

Indonesian EFL Students' Voices on Utilizing Grammarly Application to Facilitate Writing Skills in Recount Text

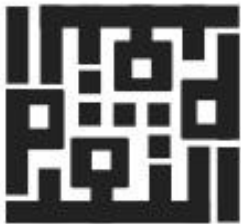
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ABSTRACT

In order to help EFL students grasp the simple past tense in writing skills for recount texts, this study intends to provide students perspectives on using the Grammarly application as an online grammar checker. The qualitative approach was used together with a narrative inquiry research design. In depth interviews employed a method of data collection. The research participants were two female English Education Department students and a male student of English Department at two different universities in Central Java, Indonesia, in the academic year 2022-2023. The study's findings indicate that every participant thought using the Grammarly application to write recount texts helped them learn how to use the simple past tense. It boosts students in composing recount text, because the function as automated writing evaluation feedback. It means that Grammarly application can minimize writing anxiety, even if they encounter certain challenges when utilizing the application.

Introduction

The ability to express oneself verbally and in writing is referred to as writing capacity. Additionally, writing is a crucial skill that students should develop, especially Indonesian EFL students. Writing is a kind of communication where ideas are

expressed with message clarity and in a structure that is appropriate for writing. Grammarly aids students in minimizing writing errors to achieve high-quality work. The fact that it is one of the readily available online grammar checkers has a quick effect on technical development. It has received a lot of attention from

academics, owing to the fact that it is a great tool that authors may use to improve their writing errors. They require it as a means of rectifying writing faults.

Additionally, Grammarly dramatically raises the standard of learners' writing in terms of grammar, capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. There is a ton of stuff on Grammarly that can help individuals get better at writing. Students can increase their drive, self-assurance, and participation in their academics using it. They will have greater flexibility thanks to this technology, which will encourage them to write even if they make mistakes. Students should not be afraid to write because it could be able to help them spot and fix their writing errors. On the other hand, it is a helpful tool for helping students get rid of writing errors. It also helps them achieve academic goals and develop their essay writing abilities. It is essentially an autonomous internet software that provides numerous functions to assist students in reducing writing errors ((Fitriana., & Nurazni, 2022; Tambunan, A.R.S., Andayani., Sari, W.S., Lubis, 2022; Fitria, 2020).

This study aims to explain EFL learners' voices on utilizing the Grammarly application in mastery simple past tense to improve writing skill of recount text. In this case, not many study discuss about the implementation of using the educational tool in recount text writing.

Literature Review

The grammar element dominated students' faults in writing recount texts, with 55% of students incorrect in grammar placement, which was caused by a lack of awareness about the grammar used in recount writings. The fact that Grammarly is one of the readily available internet grammar checkers has had a quick effect on technological development. It has six categories of benefits: checking correctness, clarity, engagement, delivery,

plagiarism, and convenience. Grammarly's shortcomings were that without an internet connection, it was inaccessible. It requires consistent power and an internet connection. To use the full feature, you must have high-speed internet access. Using the application in another connected platform was useless. It provided insufficient free service while requiring payment to get the premium version; and it could not identify several proper nouns. Students at universities are advised to use Grammarly since it helps them write better. This is also supported by (Fahmi, S., & Rachmijati, 2021; Hadiat, A.W.F., Tarwana, W., Irianti, 2022).

Omission errors, addition errors, misplaced errors, and disorder errors are the five different sorts of mistakes students make. EFL learners regularly mispronounced pronouns, prepositions, main verbs, auxiliary verbs have, modal auxiliary, subject-verb agreement, and verb-and-verb construction. It means that the students' work still contains numerous types of errors, and the teacher should discuss this more. The grammar placement of the students was incorrect. It was caused by a lack of awareness of grammatical placement, as well as difficulties in arranging sentences in paragraphs. Most students feel strongly about utilizing this application to enhance their writing abilities. Students may be inspired to write better and find it simpler to do so, and avoid plagiarism, more fully when writing errors occur. They are more confidence while writing a text using this application. It can help writing more accurately. In accordance with (Lestari, R.D., Novari, A.F., 2022; Maulidina, P., & Wibowo, 2022; Yulianti, 2018), this application assists in identifying errors in written products, improving paraphrasing abilities, correcting errors in writing at any

