

Quillbot As An AI-powered English Writing Assistant: An Alternative For Students to Write English

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Abstract. *Quillbot is one of the modern era technologies that many students use in learning, it is also one of the online applications to improve writing. Quillbot can help students find writing errors such as punctuation and grammar and others. The purpose of this article is to find out students' perceptions of the use of quillbot as an alternative for students in writing English. This study uses a quantitative method, to find how the use of quillbot in helping English Foreign Language (EFL) to write English. data was collected through questionnaires and interviews that have been calculated and analyzed. The results show that students have a lot of positive perceptions of the use of quillbot in improving writing, as well as found advantages in quillbot that are very helpful to students. With this paper, students are expected to be able to apply it in learning activities related to English writing thus that the resulting writing becomes better.*

Keywords: *Quillbot, online application, student perceptions*

Abstrak. Quillbot merupakan salah satu teknologi era modern yang banyak digunakan siswa dalam belajar, juga merupakan salah satu aplikasi online untuk memperbaiki tulisan. Quillbot dapat membantu siswa dalam menemukan kesalahan penulisan seperti hal nya penulisan tanda baca serta grammar dan lainnya. Tujuan artikel ini yaitu untuk mengetahui persepsi siswa terhadap penggunaan quillbot sebagai alternatif siswa dalam menulis bahasa inggris. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kuantitatif, untuk menemukan bagaimana penggunaan quillbot dalam membantu English Foreign Language (EFL) untuk menulis bahasa inggris. Data dikumpulkan melalui kuisioner serta interview yang telah dihitung dan dianalisis. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa siswa banyak memiliki persepsi yang positif terhadap penggunaan quillbot dalam memperbaiki tulisan, serta ditemukan kelebihan dalam quillbot yang sangat membantu siswa. Dengan adanya tulisan ini siswa diharapkan mampu menerapkannya dalam kegiatan pembelajaran terkait menulis bahasa inggris agar tulisan yang dihasilkan menjadi lebih baik.

Kata kunci: Quillbot, aplikasi online, persepsi siswa

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INTRODUCTION

In this modern era, many advanced technologies are created to help students in learning. Therefore, the existence of this technology becomes a utilization of things that are very much needed and cannot be avoided by students, especially in English. Learning English, especially for EFL students is difficult, especially in terms of writing according to (Maharani, 2018) writing is a difficult ability. This is also supported by the opinion of (Faller, 2018) who says that writing is a difficult task that involves many language and cognitive skills. Students also often consider writing as one of the most challenging aspects of learning a new language because it requires sophisticated abilities to put thoughts and feelings into words (Meiningsih, 2021). With that, technology offers many applications that students, especially EFL students, can use as tools to help them with 4 English skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing which is often used to solve their problems in writing English.

Due to unfamiliarity with the language they are learning, EFL students often make mistakes in writing such as spelling, grammar, and punctuation unintentionally. Online grammar and spell-checking software play an important role in English language teaching and learning. The software is used when other language teaching materials are needed such as when a teacher cannot find print or online resources (Mammadova, 2019). One of its products is Quillbot. Quillbot is an AI-powered online application that can help students evaluate their writing such as paraphrasing, grammar checking, translation, plagiarism checking, summarizing, and citation generator all done automatically based on an online system. Quillbot has two types of versions: the premium version and the free version. Quillbot is also one of the alternative tools for students to help them in writing English.

The results of this analysis describe the percentage of students' perceptions of Quillbot as an alternative for students in writing English. Secondly, data from interviews will be presented as a form of theme categories in students' thoughts on Quillbot. The results show the effectiveness and alternativeness of Quillbot to students in writing English. The purpose is to find out the students' perspective on using the Quillbot application in writing and its benefits for students.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

In general, the principles of this theory are closely related to the research problem. The research in this study is expected to identify the problem clearly by following the basic principles of the underlying theory.

QuillBot is an alternative method of language teaching that combines paraphrasing and summarizing tools with AI-based language identification. According to (Dale, 2020), QuillBot is one of the most popular free paraphrasing tools. QuillBot offers a product that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to suggest paraphrases. AI methods combine several approaches to deep learning and natural language analysis. Automatically delete, add, and change words to create new sentences (Fitria 2021). Using this tool is easy. QuillBot rewrites text by typing or pasting text and clicking the paraphrase button (Kinga & Gupta, 2021).

The paraphraser feature is one of the most commonly used features in Quillbot. This is because many writers use quotations from other people's statements as the basis for their arguments, resulting in inauthentic writing. Furthermore, one of the conditions for publishing quality writing is that it is free of plagiarism. As a result, we require the assistance of a program that can rapidly modify sentences.

