

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This research is to investigate the effect of Grammarly on students' writing ability. This chapter discusses an overview of the research. It covers background of the research, problem of the research, purpose of the research, significance of the research, operational definition, scope and limitation of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

Writing is a communicative skill of English language learning that students and educators must master. In EFL learning, there are four abilities to learn English education, including writing skills. Good writing skills remain a foundation for success in various fields, and the ability to express oneself coherently and professionally in writing enables people to articulate ideas and establish themselves in their chosen pursuits.

Writing skills have become even more essential in the digital age, as written communication is vital to most jobs, organizations and businesses. In school, all students will try to write well and correctly. Writing skills in English are quite difficult because many factors must be considered in writing skills. Browns (2001) proposes six major aspect of writing that have to be required by a writer such as content, organization, discourse, syntax, vocabulary, and mechanics. To produce

good writing, students and educators must fully understand grammar and vocabulary to get excellent and correct writing results.

Most students sometimes need more understanding about the location of grammar errors that they have written, and even usually, they need to know whether their writing/sentences are correct or wrong. Hinkel (2004) mentioned that one of the possible causes of students' poor writing skills may be their inaccurate grammar. The importance of grammar and mechanics features positively affects the ability of students' writing, such as language errors and punctuation usage.

Laura Allen (2014) also mentions that grammar features affect students' essay scores; the students mention that the total number of language and punctuation errors is predictive of human judgment and mechanical correctness.

In this study, the researcher used one of the grammar checker applications, namely Grammarly. These tools can highlight spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors and offer suggestions for correcting them. Students can use Grammarly using the website for free or download the application on windows or appstore.

Many previous research studies have discussed the influence of Grammarly applications on learning. Research by utilizing grammar checker applications for learning activities has been done before. McCarthy (2019) explained how influential grammar checkers can improve students' essay writing ability. The result was that the availability of spelling and grammar-checking tools could have contributed more to holistic gains.

Similar research utilizing grammar checkers has also been conducted by Hyejin (2018). She conducted a study on 1 control group where some students

considered that grammar checkers did not affect their writing skills; they mentioned that their writing skills improved naturally, not because of grammar checkers, but some students also mentioned that grammar checkers helped them to find some errors.

In Hyejin's study, the number of students who stated that the grammar checker app did not produce significant results was more, so this study concludes that the grammar checker app still needs to be improved to help students improve their writing ability. The finding of this study suggested that grammar checkers could be used as an additional resource in L2 writing courses. Regarding the pedagogical ramifications, educators ought to identify the shortcomings of the grammar checker and offer suitable direction to students.

Several researchers mentioned by Tarsan, V., Kandang, A., Helmon, A. (2021) this research got positive results. The results of students' scores were proven to improve after much practice using the Grammarly application, and students stated that it was also more helpful so that students could more easily detect the location of grammatical errors. It can be concluded that Grammarly helps support EFL students in writing a paragraph. It is also easy to use, so researchers used Grammarly to observed students' writing ability.

Grammarly is a software that is super helpful for teachers and learners when correcting English as a foreign language (EFL) writing. It is so effective because Grammarly can do more than spot punctuation mistakes like missing spaces after periods and spelling errors, including proper nouns. It even offers substitute terms for mistake words. Grammarly can also identify sentence fragments and advise on verb forms, although sometimes it does not provide

specific corrections, and the explanations can be complex (Daniels & Leslie, 2013).

On the explanation above, the researcher wants to assess how significant the Grammarly application is in improving the ability of student writing. What distinguishes this study from previous research is that the authors have not found research that uses experiments with 2 groups, therefore here the authors conducted this experimental research on 2 groups and see the effects that occurred. This study used the free Grammarly application and focussed on the effects caused by students after and before using the Grammarly application.

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the research background, the problem of this research are formulated as follow : “ Is there a significant effect of using Grammarly on students’ writing ability?”

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the problem above, this research aims to know whether there is a significant effect of using Grammarly on students’ writing ability.

1.4 Operational Definition of the Terms

1. Grammarly: Grammarly is one of grammar checkers was founded in 2009 by Maz Lytvyn and Alex Shevchenko. Grammarly is an AI-powered writing assistant that helps users improve their writing skills and communicate their ideas more effectively. It provides personalized guidance and text generation on any app or website, making it convenient for users to work smarter.

2. Students writing ability: in this research, writing ability refers to students' to write a descriptive paragraph well. It means that the students should be able to write a descriptive text with the appropriate grammar, mechanics, content, vocabulary, and paragraph organization that are relevant to the topic.

1.5 Significant of the Research

1.5.1 For Students

This research contains information for students who have difficulties in writing paragraphs in English. This research is expected to help students improve their writing skills with Grammarly.

1.5.2 For Teacher

The results of this study can be used as a reference in learning English to improve students' writing ability.

1.5.3 For Other Researcher

This research provides information on how to improve and what things should be considered in a writing in English language learning to get good and correct writing results.

1.6 Scope of the Research

This research focused on the effect of using Grammarly on the ability of student writing. Students were asked to write a descriptive text. The researcher used the Grammarly application to measure it. The researcher focused on grammatical error