

# JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON THE USE OF GRAMMARLY ON WRITING TEXTS

David Togi Hutahaean<sup>a,1\*</sup>, Tiarma Intan Marpaung<sup>b,2</sup>,  
Rosintan Yorini Siahaan<sup>b,3</sup> Lidia Zega<sup>b,4</sup>

a1, b1, b2, b3, b4 Universitas HKBP Nommensen, Medan, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup> davidtogihutahaean@uhn.ac.id\*; <sup>2</sup> tiarmamarpaung@uhn.ac.id;

<sup>3</sup> rosintansiahaan@student.uhn.ac.id; <sup>4</sup> lidiazega@student.uhn.ac.id

## ABSTRACT

Writing skill is specific abilities which help writers put their thoughts into words in a meaningful form and mentally interact with the message. The objectives of this research to describe the students' perceptions and the strength and the weakness of Grammarly. The research designed this study with qualitative method with the data from questionnaire. The findings show that: The use of Grammarly has been seen positively by students, with 80.1% strongly agree category. Grammarly has both strengths and weaknesses. Grammarly's strengths are that it provides both direct and indirect feedback, and that the feedback is simple to interpret. Grammarly also includes simple tools that can detect small mistakes in students' writing. Meanwhile, Grammarly's weaknesses include limited usage, the requirement to pay if students want to use all of Grammarly's premium features, and Grammarly's feedback was not always clear, requiring students to have a good understanding of grammar. Grammarly, on the other hand, has both advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of Grammarly are that it provides faster correction and that its features are simple to understand.

**Keywords:** Writing, Grammarly, Perceptions, Writing Skills

## 1. Introduction

Writing skill is specific abilities which help writers put their thoughts into words in a meaningful form and mentally interact with the message. Writing skill helps the learner gain independence, comprehensibility, fluency, and creativity in writing. If learners have mastered this skill, they will be able to write so that they can not only read what they have written, but other speakers of that language can read and understand it.

Here are some kinds of writing skill that the students are expected to master: comprehensibility skill for writing includes understanding that writing is communicating messages or information. Fluency skill for writing includes recognizing the linear sequence of sounds, mastering writing motions and letter shapes, recognizing the chunking of words, recognizing the need for space between words, and writing quickly. Creativity skill for writing includes the ability to write freely anything the learner wants to write. Comprehension is the ability to grasp something mentally and the capacity to understand ideas and facts. Fluency is the ability to read, speak, or write easily, smoothly, and expressively. Independence is the ability to function in a given area without depending upon another's help. Independence in reading and

writing is the ability to read and write anything one can say or understand in his or her language without depending upon another's help.

According to Harris (1993: 10) in Siti Utami et al (2017), writing is a process that occurs over a period of time, particularly if the writer takes account the sometimes extend periods of thinking that precede initial draft. In writing, the writer needs a time to do some processes inside. The length of the time is different among writers. Some need a longer time to just think about what to write before making the initial draft.

When students collect their writing scores, they receive feedback from lecturers who are frustrated by their difficulty in understanding student writing. Even though comprehending grammar is crucial and has been taught for a long time in many levels of schools, the results are still deemed disappointing, including student achievement in learning grammar.

Richards and Schmidt (2010:251) in Effendi et al (2017) state that grammar is the way words and phrases are combined into sentences as a language system. Grammar is a thing or a system that helps people learn English by providing specific rules for expressing what they understand in a sentence. It is a set of principles for arranging words, phrases, and clauses in the correct order to make the correct sentence. People will be unable to comprehend the meaning of the sentences if the sentences are worded incorrectly. In the process of writing, there are several steps that must be done by students.

Students will reread their writings or draft to then see if there are any typos or other errors, especially in grammar. Students typically struggle at this stage because they do not know where the grammar mistake or grammatical error is located. They cannot correct what they did wrong if they do not know where the grammar in their writing went wrong. This problem will have an impact on the final outcome of their writing.

As a result, their writing will not be optimal. Technology growth has an impact on the field of education. Employing technological sophistication in the present to make it easier to learn, for example, by using writing tools. Now it is certain that some students use the Grammarly Application to help students work on writing sentences to check the grammar or the other mistakes in their writing.

## 2. Method

Research design used in this study was a descriptive qualitative. It is a research to describe about situation of events clearly, by describing a number of variables concerning with a subject research. The sources of data were taken from questionnaire of students in SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan. The instrument for collecting data in this study was to collect questionnaire result from students SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan.

## 3. Result/s and Discussion

### 3.1. Students' Perception of Grammarly

The questionnaire in this research used close-ended questions to collect the data. The Likert scale was used in the research questionnaire. A person's or a group's opinions, thoughts, and impressions of social events are measured using the Likert scale. The Likert scale response for each instrument item goes from very positive to very negative. There are five alternative answers to each question to show agreement-disagreement using Grammarly. In presenting the following data description of the use scale: (5) Strongly Agree, (4) Agree, (3) Neutral, (2) Disagree, and (1) Strongly Disagree. This section consists of 15 questions. The following table shows the results of data about the students' perceptions of their agreement or disagreement with the use of Grammarly.

