

## ABSTRACT

Wati, Rista. 2018. *Students' Perception on Joining English Debate Program Toward The Students' Critical Thinking Ability*. Thesis. English language Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Gresik. Advisors: (I) Dr.Khoirul Anwar,M.Pd, (II) Candra Hadi Asmara,M.Pd.

**Key words:** Perception, Debate, Critical Thinking

The purpose of this study was to know Students' Perception on Joining English Debate Program Toward The Students' Critical Thinking Ability. This research uses quantitative study, so the researcher used descriptive and correlation research as the design. The researcher chooses ten students who join debate program at SMAN 1 MANYAR as the sample. In collecting data, the researcher used questionnaires and test.

The findings of this study were students found several advantages of debate, one of them is that debate is an innovative, exciting, constructive, and helpful approach of teaching and learning. In addition, the correlation between students' critical thinking ability and students' English debate ability were positive and strongly correlated ( $r = 0,655$ ). Furthermore, the  $p$  value was 0,040. So the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) could be rejected at 0.05 level and working hypothesis ( $H_a$ ) could not be rejected.

Finally, there is suggestions provided. The suggestion is for the teacher,debate could be one of the strategy in the classroom to teach the speaking skill to the students and essential to develop the student's critical thinking ability. Besides, this debate activity has many advantage, especially for the student improvement.