

TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVE OF GRAMMARLY AS AN ONLINE GRAMMAR CHECKER TO IMPROVE WRITING SKILL

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ABSTRACT

Writing is one of the important skills in English. Using correct grammar and spelling in writing English is an important aspect. There are many online spelling and grammar checking tools available today to improve the quality of your writing. In this modern era, writing plays an important role in real life. Teachers need more tools because they need to help them write and evaluate their writing. In this study the authors used Grammarly as an online grammar checking tool to check grammar, punctuation and spelling in written English. This study aims to determine the teacher's perspective on Grammarly as an online grammar checker tool to improve writing skill. This study uses a qualitative method with a survey design. The instruments in this research were questionnaire and interview to collect data. The population in this research were 20 English teachers who were given questionnaire, then the researcher took 13 teachers to be interviewed. The researcher use triangulation technique to analyze the data that has been collected. The results showed that the teachers gave a positive response to Grammarly as an online grammar checking tool. Teachers are helped by the Grammarly feature which can help check their English writing. The teachers believed that the results of the Grammarly check were accurate and reliable. They become more confident in writing when checked using Grammarly. The error explanation feature in Grammarly also adds to their insight in writing English. However, teachers also feel the lack of features of the limited premium version which requires payment to access Grammarly's premium features.

Keywords: Teacher perspective, Grammarly, writing

INTRODUCTION

Technological advances in education have changed teachers' belief that they are creative in the education and learning process. In EFL classrooms, teachers can use technology to support the teaching and learning process and stimulate students' interest in the subject. In addition, technology has enabled people to improve their language skills, such as English. Writing is one of the important skills in English. Using grammar and spelling is really an important aspect of any writing. There are many online spelling and grammar checking tools available today to improve the quality of your writing. The popularity of the platform among researchers and scientists is increasing day by day.

In language, there are four skills that must be mastered: Speaking, Writing, Reading and Listening. In this modern era, writing plays an important role in real life. As a social entity, there are several written products that are needed by the community as a medium for exchanging ideas. According to (Meyers, 2005), writing is an act. The writing process involves several stages, namely; the process of finding and organizing ideas, the process of writing or writing, and the process of changing and modifying your writing. There are several reasons why it is so difficult to learn to write. First, as stated by (Jeremy Harmer, 2004), because children (as learners) are exposed, spoken language can be learned naturally, so it is necessary to learn writing skills consciously.

When we learn to write, we need time to learn all of them. Writing is time-consuming because it involves several phases such as brainstorming, note-taking, planning, drafting, editing, and modification (Spratt, Mary., Pulverness, A., Williams, 2005). Teachers need more tools as they need to help them write and evaluate their writing. Second, there are several aspects of writing that teachers must master before actually writing. It includes learning spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. Third, writing requires higher writing skills (Westwood, 2008). This consists of the ability to sort and reveal the content of the text.

To solve this problem, teachers are helped to write using an online grammar checker. A grammar checker can be used as a tool to improve grammar accuracy. The grammar checker helps teachers find grammatical errors in their text. The tool automatically detects errors such as subject and verb matching, articles, and punctuation abuse and provides feedback. The grammar checker also detects word misspellings. This tool highlights misspellings and misleading words. To determine if a sentence is grammatical, today teachers can use an online grammar checker such as Grammarly.

Grammarly app has two versions, a free version and a premium version. The free version of Grammarly only focuses on style features, grammar features, spelling features, and punctuation errors. (Laila, 2019). In addition, the free version of Grammarly Apps is efficient and effective in identifying minor bottlenecks such as comma errors and incorrect article errors. While the premium version provided is more complete than the free features, users have to pay for it to be able to access these features. Because, in premium version can investigate like fluency, level of formality, word choice, etc. It also provides short and long explanations of any grammatical errors. In this study, researchers only focus on the free version of the grammarly application because it is easy to access and easy to use. As of today, Grammarly is one of the most popular online grammar checkers. Grammarly can automatically detect grammatical, vocabulary, punctuation, spelling, and even plagiarism errors. Referring to the explanation above and knowing the facts, the researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled "Teachers' perspective of Grammarly as an online grammar checker to improve writing skills".

