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## The Correlation Between Students' Critical Thinking and Students' Reading Ability at the Tenth Grade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan

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**Abstract.** *The research was conducted since there were many problems in reading ability which were correlated with students critical thinking. Some students who had critical thinking but their reading ability was low. It can be proved by the teacher given as test reading some students with critical thinking are able to understand a reading text well, but some students who do not think critically do not understand the reading text. Some students had good reading ability but critical thinking was low. It can be proved when students are given a reading test, there are some students who are able to read the reading text well, but their critical thinking is low so they can not do the exercises well. The design of this research was correlational research. The researcher was use the quantitative approach. The population of this research was all at the tenth grade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan which consist of 113. The sample was 23 students taken by class X IPA Pi. The research was carried out in May 2022. The instruments of this research were questionnaire and test for measuring students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth grade. To find out that the students critical thinking and students reading ability correlate or not, the researcher used the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. There were two finding of this research. The first finding was a positive and significant correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth grade in PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan. It means that  $H_a$  was accepted and  $H_o$  was rejected. Second finding was a enough direction correlation between students' critical thinking and students' reading ability at the tenth grade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan. The researcher found that the coefficient of correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth grade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan was 0.603. In conclusion, this research was done for finding the correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth grade in PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan.*

**Keywords :** *Critical Thinking, Reading Ability*

**Abstrak.** Penelitian ini dilakukan karena terdapat banyak masalah dalam kemampuan membaca yang berkorelasi dengan berfikir kritis siswa di kelas X. Beberapa siswa yang berfikir kritis, tetapi kemampuan membacanya kurang, dapat dibuktikan ketika guru memberikan tes membaca, beberapa siswa yang berfikir kritis mampu memahami test bacaan dengan baik, tetapi beberapa siswa yang tidak berfikir kritis tidak mampu memahami teks bacaan. Beberapa siswa yang memiliki kemampuan membaca yang baik tetapi berfikir kritisnya rendah. Dapat dibuktikan ketika siswa diberikan tes reading ada beberapa siswa yang mampu membaca teks bacaan dengan baik, tetapi berfikir kritisnya rendah sehingga tidak dapat mengerjakan soal dengan baik. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian korelasional. Peneliti menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif. Populasi dalam penelitian ini adalah seluruh siswa kelas X PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan yang berjumlah 113 siswa. Sampel penelitian ini adalah 23 siswa yang diambil oleh siswa kelas X IPA Pi. Penelitian dilaksanakan pada bulan Mei 2022. Instrumen penelitian ini adalah angket dan teks untuk mengukur berpikir kritis siswa dan kemampuan membaca siswa. Untuk mengetahui hubungan berpikir kritis siswa dengan kemampuan membaca siswa, peneliti menggunakan Koefisien Korelasi Product Moment Pearson. Ada dua temuan pada penelitian ini. Temuan pertama terdapat hubungan positif dan signifikan antara berfikir kritis siswa dengan kemampuan membaca siswa kelas X di PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan. Artinya  $H_a$  diterima dan  $H_0$  ditolak. Temuan kedua, terdapat hubungan yang cukup antara berfikir kritis siswa dengan kemampuan membaca siswa kelas x PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan. Terdapat koefisien korelasi antara berfikir kritis siswa dengan kemampuan membaca siswa kelas X di PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan sebesar 0.603. Kesimpulannya, penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menemukan hubungan antara berfikir kritis siswa dengan kemampuan membaca siswa kelas X di PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan.

**Kata Kunci :** Berfikir Kritis, Kemampuan Membaca

## **LATAR BELAKANG**

Language is one of the most important things in communication and it is used as a toll of communication among the nations in all over world. As an international language, English is very important and has many interrelationships with various aspects of life owned by human being. In Indonesia, English considered as the first foreign language and taught formally from elementary school up to the university level.

In English, there are four skills that should be mastred, they are : listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The reading skill became very important in the education field, students need to be exercised and trained in order to have a good reading skill.

Teaching is the process of attending to people's needs, experiences and feelings, and intervening so that they learn particular things, and go beyond the given. Interventions take the form of questioning, listening, giving information, explaining some phenomenon, demonstrating a skill or process, testing understanding and capacity, and facilitating

learning activities (such as note taking, discussion, assignment writing, simulations, and practice).

Teaching reading means the students mentally focus on their thought in the text that they read to get knowledge and information proposed by the authors. This process needs collaboration among creative teachers, active students, critical thinking, good technique and comfortable atmosphere. The goal of teaching reading is to enable learners to use English as a means of communications.

