

ISSN: 2669-235X



Assessment of EFL Teachers' and Students' Writing Skills by Using the Grammarly Program

Zanyar Nathir Ghafar

Information Technology Department, Bright Technical and Vocational Institute, Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

zanyar.ghafar@btvi.edu.iq

ABSTRACT

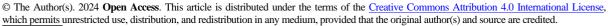
Lecturers and students may now use automated online tools to undertake corrective assessments when assessing their EFL writing skills for different academic purposes. Grammarly is an automated internet program and an online proofreading service that checks for plagiarism and the accuracy of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary. This study examined the Grammarly program's usage to assess EFL teachers' and students' writing skills. The qualitative method was used to collect data by interviewing 5 lecturers and writing assessments for 10 students. The results of the study revealed several writing mistakes the students committed, both in accuracy and clarity. In writing, correctness is concerned with following the rules of mechanics, whereas clarity is concerned with using clear, succinct language. Although grammatical problems in students' papers include subject-verb disagreement, the abuse of the passive voice, and imprecise, wordy, and unfinished sentences, spelling mistakes are often seen as text consistency issues, misspelling words, and poor formatting. The study tries to answer these two questions to find out the results of using the Grammarly application. The questions are: 1. Do Kurdish EFL students' writing scores significantly differ after using Grammarly software? 2. How do the Kurdish EFL teachers feel about utilizing Grammarly in their writing classes? The study findings demonstrate that lecturers may evaluate and analyze in depth while correcting students' grammatical problems without exerting much effort. For instructors who need to edit -EFL students' work, Grammarly might be considered a helpful tool. Grammarly will automatically verify or recognize the writing as it is entered based on several relevant factors. While this happens, punctuation problems may be seen in the overuse of commas inside clauses, incorrect configuration, and inappropriate punctuation marks in compound/complex sentences.

Keywords: Grammarly software, EFL students, Writing skills, assessment, grammar issues, University lecturers

Cite this article as: Ghafar, Z. N. (2024). Assessment of EFL Teachers' and Students' Writing Skills by Using the Grammarly Program. *Journal of e-learning Research*, 3(1), 1-16. https://doi.org/10.33422/jelr.v3i1.671

1. Introduction

Writing is one of the many talents or aptitudes that must be developed to learn English. Writing involves more than just putting ideas down on paper; it also requires correctly formatting the writing. Writing is still a challenge for English speakers (Swarbrick, 2002). Ghufron and Rosyida (2018) support the claim that writing is a considerably harder ability to acquire. Composing or writing is a difficult task. Complexity in writing is governed by the capacity to arrange thoughts in a cohesive, logical manner and express them using diverse written language and other writing conventions. Writing, despite its complexity, has immense potential for fostering the strength of initiative and creativity, self-assurance and bravery, habits, and the capacity to locate, gather, manage, and organize information. Students must have fundamental to intermediate knowledge of English writing conventions to write well in the language.





This will guide and minimize grammar, punctuation, and spelling mistakes. According to Brown (2012), there are five aspects of English writing: (1) content, which is the essence of writing and the ideas mentioned in writing and relate to the author's writing knowledge, including substance, thesis sentence development, and significance in trying to present the topic; (2) forms, which is the arrangement or organization in writing and demonstrates the complete preparation of the appropriate writing structure on the type of text written; (3) terminology, which is the consideration of study material; and (4) grammar. In writing applications, mechanics that consider spelling, punctuation, and subject-verb agreement are used to assess sentence correctness. Language mistakes often need to be corrected in written communication. Language blunders stand out more in printed form (Fitria, 2018). This is so that it is possible to study written language in many different ways. Written language is necessary for elevating someone's ideas and thoughts to the reader throughout the fabrication process (Paramitha et al., 2014). Learning to write is thus crucial to developing one's writing abilities, particularly in English.

Nevertheless, writing assignments often include grammatical, dictionary, and spelling problems related to the subject matter. Language mistakes are linguistic deviations from specific adult language performance criteria that are present in speech or writing. A mistake is often brought on by ignorance of English grammatical conventions. Errors in language use are a sign that language acquisition has failed. You may also say that it falls (Fitria, 2021). The linguistic mistakes should then be enhanced, minimized, or removed as a result. There must be a match to correct the linguistic mistakes of pupils for this to occur.

The duties of a teacher or lecturer are directly tied to their capacity to enhance student learning outcomes and the learning process. In order to bring the pupils to even higher abilities and competency, this calls for direction. A successful teacher can design a learning environment and better manage the teaching and learning process, resulting in student learning outcomes at their highest possible level. To improve students' language, particularly in writing, lecturers must have a range of instructional theories at their disposal.

According to Syafi'i (2020), instructors should have many choices for helping pupils through internet-based teaching to improve their writing abilities. To do this, educators (teachers) require the learning skills created throughout the classroom learning process. For linguistic proficiency among pupils, lecturers must advance. Teachers might conduct an assessment to check for flaws and evaluate specifics when pupils are learning to write to remedy linguistic errors they have produced. In other words, the linguistic mistake has to be fixed or cured (Fitria, 2021). The task of editing students' writing falls to professors. This exercise tries to reduce pupils' verbal mistakes, mainly while writing.

