THE WIDYA MANDALA UNIVERSITY S1 STUDENTS' SKILL IN READING INDONESIAN POLITICAL NEWS CRITICALLY

A THESIS

By :

Chatarina Ratih Hutami Sanjaya

(8212701021)

No. INDUK	0342 / 04
TGL TERIMA	11 - 03 - 2004
	MM
	BI
	San
	W-1
KE P: KE	1 (satu)

UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA

PROGRAM PASCASARJANA

PROGRAM STUDI MAGISTER PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS

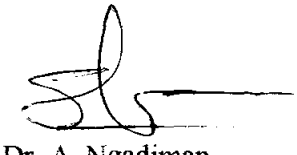
JUNI 2003

APPROVAL SHEET

(I)

This thesis entitled **Widya Mandala University S1 Students' Skill in Reading Indonesian Political News Critically**

prepared and submitted by Chatarina Ratih Hutami Sanjaya (8212701021) has been approved to be examined by the Board of Examiners for acquiring the Master's Degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language by the following advisor:



Dr. A. Ngadiman
Thesis Advisor

APPROVAL SHEET

(II)

This thesis entitled **Widya Mandala University S1 Students' Skill in Reading Indonesian Political News Critically** prepared and submitted by Chatarina Ratih Hutami Sanjaya (8212701021) was examined by the following Board of Examiners on oral examination with a grade of _____ on May 10, 2003

Prof. Dr. Veronica L. Diptoadi M.Sc
Chairman

Dr. D. Wagiman Adisutrisno M.A.
Member

Dr. A. Ngadiman
Member

Prof. E. Sadtono, Ph.D
Director of the Master's Degree Program

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Above all, I praise Jesus Christ for His Grace and Blessing so that this thesis can be accomplished in due time. This thesis is dedicated with honor to my mother, Maria Soepeno and with my deepest gratitude to my father, Iwan Sanjaya, and my sister, Mariska Ratri Utami for their abundant love and support.

I would like to express my appreciation to my thesis advisor, Dr. A. Ngadiman and the following lecturers who have remarkably helped and given their valuable insights to this thesis: St. Mulyono. Dr. D. Wagiman Adisutrisno M.A., J. V. Djoko Wirjawan, MS, Ph.D. and Drs. V. Luluk Prijambodo, M.Pd. and all the lecturers of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University.

For the completion of this thesis, I would like to acknowledge all the heads of the departments of Widya Mandala Catholic University for their cooperation for the data collection of this thesis. To them goes more than a mark of gratitude. My countless appreciation is also delivered to all students who became participants in my study.

Particular thanks are owed to Aniek S. Pd and Chrisvon L. S.S for being such understanding supervisors. This thesis also noted some helps in the data collection from my colleagues: Shierly, Audry, Eni and Eric. Those helps would certainly never be forgotten.

I also thank Audry Susanto M.Pd. and Shierly Novalita Yappi M.Pd. for giving me the best companionship during my study. I will always remember how we laughed together and strengthened each other during the hard times. Somehow, the memories have inspired me and enriched my life. God bless you.

Finally, all my warm feeling goes to Bambang Susilo, S.T. whose love, understanding and support have always become the source of strength and motivation for me. I sincerely thank him for being so patient and tender that I could always see joy and hope and believe in myself.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL SHEET I i
APPROVAL SHEET II ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS v
LIST OF TABLES vii
ABSTRACT viii

CHAPTER:
1. INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background of the Study 1
1.2 Statements of the Problem 6
1.3 Objectives of the Study 7
1.4 Theoretical Framework 8
1.4.1 Critical Reading Skill 8
1.4.2 Indonesian Political News 9
1.5 The Assumptions 10
1.6 Significance of the Study 10
1.7 Limitation of the Study 11
1.8 Definition of Key Term 13
1.9 Organization of the Study 13

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE
2.1 Reading 14
2.1.1 Top Down Model of Reading 14
2.1.2 Critical Reading 17
2.1.2.1 Recognizing the Writer's Purposes 23
2.1.2.2 Noting Special Point of View 24
2.1.2.3 Being Aware of the Writer's Choice of Language 25
2.1.2.4 Evaluating the Writer's Argument 26
2.1.2.5 Evaluating Inferences 27
2.1.3 Schema Theory 28
2.2 News 30
2.3 Indonesian Political News 42
2.4 Previous Studies 54

