

**STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
TOOLS AND THEIR IMPACT ON STUDENTS' SELF-
EFFICACY IN ACADEMIC WRITING**

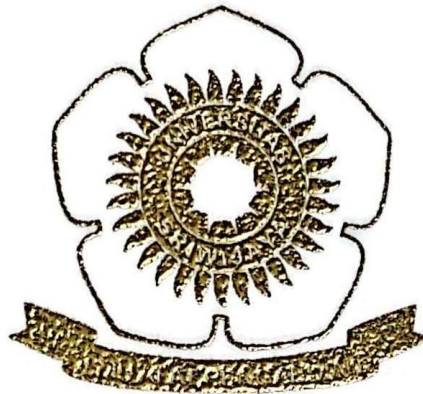
A THESIS

by:

Nys. Nabilah Putri Erliani

Student Number: 06012682327024

Magister Program in Language Education



MAGISTER PROGRAM IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY
PALEMBANG

2025

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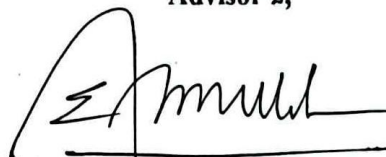
Approved by:

Advisor 1,



**Eryansyah, M.A., Ph.D.
NIP. 196907181995121001**

Advisor 2,



**Amrullah, M.Ed., Ph.D.
NIP. 196909142014091001**

Certified by:

Head of Magister Program in Language Education

Sriwijaya University



**Sary Silvhiany, M.Pd., M.A., Ph.D.
NIP. 197708112002122003**

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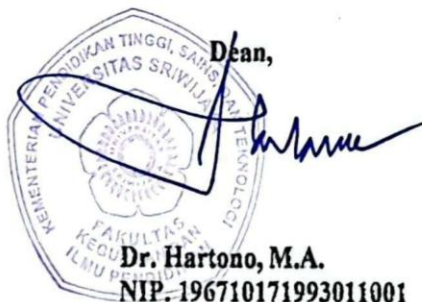
**Eryansyah, M.A., Ph.D..
NIP. 196907181995121001**

Advisor 2,



**Amrullah, M.Ed., Ph.D..
NIP. 196909142014091001**

Dean,



**Dr. Hartono, M.A..
NIP. 196710171993011001**

**Head of Magister Program in
Language Education,**



**Sary Silvhianny, M.Fd., M.A., Ph.D..
NIP. 197708112002122003**

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by:

Nys. Nabilah Putri Erliani

Student Number: 06012682327024

Magister Program in Language Education

had been examined and passed on:

Day : Wednesday

Date : May 14th, 2025

EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Chairperson | : Eryansyah, M.A., Ph.D. |
| 2. Secretary | : Amrullah, M.Ed., Ph.D. |
| 3. Member | : Prof. Soni Mirizon, M.A., Ed.D. |
| 4. Member | : Dr. Rita Inderawati, M.Pd. |

Palembang, May 14th, 2025

**Approved by,
Head of Magister Program in Language Education**



**Sary Silvhianny, M.Pd., M.A., Ph.D.
NIP. 197708112002122003**

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned,

Name : Nys. Nabilah Putri Erliani

Student's Number : 06012682327024

Study Program : Magister Program in Language Education

Certify that the thesis entitled "Students' Perception of Artificial Intelligence Tools and Their Impact on Students' Self-Efficacy in Academic Writing" is my work, and I did not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethics and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic of Indonesia Number 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

Palembang, May 23rd, 2025

The Undersigned,



Nys. Nabilah Putri Erliani
NIM. 06012682327024

DEDICATION

This thesis is lovingly dedicated to my dearest parents, who consistently supported, motivated, and made sacrifices for me, and this has been the most important foundation that helped me throughout my journey. Your endless patience, understanding, and faith in me have inspired me to stay on track and never give up, even in the face of challenges. I am deeply grateful for your unconditional love and guidance, which have shaped me into the person I am today. Without you, this achievement would not have been possible. Thank you for always believing in me.

