

Students' Perception Towards the Use of Grammarly Checker for the Writing Accuracy at English Education Study Program of UIN Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui persepsi mahasiswa terhadap penggunaan Grammarly checker untuk keakurasian penulisan di Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh beberapa masalah yang berkaitan dengan akurasi penulisan. Masalah pertama adalah mahasiswa membuat kesalahan pengejaan kosa kata pada writing mereka. Masalah kedua yang ditemui adalah grammatical error (kesalahan pada tata Bahasa). Masalah yang terakhir yaitu kesalahan mahasiswa pada penggunaan tanda baca pada writing mereka. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan persepsi mahasiswa terhadap fungsi dan kepraktisan Grammarly Checker untuk keakuratan penulisan. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian survei. Peneliti mengumpulkan data dengan menggunakan kuesioner. Indikator instrument yang digunakan pada penelitian ini yaitu correcting word usage, correcting sentence structure, correcting punctuation and spelling usage, the procedure of using the tools and time usage. Populasi dari penelitian ini adalah mahasiswa semester enam di Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Peneliti menggunakan teknik random sampling untuk menentukan sampel. Sampel penelitian ini berjumlah 33 mahasiswa pada tahun akademik 2019/2020. Untuk menganalisis data, peneliti menghitung persentase dari setiap pernyataan yang diberikan oleh mahasiswa, mencari tahu mean dari setiap sub variabel dan membuat kesimpulan dengan tingkat penilaian kualitas. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa persepsi mahasiswa terhadap penggunaan Grammarly checker untuk ketepatan penulisan di semester enam pada Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris di UIN Sjech M. Djamil Djambek tahun akademik 2019/2020 Bukittinggi berada pada tingkat kualitas yang sangat baik. Peneliti menemukan bahwa persepsi mahasiswa terhadap penggunaan Grammarly checker untuk ketepatan penulisan di semester enam Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris UIN Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi adalah 80,81% berdasarkan tabel interpretasi 80% - 100%. Dapat disimpulkan bahwa mahasiswa semester enam Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris UIN Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi merasa puas dengan penggunaan Grammarly checker untuk ketepatan penulisan di semester enam Program Studi Bahasa Inggris.

Kata kunci: *Persepsi Mahasiswa, Grammarly Checker, Keakurasian Penulisan*

Abstract

This research was conducted to discover students' perception towards the use of Grammarly checker for the writing accuracy at English Education Study Program. This research was due to some problems relate to writing accuracy. The first problem was the students made wrong spelling of the vocabulary in their writing. Second problem was the students had a grammatical error. Third, the student's error in using punctuation in their writing. The research is aimed to describe students' perception towards the function and practicality of Grammarly Checker for the writing accuracy. This research used survey research. The researcher was collected the data by using questionnaire. The indicators of instrument questionnaire in this research were correcting word usage, correcting sentence structure, correcting punctuation and spelling usage, the procedure of using the tools and time usage. The population of this research was the sixth semester at English Education Study Program students. The researcher used random sampling technique to determine the sample. The sample was 33 students in academic year 2019/2020. To analyze the data, the

researcher calculated the percentage of each statement given by the students and lecturers, found out the mean of each sub variable and made conclusion with level rating quality. The results of the research showed that the average mean of students' perception towards the use of Grammarly checker for the writing accuracy at sixth semester of English Education Study Program of UIN Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi was 80,81 % which was on the level very good quality based on the interpretation table 80% - 100%. It can be concluded that students at sixth semester of English Education Department UIN Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi felt satisfied with the use of Grammarly checker for the writing accuracy at sixth semester of English Study Program.