time and from any location, increasing students' vocabulary, and making it easier to spot flaws in writing. Aside from the benefits, students note that Grammarly's premium edition is pricey for students, and it cannot be used offline. As an automatic writing evaluation tool, this application has a favorable impact on EFL students. Today, lecturers can use online automatic software to undertake corrective evaluation in evaluating students' EFL writing. An automated online writing program called Grammarly is frequently utilized in EFL sessions. It is an online proofreading service that checks for plagiarism in addition to grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary. When correcting students' linguistic faults, lecturers can examine and analyze in depth without requiring extensive correction or improvement.

Teachers who need to edit the writing of EFL students may find Instructing learners on how to use the software and equipping them with sufficient linguistic abilities before using it would be desirable. Along with learning on their own, students should make sure they are prepared to use the program and have sufficient English language skills. It is advised that the teachers circulate the room while the students are using the program to check their work and help them if they need it. It is also advised that teachers carefully assess their students' writing by providing constructive criticism because software cannot fully assess all writing-related indicators. Corrective comments from teachers can be used to examine the content and arrangement of students' EFL writing. Teachers in EFL classrooms must always employ corrective feedback, especially when teaching EFL writing. Although corrective feedback has been shown to be beneficial in a number of studies, it appears to have a number of

problems that have contributed to its failure. The learners still have a hard time taking constructive criticism in stride and applying it to their learning. Because they lack of the requisite linguistic proficiency, they are unable to manage when confronted with complex linguistic errors on their own.

Research Method

The qualitative method and narrative inquiry research design were used in this study. It looked at a phenomenon, and the results describe the issues raised by (Creswell, 2014; Tracy, 2013). The research's data were gathered through interviewing. Data selection, data reduction, data presentation, and data verification are the four stages of an interactive model that was used to analyze the data (Miles, M.B., Huberman, A.M & Saldana, 2014; Creswell, J.W. & Timothy, 2019) Investigating how research participants create stories and narratives based on their personal experiences required the use of a data analysis approach called narrative analysis. This suggests that there are two levels of interpretation in narrative analysis. First, the study's participants use storytelling to examine their own experiences. The researcher then interpreted the narrative's construction.

Result and Discussion

Female Student 1's Story

"This application had both positive and negative effects for me."

She told me that the Grammarly application provides a lot of benefits, such as learning to express her words correctly, learning many similarities of words related to her study, and learning how to use proper punctuation." She also mentioned that the application's grammar tool helped her writing significantly. "Because of the

Grammarly application, I was able to solve many problems that arose during my writing process in a short period of time." (Female student 1).

Yes, that completely works for me. "Today's students are learning in a different environment than in the past, and there are more - constantly changing - tools available to them than ever before." Students of this generation have been nurtured in a digital age and have been exposed to technology since birth. They are referred to as "digital natives." We can utilize the application as a digital medium to make writing easier. She utilized it to write a paper as well.

"Is the application effective in improving mastery of simple past tense in recount text writing?" The researcher asked.

Yes, it is," She replied. It completely works for me." Although she felt that application's correction was not always accurate, she recognized that it was essential to use in order to ensure that sentences are in the best possible shape when it comes to tenses. Grammarly, she believed, had enhanced her command of the simple past tense. She told me this as she was writing recap text and using the app to verify her work. She found Grammarly's automatic correction to be really useful. When she wrote, she realized which one was erroneous and needed to be corrected, such as replacing the improper form of the verb and "to be" to the correct one.

It's nearly perfect!"

She answered my third question loudly and confidently. "Yes, it does," she replied. It's nearly perfect!"

She remarked that the correction was nearly perfect every time she used it. Grammarly's grammatical capabilities were quite beneficial to her. To be more precise, the usage of modals, as well as verbs in the "simple past tense." This grammar tool makes her writing process easier. She

stated, "This application is currently the best app to solve grammatical issues that I have."

