

Debaters' Critical Thinking Skills In Reading Text

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Abstract

This research aimed at finding out the measurement of the level of E2DC debater's critical thinking skill in reading newspaper and the strategy that used. There were many important things as debaters that were: make argumentation well, practice critical thinking and good public speaking as native speaker. Not only that but also you will have confidently in the classroom when you presentation and felt easier than other students. In providing evidence the debater should have good background of knowledge because that was the way to increase debaters' critical thinking. The members of this community were trained to becoming debaters and being able to make an argumentation well and have critical thinking skills with kind of issue. The researcher identified several problems in Debaters' critical thinking skills. In other words, a debater must have critical skills to understand the main idea from the text and can make inference by their own words. Not only that but also, they must be able to make it different between the fact, opinion and non-fact. The result of observation section. First debater was Excellent as the OG (Opening Government), the second debater was Average as the OO (Opening opposition), the third debater was Good as the CG (Closing Government) and the last or the fourth debater was Below Average as the CO (Closing Opposition). From all the percentage shows that, the percentage of using Cognitive Domain in reading skills from the four debaters is higher than Incorporating Critical Thinking.

Key Words: *Debaters, Critical Thinking, Reading Text*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tingkat kemampuan berpikir kritis debat E2DC dalam membaca koran dan strategi yang digunakan. Ada banyak hal penting sebagai pendebat yaitu: membuat argumentasi dengan baik, melatih pemikiran kritis dan berbicara di depan umum yang baik sebagai penutur asli. Tidak hanya itu tetapi juga Anda akan memiliki kepercayaan diri di kelas ketika Anda presentasi dan merasa lebih mudah daripada siswa lain. Dalam memberikan bukti debat harus memiliki latar belakang pengetahuan yang baik karena itulah cara untuk meningkatkan pemikiran kritis debater. Para anggota komunitas ini dilatih untuk menjadi pendebat dan mampu membuat argumentasi dengan baik dan memiliki kemampuan berpikir kritis dengan isu-isu semacam itu. Peneliti mengidentifikasi beberapa masalah dalam kemampuan berpikir kritis Debaters. Dengan kata lain, seorang pendebat harus memiliki keterampilan kritis untuk memahami ide utama dari teks dan dapat membuat kesimpulan dengan kata-kata mereka sendiri. Tidak hanya itu, mereka harus mampu membuatnya berbeda antara fakta, opini dan non-fakta. hasil bagian observasi. Pendebat pertama luar biasa sebagai OG (Opening Government), pendebat kedua rata-rata sebagai OO (Opening opposition), pendebat ketiga baik sebagai CG (Closing Government) dan pendebat terakhir atau keempat berada dibawah rata-rata sebagai CO (Closing Opposition). Untuk strategi yang digunakan semua persentase menunjukkan bahwa, persentase penggunaan Cognitive Domain dalam keterampilan membaca dari keempat pendebat lebih tinggi daripada Incorporating Critical Thinking.

INTRODUCTION

Debate is the process of inquiry and advocacy, a way of arriving at a reasoned judgment on a proposition. The students of Mandalika University of education have got facility to improve critical thinking skill in Executive English Debate Community (E2DC). The debaters' of E2DC held weekly debate practice with their senior in E2DC and debaters from other collage. There were many important things as debaters that were: make argumentation well, practice critical thinking and good public speaking as native speaker. Not only that but also you will have confidently in the classroom when presentation and felt easier than other students. In every debate practice the debaters were guided to build great argument which was

consist of AREL, that is Assertion, Reasoning, Evidence, Link back. In using AREL the debaters should give assertion with the reason and provided fact as evidence than link back the evidence with the assertion as argument.

Arguments may take many forms, but successfully arguments shared a specific set of elements that we called it AREL stand for Assertion, Reason, Evidence, and Link Back. A complete argument contains based on (National Speech and Debate Association, 2009). Therefore, the debaters should use AREL when case building in debate. But in the real situation the debaters can't provide enough evidence to defend their argument or statement with the real data so it shows that the debaters lack of critical thinking. According to David Hitchcock (2015) an ideal "critical

thinker” is open-minded and fair-minded, searches for evidences, tries to be well-informed, is attentive to others’ views and their reasons, proportions belief to the evidence, and is willing to consider alternatives and revise beliefs.

In providing evidence the debater should have good background of knowledge because that was the way to increase debaters’ critical thinking. According to Robert Ennis “Background knowledge is absolutely essential for critical thinking.” Therefore, the best way to increase the critical thinking was having good background of knowledge. The researcher offered a solution in increase the debaters’ critical thinking by reading newspaper. Commonly the newspaper that had high effectiveness in increase background of knowledge were newspapers that discuss International Relation, international politics, Artificial Intelligent, economic etc. the source of data can be found in High rate of online news such as, BBC NEWS, The Guardian, The Economics etc. The members of this community were trained to becoming debaters and being able to make an argumentation well and have critical thinking skills with kind of issue. The debaters looking for the information and the data from the newspapers, to know how the debaters can find the fact, opinion and no fact the researcher gave any kind newspapers and built some argument before the present their argument.