Reading is a cognitive process of getting information from the text. In other words, students use their knowledge to understand the information. There are four processes; first they have recognized words in the text. Second, they should know the meaning of words that make them easier to understand sentences in the text. Third, they have to relate the meaning among the sentences in the text. Then, they can get the information after they understand the meaning of whole sentences in the text.

Reading is also something crucial and indispensable for the students because the success of their study depends on the greater part of their ability to read. If their reading skill is poor they are very likely to fail in their study or at least they will have difficulty in making progress. On the other hand, if they have a good ability in reading, they will have a better chance to succeed in their study.

Reading actively in the process of reading someone will improve the process of thinking of considering ideas and convincing them broadly. The reading process is very related to the development factor of thinking, based on experience the underlying, so that critical thinking can improve students' reading ability.

Edward Glaser defines critical thinking as: "an attitude of wanting to think deeply about problems and things that are within the reach of one's experience, knowledge of logical reasoning examination methods, a skill to apply these methods, a striving to examine every belief or assumptive knowledge based on supporting evidence and subsequent conclusions as a result." (Glaser, 2008)

In addition, according to John Dewey, critical thinking is "active, persistent (continuous), and careful consideration of beliefs or knowledge that are received quickly from the standpoint of the reasons that support it and the conclusions leading to its tendency." Furthermore, according to Robert Ennis, saying critical thinking is "thinking that makes sense and is reflective that focuses on focusing on what needs to be believed

or done.” In addition, according to Richard Paul, thinks critical thinking is “a method of thinking about any substance or problem in which the thinker improves the quality of his thinking by handling it,” he said.

Critical thinking was significantly positively correlated with their reading ability. According to Zare at al said that regarding of the study highlight that higher level of reasoning, contemplating, and judging results in a better consideration of reading passages. Learners with higher critical thinking skill evaluate the text and confirm and disconfirm what is important in getting the point. (Zaree et al,2018) It means that the students critical thinking has a positive relationship with their ability to handle reading. This shows that students who critical thinking can formulate conclusions, and make decisions to better understand certain reading passages.

Based on the opinions of the experts above it can be concluded that critical thinking is an attitude of wanting to think deeply about problems and things that are within the reach and higher level of reasoning, pondering, and assessing resulting in better and logical reading considerations, as well as skill to apply critical thinking, and seek to examine each one belief or setting assumptions based on evidence of experience.

Based on the preliminary research observation and interview in PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan in the tenth grade, the researcher found some problems. The first, there was some students who had critical thinking but their reading ability was low. Whereas according to Nini Afriana, Students had critical thinking can provide a simple explanation, building skill, concluding, provide further explanation, set strategies and tactics in reading text.(Afriana,2017) However, when the teacher gives an reading test, some students with critical thinking are able to understand a reading text well and they can give provide a simple explanation but students had not reading ability they can not do the test well and they get value was low (could see appendix 10) . The students critical thinking because in the reasoning process they will use the knowledge they already have. Including reading ability, critical thinking skills will also determine the extent to which a person was able to understands a concept, story, or dialog in a reading. But in reality when students are asked to read the reading text, there are some students who are unable and less fluent in reading text.

The second, some of students had good reading ability but critical thinking was low. For example when students are given a reading test, some students who are able to read the reading text well, but their critical thinking was low so they can not do exercises well so the value they get was low. Students had Meanwhile, one way to undersand to content of a reading, one must understand it reading ability can understand and know the main idea and answer questions well. word for word, sentence by sentence and paragraph by paragraph so that a clear understanding of the content of reading emerges.

Based on phenomena above, the researcher was interested to conduct a research under the title “The correlation between students’ critical thinking and students’ reading ability at the tenth greade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan”.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The research is conducted through a quantitative approach. It is a kind of research that collects the data in the form of number. According to Sugiyono, a research is called as quantitative because of data of the research uses numeric and using statistical analysis.(Sugiyono,2009) There are many researches that use quantitative some of them are survey research, correlational research, causal-comparative research and experimental research.

The design of this research is correlational because it has the purpose to find out correlation between students’ critical thinking and students’ reading ability. Gay states in Emzirs’ correlational research is a type of non-experimental research where the research employs the data derived from preexisting variables. There is no manipulation of the variables in that type of research.

## **RESULT AND DISSCUSION**

### **Findings**

This chapter reveals the correlation, finding and the interpretation of the data collected through critical thinking and reading ability to answer the research questions :

- 1) Is there any significant correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth grade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan?

- 2) What is correlation direction between students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth grade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan?.