This research is expected to make a significant contribution to English teachers, students and others. For English teacher training students, this study provides information about a new type of online grammar check. This survey will help students understand how to use Grammarly as an online grammar checker to check for grammatical errors, especially when writing. This study is very useful for teachers. This survey provides information for teachers to learn how to use Grammarly as an online grammar checker. Knowing this, teachers can use it to view student work and written work. So, the researcher wants to know the teacher's perspective on this problem. the writer makes questions of the problem : "How is the teacher's perspective on grammarly to improve writing skill?".

In this study, the problems identified were related to the teacher's perspective on grammarly and the writing ability of EFL students. Based on the background of the study above, the researcher identifies some the research:

1. Teachers still finds it difficult to compose a piece of writing in good standard English.
2. Many teachers still do not understand the use of grammar, spelling, and the correct use of prepositions in writing English.
3. Most of the teachers face problems with phrases, surprising words, adverbs, and passive words while writing.
4. Teachers agree that writing english is the most difficult skill and takes a long time to master it.

Perspective is a Latin word, "perspicere", which means "see, view, image". As far as language is concerned, perspective is a point of view to understand or explain a problem. According to Martono (2010), perspective is the problem that occurs, or a certain point of view used to observe phenomena. Meanwhile, according to Zakiah Daradjat (2011), teacher is a leader who explains that every teacher must have the ability to understand the material being taught. According to Gage and Barliner (2014), teachers play a role in the learning process, they believe that the teacher's role is as a planner, implementer, manager, and evaluator.

Grammarly is an online proofreading website that can use to open documents with syntax errors This online grammar checker was founded in 2009 by Maz Lytvyn and Alex Shevchenk. Grammarly means the accuracy of English grammar (Cavaleri, M., & Dianati, 2016). Grammarly allows people to improve their grammarskills and write text without fear of making mistakes. Grammar checker scans text for hundreds of types of English grammar mistakes. Grammarly helps academic activity, research, scholarly staff, and help teachers write better. This grammar checkers help teachers find grammatical errors in their texts. The tool automatically detects the error and provides feedback on the error Incorrect use of subject-verb matches, articles, and punctuation. Grammar checkers also detect the misspelling of words. This tool highlights misspellings and confusing words. There are various types of grammar checks available online. Nowadays, people can use online grammar checkers such as Grammarly to determine if a sentence is written grammatically.

According to Nova (2018), there are two types of Grammarly. The free version of Grammarly provides only common features such as grammar, punctuation, and word spelling. Besides that, Grammarly has a premium version and a more complete version, but you have to pay before using the premium version. The premium version of Grammarly provides plagiarism detection, vocabulary suggestions, and contextual spelling (Cavaleri, M., & Dianati, 2016). In addition, the premium version of Grammarly explains the grammatical mistakes people make and checks for an additional 150 grammar points. If the free feature provides a document correction limit of 500 words, the premium version can correct the whole document at once in *.doc format.

Writing is conversation to supply concept or specific feeling in shape of writing (Jeremi Harmer, 2001). It way writing may be utilized by human beings to talk with others to supply what they assume or sense in shape of writing. One of the language skills that determine today is writing skill. The importance of writing is because it is a trusted means of communication. Through written language, a person can convey ideas, opinions, & feelings to others using text. It must be confirmed

that writing skills cannot be measured easily. This skill must be familiarized by doing a series of exercises and habituation continuously. Indeed, writing skills are not only limited to the ability to compose terms as sentences, but must pay attention to tidying up language, context, prepositions, and other aspects.

