

Assessing Strategies of Performing Critical Thinking in an Argumentative Essay

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to assess strategies of performing critical thinking in an argumentative essay to a number of selected scientific articles. The method used is descriptive with a qualitative approach with systematic literature review. Manual coding is used to map and get the relevant data to tabulate; content analysis is used to analyze the data. The result study says that critical thinking used in writing argumentative essay is effected by the experience of writing, background of knowledge of the author, and the awareness to respond to the issue. Consequently, the sharpness of the argumentative essay with critical thinking for each author is different.

Key words: Critical Thinking, Argumentative Essay, Assessing

INTRODUCTION

The skill of writing with critical thinking is one aspect that should be trained and practiced routinely in an effort to develop the ability to narrate the ideas in the written text (A. Sharadgah et al., 2019). The skill of writing in any kind of text should be flagged to drive the emergence of ideas in the written form. Everyone has the its own way to be able to discuss their ideas to be spoken. Therefore, it is important to say that writing in process is the effort to deliver the ideas relevant to talk about. It means that each person writes because of its interest and passion. Consequently, the ability of writing critically needs the long time and it requires the time management thoroughly. Writing with criticalness is the main point that gives the path of discussion (Mohamed Rubiaee et al., 2019a). Therefore, it is important to say that to write the issue and discuss it are the long process and deep discussion going to top. The strategy of giving discussion and analysis for each person will be different and this causes the way of thinking differently. Building the interactive and conducive situation supporting the writing activities running well are the ways of delivering healthy comments and argumentation.

The important to thing to say is that critical thinking that is narrated and performed in the framework of writing shows the necessity of building and the authority of

discussion in a whole discussion (Nejmaoui, 2018). As a result, the power of critical thinking in writing is located on the perspective on how the author positions him or her to speak up for the importance of accuracy. Writing in critical thinking should be understood as the actualizing ideas in the written form (Karanja, 2021). Writing the argumentative essay based on the critical thinking skills should consider the features of delivering critical thinking skills. When writing the argumentative essay, it is important to insert the main features of critical thinking indicators as the effort to show how the writing can speak. The way of inserting the critical thinking skills in argumentative essay is based on the goal that should be paid attention (A. Sharadgah et al., 2019). It means that the strategies used by every person in writing their argumentative essay will be variative and it is based on their experiences and knowledge dealing with the issue that is being talked about.

Whatever the condition is, it is important to say that putting the way of writing critical thinking skills in argumentative, then, is coming from the perspective that should be used. Therefore, understanding the problem, the research problem or the problem that should be written is the main factor triggering the changes for better way of writing (Wale & Bishaw, 2020). Positioning the view in which the problem comes from should be looked at as the starting point that should be stated. The research problem that is performed in the context of issue to discuss and being supported by the data is the material to enrich the discussion (Godsell, 2022). The main point in the discussion should be rich of critical views that means writing an argumentative essay strengthened with critical thinking has the strong basis for delivering the relevant points to state the importance of the strategies to speak up.

Because strategies in delivering critical thinking are important to highlight in an argumentative essay, enclosing and inserting the important things in the essay should be enhanced and underlined (Marthaliakirana et al., 2022). Open new perspective and giving perspectives are a part that should appear in the text. Critical thinking in an argumentative essay should be considered as an effort to prove that there are many strategies for performing critical thinking in an argumentative essay. Whatever the condition is, the skill of making argumentation and counter-argumentation is the important aspect that leads discussion and interpretation, giving colors of perspective to convince the readers (Sato, 2022). The ability to make discussion and argumentation becomes the keyword that drives change and progress. The thing to remember is that the skill of writing an argumentative essay by maximizing the role of critical thinking in the text determines the path of discussion. Therefore, the existence of critical thinking in argumentative essays should be driven to be the locomotive for moving the students to have such skill in their essay writing. Enhancing strategies of critical writing in argumentative to the students are needed and important as the effort to create the sensitivity to social fact as the source of writing. Among the previous studies, all studies tend to find the results and discuss them in separated topics between critical thinking skills and argumentative essay so that the discussion does not focus on what to talk about. However, all studies support writing argumentative essay with critical thinking

skills. Considering those, this study aims to promote the strategies of writing argumentative essays with critical thinking skills.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Critical Thinking in Argumentative Essay Writing

