

THE INVESTIGATION OF USING GRAMMARLY AS ONLINE GRAMMAR CHECKER IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING

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Abstract

Writing becomes one of the important skills in English. Students in Indonesia have learned English since in elementary school until in university. However, they often have difficulties in expressing their ideas in written form because they have to consider about the grammar. The use of grammar checker as an online grammar checker can be the solution for them which has resulted some various perspective. In this research, the writer used Grammarly as an online grammar checker in checking grammar, punctuation, and word spell in the process of writing. This research aimed to investigate the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly as online grammar checker in the process of writing. This is a qualitative research with survey research as the research design. The participants of this research were 30 students of English Education Department from 6th and 8th semester at one of the state university in Karawang. Questionnaire and Interview are used by the writer as data collection techniques. The writer used a triangulation data analysis technique to analyze the data that has been collected. The result showed that the students perceive positive and negative perception about Grammarly as online grammar checker. Students believed that Grammarly can assist them in checking their grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Besides, the feedback of Grammarly can help them to improve their grammar. In addition, students believed that Grammarly is easy to use. However, Grammarly has some weakness for students such as it requires stable internet connection and sometimes the result is not inappropriate.

Keywords: *Writing, Process of Writing, Grammarly, Online Grammar Checker*

INTRODUCTION

The development of technology in education has changed teacher's belief to be creative in teaching-learning process. In EFL classroom, teachers can use technology to support the teaching-learning process and make the students interest to the subject. Besides, technology has developed people in improving their language skill such as English. Through the use of technology, students could control their learning process that teachers cannot do by accessing a lot of information (Pourhosein Gilakjani and Sabouri (2014) in Ahmadi, 2018). In addition, Students can improve their language skills by looking for some language activities through the technology.

Writing is one of the language skills that can be promoted by using the technology. According to Nurfiryanti et al (2014), In writing, all the students

may deliver their thought, ideas, and experienced to the readers but some students may not deliver them through written. All this happens because the student may not confident with their writing due to the lack of grammar or vocabulary. To solve this problem, students use online grammar checker to help them in writing. This tool can detect students mistakes in writing and give them a feedback. Grammar check is important in authoring a text and language learning (Mozgovoy, 2011). On this day, one of the popular online grammar checkers for students is Grammarly. Grammarly can automatically detect an error in grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, word spelling, or even plagiarism (Wikipedia, 2020). Grammarly is not only use for students to help them in writing but also for the researchers to check the plagiarism in their research.

However, students have their perception of Grammarly as an online grammar checker in the process of writing. Perceptions are interpreted as organization, identification and interpretation of sensation towards the people feelings through their experiences (Schacter in Hernawan, 2018). By students' perception, teachers can find out if Grammarly as an online grammar checker can improve their writing skills and also to claim that Grammarly is easy to use or not.

This research aims to investigate the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly as online grammar checker in the process of writing. There are some studies that related to the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly. Lailika (2018) investigated the students' perception in scope of university while this research also investigates the students' perception in university. Besides, O'Neilland Rusell (2019) investigated the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly and non-Grammarly while this research investigates the students' perception toward Grammarly only. In addition, Ventayen (2018) investigated the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly and the strengths while this research investigates only the students' perception.

LITERATUREREVIEW

Writing

In language, there are four skills that students have to master: Speaking, Writing, Reading and Listening. Writing becomes one of the hardest skill because people should make an understanding text to the readers so they get the information. Writing is a communication to deliver thought or express feeling in form of written (Harmer, 2001). It means writing can be used by people to communicate with other to deliver what they think or feel in form of written. There are several types of writing depends on the purpose. Narration tells about the events that have happened, Description tells about what people see or feel, Exposition tells about people ideas from one to another, Recount tells about the past, and Letter is to invite someone and sometimes it is formal (Fachrurrazy, 1990 in Nuriansyah, 2019).

However, people have to consider about the process in writing a text because it contains information to the reader. There are four process in writing according to Harmer (2004), they are:

Planning

In this stage, people usually make a list of ideas related to the topic and they should consider three main issues such as the purpose, the audience, and the content.

Drafting

In this stage, people will start to write the ideas which they are going to write without considering the mistakes they make.

Editing

In this stage, people should re-write their first draft after finishing it to see if it works or not after. Besides, the processes in editing may take oral or written feedback by peers. The feedback will help them to make revisions of their writing.

Final Version

In this stage, people will re-write the draft after revising in peers and have a well-written text in the final.

