**Systematic Literature Review: Grammarly as a Medium in Analyzing Grammar for University Students**

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**Abstract** - Nowadays, the rapid growth of technologies brings out the educational learning application or web. One example of educational technology is the automatic online grammar checker, Grammarly. Grammarly is an online application that is used to scan documents for grammar checkers and plagiarism checkers. It provides suggestions on all forms of corrective vocabulary and sentence or rephrasing suggestions. Besides, Grammarly also includes the correct word and provide several alternatives and identify possible misspellings of the word. Researchers used the systematic literature review as the method of the research. This systematic literature review aims to explore on how Grammarly as a medium for analyzing grammar is used in the process of the analysis. The researchers are interested to review the literature on Grammarly as a medium for analyzing grammar. Moreover, researchers attempt to look at the effectiveness of Grammarly on learning activities. Researchers found 35 journal articles that are eligible for the analysis. The result showed that the presence of Grammarly had been identified to be a good learning assistance and useful to use for students. Meanwhile, in the implementation of the application, Grammarly has a lot of room for improvement to be made in this application.

**Keywords:** Systematic Literature Review; Grammarly; Grammar

**INTRODUCTION**

Grammar is one of the crucial components of the English language. Hence, it needs plenty of time and effort to master the skill. Harmer (2001) conveys that grammar is very necessary so that communication will not be suffered carelessly. In reality, students encounter obstacles to demonstrating their ideas in writing and orally. It can be arising when the students are not truly confident due to the lack of vocabulary or grammar. Some say it is too
complicated to learn grammar, while others state it is full of formulas. However, mastering grammar boosts the students to have a better language structure yet contains meaningful meaning. Knowing that it is very essential as part of the language, the significance of grammar urges students to be effortful in learning it.

Learning about grammar for English as a foreign language (EFL) student, especially higher education levels, really needs to be considered. Knowing how far the progress of students’ grammar skills is important, Hashemi (2018) says that educators should incorporate grammar skills as part of the curriculum. It is important to know how it should be taught to students and what are the best practices in teaching grammar to university students in the context of English as a foreign language, especially in Indonesia. Yunita (2016) argues that most practitioners in teaching grammar say that in the process of teaching grammar, two basic traditional approaches have been used for a long time; deductive and inductive approaches. However, they are still used today despite the emergence of many approaches in language teaching, which also apply to the teaching of grammar.

According to Criticos (1996) Media is one component of communication, namely as a messenger from the communicator to the communicant. Learning media is used in the learning process which ultimately occurs in the communication process. Learning media occupies an important position as one of the components of the learning system which is a communication learning process that takes place in a system. Ediyani et al., (2020) conveys that the use of learning media in the teaching and learning process can generate enthusiasm and interest in students. The use of learning media will greatly help the effectiveness of the learning process and delivery of messages as well as lesson content.

Nowadays, the rapid growth of educational technology brings out the online grammar checker called Grammarly. Grammarly is an online application that is used to scan documents for grammar checkers and plagiarism checkers. We can insert a document or sentence into the column which will be detected immediately if there is an error. Grammarly provides suggestions on all forms of corrective vocabulary and sentence or rephrasing suggestions (Daniels and Leslie, 2013). So, university students use this app to check for grammatical errors. O’Neill & Russell (2019) stated that one university in Australia chose Grammarly as a tool for providing grammatical feedback. Furthermore, Indonesian undergraduate students use Grammarly to check for grammatical errors in their paper, thesis, and also assignments.

The previous research conducted by Pratama (2020) entitled “The Investigation of Using Grammarly as Online Grammar Checker in The Process of Writing” focused on the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker in checking grammar, punctuation, and word spelling in the process of writing. Furthermore, research conducted by Laksnoria & Rizqan (2018) entitled “Grammarly as a Tool to Improve Students' Writing Quality (Free Online Proofreader across the Boundaries)” focused on the use of the application as an appropriate tool to minimize errors and improve students’ writing quality. Lastly, research conducted by Hakiki (2021) entitled “EFL Students’ Perception of the Use of Grammarly Application in Writing Class” focused on the effectiveness of Grammarly used in writing.
class. These researches indicate that students perceive positive and negative perceptions of the use of Grammarly as an online grammar checker in writing class.

