

ABSTRACT

Simanjuntak Anjelita, Registration Number: 2202321002. Higher Order Thinking Skills in Reading Comprehension Exercises Merdeka Curriculum English Textbook "Work in progress" for X Grade Senior High School. A Thesis English and Literature Department, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Medan, 2026.

This study aimed to identify the types of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) and analyze how HOTS are realized in the reading comprehension exercises of the Merdeka Curriculum English textbook Work in Progress for X Grade Senior High School based on Brookhart's theory. This research applied a descriptive qualitative method with content analysis design. The data source was the reading comprehension exercises found in the 2022 Merdeka Curriculum English textbook Work in Progress written by Budi Hermawan, Dwi Haryanti, and Nining Suryaningsih. The data were collected through document analysis by identifying, classifying, and analyzing the reading comprehension questions into three categories of HOTS proposed by Brookhart, namely transfer, critical thinking, and problem solving. The findings showed that there were 29 HOTS questions out of 55 reading comprehension questions in the textbook. The distribution of HOTS consisted of 5 transfer questions (17.23%), 20 critical thinking questions (68.94%), and 4 problem-solving questions (13.77%). Critical thinking was the most dominant type found in the reading comprehension exercises. The realization of HOTS in the textbook was reflected through several cognitive processes such as apply, connect, analyze, infer, evaluate, identify, determine, and solve. Inferential and analyze activities were the most frequently used in the exercises. In conclusion, the English textbook Work in Progress has integrated Higher Order Thinking Skills in its reading comprehension exercises and supports the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum. However, the distribution of HOTS is still unbalanced because critical thinking skills are more dominant than transfer and problem-solving skills. Therefore, it is suggested that textbook writers and teachers provide more varied HOTS exercises to improve students' higher-order thinking abilities comprehensively.

Keywords: *Higher Order Thinking Skills, Reading Comprehension Exercises, Merdeka Curriculum, English Textbook.*