Grammarly

Grammarly is an online grammar checker that was founded by Maz Lytvyn and Alex Shevchenk in 2009. Grammarly is claimed as the accuracy of the English grammar (Cavaleri, 2016). By using Grammarly, people are assisted in improving their grammar knowledge so that they can write a text without being afraid to make mistake. There are two types of Grammarly according to Nova in 2018. Grammarly for free version only provides general features such as grammar, punctuation, word spelling. Besides, Grammarly has premium version and it's more complete but people have to pay before using the premium version. Grammarly premium version provides plagiarism detection, vocabulary suggestions, and contextual spelling (Cavaleri, 2016). In addition, Grammarly premium version explains grammar errors that people make and checks an additional 150 grammar points.

Furthermore, Grammarly has some benefits for people. There are three benefits in Grammarly according to Lailika in 2019. First, Grammarly provides direct and indirect feedback. Grammarly can detect a text directly by giving red underlining when people get a mistake after they put the text. Besides, Grammarly also can detect an error indirectly. Second, Grammarly revise the errors in a short time. People do not have to take more time to find the errors in their text using Grammarly. The last, People can improve their confidence. Grammarly can encourage people to not feel shy or afraid in writing because Grammarly can check their errors. Therefore, the research question for this research is "What are the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly as online grammar checker in the process of writing?"

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research aims to investigate the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly. Therefore, the research design that appropriate design for this research is Survey Research. Survey research is used to describe the population by describing their opinion, behaviour, belief, and characteristics. Through survey research, the researcher can find out students' perception toward the use of Grammarly in the process of writing by using some instruments to collect the

data. Instruments is how the writer conduct the data for this research. The researcher used Questionnaire and Interview to collect the data about students' perception toward the use of Grammarly. The type of questionnaire in this research is close-ended using scales of the Likert scale which are categorized into five agreements (strongly disagree, disagree, fair, agree, strongly agree). But the researcher only used four agreements in this research. Besides, the researcher also used interview that consist of questions related to the objective of this research.

Participants

Furthermore, the participants of this research involved 30 students from department of English education in 6th and 8th semesters at one of the state university in Karawang. The writer selected the participants from department of English education because they have used Grammarly before in writing subject and they still use it because they still have the lack of vocabulary and grammar.

Research Procedure

Research procedure is how the writer collect the data for this research. There are three procedures in conducting the data as follows:

Orientation stage

The writer conducted several questions for questionnaire and interview related to the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly. Furthermore, the writer made a form on Google form and give the link to the participants on Whatsapp.

Exploration stage

After giving the link to the participants, the writer asked them to answer the questionnaire that consist of 13 questions related to the students' perception. Besides, The writer selected 6 participants to interview after answering the questionnaire. The writer asked 13 questions related to the objective of this research and support the questionnaire to get more detail.

Analyzing stage

After collecting the data from the participants, the writer analyzed and interpreted the data related to students' perception toward the use of Grammarly clearly.

Analyses

The collected data was analyzed through the triangulation data analysis technique. Triangulation is the qualitative research methods or data resources to develop and understanding of phenomena (Patton, 1999 in Carter et al, 2014). Regarding the research approach of this research is qualitative, the writer transfer all the collected data into descriptive form. The data is defined and get the information related to the students' perception toward the use of Grammarly. Besides, the data from interview would be interpreted by ready the transcripts. The writer then made a temporary conclusion to get the validity information related to the objective of this research.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

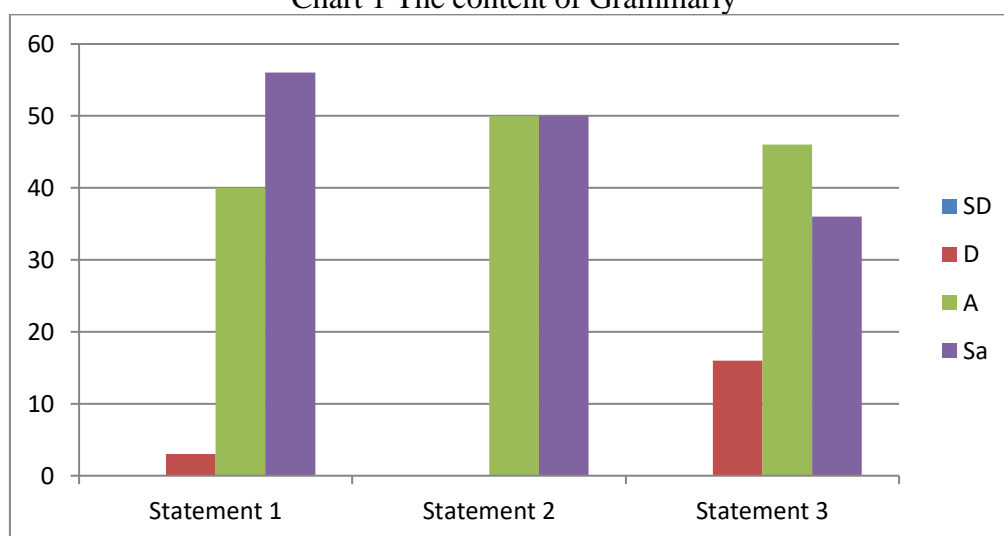
Findings

Perception About the Content of Grammarly in the Process of Writing

Students have positive responses about the content of Grammarly in the process of writing. The researcher categorized the statements about the content of