Writing has an important purpose as a form of communication for expressing ideas, sharing knowledge, and exchanging information. It is used to convey a message from the author to the reader. Through the message, the reader knows what the purpose of the writing is, and the message depends on the intent of the author. (Dietsch, 2003) stated that the general purpose of writing is mainly to inform, persuade, reveal, and entertain. The specific purpose is to fulfill a specific writing need. In short, the purpose of writing is to inform, encourage, demonstrate, and entertain the reader. Grenville stated that there are three purposes of writing: to entertain, to inform, and persuade.

Based on (Wijayanti et al., 2021) Teacher perceptions show that teachers respond to positive perceptions. Positive perceptions indicate that Grammarly has helped teachers to effectively and efficiently assess students' written assessments on grammatical, punctuation, and spelling features based on principled assessments (Brown, 2004), namely practicality, reliability, validity, originality, and backwashing. Grammatically presented efficiency and useful features make evaluation of teacher grades faster than manual checks. Easy application with clear instructions and tutorials makes this application popular among English teachers. This app works fine as long as you have an internet connection. Grammarly is easily accessible by everyone and doesn't take up a lot of quota and time. It can be used freely without payment with great features.

METHODOLOGY

This study follows a qualitative approach. The researcher used questionnaire and interview to collect data about the teacher's perspective on Grammarly as an online grammar checking tool to improve writing skills. This research questionnaire is closed-ended with a Likert scale which is divided into five levels of agreement (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, agree, strongly agree). However, the researcher only used four contracts in this study. In addition, researchers used interviews that included questions related to the purpose of this study. This study aims to determine the teacher's perspective on Grammarly to improve writing skills. Therefore, this qualitative research uses descriptive case study research methods to obtain a deeper understanding of how the perspective of English teachers who have taught Grammarly as an online grammar check to improve writing skills.

This research conducted in schools and English tutoring centers in Jakarta. The participants in this research are English teachers in Schools and English learning centers. There are 20 teachers

who will be involved in this research. The data from this research are questionnaire and interview. In this interview process will be conducted to collect data on how the teacher's perspective on Grammarly. The researcher will conduct interviews using the steps in data collection in this study using purposive sampling to maintain the accuracy of the data from the participants. According to (Sugiyono, 2010) the meaning of purposive sampling is a technique for determining research samples using certain considerations with the aim that further data are more representative.

The researcher conducted several questions for questionnaires and interviews related to the teacher's perspective on Grammarly as an online grammar checking tool to improve writing skills. Next, the author creates a form on Google Form and provides a link to the teachers on Whatsapp. After providing the links to the teachers, the authors asked them to answer a questionnaire consisting of 20 questions related to teachers' perceptions of Grammarly. In addition, the researcher selected 13 teachers to be interviewed after answering the questionnaire. The author asks 10 interview questions related to the purpose of this research and supports the questionnaire to get more details. After collecting questionnaire and interview data from teachers, the researcher analyze and interpret the data related to the teacher's perspective on Grammarly as an online grammar check tool to improve writing skills clearly.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

There were 20 questionnaire statements distributed by the researcher and 10 interview questions. Through questionnaire and interview, the researcher wanted to know the teacher's perspective on Grammarly in two aspects, namely the use and features of Grammarly as a tool for checking grammar in helping teachers improve their English writing skills.

1. Teacher's Perspectives About the use of Grammarly

The teachers gave a statement about the ease of information provided by Grammarly, found in questionnaire number 1 and 2. This aims to find out how the teacher's perspective is regarding the ease of information provided by Grammarly.