Based on the explanation above, the researchers are interested to review the literature on Grammarly as a medium for analyzing grammar. This systematic literature review aims to explore how Grammarly as a medium for analyzing grammar is used in the process of the analysis. Moreover, researchers attempt to look at the effectiveness of Grammarly on learning activities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Learning Grammar
Grammar is one of the very essential elements of the language. According to Brinton (2000), grammar is a system that contains a set of rules of the working language. Lado & C. Fries (1977) explained that grammar is a study of rules where it meant for students to speak appropriately according to the socially educated class. Moreover, Weaver (1996) defined grammar as the syntax of a language and a set of prescriptions for how to use language. From that definition of grammar, a conclusion can be drawn that grammar has been the essential element of language that contains the rules on how to arrange words accordingly into a meaningful unit.

Learning grammar has always been the first way for someone who learns a new language formally. Students will understand how words are put together and formed meaningful sentences. Furthermore, they will get to know the system or the structure of a language. Learning grammar helps people especially students to comprehend the essence of language when they read.

2. Grammarly
Grammarly is software that was founded in 2009. According to Grammarly (2020), Grammarly was created to make it easier for us to check grammar, check plagiarism, and review spelling and punctuation. This application can be used for free but it is recommended to pay so that users can experience its full features. Grammarly helps students correct letters, because of grammar. Apart from being able to distinguish between punctuation marks (e.g. no spaces after periods) and misspellings. Grammarly will also include the correct word and provide several alternatives and identify possible misspellings of the word. While it often doesn’t, it does provide suggestions on the form of the verb. Suggested corrections and clarifications are provided (Daniels & Leslie, 2013). So, Grammarly is one of the best grammar checker apps for checking grammar mistakes. As discussed above, Grammarly will show word suggestions or punctuation and spelling errors if you submit a sentence for review in Grammarly.

Grammarly provides analytics on error types, syntactic complexity and overall writing score. It recommends synonyms to support paraphrasing in writing. Grammarly offers
automated feedback on critical mistakes (Bailey & Andrea, 2020). According to Lu (2012), Grammarly was used to identify variations of nouns, verbs, and modifiers. They also recommend unique and rare words. Read (2010) claimed that Grammarly also ranges a learner’s vocabulary as displayed in their language use. Thus, it was successful in identifying and correcting the existing critical errors. But, O’Neill & Russell (2019) state that Grammarly has a weakness in terms of some feedback inaccuracies. This problem could be the user is using free access and not a premium subscription. Moreover, students who use Grammarly tend to choose things that are instant rather than having to recall the grammar material that has been taught to check it.

3. Using Grammarly
Grammarly is one of the learning media that emerged in this modern era. This application is an alternative for students to grammar checks, check for plagiarism, and review spelling and punctuation. So, students use this application for that. They use Grammarly while doing assignments, homework, papers, and theses. Students only need to insert a document or sentence into the column which will be detected immediately if there is an error. Grammarly provides suggestions on all forms of corrective vocabulary and sentence or rephrasing suggestions. Grammarly considers context when making corrections or suggestions (Grammarly, 2020). Dizon (2021) states Grammarly keyboard has two main features, autocorrect, which flags grammatical errors and offers correct alternatives, and predictive text, which suggests words or phrases depending on the previously written text. It means the students use Grammarly individually without being guided by a teacher or instructor. Thus, learning Grammarly can be done independently by students.