**Table 4.2.1 Students' Perception of Grammarly**

No	Respondent	Response				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

1.	Student 1	6	8	1	0	0
2.	Student 2	0	0	1	0	14
3.	Student 3	4	9	2	0	0
4.	Student 4	1	12	2	0	0
5.	Student 5	0	15	0	0	0
6.	Student 6	5	6	4	0	0
7.	Student 7	14	0	0	0	1
8.	Student 8	2	11	2	0	0
9.	Student 9	2	9	4	0	0
10.	Student 10	0	0	0	0	15

### 3.2. Strength and Weakness of Grammarly

Grammarly, according to the majority of students, provides both direct and indirect feedback that is simple to interpret. Grammar checker recognize comments on grammatical errors. Grammarly offers a number of advantages of its users. For starters, Grammarly provides both direct and indirect feedback. The note with the correction and explanation can provide quick feedback, but the error with the emphasized error can provide indirect feedback. Grammarly's tool for detecting EFL students' writing errors is also really useful. Grammarly is one of most popular online grammar checker nowadays. Grammarly is widely regarded as the most accurate English grammar checker.

According to this study, the researcher found some weaknesses of Grammarly. It is unable to determine the writer's tense in a time. Simple past or simple present, for example. Grammarly's use is also restricted. If students want to use all of Grammarly premium's features, they must pay for it. Grammarly's free version is effective at detecting small errors such as comma errors and the misuse of articles. Meanwhile, the students used the free version of Grammarly in this research. As a result, it can only verify the article, space, and punctuation. It's possible that they'll get dissatisfied with Grammarly's performance. Furthermore, customers must pay to access the premium version.

The premium version of Grammarly offers 150 more grammar points, as well as plagiarism detection, vocabulary enrichment suggestions, and contextual spelling. It also contains a short and comprehensive explanation of each grammar error. The software, for example, provides critical feedback on learning progress. In order to prepare for the next written text, students might practice self-revision and learn how to repair their mistakes. The efficiency with which documents can be downloaded is the second factor. Learners will have no trouble downloading the assessment results. Finally, there is a high rate of evaluation.

## 4. Conclusion

The finding about the students' perceptions of the use of Grammarly in writing skills are divided into two ways, students' perception of the use of Grammarly and the advantages and disadvantages of Grammarly. Based on the finding of this research, the students' perceptions can be concluded that the students had a positive belief or "Agree" of the use of Grammarly as a grammar checker tool can be claimed to significantly help students in checking the grammar errors in their writing. It included Grammarly's basic features, which can detect minor errors such as the use of articles, spelling, and punctuation. Grammarly helped students in determining which option was correct. Based on the feedback, the students can then independently evaluate their writing. Grammarly not only improves their writing, but also motivates and encourages them to use an online learning system.

The research examined towards how students' perception about using Grammarly in their undergraduate thesis writing. It was held in SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan. The use of Grammarly has been seen positively by students, with 80.1% strongly agree category. Grammarly has both strengths and weaknesses. Grammarly's strengths are that it provides both direct and indirect feedback, and that the feedback is simple to interpret. Grammarly also includes simple tools that

can detect small mistakes in students' writing. Meanwhile, Grammarly's weaknesses include limited usage, the requirement to pay if students want to use all of Grammarly's premium features, and Grammarly's feedback was not always clear, requiring students to have a good understanding of grammar. Grammarly, on the other hand, has both advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of Grammarly are that it provides faster correction and that its features are simple to understand.

## REFERENCES

- Dian Kusuma, M. (2017). *The Effect of Lucus of Control Student Perceptions of Teacher Teaching Methodos and Parents Concern in Accounting Learning Achievement Students*. 87(1,2), 149–200.
- Effendi, M. S., Rokhyati, U., & Rachman, U. A. (2017). A Study on Grammar Teaching at an English Education Department in an EFL Context. *International Journal on Studies in English Language and Literature*, 5(1), 42–46.  
<https://doi.org/10.20431/2347-3134.0501005>
- Fatimah, N. (2019). A Study on the Fourth Semester Students' perception in Choosing Elective Courses in English Department. *Progress in Retinal and Eye Research*, 561(3), S2–S3.
- Lynch, T., & Anderson, K. (2013). Grammar for Academic Writing. *English Language Teaching Centre*, 1–6.  
[https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/grammar\\_for\\_academic\\_writing\\_ism.pdf](https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/grammar_for_academic_writing_ism.pdf)
- Nova, M. (2018). Utilizing Grammarly in Evaluating Academic Writing: a Narrative Research on Efl Students' Experience. *Premise: Journal of English Education*, 7(1), 80. <https://doi.org/10.24127/pj.v7i1.1332>
- Siti Utami, F., Rais, D., & Setyaningsih, E. (2017). *Improving Students' Writing Skill Using a Four-Phase Technique*. 1–15.
- Yunita, R., Language, E., Program, E., Language, F. O. F., Kristen, U., & Wacana, S. (2020). *The Influence of Grammarly on Students' Grammar Writing: Students' View*.