### **1. The description of the data**

This part the steps to description data and result of students critical thinking and students reading ability. According to Muhidin, the data gotten need to be described in order to get a clear description of variable researched.(Sambas Ali Muhidin and Maman Abdurrahman,2007) This research used quantitative data. The researcher quantitative data. The researcher got data by using test and questionnaire.

- a. The description of the data students' critical thinking and students reading ability

This research used questionnaire to get the data variable X as many 16 statements. The statements were written Indonesia order to easy the students to understand and answer the statement. These are some steps to describe the data collected. First, tabulating the data; the data collected through questionnaire were tabulated into table. Second multiplied the data, the researcher multiplied each the respondents alternative answer by using liker scale.

**Table 1**  
**Description of Students Critical Thinking and Reading Ability**

| <i>No</i> | <b>No.Reg</b> | <b>Critical Thinking Score<br/>(X)</b> | <b>Reading ability score<br/>(Y)</b> |
|-----------|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1         | HNY           | 53                                     | 50                                   |
| 2         | LI            | 79                                     | 60                                   |
| 3         | NRC           | 69                                     | 60                                   |
| 4         | DPA           | 81                                     | 75                                   |
| 5         | NS            | 49                                     | 70                                   |
| 6         | CAR           | 73                                     | 75                                   |
| 7         | RZP           | 66                                     | 45                                   |
| 8         | TM            | 84                                     | 75                                   |
| 9         | RF            | 71                                     | 60                                   |
| 10        | FL            | 65                                     | 70                                   |
| 11        | AD            | 70                                     | 65                                   |
| 12        | HA            | 54                                     | 65                                   |
| 13        | MZP           | 89                                     | 75                                   |
| 14        | MZ            | 71                                     | 60                                   |
| 15        | MRS           | 78                                     | 65                                   |
| 16        | YA            | 79                                     | 50                                   |
| 17        | MHY           | 58                                     | 40                                   |
| 18        | IKB           | 60                                     | 65                                   |
| 19        | ZZ            | 66                                     | 65                                   |
| 20        | MFA           | 88                                     | 80                                   |
| 21        | LMA           | 69                                     | 60                                   |
| 22        | PRD           | 93                                     | 80                                   |
| 23        | WA            | 88                                     | 90                                   |
|           | $\bar{X}$     | <b>72</b>                              | <b>65</b>                            |

Based on Table 1 it can be concluded that the score of students critical thinking based on the data from indicators of students critical thinking which gathered from distributing questionnaire which is gathered from as many 23 respondents. This research selects the tenth grade students as sample because the researcher found that the students have learner reading. They consist of four classes : IPS Pa, IPS Pi, IPA Pa and IPA Pi. The researcher took 20 % of the tenth grade intends to find what is the correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability in tenth grade is described by the researcher.

The researcher use the test in reading ability. The students give test 20 items in this test which are the multiple choice. Time used is 45 minutes. In scoring the researcher gave 0 point for false answer the researcher gave this formula:

$$\text{Reading test score} = \frac{\text{Number of the right answer}}{\text{The total number of test}} \times 100$$

## **2. The Analysis of Data**

Having finished the research by using questionnaire about students critical thinking and students reading ability in tenth grade, the researcher used statistic calculation of the coefficient correlation of analyze the data gotten were ordinal data. The formula used as follow (Anas Sudijono,2022)

- a. To identify whether there is correlation or not between two variables, there searcher used the calculation the product moment formula. There are some steps that used in getting the correlation between critical thinking and reading ability in tenth grade. In helping the researcher to analyze the data after each score was ranked the data was tabulated a product moment table as follow:



