

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL
THINKING SKILLS THROUGH "BULAN BAHASA DAN SAstra"
EVENT AT SMAN 2 KEDIRI**

SKRIPSI

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain
The Bachelor's Degree in Education (S.Pd.)
of English Education Department



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FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
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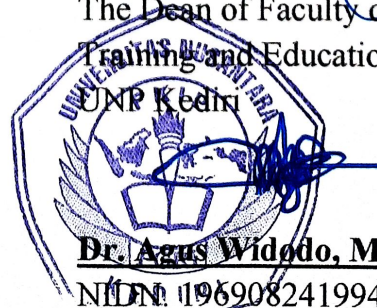
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MOTTO:

“Inna sholati wanusuki wamahyaya wamamati lillahi robbil alamin”

(sesungguhnya sholatku, ibadahku, hidup, dan matiku hanya untuk Tuhan semesta alam)

*“Life is a cycle. Teruslah berbuat baik kepada manusia lain. Sebab kita tidak pernah tau doa dari mulut dan hati manakah yang akan dikabulkan oleh Tuhan.
Habluminallah wa habluminannas.*

I dedicated this work for:

1. My beloved mother, Marianik. Thank you for your endless love, prayers, support, and sacrifices. Every achievement of mine is proof of your affection and sincerity. Hopefully, I can always make you proud and happy. Rest in love mom, now it's my turn to pray for you.
2. My beloved brother and sister, who has been given me encouragements in my life, always prays for the best for me, and always supports all my struggles as well.
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Abstract

Ita Apriliya The Development of Students' Creativity and Critical Thinking Skills Through "Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra" Event at SMAN 2 Kediri, Skripsi, English Education Department, UN PGRI Kediri, 2024

Keywords: *Bulan Bahasa*, Creativity, Critical Thinking Skills

School graduates must master two important skills in 21st century, they are creativity and critical thinking skills. Through the policy of *Merdeka Belajar* Curriculum, those two skills are two points emphasized in the *Pancasila* student profile. There are many strategies that can be used to develop these skills at schools. One of them is through co-curricular activities such as *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event. Through this event, students will gain more diverse experiences in the process of developing their creativity and critical thinking skills.

The aims of this research are 1) to describe the activities in *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event that can develop creativity and critical thinking skills; and 2) to explain the process of acquiring creativity and critical thinking skills experienced by students.

This research used qualitative approach that is carried on at SMAN 2 Kediri. The subjects of this research were the students at SMAN 2 Kediri who were the participant and the winner of the English debate and English speech contest and the teachers who were in charge as judges. The techniques of data collection were observation, interview, and document analysis. The technique of analyzing data is data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusion. To obtain relevant data, the researcher checked the validity and reliability of the data using triangulation method.

The findings of this research show that the debate competition and speech contest in the *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event can develop students' creativity and critical thinking skills. The students acquire these skills through the stage of the competitions, namely preparation stage and performance stage. Apart from that, *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* events can also support student learning in class, especially related in language subjects. It is suggested for school authority to hold co-curricular activities such as *Bulan Bahasa and Sastra* event that develop students' soft skills so that students are ready to enter society to be able to compete globally.

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Skripsi entitled “The Development of Students’ Creativity and Critical Thinking Skills Through “Bulan Bahasa Dan Sastra” Event at SMAN 2 Kediri” is written as one of the requirements for obtaining a Bachelor Degree in Education in the English Education Department.

On this occasion, the researcher would like to express her sincere gratitude and appreciation to:

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It is realized that this skripsi still has many shortcomings, so it is expected that criticisms and suggestions from various parties are expected.

Finally, with the hope that this skripsi will be useful for all of us, especially for the world of education, even though it is only like a drop of water in the vast ocean.

Kediri, 11th July 2024

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

In the 21st century, or what is known as the era of society 5.0, the development of science and technology is very rapid. Because of this condition, every country requires to increase their nation's competitiveness. One important component that must be considered to increase a nation's competitiveness is human resources because humans are the ones who will manage everything owned by the state. The quality of human resources can be seen from the areas of knowledge and skills possessed. A balance between knowledge and skills is very necessary so that in practice in social life people not only use theory but can also contribute directly in the field (Mardhiyah, 2021).

21st century graduates are required to be not only competent in terms of knowledge but also in terms of skills. If today's students want to compete globally, they must also become professional communicators, creators, critical thinkers, and collaborators (Erdoğan, 2019). It is a new challenge in the world of education. To deal with this challenge, the government implemented a new curriculum, namely the *Merdeka Belajar* curriculum. The learning process in this curriculum provides challenges and opportunities for students to develop their soft skills. These soft skills include the ability to innovate, be creative, and develop personality, student needs, independence in seeking and finding knowledge through reality and field dynamics such as real problems, social interaction, collaboration, self-management,

performance demands, targets and achievements (Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020). The skills expected by the government are in line with 21st century skills or what are usually called 4Cs Skills. These skills include collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills.

