

**TEACHERS' FEEDBACK TO DEVELOP STUDENTS'  
CRITICAL THINKING IN ENGLISH ACADEMIC WRITING  
AT UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA**

**THESIS**

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of  
Sarjana Pendidikan (S. Pd) in Teaching English



By

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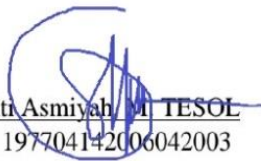
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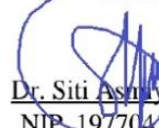
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The investigator uses Anderson and Krathwohl's<sup>77</sup> theory of taxonomy which revised from the Bloom's taxonomy<sup>78</sup> to know the process of critical thinking. There are two things in this theory; cognitive domain and knowledge dimensions.

Cognitive domain contains behavior that emphasizes intellectual aspect. The taxonomies of cognitive domain are the following. First is remembering, it is recognizing or recalling knowledge from memory. It is good to keep in mind the background knowledge. Remembering is when memory is utilized to generate or retrieve information, meanings, lists, or facts or recite pre-learned information.<sup>79</sup> To sum up, when memory is utilized to create or recall meanings, facts, or lists this is called remembering. The second is understanding, that is using various types of functions to construct context (instructional messages, as well as verbal, written, and graphic communication).<sup>80</sup> It can be done through explaining, associating, comparing, interpreting, categorizing, inferring, exemplifying, and summarizing the knowledge. Thus, understanding is constructing context from a variety of functions such as instructional messages, including oral and written.

The third is applying, performing or employing a procedure by executing, or actualizing. It refers to situations in which the material that is studied is applied

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<sup>77</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

<sup>78</sup> Bloom, B. S. (1956). *Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*. New York: Longman.

<sup>79</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

<sup>80</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.



in products such as models, interviews, simulations, and presentations. The technique that is used in a specific case.<sup>81</sup> In short, the term "applying" refers to cases in which a learned material is put to use by products such as models. The fourth is analyzing, breaking up the materials or concepts into the components, determining the interrelation or relationship between components to a complete structure or purpose. The feature of mental actions includes the ability to differentiate, arrange, and attribute mental behavior, as well as the ability to distinguish between different components or parts. When analyzing, the mental process can be demonstrated with spreadsheets, surveys, maps, charts or visual representations.<sup>82</sup> So, analyzing is the process to break down components of materials or principles and decide how the components work together. The fifth is evaluating, by checking and critiquing, one can establish opinions based on criteria and standards. Some examples of objects that can be created to demonstrate assessment processes include critiques, guidelines, and studies. Evaluating occurs before creating because evaluating is typically a needed aspect of the preparatory behavior before making something.<sup>83</sup> So, critiques, recommendations, and reports can be used to demonstrate evaluation processes. The sixth is creating, assembling parts into a logical or functional whole; modifying components into a new structure

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<sup>81</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

<sup>82</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

<sup>83</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

through producing, preparing, or generating. Creating requires users to combine components or to synthesize components in something new and distinct, creating a new product or form.<sup>84</sup> To sum up, creating allows users to combine parts or synthesize parts in a new and different way.

The knowledge dimension contains factual, conceptual, procedural, and metacognitive. Factual knowledge is the fundamental component that learners need to know about a discipline or to resolve issues. Interconnections between the fundamental elements within a broader framework that allow them to work together is called conceptual knowledge. Procedural knowledge consists of how to use skills, algorithms, tools and processes, as well as analysis methods. While metacognitive is cognition information in general and information of one's knowledge and self-awareness. In short, the knowledge dimension consists of factual, conceptual, procedural, and metacognitive. Factual knowledge is the basic components that students need to know about a discipline or to resolve issues.<sup>85</sup>

Learners who critically in thinking will be shown some critical thinking features<sup>86</sup>, these are: as good thinkers students will think carefully related to react the new problem, strong logical thinkers can analyze and comprehend a complicated problem, and they are curious and want to know the facts, deliver in

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<sup>84</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

<sup>85</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

<sup>86</sup> "Think About ... Critical Thinking Traits & Characteristics", *Nashville State Community College; Critical Thinking Initiative*, [http://ww2.nsc.edu/criticalthinking\\_forstudents/ta\\_traits.htm](http://ww2.nsc.edu/criticalthinking_forstudents/ta_traits.htm), accessed 11 January 2021.



















































































The picture (Figure 4.8) shows that students already understood what method is appropriate with their research. It also shows the students critical thinking of factual knowledge as the student gives information about correlation design. Although they did not present reasonable arguments to justify the method, but it is a good point to start writing.