In addition, the teacher's or lecturer's objective is to assess the students' writing so that they may identify their mistakes and be encouraged to be more prompt in fixing them. The assessment may be utilized as input for development initiatives. Correction of student writing might serve as an evaluation. Students will be able to understand the proper use of the English language by completing the assessment. Students may prevent mistakes if they know how to use language properly. The instructor may use an online program or application for grammar, punctuation, and spelling checker to assist while assessing or manually editing the students' writing and grammatical problems. Some instructors have tried to help their pupils become better writers in English as a foreign language. (Daniels & Leslie, 2013; Dodgson et al., 2016; Godwin, 2016; Jafarian, Soori, & Kafipour, 2012; Qassemzadeh & Soleimani, 2016) The instructors have used a variety of instructional strategies, including remedial feedback and automated online software. Many people have begun to see the Internet as a resource that may improve their ability to learn and comprehend data. Teachers are seen as

guides who help students learn, and students are encouraged to take responsibility for their education (Kabilan& Rajab, 2010). According to various studies (Kabilan et al., 2010; Kuteeva, 2011; Melor & Salehi, 2012; Yunus et al., 2012; Yunus et al., 2011), modern educators are well-versed in the use of various programs that automate online tasks, such as Wikipedia, Facebook, Ms. Word, and Grammarly. This study aims to investigate the use of the Grammarly software to evaluate the writing proficiency of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) instructors and students.

2. Literature Review

Although this research looked into Grammarly, it focused on the teacher's perspective while assessing students' work. This was concentrated on applying correction strategies in evaluating students' written essays to uncover students' grammatical problems that need to be corrected by the instructor. Grammarly as a Teachers' Alternative in Assessing Non-EFL Students' Writing is how the researchers addressed the issue. Kurdish institute students are the research location, and this study aims to investigate how Grammarly software may be used to assess EFL students' writing.

Several other academics have carried out many earlier experiments relating to Grammarly. According to Nova (2018), Grammarly has provided helpful color-coded comments with explanations and examples, easy account access, a quick rate of evaluation, and a free service for evaluating academic work. However, according to Ghufron and Rosyida (2018), Grammarly assessments are more effective in helping students make fewer errors with their word choice, grammar, and Writing mechanics (spelling and punctuation). Grammarly® software improves various applications, such as responding to the community's expanding needs, thanks to artificial intelligence (AI) and technical advancements in natural language (Ventayen processing & Orlanda-Ventayen, 2018). the website https://www.grammarly.com/, you may use Grammarly. Grammarly is a simple editing and grammar-checking tool (Whitman & Haddock, 2018). Grammarly is one of the top English grammar checkers available in terms of innovation. Anybody may use Grammarly at no cost to enhance the English language's grammar, sentence structure, and syntax. Grammarly is the most widely used grammar checker because it can identify ten times more errors than comparable programs (typing applications). Grammarly is useful for detecting regional surface-level grammatical problems, including articles, prepositions, and noun and verb-noun agreement, among many other things, according to Bailey and Lee (2020). Grammarly will check or identify the writing being typed from various writing-related aspects, starting from detecting grammar, spelling, and sentence construction mistakes, From identifying and fixing plagiarism to fixing misspelled words, irregular verb conjugations, improper noun use, and incorrect prepositions.

On the other hand, Grammarly is a web-based program designed to verify the grammar of an English document, according to Puri and Setiamunadi (2023). This program is beneficial for fixing grammatical errors made while writing but overlooked. All the settings are switchable between British and American English. Grammarly may also provide recommendations for appropriate word choices for our writing. Both a free and a premium version of this program are accessible. Several helpful features not offered by the free features are versioned with the charge. However, the free features will be beneficial for examining the grammar of English writing. This is reinforced by Ebadi et al. (2023), who report that 32 (82%) of the 40 students achieved passing grades when Grammarly was used to teach writing. Thus, Grammarly is regarded as a valuable tool for reducing errors and raising pupils' writing standards.

Grammarly is a digital writing tool that incorporates artificial intelligence that can check

grammar and spelling and identify plagiarism, according to Busc, Wendler, and Steinicke (2020). Grammarly catches typical grammatical mistakes, poor sentence structure, prepositional mistakes, irregular verb conjugations, inappropriate noun use, and misused terms. These capabilities are available to users without charge, and those who want more sophisticated features may pay for the Premium version. By simply right-clicking on the mistake highlighted and selecting the appropriate option, the Grammarly membership account has the capability or capacity to fix phrases (O'Neill & Russell, 2019).

Grammarly has been proven to help people write better, according to Fitria (2021b). The test performance score was 34 out of 100 before using Grammarly; after using Grammarly, it was 77 out of 100. This result demonstrates an improvement in the test subject's writing ability. Using Grammarly's recommendations may boost performance on a Premium account.

According to Fitria's (2021) research, this text scored 34 out of 100 using Grammarly (free). The grade reflects how well the study's text was written. The text's score may increase after employing various Grammarly (free) capabilities. The reader performs 74 out of 100 times. The grade received is based on grammatical editing recommendations for better writing. Of course, these results do not capture the user's writing abilities. It should be noted that although feedback from Grammarly has received overwhelmingly good replies, a study by O'Neill and Russell (2019) also indicated that few students voiced worries about Grammarly's "inaccuracies" and how it makes incorrect recommendations. Since these results included students with varying degrees of language skill, it is indicated that alternative Grammarly use strategies may be required for different groups of students.

According to Nova (2018), Grammarly has four key benefits. For instance, the program offers essential input on learning development. Students may practice self-revision and learn to fix their errors to prepare for the subsequent written work. The second consideration is how quickly papers can be obtained. Students can easily download the test findings. Finally, the assessment rate is significant. Checking is done quickly using this method. It helps students shorten the time spent reading and editing their academic papers. Not least, among other things, Grammarly is an entirely free tool. On the other hand, Grammarly has flaws like incorrect feedback, pointless reference list verification, and a failure to assess content and context.