My paper was wrecked by an unnecessary correction!"

"Yes, it covers them," She responded with a grin, "but there are some that shouldn't be corrected but are instead corrected by Grammarly." "It perplexes me." She claimed that this application provided superfluous edits that destroyed her sentences as she was writing. Grammarly's spelling tool, for example, corrects names of people, places, and even things. It perplexed her. It was a waste of her time to go over each one individually to ensure that the corrections were correct or not. (Female student 1).

My paper has become easier to read." (Male student 3).

She briefly stated the solution in the fifth question of the interview. "Yes, Grammarly's punctuation feature made it simple for me to correct my incorrect punctuation."

She went on to say that she trusts its feature to make each sentence in each paragraph tidy and easy to read. "I can get grammar correction in real time." (Female student 1).

After waiting for about five minutes, I came across a young, pretty girl with a dimple on her cheek. "I'm sorry, mom," she whispered softly. "I kept you waiting for a very long time." I grinned and seated her. She is a third-semester student in UIN Walisongo's English Education Department and a participant in the Walisongo English Club, which started attending our weekly class in 2022.

About a year ago, I met her. She is clever as well as caring. She participated in the weekly lesson with enthusiasm and consistently earned top marks on all assessments. She can communicate clearly both orally and in writing.

After a long vacation semester, the

researcher gave her a weekly evaluation at the time. I asked her to write a text describing her vacation. She received the highest grade in the weekly class. She told me that she used it to write and proofread her assignment and academic work.

I gave her a weekly evaluation at the time following a lengthy break semester. I requested her to text me a description of her trip. In the weekly class, she earned the best grade. She admitted to using it to draft and edit her homework and other academic writing.

She informed me that the application software has a significant impact on her life. It can fix my typos, errors, and faults when I write articles or essays, which helps me finish them. "I can get real-time grammar correction when I use it."

She noted that this application can automatically fix her poor grammar. She only needs to click the red line Grammarly has displayed, and the sentence automatically changes. This makes using the tool quite straightforward. So that she can write more quickly, she uses it, despite the fact that it can take a while to correct grammar. "I can simply "click" the red line this application displays, and the sentence will automatically change." It is a real-time grammatical checker, therefore "I save time."

My command of the simple past tense has improved."

"Is the application effective in improving mastery of simple past tense in recount text writing?" I ask. "Yes, it does," She replied. My command of the simple past tense has really improved."

She explained that the correcting grammar option allows her to effortlessly amend her language, particularly in the past tense as used in a recount text. "I'd like to say that it doesn't correct some hard patterns or structures, but I think for recount text that doesn't have a really hard structure, it can be corrected with this application," she

added.

Female Student 2's Story

"It is sufficient for analyzing some errors."

The application's grammar feature is the subject of the third interview question. Question: "Does the Grammarly feature valid cover the use of to be, modals, and simple past tense verbs in writing recount text?" "Explain yourself, please!" (The researcher asked).

She remarked that while it is reliable enough to assess verb tense issues (simple past), it is less effective at correcting the use of modal and to be. However, it does not offer an acceptable correction for the high difficulty level. "I believe it is valid enough to analyze verb usage errors in simple past tense."

She told me that if she needed to clarify a sentence's meaning, Grammarly always advises eliminating the modal." The use of 'can' and 'could' cannot always be fixed by it. I use "could" since that's how it used to be, but it also implies using "can" and other words. It can correct it flawlessly, however it frequently suggests adding the extra *be* that I don't require after the word *be*.

She stated that Grammarly's spelling tool addresses inaccurate and ambiguous terms in her text. "When I am confused about the writing of the words or when I type the wrong words," she remarked, "It can correct it perfectly."

Grammarly also advises her to use better words than she previously used, she adds. As a result, she thought it gave her a positive impression that Grammarly's spelling feature covers the English spelling words well. "I believe it provides me favorable view of Its ability to cover English words well."

