## IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGHER ORDER THINKING SKILLS (HOTS) IN WRITING EXERCISES ON THE COMPULSORY ENGLISH TEXTBOOK

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## ABSTRACT

Writing is one of the important things from the four basic skills in English learning. One of the efforts that a teacher can make to improve students critical thinking in writing skills is Higher Order Thinking Skilss (HOTS). The characteristic of the textbook should be designed for lower to higher-order thinking skilss. Therefore, the purpose pf this study is to empirically assess the distribution of higher-order thinking skills, according to the revised Bloom's Taxonomy, within the textbook's writing exercises. This qualitative research employs content analysis, focusing on an English textbook published by the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture in 2018. The researcher used Miles and Huberman technique to analysis the data. This research used the source triangulation method to test the credibility of the data. The results of the research show that the distribution of high-level thinking abilities (HOTS) in this textbook is included in the lower-order thinking skills. this has been proven by only 9 out of 21 questions (42.8%) focusing on HOTS, compared to 12 questions (57.1%) focusing on LOTS. It shows that the distribution of the higherorder thinking skill of writing exercises in the English textbook "Bahasa Inggris SMA/MA/SMK/MAK" is unequal. It does not show the higher-order thinking skills properly, hopefully, the results of this research can provide information and knowledge and can be used as a reference for further research.

**Keywords:** HOTS, Writing Exercises, English Textbook

## **INTRODUCTION**

Much of the richness of language teaching comes from supporting materials, the most common form of material support for language teaching coming through textbooks. Textbooks play a significant role as assistive tools in the English teaching and learning process. Cunningsworth (1995) states that English textbooks have a variety of roles that include being a tool for introducing written and oral material, encouraging interaction, providing grammar and

vocabulary references, and acting as a resource for class activities and offerings.Ayu (2020) also supports that Textbooks are still significant to use in the classroom.Penny (1996) states that textbooks should provide a variety of topics and assignments for different levels, learning styles, and interests of the learners. Therefore, the teacher needs to check the various exercises in the textbook.

Writing is one of the significant things from the four basic skills in English learning. By writing, someone is giving time to think, trying ideas on paper, choosing words, rethinking, revising, and rearranging. According to Sopiani & Said (2019), Based on teacher information, students English skills are still far from being expected about critical thinking. One of the causal factors is that Indonesian students do not train much in solving contextual questions, demanding intellectual activity, argumentation, and creativity in finishing it. Therefore, the teacher should improve students critical thinking.

One effort that teachers can make to improve students critical thinking skills in writing is Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS). The terms higher-order thinking skills or strategies or patterns can also use to describe any cognitive activity that is beyond the low-level stages of understanding and application according to Bloom's taxonomy.Zohar (2004)states teachers also need to use HOTS because it helps, motivates, and makes them enjoy learning English, especially writing skills.

The implemented of learning higher-order thinking Skills (HOTS) in senior high schools based on Bloom's taxonomy is related to other criteria such as multiple intelligences, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and more language integration skills. The characteristics of the textbook should be designed from lower to higher-order thinking skills. This process begins with the knowledge of the comprehension level that recently came to the highest level. Questions is categorize according to their level of difficulty. Most critically, great exam questions organize to test and measure students multiple skills and levels of understanding (Sukmawijaya et al., 2020).

Before finally using a textbook as a source of instructional materials, teachers should evaluate the contents of the textbook they will use and adapt them

to the current curriculum. The current curriculum used by researchers in English textbooks is the 2013 curriculum. The 2013 curriculum is design with a focus on student-centeredness and not teacher-centeredness. Responding to teachers need to find a good textbook based on the 2013 Curriculum: 2018 revised version, the government has published several Textbooks developed based on the four core competencies mandated by the 2013 curriculum. From all of the textbooks published, one of them focuses on teaching English to twelfth-grade students at the high school level. The Title of the Textbook is English SMA/MA/SMK/MAK Class XII (revised version 2018). This book has two types. Students book, and the teacher's book. The Student Book contains all the material that students will study, and the teacher's book in the various active communication activities.

Therefore, researchers set out to assess it. As states byWahab (2013). there are several reasons for evaluating a textbook. One of the main reasons is the need to adopt new Textbooks. Another reason is to identify the specific strengths and weaknesses of the Textbooks already in use. On the other hand, evaluations is obtaine as an integral part of the teaching and learning process. One of the fundamental components of any curriculum plays a significant role in determining whether what students learn is absolutely by the implemented curriculum.

