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Proceedings

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
IDENTITY IN THE 21st CENTURY:
EXPECTATION AND REALITY

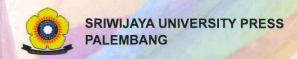
Editors:

Chuzaimah Dahlan Diem

Sriwijaya University

Akhyar Rido

Teknokrat University



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Head, Steering Committee Vice, Steering Committee Assistant Editors and Layout Chuzaimah Dahlan Diem

Rita Inderawati

Isrnet Magma Anugrah Irwinsyah Nasution Badriyah Ulfah Hervin ARN

Dio Resta Permana

Fachrunnyssa. Hanafziah Miftahul Fajri

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Preface

Over the past few years, restructuring educational system has become one of the programs of the policy makers in the region of Asia and Pacific, including in Indonesia. To reform the quality of Indonesian education, the government has developed the National Education Standards (NES) one of which is the standard of Educators and Educational Personnel which includes teachers of English as educators. Therefore, we decided to focus the theme of the 7th SRS National Conference, December 16, 2017 on *Teachers of English identity in the 21st Century: Expectation and Reality*.

The publication of the proceedings of this conference is aimed at increasing teachers of English motivation and urging them to write and share results of their studies and or thoughts to their peers through this publication. Hopefully, whoever interested in English language education could get the benefits of the presence of this volume.

Palembang, May 2018 Editors,

Chuzaimah Dahlan Diem Akhyar Rido

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CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING SKILLS: THE NEEDS IN THE 21st CENTURY LANGUAGE LEARNING

Nurul Aryanti nurulpoltek@yahoo.com Aria Septi Anggaira ariasepti@yahoo.com

Abstract: Creative thinking is both divergentand convergent. It tries to create something newand seekfor validity in something that exists. Hence, one can conclude that while creative thinking is generative in purpose, critical thinking is analytical in purpose. This is one of the main differences between creative thinking and critical thinking. Although creative and critical thinking may very well be different sides of the same coin, they are not identical. These two thinking skills are needed in the 21st century learning as well as in language learning-instruction. This article attempts to provide an understanding of the two terms while elaborating the difference. In addition, the discussion will be also looking at the existing literatures on the needs of the two skills in the 21st century-language learning.

Keywords: critical, creative, thinking, language, learning

INTRODUCTION

The 21st century led the community to have skills in a particular field. Many educational theorists and policy makers claim developing the 21st Century competencies will equip their nation's students with the creative, critical thinking, and problem solving skills needed to reason about and collaborate on improving social. economic, and environmental problems facing the globe. Schools are charged to respond to these and other societal needs (Shah, 2010). To do so, schools must re-think their focus and develop also implement curricula that will produce the necessary human capital to identify viable solutions for these needs. The statement is in line with what Thaiposri and Wannapiroon (2015) summarize that for success in today's world, students require core academic subject knowledge and understanding, in addition to other skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication and collaboration. Therefore, it is then assumed that critical and creative

thinking skills are needed for students to compete in their future.

Cho et al (2015) claim that students should be provided with more exposure in critical thinking and creativity, which are considered as the 21st century competencies. However, this leads to challenges for schools to provide the studying environments, in which students can be fostered to maximize their thinking skills in language learning.

In response to the challenges of the twenty-first century with its complex environmental, and economic social pressures, young people are required to be creative, innovative, enterprising adaptable, with the motivation, confidence and skills to use critical and creative thinking purposefully. Hence, since critical and creative thinking skills play an important role in education, they constitute a principal goal of learning. For that reasons, this article is intended to explain briefly the critical and creative thinking skills in relation to 21st language learning instruction.

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINK-ING SKILLS

Thinking plays an important role in people's life (Huitt, 1980). He further adds that the movement toward the information age has changed attention to good thinking as a main element of life successes. In short, this new trend has paved the way for critical thinking to be the main focus of schooling.

number of experts provide the definitions of critical thinking, but most of them propose the skill as the individual's ability to identify central issues and assumptions in an argument, recognize important relationships, make correct inferences from data, deduce conclusions from information or data provided, interpret whether conclusions are warranted on the basis of the data given, evaluate evidence or authority, is ready for critics. In addition, a critical thinker is open-minded, and has great emphaty. (Baker, et al, 2001; Birgili, 2015; Ennis, 1993; Piau, 2004). Therefore, thinking critically is essential to making up one's own mind. This is also fundamental to being an autonomous person (Hunter 2009). It is understandable that critical thinking is aimed at knowledge. More recently, this skill is considered even more important in their conceptualization as the 21st century skills, which are understood as innovative and learning skills that are requisites to succeed in this century. Critical thinking skill is also because enhances the important it the understanding of arguments expression of points of view and critical judgments about any topic (Alfonso, 2015). In other words, when critical thinking skill appears in educational settings, it can be seen as guarantor of learning.