"Punctuation feature really helped me"

She calmly and confidently responded to my fifth interview question, stating that the Grammarly punctuation option greatly

aided her in writing recall prose. "That's correct. "The punctuation feature was extremely helpful."

She also stated that the auto-correct punctuation tool of Grammarly is adequate. Grammarly explains how to utilize punctuation in sentences. It should be able to rectify her punctuation. "Because I'm the person who can't correct punctuation in detail, Grammarly really helps me," she explained. "I believe the outcome is satisfactory."

It is very well used by students."

We discussed whether grammarly's criticism is always correct or not. She expressed her thoughts on the subject. Grammarly, in her opinion, effectively corrects the most prevalent writing errors. Aside from that, she discovered some errors and more grammar feedback that she needs to re-correct. "I would say 80% Grammarly can give good feedback, and I actually learn a lot of structure and English words from Grammarly," she said. Students use it pretty effectively."

She has experience . "I got all the positive effects"

The third participant approached the bench where I was sitting. "Good afternoon, mom," she said as she jogged half a mile towards me. "Did I arrive on time?" "Yup, you arrived on time, dear," I nodded and grinned. Please have a seat!"

She is the joyful and lively girl in front of me. She is in her fifth semester of English education and has been a member of the Walisongo English Club since 2021. She is cheerful student and learned in my weekly lesson. She is always on the go and eager to learn new things. She was not very skilled at writing, but she never stopped trying.

I ran across her after a long period since the corona virus had spread. She advanced and informed me that she was improving her writing and speaking skills while in quarantine and that she was willing to

participate in my research.

I inquire whether she employs the application to assist her in composing. She stated that she had used it. "Yes, I use the Grammarly application's free version."

I asked her to explain the results she got from using the software.

It is quite effective."

"Is the Grammarly application effective in improving mastery of simple past tense in recount text writing?" I asked. "Yes, it is," she replied. It has helped me greatly improve my command of the simple past tense."

She believed Grammarly could detect grammatical faults in her writing, but it is insufficient for people who do not comprehend or have a rudimentary understanding of tenses. "While it can detect grammatical errors in my writing, I believe it is insufficient for people who do not understand tenses."

She asserted confidently that the application is merely a grammatical checker tool. It is unable to teach people how to write text. "Because it is only a grammatical checker, it cannot teach us how to write text."

Male Student 3's Story

"The free version does not include them." (Male student 3)

The third question in my interview is about the Grammarly application's grammar feature. The query is, "Does the application grammar feature valid cover the use of to be, modals, and simple past tense verbs in writing recount text?" "Please provide an explanation!"

Student 3 noted that the feature is correct and includes all aspects of grammar, such as modal and past tense, but only as a free user. Because the free version had limited features, he reasoned that the grammatical feature in this version could not be valid.

"When using this application, the application feature is valid and also covers all grammar usage such as modal and past tense, but as a user of the free version, I don't think the grammatical feature in this version can literally be valid because the free version has extremely limited features." They are not covered by the free version."

Because Grammarly's free version only covers the fundamentals of grammar, the user has limited correction options. To access additional best writing recommendations, the user must upgrade to the premium edition.

"It will be better if we use the paid version so that we can use all of Grammarly's features."

"It can correct spelling mistakes."

Student 3 claimed that the free edition of Grammarly's spell-checker dealt with all of the spelling errors in his work. It verifies each word I write twice. He added that Grammarly's spelling checker can aid him in producing better text for retelling stories. He added that the spelling checker does a great job of catching errors in her writing.

We can use it to improve our writing. For instance, if we try to create the word "assignment" but omit the letter "n," it will quickly tell that the sentence is incorrect and offer us a few options for replacement terms.

"The Grammarly punctuation feature is well worth it."

Student 3 responded quietly to my fifth interview question. He stated that the Grammarly punctuation option was quite beneficial in assisting his in writing recall material. "Of course, yes." Grammarly's punctuation tool is really worth it."