The feedbacks that students mostly get in this activity are suggestion and marginal feedback. Such as “*what is the differences of your study and the previous study*”, “*you better give evidence that can support your argument*”, etc.

In the writing activity, students continue their writing based on the feedback given by the teacher in the pre-writing activity. After getting the feedbacks students' critical thinking in writing is developed from the understanding to the applying and analyzing (developing). Applying is the process of carrying out or employing a procedure by executing or implementing. Meanwhile analyzing is separating materials or principles into pieces, deciding how the parts interact with one another, or how the parts contribute to a larger structure or function.<sup>146</sup> In this activity students are able to implement the feedback that they got from the teacher to their writing, they are also able to analyze the feedback from the teacher to develop their writing critically. The development also happened for the knowledge dimension, from factual knowledge to conceptual knowledge. Conceptual knowledge refers to the knowledge of categories, theories, models and structures; principles and

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<sup>146</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.















The main feedbacks that learners get are criticism and end feedback. Such as “*DO NOT COMBINE findings and discussion*”, “*This sentences are ambiguous*”, “*Overall it is good, but you need to elaborate some parts: ...*”, “*This is my comment for your paper. Your topic of your article is fine. However, ...*”, etc.

In the revising activity, learners revised their article writing based on the feedback that they have got from the teacher. Most of the students’ writing developed from applying and analyzing into evaluating (competent). Evaluating means making decisions by checking and criticizing based on criteria and standards.<sup>148</sup> This allows for the demonstration of evaluation processes through critiques, recommendations and reports. However, there is no development of the knowledge dimension in the revising activity. It means that the knowledge dimension level in this part is conceptual knowledge, same as the writing activity.

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<sup>148</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom’s Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.



























The result shows that criticism feedback is the second feedback that the teacher used the most in commenting on the students' work (see table 4.2). Despite the fact that the most of the revisions were based on suggestions, they did not result in the most effective revisions because the majority of them were not clear. The criticism feedback given by the teacher was more direct in pointing out the students' mistakes.

The examples of criticism feedback by the teacher such as “*less elaboration*”, “*wrong grammar*”, “*I didn't know the meaning of it*”, “*do not combine findings and discussion*”, “*the sentence is unclear*”, “*this is repetition, delete on of them*”, “*your literature review is not good*”, “*this paragraph is confusing*”, and “*the sentences are ambiguous*”.

These criticism feedbacks show the expression disgust or rejection.<sup>164</sup> It's worth noting that in this pedagogical framework, criticism is meant to be helpful feedback that points out a writing issue, if addressed by the learners. It has the opportunity to improve their narrative and encourage them in developing their writing skills. As a consequence, while criticism feedback can appear to be negative comments, it is intended to achieve positive results or outcomes by assisting students in recognizing where and why issues emerge in their writing.

According to research conducted by Van der Borght, Schoupe, & Notebaert showed that negative comment or error comment is remembered better than correct feedback or positive feedback.<sup>165</sup> Criticism feedback helps the learner

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<sup>164</sup> Jere Brophy. (1981). Teacher praise: a functional analysis. *Review of Educational Research*, 55(1), p. 6.

<sup>165</sup> Van der Borght, L., Schoupe, N., & Notebaert, W. (2016). Improved Memory for Error Feedback, *Psychological Research*, 80(6), p. 1049-1058.



















The main feedback that students got from the teacher in this activity are suggestion feedback and marginal feedback. These two feedbacks help the pupils to develop their skill to write critically as in the suggestion feedback the teacher gives advice to their writing. Suggestions were the kind of feedback leading to student review rather than two other feedbacks. The learners indicated that such comments are necessary to help them in developing their writing and improving their thinking.<sup>195</sup> In addition, the marginal feedback also contributes to improving their writing critically as the teacher gives specific comments in their writing.