Creativity becomes one of the major concerns in education in recently. Creative thinking involves creating something new or original. It involves the skills of flexibility, originality, fluency, imagery, associative thinking, attribute listing, methaporical thinking and forced relationship. The aim of creative thinking is to stimulate curiosity and promote divergence (Anwar et al, 2012;

Santrock, 2011; Guilford, 2005; Agafhri & Nizam, 2014; Coon, 2006).

Furthermore, creative thinking is the thinking that attracts the attention educators. Creative thinking is defined as "the meaningful rule, the regulator, and the engine of knowledge that leads to problemand decision-making (Facione, 2000). Creative thinking encourages students to use a variety of approaches to solve problems, analyze multiple viewpoints, adapt ideas, and arrive at new solutions. Browne and Keeley (1990) add that the ability to think clearly and imaginatively, to appraise logic, and generate evidence. assess imaginative alternatives to conventional ideas offers young people a clear route through the maze of slovenly thinking that runs across the landscape of today's information age. Therefore, the thinking skill is crucial in problem solving and decision making.

Sternberg describes creative (2003)thinking skills, or simply creativity, as the ability to produce novel and appropriate things and find solutions to everyday problems. Creativity is a complex construct and is most commonly expressed through a broad range of intelligences, including linguistic, musical, mathematic-al, spatial, kinesthetic, interpersonal, and perhaps even intrapersonal (Gardner, 1985). According to Romero et al (2012) creativity is not only a personal characteristic of children and young individuals but is equally present at all age levels, and they believe that creativity can and must be learned through various strategies and nurtured throughout one's life; otherwise, it may completely diminish. However, creativity can also be influenced by the learning environment and good educational practice.

Thus, higher order thinking designed both critical thinking and creative thinking. Burden and Byrd (1994) categorize critical thinking as a higher-order thinking activity that requires a set of cognitive skills. However, every person can be critical and creative and has capacity to use his/her brain to create something. Johnson (2002) claims that everyone is creative and the creativity is not the special gift of a relatively small number of extraordinary people. Therefore, an effort should be exposed to enhance both critical and creative thinking skills.

In addition, the two thinking skills possess the convergent and divergent way of thinking. According to Johnson (2002) critical thinking is a clear, organized process used in such mental activities as problem solving. decision making. persuading, scientific analyzing, assumptions, and inquiry. It is also the ability to reason in an ability organized way. It is the systematically evaluate the quality of one's own reasoning and that of others. On the contrary, the creative thinking is the mental activity that nurtures originality and insight.

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINK-ING SKILLS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

Critical and creative thinking skills are considered essential for students (Crane, 1983). Though the two not are interchangeable, they are strongly linked, bringing complementary dimensions to thinking and learning. Critical thinking is at the core of most intellectual activity that involves students in learning to recognize or develop an argument, use evidence in support of that argument, draw reasoned conclusions, and use information to solve problems. Creative thinking involves students in learning to generate and apply new ideas in specific contexts, seeing existing situations in identifying new way, alternative explanations, and seeing or making new links that generate a positive outcome. Therefore, these two skills are needed in academic purposes for nowadays learning instruction.

The explicit teaching and embedding of critical and creative thinking throughout the learning areas encourages students to engage in higher order thinking. The complex process of thinking is divided into higher order thinking and lower order thinking. Higher order thinking is used when someone

relates stored and new information to solve extraordinary and difficult problems, or to obtain new ideas. Lower order thinking is used to develop daily routines and mechanical processes. Higher order thinking skills include contextualization, metacognition, creativity, insight, intelligence, problem solving and critical thinking (Alfonso, 2015: 26).

