

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter present background of the study, problem of the study, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of the key terms.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Writing is an imperative device of communication and it cannot be confined from human life. Writing plays an important role in real life because it is used as a communication tool for various purposes (Karyuatry, 2018). Writing is an activity that has been an integral part of human civilization since ancient times. This activity is not just scribbling on paper, but a window to express oneself, share knowledge, and influence the thinking of others. Writing has the magical power to change the world with words. It is also an important learning tool that can be used to collect, store and distribute knowledge. The permanence of writing allows ideas to be easily reviewed and evaluated, its explicitness encourages the establishment of connections between ideas, and its active nature encourages the exploration of unquestioned assumptions (Applebee, 1984). Writing must be well structured to convey information or knowledge to the reader in a clear and comprehensible manner.

Basically, writing is a sophisticated process that uses a combination of letters to convey ideas, thoughts, views, and feelings to others. Writing is more than just expressing thoughts; it is also about how nicely the aspects of writing are organized (Setyowati, 2016). Therefore, writing is considered more difficult

than other language skills. In the world of education, writing is one of the language skills that is very important for students to master because many works must be written in the form of academic writing. In addition, for English education students, writing is a compulsory course that must be taken to prepare them to write essays, articles, journals, and theses that require good and critical writing skills.

In the process of writing, there are several steps that must be done by students. According to Harmer (2004), it is revealed that there are four main stages in the writing process. The four stages consist of planning, drafting, editing, revising, and the final version. The planning stage involves gathering ideas and problems that you want to put in writing. Drafting involves putting ideas down without worrying about mistakes. The editing stage involves reviewing the first draft. This stage may involve oral and written peer feedback. The final version is where the writing has been revised making the best version possible. Not only that, in writing there are many aspects that must be considered to achieve good writing and easy to understand. The component aspects like good word choices, proper use of grammar, and concise delivery need to flow smoothly to make overall coherence and cohesion of writing (Karyuatri, 2018). So in essence, systematically structured writing is easier for readers to understand than unstructured writing.

Therefore, Students should reread their writing or drafts to then see if there are typos or other errors, especially in grammar. Grammar is an important part of language as it is needed to build sentences. According to Richard (2005)

stated grammar is the way words and phrases are combined to form a sentence in a language. On the other hand, Thornburry (2004) explains grammar as one aspect of language that supports other skills such as speaking, writing, and reading. Students usually struggle at this stage because they don't know where grammatical errors lie. They cannot correct the mistakes they make if they do not know where the grammatical errors are in their writing. This problem will have an impact on the final result of their writing. Consequently, this poses a challenge for students to organize their writing effectively. Therefore, in line with the rapid development of technology, for example by using writing tools, students can utilize them to facilitate their writing tasks. Currently, there are many various digital platforms available to help with the correction of grammar and other writing errors, one of which is by using the Grammarly App. This tool can be useful for determining the accuracy of grammar or other errors in their writing. According to Mozgovoy (2011), a grammar checker helps students to find grammatical errors in the text. As mentioned at the outside earlier, there are different types of online grammar checker that the students can use. One of them is Grammarly. In this research, the researcher will choose Grammarly as a tool to investigate the students' errors because this grammar checker is commonly used by the students in State Islamic University of Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung.

Grammarly application is one of the digital platforms. According to Grammarly (2017), Grammarly is one of the most popular Automated Writing Evaluation (AWE) programs which can be implemented in the writing class.

This software is available in web form and applications on laptops or smartphones. Many students in schools and universities use this grammar checker to check the errors. It is supported by Neill, one of University in Australia chooses Grammarly as a tool in providing grammar feedback. Grammarly can check grammar, wordiness, punctuation, spelling and plagiarism in writing. Grammarly can also provide word suggestions to help students correct and improve their writing. Moreover, Grammarly not only checks for writing errors but also corrects them.

In English Education Department of State Islamic University of Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung, Grammarly is widely used by students as a writing assistant to correct their mistakes, especially grammatical errors in their writing. By utilizing Grammarly, students should not meet the lecturers to correct the errors because Grammarly will allow students to learn feedback on errors. Then, the student can improve their writing. Besides, the students can use it whenever and wherever they want. Therefore, the researcher tries to investigate the students' perceptions about the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker.