Additionally, paying users can obtain the deluxe edition. The paid edition of Grammarly includes relevant typing recommendations, plagiarism detection, and 150 grammatical marks. A succinct and detailed description of each grammatical mistake is also included.

Huang & Taylor (2020, May) conducted a survey that included 43 English major sophomores. Grammarly was used in conjunction with a pre-and post-test as well as a questionnaire to assess the student's writing abilities and their overall impressions of the tool. After 16 weeks of the intervention, students' writing skills improved dramatically, and their written comments confirmed their satisfaction with the AI-based writing assessment software. It seems that using Grammarly in writing lessons is a great way for EFL students to improve their writing abilities and for instructors to have less work to do in the classroom.

Grammarly is a sophisticated educational tool that has arisen in recent times. This tool serves as a substitute for students to do grammatical checks, detect plagiarism, and evaluate spelling and punctuation. Therefore, pupils use this application for that purpose. They use Grammarly while doing assignments, homework, papers, and theses. Students only need to input a document or phrase into the designated column, which will promptly discover any errors. Grammarly offers recommendations for improving vocabulary and sentence structure. Grammarly takes into account the surrounding circumstances or conditions while making

errors or providing recommendations (Grammarly, 2020). Dizon and Gayed (2021) assert that the Grammarly keyboard includes two primary features: autocorrect, which identifies grammatical problems and provides correct alternatives, and predictive text, which recommends words or phrases based on the previously entered text. This signifies that the pupils use Grammarly independently without receiving guidance from a tutor or instructor. Therefore, pupils may acquire proficiency in Grammarly on their own.

During the writing process, Grammarly will identify student papers and offer feedback on the accuracy of their characteristics. Moreover, pupils using the Grammarly program have access to the evaluation of their writing results. Grammarly may serve as a tool for scaffolding exercises in which students are expected to work independently, with the instructor acting as a facilitator. Using Grammarly is really beneficial for pupils throughout the self-editing phase. Grammarly identifies the grammatical problems in students' writing, which serves as a motivation for them to edit their work. Yulianti and Reni (2018) found that they had a greater amount of experience in writing. Zinkevich and Ledeneva (2021) categorize all the grammatical faults detected by Grammarly into four distinct groups.

- 1. Correctness, including issues with inconsistencies, overuse of articles, and punctuation errors.
- 2. Students often struggle with clarity when they employ lengthy, convoluted phrases that obfuscate their message.
- 3. Delivery: Grammarly provides a number of recommendations to ensure that the author's message is correctly interpreted and that the phrases used have the appropriate tone.
- 4. Engagement: This metric displays cliched expressions, overused terms, and dull, repetitive sentences.

2.1. Theoretical Framework

2.1.1. Grammarly is an Automatic Program Used for Evaluating Writing

A computer software called an automated writing assessment program is used to evaluate and assess writing (Nova & Lukmana, 2018). The system consists of two primary components: scoring and feedback engines. The scoring engine offers automated scoring, while the feedback engine provides automated textual feedback (Bai & Hu, 2017). Barrot (2021) categorized textual corrective feedback into three primary classifications: direct corrective feedback, indirect corrective feedback, and metalinguistic corrective feedback. Each category has been briefly explained and clarified. (1) Immediate remedial Feedback provides learners with accurate information about their mistakes. Indirect corrective feedback directs learners' attention to their mistakes without making the corrections for them, requiring learners to correct the mistakes themselves. Metalinguistic corrective feedback identifies and categorizes mistakes, providing concise explanations and annotations, with or without examples.

In a study conducted by Lailika (2019), the author examined how students perceive the usage of Grammarly. The study relied on survey research, which included administering a questionnaire to 54 students from the English Teacher Education Department at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. These students had prior experience using Grammarly and were in the process of completing their thesis. The findings indicated that students had both favorable and unfavorable attitudes toward the usage of Grammarly. They believed that Grammarly may be advantageous for pupils in scrutinizing the grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style of their papers. In addition, they held the belief that Grammarly provides both direct and indirect feedback and that Grammarly prioritizes efficiency by saving time. A subset of the students exhibited unfavorable attitudes about using Grammarly due to two main factors:

consistent internet connectivity and inaccurate error repair.

Pratama (2020) investigated students' perspectives on the use of Grammarly, an online grammar checker, throughout the writing process. The researcher used a survey and qualitative research approach, including both questionnaires and interviews. The study included the participation of 30 students from the English Education Department of a government institution in Karawang. The data revealed that students had both good and negative attitudes about the use of Grammarly for proofreading their compositions. They found Grammarly to be useful in checking spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Furthermore, students offered a good view of the useful nature of Grammarly in enhancing their grammatical skills, as well as its user-friendly interface. Furthermore, pupils unanimously acknowledged that the comments they got from Grammarly enhanced their confidence by rectifying their mistakes. Conversely, this research identified many deficiencies experienced by pupils. The drawbacks, specifically, were consistent internet connectivity and sometimes inaccurate outcomes.

In order to determine if Grammarly deployment has an impact on students' development of writing quality, Karyuatry et al. (2018) undertook research titled Grammarly as a Tool to Improve Students' Writing Quality. The researchers saw a professor who struggled with grammar and diction with her pupils. They conducted an interview with the instructor, gave the questionnaire to forty students, and examined the essays written by the students. The results showed that Grammarly is an effective tool that may lower student mistakes and raise writing quality.

