes the important factor in implementing the 2013 curriculum successfully.

The research was conducted to figure out not only teachers' understanding of the 2013 curriculum, but also benefits and challenges faced by the teachers in implementing the curriculum. The setting of the research was in five targeted junior high schools in Kuningan with sixteen English teachers as the research sample. The research employed mix-method design. In collecting the data, the research employed two instruments. They were questionnaire and interview.

This study revealed that English teacher's understanding of the 2013 curriculum is quite close to the basic principles of the curriculum. Teachers seem to have a comprehensive understanding on elements of curriculum such as general concept of curriculum, general concept of the 2013 curriculum, rationale, changes elements, teaching and learning process as well as assessment based on the 2013 curriculum. The 2013 curriculum also provides some benefits for teachers. However, teachers need to improve their understanding on implementing scientific approach and authentic assessment. It's challenging for teachers since they tend to use conventional method such as lecturing. Besides that teachers tend to assess final product of students competency.

It is also recommended that the teachers should put more effort on applying the 2013 curriculum in the teaching and learning process by reading a lot of sources, discussing with experienced teachers, joining any training, workshop, improve their creativity and adapt to the advance of knowledge and technology.

Key words: Teachers' Understanding, The 2013 Curriculum