

**INDONESIAN EFL STUDENTS' PATTERNS OF REASONING  
AND LOGICAL FALLACIES IN WRITING EXPOSITIONS**

**A THESIS**

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirement for Master of Education**



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# **INDONESIAN EFL STUDENTS' PATTERNS OF REASONING AND LOGICAL FALLACIES IN WRITING EXPOSITIONS**

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**Sebuah Tesis yang diajukan untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar  
Magister Pendidikan (M.Pd) pada Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris**

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# APPROVAL PAGE

## INDONESIAN EFL STUDENTS' PATTERNS OF REASONING AND LOGICAL FALLACIES IN WRITING EXPOSITIONS

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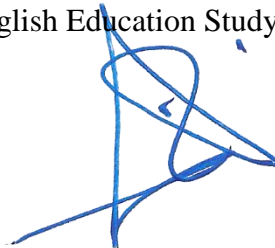
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## ABSTRACT

Of the many components that play important roles in argumentative writing contexts, making sound arguments is one key element. Logical fallacies, which can be simply described as bad arguments appearing as part of a person's reasoning, demonstrate either illegitimate or unfounded claims that weaken a statement or argument. The current study investigated two main issues: first, the patterns of the students' reasoning with regard to the fallacies made in writing Expositions; and second, common logical fallacies found in their Expositions in terms of manipulation through emotions, manipulation through distraction, and inductive fallacy. For this purpose, 80 Expositions written by 80 twelfth-graders in their final writing exam from a Senior High school in Bandung were taken. It was found that 34 Expositions, out of 80, contained various types of logical fallacies. Therefore, the data analysis focused on these 34 Expositions. Three inter-raters were recruited to ensure the reliability of the logical fallacy identification process. 10 Interviews were carried out with 10 students taking part in the Exposition writing concerning their logical fallacies in these essays. The findings show that the most widely used pattern of reasoning was rationalistic. Meanwhile, 12 types of fallacies were found in those 34 student Expositions dominated by the fallacy of questionable cause, hasty generalization, and appeal to fear. Interestingly, although the students generally based their reasoning on rationalistic patterns, the emergence of fallacies could not be prevented. This means that the use of a rationalistic reasoning pattern did not guarantee that the claims made by students were free from flaws. The students' reasoning patterns and all common fallacy types found were thoroughly described.

**Keywords:** argumentative writing, Exposition, Indonesian EFL Classroom, informal reasoning pattern, logical fallacy.

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