Keywords: *Students' Perception, Grammarly Checker, Writing Accuracy*

INTRODUCTION

Writing is one of the fundamental skills to learn, especially in the practice of teaching and learning English because it requires deep thought to create ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, and structures. Most students find it difficult to express their thoughts and ideas in writing. The crucial problems faced by students in writing are capitalization, punctuation, poor organization or illogical sequence, grammatical error, ideas and dissatisfaction and confusion on supporting arguments, and spelling errors. Abu Rass said that "Writing is a difficult skill for native and non-native speakers because in writing the writers must be concerned with the components of writing such as content, organization, purpose, audience, vocabulary, and mechanics such as capitalization, spelling, and punctuation (Fitriani, 2019)." In addition, Nunan stated, " Writing is a conceptual of work in generating ideas, thinking and organizing them into statements and paragraphs that can be understood by a reader (David Nunan, 2003) So, it means that writing needs integration of the generating ideas and the way the writers arrange them into a good paragraph that is clear enough to be read by a reader.

Writing is one way to express ideas, experiences, and feeling in written form. This statement is supported by Finocchiaro, "Students should be encouraged to express their ideas, experiences, thoughts, and feelings (Finocchiaro Mary, 2000). Writing can statisfied if the learners master vocabulary, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and form (organization). Moreover, in writing, the learners or the students have to choose the good and right words and phrases and must follow the proper structure. According to Redyan Zulfani, "Writing can help students become stronger by adding more grammatical structures and vocabulary as an important part of learning a language" (Zulfani Redyan, 2002). Asmuti as cited by Richmond Romar said that by mastering writing skills, the writers can elaborate their ideas in a systematic arrangement." (Richmond Romar, 2016) Before writing, the writers need to think about how the ideas of the writers can be understood by the reader. Thus, it can be stated that writing is the complex process of generating ideas, and thinking about how to arrange them into words, sentences, and paragraphs based on the rules of writing.

Based on preliminary research by doing interviewed on February 2023, the researcher interviewed sixth semester of the students English Education Study Program of State Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi, they students used the Grammarly to check their writing and explained that there were some problems with they writing activity, such as the students made wrong spelling in their writing, had a grammatical error, and wrong punctuation. The first problem in writing activities or building sentences that were faced by the student was the students made wrong spelling of the vocabulary in their writing. Sometimes, the students make some errors in their writing. Many the students produce misspelled words, which result in disconnected sentences. The students must give more attention in writing, how to write in the right word. To give message effectively, the accurate of spelling is very important. If the spelling in the word is error, people cannot understand what message that we will give to them. The student did many errors in spelling because the lack of motivation and desire to learn spelling. If they do not want to learn spelling, they will make errors. Even thoughts the errors just one letter, the meaning will change, or the word will not have any meaning because of the spelling errors. We have to be careful in use spelling. In fact, the students can solve their wrong spelling problems such as watching a English movie with English subtitle, reading a English book taking notes, and etc. In

short, students need to force themselves to memorize the right of words and practice more diligently if they want to improve their ability to write the right spelling of the words.

The second problem was the students' had a grammatical errors. Some students said that they do not know the correct grammatical features because of lack of knowledge in grammar. Students often get confused when they want to make sentences and grammar. Grammar problems made orally by the student may be acceptable, but are not included in written communication. Grammatical problems should be avoided in written language, of course. As we know, grammar is the pattern or arrangement of sentences. Therefore, grammar helps learners understand the meaning of the sentences. It's not just a sentence, students will understand that other ways can be in the form of statements or paragraphs. In conclusion, students need to know the sentence or structure pattern as it is different from their own language when learning English, especially in writing.

The third problem was related to the student's error in using punctuation in their writing. Using punctuation correctly is one of the important skills and give big rule in writing, because a good punctuation is essential in clear and effective writing. Correct punctuation makes the writing work more clears, and expresses real ideas by knowing when to slow down, stop, or emphasize. But in contrast, when the students cannot put the punctuation correctly, the reader would have a difficulty to understand the writing. The example of error in using punctuation is misinformation of comma. One of the functions of the comma is to separate two items in a sentence. If the sentence contains of two independent clauses and join with a coordinating conjunction, it should put a comma before the coordinating conjunction. But, if the sentence consists of two independent clauses without any conjunction, it should not to put a comma between them in a sentence. Punctuation are little things, but they are essentials in writing. The meaning of punctuation here is to clarify the meaning of a sentence. In short, it can conclude that punctuation is a little thing but it brings a big impact to the writing. Correct punctuation increases the readers understanding of, and interest in the writing There are many kinds of punctuation, and each of them has a different function.