The most often checked element revealed that students struggle with grammar, which reduced their confidence in their work until they checked it on Grammarly. The students felt that Grammarly helped them examine the improper sentence structures, such as the usage of passive voice, pronouns, prepositions, and conjunctions, because of their poor grasp of grammar. Given the capabilities Grammarly offers, it was expected that Grammarly would be their first pick for aiding in their understanding of grammatical concepts. The outcome supported the findings of Andina et al. (2019), who found that Grammarly assisted students in understanding language concepts such as sentence construction, paraphrasing, and proper diction.

In addition, Grammarly helps students with other writing mechanics, including spelling and punctuation corrections. Writing quality is also influenced by the writing mechanism's accuracy with regard to the organization of texts and the coherence and cohesiveness of paragraphs. Grammarly fills in the blank by informing the pupils about the proper elements of writing. Given this, the aforementioned findings indicated that Grammarly helps students with their writing by serving as a useful tool aid. According to the study's findings, which were consistent with those of other research (Hakiki, 2021; Soegiyarto et al., 2020; Syafi'i, 2020), Grammarly is seen as a useful writing tool that may help students with their paragraph writing.

In the end, we also thought that Grammarly pushes students and academics to learn things right away without considering the process of learning. Examining the learning process may assist students in avoiding the same errors in their subsequent writing, which may improve their writing abilities and performance. Grammarly was seen to be useful as long as students learned about and took responsibility for the comments they received, as well as the process of accuracy. Because of the condition, rather than Grammarly's involvement, the written output accurately reflects the students' writing abilities. This is because the students received and acknowledged criticism.

All of the research mentioned above centers on using Grammarly by students and demonstrates the beneficial effects of doing so for enhancing students' writing. Moreover, some signs using Grammarly have advantages, according to research employing the service. According to the research, Grammarly makes students more self-assured, saves time, increases their writing grades, and assists instructors. Most prior studies suggest Grammarly since consumers give grammar checkers positive reviews due to technical advancements.

3. Methodology

Since the purpose of the current study was to characterize students' inclination to utilize Grammarly as a writing tool helper, a descriptive qualitative research design was used. Descriptive qualitative research aims to provide a thorough grasp of the reasons behind a certain phenomenon (Turner,2010). There were 15 participants, 10 English university students, and 5 university lecturers who were selected since they needed a grammar checker and had extensive experience using this tool to assess their academic work. The information we collected from the study's participants went through numerous phases. A set of interview questions was initially put together based on the context and goals of the research. Next, we contacted the participants to determine whether they would be open to participating in the study and writing assignments. Many questions were sent during interviews that were done online. Writing tests and semi-structured interviews were the two tools used to collect the data set for this investigation. To find out how students felt about Grammarly's implementation, the questionnaire was first sent to the intended audience, which is students. This section included the researcher's findings on the attitudes of five language teachers (L1 to L5) regarding the effects of Grammarly integration in academic writing classrooms at the English Department in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, as well as the attitudes of ten students (S1 to S10) Students demonstrated nearly favorable opinions of instructors' Grammarly deployment in academic writing courses, providing justifications that included the benefits and shortcomings (see Tables) The students were questioned using semi-structured interviews and writing test in order to close the current gap.

4. Findings and Discussion

This research investigated the efficacy of using Grammarly in an English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teaching environment in Kurdistan. The researchers conducted a comparison of the average scores of writing essays before and after the exam.

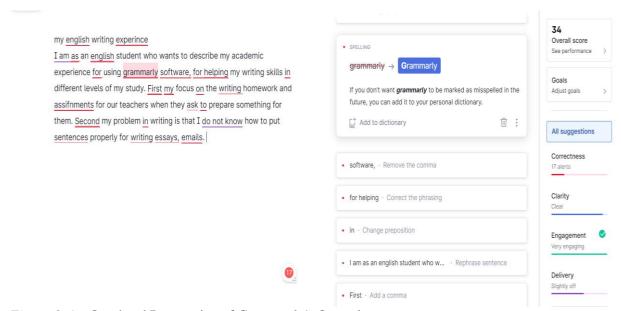


Figure 1. An Overhead Perspective of Grammarly's Operations

According to the Grammarly Premium report, as shown in Picture 1, the text scored 34 out of 100. This rating reflects how well the essay was written. Before beginning the process of editing student writing, there are various phases. Open the Grammarly website first. After logging into the program, choose New Upload from the menu, then select Upload File. Finally, choose the options for your writing style and fix any mistakes. If so, select Download from the menu to finish the task. The Grammarly report will then show up. Table 1 demonstrates that the student's writing mistakes were clear and accurate. The previous corresponds to the mechanical writing convention. There are spelling mistakes in the learners' essays, including misspelled, unpredictable wording, and poor formatting. Whereas the latter speaks using clear, succinct language. Grammar and punctuation issues are also present in the pupils' essays. Subject-verb agreement issues may identify grammar mistakes, improper use of the passive voice, imprecise or wordy phrases, and unfinished sentences.

Learning a language is one of the most difficult skills that a human can ever <u>learn</u>. Yet, it is also one of the most critical skills <u>that everyone</u> must develop to properly live in a civilized society. Learning a second language such as English is no different, except that it is for the great benefit of having the opportunity to be eligible for many more jobs inside and <u>outside</u> the birth country. Naturally, it is why developing English skills is the landmark goal that <u>majority</u> of people want to strive <u>for</u>. In my experience of developing my English skills, there are many things that I encounter as part of my development.