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
3.1 Research Design 56
3.2 Population and Sample 56
3.3 Research Instrument 57
3.3.1 The Selections of the Political News 58
3.3.2 The Test Items 59
3.3.3 Triangulation 60
3.3.4 The Scoring of the Test 60

3.4 Parameter 61
3.5 The Try-Out of the Instrument 62
3.6 Procedure of Data Collection and Data Analysis 63
3.7 Technique of Data Analysis 65

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND THE DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS
4.1 The Results of the Data Analysis 66
4.1.1 The Critical Reading Skill 66
4.1.2 The Ability in Recognizing the Writer's Purposes 67
4.1.3 The Ability in Noting Special Point of View 68
4.1.4 The Ability in Being Aware of the Writer's Choice of Language 69
4.1.5 The Ability in Evaluating the Writer's Argument 70
4.1.6 The Ability in Evaluating Inferences 71
4.2 Discussion of the Findings 73

5. SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS
5.1 Summary and Conclusion 88
5.2 Suggestions 90
5.2.1 Suggestions for Educational Practitioners 91
5.2.2 Suggestions for Newsmakers 93
5.2.3 Suggestions for Further Research 94

REFERENCES 95

APPENDICES
1 The Students' Test Scores 97
2 The Critical Reading Test 108
3 The Answer Key of the Critical Reading Test 109

LIST OF TABLES

Tables		Page
2.1	Types of Verbs	39
3.1	Sample of Study	57
3.2	The Specifications of the Test	59
3.3	The Scoring of the Test	61
3.4	The Schedule of Collecting Data	64
4.1	The Summary of the Students' Critical Reading Skill	66
4.2	The Ability in Recognizing the Writer's Purposes	68
4.3	The Ability in Noting Special Point of View	69
4.4	The Awareness of the Writers' Choice of Language	70
4.5	The Ability in Evaluating the Writers' Argument	70
4.6	The Ability in Evaluating Inferences	71
4.7	The Agreement with the Writers	72
4.8	The Disagreement with the Writers	72

ABSTRACT

Sanjaya, Chatarina Ratih Hutami. (2003). **The Widya Mandala University S1 Students' Skill in Reading Indonesian Political News Critically.** Unpublished S2 thesis. Master in TEFL Program of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya. Advisor: Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman

Key words: Critical reading skill, Indonesian political news

Due to the fact that Indonesian political news tends to contain biases, the skill to read critically is considered important for university students as a potential political power to avoid being manipulated and provoked. This study was aimed at describing to what extent the Widya Mandala S1 students could read Indonesian political news critically. The major question investigated was: To what extent can the Widya Mandala University S1 students read Indonesian political news critically? Critical reading skill includes the ability in recognizing the writer's purposes, the ability in noting special point of view, the ability in recognizing the writer's choice of language, the ability in evaluating the writer's argument and the ability in evaluating inferences. Thus, the above major question was elaborated into five minor questions as stated here: (1) To what extent can the students recognize the writer's purposes? (2) To what extent can the students note special point of view? (3) To what extent can the students be aware of the writer's choice of language? (4) To what extent can the students evaluate the writer's argument and (5) To what extent can the students evaluate inferences?

A descriptive study was then conducted. The data were the students' test scores. The data were taken from a sample of 448 seventh semester S1 students of nine faculties / departments of Widya Mandala University. The instrument was a test consisting of three parts. It was used to measure the students' critical reading skill. Each part of the test contained a piece of Indonesian political news. Each piece of political news was then followed by the same seven questions asking students to perform the five critical reading abilities. The mean calculation was then employed to analyze the data.

The results of the data analysis show that the students' critical reading skill was poor. In other words, the students performed poorly in reading Indonesian political news critically. The students performed moderately in recognizing the writer's purposes. However, they were poor in noting special point of view. The students showed poor awareness of the writer's choice of language. They were also poor in evaluating the writer's argument and evaluating inferences. Based on these facts, the students could be considered not immune to the news biases and easy to manipulate and provoke. This condition also reveals that the students need to be taught critical reading to enable them to read critically.

Based on the findings above, this study proposes the teaching of critical reading besides the teaching of reading comprehension. It also strongly suggests that students be taught to read critically as early as possible. Practically, critical reading skill must be inserted in the language syllabus especially. The teaching of critical reading, of course, must involve the teaching of its five abilities with the

adjustments to the level of difficulty of the material, the teaching techniques and the students' characteristics.