MOTTO

“Every cloud has a silver lining”

- John Milton

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Palembang, May 14th, 2024
The writer,



Nys. Nabilah Putri Erliani

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS AND THEIR IMPACT ON STUDENTS' SELF- EFFICACY IN ACADEMIC WRITING

ABSTRACT

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in education has transformed the landscape of academic writing, providing students innovative support mechanisms for improving their writing skills. This study investigated the types of AI-tools utilized by students, their perceptions of these tools, and the impact on their self-efficacy in academic writing within the English Education Study Program at Sriwijaya University. Utilizing a qualitative approach, data were collected from seventh-semester students through questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The findings revealed that students frequently use AI-tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and QuillBot to enhance grammatical accuracy, vocabulary, and writing clarity. While students generally viewed these tools as accessible and helpful for providing immediate feedback and reducing anxiety, their motivation and engagement with AI-assisted learning were more neutral. The findings indicated that AI-tools enhance writing proficiency and self-efficacy by simplifying tasks and offering support, yet students remain cautious about over-reliance and emphasize the importance of maintaining independent critical thinking. Importantly, students recognized that AI-tools serve primarily as scaffolding to support their writing efforts rather than as replacements for their own critical thinking and responsibility. These insights underscored the importance of using AI-tools thoughtfully in academic contexts and developing pedagogical strategies that promote both effective tool usage and the cultivation of independent writing skills. The implications informed educators, policymakers, and technology developers about optimizing AI usage to support student achievement in academic writing.

Keywords: *students' perception; AI-tools; self-efficacy; academic writing.*

A thesis by Magister Program in Language Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Sriwijaya University

Name : Nys. Nabilah Putri Erliani

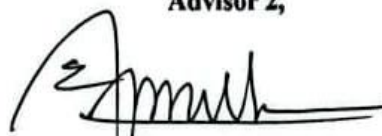
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Advisor 2,



Amrullah, M.Ed., Ph.D.
NIP. 196909142014091001

The Head of Magister Program in Language Education



Sary Silvhiany, M.Pd., M.A., Ph.D
NIP. 197708112002122003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL	i
APPROVAL	ii
COMMITTEE APPROVAL	iii
DECLARATION	iv
DEDICATION	v
MOTTO	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vi
ABSTRACT	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF APPENDICES	xi

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 The Problems of the Study.....	4
1.3 The Objectives of the Study.....	4
1.4 The Significance of the Study.....	5
 CHAPTER II. LITERATURE REVIEW	 6
2.1 Theoretical Framework	6
2.1.1 Self-Efficacy Theory	6
2.1.2 Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)	6
2.2 Artificial Intelligence	7
2.3 AI in Education	8
2.4 AI in Academic Writing	9
2.5 The Impact of AI-Tools in Academic Writing	11
2.5.1 Self-Efficacy	11
2.5.2 Academic Writing Proficiency	11

2.6 Previous Related Studies	11
CHAPTER III. METHODOLOGY	15
3.1 Research Design.....	15
3.2 Site and Participations.....	16
3.3 The Techniques of Collecting the Data	16
3.3.1 Questionnaire	16
3.3.2 Interview	17
3.4 The Techniques of Analyzing the Data	18
CHAPTER IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION.....	21
4.1 Findings.....	21
4.1.1 Types of AI Tools and Its Function Used in Academic Writing.....	21
4.1.2 Students Perceived AI Tools in Academic Writing	25
4.1.2.1 Students' Perception of the Usefulness of AI Tools in Academic Writing	25
4.1.2.2 Students' Perception of the Ease of Using AI Tools in Academic Writing	25
4.1.2.3 Students' Attitude toward Use of AI Tools in Academic Writing	26
4.1.3 The Impact of Students' Self-Efficacy in Academic Writing	26
4.1.3.1 Mastery Experiences	26
4.1.3.2 Vicarious Experiences	27
4.1.3.3 Social Persuasion	28
4.1.3.4 Physiological and Emotional States	28
4.2 Discussions.....	29
CHAPTER V. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	37
5.1 Conclusions.....	37
5.2 Suggestions	38
REFERENCES.....	39
APPENDICES	47

