

Utilizing Grammarly and Turnitin in Analyzing Students' Writing Issues and Authenticity in Academic Writing

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini difokuskan pada analisis tulisan akademis siswa untuk mengetahui masalah penulisan dan keasliannya dengan menggunakan dua program yaitu Grammarly dan Turnitin. Penelitian ini dilakukan berdasarkan fenomena banyaknya siswa yang menggunakan sumber daya pendidikan terbuka yang memudahkan mereka mendapatkan informasi dan menggunakannya tanpa banyak perubahan. Perbuatan ini akan mengarah pada proses plagiarisme, oleh karena itu penting untuk mengetahui jenis tulisan apa yang dipermasalahkan dan tingkat keasliannya. Desain penelitian ini adalah studi kasus dengan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Dari analisis data diketahui bahwa permasalahan penulisan sudah jelas dan benar. Masalah terjadi dalam hal tata bahasa, tanda baca, ejaan, dan pilihan kata. Untuk keasliannya digunakan Turnitin berdasarkan indeks kemiripan. Dari analisis data ditemukan bahwa 60% tulisan siswa dianggap asli.

Kata Kunci: *Masalah Penulisan, Keaslian, Penulisan Akademik, Tata Bahasa, Turnitin*

Abstract

This research is focused on analyzing the students' academic writing in order to know the writing issues and authenticity by using two programs namely Grammarly and Turnitin. This research was conducted based on the phenomenon that many students use open education resources which makes them easy to get information and use it without having much changes. This act will lead to the process of plagiarism, thus, it is important to know what types of writing issues and their authenticity level. The design of this research is case study with descriptive qualitative approach. From the data analysis, it was found that the writing issues were in clarity and correctness. The issues occur in terms of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and word choice. For authenticity, Turnitin is used based on the similarity index. From the data analysis, it was found that 60% of the students' writings are considered as original.

Keywords: *Writing Issues, Authenticity, Academic Writing, Grammarly, Turnitin*

INTRODUCTION

In learning English, there are four skills that need to be learned by students, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Writing is one of the productive skills in learning English and it is very crucial in doing communication. Writing is important in providing personal links without having to meet each other directly (Graham et al., 2013; Zulaiha & Triana, 2023). As one of four basic skills in learning English, writing has become the least skill to be learned by the students as it has more complicated structure. In writing, it not only consists of vocabulary mastery, but also grammar and content mastery. In making a good writing, the students need to use appropriate vocabulary that matched the theme or topic of writing, correct grammar that correctly used in sentences, and correct text structure in accordance with text types.

In higher education, the students are not writing a merely simple writing. They are expected to be able to write an academic writing. Academic writing is any formal written work

produced in an educational setting (Valdes, 2019; Khadijah, 2020). An academic writing is commonly used by the students, teachers, or researchers to make paper, provide arguments, or any writing that has public goals. The structure of academic writing is different from informal writing. It can be seen on how the writers utilize their words and phrases to convey what they want to deliver (Broadhacker, 2016; Khadijah 2020). In making a good academic writing, the student must follow rules of an academic writing such as the words or vocabulary they choose, the grammatical structure of the sentences and also the correct structure of the academic writing they want to write.

The challenges in writing an academic writing is how the students convey their idea, drafting the idea, elaborating and exploring the idea so that it can deliver the purpose of the writing (Ekasari, 2020). Moreover, the challenges in writing is not only in exploring and managing the idea but also in translating the idea into readable text. As English is not the students' mother language, it may be difficult to them to directly pour their idea into target language. The students tend to make the writing into their language and then start to translate it into their target language. However, this process may result in to many problems of writing, for example grammatical structure like subject-verb agreement, passive voice, word choice, and also punctuation.

As the development of technology has become so fast, many open educational resources occur. These open educational resources provide many ways to help the students search ideas and compose the idea into writing. Open educational resources (OER) is a digital resource used by users such as teachers, students, and researchers in education sector (Zulaiha & Triana, 2023). OER gives opportunities to the students to acquire information or knowledge through the help of technology as it provides enormous digital resources based on the needs of students. When the students use OER, they tend to copy and paste the information without any filter. The students who find the information match with their topic will use the information directly without any checking. Then, it may make another problem to their writing for example authenticity. Authenticity has become a notion in writing academic writing in higher education. Authenticity is then a matter of individuals coming at things differently, taking hold of and owning then using the resources in their own ways (Bernett, 2007; Badley, 2008). Furthermore, the concept authenticity may perceive differently by other people. What one person perceives as being authentic is not necessarily perceived as authentic by someone else (Natalia, 2013). Therefore, there should be a way to measure the authenticity of the writing.

