

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Critical thinking is a part of human nature. Thinking critically make people decide choice or solve their problem nowadays. In work, school, and life, critical thinking always be there. Critical thinking is ability to think clearly and rationally about what to do or what to believe as the truth. So critical thinking is so important for human being in every situation in life. Thinking critically has always been important. It is a vital necessity for the citizens of the 21st century. Every generation needs more education than the one that came before because the world is becoming increasingly technical and complex. In his award-winning book, Hunt (1995, p. 23) examined the skills that will be needed by our workforce in the early decades of this century and asked, "Will be smart enough?" the quality of life, perhaps even the future of planet, depends on how to answer this question.

Many people asking about what critical thinking is. Washburn (2010, p. 3) states that different people answer that question in different ways. Perhaps the first thing to say is that it is not being critical of people. Words often have more than one meaning, and when people talk about "critical thinking," they mean the kind of thinking that enables a person to make a good decision. It is thinking about whether or not something that heard is true, or thinking about the best way to get work done on time. Having critical attitude means looking for some basis on which to judge something. For example, watching a movie critically means looking for strong points and weak points,

features that make it excellent and features that make it average or boring. Critical thinking includes finding flaws and problems (“criticizing”), but that is only part of the activity. It is also praising and valuing. It means thinking about all the aspects of a statement, a person’s action, a film, a government policy, or anything else, so it can be understood and made the best judgment-positive, negative, or neutral.

In this era, critical thinking is important for learners to gain the challenges of their life. It is not only in education. It is also useful in their social life. Surely, teachers expected the students be able to think critically. This cognitive thinking will require them to think critically for taking an idea from the situation around. They have the basic skill involved critical thinking. It is like working out whether they believe what they see and what they hear, taking steps to find out whether something is likely to be true, and arguing our own case if someone does not believe them. Kanik (2010, p. 54) believes that if students are to perform in a highly technical society, they must be prepared with life-long learning and critical thinking skill is necessary to obtain and process information in an ever changing world. The university will be more focused to increase the students that have ability in this quality. Essentially, the critical thinking has many purposes in gaining their circumstances life. One of them will make the learners easier getting high proficiency of their lesson. They will understand deeply about the lesson because they create another process in their brain to make the information accepted or understood by them. For example in every single lesson, when the teachers give lesson to the students, they will accept and think deeply what is the important and the purpose of the lesson. It will make them recognize one thing, that this lesson give them information and new perception about something. If the students

assume this kind of information is good, they will process this continuously. Conversely, they assume this kind of information is bad for them; it will process in their thinking in another way.

At university level, critical thinking skill is essential abilities in using intellectual tools by which one appropriately assesses thinking. In this case, by utilizing critical thinking skills, students can use the intellectual tools that critical thinking offers concepts and principles that enable them to analyze, assess, and improve thinking. They will be able to work diligently to develop the intellectual virtues of intellectual integrity, intellectual humility, intellectual civility, intellectual empathy, intellectual sense of justice and confidence in reason. According to Halpern (2003, p. 2), the workforce is one critical place where that can be witness the dizzying pace of change. There is an increased demand for a new type of worker—the "knowledge worker" or the "symbol analyst," a phrase that is used by the United States secretary of labor to describe someone who can carry out multistep operations, manipulate abstract and complex symbols and ideas, acquire new information efficiently, and remain flexible enough to recognize the need for continuing change and for new paradigms for lifelong learning.

The importance of critical thinking and its analyzing are also mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, Al-Hasyr verse 21 as follows:

لَوْ أَنْزَلْنَا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ عَلَىٰ جَبَلٍ لَّرَأَيْنَهُ خَاشِعًا مُّتَصَدِّعًا مِّنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَالُ

نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

As Allah saying: “If we had sent down this Qur'an upon a mountain, you would have seen it humbled and coming apart from fear of Allah. And these examples we present to the people that perhaps they will give thought.”

Based on the verse, it can be concluded how important thinking is and the deep understanding about it. As a mankind of Allah, after knowing the important of critical thinking. It should be learned and practice to be a good critical thinker.

Nowadays, there is a ways to think critically along with debate. A debate is a form of public discourse; it is a formal direct oral contest or competition in argumentation between two or more people defined proposition at a specific time. A debate, therefore, is a formal, disciplined, and rule-governed contest or competition that is conducted within a set framework. A debate may comprise single participants or teams that include several students. In a typical debate, two teams are presented with a proposition that they will debate, with each team given a set period of time to prepare their arguments. Debate are performed in a structured setting that gives all participants a chance to present defend their arguments ([debateqatar.org](http://debateqatar.org)).

Debate is not only competing two sides of argument, but also the way to find out problem solving based on each arguments. Debating is good, because debate has many benefits such as, developing critical thinking, improving communication skills, increasing knowledge, training to think creative, providing to do research, training to be more sensitively and responsive, keeping low profile, self-confidence, keeping on belief, self-reflection, being brave to state argument, and convincing other people.