Some studies have investigated the analysis of higher-order thinking skills in textbooks. The results of previous studies show that the majority of reading comprehension questions in the Textbook for Year X of the high school published by the Ministry of Education at the lowest level of revised Bloom's taxonomy(Atiullah et al., 2019). Meanwhile,Damanik & Zainil (2019)showed that the reading comprehension questions used the HOTS criteria. As a result of the analysis, Reading comprehension questions in English textbooks have almost reached the proportion but are still under the standard of good proportions.Sukmawijaya et al. (2020)also showed that The results of the analysis concerning the HOTS in English language skills were relevant significantly. The English textbook shows that most of the materials in the four skills in each chapter contain high-level thinking (148 tasks) skills that are integrate well.Manurung & Sari (2022)give other results. The result showed that the distribution of cognitive level in essay questions was dominantly by lower-order thinking skills (LOTS) than higher-order thinking skills (HOTS).Laila & Fitriyah (2022)give another result. The result showed that from 142 reading comprehension questions, 82% classify as LOTS, and 17% classify as HOTS. It indicated that this textbook concentrated more on lower-level than higher-level thinking questions.

The gap for this study was that all the previous studies mentioned above did not investigate higher-order thinking Skills (HOTS) on writing exercises in the English Textbook Bahasa Inggris SMA/MA/SMK/MAK Class 12. Based on the previous statement, the researcher chose the English textbook Entitled Bahasa Inggris SMA/MA/SMK/MAK Kelas XII to analyze the writing exercise published by the Minister and Education. This research uses the 2018 revised textbook, the second revision. Because, the first revisions did not meet curriculum standards. By the objective, the researcher tried to analyze and explain the title *Implementation of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) in Writing Exercises in The Compulsory English Textbook*.

Meanwhile, the research aims to describe the distribution of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) in the writing exercises of the English textbook for class XII of Senior High School and the dominant cognitive domain of higher-order thinking skills found in writing exercises in the English textbook for class XII Senior High School.

#### LITERATUREREVIEW

#### **Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)**

Higher-order thinking Skills were developed by Bloom in 1956. Bloom's taxonomy was designed to encourage higher-order thinking skills with six levels. These six stages were knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. However, the stages of taxonomy have been updated as remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, revising, and creating.

According toSulaiman et al. (2017), higher-order thinking skills use the mind broadly to construct or find something unique. Higher-order thinking skills

allow a person to apply the new knowledge and use it in a new situation to receive potential answers. Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) was implemented in schools to allow the students to apply, analyze, evaluate, and think creatively. HOTS is defined in terms of (1) transfer, (2) critical thinking, and (3) problemsolving (Brookhart, 2010).

According toRichland & Simms (2015), higher-order thinking and constructive thinking are used to form inferences and solve issues needing previous knowledge. This is known as higher-order thinking, when a person takes new knowledge and information stored in memory and connections, rearranges it, and extends it to attain a goal or find probable answers to perplexing situations.

## Higher Order Thinking Skills Based on Revised Bloom's Taxonomy

This taxonomy was created by Benjamin Bloom in 1956. He is the assistant director of the University of Chicago's Board of Examination. Bloom's taxonomy has generally been known as a rule of principles in critical assessment planning that have roles on various subjective levels. There are three objectives in Blomm's taxonomy: the cognitive domain, which focuses on developing intellectual capabilities and skills; the Affective domain, which focuses on interests, attitudes, and values; and the Psychomotor domain, which concentrates on behaviors that emphasize aspects of motor skills. Those domains help assess students' behavior in the teaching and learning process (Bloom, 1956).

According toAirasian (2001), the most commonly taught and assessed educational objectives are those in the cognitive domains.Pratiwi (2014)states that Cognitive domain skills are related to thought processes. The cognitive domain study process includes skills that involve processing information, building understanding, applying knowledge, solving problems, and conducting research. In the cognitive domains of Bloom's taxonomy, there are six taxonomy levels: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

However, this taxonomy have been revised. According to Laila & Fitriyah (2022), Anderson and Krathwol describe Bloom's taxonomy as Remember (C1),

Understand (C2). Apply (C3), Annalyze (C4), Evaluate (C5), and Create (C6). The differences of the original Bloom's taxonomy and the revised edition of Bloom's taxonomy can be seen in the Picture 1





Based on six level of revised edition of Bloom"s taxonomy, Remember Level (C1), Understand Level (C2), Apply Level (C3) can be categorized as lower order thinking skill (LOTS). The activity of these level are easy to be carried out by students. Meanwhile, Analyze Level (C4), Evaluate Level (C5), and Create Level (C6) can be categorized as higher order thinking skill (HOTS). We can conclude that these level contain more complex activity. Therefore, students have to use their critical thinking to solve it.