ABSTRAK

Sanjaya, Chatarina Ratih Hutami. (2003). **The Widya Mandala University S1 Students' Skill in Reading Indonesian Political News Critically.** Tesis S2. Program Pascasarjana Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala, Surabaya. Dosen Pembimbing: Dr. A. Ngadiman

Kata Kunci: Kemampuan membaca kritis, berita politik Indonesia

Berdasarkan kenyataan bahwa berita politik Indonesia cenderung mengandung prasangka, kemampuan membaca dengan kritis adalah penting terutama bagi mahasiswa sebagai kekuatan politik yang potensial untuk mengirindari manipulasi dan provokasi. Penelitian ini bertujuan menjelaskan seberapa jauh mahasiswa S1 Universitas Widya Mandala dapat membaca berita politik Indonesia dengan kritis. Penelitian ini untuk menjawab pertanyaan: Seberapa jauh mahasiswa S1 Universitas Widya Mandala dapat membaca berita politik Indonesia dengan kritis? Kemampuan membaca dengan kritis mencakup kemampuan mengenali tujuan penulis, kemampuan menangkap sudut pandang tertentu, kesadaran terhadap pilihan bahasa penulis, kemampuan mengevaluasi argumentasi penulis dan kemampuan mengevaluasi kesimpulan. Karena kemampuan membaca kritis mencakup lima kemampuan khusus tersebut, maka pertanyaan utama di atas dijabarkan lagi sebagai berikut: (1) Seberapa jauh mahasiswa dapat mengenali tujuan-tujuan penulis? (2) Seberapa jauh mahasiswa dapat menangkap sudut pandang tertentu? Pertanyaan ini termasuk (3) Seberapa jauh mahasiswa dapat menyadari pilihan-pilihan bahasa penulis? (4) Seberapa jauh mahasiswa dapat mengevaluasi argumentasi penulis? dan (5) Seberapa jauh mahasiswa dapat mengevaluasi kesimpulan?

Untuk menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan tersebut diatas dilakukan penelitian deskriptif. Data-data penelitian ini berupa nilai-nilai test mahasiswa. Data-data tersebut diambil dari sampel penelitian yang meliputi 448 mahasiswa S1 Universitas Widya Mandala semester tujuh dari sembilan fakultas / jurusan. Instrument yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah sebuah test yang terdiri dari tiga bagian. Test ini untuk mengukur kemampuan membaca kritis mahasiswa. Setiap bagian dari test terdiri dari sebuah berita politik yang diikuti oleh tujuh pertanyaan yang meminta mahasiswa untuk mempraktekkanan kemampuan khusus mereka dalam membaca kritis. Penghitungan nilai rata rata dipergunakan untuk mengukur seberapa jauh mahasiswa dapat membaca berita politik Indonesia dengan kritis dan seberapa jauh mereka dapat menunjukkan kemampuan dalam lima kemampuan membaca dengan kritis sebagaimana telah disebutkan sebelumnya.

Hasil analisis data menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan membaca kritis mahasiswa adalah buruk. Dengan kata lain, mahasiswa tidak dapat membaca berita politik Indonesia dengan kritis. Mahasiswa menunjukkan kemampuan yang sedang / biasa biasa saja dalam mengenali tujuan-tujuan penulis. Namun, mereka menunjukkan kemampuan yang buruk dalam menangkap sudut pandang tertentu dan menyadari pilihan-pilihan bahasa penulis. Kemampuan yang buruk juga

ditunjukkan dalam mengevaluasi argumentasi penulis dan mengevaluasi kesimpulan. Berdasarkan kenyataan-kenyataan ini, dapat dikatakan bahwa mahasiswa tidaklah kebal terhadap prasangka-prasangka pemberitaan dan mudah untuk dimanipulasi atau diprovokasi. Kondisi ini juga menyiratkan perlunya mahasiswa dididik kemampuan membaca dengan kritis sehingga mereka dapat membaca dengan kritis.

Berdasarkan penemuan-penemuan di atas, penelitian ini menyarankan diberikannya pengajaran membaca secara kritis di samping pengajaran membaca untuk pemahaman. Mahasiswa harus dibekali dengan kemampuan membaca dengan kritis sedini mungkin. Dalam prakteknya, kemampuan membaca dengan kritis harus dicantumkan utamanya dalam silabus bahasa. Pengajaran kemampuan membaca dengan kritis harus melibatkan pengajaran lima kemampuan membaca dengan kritis dengan kondisi bahwa tingkat kesulitan materi dan teknik pengajaran harus disesuaikan dengan karakteristik siswa.