

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. There are some important points in this chapter. First, the background of the study describes the reason why the researcher is interested in researching the advantages and problems in using Grammarly. In addition, this chapter also presents the identification of the problems, delimitation of the study, research questions, to keep the research on its track in searching the result. Furthermore, the objectives of the study describe the specific objectives of the research from each research question. Also, the significance of the research presents the benefits of this research for particular people. Finally, the organization of the chapters of the research shows the summary of each chapter.

### **Background of the Study**

English Language Education Department (ELED) is an undergraduate study program that aims to prepare the students to teach English as a foreign language. The students are required to master four English language skills namely speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. To support their study, especially in writing, the students apply some methods. Sometimes, using their own standard method led to mistakes. To minimize their mistakes, students then tried to use tools or applications that could help them improve their study English. The many mistakes that the students did might be considered as the students' weaknesses in learning English. According to Alkhaldeh and Khasawneh (2021) the problem of students' weakness in English language is one of the challenges that researcher faced in the field of teaching and learning English.

In English writing, students are required to write with correct grammar, spelling, and paraphrasing technique. During the process of writing, it is common to find out that they make

mistakes in the use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, or paraphrasing. Some of the students even still struggle with their English. Therefore, the existence of the websites related to the use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation as well as paraphrasing is beneficial for the students in their academic writing. According to Mammadova (2019) as cited in Fitria (2021, p.54), "Online grammar and spelling checkers are important for English language education and learning". In addition, according to O'Sullivan (2016) as cited in Fitria (2021), websites related to grammar enable students to teach themselves by providing multiple ways for a concept to be represented.

In the technological era, using a website or application for English learning is very important and can also be a strategy for ELED students in improving their academic writing. Grammarly as a tool provided in a website has also been used by ELED students at a private university in Yogyakarta. ELED students at this university utilize Grammarly to detect grammatical errors and to improve writing. They use Grammarly to check their grammatical errors in their projects such as writing assignments and graduating papers. Grammarly provides features that can help and support students to write in English more accurately. This has supported Bouchoux (2019) as cited in Fitria (2021) who stated that there are some easy and free tools for users that can be used to improve English writing. One of them is Grammarly. Grammarly can be checked and accessed on <https://www.grammarly.com/>.

Although Grammarly offers various advantages, unfortunately not all ELED students at a private university are familiar and use the website of <https://www.grammarly.com/>. Not all of them are aware with the advantages they can utilize when using Grammarly in their academic writing. In addition, despite the advantages in using Grammarly, the application of Grammarly

may also bring problems to the ELED users. To maximize the use of Grammarly, the potential problems that Grammarly have should be anticipated by ELED users.

In this research, the researcher intended to find out the advantages and the problems in using Grammarly. It would become more important considering the current issues, namely that some students already use Grammarly, but others are still unaware of it. Also, some students still do not know the features and advantages as well as the problems in using Grammarly. Therefore, the researcher had an interest in conducting the study on the advantages and problems of Grammarly at a Private Islamic University in Yogyakarta.

### **Identification of the Problems**

Nowadays, there are many online and offline applications that support students in learning English which include speaking, listening, reading, and writing. One of those applications that is used to support students' academic writing is Grammarly. The students' issue was that they were dissatisfied with the fact that their skills were not improving. Starting from that issue, it could be due to a variety of factors that affect their writing skills. This problem can be challenging for the English Language Education Department students. Nasser (2019) as cited in Toba and Noor (2019, p.58) diagnosed the writing composition issues of students. He found out that the students' mistakes were related to the problems in handwriting, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Since there is a website providing application called Grammarly, students can utilize Grammarly to improve their academic writing skills. The problems are that not all students know about the various advantages of using Grammarly. Some of the students still do not know about the features and utilities of the Grammarly website, some Grammarly-related issues, such as accessibility, difficulty, usage steps, and the effects by using Grammarly. This shows that

Grammarly application has not yet utilized maximally. The students who use Grammarly are also probably unaware with the potential problems during the use of Grammarly. In addition, the effective strategies to use Grammarly are not yet applied. All of these might become problems that prevent the optimum use of Grammarly in supporting students' writing.

### **Delimitation of the Problem**

This research focuses on the advantages and problems of Grammarly in the English Language Education Department at a private university in Yogyakarta. The aims of this research are to explore the perspective of users on the advantages and problems of using Grammarly. The main objectives were to find out the advantages and problems in using Grammarly.

The research has been limited to the experiences and perspectives of a specific participants who regularly use Grammarly. This research used a qualitative approach and took place at a private university in Yogyakarta, with the participants of English Language Education Department students.

### **Research Questions**

Based on the description and issues above, this research was intended to answer the following questions:

1. What are the advantages of using Grammarly perceived by the English Language Education Department students?
2. What are the problems faced by the English Language Education Department students in using Grammarly?

## **The Objectives of the Research**

Based on the research questions, there were two objectives of this research. These are:

1. To find out the advantages of using Grammarly perceived by English Language Education Department Students.
2. To find out the problems of using Grammarly faced by English Language Education Department Students.

## **The Significance of the Research**

The researcher expects to provide benefits to some parties such as students, teachers, and other researchers.

### ***For the students***

This research is expected to be beneficial for Grammarly users, especially English Language Education Department Students to gain a better understanding of the advantages and problems of using Grammarly. Therefore, they could maximize the advantages of using Grammarly and could prepare and apply suitable solution when they face similar problems.

### ***For the teachers***

This research can be the information for teachers about the advantages and problems of using Grammarly. Therefore, the teachers could encourage and guide their students to use Grammarly to improve their writing.

### ***For the other researchers***

This research searches the advantages and problems of using Grammarly. Other researchers could use this research as a reference when they have similar topic in their research.

## **Organization of the Chapters**

The report of the research is presented in five chapters. Chapter One, the introduction, consists of the background of the research, which explains the topic related to the study. The identification of problems contains of several problems and issues for the research. The delimitation of the research explains the scope of this research. Furthermore, the research questions and the objectives of the research present the main goal of this research. Finally, the significance of the research describes the benefits of this research on specific individuals followed by the last part namely organization of the chapters which outlines each chapter.

Chapter Two, the literature review, provides some explanations regarding the issue that this research addresses. A review of related research is also provided in this chapter as a direct comparison. Meanwhile, Chapter Three, the research methodology, covers how this research was conducted. The design, setting, participants, and method and procedure to gather the data were explained in this chapter.

The next chapter is Chapter Four which consists of research findings and discussions. Research findings generate and show the data to be explained further. Discussions provide the thoughts and perspectives gained from this research supported with the relevant references. The last chapter is Chapter Five which is the conclusion and recommendation. This chapter is a summary of the research from the beginning until the end. It also offers recommendations for several parties.