Grammarly, they are: features of grammar, feature of spelling and the last feature of punctuation. Students believed that Grammarly can cover the use of subject, verb, preposition, and etc. It showed in the chart1 that 56.6% of the respondents strongly agree with the statement. Students also believed that Grammarly the feature of spelling can correct their mistake in spelling the word. The chart 1 showed that 50% of the respondents strongly agree with the statement. Besides, students believed that Grammarly can correct the punctuation error in the process of writing. According to chart 1, it showed 46.6% of the respondent agree with the statement.

Chart 1 The content of Grammarly



Thus, the content of Grammarly that categorized into grammar, spelling, and punctuation is very helpful for the students in the process of writing. Students need this feature because they mostly make mistakes in grammatical, word spelling or even punctuation.

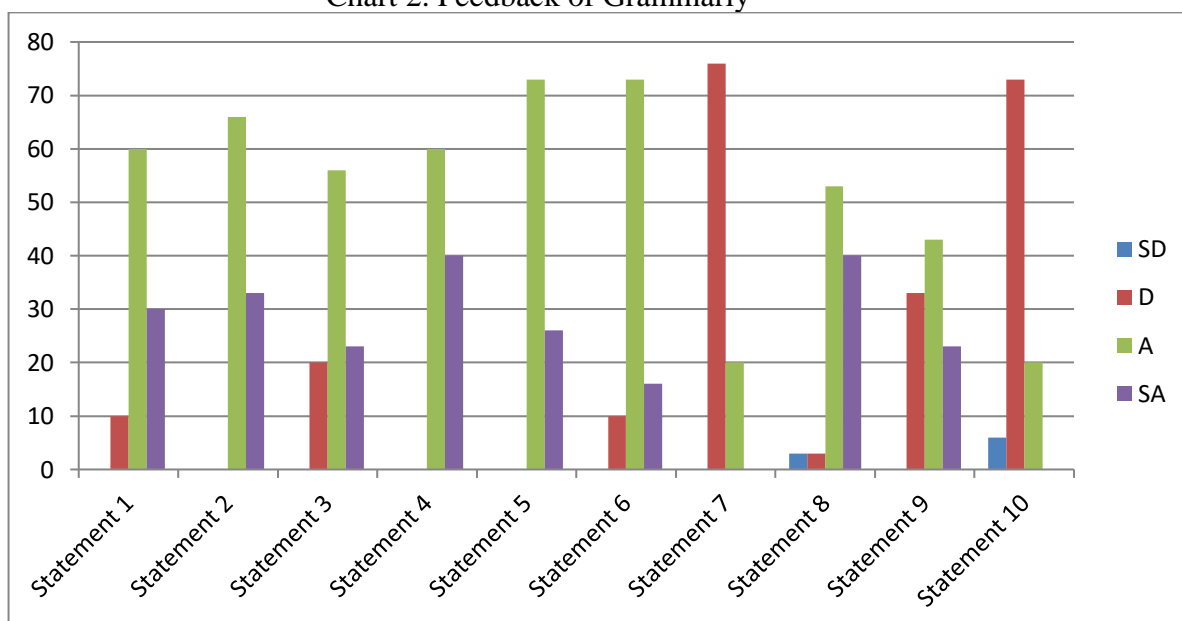
Perception About the Feedback of Grammarly in the Process of Writing

Students perceive positive and negative perception about the feedback of Grammarly in the process of writing. Students believed that Grammarly can help them to correct the language style because students are still confused with it. According to chart 2, it showed that 60% of the respondent agree with the statement. Students believed that Grammarly can correct students grammatical error in the process of writing because they have lack of grammar knowledge. Besides students believed that Grammarly can correct the punctuation in the process of writing because they are confused about the use of punctuation in the process of writing. Students also believed that Grammarly is very useful to correct their errors in the process of writing. The chart 2 showed that 40% of the respondent strongly agree with the statement. Students believed that the feedback of Grammarly can improve their writing skills because Grammarly give explanation. The feedback of Grammarly also makes the students feel more confident because the feature of Grammarly can correct their errors in the process of writing. The chart 2 showed that 73.33% of respondents agree with the

statement. Besides, students also believed that the explanation of Grammarly does not make the students confuse because the explanation is easy to understand. In using Grammarly, students believed that they do not have to understand the grammar well first because Grammarly will help them. furthermore, Students do not feel difficult in using Grammarly in the process of writing. The chart 2 showed that 73.33% of respondents disagree with the statement.

However, students believed that Grammarly need a good internet accessibility in using Grammarly in the process of writing. The chart showed that statement 8 perceive 53.33% of the respondent agree.