**Table 2**  
**The Result of Coefficient Correlation**

| No | Name | X           | Y           | X <sup>2</sup> | Y <sup>2</sup> | XY             |
|----|------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1  | HNY  | 53          | 50          | 2809           | 2500           | 2650           |
| 2  | LI   | 79          | 60          | 6241           | 3600           | 4740           |
| 3  | NRC  | 69          | 60          | 4761           | 3600           | 4140           |
| 4  | DPA  | 81          | 75          | 6561           | 5625           | 6075           |
| 5  | NS   | 49          | 70          | 2401           | 4900           | 3430           |
| 6  | CAR  | 73          | 75          | 5329           | 5625           | 5475           |
| 7  | RZP  | 66          | 45          | 4356           | 2025           | 2970           |
| 8  | TM   | 84          | 75          | 7056           | 5625           | 6300           |
| 9  | RF   | 71          | 60          | 5041           | 3600           | 4260           |
| 10 | FL   | 65          | 70          | 4225           | 4900           | 4550           |
| 11 | AD   | 70          | 65          | 4900           | 4225           | 4550           |
| 12 | HA   | 54          | 65          | 2916           | 4225           | 3510           |
| 13 | MZP  | 89          | 75          | 7921           | 5625           | 6675           |
| 14 | MZ   | 71          | 60          | 5041           | 3600           | 4260           |
| 15 | MRS  | 78          | 65          | 6084           | 4225           | 4745           |
| 16 | YA   | 79          | 50          | 6241           | 2500           | 3950           |
| 17 | MHY  | 58          | 40          | 3364           | 1600           | 2320           |
| 18 | IKB  | 60          | 65          | 3600           | 4225           | 3900           |
| 19 | ZZ   | 66          | 65          | 4356           | 4225           | 4290           |
| 20 | MFA  | 88          | 80          | 7744           | 6400           | 7040           |
| 21 | LMA  | 69          | 60          | 4761           | 3600           | 4140           |
| 22 | PRD  | 93          | 80          | 8649           | 6400           | 7440           |
| 23 | WA   | 88          | 90          | 7744           | 8100           | 7920           |
|    |      | <b>1653</b> | <b>1500</b> | <b>120.849</b> | <b>100.950</b> | <b>109.330</b> |

To analyze the data which have been gotten, the researcher was used the Pearson Product Moment Correlation formula to find out the correlation, the result is got as follow:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{n \sum XY - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\sqrt{\{n \sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2\} \{n \sum Y^2 - (\sum Y)^2\}}}$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{23(109.330) - (1.653).(1.500)}{\sqrt{\{23.(120.849) - (1653)^2\} . \{23.(100.950) - (1.500)^2\}}}$$

$$r_{xy} = \frac{35.090}{\sqrt{3.385.428.300}} = \frac{35.090}{58.184,43} = 0,603$$

Based on the result above, the table showed that the correlation coefficient  $r=0.603$ . it means that was a positive relationship between students critical thinking and students reading ability. Based on the interpretation of Pearson Product Moment

Correlation Coefficient between 0,40 – 0,70. Thus, there was a enough correlation between two variables.

- b. Thus answer the second question, the coefficients of correlation that show the correlation direction between students critical thinking and students reading ability in tenth grade was 0.603. It means, there is a enough correlations between students critical thinking and students reading ability at tenth grade since the result has positive symbol.

In addition in order to determine the magnitude correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability in tenth grade, the researcher consult with interpretation below:

**Table 3**  
**The Magnitude of Correlation**

| Percentage of Coefficient | Interpretation            |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0.90 - 1.00               | Very High Correlation     |
| 0.70 - < 0.90             | High Correlation          |
| <b>0.40 - &lt; 0.70</b>   | <b>Enough Correlation</b> |
| 0.20 - < 0.40             | Low Correlation           |
| 0.00 - < 0.20             | Very Low Correlation      |

*Muhidin and Abdurrahman (2007,128)*

Shortly, the correlation coefficient showed that the correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability at tenth grade was 0.603. This interpretation answers the third question in this research. Based on the interpretation table above, 0.603 “ Enough “ correlation because it was between 0,40 – 0,70 . In conclusion, the magnitude of the correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability was enough correlation.

### 3. Hypothesis Testing

In this researcher Hypothesis Ha : there is a correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability in tenth grade Ho : there is no correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability in tenth grade the researcher consulted the index ( ) to the r-table. To consult with the r-table. To consult with the r-table, the researcher decided the Degree of Freedom (df) and also the significant level ( ). The degree of freedom in third researcher

of freedom in this researcher was  $N-2=23-2=21$ . Then the researcher used  $\alpha = 0.05$ , to know the critical value of this df. To measure whether the researcher will accept or reject the hypothesis, the researcher used this formulation (Sugiyono, 2009)

Rhitung  $\geq$  Rtab, it means  $H_a$  is accepted and  $H_o$  is rejected

Rhitung  $<$  Rtab, it means  $H_a$  is rejected and  $H_o$  is accepted

Since the r-table value on  $df=21$  and on  $\alpha=0.05$  was 0.433 and R-hitung score obtained was 0.603, it means the r-hitung score was bigger rather than r-table value in the table r. In other words, the  $H_o$  was rejected and the table  $H_a$  which stated that there is enough correlation between students' critical thinking and students' reading ability in tenth grade was accepted.

### **Discussion**

Based on the findings there were two findings in this research. The first finding was there any significant correlation between students' critical thinking and students' reading ability at tenth grade. Second finding was the correlation direction between critical thinking and students' reading ability at tenth grade.