If they had critical thinking skills, that could be contribute not only in the program being debaters but also, they could apply in their class how to make argument well and how to knowing that is fact, opinion or non-fact and be a good presenter, so having critical thinking skills was really important by reading newspaper. It is of debaters’ and students’ routine to face written text in their daily life such as in magazine, newspaper, books, articles on paper and internet. Those written gave so much information for the Debater and student. Moreover, the students got some textbox in the class which are written in English. Those text contain a lot of information related to the subject being learned. In accessing information, they need sufficient knowledge of English, particularly, reading

skill, since most of the information is available in written text. Reading is a process to expand knowledge from written text.

According to Pettel et al, (2008:114) reading is certainly an important activity for expanding knowledge of language. Through reading, student can enhance their experience, develop new concept, solve the problem, and broaden their mind. It means that reading skills help the Debaters to understand the information the written text. In understanding the meaning of the text, it was also influenced by critical thinking. Critical thinking will affect students’ understanding of text. According to Paul and elder in Imran (2007:41) critical thinking is process of analyzing and accessing thinking with a view improve it. It means critical thinking is needed in reading process to influence Debaters’ capability in understanding the text. Based on the observation in E2DC, the researcher found out several problems such as; first, difficulty in differentiate the fact, opinion and non-fact that they have read text before. Second, make inference from the text. It can be seen how Debaters are difficult to make their own perception with their own words regarding the text. The last, they difficult make conclusion of the text. Those the weakness to know process the debaters in critical thinking and incapability in understand the meaning of words and in comprehending ideas or message from each paragraph.

The researcher identified several problems in Debaters’ critical thinking skills. In other words, a debater must have critical skills to understand the main idea from the text and can make inference by their own words. Not only that but also, they must be able to make it different between the fact, opinion and non-fact.

RESEARCH METHOD

The method of this research used descriptive method, because this method try to solve and answer the problems in the current situation and must be proven true or the function of this method to describe or provide an overview the object of the research throught sample data or population as it is, with analyzing and making conclusion. In this study, the researcher used a case study design.

Stake (2013) stated that the case study as a research method that has an important purpose in researching and revealing the uniqueness and peculiarities of the characteristics found in the case under study, where the case is the reason why the research was conducted. Therefore, in case study research, it is necessary to explore in-depth information about all matters relating to the case, whether its nature, activities, history, environmental and physical conditions, functions, and so on. In choosing an instrument to collect research data, the researcher used debate observation and questionnaire. The chosen instrument is expected to provide coherent data on the research question. The questionnaire is a data collection tool that is used as a reference for the first question, which is about the difficulties the debaters in debate. Data collection is a step used by researchers to obtain data or how the data was obtained. The data needed for this research were collected by questionnaire and debate observation.

Meanwhile debate observation we mean here is the debater will do the debate using British parliamentary system. British parliamentary debate, or BP, is the most popular style or intercollegiate debating in the world. It is the style used the annual; world universities Debating Championship (WUDC). Four teams participate in a BP round. Two teams represent the government (in support of the motion), and two teams represent the opposition (opposed to the government and motion). Here are the names of the teams, and the names of the individual roles: Opening Government (OG) prime minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Opening Opposition (OO) Leader and Deputy Leader of opposition, Closing Government (CG) Member of government and government whip, Closing Opposition (CO) Member of opposition and opposition whip.

RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The data collection from observation to questionnaire the researcher found there were four debaters attend the debate class. When the researcher collecting the data in E2DC

they only have four debaters that active attend training debate and who experience in debate competition and the researcher want to analysis which debaters are really has good critical thinking and good strategies in reading newspaper. After collecting the data the researcher found as the data bellow:

1. Debaters' CTSW

The data collected from analyzed by observing the debate that observed by the researcher while being the judge with the debaters' coach to get the accurate argument analysis. The debate is online from zoom meeting because the debaters are busy and can not be held directly. The percentage showed that **OG (Opening Government)** has two points from their argument. **First** they said that: "there are so many problems happened in Russia these days related to the economy, such as sanction on Russia's product from EU make Russia suffer a lot and it will weaken Russia's ability to finance the war". Based on the statement above from the first debater try to explain problems happened in Russia about how the Russia's product get sanction from the UE such as the export and import restriction exclude product primarily intended for consumption and product related to health, pharmacy, food and agriculture, in order not to harm the Russian population. So the first debater from OG (Opening Government) tries to analysis by *detection* the problem.