In this case, there are many ways to overcome the obstacle of the problem that students found in writing. For example, the students can ask for peer-corrections or teacher corrections. With the development of technology, the existence of the internet helps the learning process of writing, for instance, online grammar checker programs. One of them is Grammarly Software.

Grammarly, as one of the developed AWE programs in the 21st century, has been claimed as an easy tool that can help students and academies on their writing by checking spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors and providing comprehensive and useful feedback including correction and suggestion to make the writing more readable, clear, precise, effective, mistake-free, and impactful with a high rate of accuracy and evaluation speed (Muhamad Nova, 2020). In addition, Grammarly helps students correct sentence structure and word spelling mistakes, helping learners develop their writing skills. Despite its popularity, students still face several weaknesses of Grammarly which are misleading feedback, over-checking on the reference list, and the inability in checking the context and content of the writing.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher interest to exploring "Students' Perception towards the Use of Grammarly Checker for the Writing Accuracy at English Education Study Program of State Islamic University of Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi". There are some reasons the researcher chose the topic. First, Grammarly is an online grammar checker that can help students to check their errors in writing. This software is commonly used because the feature is easy to use. Second, the automated feedback of Grammarly is easy to understand. By accepting the feedback from Grammarly, the students should not meet the lecturers to correct their errors. Thus, it will save their time.

METHOD

In designing of this research, this research was used descriptive quantitative research by using the survey method. Survey method is used to describe the population by describing their opinion, behaviour, belief, and characteristics. Through survey, the researcher can find out students' perception towards the use of Grammarly Checker in writing accuracy by using some

instruments to collect the data. Instruments is how the writer conduct the data for this research. The researcher used Questionnaire to collect the data about students' perception towards the use of Grammarly Checker in writing accuracy. 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, neutral, agree, strongly agree). The researcher use five statements (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree). As Sugiyono states, the survey method is used to get the data from certain place naturally. It was the one of procedures used to get the data from a particular place hat is natural (not artificial), but the researcher conducted the treatment in the data collection, for example by distributing the questionnaires (Sugiyono, 2010). The researcher will collect the data about the students' perception towards the use of using Grammarly Checker for the writing accuracy at English Education Study Program of State Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi Academic Year 2019/2020.

the population of this research is all of the sixth semester of English Education Study Program of State Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi. The number of the students for each class will show by the table below:

Table 1. The Totality of the Sixth Semester of English Education Study Program of State Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi

No	Class	Student's Totality
1.	A	36
2.	B	33
3.	C	34
4.	D	29
Total		132

Sources : English Students of UIN SMDD of Bukittinggi

From the table above, the total population of this research was 132 students. The total of the students were divided into four classes of the sixth semester of English Education Study Program of State Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi. Based on the reasons above, the researcher took a sample of 25% of the total population. Because it makes it easier for researchers in testing. It means that the number of samples is 33 students ($132 \times 25\% = 33$ students)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Writing is one of the fundamental skills to learn, especially in the practice of teaching and learning English because it requires deep thought to create ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, and structures. Writing can statisfied if the learners master vocabulary, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and form (organization). Moreover, in writing, the learners or the students have to choose the good and right words and phrases and must follow the proper structure.

In this case, there are many ways to overcome the obstacle of the problem that students found in writing. For example, the students can ask for peer-corrections or teacher corrections. With the development of technology, the existence of the internet helps the learning process of writing, for instance, online grammar checker programs. One of them is Grammarly Software.