A number of studies have been done in the area of critical thinking and creative thinking to show their important functions in education. Critical thinking and creative thinking are important factors and component of education in this century which have direct relationship with language learning. Both creative thinking and critical thinking skills are valuable and neither is superior. Critical thinking supports as well as follows creative thinking because once the focus has been widened by creative thinking, then critical thinking serves to evaluate ideas, which can be accomplished by narrowing the focus again to catalogue ideas and identify the most reasonable ones, or those most likely to succeed (Ruggiero, 1999). Moreover, Fisher (2002) adds that creative and critical thinking are both important because we need instruction as well as reason in our thinking: critical thinking is necessary to judge those new ideas, processes and products which have been generated by creative thinking. Therefore, the two skills can be used at the same time.

Critical thinking and creative thinking have been recently introduced and gained a high position in language teaching settings, so that nowadays enhancing critical thinking and creative thinking in learners is considered one of the foreign language teachers' tasks. However, teachers need to have strategy to foster their students' critical and creative thinking in language learning. Ennis (1985) proposes the some guidelines that teachers should adopt in order to promote their students' critical thinking skills. He argues that educators should be aware of the cognitive and mental processes that constitute critical thinking. They should

also be familiar with the tasks, skills, and situations to which these processes are applied, and use a range of classroom activities that promote these processes. He provides a framework for such instruction. He divides critical thinking into four components, each consisting of several specific skills, which, as he argues, can be taught to students. These are: a) defining and clarifying, b) asking appropriate questions to clarify or challenge, c) judging the credibility of a source, and d) solving problems and drawing conclusions (Iakovos, 2011).

Ornstein (1995) provides a list of guidelines that teachers can use in order to enhance creative thinking. Teachers should: a) make available different resources for working out ideas, b) foster a tolerant attitude toward novel ideas, c) encourage students to engage in tasks requiring them to apply exploration, testing, searching, and prediction skills, d) resist accepting one "correct" answer or a predetermined pattern, e) teach skills for avoiding peer sanctions, f) teach students to value and take pride in their own creativity, g) encourage autonomous and independent learning, h) look and listen carefully, stir up the unmotivated students, don't accept superficial, 'easy' answers, i) develop a spirit of adventure in the classroom, j) encourage the habit of working out the full implication of ideas, k) provide active and quiet places-where students can "mess around" or "do their thin", while at the same time providing guidance and direction, I) make students more sensitive to environment. their n) encourage manipulation of objects and ideas, and o) keep alive the excitement of learning and thinking, encourage, stimulate, motivate (Iakovos, 2011). However, the improvement of students' critical and creative thinking skills can only be obtained by maintaining good collaboration between students and teachers through the learning process.

Teachers who wish to foster their students' critical and creative thinking skills can use some models of teaching that can create the classroom conditions necessary to encourage students to make inferences, to encourage them to think intuitively, spontaneously, and can promote students' creativity. Project based-learning, Problembased learning, Inquiry-based learning can promote the development of critical and creative thinking (Schon, 1983; Faidley et al, Spence, 2001; Barrows, 2000: Margetson, 1997; Uden & Beaumont, 2006; Thompson,; 2011; Anggaira, 2017; Aryanti, 2017).

CONCLUSION

It has been discussed that critical and creative thinking skills need to be enhanced among language learners due to its significance in developing effective language learning to 21st Century. Critical thinking is a clear, organized process used in such mental activities as problem solving, decision making, persuading, analyzing, assumptions, and scientific inquiry. It is also the ability to reason in an organized way. On the contrary, the creative thinking is the mental activity originality and insight. nurtures Promoting critical thinking and creative thinking skills is considered one of the tasks of language teachers. If teachers are to be successful in encouraging the development of critical and creative thinking skills, explicit instruction in critical and creative thinking skills needs to be included in the curriculum. A number of studies have shown that critical and creative thinking skills can be fostered by applying project-based, problem-based, and inquiry-based learning, which provide more chance to students to get involved in the learning process.

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Biodata

Nurul Aryanti is an English Lacturer at State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya. She has been teaching since 1992. Her research interest is English For Specific Purposes.

Aria Septi Anggaira is a staff in BKPSDM Metro. She teaches English for some private institution in Metro-Lampung. Her research interest is Applied Linguistics.





7th SRS-TEFLIN NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN COLLABORATION WITH FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY

"Teachers of English Identity in 21st Century: Expectation and Reality"

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Prof. Chuzaimah D. Diem, M.L.S., Ed.D. Coordinator of SRS-TEFLIN

Prof. Sofendi, M.A., Ph.D. Dean of FKIP Sriwijaya University