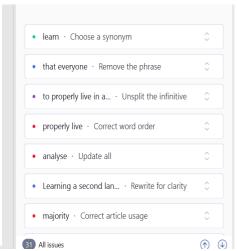


Figure 2. The Viewpoints Included Inside the Grammarly Report

Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are just a tiny part of what makes successful writing. Clear communication, alluring language, and the ideal tone must all be balanced carefully. Typos, grammatical mistakes, and incorrect punctuation may ruin a piece of otherwise good writing. Grammarly's writing aid offers thorough comments on various subjects, such as grammar, spelling, and punctuation. No of what we are writing, Grammarly's accuracy

recommendations are intended to help us come across as our most credible, professional selves. Whether we are writing a cover letter that will get us our dream job or a future best-selling book, we may read on to learn about some of the punctuation pitfalls, spelling errors, and grammatical errors Grammarly can help us avoid. In this short paragraph, 31 issues have been highlighted by the Grammarly premium software for checking one of the participant's essays about learning a language skill.

Table 1.

The Results of Analyzing the Writing Mistakes Committed by Students Using Grammarly software online machine

Students' Writing	Language Error	Kind of Error	Aspect
learn	Text inconsistencies	Engagement: Variety	Using know or remember instead of the word (learn)
Properly live	Improper formatting	Grammar	Correctness (live properly)
that everyone	The error of subject- verb agreement	grammar	Clarity (that everyone)
majority	It seems that there is an article usage problem here	Grammar	Correctness
Having the opportunity to be	Your sentence may be unclear or complicated to follow. Consider rephrasing.	Spelling	Clarity
, and	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	punctuation	correctness
Experience of	It seems that the preposition used may be incorrect here.	Grammar	correctness
to properly live in a civilized society	The to-infinitive to live has been split by the modifier properly . Avoiding split infinitives can help your writing sound more formal.	Error of subject-verb agreement	Delivery : formality
There are many things that I encounter as part of my development.	Your sentence may be unclear or complicated to follow. Consider rephrasing.	Wordy sentences	Clarity

According to the study, most respondents utilized Grammarly's free edition. Few people, nevertheless, also use the premium version, which allows for more precise and exciting English writing. The premium version of Grammarly comes with many extra capabilities, including sentence rewrites that are clarity-focused, tone modifications, plagiarism detection, word choice, formality level, fluency, and further advanced recommendations. However, Grammarly's free users are limited to using it to fix simple issues like spelling, grammar, punctuation, and conciseness (Koltovskaia, 2020). The informants may employ both effectively based on their desired purposes.

Also, one of our responders provided a free sample essay, and we contrasted it with Grammarly (premium).

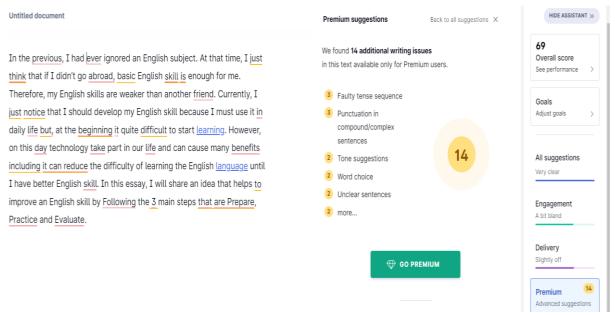


Figure 3. Using the accessible version of Grammarly to edit a script

The grammatical wording may be seen in the image above (free). The vocabulary from (Figure 3) has no obvious mistakes or grammatical faults. Only a few edits to the text's clarity (sentences/words with yellow underlining) are required. Some informants possess the ability to either rectify or disregard the inaccuracy. Several sources, nonetheless, also contend that Grammarly Premium can rapidly fix the mistakes and make the writing understandable.

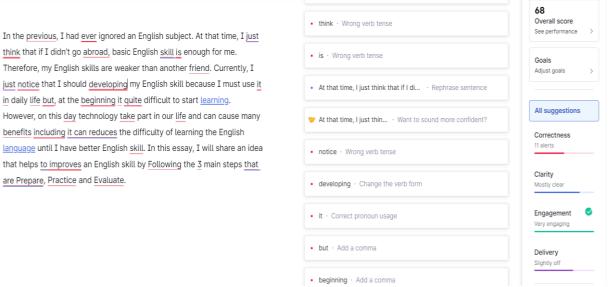


Figure 4. Using the premium version of Grammarly to edit a script

Next, this material has been transferred to Grammarly (premium). We can observe that the Grammarly features in the text have been modified in many things. For instance, the first sentence's correction went from a yellow underlining, indicating that a premium upgrade is required to paraphrase the sentence, to a blue underline, meaning the text may be more precise using the premium Grammarly function. Also, there is a part that fixes the text's engagement. This sentence has green underlining.