He mentioned that it detects punctuation issues in his recall text writing. It also includes instructions for correcting frequent punctuation problems in the text

as well as terms that I may have wanted to use. Grammarly typically tells us if there are any punctuation errors. For instance, suppose we want to write "student's expression." It will provide options such as a student, from which we can select one. If we type the comma (,) after a space, it will sometimes notify us that was incorrect."

No, it is not always true."

According to Student 3, the application's feedback is not always correct. "No, it isn't. Based on my experience as a free or trial version user. It occasionally provides me incorrect comments on my text. As a result, I must manually review their suggestions."

While Grammarly's free edition has drawbacks, in her opinion, it is a useful writing tool in general. It has features that address important issues such as grammar, spelling, punctuation, and style. It is more effective at reducing errors in word usage (diction), language usage (grammar), and writing mechanics (spelling and punctuation). It can clearly and instantly identify EFL writing errors and flaws in terms of vocabulary usage, language use, and mechanics.

It can also detect missing spaces after periods and misspelled words, including proper nouns, and offers a variety of alternatives (feedback provision) for the misspelled phrases. It input assisted them in determining which option was correct. The students independently evaluate their writing using Grammarly's auto-correction.

All participants agreed that Grammarly helps them improve their mastery of the simple past tense when producing recount texts. They noticed that the application assisted them in learning on their own. Grammarly's automatic correction is also available to them. With this feature, they can identify the word that has a structural error and ponder how to utilize the correct word. It is also adept at spotting minor

errors, such as the use of the article 'a' or 'an'.

It does, however, have certain limitations. All participants have given their opinions about the application and the drawbacks they have encountered. When they use it to verify their writing, the correction from it sometimes changes the meaning. They must reread and double-check their writing before proceeding with Grammarly's correction. It also comes in two flavors: free and premium. According to the participants, the free edition of it hinders them from using all of Grammarly's functions.

Grammarly includes a number of features that address crucial topics including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and style. According to (Herman, H., Rajagukguk, T.A., 2020; Fitria, 2020); & Fridayanthi, 2017) it is more efficient at reducing mistakes in spelling and punctuation as well as faults in word usage (dictionary) and language usage (grammar). It can clearly and directly identify spelling issues and flaws in his EFL in terms of vocabulary usage, language usage, and mechanics. The grammar also picks up on missing spaces after periods and improperly spelled words containing proper nouns, and it may provide feedback and a variety of other choices for incorrect spellings. I was able to learn which words were correct thanks to grammar criticism. Students use Grammarly's auto correct feature to independently evaluate their writing.

All participants agreed that this application had the advantage of improving mastery of the simple past tense when writing recounted texts. They found it useful for self-study. You can also check the auto-correction provided by it. This feature allows you to recognize words with structural errors and review your usage of those words. Grammarly is also great at spotting small mistakes like using the articles 'a' and 'an'. However, it still has some drawbacks. All participants shared

their thoughts on using Grammarly and the drawbacks that come with it. If you use it to review your own writing, these corrections may change the meaning. These are supported by (Februansyah, V., Nugraha, I., Fajriah, 2020 ; Hutauruk, B.S., Sinaga, Y.K., Sitinjak, 2021; Pratiwi, D.H., & Ramalia, 2022; Rahmita, R., & Anggreni, 2023).

Students should read and double-check the text before following Grammarly's proofreading. Additionally, it has two versions. Free and Premium. According to participant votes, Grammarly's free version limits use of all Grammarly features. Grammar in Student Recognition helps students review grammar. It also has many advantages. However, similar to the results of this study, the application has its shortcomings. Despite its limitations, the research question has been resolved. Questions posed in this study about students' perceptions of using grammatical applications to improve acquisition of the past tense in writing memoirs were answered by the results of this study.

The application can help students master the simple past tense in writing recount text based on research done at the English Education Department on students' perceptions of using the Grammarly application to increase simple past tense mastery in writing recount text. The findings of this study reveal that it has both advantages and disadvantages. It assists students in checking their grammar when producing recount texts and other sorts of prose. It is simple to use and provides a comprehensive set of capabilities. The application is also quite good at catching errors like the articles "a" or "an," which can occasionally flip back and forth inadvertently when writing.