Table 1				
Teacher's perspective on the convenience of information provided by Grammarly as an online grammar checking tool.				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The information that Grammarly provides is easy to understand.	(0%)	(10 %)	(25%)	(65%)
The use of menus or features in Grammarly is easy to use.	(0%)	(5%)	(50%)	(45%)

From the table above it can be seen that almost all teachers agree that the information provided by Grammarly is easy to understand. The table above shows that 18 teachers agreed that using Grammarly was easy, simple, and efficient. Based on the table above, Grammarly's application information is easy to understand; it's also easy to use, easy to learn, easy to figure out, and easy to detect grammatical errors. In addition, teachers say that Grammarly can be accessed quickly, and can be accessed freely. In addition, the teachers stated that Grammarly was fairer because it could identify errors more simply and more quickly. Grammarly can save time because it can show corrections directly and automatically. 1 of them who interviewed stated

“In my personal opinion, the features in Grammarly are really complete, sis, and it's easy to use, we only need an internet connection and Grammarly can be accessed free of charge, but it's limited, even though like that, I think it's quite helpful for people. especially for those who are just starting to learn English, sis.”

2. Teacher’s Perspectives About the content of Grammarly to Improve writing skill

Through questionnaires number 3,4, and 6 the teacher will be asked about the features in Grammar which can help in writing or not. This aimed to informed the researchers about how helpful the features in Grammarly are in helping teachers write English. Teachers are also

given a statement whether the grammar correction feature in Grammarly is correct for providing corrections for their English writing. This is intended so that researchers know whether the correction feature can help teachers to get correct corrections for their English writing or not. And for the next questionnaire number 6, the teacher will be asked questions about the spelling correction feature in Grammarly. This aimed to inform the researchers how helpful the spelling feature is in providing spelling corrections in their English writing.

Table 2				
Teacher's perspective on the features provided by Grammarly to develop writing.				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Grammarly has features that can help me in writing English.	(0%)	(5%)	(35%)	(60%)
Grammarly check feature in Grammarly helps me to correct wrong grammar in my writing.	(5%)	(0%)	(25%)	(70%)
The spelling feature in Grammarly helps me correct wrong words or typos in English writing.	(0%)	(5%)	(30%)	(65%)

Almost all teachers stated that the Grammarly feature, especially the grammar correction feature, helped them to write English. only a few teachers stated that the Grammarly feature did not help them check their written English grammar. And it can also be seen that the spelling feature in Grammarly is proven to help teachers in writing English if there are errors in spelling. They feel confident about their writing if their spelling is checked by Grammarly because it can help them correct their writing with good spelling. From the interview, 3 of them said

“I think the Grammarly feature helps me in writing when writing articles or scientific journals, what's more, it's really the skills we use, the skills I use are really writing skills, right, and of course the accuracy of grammar or tenses is very important in writing, so there's a feature grammarly really helped me a lot.”

“Even though it can check Grammar spelling, punctuation, it still can't change sentence structure so even when the layout is reversed the detector won't check 100% for errors like that, the Grammarly feature in my opinion helps write it's good overall it's good but maybe not 100% perfect that's it.”

“Grammarly feature helps writers to write well with good grammar with good spelling and with correct punctuation with that writers can confidently write texts in English.”

Through questionnaires number 8, 9, 10, 17, and 20 the teachers also asked their perceptions about using Grammarly in improving English writing skills, Grammarly in developing English writing skills, increasing confidence in writing academic texts, and understanding the rules english grammar.

Table 3				
Teacher's perspective on the features provided by Grammarly to develop writing.				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Features in Grammarly help me in writing English, especially in writing essays and scientific journals.	(5%)	(0%)	(45%)	(50%)

With Grammarly I feel more confident in writing English.	(0%)	(10%)	(60%)	30%
In my opinion, Grammarly helps me understand the rules of writing English.	(0%)	(20%)	(40%)	(40%)
I can improve my English writing using Grammarly.	(0%)	(10%)	(50%)	(40%)
I feel that when I write using Grammarly, I feel safe and confident compared to writing without using Grammarly.	(0%)	(20%)	(60%)	(20%)

Most teachers agree and strongly agree that with the help of Grammarly they can be confident in writing. They also feel safe because their writing will be automatically checked by Grammarly. Small things like punctuation marks will be detected wrong and given the correct correction if they write it wrong. The teachers interviewed said

“It really helps a lot, because grammarly makes human errors when writing it can be helped by the system so when we don't realize that it's wrong grammarly helps correct and also provides language suggestions not only for grammar forms but also punctuation and spelling features that might be typos , so whether it helps or not, it really helps.”