Based on the research findings, the researcher was found that students perception of Grammarly checker for the writing accuracy mostly the students chose "*strongly agree*" as their answer for the questionnaire statements. Based on the table of percentage score, *agree*, *neutral*, *disagree*, and *strongly disagree* option has low percentage rather than *strongly agree* option which has total percentage was 85,25%. According to Ghuftron, "Grammarly is more effective in minimizing mistake in word usage (diction), language usage (grammar), and writing mechanic (spelling and punctuation) (Ghuftron, 2019). There were five indicators towards the use of Grammarly Checker such as: correcting word usage, correcting sentence structure, correcting punctuation and spelling usage, the procedure of using the tool, and time usage.

The first was correcting word usage. Based on the data was obtained from the questionnaire, students' perception of Grammarly Checker relate to correcting word usage was *very good* with mean percentage 85,25%. In other word, the used of of Grammarly Checker relate to correcting word usage was well because mostly the students answer strongly agree. The second was correcting sentence structure. Based on the data was obtained from the questionnaire, students' perception students' perception of Grammarly Checker relate to correcting sentence structure was good with mean percentage 76,36%. In other word, the used of of Grammarly Checker relate to correcting sentence structure was well because mostly the students answer agree.

The third was correcting punctuation and spelling usage. Based on the data was obtained from the questionnaire, students' perception of Grammarly Checker relate to correcting punctuation and spelling usage was good with mean percentage 78,82%. In other word, the used of Grammarly Checker relate to correcting sentence structure was well because mostly the students answer neutral.

The fourth was the procedure of using the tool. Based on the data was obtained from the questionnaire, students' perception of Grammarly Checker relate to the procedure of using the tool was good with mean percentage 78,82%. In other word, the used of Grammarly Checker relate to the procedure of using the tool was well because mostly the students answer neutral.

The fourth was the time usage. Based on the data was obtained from the questionnaire, students' perception of Grammarly Checker relate to the time usage was good with mean percentage 78,82%. In other word, the used of Grammarly Checker relate to the time usage was well because mostly the students answer neutral.

Based on the hypothesis that explained, the research had answered the two formulations of the problem in the chapter I. In this research, the researcher had seen students' perception towards the use of Grammarly Checker for the writing accuracy at sixth semester of English Education Study Program of State Islamic University of Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi.

First, students' perception towards the function of Grammarly Checker for the writing accuracy at sixth semester of English Education Study Program of State Islamic University of Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi was Grammarly checkers provide significant benefits to students. Grammarly as a digital platform that can directly correct grammar, spelling, and other writing errors. By using Grammarly, the students can improve their writing accuracy and produce better works. In line with Collins in his confirm that Grammarly Checker is an online grammar checker and proofreading tool like Grammarly Checker can help avoid embarrassing typos and grammatical errors. Collins also said that Grammarly Checker is kind of application that is to correct the error in writing such as grammar error, spelling, punctuation, style, etc. In addition, the Grammarly Checker can gave the function to the students writing accuracy.

Second, students' perception towards the practicality of Grammarly Checker for the writing accuracy at sixth semester of English Education Study Program of State Islamic University of Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi was Grammarly Checker can be used with easily, simply, and quickly by the students and can save plenty of their time. In line with Jackson Keila in her confirm that Grammarly checker tools save plenty of time for readers as manual proof-reading is very time-consuming. In addition, the Grammarly Checker can gave the practicality to the students writing accuracy.

In conclusion, the total mean score of students' perceptions towards the use of Grammarly Checker for the writing accuracy at English Education Study program of State Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi in all indicators was 80,81% with *very good* rating quality in the positive perception.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research conducted by the researcher with the title students' perception towards the use of Grammarly checker for the writing accuracy at sixth semester of English Education Study program of State Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi the researcher arrived at conclusion that: students' perception towards the use of Grammarly checker for the writing accuracy at sixth semester of English Education Study program of State

Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi was on the good category. It was because the total percentage was 75,94%. This percentage is on the criteria good according to Norman Blaike. Therefore, based on the finding of the research, it can be concluded that the student of English Education Study program of State Islamic University Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi at sixth semester have good perception towards the use of Grammarly checker for the writing accuracy.

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