In the paraphrase tool, seven features are useful and give many benefits. Those features such as; 1. Standard Mode. This feature can be used to make tiny modifications to text. The text we enter seems authentic when we use this option. 2. Fluency Mode. Fluency Mode is a function that seeks to make text appear more natural by applying proper grammar according to English grammar rules. This feature merely makes minor changes to the text while retaining the original meaning; 3. Formal Mode. This feature is useful for formally formatting text. This method is the most successful mode for writing in academic situations, such as papers and articles. 4. Simple Mode. Just like its name, this mode changes the teks into the simple teks, with simple sentences. 5. Creative Mode. This feature allows you to alter the wording as much as you want. This feature affects the general context of the text, resulting in a change in the form of the text from the original. The adjustments are done by employing idioms from the original text. 6. Expand Mode. Expand mode is a function that allows the user to add words to make the text longer. 7. Shorten Mode. Through this mode, the user can cut as much text as the user want. Nonetheless, this feature preserves and does not remove the meaning of the text (Fitria 2021).

From some definitions according to experts, the author concludes that Quillbot is a sophisticated tool that is popularly used by many people, especially for EFL students who feel this tool really helps them in writing English so this tool becomes an alternative tool for students in doing their English writing. With the availability of features such as paraphrasing, summarizing, grammar checking, and plagiarism checking, students feel more fortunate with this tool, especially since this tool is easy to use and can be accessed at any time, although sometimes students feel that with paid features or called Quillbot premium, students can only access a few of all the features provided by Quillbot.

METHOD

This research was conducted using qualitative methods to find out how useful Quillbot is in helping EFL students in writing English. The data is described qualitatively based on students' experiences in using the Quillbot application. The data was taken from this study using a questionnaire distributed to respondents in the form of a Google form. Sampling is done by random sampling using quota sampling.

According to (Sugiyono, 2017), Random Sampling is the taking of sample members from a population that is carried out randomly without regard to the strata in that population. The population consists of active students whose population is very large. However, the researcher has determined 33 people to fill out a questionnaire that has been given to respondents which contains questions that the researcher has provided. The purpose of this study is to determine the effectiveness of Quillbot as an assistant in students' English writing. The researcher also investigated their perspectives on the negative and positive impacts of using the application. The questions that the researcher provided also concerned the advantages and disadvantages of Quillbot based on their experience in using Quillbot.

The research data were analyzed using percentages as the degree of one's agreement or disagreement with an object can be measured using a Likert scale to investigate their perceptions of the use and effectiveness of Quillbot as an alternative English writing tool. Each statement in the questionnaire accompanying the survey will be scored based on how strongly the respondent agrees or disagrees with the statement, using the following scale: (1) strongly agree = 5, (2) agree = 4, (3) neutral = 3, (4) disagree = 2, and (5) strongly disagree = 1. Positive statements are given positive values. Conversely, negative statements are given negative values (Azhuri et al., 2021).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data from this research were collected by analyzed the answers from the questionnaires and interview that had been answered by the students. The results from this research show student's perspective regarding Quillbot as their supporting tool in writing English.

Table.1 shows the data results acquired by computing the percentage of total student responses. The data results are divided into five sections based on the responses provided by students, and then the results are grouped based on the value provided. These responses are divided into five categories: strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), neutral (3), agree (4), and strongly agree (5)..

Tabel.1 Students' Perceptions of Quillbot

No	Statement Of Questionnaire	1	2	3	4	5
1	Quillbot is easy to use	0%	0%	15,2%	51,5%	33,3%
2	Quillbot is very effective for use by anyone	0%	0%	30,3%	42,4%	27,3%
3	Quillbot is easily accessible anywhere and anytime	0%	12,1%	6,1%	39,4%	42,4%
4	Quillbot is more convenient to use than similar websites	0%	3%	54,5%	18,2%	24,2%
5	You are sometimes worried about the security of the results provided by quillbot.	0%	9,1%	30,3%	36,4%	24,2%
6	Quillbot has limitations in helping us write	0%	3%	39,4%	45,4%	12,1%
7	The features in Quillbot really support the smoothness of your activities in writing.	0%	0%	24,2%	54,5%	21,2%