#### Writing

The general meaning of writing is a communication tool, a skill tool, and self-expression. It is said that writing is the fourth skill in language learning. Writing conveys our ideas or experiences into composition so that readers can understand what it means. In other words, a message can send messages by writing.

Writing activities are becoming increasingly crucial in everyday life. According to Harmer (2004), writing produces language and expresses ideas, feelings, and opinions. Writing not only requires the correct use of vocabulary, sentences, and paragraph arrangement options to generate and organize ideas but also needs to convert those ideas into readable text.

Harmer (2004)also states that Writing has always formed part of the syllabus in teaching English. However, it can be used for various purposes, ranging from merely a "backup" for grammar teaching to a central syllabus strand in its own right, where mastering the ability to write effectively is seen as a critical objective for learners.

#### Writing Exercises

Exercises is an activity to occupy the interest and effort of to ask and to exert for the sake of education improvement, In the other words, exercise can be called as task to(Simanungkalit, 2019).

Hyland (2019)states that the tasks assist the teachers to provide a learning environment that both encourages writing and develops an understanding of how language is used for communicative purpose. It means that the tasks are the tools for learners and teacher to achive learning purpose in the classroom by encouraging students to engage in writing and develop the understanding. The students requires to have good skills to write and produce quality writing, which make the readers understand it.

#### **Criteria of Writing Exercises**

According to Cunningsworth & Tomlinson (1984) in practice exercise, there are two kinds of practice exercise, they are:

Controlled Exercise (Free Writing)

In free writing, students are given the topic of composition, that is, let them freely use the content they have just practiced. They are ready to write down their abilities in a part icular area of interest and at the same time develop quite good habits.

#### **Guided Exercise**

In contrast to free writing, in guided exercise, students must make the same desicions and make some of their own expressions, and make them that they are doing the right thing and getting advice on how to do it.

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study used a descriptive qualitative research design utilizing a content analysis technique. Content analysis is a research design that employs procedures to determine the quality and themes of documents, discourses, or books (Wahyuni, 2019).

The researcher used an English Textbook for Class XII Entitled Bahasa Inggris SMA/MA/SMK/MAK as the subject of the data published by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia. The textbook contains 11 chapters and 176 pages designed for 2013 curriculum. This study focused on the distribution of higher-order thinking Skills (HOTS) in writing exercises.

The procedure of this research was theresearcher would read a textbook. Then, the researcher would read about cognitive domain theory and higher-order thinking Skills theory according to Bloom's Taxonomy. The next step was analyzing the distribution of higher-order thinking Skills (HOTS) in the writing exercises of the English textbook. The final step determined the dominant cognitive domain of higher-order thinking Skills (HOTS) in writing exercises in the Textbook Bahasa InggrisSMA/MA/SMK/MAK.

The technique of data collection used in this research was the researcher would read the textbook chapter per chapter 3-4 times, The researcher would collect the writing exercises in the Bahasa Inggris SMA/MA/SMK/MAK Textbook, researcher would present the writing exercises in the table, The researcher would sort and analyzing the HOTS in the writing exercises contained in each lesson material, then made a checklist table, The researcher would describe of HOTS implementation in the textbook, The researcher would determine the dominant cognitive domain of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) in writing exercises based on revised Bloom taxonomy (Anderson &Krathwohl, 2001).

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses data analysis. Activities in data analysis are data reduction, data presentation, triangulation, and concluding/verification.

#### FINDINGSANDDISCUSSION

## The Distribution of Higher Order Thinking Skills in the Writing Exercises of English Textbook For Class XII of Senior High School

The discussion interprets and describes the research findings of the issues and other new understanding or insights of the problem after the author has taken the findings into consideration. It should connect to the introduction by way of theresearch questions or hypotheses you posed and the literature you reviewed, but itdoes simply repeat or rearrange the introduction.

This study finds that among 149 exercises practice all four basic language skills and the language components in the textbook. Only 21 exercises are classified as writing skills. only 21 exercises are classified as writing skills. only 7 chapters are included in the writing exercises distribution out of a total of 11 chapters in the English textbook. After the researcher collected the questions of writing exercises, those questions are analyzed using checklist table to find out the distribution of cognitive domain based on revised edition of Bloom's taxonomy. The result can be seen in the table 1.