On the other hand, the qualitative data also supports the semi-interview's findings. The following discussion experts were chosen from the students who were interviewed:

The preponderance of my mistakes was related to the sentence structure. Because Grammarly immediately corrects my English, I do not need to reference a dictionary when I make grammatical errors. (S3)

Grammarly can immediately check the blunders I made when composing my assignment, particularly my English. By using the comments, I can improve my grammatical errors. (S6)

Because I occasionally neglect to use punctuation in my Writing, Grammarly is helpful to me in checking the punctuation in my writing. (S10)

4.1. The Application of Grammarly: Positive and Negative Aspects

Grammarly's advantages and disadvantages are the second outcome. Interviews provided the information. According to:

Grammarly has the advantage that when I submit my document, they can immediately make suggestions, and we can then select the edit button in Grammarly. They can also naturally alter our writing skills. (S7)

The advantages of Grammarly include assisting in retaining and replacing incorrect words, providing word equivalents, and assisting the author in identifying phrase or paragraph duplication. (S11)

The advantages are that it can accurately correct orthography and simplify sentences to the greatest extent possible. (S5)

4.2. The Students Were Then Presented with Another Challenge: Grammarly's Shortcomings

I need help to obtain the version of my work that Grammarly has approved for the file I want. For illustration, when I upload a file in the format of Microsoft Word, I am unable to retrieve it as the same file. Consequently, I have to duplicate and paste the phrase from Grammarly into the empty area in Ms. Word. (S10)

The fact that it changed the meaning of the paper I wrote after it had been rectified by Grammarly to make the sentences or paragraphs shorter is one of the program's flaws. Therefore, I need to double-verify it several times. When they read it, I am concerned that they will come to the wrong conclusion. (S2)

In certain sections of my writing, such as the simple past or the simple present, Grammarly needs help to determine the appropriate grammar for me to use. The Grammarly software can only find errors in my capitalization, subject-verb alignment, and orthography; it cannot tell me which tenses I should use in certain sections of my thesis. (S3)

4.3. The Opinions of EFL Students Regarding the Application of Grammarly

Grammarly has tools for syntax, writing, punctuation, and style. Grammarly improves speech, syntax, and writing skills, according to Ghufron (2019). (spelling and punctuation). Improving pupils' EFL writing topic and style is less helpful. Grammarly pinpoints EFL writing issues in grammar, language, and technique. Grammarly can also find missing spaces after commas and misspelled words, including proper names, and offers many alternatives (feedback). Grammarly helped them decide. After receiving feedback, pupils can assess their

work. Grammarly enhances their writing and boosts their enthusiasm for online learning.

Similar to Ghufron's (2019) data results, the research found that Grammarly is more effective at minimizing mistakes in terms of word usage (diction), language use (grammar), and writing style. (spelling and punctuation). On the other hand, it is less advantageous to increase the students' EFL writings' substance and framework. One of the pupils claims that "Grammarly" can directly spot EFL writing issues and errors regarding word use, language use, and grammar.

Since Grammarly can instantly create automatic corrections, we used it for this investigation. This program is free to use in addition to being simple to use. Grammarly works by scanning a whole manuscript or any phrases that have been copied and pasted. Users will find it easy to navigate each part thanks to the categorization of each section. Users may see the simulated adjustments made by the AI and identify the issues thanks to this immediate feedback. Users are then given the option to alter their work using Grammarly's modeled recommendations or completely reword the line independently.

It adheres to the mechanical standard for writing in terms of accuracy. It affects spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation. Examples of accuracy mistakes include misspellings, improper use of punctuation, subject-verb agreement issues, and other common errors. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation corrections connected to writing mechanics are indicated in red. Even if it is not the only thing that counts, accuracy is essential. Grammarly's writing assistant's first iteration concentrated on mechanics, as suggested by the name, which included spelling, grammar, and punctuation. There are spelling mistakes in the kids' essays, including misspelled terms, inconsistent in-text use, and poor formatting. The importance and value of writing consistently with consistent pronouns, punctuation, and adherence to a specific style guide are explored in an academic setting. Grammar best practices are used when we learn to write in English, which may be difficult given its numerous exceptions, inconsistencies, and propensity to violate its norms. Everyone is also aware of the challenge of spell-checking, when a phrase may be perfectly spelled yet inaccurate. Several English words look different yet have the same pronunciation. Moreover, it is rife with ambiguous terms with similar (but distinct) meanings. The formatting quality may make or break a student's writing project.

The most significant language for clarity is short and to the point. It requires using the right words or word clusters to deliver the intended message (Fitria, 2021a). Blue highlights indicate readability-related clarity, conciseness, and ideas for enhancing our work's readability. Another critical component of a great piece of writing is clarity. The mere fact that a sentence is grammatically correct does not guarantee that it is easy to understand. Wordy and needlessly complex statements are challenging to understand and require additional effort from our readers. There are several grammatical and punctuation problems in the pupils' writing. Subject-verb agreement mistakes, improper use of the passive voice, and ambiguous, long, and unfinished phrases show the former. In English, subject-verb agreement is significant. This suggests that the verb should represent the qualities of the subject. Using the active voice strengthens, directs, and activates your writing. The phrase's subject is something or is the action described by the verb. Another actor of the verb in the passive voice acts upon the subject.

Whereas overly wordy phrases choke up the content by using too many extraneous words. The most straightforward word to convey a concept is used in clear writing to keep things simple. Wordiness interferes with this clarity. A sentence must have both a subject and a verb to be complete. One may construct a whole phrase with only two words. When the subject, verb, or both are missing in a sentence, it is called incomplete.

Grammarly can help users ensure that such a hardship never occurs for our readers. A warning will appear in the Grammarly Editor when a sentence may be challenging for our target audience to read. We will also explore several methods for condensing sentences by eliminating unnecessary words and replacing significant phrases with shorter ones. These suggestions aid readers in understanding our information more quickly and preventing misunderstandings. When teachers assign writing assignments to their students, Grammarly is one alternative. The students will benefit from using Grammarly since they can develop whatever languages they are comfortable with. Grammarly will then take over to help them correct their writing, including essays.

