

The English students' perception using Grammarly as the academic writing tool to enhance the quality of their writing

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ABSTRACT

The development of technology, writers now can easily enhance the writing quality using the Grammarly app. Grammarly app is a grammar and spelling checker tool that offers grammar, spell detector, and plagiarism detector, that can be accessed online through gadgets, PC's or laptops. The purpose of the study is to find out the use of Grammarly to enhance students writing skill in English writing. This study used quantitative methods and collected the data using a survey with close-ended questions. The populations of this study were 40 out of 113 English department students of Muhammadiyah University of Mataram. The finding showed that the use of Grammarly can enhance the accuracy of their writing. It helps them easily to find out their writing mistakes, errors, make them more motivated to write. Therefore, the use of the Grammarly app can be so helpful for students as their writing assistant app.

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1. Introduction

One of the most crucial writing genres to master is academic writing since it is seen as a necessary component of studying English and is applicable to the study of all other topics since English is the universal language (Kurniati & Fithriani, 2022). Academic writing is One of the stages in the academic research process that scientists use to report on scenarios including thought, experience, observation, application, testing, etc (Akkaya & Aydin, 2018). Oshima & Hogue (2007) stated that properly preserve the ideas in academic writing, more information is required. Additionally, there are a number of cognitive, graphomotor, and basic writing skill impairments among the students. Students' unfavorable opinions of writing, anxiety related to writing, and hate of writing are some of the reasons they struggle when creating English texts (Toba et al., 2019). The challenge in writing becomes even more difficult due to a restricted grasp of grammar and vocabulary (Vivi et al., 2023). Some students find it challenging to express their ideas effectively through writing (Reynova et al., 2023). Numerous students encounter difficulties in accessing ample and relevant sources of information, alongside grappling with grammar and spelling, both crucial elements in the writing process (Cauring et al., 2023).

Technology has developed in human life in the world, technological advancements have increased in education, including in teaching and learning process (Raskova, 2023). An application is software that integrates specific functionalities accessible to users, across both computers and smartphones. This software or computer program is designed to function within a particular system, intentionally crafted and further developed to execute desired commands. Those responsible for designing and

developing applications are known as developers. They undertake the design or assembly of their applications, subsequently marketing them for sale (Galingging et al., 2023). Parra & Calero (2019) assert that there is significant interest in utilizing modern computer programs to enhance writing skills in English as a Foreign Language education. They emphasize the necessity for a deeper comprehension of the impact these technological tools can have on educational practices. Many online correction tools in an educational context, exist to help students improve their writing. One of them is Grammarly. Grammarly is an internet grammar checker that is helpful when writing in English. It was founded in 2009 by Max Lytvyn and Alex Shevchenko (Qassemzadeh & Soleimani, 2016). Grammarly is checking the written work for spelling, grammar, and punctuation issues. Besides, it provides thorough and helpful feedback to students and academic institutions after checking their written work (Wahyu & Zur, 2024). Grammar checkers highlight misspelled words and complex terms, aiding in enhancing clarity and readability (Lailika, 2019).

Many students at colleges and universities use it, and it's incredibly helpful, especially when they're writing essays or conducting research. Grammarly can increase pupils' motivation, self-worth, and confidence. They can become more self-assured in their writing abilities even in the face of errors, which is really beneficial. Students shouldn't be scared to write anymore as a result of using the Grammarly tool (Cauring et al., 2023). Grammarly offers recommendations for improving vocabulary, sentence structure, and rephrasing. Consequently, university students utilize this application to detect and rectify grammatical mistakes (Daroina et al., 2022). Moreover, Grammarly offers specific feedback for nearly all highlighted instances, and this tailored feedback significantly enhances response accuracy compared to general feedback (Ranalli, 2018; Suzuki et al., 2019). A university in Australia opted for Grammarly as a tool to offer grammatical feedback. Additionally, undergraduate students in Indonesia utilize Grammarly to verify grammatical accuracy in their papers, theses, and assignments (O'Neill & Russell, 2019). Grammarly serves as a valuable resource for identifying and rectifying errors in writing. For university students, particularly those majoring in English, who often contend with numerous English writing assignments, tools like Grammarly prove beneficial in detecting grammatical errors within their written tasks (Azer, 2017).