			Co	gnitive					
Ch	No	Writing Exercises Questions	Lower Order Thinking			Higher Order Thinking			Reason
			C1	C2	C 3	C4	C5	C6	
2	1	Work in groups. Work in groups of 3-5 students. Find other text that uses "if clause" in it. Then, identify the "if clause" in the your text together with your group.		V					Students are directed to identify the "if clause" in other text and find the pattern as well

 Table 1:The Distribution of Cognitive Domain of Higher Order Thinking

 Skills in Writing Exercises Based on Revised Bloom's Taxonomy

			Cognitive Domain of Bloom's							
						nomy				
Ch	No	Writing Exercises		ver Ord		Higher Order			Reason	
Cii	110	Questions	Thinking			Thinking			Reason	
			C1	C2	С	C4	C5	C6		
					3					
		Find the patterns as								
		well. Write the								
		result in the								
	2	following spaces.					v		Cit lands and	
	2	Exchange your work. Exchange					v		Students are directed to	
		your groups work							exchange their	
		with other groups							work to other	
		work. Check the							groups and give	
		work. You may							some corrections	
		give some							some corrections	
		corrections and								
		suggestions in other								
		place of paper								
	3	What's the			V	1			Students are	
		caption?. Look at							directed to apply	
		the following							the picture as a	
		picture and write a							guide for	
		caption for the							understanding	
		picture							the caption	
									writing	
	4	Work in groups.			V				Students are	
3		Now, sit in groups							directed to apply	
		of four. Bring a							a picture as a	
		picture from home an make four							guide for understanding	
		copies. Distribute							the caption	
		them to your							writing	
		friends and ask							winning	
		them to write a								
		caption on each								
		picture								
	5	Let's apply for a						V	Students are	
		job. Write an							directed to create	
		application letter to							an application	
		respond to the							letter	
		acover ese mese								
4										
4	6					<b>X</b> 7			Students and	
	0					v				
		parts of application							letters that	
4	6	above job vacancy above. Use these points about parts of application letters to help you. Do the project individually. Find another example of application letters in the internet. Analyze whether you can find the				v			Students are directed to analyze the application lett in the internet find the part of application	

			Cognitive Domain of Bloom's							
		XX				onomy			-	
Ch	No	Writing Exercises		ver Ord		Higher Order			Reason	
		Questions	Thinking			Thinking			Reason	
			C1	C2	C	C4	C5	C6		
		lattana hat you hava			3				students have	
		letters hat you have								
		learned. Exchange with friends.							learned	
	7	What is the	<u> </u>	V					Students are	
	,	trending news?.		v					directed to write	
		Write a piece of							a piece of news	
		news item by							by responding	
		responding to these							these questions	
		questions							unose questions	
	8	Write a news item.						V	Students are	
		Choose an							directed to create	
		interesting or							a news about	
		newsworthy events							what happened at	
		that has happened							or around the	
		at or around the							school	
		school. Write it up								
		in the form of								
5		newspaper report								
		for publication in								
		your school								
		magazine. Include								
		these elements								
	9	when writing					v		Students are	
	9	Let's do some peer editing. Work in					v		directed to check	
		pairs. Exchange							their friends	
		your writing. Check							writing to make a	
		your friends							judgement	
		writing. Pay							J 8	
		attention to these								
		points when reading								
		it.								
	10	Rewrite the news.						V	Students are	
		Rewrite the news							directed to	
		above using your							rewrite the news	
		own words. Use							by using their	
		this sentence to							own words	
	1 1	begin your rewiting						<b>X</b> 7	Circle 1	
	11	Write a news						V	Students are	
		report. The							directed to create	
		following are notes from a journalist's							a news paper.	
		notebook. Read it								
		carefully. Then,								
		follow the								
		insructions below!								
	12	Summarize the			V	l	l	l	Students are	
6		news. Cut any news							dircted to cut any	
		from any							news from any	