The **second** argument from the first speaker from OG (Opening Government) said that: "The list of banned product is showing the negative impact of the sanction on the Russian economy and it will make the income to this country will be lesser year by year. Indirectly, it makes the people will estimation show that Russian's inflation rate will increase sharply in 2022, reaching up to 22% ". Based on the statement above the debater showing what the negative effect of the sanction of Russian economy and will make the income to this country will be lesser, According to independent analysis by the world Bank, international

Monetary Fund and The Organization for economy Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2022 will be a bad year for the Russian economy. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to drop by at least 5.5% in the best scenario to almost 9% in the worst scenario. So the first debater for OG (Opening Government) try to analysis by *diagram* the income of Russian after get sanction from the UE.

The percentage showed that **OO (Opening Opposition)** has three points from their arguments. **First** they said that: “Russian need to make sure their territory is safe from other countries, especially NATO. So, they need to strengthen their military forces”. Based on the statement above the debaters tell how the Russian need to strengthen their military, over the decades, Russia’s army has been touted as one of the strongest in the world. Indeed, a nuclear -armed military. As if to remind the world of this fact, President Vladimir Putin has regularly treated both Russian and the world to perfectly choreographed parades and military exercises. So the first debater from OO (Opening Opposition) tries to analysis by *check* the situation in the Russian country.

The **second** argument from the first speaker from OO (Opening Opposition) said that: “As Vladimir Putin ordered, Russia will add the number of their number of their soldier to strengthen their security”. Based on the statement above the Russian armed forces claim to have 1 million soldiers, and in the near future 1.1 million, according to Margaret Elkin of the German institute for international and security affairs. But the real size is much smaller, she holds DW.

The **third** argument from the first speaker from OO (Opening Opposition) said that: “Russian already suffered heavy losses from Ukraine, and it makes this country need to do military expansion”. Based on the statement above a large number of the deployable Russian units have already been used in Ukraine, she said. “They have suffered

major losses in terms of soldiers killed or injured”. Exact casualty numbers are difficult to determine, but US intelligence believes Russia has suffered at least tens of thousands of dead and wounded. The idea that Russia has infinite reserves of deployable soldiers is a far cry from reality, said George barrows of the institute for study of war, a US think tank. So from the third argument first debater from OO (Opening Opposition) try to analysis by *assert* if the Russia country needs to do military expansion.

The percentage showed that **CG (Closing Government)** has three points from their argument. The **first** argument said that: “Their GDP dropped during the six month war with Ukraine”. Based on the statement above Russia’s economy contracted in the second quarter – the first full three months since the country’s invasion of Ukraine – and economists are divided over whether it can continue to weather the onslaught of international sanctions in the long term. The Russian economy shrunk by 4% year on year over the second quarter, although this was less sharp than the 5% expected by analyses. The Central Banks of Russia expect the downturn to deepen in the quarters ahead, reaching its lowest point in the first half of 2023. However, many economists consider the long term damage to Russia’s economy to be much more severe, as a flight of business and talent gradually compresses economic activity, along with a lack of access to critical technologies. So the first argument from CG (Closing Opposition) try to analysis by *check* the Russian GDP dropped during the six months war with Ukraine.

The second argument from CG (Closing Government) said that: “75.000 soldiers were killed because of the war between the Ukraine and Russia, and if we want to do military expansion, it will make society will judge the government”. Based on the statement above up to half the troops Russia has committed to the war in Ukraine have been killed or injured, according to classified

information from the white house. Joe Biden's administration official told house lawmakers that 75,000 Russian have been killed in the war, but on current estimates, Russia has mobilized up towards of 150,000, meaning half have either died or been maimed. So the second argument from CG (Closing Government) try to analysis by *detect* the Russian have been killed in the war.

The **third** argument from CG (Closing Government) said that: "stabilization of the economy should be the one that needs to be prioritized because it can make this country get their power over their competitors like china, USA etc. Based on the statement above Russia's vast geography is an important determinant of its economic activity, with the country holding a large share of the world's natural resources? It has been widely described as an energy superpower as it has the world's largest natural gas reserves, the second-largest coal reserves, the eighth-largest oil reserves, and the largest oil shale reserves in Europe. So the economy of Russian should be the one that prioritized because it can make this country get their power over their competitors.

