

SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW (SLR) EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE CULTURE OF LITERACY AND CRITICAL THINKING IN THE READING COMMUNITY

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ABSTRAK

History shows that advanced human civilization was not only founded by relying on abundant natural resources, but also by building human resources who were literate in science and technology. People's literacy skills are closely related to reading abilities which are expected to improve people's ability to understand and process information analytically, critically and reflectively. A person's interest in reading can change, develop, or even disappear. Therefore, interest in reading will grow well if it is supported by an environment that is conducive to reading, so that the reading community takes a role. The method used in this research is Systematic Literature Review or SLR. The aim of this research is to determine the role of society in improving literacy culture, strategies for cultivating literacy, the concept of critical thinking, and the relationship between literacy culture and critical thinking. The results of the research conducted show that the role of the reading community is very significant in improving literacy culture and critical thinking skills among students and the wider community. Reading community programs such as reading stalls, writing and book reviews, as well as social media campaigns also contribute greatly to fostering a culture of literacy.

Keywords: *Critical Thinking, Literacy Culture, Reading Community.*

INTRODUCTION

History shows that advanced human civilization was not only founded by relying on abundant natural resources, but also by building human resources who were literate in science and technology. A nation that has a culture of high literacy and good intelligence is able to collaborate, think critically, be creative and communicative, so that it can compete at the global level. Pratiwi (2021) stated that one of the important foundations for creating superior Indonesian human resources is to foster a culture of literacy and interest in reading in society. Literacy culture, especially reading and writing, plays an important role in life because knowledge is produced through reading and writing activities.

Literacy is the ability to understand, use and reflect on texts by applying them directly to achieve various goals (Dafit et al., 2020). Literacy includes social behavior in obtaining, understanding and using information related to knowledge, language and culture through activities such as reading, watching, listening, writing and speaking to create a better life. Literacy is the key to a nation's progress, because the development of science and technology is achieved through high reading abilities. People's literacy skills are closely related to reading abilities which are expected to improve people's ability to understand and process information analytically, critically and reflectively. This thinking ability is very necessary in the current era of disruption, where literacy culture is still low.

According to Siswono (2018), critical thinking is the process of using thinking skills effectively to help individuals make, evaluate and implement decisions in accordance with what they believe and do. Halpern (2014) adds that critical thinking involves the use of cognitive skills or strategies that increase the likelihood of a desired outcome, which includes purposeful, reasoned, and directed thinking in solving problems, formulating conclusions, calculating possibilities, and making decisions, when thinkers use skills that wise and effective for particular contexts and types of thinking tasks.

Students' level of interest in reading greatly influences their ability to process information analytically, critically and reflectively, known as Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS). Ideology influences individuals and is used to understand life experiences. For example, in a society that adheres to capitalism, material gain and prosperity are considered the basis of life. This dominant ideology is considered the basis for thinking and acting. On the other hand, if someone realizes that these assumptions and beliefs do not match their views, then they have entered a learning process that produces a new perspective (Ila Rosmilawati, 2020). This learning process is a transformative learning goal, namely changing students' frame of reference for thinking through reflection on their learning experiences.

Low interest in reading results in low critical thinking abilities. This also explains the widespread spread of hoaxes in Indonesia. The high level of public access to the internet and social media is not commensurate with the low level of literacy and critical thinking skills (Mansyur, 2019). The low interest in reading in Indonesia is not only caused by a lack of library facilities, but also a lack of awareness from leaders of educational institutions and library managers about the role and function of libraries. Therefore, all parties need to play an active role in increasing a person's interest in reading by visiting the library more often and maximizing its use as a learning resource and medium.

A high interest in reading will make students increasingly fond of reading, which will train thinking skills, improve understanding, increase insight and knowledge, hone writing skills, support speaking skills, and enrich vocabulary. This shows that a high interest in reading can improve a person's ability to write and speak (Mansyur, 2018a).

Manuscripts must be turnit in, maximum similarity is 25%.

RESEARCH METHODS

Systematic Literature Review or SLR is the method used in this research. A literature review is a scientific process that aims to examine theories and concepts related to the topic to be researched to show completeness and uniqueness (Davies, et al., 2013; Zakaria & Priyatni, 2021). SLR was used in this research because the theme of ethnopedagogy is an interdisciplinary science, namely ethno and pedagogy. SLR in this research is useful for 1) Mapping different approaches from across disciplines to the same topic; 2) Combining different theoretical perspectives; 3) Comparison of research methods used to answer the same research question. The results of this research can be used as an alternative to develop a new theory regarding the theory of the role of society in improving literacy culture, strategies for cultivating literacy, the concept of critical thinking, and the relationship between literacy culture and critical thinking.

