Personal Statement

I completed my bachelor’s degree in English Teacher Training and Education earlier than the average students in April 2009 from Bengkulu University. Since I was a student, I have been a teaching practitioner and put the theories I learnt at college into practice at different levels of educational institutions including Elementary, Junior, and Senior High Schools and English courses. Out of my teaching career, I have developed a heartfelt love for this profession and received some awards that gave me a strong sense of pride and achievement. I also developed my leadership skills by joining organizations, such as English Department Student Association, Kesatuan Akst Mahasiswa Muslim Indonesia (a Unity of Indonesian Moeslim Student Action), Pengembangan, Penelitian, dan Penalaran Mahasiswa (Students Development, Research, and Analysis) and others, in which I frequently played educational roles.

I worked as an English lecturer at Bengkulu University shortly after I obtained my bachelor’s degree, teaching English course in several departments, such as Dept. of Law, Dept. of Math, Dept. of Accounting, Dept. of Chemistry, Dept. of Biology, Dept. of Machine Engineering, and Dept. of Economics. In addition, I taught an English course at the Nursing and Midwife Academy. In my teaching practice, I always tried to implement creative teaching by using, for instance, visual media, mini plays, role plays, drama, classroom debates, and out-bond, instead of the conventional English teaching strategies. I accounted the learners needs, materials, and facilities in choosing the appropriate teaching strategies. As a result, I gained experience of how to devise a lesson, select teaching materials, facilitate active classroom activities, and choose the most effective teaching strategies. These have then enabled me to see how my ideas and innovations have led me to the desired results.

In 2010, I was awarded a scholarship ‘International Fellowships Programs’ from the Ford Foundation (USA) to pursue my Master’s degree at the University of Manchester, UK, and I graduated in September 2012. I have a diverse background in English language teaching and acquisition. I am working at some universities in Bengkulu, Indonesia including Muhammadiyah University, Dehasen University, the Academy of Health Science Tri Mandiri Sakti, the Academy of Health Science Dehasen, the Polytechnic of Health Science of Bengkulu Province, and the Polytechnic of Health Science of Indonesian Ministry of Health. These educational and professional experiences have compelled me to pursue further training in Educational Fields.

I am deeply interested in the field of education, particularly education for school-aged children and rural/remote education. Education is one of the main sectors of the Indonesian government intended to advance the development of the country. The issue of unequal distribution and gaps in the quality of education between remote areas and cities always is a constant national issue. Every year, almost three million children cannot continue their schooling or accomplish their basic education (Primary, Junior and Senior Secondary Schools) due to limited number of schools and other issues. I would like to take part in solving such issues by pursuing a career as a researcher in higher education and in the Indonesia Ministry of Education developing research-based instructional, professional, and outreach programs and promoting effective and equitable educational practices for all learners.

My future goal is to implement distance learning for school-aged children in remote areas in Indonesia, especially in Bengkulu, my home province in south Sumatra. Distance learning is implemented as a solution for the education issues faced by school-aged children in remote areas. Prior to that, I need to analyze the appropriate distance learning system as well as the funding, administrative, and policy challenges in the Indonesia Ministry of Education for the implementation of the distance learning system in the future. Therefore, I would like to focus my future study on Education Policy using interdisciplinary approaches and integrating research, practice, and policy in education. My background in English Education, TESOL, and Educational Technology will certainly be helpful because they have equipped me with sufficient knowledge of learning concepts and techniques, and technology.

I hope that the admission committee finds my background strengths commensurate with the requirement of the PhD program in Education.