4.4. Lecturers' Perceptions of Grammarly Software

The researcher's findings about the perspectives of five lecturers (L1 to L5) toward the benefits of grammar incorporation in academic writing were provided in this part. The information obtained from semi-structured interviews has been subjected to a thematic analysis.

4.4.1. The Impact of Grammarly's Use

Regarding the benefits of using Grammarly to help lecturers improve their writing abilities, all of the professors expressed good sentiments. They did, however, have different reasons for disclosing their opinions on Grammarly usage.

I am really optimistic about the impact of deploying Grammarly in writing courses. This is mostly due to the significant time-saving benefits it offers and its effectiveness in enhancing students' spelling abilities. Furthermore, I much like the writing style that Grammarly employs while writing checks. For instance, academic writing and general writing, among others. (L1)

4.4.2. Usage of Grammarly and its Impact on Behavior

The instructors expressed favorable behavioral views on the impact of using Grammarly on the enhancement of pupils' writing abilities.

(L2) highlighted the significant impact of Grammarly on academic writing courses, namely in terms of its ability to quickly assess essays and provide prompt comments.

4.4.3. The Cognitive Burden Associated with Using Grammarly

The lecturers demonstrated both positive and negative cognitive views on the impact of using Grammarly on students' writing improvement. Assist them in comprehending the report or the outcome of the Grammarly check that they have received, and make sure they are aware that some of the criticisms are only options. (L3)

4.4.4. Grammarly Advantages and Shortcomings

Everything has applications, which suggests that everything has advantages and disadvantages in terms of employment. From what I understand, it provides the proper solution, and then pupils learn the correct answer as well. This is what I believe" (L4).

Lastly, (L5) stated that Grammarly facilitates the instruction of writing courses by allowing instructors to allocate more cognitive resources to other aspects of learning rather than spending excessive hours on paper evaluation.

5. Conclusion

Grammarly helps university students fix grammar and sentence structure. Grammarly's correction allows students who need to learn grammatical rules. Grammarly informs learners of mistakes being rectified, helping them learn from their errors. An internet tool called Grammarly performs in-depth grammar checks on everything from word spelling to sentence construction in proper grammar. Since Grammarly is available, it is recommended for teachers and students who want to double-check their English papers or articles. Grammarly offers assistance with spelling and grammar checks, capitalization, and punctuation errors. An Artificial Intelligence (AI) engine powers Grammarly, which analyses English texts using rules. Grammarly considers context when presenting mistakes or suggestions and notifies pupils promptly yet correctly. For accuracy, two service options are available, each with free and premium features. Of course, Grammarly's free edition has restrictions and in-app features, but the premium version, which costs money, offers full capabilities and advantages. Hence, the researcher suggests Grammarly to lecturers or instructors or lecturers while assessing the students' work, particularly in English.

References

- Andina, D. M., Dewi, S. A., & Cahyono, B. Y. (2019). Understanding factors affecting the use of English writing software in Indonesia. ACM International Conference ProceedingSeries, June 2020, 297–301. https://doi.org/10.1145/3345120.3345130
- Bai, L., & Hu, G. (2017). In the face of fallible AWE feedback: How do students respond? Educational Psychology, 37(1), 67–81. https://doi.org/10.1080/01443410.2016.1223275
- Barrot, J. S. (2021). Effects of Facebook-based e-portfolio on ESL learners' writing performance. *Language*, *Culture and Curriculum*, 34(1), 95-111. https://doi.org/10.1080/07908318.2020.1745822
- Brown, D. (2012). The written corrective feedback debate: Next steps for classroom teachers and practitioners. *TESOL Quarterly*, 46(4), 861–867. https://doi.org/10.1002/tesq.63
- Daniels, P., & Leslie, D. (2013). Grammar software ready for EFL writers? OnCue Journal, 9(4), 391–401.
- Dizon, G., & Gayed, J. M. (2021). Examining the impact of Grammarly on the quality of mobile 12 writing. *jalt call Journal*, 17(2), 74-92. https://doi.org/10.29140/jaltcall.v17n2.336
- Dodgson, A. N., Tariq, B., Alauyah, M., & Yusof, M. (2016). The secondary school students' usage of English learning websites to self-correct writing errors. Asian Tefl, 1(11), 2503–2569. https://doi.org/10.21462/asiantefl.v1i1.3
- Ebadi, S., Gholami, M., & Vakili, S. (2023). Investigating the effects of using Grammarly in EFL writing: the case of articles. *Computers in the Schools*, 40(1), 85-105. https://doi.org/10.1080/07380569.2022.2150067
- Fitria, T. N. (2021a). Grammarly as AI-powered English Writing Assistant: Students 'Alternative for Writing English. Metathesis: Journal of English Language, Literature, and Teaching, 5(1), 65–78. https://doi.org/10.31002/metathesis.v5i1.3519
- Ghufron, M. (2019, July). Exploring an automated feedback program 'Grammarly' and teacher corrective feedback in EFL writing assessment: Modern vs. traditional assessment. In *Proceedings of the 3rd English Language and Literature International Conference*, *ELLiC*, 27th April 2019, Semarang, Indonesia. https://doi.org/10.21512/lc.v12i4.4582

Ghufron, M. A., & Rosyida, F. (2018). The role of Grammarly in assessing English as a Foreign Language (EFL) writing. *Lingua Cultura*, 12(4), 395-403. https://doi.org/10.21512/lc.v12i4.4582

