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Editorial Page

Utamax is an international journal of education aiming to build bridges between research and policy and address issues of concern to the different levels and types of education, transversal topics and 'big issues' for policy agendas. This includes an active and ongoing discussion of national and international education policy. The journal is also concerned with teaching and teacher education in general and devoted to all concerned with education and moral values.

Utamax: Journal of Ultimate Research and Trends in Education is an international journal published triannual in March, July and November. The journal is dealing and committed to no single approach, discipline, methodology or paradigm to address the ultimate or 'big issues' of research and deliver the current trends in education. Authors must register to this journal before submitting their work, and they must follow the journal's Author Guidelines. Article submission is made through the online submission system of this journal. Further inquiries may be addressed to the Editors at utamax@unilak.ac.id

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Office : 0761 53581 | Phone: 085271220118

Email : utamax@unilak.ac.id

OJS Website : <https://journal.unilak.ac.id/index.php/utamax>

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Foreword From the Editor in Chief

November 2023, Pekanbaru. Indonesia



It is with considerable honor that I present the latest issue of the *Utamax Journal of Ultimate Research and Trends in Education* for the year 2023. This milestone moment provides an opportune juncture to extend my profound gratitude to the esteemed members of our Editorial Board, our diligent reviewers, the esteemed members of LITA, and the contributing authors who have collaboratively orchestrated the creation of this volume. I am particularly indebted to Dr. David Setiawan, MT, Director of LPPM-Unilak, and his team at LPPM, whose dedication and inspiration have been pivotal in enriching the academic discourse through this journal.

This edition encompasses a total of seven scholarly papers, contributed by authors hailing from diverse geographical and institutional backgrounds. Among these, a noteworthy study by Maghfira Dinda, Fika Megawati, and Siti Sulikatin from Indonesia and Taiwan, titled "From Text to Speech: Enhancing EFL Students' Descriptive Speaking Skills through Picture-Guessing Games," underscores the potential of integrating pictorial stimuli in guessing games to augment engagement in English language speaking activities. This research underscores the significance of innovative media in enhancing linguistic competencies.

Additionally, Estuning Dewi Hapsari, Inung Diah Kurniawati, Kodrat Eko Putro Setiawan, and Muhammad Isya Noor Mahendra present "Kindergarten in the Digital Era: Developing Engaging Android-Based Educational Tools for Letters and Numbers." This work contributes to the field of early childhood education, demonstrating the utility of Android-based applications as accessible educational tools that seamlessly blend learning with play.

Further, the paper by Nikmah Fitria Surya, Dhian Dwi Nur Wenda, and Nurita Primasatya, titled "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Poster & Picture Card Media in Teaching the Water Cycle to Elementary Students," offers valuable insights into the efficacious use of postcard learning media in scientific education, particularly in enhancing student outcomes in learning about the water cycle.

In the realm of higher education, the paper by L. Virginayoga Hignasari, Gusti Ayu Made Arna Putri, and I Komang Wisnu Budi Wijaya, "Optimizing the Implementation of the Project Based Learning Model in Higher Education: An Analysis of Strategic Factors using SWOT Analysis," provides a comprehensive evaluation of the Project Based Learning (PjBL) model in mathematics education, utilizing a blend of IFAS, EFAS, and SWOT analyses to discern factors critical to the model's successful implementation.

Subsequently, the journal presents three additional papers. "Transforming Sustainability: The Role of Transformational Leadership and Knowledge in Disruptive Innovation" by Ria Windi Auliasari, Adi Santoso, and Fery Setiawan, explores the pivotal role of transformational leadership in fostering knowledge sharing and innovation in educational settings.

Kristina Maisaroh, Alfi Laila, and Mohamad Basori's study, "Kapin (Smart Card) Media: Evaluating Learning Tools Efficacy to Improve Reading Skills of Second Grads," validates the effectiveness of the Kapin media as an educational tool, particularly highlighting the innovative use of a wooden box board to enhance interactive learning.

Lastly, "The Current Development of Flipped Classroom Research Publications in Indonesia: A Bibliometric Mapping" by Suroto Rosyd Setyanto, Tomy Kartika, and Ardian Pitra Satya Purnama, presents a bibliometric analysis of the flipped classroom model, delineating its evolving trends and intellectual interactions within the Indonesian context.

As the Editor-in-Chief, I extend my deepest appreciation to all authors for their invaluable contributions and scholarly works. Each issue of this journal is a testament to the ongoing advancements in educational research, and we warmly invite manuscripts from global authors on pivotal practical and scientific issues in education across various disciplines.

In conclusion, I cordially invite academia, researchers, and practitioners in the field of teaching and learning to engage with the latest issue of *Utamax: Journal of Ultimate Research and Trends in Education*. This campus-based journal, characterized by its international scope, peer-reviewed open-access format, and commitment to showcasing leading research, continues to stride towards its goal of international journal stature.

Best of Luck
Utamax Editorial Team



Dr. Budianto Hamuddin
Editor-in-Chief