

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Research Findings

This study was conducted to determine the use of Grammarly application in helping students do assignments in academic writing class. Here, students from the 21th generation majoring in English education were selected as research participants. There were 15 students of TBI at Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin as participants. The data obtained from interviews will be discussed in this chapter.

1 The Perceive Usefulness of Grammarly Application in Their Writing

a. The Installed apps

In the first question, students were asked about how they perceive using the Grammarly application. The results of the interview showed that Grammarly application is very easy. Grammarly was selected as one of the educational tools used by students in writing classes. students chose grammarly application because it is very easy to use as students stated:

“I installed this application a long time ago, since I took a writing class, in the Grammarly application I felt it was made easier.”

(student 3)

“An application that is very easy to download on both laptop and smartphones”

(Student 4)

b. Grammarly Features

In the second interview questions, students were asked about Grammarly. Features they mostly use. The objective of this question was to see the Grammarly part students mostly like to practice their English writing. The data showed that the majority of the student use correctness, Engagement and plagiarism. The precise, detailed result is shown in the table below.

Table 4.1

Grammarly Features Students Mostly Use

No	Features	Writing Mistakes	Total	Percentage of students responses
1	Correctness	Grammar	15	25,86 %
		Spelling	10	17,24 %
		Punctuation	10	17,24 %
2	Engagement	Vocabulary	8	13,79%
		Synonym	8	13,79%
3	Plagiarism	Plagiarism Detection	7	12,1%
Total				100 ,0 %

Based on the table above, there were 15 students frequently use the grammar feature (25.86%), 10 Students also frequently use the spelling and punctuation features (17.24%), 8 students often use the vocabulary and synonym features (13.79%), and 7 students use the plagiarism feature (12.1%). Therefore, according to the table, students use Grammarly more for correctness (Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation) features.

1) Correctness

Based on the interview results, the feature that students often utilize is the correction feature, encompassing spelling, grammar, punctuation, and fluency. In writing classes, rectifying errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation is fundamental in completing academic writing assignments.

The reason students choose the Grammarly correction feature tool is its ease of access and cost-effectiveness, making it an accessible resource for enhancing writing quality and facilitating the writing process, as affirmed by the following students:

“The grammarly application helps me learn to analyze my mistakes quickly in completing writing assignments because the grammarly application provides a grammar checking feature.” (Student 8)

Students say that this also makes it easier to write papers or academic writing assignments, as stated below:

“The Grammarly application has a positive impact, for example in preparing papers or academic writing assignments. Makes it easier to compose sentences properly and correctly. When collecting assignments, once they have been submitted, they are never reprimanded for mistakes. When there is a grammatical error, grammarly application immediately mark the location of the error so it is very easy to correct it.” (Student 3)

Grammar understanding was the other challenge that the students had to overcome. Grammar is just as important as vocabulary in producing well-structured writing. Additionally, it influences how readable writing. Grammar has traditionally been seen by students as a dangerously difficult subject.

As students stated below

“I often use the feature to check tenses (Grammar) and proper semicolon usage. Because in those parts, I sometimes encounter difficulties”. (Student 8)

In interviews, researchers found that many participants often use to the advice given by this feature. Most students use all the suggested corrections, especially to correct their grammatical errors. Specially, 15 students said they frequently used grammar checker section of the correctness feature. Beside that, the students often make spelling mistakes without realizing it when writing, in addition to grammar errors. The other student explain more detail as below

“ When I write, I often forget the correct spelling of word, so I guess and make mistakes. But when I use the Grammarly application, I realize my errors” (Student 9)

“I like to rush when writing or typing. Long writing makes me lazy to pay attention, so I need the Grammarly application” (Student 10)

“Grammarly certainly really helps me in academic writing, especially for those of me who don't fully understand grammar, with it I can find out grammar errors in my writing and find out wrong spellings. and this application is very easy to access.” (Student 4)

2) Engagement

Grammarly's Engagement features is very useful for students who want to improve their writing skills. By suggesting different words, it helps students expand their vocabulary and become better writers. This tool not only teaches students new words but also help them express themselves more clearly and effectively. Overall, Grammarly's vocabulary engagement function is a valuable resource for students looking to improve their writing skills.

The other students also said using the Grammarly application helped them discover new vocabulary in writing, as stated by:

"I think using the Grammarly Application really helps me discover new vocabulary and find vocabulary that is suitable for my academic writing." (Student 5)

"Grammarly gives us different word options, so we don't have to worry about finding similar words" (Student 10)

8 of the 15 students believed that engagement feature could enhance the variety in their writing by offering a range of word options. This not only addressed their limited vocabulary but also improved clarity. Furthermore, the selection of words provided was more precise and pleasing.

3) Plagiarism

However, in the interviews, students explained more deeply how they saw this is an opportunity for them to learn by exploring further what features can help them in carrying out assignments in academic writing. Academic writing is not far from plagiarizing someone's work. By using the plagiarism feature we know the source of the data taken, making it easier to make corrections immediately.