Narrating openness to respond to, giving deep and detailed analysis, also interpretation of reality should be considered the manifestation of critical thinking skills (Shadloo et al., 2019). It means that the ability to analyze and interpret is the consequence of building the skill to be sensitive and aware of any issues that are important to talk about. As a result, awareness is the key point that should be paid attention to (Lim & Chung, 2021). It is important to say that critical thinking is the paradigm for seeing an issue in an open mind and ready to welcome any changes (Mokhtar et al., 2020). When critical thinking is related to an argumentative essay, this essay should be completed with such skill because the features of an argumentative essay are not sufficient to represent critical thinking skills themselves.

Although an argumentative essay is categorized as an essay that is considered to give an argument and counter-argument, it is weak in using critical thinking (Nejmaoui, 2018). When an argumentative essay is combined with critical thinking skills, the writing process will run better. There will be a way of inserting new perspectives that are delivered. The features of an argumentative essay are well-researched, accurate, detailed, and current information to support the thesis statement and consider other points of view; the characteristics of critical thinking skills are creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, decision-making, inference, analytic reasoning, logical reasoning, objectivity, and introspection. Either an argumentative essay or critical thinking features contribute toward the success of a good essay (Shahriari & Shadloo, 2019; Mokhtar et al., 2020; Ma & Li, 2022a). Therefore, writing an argumentative essay with critical thinking skills helps to make clear and detailed discussion, analysis, and interpretation of a text.

While critical thinking skills collaborate with an argumentative essay as an effort to produce critical writing, it is functional to drive a way of thinking at a higher level (WU, 2020; Lu & Nguyen, 2022) This ability contributes to qualified achievement of argumentative essay proposed (Efendi, 2018; Jageer Singh & Raja Harun, 2021). It means that critical thinking works for writing an argumentative essay because in it there is a higher thinking framework to find an issue, write the issue, and discuss it in detailed analysis and interpretation. The result is that critical thinking skills have been working for writing the argumentative essay.

METHOD

Design and Samples

The research method used is descriptive with a qualitative approach. Every data gathered is coming from data obtaining that brings descriptive understanding. The qualitative approach used in this study started with how the data should be looked at and found as deeply as possible according to the principle of qualitative research. Therefore, to tabulate data, manual coding is used. Because the purpose of coding in this study was to tabulate all strategies of critical thinking skills performed in an argumentative essay, data mapping through coding was started by searching for patterns in data to organize and group similarly coded data into categories. It is also called systematic literature review in which each selected article relevant to the research problem proposed from the findings was ordered systematically (Saldana, 2013).

Instrument and Procedure

The data of this research are gotten from performing a number of selected article considered in line with the research problem proposed, define the review scope and search strings, define inclusion and exclusion criteria, define what makes a high quality paper, extract evidence from the selected papers, structure the evidence in order to draw conclusion.

Data Analysis

The data analysis used is content analysis which was a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from texts or other meaningful matters to the context of their uses. In implementing content analysis, the implementation started with a research question proposed, a body of text or data coded, and context to make sense of the body of the text (Krippendorff, 2004).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned in the previous part that the data of this research were gotten from some selected numbers in line with the research problem proposed. There were five selected articles as the data of this research presented in Table 1

Table 1. The Selected Articles as the Data of this Research

Study	Objective	Dataset	Methods	Relevant Findings
Sato, T. (2022). Assessing critical thinking through L2 argumentative essays: an investigation of relevant and salient criteria from raters' perspectives. <i>Lang Test Asia</i> , 12(9): 1-19.	The conceptualization of CT as a construct and the development of rating scales for measuring it in L2 educational contexts	Test	Experimental Research	The raters' intuitive perceptions of students' CT skills were linked to the Task Achievement and, partly, Lexical