Through a well-designed and a good implementation of *Merdeka Belajar* curriculum, students' soft skills will be strongly formed so that 21st century graduates can compete globally. One of the superior programs that can support and maximize this goal from the *Merdeka Belajar* curriculum is the P5 (*Program Penguatan Profil Pelajar Pancasila*) program. Based on the Ministry of Education and Culture's Guidelines No. 56, P5 is a co-curricular activity that focuses on a project approach to strengthen the achievement of competencies and character in accordance with the *Pancasila* Student Profile which is based on Graduate Competency Standards. This program will strengthen students' competencies and increase their readiness to face competition in the world of work. Apart from that, the implementation P5 can also stimulate some students' soft skills because they are used to finding solutions to overcome problems in a more effective and efficient way. Those processes require good critical thinking skills and creativity. Therefore, one of the two skills that students must master according to the *Pancasila* Student Profile is creativity and critical thinking skills.

Creativity is the ability to develop something that already exists or create something new (Greenstein, 2012). By thinking creatively, someone will be able to develop and apply a theory that they have learned in solving problems that occur in

life. Starting from a theory or small idea, someone who has the ability to think creatively will be able to develop that small idea into a new, more complex thought and will ultimately be able to create a new innovation. This innovation will help humanity face increasingly rapid world developments. Dyers et al (2009) stated that 1/3 of a person's creative ability comes from genetics, the remaining 2/3 is obtained through education. This statement is in line with what Munandar (2012) stated that the ability to see various possible solutions to a problem is an indicator of creativity so that this skill must be cultivated from an early age. From these several explanations, it can be concluded that creativity is very important for every human being to have. Therefore, creativity must be cultivated from an early age, especially through education.

Apart from the ability to think creatively, to face the era of society 5.0 21st century graduates must also have the ability to think critically (Arsanti, 2021). In the digital era where the flow of information can be accessed easily and quickly, someone can fall for hoax news because of the uncontrolled spread of information. The information circulating should be filtered and the truth sought from relevant, quality and valid information sources and determine decisions about what should be done. However, in practice, people tend to easily react to everything without confirming the truth. In the end, someone will make mistakes in making decisions and solutions without considering the good and bad. From this phenomenon, critical thinking skills can be a very important basic asset for students to master.

When someone can solve the problems they face well, it is an indication that someone has critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills is the ability to carry out

various analyses, assessments, evaluations, changes, and decision making that lead to rational and logical actions (King in Rostyanta, 2020). In its implementation, students are able to receive and analyze knowledge from various sources, process information well to reconstruct thought patterns and ultimately be able to make rational decisions in solving the problems they face. Common Core State Standards (CCSS) targets several examples of activities to improve critical thinking skills, namely using various types of reasoning appropriate to various situations and conditions, responding to various tasks, constructing and conveying appropriate and critical arguments with various considerations, finding evidence of a theory or literature to support analysis, reflection, and research (Greenstein 2012). These activities can be carried out in education at school. Not only in class but can also be done outside of class. Looking at the explanation above, it shows that critical thinking skills are very important skills to master.

Facts on the ground reveal that the ability to think creatively and think critically in Indonesia is still relatively low. Based on the results of a survey conducted by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2018, Indonesia is in the low performance quadrant with high equity in terms of thinking ability (Lidiawati et al, 2023). This means that Indonesia actually has great potential that has not yet been developed to improve the ability to think creatively and think critically. These skills can be trained, one way is through education at school. Not only lessons in the classroom but activities outside the classroom can also provide stimulus for students to hone their creativity and critical thinking skills.

Several researches have stated that creativity and critical thinking skills can be trained through learning activities. Research conducted by Nuridayanti et al (2020) states that creativity and critical thinking skills can develop when students write essays through several stages. Students' critical thinking skills are trained when they do a brainstorming to find out the ideas based on the topics, develop their ideas in rough drafts, and convey constructive criticism of their friends' written products. Creativity is also trained through revision stage such as editing and designing their essays. Furthermore, research conducted by Nurhajati (2021) found that critical thinking skills, which are included in life skills, can be trained in project-based learning, where the implementation of the project must be in line with what students encounter in real life.

The Ministry of Education and Culture in Indonesia has established a program in the *Merdeka Belajar* curriculum. The aim of this program is for strengthening students' character through learning activities. One of these learning activities is co-curricular activities. Co-curricular is a school activity that aims to strengthen students' understanding about the learning material. In other words, this activity is an additional program to increase students' knowledge. The expectation of this program is students will have better understanding and master what the teacher has conveyed in class. One of the co-curricular activities is *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event. This event is one of the programs that the government has launched every October as a form of commemorating the birth of the Youth Pledge. At this event, there are some activities such as poetry writing competitions, short story writing competitions, speech competitions, and other competitions related to

language. It is hoped that the existence of *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event can maintain enthusiasm and increase the role of the wider community in dealing with language and literature issues, especially in Indonesian language. Nowadays, *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event in schools is not just about using Indonesian language, but also includes regional languages such as Javanese and even foreign languages such as English and Japanese. Through that condition, it can be said that this event can support and increase students' knowledge regarding a particular subject.