Grammarly's correction, on the other hand, is not always correct. Grammarly corrections can sometimes alter the sense of the writing. Grammarly's auto-correction feature might cause sentences to be out of rhythm with those that come

after or before them. Students benefit from the absence of it. When students re-read their Grammarly-corrected compositions, they are unconsciously learning. While using the application to check their grammar, they can recollect their memory of grammatical material, particularly simple past tense in this study, such as punctuation, article, and pattern. Despite its flaws, the application offers greater support to students in correcting their grammar, particularly English Education students. It also has a lot of advantages, such as a lot of features, being good at spotting little errors in writing, and so on (Fitriana., & Nurazni, 2022; Tambunan, A.R.S., Andayani., Sari, W.S., Lubis, 2022 ; Dewi, 2022 ; Hadiat, A.W.F., Tarwana, W., Irianti, 2022).

An automatic online piece of software called Grammarly can be utilized in an EFL writing course. It is a grammatical error checking tool that may be used to proofread writings online. Additionally, it identifies plagiarism and corrects errors in grammar, punctuation, and word usages. Additionally, it offers style-specific correction for a variety of writing styles. This study evaluated student writing samples using the "Student/Academia" scenario. Additionally, the website offers "context-optimized synonyms" and a "Adaptive Spell Checker" that makes word choice and spelling recommendations based on the text. The program also includes a plagiarism detection feature that analyzes submitted work to a database of eight billion web pages. This is in line with several opinions of (Maulidina, P., & Wibowo, 2022; Fahmi, S., & Rachmijati, 2021; Yulianti, 2018). In order to edit EFL writing, teachers and students can both benefit from the Grammarly program. The reason for this is that it cannot only spot mistakes in punctuation (like omitting spaces after periods) and spelling (including proper nouns and offering several alternate possibilities for words that have been misspelled), but it can also

spot verb form issues and identify fragments, even though explanations were often complicated and no suggested corrections were frequently offered. One of the challenges that EFL teachers face in the modern period is integrating technology into the EFL classroom as a result of globalization. Teachers must also be able to involve students in this global English-language writing culture. Giving students the chance to communicate with native speakers of other languages through technology is a logical extension of an EFL writing curriculum (Fitriana., & Nurazni, 2022; Tambunan, A.R.S., Andayani., Sari, W.S., Lubis, 2022; Fitria, 2021). In this case, teachers of EFL writing classes may use sophisticated software to check students' writing for plagiarism as well as grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and vocabulary usages.

Conclusion

It can be drawn a conclusion that the application can assist students in mastering the simple past tense in writing recount text from research on students' perceptions of using it to improve simple past tense mastery at the English Education Department. This study's findings demonstrate that Grammarly has benefits and downsides. It helps students in proofreading their work for grammar when they are producing recount texts and other types of texts. It is simple to use and contains all the functionality you could want. It is also quite good at spotting mistakes like the articles "a" or "an," which can occasionally switch positions unintentionally when writing.

However, Grammarly's correction isn't always accurate. Sometimes, these corrections cause the writing to lose its intended sense. Sometimes, Grammarly's auto-correction throws the sentence out of sync with the one before it or the one after. Students benefit from the application not being used. When students read their Grammarly-corrected compositions again, they are unintentionally learning.

While using it to check their grammar, they can recollect their memories of grammatical concepts, particularly simple past tense in this study, such as punctuation, article, and pattern. It offers additional support to pupils in terms of verifying their grammar, especially for those studying English education, despite its flaws. Another benefit of this application is its wealth of functions and proficiency in catching minor writing errors.

Recommendation

There are certain limitations to this research. The researcher advises future researchers to examine the same subject with various respondents, such as senior high school students, in order to produce better subsequent studies. The field is also better if it is distinct, such as when learning how to utilize Grammarly to master the various tenses in text writing or for reading comprehension. The researcher expects that by performing additional research with a wider range of people and domains, the gaps in this study will be filled.

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