In the writing process, Grammarly will detect student texts and provide information on what features are right and wrong. Furthermore, the assessment of writing scores can be seen by students in the Grammarly program. The use of Grammarly can be part of scaffolding activities for students, where students are required to be independent and the teacher’s role is as a facilitator. Utilizing Grammarly is very helpful for students in the self-editing stage. Grammarly tells the students’ grammatical errors in writing so that students are motivated to revise their work. In other words, they have more practice in writing (Yulianti & Reni, 2018). According to Zinkevich & Ledeneva (2021), all the grammatical errors identified by Grammarly are grouped into four:

1. Correctness, the issue of correctness related to punctuation mistakes, the misuse of articles, and inconsistencies.
2. Clarity, clarity problems occur when students use rambling, long, and complex sentences that obscure meaning.
3. Delivery, Grammarly offers various suggestions so that the sentences used can convey the right tone so that the author’s message can be understood properly.
4. Engagement, the engagement parameter shows boring and monotonous sentences, overused words, and outdated phrases.

METHOD
Researchers used the systematic literature review by James Lind as a method. The aim of systematic literature review is to identify, evaluate, and interpret the results of relevant previous researches with the current one. In the quest researches, researchers searched the data through journal database: ResearchGate, Proquest, Science Direct, Garuda. Researchers used the keywords Grammarly, grammar, analysis grammar, and teaching grammar. Through the process, researchers obtained 743 journal articles. With inclusions of 10 years previous research, higher education level, and education, and exclusions of EFL students and grammar, researchers found 708 unrelated articles according to the inclusion and exclusions. Moreover, researchers found 35 journal articles that are eligible for the analysis.

**FINDINGS**

Specifically, 35 articles have published research on Grammarly as a medium for analyzing Grammar for university students. These articles have been published on 2012 to 2022. From these articles, researchers obtained findings which were grouped into several aspects. Here are the findings:

**Table 1. The articles of the finding**

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<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Laksnoria Karyuatry, Muhammad Dhika Arif Rizkan, N. A Daryani</td>
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<td>Ratna Agustin &amp; Sri Wulandari</td>
<td>The Analysis of Grammatical Errors on Students' Essay Writing by Using Grammarly</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Arda Arikan</td>
<td>An Examination of Online Grammar Teaching Materials Available for Young Learners</td>
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<td>Yanning Dong &amp; Ling Shi</td>
<td>Using Grammarly to support students’ source-based writing practices. Assessing Writing</td>
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<td>Bailey &amp; Andrea</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Michelle Cavaleri</td>
<td>You Want Me to Check Your Grammar Again? The Usefulness of an Online Grammar Checker as Perceived by Students</td>
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<td>Fahmi et al.</td>
<td>ELF Students perception on the use of Grammarly and teacher feedback</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Fajriati et al.</td>
<td>Grammarly and Web-based Language Learning (WBLL) in Teaching Basic Grammar</td>
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1. The Effectiveness of Grammarly
The effectiveness of Grammarly can be seen as in students' grammar mastery and their learning motivation. The grammar mastery is an important variable in predicting students' skill. Moreover, Grammarly is successful to improve students’ writing quality (Laksnoria & Rizqan, 2018). Laksnoria & Rizqan (2018) also stated that students and teachers give a positive response using Grammarly. According to Soegiyarto et al. (2022), Grammarly is not only helping students for their assignment, but it also boosts students’ confidence. The application tends to give an automatic grammar feedback by suggesting alternative words, it could expand students’ vocabularies skill.

Zinkevich & Ledeneva (2021) signified the benefits of Grammarly as a tool to identify students’ errors, help students’ vocabulary development, and teach punctuation. It also encourages students to become independent and independent learners because it requires students to independently evaluate their own work with the help of providing feedback provided by the system (Muhammad Ali Ghufron & Rosyida, 2018).

2. The Perception of Students and Teachers towards Grammarly
In Hakiki (2021), Ananda et al. (2021), O’Neill & Russell (2019), (Ventayen, 2018), (Wijayanti, 2021), (Fitriana, 2022), (Fahmi, 2021), (Tarsan, 2021), (Mirza, 2021), and (Zhang et al., 2020) the ten articles discuss the perception of students and teachers
towards Grammarly to improve students’ skill. O’Neill & Russell (2019) stated that students understand the importance of grammar feedback for their work. By using Grammarly, they perceive a good learning assistance and find it useful to use. Furthermore, by getting an automated grammar feedback by Grammarly, it boosts students to be confidence in their writing and proofread. According to Ananda et al. (2021) the 5th semester of EFL students almost gave a positive perception towards the application. They believe Grammarly can be a tool to help, to use, to understand, to correct a grammar accuracy.