There are several studies related to this topic. Firstly, Aidil's research (2019) solely focuses on exploring students' perceptions of the Grammarly software and various aspects of academic writing. Employing interviews and descriptive analysis, the study reveals that participants find Grammarly helpful in correcting their academic writing, albeit with drawbacks such as misleading feedback and overcorrection. Secondly, Cauring et al.'s study (2023) delves into examining students' perceptions of utilizing the Grammarly application to enhance writing skills. Utilizing a descriptive-survey research design and questionnaires, the results indicate a largely positive perception regarding the need for digital support. Thirdly, Fitriana & Nurazni's investigation (2022) concentrates solely on understanding English department students' perspectives on Grammarly as a tool for grammar checking in writing. Employing a descriptive qualitative method and questionnaires, the findings suggest that while Grammarly offers benefits in improving writing, it still has some drawbacks. However, this study solely focuses on discerning students' perceptions of using Grammarly to enhance academic writing in English. Utilizing quantitative methods and close-ended survey questions, the findings highlight that Grammarly enhances writing accuracy, aids in identifying mistakes, and boosts motivation to write. Therefore, the use of Grammarly as a writing assistant app proves to be highly beneficial for students.

Based on previous relevant studies, it can be concluded that Grammarly significantly aids students or writers in enhancing their writing skills. Despite variations in methods and results, noticeable gaps exist in students' perspectives regarding the utilization of Grammarly. Therefore, in this study, researchers employed quantitative methods and surveys with close-ended questions to assess students' perspectives on using Grammarly. Through this analysis, students can ascertain the extent to which they can leverage Grammarly to enhance the quality of their writing. The research questions that arise are as follows "What are the perceptions of English language students regarding the use of Grammarly as an academic writing tool to enhance the quality of their writing?"

It is hoped that this research will provide a comprehensive insight for students and readers into how English major students perceive the use of the Grammarly application to improve the quality of their academic writing. The results of this research can offer valuable inputs for curriculum development and the integration of technology in language learning within academic environments.

1.1. Literature Review

a. Academic Writing

A broad definition of academic writing is any writing done to fulfill a requirement of a university. Academic writing serves as a pivotal component within the academic research process, facilitating scientists in documenting reflections, experiences, observations, applications, and experiments. Typically, academic writing finds its purpose in publications intended for the consumption of educators, researchers, or presentations at conferences (Akkaya et al., 2018). Hamp-Lyons (2006) as cited in Aidil (2019) stated that Academic writing is distinguished from creative and personal writing, which are informal, as formal writing utilizing academic vocabulary, well-structured and organized without the use of slang, abbreviations, or incomplete phrases. The problem of writing quality was found after researchers conducted in the preliminary. in the English department students need to become proficient in formal language writing in order to meet academic requirements. However the most of students struggled with adverbs, passive words, phrases, and new words (Karyuatry, 2018)

Academic writing represents an integral part of the academic inquiry process wherein scholars articulate their reflections, insights, empirical observations, and experimental findings aimed at addressing identified scientific inquiries. Apart from adhering to the conventions inherent in the specific genre of textual expression, the comprehensive adherence to principles governing the articulation of academic research and its textualization is collectively termed as academic writing (Bahar, 2014). Due to its structured approach, academic articles stand out as the predominant form of scholarly writing. This prevalence is attributed to the practice of scientists disseminating their research findings through the composition of diverse articles over the course of their academic endeavors (Deniz & Karagöl, 2017).

b. Grammarly Tool

Grammarly is recognized as a helpful tool for improving English skills, especially in writing. It serves as a writing assistant, enabling users to analyze and edit their writings for grammatical errors Grammar checkers can identify errors such as incorrect preposition usage, disagreement between subjects and verbs, paragraphs that run on, verb conjugations that are broken, double negatives, and more. Moreover, these tools also detect spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes (Maulidina & Wibowo, 2022). Additionally, grammar provides the learner with a tool for analyzing and describing Language (Larsen-Freeman, 2015). According to Ghuftron & Rosyida, (2018) Grammarly is an online proofreading tool designed for scanning documents to minimize writing errors related to vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics. The software automatically detects various writing errors, including grammar, word choice, spelling, and punctuation mistakes.

Utilizing the Grammarly application can aid students in rectifying issues with sentence structure, word spelling, and can support learners in honing their writing skills. Grammarly offers numerous beneficial functions, including spell-checking, grammar checking, and punctuation error detection. It provides detailed and helpful feedback, offering corrections and suggestions to enhance writing clarity, precision, effectiveness, and impact. This feedback is delivered with a high level of accuracy and speed in evaluation (Nova, 2018). According to Daniels & Leslie (2013) said that the effectiveness stems from Grammarly's capacity to detect various errors such as punctuation inaccuracies (like missing spaces after periods), spelling mistakes (including proper nouns), and offering multiple alternative suggestions for misspelled words. Additionally, Grammarly can identify sentence fragments and provide guidance on verb forms, albeit sometimes without offering suggested corrections. However, it's noted that the explanations provided by Grammarly can be complex. Grammarly aids students during the writing process by providing precise suggestions and assists in ensuring grammatical accuracy to prevent errors that could compromise the credibility of an essay (Cauring et al., 2023). Grammarly is available in two versions: premium and free.