In addition to the use of Grammarly, students' perceptions become an important thing that should be considered by the teacher. Students' perceptions are important because they are expected to improve and evaluate the learning to be more appropriate for students. According to Freiberg (1999), student perception is a key component and indicator of learning. It means that student' perceptions determine the success or failure of the learning process. Thus, the

students' perceptions should be considered whether the utilization of Grammarly brings the benefits as it claims or even leads the students to face any difficulties or confusion.

Studies about the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker has been conducted by some researchers. The first research is from Fitria (2021). The findings of this research showed that students had positive perception toward the use Grammarly in undergraduate thesis writing because Grammarly was useful for them. They stated the Strengths of Grammarly are easy to understand and saves time. Meanwhile, the weakness is Grammarly unable to recognize the tenses use in students' writing. Another research has been investigated by Fatma, Munir, & Syarifah (2023). The purpose of this study was to find out how students perceive the use of Grammarly Premium in the process of writing. The findings of this research found that students perceive positive and negative perceptions toward the use of Grammarly Premium. Meanwhile, the result showed that students' perceptions were dominated by positive perceptions. In addition, the study from Ummah (2022) who want to find out about the students' perception of the Grammarly premium's feedback and how the students deal with the inaccuracy of the Feedback. The findings showed that Grammarly premium's feedback really assist students in correcting their writing. However, they still require additional editing because some feedback is still inaccurate. Furthermore, for using Grammarly premium well, we need a stable internet connection. From students' perspective, they continued to use

Grammarly premium despite some inaccurate feedback because it assisted them in proofreading.

From the studies above, it can be seen that research on the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker have been done. However, research on Grammarly focusing on the use of free version is still limited. Therefore, this study focused on students' perceptions of using the free version of Grammarly still need further research. Therefore, researcher set the title "The Students' Perception on the Use of Grammarly as an Online Grammar Checker in an Academic Writing at UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung" to be raised in this study.

## **B. Problem of the Study**

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulated a problem of the study as follow: "How is the students' perception on the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker for their academic writing?"

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

From the problem mentioned above, this study aimed: "To explore the students' perception on the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker on their academic writing".

#### **D. Significances of the Study**

##### a. For English Education Department Students

This research provides some information about Grammarly free version, including the advantages and the weaknesses of using this tool. In integrating technology, such as Grammarly into academic writing can increase student engagement with the writing process. It is also provided a detailed analysis of the feedback provided by Grammarly when checking grammar in English academic writing and how to fix it.

##### b. For Teachers or Lecturers

The results of this study are expected to be helpful information on the use of Grammarly in academic writing. It can offer valuable insights into its potential benefits and limitations. This research will inform lecturers on how they can effectively incorporate Grammarly into their teaching practices, such as providing feedback and guidance on student writing.

##### c. For the Future Researchers

The results of this study can be used by further researchers as material for supporting studies and the development of further research plans in examining matters related to similar topics.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The scope of this study is students' perception on the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker that only focus on free version of Grammarly. This includes the positive and negative perceptions of the use of Grammarly. The

analysis will be based on questionnaires. The limitation of this research are students of the eighth semester of English Education Department at UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung who have already used Grammarly application in their thesis writing.

#### **F. Definition of the Key Terms**

Based on research, this point is very important to provide a deeper understanding of the research being carried out.

##### 1) Students' Perception

Perception refers to opinion, perspective, thoughts, and belief about something. Student's perception can be defined as student context about their learning style that includes their personality which are visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and reading or writing person. In this research, perception refers to students' views about the usability of Grammarly as an online Grammar checker in English academic writing, namely thesis.

##### 2) Grammarly

Grammarly is one of the Automated Writing Evaluation (AWE) program, has been claimed as an easy tool that can help students and academics on their writing by checking the grammar, spelling, punctuation errors and providing a comprehensive and useful feedback. In this term, Grammarly refers to an application that used by students to check grammar mistakes in their English academic writing, namely thesis.



### 3) Academic Writing

Academic writing is formal writing with academic words, well - structured and organized without using slang, abbreviations, and incomplete sentences. In this research, academic writing refers to thesis. Thesis is a scientific paper based on the result of the field research and literature which is written by undergraduate students as a formal study final project.