The stages in this research are determining the problem formulation in the form of 1) What is the concept of literacy culture; 2) What is the role of society in improving literacy culture; 3) What is the strategy for cultivating a culture of literacy; and 4) What is meant by the concept of critical thinking. Next is determining keywords, the search process, criteria for selected articles, and analysis of selected articles. Next, determine the literature criteria to be reviewed, which include: 1) Literature articles published in research journals indexed at least Sinta 3; 2) Articles published in the last 5 years (2019-2024); 3) contains elements of literacy and critical thinking in the title; and 4) Examining literacy and critical thinking in general.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

In this analysis there are 7 articles that are relevant to the specified problem topic. In the literature selection process, 7 journals and 7 articles were selected for comprehensive analysis. The results of the analysis of selected literature are then discussed in depth based on predetermined categories, thereby providing more detailed and in-depth insight into the topic under study.

Table 1. Indexed Journal Publications

Year	Journal Name	Number of Articles	Type of Publication
2019	<i>Literasi: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia Serta Pembelajarannya,</i>	1	Scopus

2021	<i>FITRAH: International Islamic Education Journal</i>	1	Scopus
2020	<i>Jurnal Penelitian Kebijakan Pendidikan</i>	1	Scopus
2024	<i>Indo-MathEdu Intellectuals Journal</i>	1	Google Scholar
2022	<i>Indonesian Journal of Mathematics Education</i>	1	Sinta 3
2023	<i>Bandung Conference Series: Communication Management</i>	1	Google Scholar
2020	<i>Literasi: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia Serta Pembelajarannya</i>	1	Scopus

Discussion

The articles found contained the concept of the role of society in improving literacy culture, strategies for cultivating literacy, the concept of literacy culture, and the relationship between literacy culture and critical thinking. Seven articles were found, four of which discussed literacy culture, while the other three articles discussed the concept of critical thinking. The four articles discussing literacy culture emphasize the importance of creating an environment that supports literacy from an early age. Children and students need to be stimulated so that their interest in reading arises naturally. Existing literacy programs must be implemented sustainably and comprehensively. Therefore, all parties need to be involved, including families, educational institutions and the general public. The reading community has an important role in collaborating to create innovation in the field of literacy. In realizing an intelligent and literate society, all parties must work together to implement innovative and creative literacy programs.

Three other articles discuss the concept of critical thinking highlighting the importance of critical thinking skills as one of the four basic skills of the 21st century. Reading literacy is closely related to critical thinking skills because the reading process involves deep and reflective understanding. To improve critical thinking skills, learning must utilize technology and encourage self-responsibility in learning, with special attention to cognitive and social-emotional elements.

Table 2. Authors, Research Methods, and Research Results

Author	Research Method	Research Results
Mansyur, U	Kualitatif	Upaya meningkatkan minat baca dan budaya literasi peserta didik dan masyarakat secara luas.
Pratiwi, S. H	Kualitatif	Konsep literasi digital pada komunitas membaca.
Muttaqin, M. Z., Evendi, A., & Suryanti, M. S. D.	Kualitatif	Beberapa program yang dilakukan dalam komunitas membaca.
Putri, A. D. M. P., Ulfa, M. U., & Rohmah, D. M. R	Kualitatif	Keterkaitan Literasi Membaca dengan Mengasah Kemampuan Berpikir Kritis.
Nadiasari, E., & Palma, D. I.	Kualitatif	Konsep berpikir kritis
Pauziah, N., & Muthiah, T.	Kualitatif	Kemampuan berpikir kritis dalam kegiatan literasi, perhatian khusus harus diberikan pada unsur cognitive dan social-emotional
Mansyur, U.	Kualitatif	Konsep berpikir kritis

The Role Of The Reading Community In Improving Literacy Culture

According to Mansyur (2019), efforts to increase interest in reading and literacy culture among students and the wider community, including community activity programs that support interest in reading, can be carried out through the following steps:

First, instill the habit of reading from an early age. Reading and writing skills are not genetic factors, but rather the result of habits that are continuously imitated and practiced. Therefore, a reading culture must be developed from an early age, and the family plays an important role in this matter. Awareness and encouragement from parents to regularly spend time reading with their children is very necessary. Children must also be given stimulation so that their interest in reading arises from within them, because forcing them to read as many books as possible will not be effective.

Second, create a book-friendly environment. A person's interest in reading can change, develop, or even disappear. Therefore, interest in reading will grow well if it is supported by an environment that is conducive to reading. Students, for example, should associate with people who like to read, start buying or borrowing books they like, and read them at the right time and place.

Third, collaborate in carrying out literacy innovations. To build an intelligent and literate society, all parties need to work together to implement innovative and creative literacy programs continuously and comprehensively. Every party, both educational institutions and the general public, must support the literacy movement to create a society that is literate and has character, and is able to adapt to current developments.

Fourth, maximize library use. Almost all educational institutions have adequate libraries, so what needs to be done is to maximize their use as learning resources.