These variants are distinguished by their payment frequency, whether monthly or annually. Grammarly Premium is an automated proofreading system capable of detecting errors associated with 250 grammar rules (Grammarly Inc., 2017). The subscription fee for

Grammarly Premium is \$29.95 per month. Conversely, the free version of Grammarly offers fewer features compared to the premium version (Fitriana & Nurazni, 2022). In order to utilize this application, users need to log in to the website using their email credentials. Subsequently, they can upload their assignment, after which they will receive two scores. The initial score reflects the percentage of accuracy, while the second score indicates the total number of errors detected by the program. Grammarly categorizes these errors into six distinct types: contextual spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, style, and vocabulary enhancement (O'Neill & Russell, 2019).

c. Student Perception

According to Williams (2014), perception serves as a means of elucidating individuals' thoughts to others. It encompasses the ideas, insights, and interpretations derived from comprehending and contemplating various aspect (Fitriana & Nurazni, 2022). Student perception can be described as the students' understanding of their learning preferences, encompassing their individual characteristics such as visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and reading/writing preferences. It also encompasses students' thoughts and beliefs regarding a particular phenomenon. In this study, student perception pertains to students' thoughts and perspectives regarding the use of the Grammarly application, particularly focusing on how they adjust their approach to enhance their academic writing performance (Jamulia, 2018).

2. Method

2.1. Research methods

This research employs quantitative methods and a survey with close-ended questions. The survey comprises questions related to the research subject, focusing on students' perceptions regarding the use of Grammarly to enhance the quality of their writing.

2.2. Population

The population encompasses the entire range of entities or individuals that are the subject of research investigation. Jenkins-Smith et al. (2017) cited in Syapitri et al. (2023) suggested that the population refers to the complete set of all entities under observation. This definition implies that the population represents the specific object or group that researchers focus on in order to extrapolate the findings of their study. The population of this research consisted of 133 students enrolled in the English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Mataram. To ensure representative sampling, 40 students were randomly chosen as the sample for this study. This selection was based on meticulous sample size calculations, taking into account both statistical requirements and the specific number of students within the English Department.

2.3. Data collection techniques

The researcher developed a questionnaire consisting of 16 statements. The questionnaires were distributed online using Google Forms from May 7th to 12th, 2024, through WhatsApp groups and personal messages. Utilizing Google Forms facilitated efficient data collection and enabled respondents to easily fill out the questionnaire through the digital platform.

2.4. Instruments

According to Gulo (2000), the research instrument refers to a written manual outlining the procedures for interviews, observations, or questionnaires, designed to gather information. These instruments may be referred to as observation guides, interview guides, questionnaires, or documentary guidelines, depending on the research methodology employed. The instrument used a questionnaire aimed at collecting data related to students' perceptions of using Grammarly to enhance the quality of their writing. The questionnaire consisted of sixteen statements, each offering five possible answers (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree), designed as Likert scales. To facilitate the identification of students' responses, the questionnaire was created and disseminated using Google Forms, enabling quick student response times.

2.5. Data Analysis

The data for this study were collected using a closed-ended questionnaire and analyzed quantitatively. The results were divided into five categories: agree, strongly agree, disagree, strongly disagree, and neutral responses. Initially, statistical methods were used to analyze the questionnaire data, such as mean, median, and mode. Subsequently, the average scores, predominant points, and percentages of each scale found in the questionnaire were calculated to further analyze the data. The analysis also involved statistical techniques such as correlation analysis and significance tests to explore the relationships between the variables involved. Thus, this data analysis process provided an in-depth understanding of students' responses to the use of Grammarly in enhancing the quality of their writing.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1. Findings

The findings of the study, based on data collected from questionnaires, are presented by the authors in response to research questions about students' perceptions of using the Grammarly application to improve writing quality in the English department as follows:

Table 1. The results of the questionnaire

No	Questions and Scale						Total
	Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
1.	Ease of Use : I find Grammarly easy to use for academic writing.	20%	50%	25%	5%	0%	100%
2.	Effectiveness : Grammarly effectively identifies grammatical errors in my writing	20%	52,5%	20%	5%	2,5%	100%
3.	Learning and Improvement : Using Grammarly has improved my understanding of English grammar.	17,5%	52,5%	22,5%	7,5%	0%	100%
4.	Feedback and Suggestions : The feedback provided by Grammarly is relevant to my academic writing needs.	22,5%	52,5%	20%	5%	0%	100%
5.	Productivity and Efficiency : Grammarly saves me time during the editing and proofreading stages of writing.	20%	55%.	17,5%	7,5%	0%	100%
6.	Satisfaction and Reliability : I am satisfied with the corrections Grammarly provides	17,5%	55%	20,5%	7%	0%	100%
7.	Overall Experience : My overall experience with Grammarly has been positive	12,5%	52,5%	27,5%	7,5%	0%	100%
8.	Usability : Grammarly's interface is user-friendly and easy to navigate.	20%	55%	20%	5%	0%	100%
9.	Support Resources : I find Grammarly's support resources (tutorials, articles, etc.) helpful.	15%	55%	22,5%	5%	2,5%	100%
10.	Integration with Writing Platforms : Grammarly integrates well with the writing platforms I use (e.g., Microsoft Word, Google Docs).	17,5%	40%	37,5%	2,5%	2,5%	100%
11.	Plagiarism Detection : Grammarly's plagiarism detection feature is useful for academic writing	12.5%	57.5%	17.5%	2,5%	2,5%	100%
12.	Personalization : Grammarly personalizes corrections based on my writing style and preferences.	7,5%	55%	32,5%	5%	0%	100%

No	Questions	Questions and Scale					Total
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
13.	Consistency : Grammarly helps maintain consistency in my writing (e.g., tense, voice, punctuation).	20%	52,5%	20%	7,5%	0%	100%
14.	Comprehensiveness: Grammarly checks for all types of writing issues, including grammar, spelling, and style.	22,5%	55%	17,5%	5%	0%	100%
15.	Impact on Grades : My grades have improved since I started using Grammarly for academic writing	17,5%	45%	30%	7,5%	0%	100%
16.	Recommendation : would recommend Grammarly to other students as a tool for academic writing improvement	25%	50%	17,5%	5%	2,5%	100%

3.2. Discussion

The data analysis provides a comprehensive insight into users' perceptions of Grammarly as a tool for academic writing improvement, as indicated by the various metrics evaluated. Firstly, the substantial agreement percentage of 70% regarding the ease of use of Grammarly reflects users' positive experiences with the tool's interface. This suggests that Grammarly's user-friendly design facilitates smooth navigation and accessibility for users engaged in academic writing tasks. Secondly, the high agreement percentage of 72.5% regarding Grammarly's effectiveness in identifying grammatical errors underscores its pivotal role in enhancing the accuracy and quality of written work. This indicates that Grammarly serves as a reliable companion for users, efficiently detecting and rectifying language errors to ensure polished and error-free content. Furthermore, the notable agreement percentage of 70% regarding the positive impact of Grammarly on users' learning and improvement in English grammar highlights its value as a learning aid. This suggests that Grammarly not only corrects errors but also helps users understand and internalize grammatical concepts, contributing to ongoing skill development. Moreover, the consistently high agreement percentages across various aspects such as feedback relevance (ranging from 67.5% to 82.5%), productivity, and overall experience reinforce Grammarly's positive reputation among users. These findings indicate that Grammarly's tailored feedback, efficiency in editing, and overall user satisfaction contribute to its effectiveness as a writing enhancement tool.

Overall, the data demonstrates that Grammarly is widely regarded as a valuable and effective tool for academic writing improvement, with its user-friendly interface, efficient error detection, personalized feedback, and positive impact on learning and productivity earning it high praise and endorsement from users.

4. Conclusion

Grammarly as a tool for academic writing enhancement. Across various metrics including ease of use, effectiveness in identifying errors, learning improvement, feedback relevance, and integration with writing platforms, respondents consistently express favorable opinions. The majority acknowledge Grammarly's role in improving their understanding of English grammar, enhancing efficiency in editing, and ultimately contributing to higher satisfaction levels with their written work. Furthermore, the data indicates that Grammarly's personalized feedback and suggestions align well with users' academic writing needs, leading to increased productivity and reliability. Overall, these findings affirm Grammarly's value as a comprehensive writing assistance tool, with the potential to significantly impact users' writing proficiency and academic performance positively.

Grammarly is widely perceived as highly useful and effective by the majority of users in enhancing the quality of their academic writing. Most users find Grammarly easy to use, efficient in detecting grammar errors, and helpful in improving their understanding of grammar. They are also satisfied with Grammarly's feedback and corrections, considering it consistent and comprehensive in supporting their writing. Additionally, Grammarly is seen to enhance productivity and efficiency in completing academic tasks. This conclusion underscores Grammarly's value and recommendation as a valuable tool for improving academic writing skills.

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