Tarsan et al. (2021) on the other hand stated that the majority of the students have agreed on the advantages of Grammarly to check their language structure. Concerning on how teacher’s feedback could consume a lot of time, Fahmi & Cahyono (2021) emphasized the presence of Grammarly could help students to save their time in the revision process, which definitely help the teachers to be more focused on helping students revising the content of the writing than the structure. Aside from the various impact toward students, teachers claim Grammarly has assisted them in assessing students’ writing assessments effectively and efficiently on grammar, punctuation and spelling features based on the principles of practicality, reliability, validity, authenticity and washback (Wijayanti et al., 2021). However, students still discovered some errors while operating the application due to the poor internet connection (Ananda et al., 2021). Fitriani & Nurazni (2022) portrayed students’ thoughts on the application that they are consciously understand somehow the corrections from Grammarly change the meaning of writing and sometimes corrections make sentences out of sync with the following or the previous one.

3. The Implementation of Grammarly as Grammar Feedback

Grammarly can be downloaded on a device or it can be accessed through the website. Only by copy-paste a text in the application, it will automatically give the correct feedback in red underlining (Soegiyarto et al., 2022). As proofreading the text personally consumes a lot of time, Grammarly can be considered as a tool to help it all (Vidhiasi & Haryani, 2020). In the process of teaching and learning, it is easier for teachers to apply this media in the class. Ericsson (2016) stated that Grammarly produced feedback for such popular writing aids, assessments, and assistants. The findings of Laksnoria (2018) shows that Grammarly successfully proven to improve students’ writing quality. These researchers concluded that Grammarly give a significant increase to improve students’ writing skill. Moreover, Soegiyarto et al. (2022) declared the given automatic feedback could expand students’ vocabularies.

Fitria (2021) denoted that Grammarly can correct English grammar that is not according to the rules of the language. A further finding by Ventayen & Orlanda-Ventayen (2018) pointed out that Grammarly can automatically detect errors in conceptual writing, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, style, and Vocabulary Improvement. Moreover, in the implementation of the application, Grammarly somehow still could not detect sentences that are semantically error (Vidhiasi & Haryani, 2020). This leads to the opinion of Agustin & Wulandari (2022)
that Grammarly can only be used as an assistant and not a primary tool in conducting grammar error analysis. As plagiarism detection tools are usually used for surveillance and punishment, they may cause anxiety among students without being conducive to students’ learning of source-based writing (Canzonetta, 2019). Still, students encountered problems that the feedback and explanation from Grammarly may be too confusing to be understood (Michelle Cavaleri, 2016).

4. Grammar Accuracy on Grammarly
According to the journal Nina A Zinkevich on Using Grammarly to enhance Student Academic Writing Skills:

1. Truth Grammar accuracy based on the correctness parameter is accumulated as: - 50% punctuation - article 20% - Other errors: 30%
2. Clarity In this experiment, 32% errors occurred when students often used sentences with subordinate and passive clauses. And another mistake is using the wrong conjunction.
3. Shipping In this experiment there was an error of 13%
4. Engagement This experiment occurred 7% error. showing boring and monotonous passages with repeated sentence structures, in succession, using frequently used words, and outdated phrases.

To detect grammatical errors, it will match the phrases made by the target with the correct and correlated phrases. All faults can be identified and categorized into categories when they are detected. This is done in many ways. One approach is to separate errors into grammatical types. All verb related errors should be compiled, and the various forms of the verb identified (Vidhiasi & Haryani, 2020).