			Co	ognitive		n's			
		Writing Exercises Questions	Los	ver Ord		nomy Higher Order			-
Ch	No		Thinking			-	hinki		Reason
		Questions	C1	C2	C	C4	C5	C6	-
			01	02	3	0.	0.5	00	
		newspaper and							newspaper as an
		bring it to the class							application to
									write down the
									important points
									of the news
	13	Find a procedure		V					Students are
		text in groups, find							directed to
		a procedure text							understand the
		about how to make							material by find
		something or how to do something.							the procedure text about how to
		You can go to the							make or to do
		library or search in							something. On
		the internet. Use the							the library or
		following questions							internet
		to help you select							
		the text.							
	14	Find the		V					Students are
		commands. Look							directed to
		through your text.							understand the
		Write down the							material by find
		commands							the imperative
		(imperative sentences). Share							sentences in the text.
		what your group							ICAL.
		has with the class							
0	15	Find the time		V					Students are
9	_	sequencers. Look							directed to
		through your text.							understand the
		Write down the							material by find
		time sequencers.							the time
		Share what your							sequncers in the
		group has with the class							text
	16	Find the adverbials.		V					Students are
	10	Look through your		v					directed to
		text again. Write							understand the
		down the							material by find
		adverbials. Share							the adverbials in
		what your group							the text.
		has with the class							
	17	Create your own						V	Students are
		text. Now, write a							directed to create
		procedural text of							a procedural text
		your own. Choose a							
		goal that you are good at. You can go							
		to the library or							
		search in the							
L	1		1	1	1	1	1	I	1

			Co	gnitive	Dom Taxo				
Ch	No	Writing Exercises	Lower Order			Higher Order			Reason
		Questions	Thinking				hinki		-
			C1	C2	C 3	C4	C5	C6	
		internet to find help. Use these points when writing the text							
	18	Work in pairs to edit the text. Exchange your writings with other pairs. Check your friends writings. Pay attention to these points when reading it.					V		Students are directed to make a judgement about their friend writing based on criteria or points from material
	19	Rearrange the sentences. Rearrange the following sentences to form a good paragraph			V				Students are directed to rearrange the sentences provided to form a good paragraph
	20	Rewrite the lyrics. Refer back to the lyrics in sub B. Use the words in the words in the box to complete the sentence. The first letter of the word is given as clue. Some words can be used more than once			V				Students are directed to rewrite the lyrics and use the word in the box provided to complete the sentences
11	21	Do the comprehension questions. Read again the lyrics of the song above. Then, answer the following questions. Discuss the answers in groups of two or three students		V			2	_	Students are directed to do a comprehend questions by read again the lyrics of the song above. Then, answer the questions
		Total	0	7 12	5	1	3 9	5	
Score		12/21x100%= 57.1%		9/21x100%= 42.8%					

In this research, the researcher used triangulation methods to text the validy and credibility of data processing results. The data is the result of the three data sources collected. Came from the researchers, supervisors, and English teachers.

The analysis of textbook data revealed that out of 149 exercises, only 21 were dedicated to writing, indicating an imbalance in the distribution of writing exercises. Reading practice dominated with a total of 32 questions among the four basic skills of English. The researcher suggest that this uneven distribution may be influenced by time constraints in the classroom, as answering higher-level questions typically requires more time. Despite efforts to balance question types, the priority on time efficiency may skew the distribution. Furthermore, the study found that understanding skills received the highest distribution among the three skills at lower-order thinking levels, consistent with previous research byManurung & Sari (2022). In their study, understanding domain comprised 42.2% or 62 questions, indicating a prevalent focus on lower-order thinking skills over higher-order ones.

The analysis of a Grade 12 English textbook, as scrutinized byLaila & Fitriyah (2022), revealed a notable imbalance in the distribution of thinking skills. Lower-order thinking skills (LOTS) were predominant, comprising over 82% of exercises, while higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) constituted only 18%. This discrepancy is concerning given the target audience of class XII Senior High School students, who should be encouraged to develop advanced cognitive abilities. The findings underscore a gap in educational material design, potentially hindering the cultivation of critical thinking among students at this level.

Furthermore, these findings are consistent with research conducted byDamanik & Zainil (2019), who found that only 36 questions (9.7%) out of 172 items in their study were categorized as higher-order thinking level. Similarly,Atiullah et al. (2019)revealed that only 24 questions out of 158 items were categorized as higher-order thinking questions. In both studies, the number of questions classified as lower-order thinking exceeded those at the higher-order thinking level. These results collectively emphasize the potential need for reassessment and enhancement of the distribution of higher-order thinking questions in English textbooks to better stimulate and foster higher-order thinking skills among students. Next, as the first domain in the higher-order thinking skills in the textbook, the analyze domain receiving only 4.7% of questions compared to 23.8% for the create domain. Only one chapter, Chapter 4, incorporates analyze domain exercises, primarily focusing on dissecting parts of an application letter. However, the examples of analyze questions are limited, potentially hindering students' development of analytical thinking skills. To address this limitation, the researcher suggests diversifying the types of analysis questions to include connecting conclusions with supporting statements, distinguishing relevant from irrelevant material, and exploring the connections between ideas. This approach aims to enhance students' analytical skills and promote deeper understanding within the context of writing exercises.

