Abstract

This study focused on critical thinking as the activity of the brain that could potentially be expressed in speaking. This study is a case study of Thai students’ critical thinking and debate activity. The purpose of this study was to verify that the debate activity can help Thai students to think critically and to test the effectiveness of the Thai critical thinking students’ expressing their ideas in English.

The research participants in this study were 7 Thai students in Negotiation Strategies Class, Assumption University. As the debate in this class needed students’ preparation, such as understanding the topic, searching for information, and applying theories, strategies and tactics, therefore, the debate activity in this class was expected to be a possibility to force students indirectly to think critically and express what is in their minds as clearly as they can.

The data collection was carried out through the video recording and direct observation. There were 8 criteria in critical thinking skills part and 4 criteria in effective expression in English part for analyzing the data. The Thai debaters who passed critical thinking skills measurement, his or her speech would have been analyzing again to see their effective speaking in English.

Results showed that the debate activity in this class led to critical thinking and that Thai critical thinking students also did well in speaking English.