<p>https://doi.org/10.1186/s40468-022-00159-4</p>				<p>Resource criteria in the IELTS (British Council, n.d.). Additionally, raters' written comments revealed that their judgments of the writers' CT skills were affected by the essay's relevancy to the question, content development, logicity, and quality of ideas.</p>
<p>Karanja, L. (2021). Teaching critical thinking in a college-level writing course: A critical reflection. <i>International Online Journal of Education and Teaching (IOJET)</i>, 8(1). 229-249</p>	<p>Literature on the relationship between writing and the development of critical thinking skills</p>	<p>Research literature on the relationship between writing and critical thinking skills</p>	<p>Critical reflection</p>	<p>Establishing product goals and developing problems that will help students to develop critical thinking skill</p>
<p>Sharadgah, T. A., Sa'di, R. A., & Ahmad, H. H. (2019). Promoting and Assessing EFL College Students' Critical Thinking Skills through Argumentative Essay Writing. <i>Arab World English Journal</i>, 10(4): 133 -150</p>	<p>The effectiveness of promoting CTSSs through argumentative essay-writing among English major students in terms of interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference, and explanation</p>	<p>An instructional material</p>	<p>Quantitative-qualitative methods</p>	<p>Explicitly teaching CTSSs through essay writing can be effective in the development of these skills</p>
<p>Nejmaoui, N., (2019). Improving EFL Learners' Critical Thinking Skills in Argumentative</p>	<p>To explore the effect of integrating critical thinking on learners' use of critical thinking skills in argumentative writing</p>	<p>Test</p>	<p>Experimental research</p>	<p>Better performance after the students' critical thinking skills in their</p>

Writing. <i>English Language Teaching</i> 12(1):98-109				argumentative essay
Pei, Z., Zheng, C., Zhang, M., (2017). Critical Thinking and Argumentative Writing: Inspecting the Association among EFL Learners in China. <i>English Language Teaching</i> , 10(10) 31-42	bridging the gap by measuring the association between CT and EFL writing among a group of university students in China.	Critical Thinking Skills Test	Descriptive quantitative	Critical Thinking Skills have an effect performance to achievement of argumentative essay performance

When considering every author used their way to perform critical thinking skills in their writing argumentative essay, it seems that each of them is different in composing their argumentative essay with critical thinking. It means that the experience, background knowledge, and best practice in writing determine how they write the issue, analyze it, and give interpretation. Consequently, their differences in writing argumentative essays with critical thinking skills are the reflection on how they learn to write, how they conduct the research for their writing activities, and how they arrange their ideas into written documents for good performance. Writing argumentative essays with critical thinking should be strong with experience in writing and knowledge of what to write and to discuss.

The findings are interesting and they should be connected with the discussion about a number of relevant references to say that writing an argumentative essay and critical thinking are interconnected. Critical thinking skills when used for finding out the information or issue considered important to discuss are interesting to use (Malik, 2022). It has the strategic instrument to get detailed information dealing with what to get, what to collect, and what to analyze. Critical thinking skills contribute to form the students' minds to be open to reality and fact (Thorndahl & Stentoft, 2020). When someone has such skill, it influences his or her way of thinking to look at the problem openly and how it should analyzed also interpreted. Critical thinking skill in any way appears as the strategy of speaking up, giving perspective, and making a statement. The thing to remember is that critical thinking skills are the framework of thinking that bases itself on the reality or issue to portray and interpret. It is important to say that critical thinking skills are the power of thinking that drives the students to see phenomena outside the normal framework. Critical thinking skills that are used to sharpen knowledge and give perspective to the issue become the framework underlining the process of speaking and listening to the facts (Winch, 2019). Every issue that is looked at from the critical thinking skill forms the way of life.

An argumentative essay is an essay that commonly is used by authors to narrate their thinking results. An argumentative essay is a document that reflects the author's mind or thought as an effort to describe and argue his or her ideas in an

argumentative text. It is important to say that argumentative essay does not only debate or discuss, give perspective or evaluation. More than that, the argumentative essay that is supported by the element of critical thinking skills proves the importance of deep and sharp discussion. It means that an argumentative essay with critical thinking is the recipe to color the process of discussion in the text (Weissinger, 2004; Kabataş et al., 2020; Larsson, 2021). Because an argumentative essay deals with the ability to give discussion and analysis, critical thinking skills should be performed and shown as the effort to develop the way of thinking performed in the text. Many ways of strategies are used by anyone to perform their skill in critical thinking. Each way of delivering the strategy used influences the way of arguments.