In related to above problem about challenges in writing and authenticity, there is a way to analyze students' writing issues and authenticity by using Grammarly and Turnitin. Grammarly is a free writing AI assistance. Grammarly could help to improve the correctness, clarity, engagement and delivery of the writing. People use grammar commonly to find out the mistakes or errors in their writing as Grammarly could find what should be fixed in the writing. In term of authenticity, Turnitin is one way to check the authenticity level of a writing text. Turnitin is a web-based plagiarism prevention system used by most universities. The main uses of Turnitin are to act as a deterrent against plagiarism, provide reports that can help identify occurrences of plagiarism and to provide students with a tool to identify and correct possible occurrences of plagiarism in academic writing.

According to the previous research from (Nova, 2018), Grammarly has shown to be one of the software which is useful to give feedback to the students in terms of writing This study aimed to identify the strengths and weakness of the Grammarly program as an automated writing evaluation program. The result of the study showed that Grammarly gave useful feedback with example and explanation, a high rate of evaluation speed, ease of access in downloading and utilization and free service. The clear feedback gained from Grammarly would make the writers do self-revision and learn not to make the same errors in the next writing. Grammarly gives clear information about the mistake in the writing and made the writers become 'aware' of their mistakes or errors. As the program is easy to use, it gives quick access to the writers who want to analyze their writing quickly. With this 'quick act', Grammarly help the writer to evaluate their writing in a high speed.

Classroom action research had also been done by (Maulidina & Wibowo, 2022) about the use of Grammarly to enrich the students' writing ability. From the result of the research, it showed that the writing skill of the students had raised as much as 57% in the first cycle and increased into 84% in the second cycle. It showed that Grammarly give positive influence in students' writing ability. It was said that Grammarly not only improve their writing ability but also the students' enthusiasm and interest. The students become independent in analyzing and editing their own writing. Grammarly gave them information about their mistakes and errors in writing and it made them able to decrease the errors in grammar, vocabulary and punctuation. Another study also proposed by (Fitria, et.al, 2022) about the perception of the students of the use of Grammarly. It showed that 80.1% of the participants agreed that Grammarly helped them in analyzing their thesis writing. This study also explained about the strength of Grammarly such as clear and easy-to-understand feedback and time saving for the students in checking their grammar.

Some studies were also conducted to know about the use of Turnitin to check the level of authenticity in writing. (Saba Ayon, 2017) stated that plagiarism as a major threat to academia. To prevent this problem, many researchers used Turnitin as it is believed that this software is likely to deter students' plagiarism. Meanwhile, (Bailey & Challen, 2015) also studied the use of Turnitin as a learning tool in academic writing. In this study, the students were asked to use Turnitin to check their drafts before the final deadline. From the result of the study, most of participants showed a good feedback in using Turnitin. It was said that Turnitin was considered as a good way to make sure that their writing did not contain to much text from sources and make sure there are not too many quotes. Turnitin is considered to be one program that can be used to detect the level of authenticity on the writing based on the plagiarism level.

Based on the previous studies above and the analysis of the writer, it is important to know how the two programs help the students in conducting their academic writing. As seen in general, the research -Such research is only analyzing the writing by using one program, either Grammarly or Turnitin. Both programs are known to be giving a good feedback in writing, to check the students' mistakes and errors, and also to deterrent the plagiarism. For higher education students, it is important to make a good writing especially for academic writing. In making a good academic writing, the students must make sure that there is less mistakes and errors and it should be authentic. In this study, the writer explores the use of Grammarly and Turnitin to analyze the students' academic writing. By using Grammarly and Turnitin, the writer wants to know what kind of writing issues or problems that commonly occur in students' writing and also to know the level of authenticity in students' writing based on the level of plagiarism in students' writing. The focus of this research is the types of writing issues faced by the students and their level of authenticity by using Grammarly and Turnitin. By looking at above problem, the writer formulates the research objective, namely to know the writing issues faced by the students in writing academic writing and their level of authenticity by using Grammarly and Turnitin program.

