CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses an overview of the research. It covers background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, operational definition of the research, significance of the research, and scope of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

Since most international journals and conferences require papers and articles to be written in English, it is important for students to be proficient in English, especially in their writing (Nova, 2018) . Writing is one of the essential skills that English major students need to learn as they are required to write international journal assignments, essays, articles, and papers in English (Ghufron & Rosyida, 2018). Moreover, Hakiki (2021) explains that writing is not just about writing text, but also about interacting with other people as a social act.

Writing is a complex written form of communication (Khalisa, 2018). It focuses on how students elaborate and organize their ideas so that the readers can easily understand them. Khalisa (2018) explains that in writing, students not only focus on writing style, but also on content, organization, vocabulary, grammar, and language usage. Thus, writing skills are essential to avoid ambiguous meanings and misunderstandings of the information provided (Nova, 2018).

In reality, many students encounter difficulties in the writing process. These challenges range from the usage of verb tenses, unfamiliar vocabulary, phrases, conjunctions, and more. According to Hakiki (2021), students face challenges related to irregular verbs, consistency, the use of parallel structures, verb tenses, and poor expression when conveying their thoughts in writing. This challenge is especially faced by students whose knowledge and writing skills are still limited.

To overcome these challenges, there are various ways that students can do, one of which is asking for guidance from their lecturer. Additionally, with the rapid advancement of technology today, students can utilize the internet. Currently, there are numerous websites or applications to assist in the writing process, one of which is Grammarly Software. Grammarly Software is a digital writing support provided by an American-based Ukrainian technology company. This software can be accessed through laptop or smartphone in the form of a website and application. Grammarly Software can check writing errors related to grammar, word choice, punctuation, spelling, usage, style, and plagiarism. Grammarly Software can also provide suggested words to improve students' writing (Fitriana & Nurazni, 2022). Additionally, Grammarly not only locates typos but also corrects them.

Some studies have analized the effectiveness of Grammarly software in learning to write. Karyuatry et al., (2018) analyzed whether using Grammarly could improve the quality of the writing involved in writing essay. This research was based on the teacher's observation that the students had problems with grammar. Karyuatry et al., (2018) collaborated with other lecturers on action

research involving 40 students. Three instruments were used to collect the research material, which are interviews, student essays and surveys. The result of this research showed that when Grammarly is used in essay writing, about 32 (82%) students out of 40 scored positively. Grammarly as a tutorial was very useful. The researcher then concluded that Grammarly is very useful and can be used as a teaching tool and will become a suitable tool to reduce errors and improve students' writing quality.

Additionally, another research was investigated by Ghufron and Rosyida (2018), they compared the effectiveness of Grammarly with corrective feedback from teachers in reducing students' errors in EFL writing. This research used a quantitative approach using a quasi-experimental design. The researchers divided 40 students selected from an English Education research program at a private university in Indonesia into experimental and control groups. The result of this research shows that students who used Grammarly had a significant reduction in their errors compared to those who received corrective feedback from the teacher. Ghufron and Rosyida (2018) concluded that the software proved to be more effective in reducing students' errors such as vocabulary, grammar and spelling or punctuation. However, it is less effective in improving the content of students' EFL writing.

Another research was conducted by O'neill and Russell (2019), They compared one group of students' responses to the feedback they received from Grammarly (n = 54) with another group's responses to the traditional non-automated grammar feedback they received from the Academic Learning Centre at CQ University (n = 42), and found that students received many benefits and

feedback from Grammarly. In addition, the research of Nova (2018) concluded that Grammarly software provided useful suggestions with examples and explanations, fast grading speed, ease of download and use and free service. However, some weaknesses were identified, such as misleading feedback, lack of context and content evaluation, which require further investigation and research.

Based on the above studies, this research has similarities with previous studies, because it focuses on both the use of Grammarly software and students' writing. However, the previous studies above only focused on lecturer observations (Karyuary et al., 2018; Nova, 2018), comparison (O'Neill & Russell, 2019), and pilot test (Ghufron & Rosyida, 2018). While there were still limited research on how students' perceptions of the usefulness of Grammarly whereas, students' perceptions of the value of learning outcomes and skill levels can be used to prioritize resources during program adjustments (Duke, 2002). Therefore, this research aims to investigate students' perceptions of using Grammarly software in helping them to write essay writing.

1.2 Problem of the Research

In line with the background of the research, the problem of the research is formulated as "What are students' perceptions of using Grammarly Software in helping them to check the problems of their essays?"

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the problem of the research above, this research aims to investigate students' perceptions of using Grammarly software in helping them to check the problems of their essays.

1.4 Operational Definition of the Research

To avoid the misconception, the writer explains operational definions relating to the topic of this research.

1.4.1 Students' Perceptions

Perception is a way of regarding, understanding, or interpreting something. Montague (1997) stated that perception is a person's view of something that is influenced by his social situation and environment. In this research, students' perceptions are related to student's beliefe, knowledge, feeling, interest, and motivation in using the Grammarly Software.

1.4.2 Grammarly Software

Grammarly is an online proofreading website that can be used to scan documents for grammar mistakes. It also can be defined as an internet-based application where students can use to help them in checking many problems of their writing, such as punctuation, misspelling, and so on.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The results of this research are expected to give benefit for student, the lecturer and researcher, which are written as follows:

1.5.1   Theoretical Significance

This research will provide good information related to essay writing using Grammarly software. In addition, this research can be used for the other researchers who conduct the same research related to students' perceptions of using Grammarly software.

1.5.2   Practical Significance

1. For student, this research provides some information related to the use of Grammarly Software which is expected to be useful for students who have problems in writing essays in English.

2. For lecturer, this research is useful in providing information about Grammarly so that lecturers can use it to check their students' written work.

3. To increase researcher's knowledge about Grammarly Software which can be used to help check problems in writing, especially in essay writing.

1.6 Scope of the Research

This research focuses on students' perceptions of Grammarly software in helping them checking errors on essay writing. This research was conducted on students in English language research program from two state universities and one private university in Jember.