To comprehend the critical thinking implementation in an argumentative essay, it should start by looking at the issue or topic that should be paid attention to (Padmanabha, 2018). Paying attention is the starting point that opens the path of discussion where it should go away. Looking at the issue determines what should be talked about for the next level of discussion. Consequently, it is important to say that having a narrow topic that will be generated into main points to talk over is part of a long and detailed discussion. In this context, the topic chosen needs to color every part of the introduction into a discussion (Jaroongkhongdach et al., 2011). After this step is over, narrating the detailed topic should be performed as clearly as possible because this takes into a full discussion that gives consideration and analysis of whether each piece of data should be right or not. Whatever the condition is, critical thinking should be used in detail in which the ability to expose and explore the findings with a way of critical thinking should be shown (Kabataş et al., 2020). As an effort to produce a well-established text with detail and critical writing in an argumentative essay, there should appear a framework to have different ways of thinking and different ways of exploring. There must be a different feature of thinking and how to think to give comments and perspective. There must be a way to bring up the indicators of critical thinking in their text. What should be understood in this context is that exploring and exposing the critical thinking indicators are the highlighted ones. Therefore, the ability of each author in this context is different because they have different experiences in writing. The different experiences in writing an argumentative essay influence the way of thinking while using critical thinking skills in their text (Samanhudi & Linse, 2019).

The thing to remember is that narrating the ideas in the text using critical thinking skills in an argumentative essay is the result of a long thinking process to answer the research problem proposed and it drives the process of writing based on the fact and deep analysis (Czarniawska-Jorges, 1997). It means that writing is a long journey to read facts, give meaning to facts, and get analysis from facts so that there is a result of interpretation and fact in a written text (Hays, 2005; Chidiac, 2019; Adiyanto, 2021). The interpretation itself is the part of responding to the problem formulated and proposed. Therefore, each article that talks about critical thinking in an argumentative essay displays its own way of talking about it. Each of them has their own strategy for speaking up and it signals that there is no fixed way or

strategy in expressing. The way of expression is based on the topic, the issue, the problem in the issue to talk about, and how to strengthen the topic with data, evidence, analysis, and interpretation. Because of that condition, it is important to say that an argumentative essay based on critical thinking is the effort of writing that uses any ways or strategies to strengthen the way of analysis and interpretation. Through argumentative essay based on critical thinking, it helps the process of writing composed and written by the author to talk and respond to facts with an open mind.

The existence of an argumentative essay based on critical thinking is the part to prove that writing an issue and giving an analysis also interpretation of the issue needs a deep understanding of how to act (Bekele et al., 2022). Therefore, an argumentative essay with critical thinking is the road to confirming the importance of strategy to answer the research problem proposed (Schneer, 2014; Salmani Nodoushan, 2016). The research proposal presented should be approached with critical thinking skills while writing an argumentative essay. It is not easy to write an argumentative essay with critical thinking if the author does not have deep thinking and analysis in responding to the issue or fact faced (Wu, 2021). It requires the extra energy to use critical thinking in writing an argumentative essay and every author in their writing work is different to expose and explore their way of writing in argumentative. It means that critical thinking through an argumentative essay determines the way of thinking and how to respond to the fact or issue (Romadhoni et al., 2022). It is important to say that writing an argumentative essay through critical thinking tries to present a narration of thought and analysis ending with deep discussion.

The thing to remember is that the process of writing with argumentative essay through critical thinking helps open new understanding and knowledge (Marni et al., 2019). As a result, each way of thinking the authors make is a part of evoking knowledge and change. Writing with argumentative essay through critical thinking should be sharpened and tried to appear as the effort to create the writing on behalf of change and progress (Cahyadewi & Lolita, 2021; Ma & Li, 2022). It is important to say that strategies of writing with critical thinking through an argumentative essay need to be admitted to drive the ability to respond to reality with an open paradigm. There is no change without effort to make changes. It means that we need to make any way of narrating the way of thinking in writing an argumentative essay to do better. The thing to remember is that the attendance of critical thinking inserted in an argumentative essay needs to be presented in an open way so that there is a dialogue between the text and context. Critical thinking situation takes place and this creates changes in thinking (Black, 2012). It is important to say that the process of critical thinking taking place in such a situation should be understood as the intention to give meaning.