Based on the percentage the **CG (Closing Opposition)** has two points from their arguments. The **First** argument said that: "There is no problem at all related to the economy, it can be proven from the fact that the currency of Russia is increasing during the war, it is beneficial for Russia when this war happens". Based on the statement above in the days Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and the west imposed sanctions, the roble collapsed. The number of robes to one US dollar quickly fell from about 78 to 138- a huge move in the world of fore (foreign exchange), and terrifying for those with their wealth in the Russian currency. Since then, sanction has tightened and the war shown no signs of reaching an end, but something unexpected has happened to the roble. Many commentators had

thought it would continue weakening, but instead it is now stronger than when the war began. The US dollar is now worth 37 robes, the best exchange rate in about four years. The oil price, as you can see from the chart below, is linked to the trouble – when oil rises, the roble gets stronger. The price of oil has broadly been climbing since the first half of 2020, which benefited the roble in the run-up to the war. So the first argument from CO (Closing Opposition) the debater try to analysis by *ensure* if there is no problem related the Russian economy during this war happens.

The Second argument from CO (Closing Government) said that: "Russia wants to maintain their power over Ukraine in order to save their nation because when Ukraine and several countries around them join NATO, it will make a serious threat to Russia. So that's why it is better to do military expansion to prepare for the worst case to happen the worst case to happen in Russia". Based on the statement above Vladimir Putin sees the current security architecture as both unacceptable and dangerous to Russian. It is unacceptable because it manifests a series of tightening military, political, and economic relationship between Ukraine and the west, and Putin sees the west as fundamentally hostile to Russian. The current set-up is dangerous, on Putin's eyes is not too much because of what these relationship amount to in the winter of 2021-2022, but because of what they have the potential to become, which is a combined force capable either of countering Russia interests in its neighborhood or of destabilizing Russia itself by modelling a different kind of regime. Ukraine 's possible membership in NATO symbolized the security dilemma Putin perceives on his western border, but the dilemma itself runs much deeper than the unlikely prospect of NATO membership for Ukraine . What Putin want is to unwind the tightening military, political, and economic

relationship between Ukraine and the west.

Based the statement about from the CO (Closing Opposition) the debater try to analysis by *ensure* if Russian can maintain their power over Ukraine in order to save their nation. Based on the statement of the problem to know and describe the critical thinking ability of E2DC members in reding newspaper and compare from the result of four debater after debate most of them are able to to describe and explain what the motion mean from the newspaper what they read and will be explain detail by supporting data bellow.

2. Debater’s reading strategies

The questionnaires that gave to the debaters are used to analyze the debaters’ critical thinking strategies in reading text. From twelve statements that gave, the respond of the questionnaire number (1-6 that was percentage that categorized as the first strategy namely Cognitive Domain in Reading Skills). Meanwhile, the respond of the question number (7-12 that was percentage than categorized as the second strategy namely Incorporating Critical Thinking in Reading skills). The purpose of collecting data was using questionnaire to know what the debaters strategy from twelve statements and used what strategy from both strategies. The researcher was collecting the data from online by share the questionnaire to their email.

The percentage of questionnaire scores for both strategies showed as follow:

Name	$\frac{\text{percentage score}}{\text{total score}} \times 100$		Categories	
	Cogniti ve	Incorporati ng	Cogniti ve domain	Incorporati ng critical thinking
Anggit o Abima yu	66,66 %	58,33%	✓	
Virgini a	79,2 %	66,66 %	✓	
Firman	83,33 %	62,5 %	✓	

Titin	70,83 %	58,33	✓	
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Questionnaire section in Reading Skills it was found that the percentage of debaters’ strategy which used in reading text out of 100% each strategy. The first debater used 66,66% Cognitive Domain and 58% for Incorporating Critical Thinking. The second debater used Cognitive Domain Strategy in 79,2% then 66,66% for Incorporating Critical Thinking. In sequence, the third debater used 83,33% and 62,5%. The last debater used 70,83% and 58,33%. From all the percentage shows that, the precentage of using Cognitive Domain in reading skills from the four debaters is higher than Incorporating Critical Thinking.

CONCLUSIONS

In this chapter, the researcher comes to conclude this research. Based on the result of observation section. First debater was Excellent as the OG (Opening Government), the second debater was Average as the OO (Opening opposition), the third debater was Good as the CG (Closing Government) and the last or the fourth debater was Below Average as the CO (Closing Opposition). It can be concluded that the debaters critical thinking skills work in reading text. It was proofed by the observation result on how the debaters could give the evidence such fact, real data and opinion in debate practice which discussed the reading text topic that had given.

On the other hand, for questionnaire section in Reading Skills it was found that the percentage of debaters’ strategy which used in reading text out of 100% each strategy. The first debater used 66,66% Cognitive Domain and 58% for Incorporating Critical Thinking. The second debater used Cognitive Domain Strategy in 79,2% then 66,66% for Incorporating Critical Thinking. In sequence, the third debater used 83,33% and 62,5%. The last debater used 70,83% and 58,33%. From all the percentage shows that, the precentage of using Cognitive Domain in reading skills from the four debaters is higher than Incorporating Critical Thinking.

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