METHOD

This study uses case study with descriptive qualitative approach. Case study research is a qualitative approach in which the investigator investigates a case or cases over time in detailed data collection involving observation, interview, and documentations and finds out a report consisting of the studied-case themes (Creswell, 2014; Fitriana & Nurazni, 2022). This research was conducted at State Polytechnic of Bali. The participants in this study were the students of fourth semester in Tour and Travel Operation study program of Tourism Department in academic year 2022-2023 who took the subject of English for Tour Operation. There are 25 students being analyzed.

In collecting the data, the researcher used an instrument in the form of documentation review where the students' writings were collected and being analyzed. The process of this research includes collecting data in the participants' setting through documentation, analyzing the data using both programs namely Grammarly and Turnitin, and the researcher doing

interpretations of the meaning of the data. In collecting the data through documentation, the participants write an academic writing. Then, these writings were collected and analyzed by using Grammarly and Turnitin in order to obtain the data of students' writing issues in academic writing and also their level of authenticity by looking at their level of plagiarism. Based on the research approach of this research which is qualitative, the researchers transfer all the collected data into a descriptive form. The data is drawn and get the information related to students' writing issues and level of authenticity.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following is the result of students' writing analysis by using Grammarly and Turnitin:

Tabel 1. The Result of Analysis Through Grammarly and Turnitin

Student s	Score	Grammarly				Total	Turnitin (%)
		Clarity	Correctness	Engagement	Delivery		
1	76	22	20	6	3	51	0
2	75	5	16	5	1	75	34
3	75	8	14	2	1	25	0
4	23	6	77	3	0	86	0
5	93	1	3	1	0	5	0
6	44	29	76	9	0	114	3
7	49	15	32	5	1	53	0
8	65	17	25	2	1	45	3
9	76	8	3	9	1	21	0
10	70	18	22	2	2	44	0
11	39	10	31	4	0	45	92
12	18	3	60	5	4	72	0
13	69	10	29	6	3	48	10
14	61	6	16	0	1	23	11
15	48	8	21	2	0	31	0
16	30	4	40	1	1	46	0
17	40	18	43	2	2	65	73
18	64	16	27	4	0	47	0
19	72	13	25	4	2	44	2
20	89	7	1	4	1	13	0
21	53	11	30	2	0	43	0
22	80	6	5	1	0	12	42
23	56	11	28	4	1	44	0
24	45	9	35	2	0	46	14
25	78	7	12	2	5	26	0

The table above shows the result of students' writing analysis after being analyzed by using Grammarly and Turnitin programs. The students' overall score after being analyzed by using Grammarly can be seen in the 'SCORE' column. From the data above, it was found that the highest score is 93 and the lowest score is 18. In Grammarly, the score means writing readability that ranges from 0-100. According to Grammarly, the score over 60 means that the writing is understandable in which the writing is clear, concise, and error-free. After being checked by Grammarly, there are 14 (56%) students' writing which are considered as understandable, meanwhile there are 11 (44%) students' writing which are considered as less

understandable or comprehensible. As for Turnitin result, the highest score 92% and the lowest score is 0%. Different from Grammarly result, the score ranges from 0-100% in which the lowest score you get, it means that the level of similarity is low and your writing is original. In Turnitin, the acceptable percentage of similarity is below 25%. The percentage of 1-25% which marked as green in Turnitin means that your writing is considered as original and if it is above 25% of Turnitin similarity score, it can be considered as too much of similarity and can be flagged as plagiarism. From the data above, there are 4 (16%) students' writing got the percentage of similarity above 25% and there are 21 (84%) students' writing who got the score above 25%.

After being analyzed by using Grammarly, there are four writing issues namely clarity, correctness, engagement, and delivery. From the four writing issues, it was found that correctness and clarity become the main issues in students' writing. Clarity is the component in writing that ensure the reader to understand exactly what the writers want to communicate. In clarity, the writing should be coherent in which it is clear about what kind of sentences the writer want to write and how it conveys the writers' purpose. From the table above, the higher point in clarity is 29 in which there are some mistakes in using passive voice, unclear sentences and wordy sentences. It is suggested that in writing we should consider clarity as the one of the top priorities because it would not your writing become vague writing. When the writers make a vague writing, it will make the readers have so many questions about your writing and it is not good since the purpose of your writing is to give some information rather than making them questioning. Writing is communication and the main purpose of communication is to be understood. If your writing is vague, it would be difficult to communicate the idea of your writing. From the data analysis, the mistake found in clarity is about using passive voice, unclear sentences and wordy sentences. Grammar is the key ingredient in clarity. Having a good grammar in your writing will make your writing in a structural way and it will make your reader easier to follow your idea and of course understand the content better. The mistakes found in clarity is mostly about the passive voice misuse. In this context, most of the students wrote in passive voice. It is not considered as wrong, however, when it comes to a good academic writing, it would be better if the students write in active voice. As for unclear sentences, most of students' writing had mistakes in writing the words with correct spelling, thus it makes the word and also the sentences become unclear and wordy.