Narrating the ideas in the context of discussing and analysis in an argumentative essay is a part of using critical thinking skills (Li & Razali, 2019). As a result, the skill of the author in utilizing his or her skill in writing an argumentative essay with

critical thinking is the element that supports the success of writing the issue. A problem that appears in a text is a capital that should be enriched with a detailed elaboration of discussion in the further discussion of the text. A problem that is polished with new perspectives and additional information or data contributes toward the success of writing. A problem that is analyzed with detailed discussion and data determines the path of discussion in the further discussion of the text. Consequently, it is important to use any strategies in writing the issue in an argumentative essay with critical thinking. A problem with analysis can start from deductive or inductive reasoning. It means that there should be flexibility in understanding the way of thinking to give analysis and discussion to the issue proposed.

Every problem appearing can come with its analysis and discussion; it depends on the author how he or she starts to write his or her introduction (Watson, 1992). Principally, when it is followed by thinking syntax (Maknuunah et al., 2023), the author should understand the detailed subtopics to analyze and discuss. Because of this aspect, it influences the way of thinking in the next step of writing the argumentative essay. Therefore, the ability to write an argumentative essay is determined by the experience and knowledge of critical thinking skills. More experienced and knowledgeable in writing an argumentative essay, it forms the way of writing contextually and enables the ability to write critically. What should be remembered in this context is that writing an argumentative essay with critical thinking skills needs the specific skill that must be involved in understanding the issue, giving a deep reading of the issue, narrating the explanation of the issue, and so forth (Nindya & Widiati, 2020). It means that it is very important to signal the necessity of exploring any ways of reading the issue so that there are variations of analyzing and interpreting the issue to get analysis and interpretation before it ends with the problem solution.

Any variations of performing critical thinking skills in an argumentative essay prove that the authors are rich in strategies used in their writing activities. Consequently, they are called innovative in using critical thinking skills in their argumentative essays. Because critical thinking in argumentative is the essay that starts, takes place, and ends with reason, analysis, and interpretation, it is important to maximize the role of critical thinking in writing an argumentative essay (Rusfandi, 2015). The ability to create the debate and interpretation in the context of the argument in the essay is needed. When the debate in the text appears, it has the power to move reasoning and logic to show the analysis and interpretation so that this case helps the achievement of the issue to finalize the discussion.

Whatever the condition is, the detail of discussion to respond to the topic proposed at the beginning of the writing is the holding in a discussion. Writing, then, should be understood as the part of composing ideas written in a text. The important thing to highlight is that writing an argumentative essay with critical thinking boosts the mind to be able to be productive and creative in reading any issues and deliver comments and arguments to support and strengthen reasons for achieving the goal

of the topic proposed. It means that it is very important to say how we as authors endeavor to express the ideas to support the topic as detailed as possible (Mohamed Rubiaee et al., 2019b). Ideas tied in a written text should be considered as the effort to state the materials to give meanings to what is being talked about. That is why, whatever the issue or topic is narrated at the beginning of the text, it needs sensitivity to insert the main points of what to write and discuss in the next paragraphs called a body of argumentative essay because the soul of the text depends on the body of the text itself (Marni et al., 2019). Although the topic proposed is interesting and the way of introducing the background of the topic is eye-catching in the beginning, it is weak to tie between the introductory paragraph and essay body, it will have a bad impact on detailed discussions that are needed to deliver.

CONCLUSION

The ability to write an argumentative essay is supported and strengthened by the experience of writing, background of knowledge, and awareness of to issue. The more critical the person is, the more aware the person. The more experienced writing the person has, the more experienced the person has in writing. In a word, it is important to use critical thinking in an argumentative essay in practice by routinely performing critical thinking skills in an argumentative essay.

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