

**THE PERCEPTION OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
STUDY PROGRAM OF SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS TOWARDS THE USE OF DIGITAL
WRITING TOOLS IN ACADEMIC WRITING CLASS
ATMOSPHERE**

A thesis by

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Student Number: 06011381621048

English Education Study Program

Language and Arts Education Department



FACULTY OF TEACHER, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY

PALEMBANG

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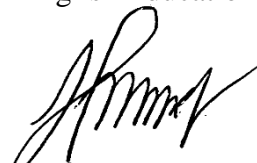
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DECLARATION

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Certified that data thesis entitled “The Perception of English Education Study Program of Sriwijaya University Students towards the Use of Digital Writing Tools in Academic Writing Class Atmosphere” is my own work and I did not do any plagiarism and inappropriate quotation against crime and rules commended by the Ministry of Education Republic Indonesia number 17,2010 regarding on the plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face the court if I find the plagiarized in this work.

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I sincerely dedicated this thesis for:

My beloved parents and siblings.

Motto:

WHEN WINTER PASSES, SPRING COMES AGAIN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bismilahirrohmanirohim

Thesis entitled “The Perception of English Education Study Program of Sriwijaya University Students towards the Use of Digital Writing Tools in Academic Writing Class Atmosphere” was written to fulfill one of the requirements for the final assignment for S1 degree at the English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher, Training and Education Sriwijaya University. This thesis would never be finished without God’s help, the almighty Allah SWT who always settles everything in order as God’s wish, listens every prays and sees every efforts of his creations. I would like to express my gratitude to Allah who always be with me in my every condition. Because God’s plan and help, I could finish this thesis on time. In completing this thesis, I have received a lot of help from so many people who I cannot thank you enough. I personally say my greatest gratitude to:

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Palembang, July 2020

The Researcher,

Sisimetrika Katleyana

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ABSTRACT

In education field, students are increasingly exposed and required to implement various digital tools, especially to augment writing instruction of hybrid learning environments. Writing as a productive skill is considered as the most complex and difficult activity especially for EFL/ESL learners. However, the use of digital writing tools appears to provide new opportunities for creating texts and include a great editing while writing which prevent grammatical mistakes and plagiarism issues. In relation to it, students' perceptions become an important thing that should be considered by the teacher. Therefore, this research is aimed to identify the students' perceptions about the use of digital writing tools in academic writing class environment including their types of digital writing tools. A cross sectional survey was conducted to 67 EFL students of 6th Semester in Sriwijaya University, Indonesia. To investigate students' perception, close-ended questions were analyzed by finding statistical descriptive using SPSS. Meanwhile, open-ended were analyzed by categorizing the results into some categories. The result shows that students have positive perception towards the use of digital writings tools in academic writing. The student perceived that the feature and the feedback of digital writing tools can overcome their issues. Only a very few students perceive less positive in some feature or feedback of digital writing tools. Most of the students use various types of digital writing tools; online plagiarism detector and online grammar checker. Further research on the implementation of specific digital writing tools in different situations is recommended to be conducted.

Keywords: *digital writing tools; online plagiarism detector; online grammar checker; academic writing; perception*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents: (1) background of the study, (2) problems of the study, (3) objectives of the study, and (4) significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated in every aspects of life. According to Božnar (2004), both in educational process and teaching profession are intervened significantly by ICT so that students can access information from other sources. For instance, the practices in education area have changed to more online class so that students from kindergarten to graduate school are increasingly exposed and required to implement various digital tools, especially to augment writing instruction of hybrid learning environments (Nobles & Paganucci, 2015). Moreover, online learning nowadays is more stressed in every institution because of this pandemic era. Inderawati (2017) states that the implementation of technology as information tools by the students independently is very expected. More than last 10 years, a method of engaging students in their literacy practices utilized digital writing tool (Dressman, McCarthy, & Prior, 2009). Therefore, logically the role of ICT in the classroom is very crucial (Gerrard, 2012). A study done by Inderawati, Sofendi, Purnomo, Vianty, & Suhendi (2019) stated that students' engagement in utilizing technology is very important in supporting learning.

Writing capability is important to be achieved either in work or educational life. According to Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project (2012), there were 91 % out of 2067 teachers of middle and high school on an online survey stated that writing effectively is an essential skill that students should have in the

future. Advanced Placement (AP) & Writing Project (WP) teachers (2012) on that survey expressed the belief that students must master all styles of writing in order to be successful across social domains and to communicate with different audiences.

According to Jahin (2012), writing is a productive skill considered as the most complex and difficult activity especially for EFL/ESL learners. Furthermore, he states that writing is both a challenging discipline and the singly most difficult aspect of English Language Acquisition. It is in line with the result of informal interview of students of English Education Study program of Sriwijaya University. The setting represented that the students have some difficulties in English writing especially in academic writing. The problems of writing are lack of capability in using proper grammar and citing some references properly to avoid plagiarism. It is also supported by Oktarina (2014, p.2), she found that some students find effort and difficulty in academic writing. In spite of the fact that writing is complicated, writing has become important aspect in academic workload at university both in English and non-English departments (Cahyono & Widiati, 2011).