Debate has many benefits. Not only develop critical thinking skills but also others benefits. In general, the benefits of debate are, *first*, gaining broad, multi-faceted

knowledge cutting across several discipline outside the learner's normal academics subjects. *Second*, increasing learners' confidence, poise, and self-esteem. *Third*, providing an engaging, active, learner centered activity. *Fourth*, improving rigorous higher order and critical thinking skills. *Fifth*, enhancing the ability to structure and organize thoughts. *Sixth*, enhancing learners' analytical, research and note taking kills. *Seventh*, improving learners' ability to form balanced, informed arguments and to use reasoning and evidence. *Then*, developing effective speech competition and delivery. *Last*, encouraging teamwork (qatardebate.org).

A debate society is a club of people who want to learn all about debating. People who join in club are members. A debate club gives all abilities. Such us, oration skills, critical thinking skills, convincing skills, and confident communication. Debate club could also help to become more informed about political, health, social, economics, global affairs, or provide a venue to train for debate competition. Either local debate competition or national debate competition.

A debate society also gives big social circle. The members interact each other. Such us, sharing information and knowledge, discussing hot topics, and improving social communication skills. That is why a debate club gives many benefits for its members. People who don't join a debate club also have all of abilities above, but if people who join a debate club have chance to get many benefits from it and successful by a debate club.

To facilitate the students of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin, especially students of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training Faculty in developing critical thinking. So, there are a number of student established the first debate society named LiDS Educia.

Linguistics and Debating Society [LiDS] Educia is a student organization under the auspices of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training UIN Antasari Banjarmasin as a forum to develop students' self-interest and self-actualization in language and debate as well as to act as a cadre forming organization. LiDS Educia was established on March 20, 2014 and inaugurated as a SME Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training since March 19, 2015. Linguistics and Debating Society means Linguistic Club and Debate, now LiDS Educia has 2 language divisions namely: Arabic and English ([about.me/lidseducia](http://about.me/lidseducia)).

The purposes of LiDS Educia are to "The realization of students who are sensitive to problematic, critical, logical, solute, and aspirational through debate, research, and literature that produce writing". LiDS Educia applies the debate as an instrument to improve English, public speaking and critical thinking as well as to research in the process both literature and field with a philosophical foundation "We debate to find the truth, not to determine who is right" (Educia, 2014)

LiDS Educia is an organization that has many aims for their members. Beside, to develop debate and language skills, one of LiDS Educia aims for its members is critical thinking skills. Therefore, the researcher wanted to know further about the techniques that are used by members of LiDS Educis to develop their critical thinking skills. The researcher choose LiDS Educia as a subject of research because this organization has many achievement, such us debate competition, speech competition, and more. The ex-member of LiDS Educia also had won the language ambassador contest.

As an organization under auspices of the faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher training, LiDS Educia is one important aspect in order to students development in nonacademic such as, practice emotional quotation, critical thinking skills development, and practice environment care with many activities of LiDS Educia. For English department, LiDS Educia contribute to form English department student. Many English department students that join in LiDS Educia got achievement. They won many tournament and contest. Such as, language and region ambassador contest, debate tournament university, regional, and national, news anchor, writing competition, speech competition, etc.

In language aspect, LiDS Educia has big role in improving English skills besides critical thinking skills. There is English language division that organize rehearsal or practice program for members to improve English skills such as, writing, listening, reading, speaking, grammar, and vocabulary. Based on the discussion above, the researcher proposes to conduct a study with the title “**The Role of LiDS Educia in Developing Critical Thinking Skills**”.

#### **B. The Statement of Problem**

Here is the questions that identifies the phenomenon to be studied:

1. How is management program of LiDS Educia in developing critical thinking skills?
2. How is the process of LiDS Educia in developing critical thinking skills?
3. What are the benefits of critical thinking for LiDS Educia members?

#### **C. The Objectives**

Here is the purposes of the research:

1. To know the management program of LiDS Educia in developing critical thinking skills.
2. To know the process of LiDS Educia in developing critical thinking skills
3. To know the benefits of critical thinking for LiDS Educia members.

#### **D. Significance of The Research**

The results of this research are expected to have benefits as follows:

1. For Students

As a new way in the process of developing critical thinking skills in lectures and life outside the lecture.

2. For Department

To contribute this research for department in order to improve the performance and quality of graduates, Especially for English Education Department.

To enrich the English Education Department literature of critical thinking research.

3. For Researcher

Expected to be the reference for the further research about critical thinking.

#### **E. Definition of Key Terms**

1. Role is a function or part performed especially in a particular operation or process, or a socially expected behavior pattern usually determined by an

individual's status in a particular society (merriam-webster.com). In this research, what is meant here by role is the LiDS Educia role to improve critical thinking skills of members.

2. Linguistics and Debating Society (LiDS) Educia is a student organization under the auspices of the Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training of Antasari State Islamic University as a forum to develop students' self-interest and self-actualization in language and debate. LiDS Educia was established on March 20, 2014 ([about.me/lidseducia](http://about.me/lidseducia)).
3. To develop is to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; bring to a more advanced or effective state (oxford.com). In this research, to develop critical thinking skills of LiDS Educia members.
4. Critical thinking skills is the use of cognitive skills or strategies that increase the probability of desirable outcome. It is used to describe thinking that is purposeful, reasoned, and goal directed – the kind of thinking involved in solving problem, formulating inferences, calculating likelihoods, and make decisions. In this research, Critical Thinking skills of LiDS Educia Members.