

## ABSTRACT

### **Rahman, Chintya Amelia (2024) Fostering Critical Reading Skills Among EFL Students Through Think-Pair-Share Strategy: A Pre-Experimental Study at Junior High School**

The research explores the effectiveness of using the Think-Pair-Share strategy to foster EFL students' critical reading skills on descriptive texts. Several problems were observed when teaching critical reading, including students' difficulties in analyzing text content, identifying key information, and making inferences. This research suggests the Think-Pair-Share strategy as a solution to these problems. The purpose of this research is to assess students' critical reading skills before and after implementing the Think-Pair-Share strategy and identify any significant differences in their performance.

The research applied a quantitative method with a pre-experimental design, consisting of one group pretest and posttest. The research was conducted at SMP Negeri 3 Cileunyi, with the population being 8th-grade students in the 2023/2024 academic year. Purposive sampling was used, selecting 36 students from class 8 D as the sample. The data were collected using pretest and posttest written assessments. Results showed that the mean score of students' critical reading skills before using the Think-Pair-Share strategy was 61.53, while the posttest score increased to 81.11, indicating a significant improvement of 19.58 points. Additionally, the T-test results showed a t-count of  $9.983 > t\text{-table } 2.030$ , indicating that the alternative hypothesis ( $H_a$ ) is accepted, and the null hypothesis ( $H_o$ ) is rejected.

Furthermore, the mean N-gain was 0.48, which places the score in the "average" category. In conclusion, implementing the Think-Pair-Share strategy significantly improves students' critical reading skills for descriptive texts. Implementing this strategy for learning descriptive texts effectively helps students overcome critical reading problems.

**Keywords:** Critical Reading Skills, Think-Pair-Share strategy, EFL Students