

**A CORRELATIONAL STUDY OF EFL STUDENTS' RESEARCH
COMPETENCE, DIGITAL LITERACY AND CRITICAL
THINKING SKILL**

**By
FIRDHA RIKHADATUL AISYA**



**ANTASARI STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
BANJARMASIN
2025 AD / 1446 AH**

**A CORRELATIONAL STUDY OF EFL STUDENTS' RESEARCH
COMPETENCE, DIGITAL LITERACY AND CRITICAL
THINKING SKILL**

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in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Sarjana Pendidikan

By

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I, the undersigned, Firdha Rikhadatul Aisya, declare that this undergraduate thesis is my original work, gathered and utilized specially to fulfil the purposes and objectives of this study, and has not been previously submitted to any other university for any degree or other purposes. I also declare that the publications cited in this work have been properly acknowledged. If someday, it is proven otherwise, I understand that my degree will be revoked.

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ABSTRACT

Firdha Rikhadatul Aisya. 2025. A Correlational Study of EFL Students' Research Competence, Digital Literacy, and Critical Thinking Skill. Thesis. English Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, Antasari State Islamic University. Advisor: Dr. Hj. Nida Mufidah, M.Pd

Keywords: A Correlational Study; Research Competence; Digital Literacy; Critical Thinking Skill; EFL Students.

This research investigates the levels of digital literacy, critical thinking skills, and research competence among EFL students, and explores the correlation and the extent to which the two independent variables predict students' research competence. Utilizing a quantitative correlational design, data were obtained through multiple-choice tests administered to 66 eighth-semester students of the English Education Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. All participants had completed or were in the process of completing their undergraduate thesis and had taken research-related courses. The descriptive findings revealed that the students possessed relatively high levels of digital literacy ($M = 79.00$, $SD = 8.35$), critical thinking skills ($M = 83.47$, $SD = 7.15$), and research competence ($M = 76.74$, $SD = 6.12$). Results from multiple linear regression analysis indicated a strong and statistically significant correlation between digital literacy and critical thinking skills with students' research competence ($R = 0.897$, $R^2 = 0.804$). Furthermore, both independent variables were found to significantly contribute to the prediction of research competence, with critical thinking skills ($B = 0.521$) showing a slightly higher contribution than digital literacy ($B = 0.463$). These findings emphasize the essential roles of critical thinking and digital literacy in developing students' research competence, suggesting the need for these skills to be more deeply embedded in English language education and academic research instruction.

ABSTRAK

Firdha Rikhadatul Aisya. 2025. Studi Korelasional antara Kompetensi Penelitian, Literasi Digital, dan Keterampilan Berpikir Kritis Mahasiswa EFL, Skripsi. Program Studi Tadris Bahasa Inggris., Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan, UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. Dosen Pembimbing: Dr. Hj. Nida Mufidah, M.Pd.

Kata kunci: Studi korelasi; Literasi Digital; Kompetensi Penelitian; Keterampilan Berpikir Kritis; Mahasiswa EFL.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi tingkat literasi digital, keterampilan berpikir kritis, dan kompetensi riset mahasiswa EFL, serta menganalisis korelasi dan sejauh mana kedua variabel independen tersebut dapat memprediksi kompetensi riset mahasiswa. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif dengan desain korelasional, dan data dikumpulkan melalui tes pilihan ganda yang diberikan kepada 66 mahasiswa semester delapan Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. Seluruh partisipan telah mengambil mata kuliah terkait penelitian dan sedang atau telah menyelesaikan skripsi. Hasil deskriptif menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa memiliki tingkat yang relatif tinggi pada ketiga variabel: literasi digital ($M = 79.00$; $SD = 8.35$), keterampilan berpikir kritis ($M = 83.47$; $SD = 7.15$), dan kompetensi riset ($M = 76.74$; $SD = 6.12$). Analisis regresi linier berganda menunjukkan adanya korelasi yang kuat dan signifikan secara statistik antara literasi digital dan keterampilan berpikir kritis terhadap kompetensi riset mahasiswa ($R = 0.897$; $R^2 = 0.804$). Koefisien regresi juga menunjukkan bahwa kedua variabel independen berkontribusi signifikan dalam memprediksi kompetensi riset, dengan kontribusi keterampilan berpikir kritis ($B = 0.521$) sedikit lebih besar dibandingkan literasi digital ($B = 0.463$). Temuan ini menegaskan pentingnya peran berpikir kritis dan literasi digital dalam pengembangan kompetensi riset mahasiswa, serta mendorong integrasi kedua keterampilan ini secara lebih mendalam dalam pendidikan bahasa Inggris dan pelatihan penelitian akademik.

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Finally, the writer hopes that this research will be useful for the next researchers. The writer admits that this research paper is not perfect yet. Therefore, suggestion will be expected to make it better.

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