The teacher gives a table for several groups of students, then students are instructed to make a text, after that the teacher checks and reads the student's writing. When the teacher found some mistakes in terms of grammar, vocabulary usage, and mechanics, he made an indication by highlighting the errors and giving some notes on them (Muhammad Ali Ghufron & Rosyida, 2018).

5. Students’ Grammar Improvement
Using Grammarly can improve students’ grammar skill and writing skill. According to Laksnoria & Rizqan (2018), students experienced an increase in the quality of their writing. Writing quality is measured based on writing indicators such as grammar and vocabulary. In addition, the application can facilitate student communication in writing. The point is the accuracy of delivering messages in writing, so that messages in writing are easy to understand. It helps student to review or revise their essay and correction accuracy by Grammarly. The advantages of Grammarly can also be felt by teachers to help minimize corrections to students’ essays in the teaching and learning process.

For a context, Ismawati et al. (2021) use Grammarly to identify students’ mistakes in writing descriptive essays, which exhibit 460 errors made by students. Moreover, in the implementation for writing recount text class, Students have a positive perception in learning to write recount text by utilizing Grammarly through a genre base approach.
(Yulianti & Reni, 2018). M. Ali Ghufron (2019) indicated that Grammarly is better at reducing errors in terms of vocabulary use, language use (grammar), and writing mechanisms (spelling and punctuation).

**DISCUSSION**

This research has looked at 35 journal articles related to Grammarly as a medium in analysing grammar. The implementation of Grammarly had been identified as impactful to students for developing their grammar knowledge and writing assistance. Grammarly tells the students’ grammatical errors in writing, in other words, they have more practice in writing (Yulianti & Reni, 2018). Based on the findings of the study, 22 articles had been identified that Grammarly is effective for writing companion. Advantages of its uses were assisting students’ writing assessments effectively and efficiently on grammar, punctuation and spelling features based on the principles of practicality, reliability, validity, authenticity and washback. Grammarly also provides analytics on error types, syntactic complexity and overall writing score. It recommends the synonyms of the words to support paraphrasing in writing.

Grammarly facilitates the students to see their errors in writing according to the correctness, clarity, etc. Utilizing Grammarly is very helpful for students in writing. As Grammarly is a part of scaffolding activities and students are able to self-edit independently of their errors in writing that have been checked by Grammarly. Therefore, it can be said that Grammarly motivates students to keep practicing writing so that they can master it perfectly and confidently. Students’ involvement in revising their writing independently encourages them more to engage in using Grammarly to carry out learning activities.

Grammarly is not tied to the time and place, so students have the opportunity to access it at any time according to their convenience and suitability. So, the absence of teacher is not a big problem for getting a revision on Grammarly. On contrary, concerning on how teacher’s feedback could consume a lot of time, the presence of the application could help the teachers to be more focused on helping students revising the content of the writing than the structure.

Some challenges are still identified in the implementation of Grammarly for writing assistance. They were Grammarly could not create a content just how teachers normally did and it still could not detect sentences that are semantically error. Moreover, it failed to identify sentence structure too. Students judged that Grammarly’s feedback and explanation are too confusing to be understood even though it gave so many options of the corrections. The majority problem encountered by students is that it needs stable internet connection to access the application. Though Grammarly is quite sophisticated and helps a lot in correcting the writings, the users still need to take their own decision in
incorporating the changes suggested by the tool in their manuscripts. It shows that there is a lot of room for improvement to be made in this application.

CONCLUSION

This study sheds light on Grammarly as a medium in analysing grammar. Notably, Grammarly can be utilized as it is beneficial for students for their writing skill. Students believed that Grammarly could help them in so many ways not just for the grammar, but it also is assisting their writing assessments effectively and efficiently on punctuation and spelling features based on the principles of practicality, reliability, validity, authenticity and washback. Besides, it saved a lot of time as it is done by the system. However, some challenges are still identified in the implementation of Grammarly. The application needs a stable internet connection. Moreover, it still could not detect sentences that are semantically error and failed to identify the sentence structure. There are still a lot of room to improve for this application to be fully utilized for the learning process.

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