Meanwhile, a good writing can be achieved by considering several writing aspects such as grammar, vocabulary, mechanic, content and organization (Hartfiel, Hughey, Wormuth, & Jacobs, 1985, p.89). In academic writing, plagiarism can be one aspect that should be considered. Some students from English Education Study Program of Sriwijaya University felt that academic writing is very different from non-academic writing. Non- academic writing uses less formal language and does not need some quotations to support the statement or sentence. However, academic writing is considered as a crucial skill that need to be mastered by students. It can be showed that writing thesis becomes the requirement for undergraduate students to obtain S1 degree. It needs some efforts to lead students of English Education of Sriwijaya University capable to produce academic writing, a complicated process should be conducted. (Inderawati, Petrus and Jaya, 2019).

The use of digital writing tools appears to provide new opportunities for creating texts and include a great of editing while writing (Kress 2003; Stapleton 2012; Akerfeldt 2014). Writing using computers obtains its effectiveness by the significant help of computer use. According to Boudjadar (2014), there are nine positive advantages obtained when writing on computers and technology related in writing class, one of them is availability of digital writing tools that can assist to improve writing outcomes such as online dictionary, online grammar checker, etc.

Digital writing tools are the products of technology. Everything becomes digital in this century, for instance is digital writing tools. In the past, people often revise their handwriting manually by looking for a help of teachers face to face or looking up the handprint dictionary. Yet now, it can be done by using digital writing tools which use *artificial intelligence* can assist the process of writing and revise it automatically such as online plagiarism detector (e.g. Small seo tools, Turnitin, etc) and online grammar checker (e.g. Grammarly, Small seo tools, Google docs, etc).

According to The Wall Street Journal, Grammarly (Grammar Checker) uses learning machine and *artificial intelligence* to improve people's writing. In Grammar checker, people can check not only their grammar errors but also spelling and punctuation errors through the use of grammar checker, while plagiarism detector also uses *artificial intelligence* in detecting the plagiarism in one's writing by comparing to the works which have uploaded online. Both of the tools are the product of technology which can overcome students' problem in writing.

In English Education Study program of Sriwijaya University, Online Grammar checker and Online Plagiarism Detector are broadly implemented by the students as tools to clear up their issues, specifically on errors of grammatical aspect and citation errors of academic writing. The action of clearing up the issues can be done independently by the students as online grammar checker helps the students to know and receive feedback of the errors. It is same with plagiarism detector; students can get the information of how many percentages of their improper citation and they can try another way to cite by summarizing or paraphrasing to level up the

writing outcomes. Then these tools can be easily accessed by the students. Hence, the perception of students towards the use of some others online software/platform as a grammar checker and a plagiarism detector is trying to figure out by the researcher.

In relation to the use of online grammar checker and online plagiarism detector (digital writing tools) where these tools are used voluntary by the students as the teachers' instructions in which they are not really mandatory, the teachers should consider the perception of students since it becomes a crucial thing. It is crucial because the perception is hopefully to enhance proper learning for students. Freiberg and Stain (1999) states that the perception of students influences the process of learning to be successful or failed. The perception becomes the cue element and learning standard. Therefore, the perception of the student needs to be examined if the implementation digital writing tools (online grammar checker and plagiarism detectors) bring the benefits as they claim or lead students to encounter some issues.

There are many studies that relate to the use of digital writing tools such in categorized as grammar checkers or plagiarism detectors for instance, Lailika's research about "*students' perception on the use of Grammarly in thesis writing*" which have some differences and similarities with this current study. Lailika's research focuses on the impact of Grammarly and students' perceptions of it. Meanwhile, this research does not only focus on the students' perception of using Grammarly as a specific grammar checker. This research will generalize the grammar checker and plagiarism detector tool since some students use some various grammar checkers and plagiarism detectors in academic writing class atmosphere which are free and available in online.

This research is also supported by another previous research such as "*students' perception in the use of Turnitin (plagiarism detector) on academic writing*" from Nova and Utami (2018); "*Students' and Instructors' perceptions of Turnitin: A plagiarism deterrent?*" By Ayon (2017); "*Exploring students'*

perception and ICT use in Indonesian High Schools” by Suratno and Aydawati (2017); *“ICT in the writing classroom: The pros and cons”* by Boudjadar (2015); *“Innovation in education: Students’ perception of implementing ICT in learning in second-cycle institutions in Ghana”* by Buabeng-Andoh (2015). Therefore, this study is aimed to find English education of Sriwijaya University students’ perception toward the use of digital writing tools in academic writing class atmosphere.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background study above, the problems of this study are;

1. What is the perception of English Education Study Program of Sriwijaya University students towards the use of digital writing tools in academic writing class atmosphere?
2. What are the types of digital writing tools that are used by the students of English Education Study Program of Sriwijaya University?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives study is to find out the perception of English Education Study Program of Sriwijaya University students towards the use of digital writing tools in academic writing class atmosphere and the chosen types of digital writing tools.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher expects this study to provides advantages to the English learners, the English lecturers, and the prospective researchers. These are the significance of study:

For English Education students, the writer expects the English Students to know their perception toward the use of digital writing tools in academic writing class atmosphere so that they can reflect their attitudes toward technology and writing to prevent to be left behind in the industrial revolution 4.0.

For English lecturers, the writer expects the English lecturers to know their students' perception toward the use of digital writing tools in academic writing class atmosphere so that the lecturers can discover other digital writing tools by organizing a seminar which tells about new technology in assisting writing process which can be shared to the students and give the instruction of this technology so it cannot mislead the students.

Last, the researcher expects to the prospective researchers who are attracted to a similar topic can implement this research as their references. Hopefully, this research can give the beneficial information.

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