Chart 2. Feedback of Grammarly



The Frequency of the Use of Grammarly in the Proses of Writing

Grammarly can be used anytime. Students can use Grammarly in its website or download on their device. Students have their frequency in using Grammarly in the process of writing. Mostly students use Grammarly when they write a text or doing assignment from the teacher and when it is done, they do not use Grammarly anymore. Besides, students use Grammarly when they are not sure about their grammar, spelling, or punctuation in the process of writing. It can be concluded that the students only use Grammarly when they are doing assignments from the teacher and make sure there is no errors.

The Reason for Using Grammarly in the Process of Writing

The feature of Grammarly can be the reason why students use Grammarly in the process of writing. Students believed that Grammarly can help them in the process of writing. Grammarly can correct their text even in premium version, Grammarly can detect the plagiarism. Besides, the reason why students use Grammarly because they want to complete and make it perfect in writing because sometimes they miss the punctuation or misspelling the word. Students believed that the explanation on Grammarly is clearly to understand so they can develop

their writing skill. Students also believe that Grammarly is easy to use. They only copy the text and put them into Grammarly then if the Grammarly show the red highlighting, they can click and it automatically correct the errors.

Students' Opinion on the use of Grammarly in the Process of Writing

Most of the students have a positive opinion about Grammarly as online grammar checker in the process of writing. Students believed that Grammarly is easy to use because they do not have to log in first in using Grammarly. In the previous section, it has been explained that the students only copy the text to its website then Grammarly show red highlighting then the students just click on it and Grammarly will correct it automatically. Grammarly also can be downloaded in students' device so they can use it anywhere. Besides, students believe that the feedback of Grammarly is very useful because students can learn from the explanation and get more knowledge about grammar. Students believed that they can learn grammar with Grammarly because the explanation on Grammarly is easy to understand so they can feel so sure to write a text.

However, the students have a negative opinion about Grammarly as an online grammar checker in the process of writing. Students claimed that the result Grammarly is inappropriate. Sometimes students have to check again the result especially for people's name because Grammarly cannot correct it.

DISCUSSION

Students perceived positive and negative perception toward the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker. Positive perception is a perception that present an agreement about something with positive impression while negative perception is a perception that present a disagreement about something with negative impression (Arrohim, 2019). Students claimed that Grammarly can correct their grammar, punctuation, and spelling in writing. Grammar and spelling becomes necessary things in writing that should be considered (Chandrasekhar in Lailika, 2019). The statement means grammar is the most crucial part of writing because grammar can change the meaning of the language if it is incorrect. The problem that usually students face in writing is grammar because the lack of grammar knowledge. Therefore, students use grammar checker to help them solve the problem in writing. various online grammar and spelling checker platforms arrange the grammar correction and spelling check option online facilities (Rao et al, 2019).

Furthermore, Grammarly have the feature that students can use to improve their writing skill. Students believed that Grammarly can help them to improve their writing skill by the explanation. When students make an error in writing, Grammarly provides the indirect feedback by giving underlining. Besides, Grammarly provides the direct feedback by presenting the correction and explanation that can be used to improve their mistake and learn about the grammar. Indirect feedback on Grammarly presents underlined error, while direct feedback provide the correction and explanation card (O'Neill and Russell, 2019). Students also claimed that Grammarly is easy to use. Grammarly can be accessed on the website or it can be downloaded on students device. Besides, students believed that Grammarly can save their time in correcting their text. Students were

interested in checking their grammar on Grammarly because it saves their time (Lailika, 2019).

However, Grammarly have some weaknesses. Students claimed that Grammarly need stable internet connection to use it especially if they access from the website. Network connection is the technical problem related to the problem of this software (O'Neill and Russell, 2019). Besides, students believed that the result of Grammarly is inappropriate. The feedback Grammarly was out of the line with the user's purpose even they change the intended meaning and emphasis of the sentence (Nova, 2018). Grammarly only can check the grammar, word, punctuation and etc not people's name, place, and etc

CONCLUSION

Grammarly has some benefits for students in the process of writing because the students perceive a positive responses to Grammarly as an online grammar checker in the process of writing. Students believed that Grammarly help them to check their grammar, punctuation, spelling, and language style. Not only that, students believe that Grammarly can make them confident in the process of writing. Students also believed that Grammarly is easy to use and take a short time to use it. They can download Grammarly on their device or they can copy-paste their text into the website then Grammarly automatically give the red underlining when there is an errors. Besides, students believed that Grammarly can assist them to develop their grammar knowledge. However, Grammarly has some disadvantages for the students in the process of writing. Students perceive negative responses to Grammarly as an online grammar checker in the process of writing. Students believed that Grammarly need stable internet connection. Students may use Grammarly through its website and sometimes it cannot check the text because the connection is not unstable. Besides, students believed that the result of Grammarly is inappropriate.

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