After getting feedback from the teacher, the students continue their writing activity. In the writing activity, the feedback appears for the level of critical thinking are applying and analyzing (developing). Applying is the ability to use the procedure through implementing. As Krathwohl stated that applying is executing or introducing a process to carry out or use it.<sup>196</sup> In this activity students are able to implement the feedback given by the teacher in the pre-writing activity. It can be seen from the development of their writing before given feedback in the pre-writing section and after given feedback in the writing section. According to Leighton, Chu, & Seitz, when students consider the learning environment in the classroom to be safe and stable, with a trusting educator-learner relationship, they are more likely to believe and acknowledge the feedback message as valuable, and to use its content

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<sup>195</sup> Razlina Razali & Rohaiza Jupri. (2014). Exploring Teacher Written Feedback and Student Revisions on ESL Students' Writing. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 19(5).

<sup>196</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

to change their thought and learning.<sup>197</sup> It can be said that accepting a teacher's comment by applying the feedback helps the learners to influence their thinking. Learners can learn how to develop their writing critically by getting comments from the educators.

Furthermore, analyzing is separating materials or principles into pieces, determining the interrelation or relationship between components to a complete structure or purpose.<sup>198</sup> In this part learners are able to analyze the relevance information that they put in defining the problem, analyzing the solution by identifying the problems that they share, analyze the previous studies that relevant with the research critically, analyze a reasonable method and add some information about research design, subjects, etc., represent the data of the result synchronize with the methodology, appropriately and accurately analyze but not yet interpret the result, and clearly states and discusses conclusions. According to Crow and Linda, the following skills are included in the concept of critical thinking: examining the arguments, evidence or claims; using inductive or deductive reasoning to make inferences; assessing or judging; making decisions or resolving issues; and asking and responding to clarification questions.<sup>199</sup> In addition, Sinaga & Firanie contend that analyzing statements, claims or proofs often takes place

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<sup>197</sup> Leighton, J. P., Chu, M-W., & Seitz, P. (2013). Cognitive Diagnostic Assessment and The Learning Errors and Formative Feedback (LEAFF) Model. In R. Lissitz (Ed.), *Informing the Practice of Teaching Using Formative and Interim Assessment: A System Approach* (pp. 183-207). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

<sup>198</sup> Anderson, L. W., & Krathwohl, D. R. (2001). *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: Complete Edition*. New York: Longman.

<sup>199</sup> Crow, Linda (1989). *Enhancing Critical Thinking in the Sciences Society for College Science Teachers*. Washington, DC.









the solution, organize the theories that they have been put in a paragraph, assess the fact that be detailed enough to ensure that the results of their research, determine the connection between the findings and the study related with their research clearly, and assess between the all the information that they get in the finding and discussion from their research as conclusion provide a brief review of the findings and discussion. However, it is more than just an overview.

This finding supports Paul and Elder's assertion that standards of intellectual, consistency, reasoning, relevance, and material scope and depth are factors in developing writing tasks to foster their skill in thinking critically about the topics to write about.<sup>210</sup> In addition, Paul & Elder also stated if the logic of the principles of critical thought, significance, width, and complexity are reinforced, Students can move from surface learning to in-depth learning with explicit feedback. However, the findings are different with the theory from Olson that thinking critically can be developed by some activities such as prewriting, writing, revising, and editing. In this research only 3 activities are used; prewriting, writing, and revising. But, the result showed that students' ability to think critically is developed through these three activities. The development can be seen from the students' ability in writing critically such as analyzing the relevance information that they put in defining the problem and analyzing the solution by identifying the problems that they share. Paul and Elder<sup>211</sup> stated that one of the characteristics of critical thinking is communicating with others effectively in finding solutions to

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<sup>210</sup> Paul, R., & Elder, L. (2008). *The Thinker's Guide to Analytic Thinking: How to take things apart and what to look for when you do* (2nd ed.). Dillon Beach, CA: The Foundation for Critical Thinking.

<sup>211</sup> Paul, R. and Elder, L. (2010). *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools*. Dillon Beach: Foundation for Critical Thinking Press.