In the first finding the researcher discussed about the significant correlation between students' critical thinking and students' reading ability at tenth grade. In learning English language, it was important for students to have good critical thinking, it would influence students' reading ability, when students' critical thinking, there are many words understood in the text they have read, when they want to express their ideas they can express well.

This finding was supported by several experts, the first Mohsen Zare said that there was a robust and positive correlation between ESP learners' levels of critical thinking ability and their reading comprehension. Highlight that higher level of reasoning, contemplating, and judging results in a better consideration of reading passages. Learners with higher critical thinking skills evaluate the text and confirm and disconfirm what is important in getting the point. (Zare, Mohsen, 2008)

Second expert, Muhammad Zamroni also stated that there was a correlation between critical thinking and reading ability in students. The ability to think critically functions for gathering information is balanced with the ability to read to find a truth through a reading source, a new knowledge will be formed. This knowledge is knowledge obtained from the think critically followed by the

accommodation process, namely the ability to read, so that the equilibration stage is reached, namely the stage of acquiring knowledge. (Zamroni, 2020) It means that the students critical thinking has a significant correlation with to handle reading and students critical thinking will stimulate reading ability so that the result of critically will continue or encourage someone to do activities read.

The second finding of this research was about the correlation direction between students critical thinking and student reading ability in tenth grade. In this research the researcher found was 0.603, it means that there is enough correlation between both variables. Moreover, the correlation direction between students critical thinking and students reading ability in tenth grade was positive correlation direction. Positive correlation direction means that if the students had good critical thinking, their reading ability would increase. It can be concluded that is important for the students to have good critical thinking to increase their reading ability.

There are several experts support this result. The first is Falina Noor Amalia and Nadya. They state that based on data from both the variable, the test is carried out hypothesis with data analysis for see the correlation between critical reading with critical thinking. Counting done using the formula product moment correlation obtained that the result of recount = 0.53 which is more large from the result of  $r_{table} = 0.374$  and from the results can be stated that was relationship between reading ability critical of thinking ability critical student study program Indonesia Language and Literature Education FKIP Tridinanti University Palembang included in the good category. If critical reading skill, thinking critical influence success students in answering questions critical reading. Data summary show that students who get a high critical thinking score, too got high marks for reading test critical. (Noor amalia, 2020)

In addition, Satyawan also stated that the results of this study are in accordance with the theory constructivism that there is a positive relationship between critical thinking skill with reading skills in PPKN students at the state University of Surabaya. The proposed hypothesis is proven that there are the relationship between critical thinking skills and reading ability in PPKN University students Surabaya country. (Satyawan Pujiono, 2012) It means that

there is positive correlation direction between students critical thinking and students reading ability.

All in all, in this finding has supported the theories an finding suggested by some experts. It was implied in the finding the students critical thinking correlated their reading ability at tenth grade in PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan. The teacher can help the students increasing their critical thinking, so that the students also can improve their reading ability. It can be seen that students' critical thinking has correlation with students' reading ability appropriate with several theories as mentioned before. It can be concluded that if the students critical thinking, their reading ability will increase.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **A. Conclusion**

The purpose this research was to know the correlation direction between students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan. In this research, correlate this score of the questionnaire about students critical thinking with score of students reading ability test.

Base on the research question about correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan, it could be concluded that:

1. There was significant correlations between students critical thinking and students reading ability at the tenth grade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan.” The result is obtained after the research consulted t-score to r-table. r-score gotten by the research was 0.603 Whereas t-table on  $\alpha=0.05$  was 0.433 it means, the t-score is bigger than t-table and  $H_a$  is accepted.
2. This research result has positive direction between students critical thinking and students reading ability at tenth grade. It proves by the result gotten by the researcher as much +0.603. It shows between students critical thinking and students reading ability in positive line direction. So, highest students critical thinking also have highest reading ability at tenth grade.

## **B. Suggestion**

Based on the finding above, it has been proved that there is magnitude correlation between students critical thinking and students reading ability at tenth grade of PPTQ Muallimin Pakan Sinayan. As can be seen on the result of the research, the researcher would like to suggest as follow:

1. For the teacher

Teachers are suggested to help the students to develop critical thinking, because it has many impacts in student's real lifes. The teacher also are expected to be able to improve students critical thinking where they can develop critical thinking habits for students reading ability at tenth grade.

2. For the students

Students are suggested to be aware of the issue and problems happened around them. They have to analyze and evaluate it to build their critical thinking. hopefully, it can help them to improve their critical thinking and reading ability as well.

3. Other researcher

Other researcher are suggested to conduct further studies on critical thinking and reading ability in order to reveal any aspects that support, enhance and develop the quality of the researcher of critical thinking and reading ability.

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