CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher focuses on the background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation and operational definition.

A. Background of the study

Critical thinking skills refer to the ability to analyze facts before making judgments or decisions. It involves the process of asking, analyzing, interpreting, evaluating, and making judgments about what is read, heard, said, or written. According to Castano (2023), critical thinking skills include the ability to describe, comprehend, interact, interpret, analyze, deduce, and self-monitor. In the context of critical thinking skills, it is one of the important skills that university student must have in digital era because it is needed in reading and analyzing news that is often presented in various forms, so they need to understand in critical thinking about news or information. Using critical thinking effectively in life helps one constructs a world view that is increasingly correct, Jason (2022). Critical thinking is not only about how to respond by interpreting, evaluating, and analyzing facts and information, but also involve thinking using the 5W+1H approach.

University students must think what is happening or what is being discussed who gets involved in a problem or situation, when is used to understand problem or situation that occurs, where a problem or situation occurs, why a problem or situation occurs, how the students understand the problem. How is used to understand how a problem or situation can be addressed or resolved. Providing relevant and correct answers to a question can describe a person's reading comprehension skills because to answer a question, a person needs semantic skills to understand the meaning of the question word and syntactic skills to comprehend the entire question. (Azmi & Linda 2024 in Sanders & Erickson, (2018).

In this study, critical thinking skills demonstrate a strong positive correlation with the ability to think critically, which involves analyzing facts, evidence, observations, and available arguments to form judgments through the application of rational, skeptical, and objective reasoning. Therefore, critical thinking skills are essential for university students, particularly in the context of reading news and engaging with current events.students who are lack of critical thinking are provoked by the content of media. According to Solari (2014) in Wadihah and Fauzi (2021), "reading comprehension refers to a person's understanding of the information they read."

Reading is a thinking process that enables the reader to apply what they already know, also known as prior knowledge. Ahmad (2019), argued that reading

habits are an essential and important aspect of creating a literate society. It shapes the personality of an individual and helps them develop proper thinking methods and generate new ideas. There are various forms of reading materials, such as available texts, including short tales, novels, biographies, encyclopedias, blogs, websites, articles, and newspapers. One of these is newspapers. Based on the knowledge and forms of news the author of this study examines a specific form of reading namely news reading and discovers that the phenomenon of students being less critical when reading news remains largely unexplored. Moreover, reading news need critical thinking skills involve several aspects such a content analysis source evaluation and reflection on personal prejudice, students who have critical thinking skills tend to be more careful in receiving information and are able to use various strategies to identify the truth of news article. According to Machete & Turpin (2020), While most students can conduct a Google search for information, many struggle to identify the author or credibility of online sources. Students now days additionally lack a desire to read, particularly news article. However, it is crucial to other students to learn and think critically about news article. These days, viewing news is more engaging than reading articles. However, not all students have the ability to think critically when reading or watching some news many students are tend to accept news passively without analyzing the news more deeply this often happens to student who are involved in criminal acts because the news received by students are less valid but contains elements of criticism especially political issues.

According to Naz (2022), students are spending more time on digital media, playing with phones, and sending nonstop messages all for the sake of entertainment and enjoyment but not for reading news article Not only that, students are also sometimes easily provoked so that they become students are demonstration related to political issues. Students' lack of interest in reading news articles is influenced by several factors, including the rise of video-based news programs, which reduce their motivation to engage with written texts.

According to Karim (2024), To battle fake news students must have strong critical thinking skills and digital information and news media have a huge influence on how people think. The causes that make critical thinking is less interest to learn and less knowledge are accepting the news at glance, habit of assuming which sometimes hinders students in developing their thought patterns, influencing by feelings. They sometimes do not think rationally and depend on the real live of accessing technology without verifying their understanding of something. Based on the background above the researcher choose this title "analysis on final semester english department students' critical thinking skills in reading news article at PGRI delta sidoarjo university".

B. Statements of the problem

Despite the importance of critical thinking in English department, it is expected that they are able to understand some effective English language in reading news.

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- 1. How do English Department students concluding critical thinking skills to understand information in the news article?
- 2. What strategies do students use to enhance their critical thinking skills in reading news articles?

C. Objectives of the Study

The primary objectives of this study are as follows

- 1. to explore how English Department student's use critical thinking skills in their stages of understanding and concluding about the news article.
- 2. to describe the strategies used by students to enhance their critical thinking skills in understanding and interpreting news articles

D. Significance and of the Study

This research has significant implication for various group in bellow

- 1. For Students, they can recognize their critical thinking abilities, and become more aware of their critical thinking skills and encourage them to apply effective strategies when analyzing news articles.
- 2. For lecturers and educators, the findings can provide insights for lecturers in designing teaching methods that enhance students' critical thinking skills, especially in reading comprehension courses.
- 3. For future researchers. This study can serve as a reference for future research on critical thinking in media, particularly related to news consumption and expand the study to other areas of critical thinking in language education.

E. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on analyzing the critical thinking skills final semester of English Department students at University of PGRI Delta Sidoarjo when reading news articles and there are 14 students. It specifically examines how students interpret, evaluate, and analyze news content using critical thinking skills. The research will explore the challenges students face in applying critical thinking and the strategies they use to enhance their analytical reading abilities.

The participants of this study are limited to English Department students from final semester, ensuring that they have sufficient exposure to academic reading and critical analysis. The study is conducted within a specific timeline (one month), which may limit the depth of data collection and analysis

F. Operational Definitions

- 1 Critical thinking skill is the cognitive process used to analyze facts before making judgments or criticisms. Critical thinking skills refer to students' ability to analyze, evaluate, and interpret news articles critically. These skills include identifying biases, distinguishing facts from opinions, assessing the credibility of sources, and making logical conclusions based on textual evidence.
- News article refers to information about current events, presented through various media channels, including the internet, word of mouth, or broadcast or large audience and article is a part of news that offers information about something to improve knowledge and is permanent in nature throughout time.

Reading news articles in this study refers to the process of comprehending and analyzing news texts written in English. The articles used are selected from reputable international or national English language news sources and are analyzed based on their content, structure, and reliability.

