

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. **Background of the Study**

Critical thinking is the ability to think at a high level by rationally and logically prioritizing facts, which is considered to be a provision that is very much needed in modern era of change. In practice, critical thinking is a valuable skill that can be decided to apply in a various situations, including the educational setting, the neighborhood, and the community. To achieve the best outcomes in the learning process, the ability to think clearly is required. This means that an effective learning process requires critical thinking skills that must be possessed by every student in school, particularly college students.

A stimulus is required in the critical thinking process to aid in the exploration of an idea or viewpoint that will later be developed into logical and rational opinions. A sketch or image media containing an implicit topic or idea can be used as a stimulant, because one of the aims of the sketch is to illustrate a form of communication that is implied through other skills. The use of sketching in the learning process can help students develop critical thinking skills and encourage them to communicate verbally and in writing.

Writing is one of the skills that can be used as a communication tool. Students' critical thinking skills can also be developed through writing. Several courses are provided in the English Education Department of the State Islamic university of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten that can encourage students to develop critical thinking skills. One of them a writing courses for academic. This courses, is focused on academic writing, with the aimed to help students to develop their critical thinking skills. In general, students who think critically are not only able to freely express in speech, but also in good written form, as writing is one of the characteristics of an academician.

Writing is a skill in the field of knowledge which enable students to express an idea or opinion that is owned by each individual in the form of writing. One of the results of teaching and learning activities, particularly in writing skills, is writing ability. In fact, fourth-semester English Education Department students at the State Islamic University Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten, experience a lot of problems in the writing process, particularly in the academic writing course.

In fact, students experience problems of English Education Department at fourth semester in learning academic writing. Based on the interview with English lecturer and students fourth semester there are three common problems faced by fourth semester students. The first

is that they have problems learning an idea or opinion into written form, so they need a stimulus or form of media, such as a sketch, to enable them think critically and develop an idea or opinion that will be developed later into written form. The second problem is a lack of writing practice, because what students receive during teaching activities is more dominant in theory or material delivery, and more emphasis on independent or self-practice in writing, which is difficult for all students. When the online learning environment is already there today, a lack of writing practice can lead to a lack of motivation to teach, especially in writing skills. As a side effect, they are unable to engage in critical thinking about their writing skills. The third is that they commonly find it difficult to write what is on their minds or experience frequent writing blocks. This occurs because students are uninterested in reading related theories or references, resulting in a writing block. Therefore, to overcome these problems, the application of sketch media as a tool to stimulate students to think critically about their writing skills can be applied effectively in teaching and learning activities to write and can be practiced directly so that students can practice writing well.

Based on the result of interviews and direct observations of fourth semester students in English Education Department at the State Islamic University Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten, the researcher

concluded that a common problem in online teaching and learning in academic writing courses is a lack of effectiveness in writing practice, seeking to make learning activities appear monotonous and a bigger focus on the delivery of theoretical material. As a result, students are unable to think critically when developing an idea or opinion that will later be written down. The author hopes that by using a sketch as a learning medium, students will be able to think critically in order to come up with an idea or opinion that will later be developed into written form, and also overcome problems that come during the online teaching and learning process in academic writing courses. So, it is very reasonable to the writer to choose this problem topic to investigate how sketches can stimulate students' critical thinking skills in expressing and developing ideas into written form, based on the facts of the existing problems.

B. Research Question

Based on the previous background of study, the researcher formulates research question as follows:

1. How to implement sketch in the learning and teaching of writing?
2. How do critical thinking skills be developed in students during the writing learning and teaching process?

3. How do sketch stimulate students' critical thinking of their writing skill?
4. How do sketches help develop students' academic ideas or opinions critical into written form?

C. Objective of the Study

Regarding to research question, the objective of this study can be described as follows:

1. To observe how implement sketch in the learning and teaching of writing?
2. To investigate how critical thinking skills be developed in students during the writing learning and teaching process?
3. To observe how sketches stimulate students for critical thinking to get ideas that will be expressed in written form
4. To investigate how sketch help develop students' ideas or opinions into written form

D. Significance of the Study

The research findings are expected to make a theoretical and practical contribution.

