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Preface

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Alhamdulillah, the sixth edition of MER is published. As we did before, the sources of articles we received were from our annual conference participants, writing competition participants, our Scholars-in Residence fellows and our invited conference speakers. In the future, we hope that we can receive articles from broader sources, nationally and internationally, that was one of the feedback in order for our journal can be indexed by Scopus database.

In this edition, we received various articles that can be categorized into the concentrations in the Faculty of Education UIII, which are: (1) Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, (2) Education Policy, Management, and Leadership, and (3) Education and Society. There is no article published on Educational Assessment and Evaluation concentration in this edition. There is only one article in the category of Education Policy, Management, and Leadership: “Generation Z’s Attitudes and Expectations in Workplace and Its Implications for Education Policy in Indonesia” written by Gin Gin Gustine from Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI). This article is very important for leaders and educators to develop a curriculum that can cater to the needs of Gen Z, who expect “smart office” technology and are interested in Corporate Social Responsibility.

The second to fifth articles can be categorized into Curriculum, Teaching and Learning. The second article is: “Exploring the Relationship between Safe Learning Environments and Literacy Skills in Majority Muslim Southeast Asian Nations: Insights from PISA 2022” by Risa Haridza from SMP Negeri 3, Kota Pontianak, Indonesia. This article suggests creating safe learning environment because a safe learning environment contributes to the improvement of literacy skills and vice versa. The third article is: “Empowered Learners in a Digital Age: The Critical Nexus of Engagement, Agency, Interest, and Motivation” by Naning Tri Wahyuni and Gunawan Ariyanto from Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Indonesia. This article highlights the critical importance of integrating information and communication technology (ICT) into teaching and learning because this can strengthen the nexus between students’ agency, interest, motivation and engagement in teaching and learning. The fourth article is: “Learning Beyond Borders: The Teaching of English for Refugees in Jakarta Learning Centers During COVID-19” by Lilis Sulistyowati, Ratna Sari Dewi and Alek from UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia. This article reminds us of the unexpected circumstances of the pandemic, which forced us to change the mode of teaching and learning from face to face into online mode with its advantages and disadvantages, including the teaching of English for refugees. The fifth article is: “Managing Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder through Utilizing Islamic Antidotes” by Ali Samaila, Musa A. Maikamba, Md. Mahdi Hasan, Ahmad Muhammad Jungudo from Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia, Indonesia and Gombe State University, Nigeria. This article relates the improvement of mental health with religious practices. With further exploration, this may also be applicable to other religious practices, not limited to Islam.

The rest three articles can be categorized into Education and Society. The sixth article is: “From Traditionality to Modernity: How the Ma’had Aly Contributes to Muslim Society in Indonesia” by Firmanda

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Taufiq from Graduate School of UIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This article informs the importance contribution of ma'had aly (Islamic boarding campus) in transforming the tradition into modernity by contextualizing the traditional Islamic texts with the current Indonesian context. The seventh article is "Not Only One But Many: How is the Islamic Educational Contest Shaping Indonesian Muslim Profiles?" by Khairul Amin from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This article discusses the diverse Islamic religious group and how this diversity leads to the contestation of Islamic education, which then shapes Indonesian Muslim profiles. Last but not least is: "Representation of Sexual Harassment Victims in English-based Indonesian Online News: A Critical Discourse Analysis" by Muhammad Firnas Hibatulloh, Fathor Rasyid from the State Islamic Institute (IAIN) of Kediri, Indonesia. In Indonesia, there has been a changing attitude toward the issue of sexuality in the last ten years: from regarding this issue to being a taboo into more open discussion. This article is one of the examples of an open discussion on the issue of sexuality, which is being brought into academic discourse.

Happy Reading and Happy New Year 2025!