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	The Scoring of Students' Perception of The Use of AI-tools in Academic Writing	19
Table 2	Perceived Usefulness	21
Table 3	Ease of Use	22
Table 4	Attitude toward Usage.....	22
Table 5	AI-tools and Its Functions in Academic Writing.....	23

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A Questionnaire of Students' Perception of AI-tools in Academic Writing
- Appendix B Interview List
- Appendix C Consultation Card
- Appendix D Documentation

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background, the problems, the objectives, and the significance of the study

1.1 Background of the Study

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been widely embraced and applied in education in a variety of ways (Nalbant, 2021). As it brings advanced technological capabilities into the educational field, students may use some AI apps and tools throughout their academic journey to improve their learning process in writing to learn directly. By offering recommendations, identifying errors, and producing code automatically, AI-tools can assist students in learning to code (Yilmaz & Yilmaz, 2023).

Numbers of AI-tools like ChatGPT, Bard, Perplexity and Bing have been frequently used recently. These AI-tools enable students to engage themselves in realistic conversational contexts and develop their language skills in real-time through interactive dialogues (Malik et al., 2023). There are also Grammarly, ProWritingAid, Smodin.io and QuillBot which offer assistance with grammar, vocabulary, and even generating content to make the writing process more accessible and efficient. While these tools provide benefits in areas like clarity and grammatical accuracy, questions arise about its influence on student agency and self-reliance. Students become overly reliant on AI to identify and fix grammatical errors, neglecting the chance to improve their own critical thinking and language skills (Rane et al., 2023). This overdependence might cause them to lose confidence, making them feel less capable of tackling writing challenges on their own. When students constantly rely on AI-tools to fix their mistakes, they are able to start doubting their own proficiency and feel less capable of accomplishing writing challenges independently (Bok & Cho, 2023). Their willingness to take risks and explore their creative potential may be limited by because of their lack of confidence, which may also negatively impact their writing performance.

Moreover, many students still struggle to acquire proficiency in academic writing, particularly in organizing the idea coherently, applying grammatical rules, choosing the right vocabulary and making citation properly. As claimed by Lin and Morrison (2021), most of writers find it hard to write in English academically, even for English as a second language (L2) or a foreign language, such as English as the foreign language (EFL). In addition, research by Fauzan et al. (2022) who did study at UINSI Samarinda and got involved the eighth-semester students English Education Department of UINSI Samarinda found that the students often struggle to construct a coherent paragraph and incorporate essential writing elements when composing the research background section of an undergraduate thesis proposal. Similarly, a study by Yusuf et al. (2021) which involved the students of *kelas akselerasi* in one of the well-known high schools in Banda Aceh indicated that many students exhibit frequent grammatical mistakes and a limited range of vocabulary, which hinder their ability to express complex ideas effectively. Furthermore, a study by Sajjad et al. (2021) who did study at Khawaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology (KFUEIT) in Pakistan and got involved in 50 students, found that the students' difficulties in academic writing such as grammar proficiency, language usage, vocabulary limitation and quotation.

Traditional methods of writing instruction employ manual feedback from instructors, automation can take too much time and resources (Baskara, 2023). Although it is evident that AI tools have a lot of potential in developing writing skills (Gayed et al., 2022), it is essential to understand the way students view and interact with technologies and how these technologies influence their self-efficacy. Self-efficacy, is crucial, as it plays a role in students' achievement. Self-efficacy significantly impacts students' motivation, persistence, and performance in academic writing (Alhadabi & Karpinski, 2020). Students with high self-efficacy tend to engage in writing tasks, seek out feedback, and persist through challenges, leading to improved writing outcomes (Chung et al., 2021). In short, fostering self-efficacy in academic writing can lead to improved outcomes for students, both in terms of the quality of their writing and their overall academic success.