Furthermore, the second highest issue is correctness. Correctness here means the structure of your writing in terms of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. In addition, correctness also focuses on the balance of clear communication in the writing, compelling language and the right tone of your writing. After being analyzed by Grammarly, the highest score for correctness is 77 and the lowest is 1. In this case, the score means the number of mistake that you have in your writing. The mistake found in students writing is about subject-verb agreement, the use of determiner, punctuation in compound/complex sentences, wrong or missing prepositions, incorrect verb forms, misspelled words, incorrect noun number, etc. If we talk about correctness, it would focus on grammar, or punctuation, however, to write a good writing, we should consider the clarity and correctness as it will make the writing becomes concise, precise and easy to read. If you use incorrect grammar in your writing, especially in academic writing, your writing will become lack of credibility and readability.

The next issues in students' writing after being analyzed by using Grammarly is Engagement and Delivery. Engagement means how the writing could make the readers keep reading the writing. If your writing has a good grammar and punctuation, but there is no engagement factor in your writing, it would make your writing becomes boring. The reader would not continue reading your writing after the first paragraph. From the analysis, it was found that the students' writing score in engagement is good as the score range from 0 – 9, which means the writing has little mistakes in engagement. Most of students' problem is in word choice. Delivery in writing means the tone of your writing, how the writers want to convey the information. In Grammarly, it is important to consider about delivery as writing is different with speaking. When we are talking, we can hear the voice and see the facial expression, but we cannot do that with writing. We should use a good delivery if we want to project sincerity,

confidence, politeness, etc. From the analysis, it was found that the students' writings have good delivery since the score range from 0 – 5.

In terms of level of authenticity, Turnitin program is used to analyze the students' writing. Turnitin is one of the programs which is used to know the level of plagiarism in a writing. The result of analysis showed that there are 15 (60%) students' writing got 0% of Turnitin similarity score, 3 (40%) students' writing got score below 6% of Turnitin similarity score, 5 (20%) students' writing got score below 43% of Turnitin similarity score, 1 (4%) students' writing got score 73% of Turnitin similarity score and 1 (4%) students' writing got 92% of Turnitin similarity. From the result above, we can see that most of the students' writing can be consider as original based on the percentage of their Turnitin similarity score. This score can be a proof that the students did not lift more than three words verbatim and thus makes the students' writing consider as original. Turnitin is a program that mostly used by academicians to check the plagiarism as it thoroughly checks the similarity index against the documents, web pages, and student submissions in its repository. When the writing got a high similarity index, it would be better to re-read the writing again and try to paraphrase the writing and do citation properly. Reducing the use of quotes can also be done to reduce the similarity index and do paraphrase instead. Paraphrase is the most effective one as it does not copy and paste the word you get, instead it uses your own words to distinguish it from the original text.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and findings from this study, there are some conclusions that can be drawn include: there are some writing issues in students' academic writing based on the analysis using Grammarly program, namely clarity, correctness, engagement, and delivery. Based on the analysis by using Turnitin program, it is found that most of students' writing (60%) got 0% of Turnitin similarity index which means their academic writings are considered as original.

From the analysis of students' writing using Grammarly, 56% of students' writings are considered as understandable and readable. The highest writing issues faced by the students are found in clarity and correctness. The students' writing issues are found in grammar, punctuation, spelling and word choice. Clarity and correctness are important in writing as it makes writing becomes concise, precise and easy to read. From the analysis it also found that the students' writing have little issue in engagement and delivery which means that their writing is readable and engaging. From the analysis of Turnitin program, the students' writings are considered as original as the level of similarity of most writings are 0%. It means that they have a high level of authenticity and there is no plagiarism in their writing.

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