THE CORRELATION BETWEEN CRITICAL THINKING SKILL AND THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN EXPRESSING OPINION AT THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMP PUI GEGESIK

A THESIS

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For the Islamic Scholar in English Education (S.Pd.I)



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ABSTRACT

Fitriyani: "The Correlation between Critical Thinking Skill and the Students' ability in Expressing Opinion at the Second Year Students of SMP PUI Gegesik".

The skill of expressing opinion is very important in academic setting and it has to be developed in the early stage. But there is a supporting important skill, it is critical thinking skill. Therefore, critical thinking is very important to express opinion. The ability of every student about English is different, some students are interested in speaking English like expressing pinion, they are free to express their ideas, thought and feelings. Therefore, they have to master critical thinking skill so that they can express their idea.

According to Ucon, Izza in Hemisphere theory (2012), critical thinking is a process that learners demanded to express and evaluate the information. It makes a value based on the capability to apply science and experience. The way in other that the learners can thinking critic that the teacher gives a problem involve concrete life and gives exchange to the students to express their opinion.

The method which is used in the research is quantitative method. It means that the data which is obtained from the field of research then analyzed statistically by means of number by using the pearsons' product moment formulation. The population in this research are all the students of the second year students of *SMP PUI Gegesik*. The students who become the population consist of 148 students. The writer takes the students who become respondent as sample consist of 30 students. The instrument used is test about expressing opinion and critical thinking skill. To find out the data quantitative data, the writer analyzes the data based on the results of the test on the correlation between critical thinking skill and the students' ability in expressing opinion.

In this research, the writer finds that the result of the students' critical thinking skill is 5.26. And the result of the students' ability in expressing opinion is 4.26. For the result of the correlation between variable X and variable Y based on the pearsons' product moment formulation is 0.519. It can be said that there is a positive correlation between critical thinking skill and the students' ability in expressing opinion.

The conclusion is the students' critical thinking skill is good enough. The students' ability in expressing opinion is good enough. There is positive correlation between critical thinking skill (x variable) and the students' ability in expressing opinion (y variable).



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Problem

Learning English, especially for the eighth year students of *SMP PUI Gegesik* is not easy, because English is a foreign language to be learned and taught to the students of elementary school up to the students of university. It is not easy to teach English. The students have difficulties in study English. Therefore, most of the eight year students of *SMP PUI Gegesik* still found some difficulties in learning English, especially in expressing opinion.

Language is an arbitrary system of vocal symbols used to communicate ideas and express feelings among the members of a certain social community. One of the forms of social interaction is communication. Communication process will not happen without the existence of language because it is a tool of communication. It means that language plays main role in constructing of communication process and social interaction in society.

The skill of expressing opinion is very important in academic setting and it has to be developed in the early stage. But there is a supporting important skill it is critical thinking skill. Therefore, critical thinking is very important to expressing opinion. The ability of every student about English is different, some students are interested in speaking English like expressing pinion, they are free to express their ideas, thought and feelings. Therefore, they have to master critical thinking skill so that they can express their idea.

Based on the explanation above, the writer would like to do research at *SMP PUI Gegesik* to improve the students' ability in learning English, especially in expressing opinion. Expressing opinion plays important role in communicating. If the people can't express their opinion or ideas, there is not the information or ideas between the speaker and listener. It is a serious problem and they will fail in communication effectively.

At *SMP PUI Gegesik*, especially for the eight year students, English is relatively a new subject matter. Therefore, they have difficulties in understanding and comprehending English, particularly in speaking. It happens because they less practice and not understanding how to speak well, especially expressing opinion. For example: I don't think it's a good idea. [Not: I think it's not a good idea.], some students make mistake to express opinion it. Therefore, the English teacher must give motivate to the students to practice expressing opinion in daily activity (Observation, July 20th, 2012).

Teaching expressing opinion is not easy, because expressing opinion is hard to learnt. In the class, the teacher must know how to teach expressing opinion. In *SMP PUI Gegesik*, especially in the eight year students, the

English teacher give example some statements about opinion and ask to the students to make the sentences about their opinion. But still many students make mistakes, in this case the process of teaching and learning English is not successful.

The condition like these, the English teacher force to try to overcome the student's problem. One of skill used by the English teachers is critical thinking skill. The goal of language teaching is to develop critical thinking competence.

Critical thinking is that mode of thinking about any subject, content or problem in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skillfully taking charge of the structures inherent in thinking and imposing intellectual standards upon them. (Paul, Fisher and Nosich, 1993, p.4).

This definition is interesting because it draws attention to a feature of critical thinking on which teachers and researchers in the field seem to be largely agreed, that the only realistic way to develop one's critical thinking ability is through thinking about one's thinking (often called 'metacognition').

Because of the above factors, so in this way the writer would like to try to overcome students difficulties in critical thinking skill and the students' ability in expressing opinion.



B. The Identification of The Problem

The problem in this research is classified into the following sections:

1. The field of The Research

The field of the research of this thesis is speaking.

- 2. The kinds of the problem
 - a. The teacher's skill that used by the teacher in teaching expressing opinion is not effective.
 - b. The students don't know how to express opinion
- 3. The Main Problem

The main problem of this thesis is to understand the correlation between critical thinking skill and the students' ability in expressing opinion.

C. The Limitation of The Problem

To limit the problem, the writer would like to limit the problem as follow such as the students' critical thinking skill, the students' ability in expressing opinion, the subject of the research is the second year students of *SMP PUI Gegesik*, and the limitation of the problem is about reasoning.

D. The Questions of The Research

- 1. How is the students' critical thinking skill?
- 2. How is the students' ability in expressing opinion?
- 3. Is there any positive and significant correlation between critical thinking skill and the students' ability in expressing opinion at the second year

students of SMP PUI Gegesik?

E. The Aims of The Research

The aims of the research that will be obtained are as follow:

- 1.To know the students' critical thinking skill.
- 2. To know the students' ability in expressing opinion
- To know the significant and positive correlation between critical thinking skill and the students' ability in expressing opinion at the second year students of SMP PUI Gegesik.

F. The Use of The Research

The research product hoped to be able to increase developing of language learning, especially in increasing the students' ability in expressing opinion. It can be used to the next research.

G. Operational Definition

Critical thinking is ability to analyze facts, express opinions, defend opinions, make comparisons, draw conclusions, evaluate arguments and solve problems. Critical thinking skills are determined by many factors, especially the structure of a person's thinking. The structure thought will be expressed through language, both verbal and written. This is absolutely critical thinking skills required by students, because they will decide the issues, both related to the education and social issues.



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Expressing opinion is expressing an opinion about something. Express opinion is very important to express what we think. Opinions are thoughts, ideas or suggestions either contention or criticism.



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