1. Hold ceremonial visits to the library as an opportunity for librarians to provide explanations and understanding to students about the facilities and benefits available.
2. Make it mandatory to borrow books in the library, whether they are relevant to the learning material or not, by setting reading time limits to increase student references and insight, as well as increase book borrowing traffic in the library.
3. Give group assignments to review quality books in the library, then present them in class to stimulate other students' interest in reading.
4. Assign writing a bibliography of various references in the library, such as books, journals, magazines and scientific works, so that students' knowledge of reference sources becomes broader.
5. Support Library Reading Movement activities carried out by schools or universities and library managers so that their implementation is effective and efficient.

Literacy Fertilization Strategy

Pratiwi (2021) said, through book reading community activities, the reading material of each community member can be maximally enriched, so that all the information contained in the reading can be accessed by all members in a fun and interesting way. The reading materials submitted are also received by other members before the book reflections are discussed together. That way, reading material will continue to increase every week and can be owned by everyone in soft copy form. This reading literacy activity provides many benefits and hones various language skills. It is important to realize that the more you read, the more you will practice strategies for understanding the content of the reading well, because low interest in reading is often caused by a lack of understanding of the content of the reading. When a reader does not understand the content of what he is reading, he does not get the message or deep meaning of what he reads. Lack of understanding of reading content is also greatly influenced by low mastery of vocabulary (Pratiwi, 2021). According to Zaenal (2020) programs carried out in reading communities:

1. **Lapak Baca**
To develop the habit of reading culture, people open reading stalls that provide various books. This activity is marked by the installation of banners and the use of open space as an activity location which is believed to attract reading interest from students and the academic community. Social capital is strengthened through publications in the media, including opinion pieces, articles and social media. Lapak Baca is also supported by strategies such as providing free coffee and accepting voluntary donations in the form of books or money from visitors. With this approach, an exchange of information and a symbiotic relationship is created between the Community and visitors to the Baca stall.

2. Writing and Book Reviews

Writing activities are carried out by community members or anyone who wants to contribute to the reading community. The form of writing is not limited to certain content, whether fiction or non-fiction, but is collected into book anthologies or digital files. Book reviews are an alternative activity to introduce and develop a book. This activity is closely related to the transfer of knowledge, dissemination of material, and giving appreciation to writers, so that their work can be useful for other people (Supriatna, 2018).

3. Social Media Campaign

Social media is used to invite friends from various regions to take part in community reading activities and donate books. Social media functions as an effective platform for introducing the literacy agenda carried out by the reading community to a wide audience. With its massive and fast characteristics, social media provides an opportunity for this community to publicize and promote literacy widely.

Literacy is closely related to developments over time and is always updated in the social context of society to maintain balance amidst rapid development. Community-based policy support is needed to ensure the existence of literacy continues to grow. This format will be a meeting point or space for transformative dialogue for all parties who focus on literacy.

Critical Thinking Concept

Critical thinking ability is one of the four basic skills of the 21st century which includes communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving. Reading literacy improves a person's quality of life, especially in the modern era with the increasing number of competitors (Setyowati et al., 2022). Thinking is divided into several levels, from the simplest which only requires memory to the highest which requires reflection (Yustyan et al., 2016). The relationship between reading literacy and critical thinking is very close, because reading activities involve a repeated process of understanding so that it becomes a memory, and each memory will be reflected on, giving rise to a critical attitude towards the various thoughts that arise (Riana, 2021). This problem can be overcome through collaboration between Indonesian society, government, schools and teachers so that the younger generation is more sensitive to the importance of reading literacy to face future problems as time progresses (Septikasari & Frasandy, 2020).

According to Nadiasari and Palma (2022) To improve critical thinking skills in Generation Z, an effective learning approach must utilize technology, focus on technology, and encourage self-responsibility in learning. Literacy activities that involve group discussions provide more ideas and opinions, thereby guiding Generation Z in reaching solutions through critical thinking skills. They can support and inspire each other when identifying problems, making it easier for them to find relevant information and determine the right solution.

According to him, to improve critical thinking skills in literacy activities, special attention must be given to cognitive and social emotional elements. The cognitive element involves the development of analytical, evaluative, and reflective skills, which enable students to process information deeply and develop comprehensive understanding. Meanwhile, social emotional aspects include the ability to empathize, communicate effectively, and work together in groups, all of which are important in productive literacy discussions. By integrating these two elements, students can more easily develop their critical thinking skills, identify various perspectives, and construct stronger and more precise arguments.

CONCLUSIONS

From the article above it can be concluded that the role of the reading community is very significant in improving literacy culture and critical thinking skills among students and the wider community. Efforts to increase reading interest and literacy culture can be done through various steps such as instilling reading habits from an early age, creating a book-friendly environment, collaborating in carrying out literacy innovations, and maximizing library utilization. Reading community programs such as reading stalls, writing and book reviews, as well as social media campaigns also contribute greatly to fostering a culture of literacy.

Apart from that, reading literacy is closely related to critical thinking skills, which are one of the basic skills of the 21st century. Critical thinking skills can be improved through literacy activities that involve group discussions and integrate cognitive and social emotional elements. Community-

based policy support is also needed to maintain the existence of literacy and ensure its sustainability amidst rapid development.

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