

Chapter Five

Conclusion and Recommendations

The researcher presents the conclusion of the study and offers recommendations in the last chapter of this research. In the conclusion part, the researcher summarizes the research findings. In the recommendation part, the researcher offers several suggestions concerning physical learning environment and students' critical thinking.

Conclusion

Higher educational level students are expected to master critical thinking skills in order to become an active and engaged employee and global citizen (Facione, 2007). Developing students' critical thinking inside the classroom can be reached through learning process. However, there are many factors that can influence student learning such as cognitive factors, motivation, personality, and environment (Gallagher, 1964). Learning environment is the whole physical surroundings, psychological or emotional conditions, social or cultural, virtual spaces, and technology-enhanced environment affecting the growth and development of students in an educational area.

This study only focuses on the physical learning environment. Creating conditions (Gibson, 1977) and facilitating relationship that can enhance student learning along with a series of indicators (cognitive, physical and mental wellbeing) and the quality of relationships (OECD, 2013) are some of the importance of physical learning environment. In conclude, providing supportive

physical learning environment is essential in developing students' critical thinking. Involving 79 students of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, this research investigated the correlation between physical learning environment and students' critical thinking. Based on the finding of this study, the researcher has concluded several conclusions.

The first research question is how the learning environment at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta is. The learning environment at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta is sufficient with 2.64 mean score. The second research question is how the students' critical thinking at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta is. The students' critical thinking at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta is moderate with 2.39 mean score. The last research question is what correlation between physical learning environment and students' critical thinking is at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. There is a correlation between physical learning environment and students' critical thinking. The correlation between the two variables is very weak with 0.186 coefficient correlation.

Recommendations

Based on the result of the study, there are some recommendations the researcher offers for the institutions, students, teachers, and as well as future research concerning physical learning environment and students' critical thinking.

Institutions. The institutions should make sure that their physical learning environment, especially classroom building is well equipped, comfortable, clean, safe, has capacious space where students can have flexibility to move, and of course should be supported with internet connection to aid students in learning. In other words, institutions should provide fine and supportive physical learning environment.

Students. Students need to be aware of the significance of critical thinking skills. With increasing competition and the impossible skills demand in finding job, students who have critical thinking skills will be more favored than those who have no critical thinking skills. Through learning, they could improve their critical thinking skills. Therefore, students need to utilize the equipment provided inside the classroom to assist them in learning.

Teachers. This study is expected to raise teachers' awareness in the importance of physical learning environment and students' critical thinking. Teachers have an important role during teaching and learning activity. The success of learning process inside the classroom is in teachers' hands. Therefore, teachers should make use of the equipment provided inside the classroom to either deliver subject matter or create learning activity for the students.

Future Researchers. Based on the finding, the physical learning environment has very weak correlation with students' critical thinking. However, it must be understood that the environment where students spend most of their time to learn influence how well students will learn. The process of learning could not be run well without the support from the physical learning environment.

Further research is required to offer more references concerning supportive physical learning environment and students' critical thinking.