“Grammarly helps me a lot, especially in doing English essays because Grammarly can also be accessed easily with various extensions that Grammarly has provided so that with Grammarly I can write texts with more confidence so I can produce texts that are more formal and have better grammar with the features provided.”

“My personal opinion when I write using Grammarly is enough to make me more confident than not using Grammarly because when I use Grammarly an error as small as a punctuation mark can be corrected immediately so it really helps to minimize mistakes in my writing.”

“Yes, my feelings when writing with Grammarly and without Grammarly to be honest, when I use Grammarly I more confident because I need to check my writing again as I said before, sometimes we unconsciously make typos using wrong punctuation or grammar or writing that should blend with me doesn't blend so I feel more confident with grammar usage.”

There are also teachers who disagree that the Grammarly feature can help in writing essays or journals. They are not sure that only with the help of Grammarly can they help with essays. According to them, Grammarly is not enough, they can be sure that their writing is correct. They believe more in their own writings and also from sources of knowledge from books. The teachers interviewed said

“As an English teacher, I feel it's better not to use a machine because whatever it is, that's what we write, so it's better to be original because it's original. Our originality is maintained, so we don't have to use the help of machines, we are confident in our own abilities, but as ordinary people, it's important to use this suddenly, so it's like there's no need to use an editor. service again like that. So for hectic things that are urgent, just use Grammarly”

“I think grammarly makes me more confident, and if I don't use grammarly, I still feel confident, but Grammarly only adds to my confidence level.”

3. Teacher's Perspective on Accuracy and Quality of Grammarly Software or Apps for Writing

Through questionnaires number 5,11,12,14, 15, 18, and 19 and from the interviews that have been conducted. This research also aims to find out about the teacher's perspective on the accuracy and quality of Grammarly Software or Applications for Writing. The results below are the teacher's perspective on the accuracy of the correction results from Grammarly and also the teacher's perspective on the quality of the free version of Grammarly as an online grammar checking tool.

Table 4				
Teacher's Perspective on Accuracy of Grammarly				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I like using Grammarly because it's accuracy in checking grammar is almost 90% correct.	(0%)	(5%)	(60%)	(35%)
I believe the corrections from Grammarly are accurate.	(0%)	(15%)	(75%)	(10%)

Some teachers agree and disagree with the accuracy of the corrections from Grammarly. Those who agree believe that Grammarly's corrections are accurate because the results relate to the topic of writing they want, and also because they think Grammarly can indeed be trusted to correct English writing. The teachers interviewed said

“Very very confident, because if I use Grammarly, at least 80% of what I write is most likely correct.”

“Of the many grammar checking websites, in my opinion Grammarly is the most accurate grammar checking website compared to other applications or other similar websites.”

“I think the biggest reason to use Grammarly to write English is one, it's easy to use second, it's pretty accurate.”

“Grammarly has very high accuracy, so if I write in the form of long texts and so on and

then use Grammarly, I am quite confident about my writing.

For teachers who do not agree with the accuracy of the results of Grammarly corrections, they think that Grammarly is still a machine, so it can be wrong too. They believe more in their own writing and based on their own scientific writing abilities. The teachers who interviewed said *“It's called a machine, of course everything has limitations because even machines are man-made, so going back to the source to the book, if I handle it, I check directly to the source, to the knowledge, to the book, my grammar book is like that.”*

“Of course, for applications, not all applications are completely accurate. None of the applications for checking grammar are 100% accurate, the accuracy might be high but it's not 100%, so how do you make sure the writing is correct or wrong, go back to the teacher itself so when there is writing that is auto-corrected grammarly, we see again whether the writing it's really wrong or it's grammatically wrong, so it's like cross checking.”

