

ABSTRACT

Azzahra, Eva Zulfa, Registration Number: 2202421005, Critical Thinking Aspects in the English Textbooks of *Merdeka* Curriculum for Seventh Graders at SMP Islam Al Ulum Terpadu Medan, A Thesis, English Department, Faculty of Language and Arts, State University of Medan, 2024.

This research aims to look for critical thinking aspects of two textbooks, namely "Bright an English Course published by Erlangga" and "English Starter published by Intan Pariwara" for seventh grade of the *Merdeka* Curriculum used at SMP Islam Al Ulum Terpadu Medan and the reasons why critical thinking is included in textbooks. This research uses Facione's theory, where in this theory there are six aspects of critical thinking, namely interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference, explanation, and self-regulation. Apart from that, it also uses the theory of Paul and Elder's Critical Thinking Framework which consists of elements of thought (reasoning), intellectual standards, and intellectual traits. Data analysis in this research uses Miles and Huberman modes with four stages, namely data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusion. This study found that (1) in the first textbook there were five critical thinking aspects, namely Interpretation (23%), Analysis (19%), Evaluation (23%), Inference (19%), and Explanation (16%). Meanwhile, in the second textbook there are four aspects of critical thinking, namely Interpretation (8%), Analysis (42%), Evaluation (25%), and Explanation (25%). In both textbooks there is no self-regulation aspect. (2) There are five reasons why aspects of critical thinking are included in textbooks, namely: so that students are able to understand meaning and express it in answering questions; able to overcome the complexity and problems of questions; able to ensure the correctness of information and assess the credibility of questions; able to make appropriate conclusions, and able to express the results of reasoning conceptually.

Keywords: Critical Thinking Aspects, Textbook, Merdeka Curriculum