As student stated

"Grammarly give me options. I can use the basic mode and Grammarly application checks for contextual spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and style or I can select plagiarism to learn whether I have inadvertently "borrowed" someone's word and made them yours. There is a vocabulary enhancement function, which points

out vague words that can be changed to another word or phrase to make the sentence stronger or clearer.” (Students 12)

“I like Grammarly as a plagiarism checker because it can identify duplication in my assignments”.(Student 11)

The other students also strengthen the thought

“I use Grammarly to check assignments with a 10% plagiarism requirement with Turnitin, but Grammarly makes it easier for me to reduce plagiarism”. (Student 12)

Apart from that, the Grammarly application can be used for paraphrasing

“I only use it to paraphrase to reduce the level of plagiarism. (Student 13)

2. The Advantages of Grammarly Application for Academic Writing

This section aimed to know all the advantages students get use grammarly application in assignments academic writing. The researcher got deep responses from the interview session. They stated that they had received a lot of quick feedback, easy revision and editing.

a. Quick Feedback

The researcher also conducted interview with students to find out the advantages of grammarly application for academic writing. Based on the analysis from the interview result, most of interview the grammarly application provides fast feedback to provide correction, correctness and coherence of students' writing, so that they can identify errors that might otherwise go unnoticed, allowing to address them immediately and enhance the overall quality.

As stated by a student:

“Grammarly app provides instant suggestions and corrections with fast feedback in my writing, so I make improvements quickly and efficiently.”

(Students 4)

b. Easy revision and editing

The Grammarly application apart from providing feedback, students also feel the advantages of the Grammarly application in making revision and editing easier, as one student stated:

“Grammarly also offers suggestions to enhance the clarity and style of writing. It provides recommendation to improve sentence structure , eliminate wordiness, and enhance readability, making the text more concise and engaging”. (Students 1)

“Grammarly’s primary function is to help users identify and correct spelling and grammar errors in their writing. It scan text for mistake, including common grammatical errors, misspelled words, and punctuation issues, providing suggestion for correction. This helps improve the overall quality and professionalism of written work.” (Students 9)

The last question of this research is to find out what are the shortcomings of the Grammarly application that students use in carrying out writing assignments. If Grammarly has advantages, then Grammarly also has disadvantages such as limited number of word. Students must do it slowly and repeatedly to get maximum results.

as one student stated:

“In my opinion, the weakness of this application lies in the limited number of words, namely 1.000 words for one paraphrase”. (Student 10)

Excessive and instant processes certainly do not always produce what students expect. Using the application is only to make things easier but requires the role of the students themselves. It's not easy to feel satisfied before checking first. Otherwise, students will not make better progress.

as one student stated:

“In my opinion, we become accustomed to using it and eventually forget the manual way, which if checked personally can make us learn which parts are wrong in writing and what the original grammar looks like. If we use Grammarly, everything becomes instant, and if we don't learn further, we won't gain anything.”. (Student 12)

The final drawback of this application is that not all features of the Grammarly application can be accessed for free, especially to determine the level of plagiarism.

as one student stated:

“If the user want to use more features, we have to use the premium version”
(Student 8)

B. Discussion

1. Students Perceive Usefulness of Grammarly Application

In this section, the researcher focuses on discussing and answering research questions based on the interviews presented in the findings. First, the researcher talks

about students' perceptions of Grammarly in academic writing. The findings show that most students have a similar perception of Grammarly as a tool to help them improve their writing. This is consistent with previous research, where Astuti (2023) said that Grammarly provides a range of comprehensive benefits for users, especially in doing assignments or academic writing classes.

Based on the first research question about how students view the usefulness of using Grammarly in their writing, the findings show that the features in Grammarly are helpful for completing tasks in academic writing classes, features like correctness, clarity, engagement, delivery, and plagiarism, as described by Javier (2022), help students learn through the feedback provided by the software. Previous studies by Novianti (2022), Dahlia (2022), and Rahmadani (2022) suggest that Grammarly's features make the process easier for teachers, allowing them to focus more on teaching writing rather than manually checking students' writing errors. This also enables students to learn independently, which is valuable given the limited class time.

Additionally, from the interviews with students who have either high or low skills, they said they use the Grammarly app specifically for academic writing classes. This is because academic writing is a subject taught at university and is mandatory for students. According to the theory by Ratnawati et al. (2018), academic writing is an essential skill for academic contexts and has a big impact on students' ability to publish academic papers at university to fulfill their degree requirements. Burke (2010) also mentioned that academic writing is a mental and cognitive product, making academic writing classes very important and requiring tools to help improve the quality of students' writing.

4.2 The Advantages of Grammarly Application

The second discussion is about the benefits of the Grammarly app for student writing. Research shows that Grammarly is easy for students to access because there are two types: premium and free (Grammarly, 2017). Most students tend to use the free version of Grammarly, which costs nothing. As Perdana (2021) explained, Grammarly is integrated with any platform, so it can be widely accessed.

Students are helped by Grammarly to make sure things are right by fixing grammar mistakes, spelling, and punctuation carefully according to Astuti et al.'s theory (2023). Grammarly boosts engagement by suggesting interesting vocabulary and varied sentence structures, and it helps their grammar as expressed by Fitriana & Nurzaini (2022) stating that Grammarly improves users' writing by assisting their grammar as it can provide automatic corrections. This allows students to recognize inappropriate words in terms of structure.

Besides that, based on interviews, students shared their experiences in using Grammarly app. Students found that there are strengths and weaknesses of Grammarly. There are three strengths: free access, automatic correction, and useful feedback. On the other hand, there are weaknesses: not all features are accessible except premium and Grammarly does excessive checks.