Table 5				
Teacher's Perspective the Quality of Grammarly Software or Apps for Writing				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel helped by the presence of Grammarly as an online Grammar checker tool that can be accessed anywhere and anytime.	(5%)	(5%)	(30%)	(60%)
I feel helped by the real time correction feature in Grammarly.	(0%)	(10%)	(45%)	(45%)
In my opinion, the free version of Grammarly is enough for me to correct the mistakes in my English writing.	(10%)	(25%)	(50%)	(15%)

In Grammarly there is an explanation feature for errors in writing which can add to my knowledge.	(0%)	(15%)	(50%)	(35%)
Grammarly offers various conveniences for its users, one of which is being able to immediately find out writing errors accurately and in real time.	(0%)	(5%)	(65%)	(30%)
In my opinion, the display in Grammarly is quite easy to understand and easy to understand.	(0%)	(5%)	(60%)	(35%)

Most teachers agree and there are some teachers who disagree with the quality of Grammarly as an online grammar checking tool. For teachers who agree and strongly agree they believe that Grammarly can be classified as reliable as an online grammar checking tool. They agree that the features in Grammarly can help them develop their English writing. Correction results that are real time and can be obtained directly automatically have more value for teachers because they can be accessed quickly. The display in Grammarly is also relatively easy for them and it's not difficult to access it anywhere and anytime. The free version of Grammarly can also help them to correct their typos or spelling errors. According to teachers, the free version is enough to help them write. They just need to connect to the internet then log in to their account and start writing. The teachers who interviewed said

“In my personal opinion, the features available on Grammarly are very complete and easy to use. We only need an internet connection and Grammarly can be accessed for free for free.”

“Grammarly check features, spelling and punctuation features in Grammarly really help writers in writing texts in English because if there are grammatical errors or spelling mistakes in writing texts Grammarly automatically gives suggestions or opinions on how to write something so I can write grammar properly.”

“In my opinion, Grammarly is very helpful for checking grammar online because besides

being easy to access the results are real time so after we check the grammar we can immediately know which grammar is wrong so we fix it right away.”

“The convenience of Grammarly is that Grammarly does not require a special space and time to be accessed so we can access it anywhere, whether by phone, laptop, or any gadget that supports Grammarly and can also be opened via the web or application and also the convenience of Grammarly, which I like, the instructions are enough clear, there aren't many frills, we just need to put the text into the column provided, then the features we use will appear by themselves according to the choices we want.”

There are also some teachers who disagree and strongly disagree with Grammarly which can be accessed anywhere and the free version of Grammarly. According to teachers, Grammarly is not sufficient as an online grammar checking tool because it is hindered by the premium version. The free version can only correct grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors in written English, while the premium version can view explanations of word errors, check plagiarism, check repeated words, etc. Teachers are not satisfied with access to the free version provided by Grammarly. Said the interviewed teacher

“Actually the limitation is that the premium is capped as it may just be a matter of account.”

“Grammarly has several weaknesses and limitations, one of which is anticipated with premium features, so as I said before, Grammarly can be accessed online or free and can be accessed on a premium basis and may indeed be more accurate and can reduce the limitations that Grammarly has. whether using premium.”

CONCLUSION

Teachers provide positive and negative perspectives on Grammarly as an online grammar checking tool for developing English writing skills. Most teachers give a positive perspective on Grammarly because it has some benefits for them in the writing process because teachers believe that Grammarly helps them check their grammar, punctuation, spelling and style. Not only that, teachers believe that Grammarly can make them confident in the writing process. They also believe that Grammarly is easy to use and takes a short time to get use it. Teachers perceive negative responses to Grammarly as an online grammar checker in the writing process. They believe that Grammarly requires a stable internet connection. They may use Grammarly through its website and sometimes can't check the text because the connection is unstable. In addition, the teacher believes that the results of Grammarly are not accurate.

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