- Godwin, M. (2016). *International Students' Use of Technology for Improving Writing Skills in College* (Doctoral dissertation, Walden University).
- Hakiki, G. N. R. (2021). Perception of EFL students on the use Grammarly application in writing class. *Eduvelop: Journal of English Education and Development*, 4(2), 99-106. https://doi.org/10.31605/eduvelop.v4i2.891
- Huang, H. W., Li, Z., & Taylor, L. (2020, May). The effectiveness of using Grammarly to improve students' writing skills. In *Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Distance Education and Learning* (pp. 122–127). https://doi.org/10.1145/3402569.3402594
- Jafarian, K., Soori, A., & Kafipour, R. (2012). The effect of computer-assisted language learning (CALL) on EFL high school students' writing achievement. *European Journal of Social Sciences*, 27(2), 138–148.
- Kabilan, M. K., Ahmad, N., & Abidin, M. J. Z. (2010). Facebook: An online environment for learning English in institutions of higher education? Internet and Higher Education, 13 (4), 179–187. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iheduc.2010.07.003
- Kabilan, M., & Rajab, B. (2010). The utilization of the Internet by Palestinian English language teachers focusing on uses, practices, and barriers and overall contribution to professional development. *International Journal of Education and Development using ICT*, 6(3), 56-72.
- Karyuatry, L. (2018). Grammarly as a tool to improve students' writing quality: Free online proofreader across the boundaries. *JSSH (Jurnal Sains Sosial dan Humaniora)*, 2(1), 83-89. https://doi.org/10.30595/jssh.v2i1.2297
- Koltovskaia, S. (2020). Student engagement with automated written corrective feedback (AWCF) provided by Grammarly: A multiple case study. *Assessing Writing*, 44, 100450. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asw.2020.100450
- Kuteeva, M. (2011). Wikis and academic writing: Changing the writer-reader relationship. English for Specific Purposes, 30 (1), 44–57. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esp.2010.04.007
- Lailika, H. I. (2019). Students' perception of the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker in thesis writing. Digilib UIN Sunan Ampel.
- Melor, M. Y., & Salehi, H. (2012). The effectiveness of Facebook groups on teaching and improving writing: Students' perceptions. International Journal of educational and Information Technologies, 6(1),87–96. https://doi.org/10.5539/elt.v6n7p1
- Nova, M. (2018). Utilizing Grammarly in evaluating academic writing: A narrative research on EFL students' experience. *Premise: Journal of English Education and Applied Linguistics*, 7(1), 80–96. https://doi.org/10.24127/pj.v7i1.1332
- O'Neill, R., & Russell, A. M. (2019). Grammarly: Help or hindrance? Academic learning advisors' perceptions of an online grammar checker. *Journal of Academic Language and Learning*, 13(1), A88-A107.
- Paramitha, A., & Indarti, N. (2014). Impact of the environment support on creativity: Assessing the mediating role of intrinsic motivation. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 115, 102-114. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.02.419

Pratama, Y. D. (2020). The investigation of using Grammarly as online grammar checker in the pro-cess of writing. English Ideas: Journal of English Language Education, 1(1), 46–54.

- Puri, G., & Setiamunadi, A. A. (2023). The Use of Grammarly by Tertiary English Language Learners in Their Online Writing Classes. *English Education: Journal of English Teaching and Research*, 8(2), 163-179. https://doi.org/10.29407/jetar.v8i2.20981
- Qassemzadeh, A., & Soleimani, H. (2016). The impact of feedback provision by Grammarly software and teachers on learning passive structures by Iranian EFL learners. *Theory and practice in language studies*, 6(9), 1884-1894. https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.0609.23
- Swarbrick, A. (Ed.). (2002). *Teaching modern languages*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203060018
- Soegiyarto, M. S., Putri, R. A., & Saputra, S. D. (2020). The Importance of GettingAutomated Grammar Feedback via Grammarly, for Increasing Students' English LanguageProficiency. https://osf.io/749a2/
- Syafi'i, A. (2020). Grammarly: An Online EFL Writing Companion. CELTICS: Journal of English Language Teaching and English Linguistics, 5(2), Article 2. https://doi.org/10.31316/eltics.v5i2.912
- Turner III, D. W. (2010). Qualitative interview design: A practical guide for novice investigators. *The qualitative report*, 15(3), 754.
- Ventayen, R. J., & Orlanda-Ventayen, C. C. (2018). Graduate students' perspective on the usability of Grammarly® in one ASEAN state university. Asian ESP Journal, 14, 9–30.
- Whitman, J. S., & Haddock, L. R. (2018). *Skill development in counselor education: A comprehensive workbook*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315413938
- Yunus, M. M., Salehi, H., & Chenzi, C. (2012). Integrating social networking tools into ESL writing classroom: Strengths and weaknesses. English LanguageTeaching, 5(8), 42–48. https://doi.org/10.5539/elt.v5n8p42
- Yunus, M., Salehi, H., Sun, C. H. U. I., Yong, J., Yen, P., Kwan, L., & Li, S. U. (2011). Using Facebookgroups in teaching ESL writing. Recent Research in Chemistry, Biology, Environment, and Culture,75–80.
- Zinkevich, N. A., & Ledeneva, T. V. (2021). Using Grammarly to Enhance Students' AcademicWriting Skills. Professional Discourse & Communication, 3(4), 51–63. https://doi.org/10.24833/2687-0126-2021-3-4-51-63