Then, the second category is the evaluate domain. The evaluate domain in the textbook comprises only 14.2% of questions, with examples mainly centered on assessing peers' work. However, these questions could be expanded to include literary criticism and analysis of text quality based on the reader's perspective. Additionally, evaluate domain questions are limited to three chapters, each featuring just one question. These questions tend to focus on judging peers' work, lacking diversity. To enhance student learning, questions should be varied to prompt evaluation of different ideas and texts, fostering critical thinking skills within the evaluate domain.

The last category is the create domain. The create domain comprises the highest proportion of questions at 23.8% out of 9, indicating its importance in college education where students are expected to deeply understand discrete information items. However, create domain questions are limited to only three textbook chapters, with the majority found in Chapter 5, likely due to the varied writing exercises centered around news items. Examples of create domain questions primarily involve tasks such as creating news items, application letters, news reports, and procedural texts. Overall, the researcher believes that the training provided in the Grade 12 material adequately cultivates critical thinking skills by prompting students to engage in higher-level thinking, aligning with the researcher's perspective on effective student training.

In conclusion, The distribution of higher-order thinking skillss in writing exercises within the textbook reveals potential imbalance and room for improvement. With four chapters lacking writing exercises out of 11, there's an opportunity for more even integration across all chapters to enhance students' writing skills. This underscores the importance of comprehensive curriculum design. Additionally, discrepancies between specified skills and exercise content highlight the need for careful review and alignment to ensure coherence and effectiveness in achieving educational objectives.

# The Dominant Cognitive Domain of Higher Order Thinking Skills Found in Writing Exercises in The English Textbook For Class XII of Senior High School

After the researcher find the distribution of Higher Order Thinking Skills in writing exercises of English textbook. the researcher find out the dominant cognitive domain of writing exercises in the English textbook. the result can be seen in the table 2.

Higher Order Thinking Skills	Total of Writing Exercises	Total Score (%)			
Analyze	1	$1/21 \times 100\% = 4.7\%$			
Evaluate	3	$3/21 \times 100\% = 14.2\%$			
Create	5	5/21x100% = 23.8%			
Total	9	9/21x100% = 42.8%			

Table 2: The Dominant Cognitive Domain of The Higher OrderThinking Skills Found in Writing Exercises

The analysis of writing exercises in the English textbook for Class XII Senior High School reveals an imbalance in the distribution of higher-order thinking skills. The create domain stands out with the highest proportion of questions, surpassing analyze and evaluate domains. This contrasts with previous studies byLaila & Fitriyah (2022), Manurung & Sari (2022), andDamanik & Zainil (2019), which showed varying distributions. The prevalence of the create domain suggests a deliberate focus on encouraging creative thinking in students. In conclusion, the dominant cognitive domain of higher-order thinking skills in the textbook's writing exercises is the create domain, highlighting an emphasis on fostering original and innovative ideas.

#### CONCLUSION

The distribution of Higher Order Thinking skills in writing exercises of the English textbook "Bahasa Inggris SMA/MA/SMK/MAK" for Class XII reveals an imbalance in the distribution only 21 out of 149 exercises dedicated to this skill. Reading exercises dominate, with 32 questions, indicating a need for improvement in fostering students' higher-order thinking abilities. Time constraints in the classroom may have influenced this distribution, prioritizing efficiency over higher-order thinking development. There is a notable shortfall in the distribution of higher-order thinking questions, particularly in the analyze and evaluate domains, comprising only 9.5% of total questions. This highlights the need for reconsideration and improvement in distributing higher-order thinking questions to better cultivate advanced cognitive skills among students. Additionally, discrepancies between specified skills and exercise content suggest a need for alignment and improvement in curriculum design.Further analysis revealed that the create domain had the highest distribution among higher-order thinking skills, comprising 23.8% of the questions.

The researchers suggest to the textbook writers to focus on higher level of thinking. The textbook writers need to modify and revise the distribution of the writing exercises in each chapter. The researchers hopes the English teacher to evaluate or check the content of the textbook, the teacher also encourage the students to train their critical thinking or higher order thinking skill outside the school. And the researcher suggest to the readers of this study to get some references or perspectives about the textbook selection, about the reading problem, and the importance of the higher order thinking skill in the educational or the social life.

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