The researcher has conducted observation at SMAN 2 Kediri during *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event, which is the school's annual co-curricular activity. Based on these observations, the implementation of the *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event was welcomed enthusiastically by the teachers and the students. In this event, SMAN 2 Kediri held various competitions in 4 languages, namely Indonesian, Javanese, Japanese and English. In several competitions, the students were asked to write essays with their own ideas. Two of the competitions that used English was debate and speech contest. In English debate competition required the students to join in 1 team who will discuss and work together to answer the problems given. In the other hand, in speech competition the students had to make their own speech text and deliver their speech. A few days before the competition started, the students were given several topics that would become the topic of the competition. The students were asked to look for various information related to the topic through various sources, so that during the competition they would be better prepared if they were given random topics. This process certainly involves creativity and critical thinking skills because they must make a draft with their own ideas. In the end of

this event, not only students' language skills, but also their creativity and critical thinking skills have also developed. In Addition, SMAN 2 Kediri is one of the most favorite schools in Kediri because it often wins competitions and has the highest passing grade compared to other schools. Therefore, the researcher is interested to conduct research on the process of developing the students' creativity and critical thinking skills, especially in *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event.

Research conducted by Sriwahyuningsih et al (2022), revealed that students' soft skills can be improved through extracurricular or cocurricular activities. Some of the soft skills that have been tested in this research include the creativity and critical thinking skills which shows that students who take part extracurricular activities has a higher percentage than average of students who do not participate in extracurricular activities. This statement is in line with Gita (2018) that students who take part in extracurricular activities can have a significant effect on students' learning outcomes and creative abilities. One of the activities outside of classroom learning activities in *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event is the English debate competition. Sholikhah et al (2022) revealed that students' creativity, critical thinking, and argumentative abilities increased when taking part in English debate competitions. Moreover, that statement is supported by research conducted by Partono et al (2021) which reveals that the strategy that can be used to improve critical thinking skills is to train students to discuss. From those several previous studies, it can be concluded that creativity and critical thinking skills can be trained through co-curricular or extra-curricular activities at school.

Some previous researchers have researched about *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event. Research conducted by Kusumawati (2019) revealed that through *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event which is commemorated with various literacy competitions can increase students' knowledge and skills and instills the character of nationalism, love for the nation and our beloved country, Indonesia. However, Arfina et al (2022) and Anriani et al (2023) have revealed that *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event can increase students' interest in reading. From several studies on *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event that have been carried out previously, they tend to focus on the character of nationalism and students' interest in reading. On the other hand, the research about the process of developing creativity and critical thinking skills during *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event remains largely unexplored. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting research on this subject with the title "THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS THROUGH "*BULAN BAHASA DAN SASTRA*" EVENT AT SMAN 2 KEDIRI".

B. Scope of the Research

This research was carried out in the *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event at SMAN 2 Kediri. The focus of the research is the students who take part in the English competitions namely English debate competition and English Speech contest. The researcher is oriented to the activities that can develop students' creativity and critical thinking skills and the process of students in acquiring these skills. The researcher conducted observations, interview several students as representatives, and the teachers who in charge as judges. The researcher also

analyzes documents related to the event such as scoring rubric from the competitions and the student's work for the final result. The indicators of this research are the development of students' creativity and critical thinking skills and how is the process of developing creativity and critical thinking skills in students who take part in *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event. The development of creativity is characterized by the ability of students to generate original ideas, produce original works and actions, and have the flexibility to think in finding alternative solutions to problems. Meanwhile, the development of critical thinking skills is characterized by the ability to obtain and process information and ideas, analyze and evaluate reasoning, reflect and evaluate one's own thinking.

Based on the background and scope of the research above, the researcher formulates the problems as follows:

1. What are the activities in *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* that develop students' creativity and critical thinking skills?
2. How is the process of developing creativity and critical thinking skills in students who take part in *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event?

C. Objective of the Research

According to the formulation of the problems, the objective of this research is:

1. To describe the activities in *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event that develop the students' creativity and critical thinking skills.
2. To describe the process of developing creativity and critical thinking skills in the students who take part in *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event.

D. Significance of the Research

The researcher expected the result of this research can give significances as follow:

1. Theoretically

It is hoped that it can add theory about how to develop creativity and critical thinking skills especially through co-curricular activities.

2. Practically

a. For schools

It is hoped that the results of this research can provide input in efforts to improve the quality of education and as a reference for teachers in developing creativity and critical thinking skills through co-curricular activities.

b. For future researcher

Hopefully the results of this research can be useful as a reference for further research with the same field.

E. Definition of the Key terms

1. Creativity

Creativity is the ability to create innovations or something new and useful ideas which are a combination of pre-existing elements to be able to solve the problems they face.

2. Critical thinking skills

Critical thinking is the ability to carry out various analyses, assessments, evaluations, reconstructions, decision making that lead to logical and appropriate actions (Von Colln-Appling et al, 2017).

3. *Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra* event

Bulan Bahasa dan Sastra event is one of the co-curricular programs that the government has launched in every October as a form of commemorating the birth of the Youth Pledge that is hoped can maintain enthusiasm and increase the role of the wider community in dealing with language and literature issues.

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