1. Theoretically significance

Theoretically, this research is expected to increase students' knowledge of critical thinking techniques on students' writing skills using sketch media. Because sketch is one of the fun media of art that can be use visually in academics writing.¹

2. Practically significance

a. For the Lecturer

The findings of this study can benefit lecturers in a variety of different ways. Theoretically, they can see what problems students provided to critical thinking about writing skills. In practitioners, the lecturer can investigates the different types of student problems related to critical thinking and writing skills. Besides that, it can also see what the lecturers have to do to solve students' problems in critical thinking and writing skills. Finally, there are ways to improve the teaching and learning of writing skills. Through using sketch media, students' critical thinking skills in writing can be improved.

b. For the Students

The findings of this study can also advantage students in a variety of ways. Theoretically, students will be able to identify the types of problems they are getting of their critical thinking skills in

¹ Julia Reeve and Kaye Towlson, "Sketch: Playful Writing with Writing PAD," *The Power of Play in Higher Education: Creativity in Tertiary Learning* (2019).

relation to writing skills. In practitioners, they can solve the problems through their own with the assist of the lecturer and their own motivation. Finally, they can work on mastering their critical thinking processes in order to increase their writing abilities.

c. For other Researcher

By applying a sketch, the findings of this study can assist other researcher in getting a great deal of information about the ability to think critically about writing skills.

d. For the Library

The findings of this study can facilitate university students and also the general public in obtaining a lot of information about the ability to think critically about writing skills through the use of sketch media.

E. Previous Research

There are some previous studies related to the topic of applying sketches for student's critical thinking of their writing skills:

- 1) The first previous study of this research is conducted by Ahmad Siifaus Syarif from State Institute for Islamic Studies Semarang, with the title **“The Use of Sketch as a Learning Aid to Improve**

Students' Writing Skill in Descriptive Text”.² That research is study about writing skills continue to form a portion of the syllabus in English language education. One of the important things in remote dialect teaching is planning students to be able to use the target language. However, some language learners are more often confused about writing the target language. The act of writing especially writing in foreign language is troublesome and requires additional skills for some students and sometimes they feel bored. A large part of their reason is not a strange English teaching preparation strategy and a lack of opportunities to take practice to write passages or expositions or content. In order to explain this problem, the instructor must have an inventive movement and an elective manner. Teachers should encourage and empower students with interesting exercises, for this the instructor can advance students' writing skills by using sketches because in general students are able to encourage various thoughts or conclusions and apply them in written form, especially on expressive content.

- 2) The second previous study of this research is conducted by Sinaga Parlindungan, Feranie Shelly, from International Journal of Turkey,

² A. S Sarif, *The Use of Skecth as a Learning Aid to Imporve Students' Writing Skill in Descriptive Text (A Classroom Action Research at the 8th Grade H. Isriati Semarang in The Academic Year of 2010/2011*, 2011.

with the title **“Enhancing Critical Thinking Skills and Writing Skills through the Variation in Non-Traditional Writing Task”**.³

That investigate is consider centers on recognizing the affect of giving non-traditional composing assignments in cutting-edge cloth science courses conducted on understudies of cloth science courses and cloth thought programs. Information was analyzed by selecting the normalized pick-up rate and correlational checking. Based on the investigate information gauges, it was found that diverse drug in non-traditional composing assignments doled out to understudies from cloth and cloth science courses had a positive impact. There is a basic contrast in amplified conceptual specialist and fundamental judgment ability. There are differences in the quality of students' writing in Science subjects and the Material Science Study Program. There is a relationship between the quality of writing and conceptual dominance with a high degree of relationship and there is a relationship between writing skills and critical thinking skills with the degree relationship. The expanded conceptual understanding is influenced by the writing space.

³ Parlindungan Sinaga and Shelly Feranie, “Enhancing Critical Thinking Skills and Writing Skills through the Variation in Non-Traditional Writing Task”, *International Journal of Instruction* 10, no. 2, 2017), 11.

3) The third previous study of this research is conducted by Amelia Baini Nengsy, from State Islamic Institute of Bengkulu, with the title **“The Use of Sketch as a Learning Aid to Improve Student’s Writing Skills in Descriptive Text”**.⁴ That research is study about how to improve students' writing skills by utilizing sketches as a learning aid. Because in the process of learning to write, it was found that students had difficulty writing what they wanted to write. When the teachers helps them by applying sketch media the students feel interested so that they show good progress and even increase in writing skills. Teachers can make good use of this sketch media so that the results of their writing skills increase. Students who are interested in English so that they have more confidence in English lessons and students can get other data that we can exchange into other subjects. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the sketch of the brain sketching technique was successful in improving the students' writing skills in expressive material.

All of the studies mentioned above, according to previous research, used descriptive texts to train and stimulate students' critical thinking skills. The novelty of this study is that it investigates the use of sketches to stimulate or equip students' critical thinking in the English Education

⁴ A. B Nengsy, "The Use of Sketch as a Learning Aid to Improve Students' Writing Skill in Descriptive Text", (State Islamic Institute of Bengkulu, 2011).

Department of State Islamic University Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin
Banten on their writing ability on argumentative text.

The researcher in this study used case studies to identify how sketches can stimulate and train critical thinking skills on writing skills in argumentative text. For deeper analysis, researchers used writing tests, document analysis, and interviews to collect data.