Previous studies have highlighted the role of self-efficacy in academic achievement, noted that students with higher self-efficacy are more motivated,

persistent, and successful in their writing tasks (Alhadabi & Karpinski, 2020; Chung et al., 2021). Additionally, the study by Bouzar et al. (2024) discussed the integration of ChatGPT usage and self-efficacy in academic writing and the result showed that there were positive relation between self-efficacy and ChatGPT integration in students' writing. It also highlighted the potential of ChatGPT in enhancing writing self-efficacy by providing continuous feedback and fostering a sense of accomplishment. Moreover, a study by Erito (2023) explored how students perceived of AI to promote students' self-efficacy in English writing skill and the finding showed that the students thought AI would have a significant impact on their self-efficacy as well as increase their motivation, lower their anxiety, make it easier for them to access writing feedback quickly and with better recommendations, and offer interactive learning to help students' English writing skills become consistent.

In the context of Indonesia, there has been drawing interest in using AI-tools in education, although the research is still emerging. A study by Zulfa et al. (2023) investigated the impact of AI writing assistants in Islamic University students' perspectives in Jakarta and it was found that those students agreed that these tools could significantly improve students' writing skills, especially in grammatical and vocabulary acquisition. Furthermore, Utami et al. (2023) explored Indonesian high schools students' perspectives in Semarang of using AI technology in academic writing. However, these studies primarily focused on the functional benefits of AI-tools and the user perspectives. Additionally, those did not specifically explore the impact of AI-tools on students' self-efficacy. Meanwhile, Yelliza et al. (2024) explored the impact three of AI generative tool such as Diffit, Brisk, and Mendeley on university students' writing views and motivation. This study highlighted the advantages of AI-tools and emphasized self-efficacy as a crucial factor affecting writing development with limited AI-tools. Moreover, Suharno et al. (2025) investigated the perceptions and experiences of AI integration in English Language Teaching through the perspectives both students and teachers. This study highlighted that the students had positive attitude toward artificial intelligence, especially in their eagerness and confidence.

While prior research have examined the general benefits of AI in education and the importance of self-efficacy, this study uniquely aims to bridge these areas by investigating students' perceptions of various AI-tools and how these perceptions influence their confidence and performance in writing tasks. Moreover, investigating students' perceptions of AI-tools in the context of academic writing can provide important information about how these technologies are incorporated into the students' writing process and how they impact students' self-efficacy beliefs. By understanding students' experiences, attitudes, and preferences regarding AI-tools, educators and developers can decide on their design and implementation, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of instruction in higher education, especially in academic writing field.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Concerning the background of the study, the problems are formulated into the research questions as follows:

1. What AI-tools do seventh-semester students of English Education Study Program at Sriwijaya University use to improve their academic writing?
2. What are the perceptions of seventh-semester students of English Education Study Program at Sriwijaya University regarding the use of AI-tools in their academic writing?
3. What are the impacts of the using AI-tools on the self-efficacy of seventh-semester students of English Education Study Program at Sriwijaya University in their academic writing?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Referring to the research problem, the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the AI-tools seventh-semester students of English Education Study Program at Sriwijaya University use to improve in their English academic writing process.
2. To investigate the perceptions of seventh-semester students of English Education Study Program at Sriwijaya University regarding the use of AI-tools in their writing skill.

3. To explore the impact of using of AI-tools on the self-efficacy seventh-semester students of English Education Study Program at Sriwijaya University in their academic writing.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this thesis refers to the contribution of understanding and practical applications in education, particularly in academic writing and the integration of AI-tools. By investigating students' perceptions of AI-tools in academic writing, this study adds valuable information about the way technology is viewed and applied in educational contexts, informing educators, policymakers, and technology developers on effective integration strategies. Through understanding students' attitudes, this research is able to inform the development of tailored pedagogical interventions directed in enhancing writing self-efficacy, thereby improving overall writing proficiency. Moreover, this thesis contributes to a comprehensive understanding of technology's role in supporting students' writing development.

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