8	Quillbot really helps you improve your paraphrasing.	0%	3%	33,3%	45,5%	18,2%
9	Quillbot helps you check your writing for word, grammar, and punctuation errors.	0%	3%	21,2%	45,5%	30,3%
10	Quillbot really helps you with your summarizing skills.	3%	0%	45,5%	48,5%	3%
11	Quillbot is very accurate, detailed, and precise in identifying writing errors	0%	3%	51,5%	39,4%	6,1%
12	Quillbot can help you reduce grammar and punctuation errors in your writing.	0%	3%	33,3%	45,5%	18,2%
13	If you receive corrected writing from Quillbot, will the corrections be checked again before copying?	0%	0%	27,3%	42,2%	30,3%

The majority of students 'strongly agree' and 'agree' with the questions in the questionnaires. The results of the questionnaires showed a positive opinion of Quillbot. The students believe that Quillbot is a useful tool for automated writing evaluation, it's because Quillbot assists students in identifying grammatical errors and helps them to paraphrase sentences, and the students also consider that Quillbot is simple and effective to use.

According to the previous study by (Nurmayanti & Suryadi, 2023) in their journal article, they concluded that Quillbot makes it simple for students to create scientific articles, especially for those who still struggle with English; it is also simple to learn and use. Students occasionally may have difficult assignments to accomplish and might utilize these resources to boost their confidence.

In addition to Questioners, the researcher employed the interview approach to ask various questions about the benefits or advantages that students receive when they use Quillbot. The researcher did the interview face to face with the students in order to obtain clear information. Table 2 summarizes the interview findings from the interview.

The interview transcription is shown in Table.2 this table is divided into 6 questions. These 6 questions were chosen from the interview transcript to understand how the students' opinions about Quillbot's advantages and benefits.

Tabel. 2 Students' Interview

No	Theme Categories	Transcription of Students' Interview
1	Quillbot features make writing better	<p>Personally, I use Quillbot a little better, because using Quillbot gives changes to my writing to be a little better. (NL)</p> <p>I think Quillbot makes writing better than the previous writing because after checking Quillbot can find out the grammar mistakes I used before. (EMS)</p> <p>The features in Quillbot make my writing better, such as in paraphrasing writing there are features to improve paraphrasing writing even better. (TK)</p> <p>Yes, quillbot features make writing better, because some features in Quillbot are intended to correct writing errors. (S)</p> <p>I think Quillbot features make my writing better, I feel very helped by using paraphrasing in Quillbot. (NA)</p>
2	Quillbot's features help with writing activities	<p>I think it helps a little with fluency if needed, but sometimes we have to be more careful in checking the paraphrased results. (LN)</p> <p>Quite helpful in writing fluency, such as by using the features in Quillbot can help us in checking many things such as paraphrasing, and grammar but to check plagiarism and more on grammar. (GN)</p>

- Personally, Quillbot is very helpful. Because with this feature I can do several things in writing. (NJ)
- In my opinion, the features in Quillbot are quite helpful in my writing activities. (WM)
- With Quillbot, it can help me write both by paraphrasing and helping to check my messy grammar. (JD)
- 3 Quillbot is more comfortable to use Yes, because quillbot display is more simple. (SA)
- Yes, because compared to other websites quillbot has fewer ads. (VZ)
- No, because they are limited to paraphrased sentences. (KA)
- 4 Quillbot helps identify errors in punctuation, and grammar Yes, using Quillbot can help identify grammar in writing. (KF)
- Yes, because the features in Quillbot actually show punctuation and grammar errors, making it easier to correct them. (N)
- I think the advantage of using Quillbot is that it can help find errors in grammar. (WP)
- Personally, Quillbot is advantageous to be able to help me in finding incorrect and lacking punctuation. (D)
- 5 Quillbot for the free version has limited features to use I think when we want to paraphrase our sentence, there are seven features available in Paraphraser mode, but only two are free to use. If we want to try the other features, we must purchase the

	premium version; therefore, I just use the free features. (AD)
	There are some limitations to the Quillbot features if we are using the free version, for example the limitations of words. The second limitations is, we only can use the Quillbot features for 5 times in one day. (AMD)
6	<p>Quillbot provides benefits for writing</p> <p>I think there are many benefits that i get from Quillbot, such as paraphrasing sentences, and checking grammar and punctuation. (RN)</p> <p>I think paraphrasing, and identifying grammatical errors are the benefits that i get from Quillbot. (NR)</p> <p>Personally, there's a lot benefits from Quillbot, one of them is the paraphrase quotations, checking errors in grammar and also it helps me to making resume. (PN)</p>

The analysis of the students' interviews shows that some students stated that Quillbot gives a lot of advantages to them. Otherwise, at the same time, several students have stated that Quillbot has weaknesses. It's because sometimes the sentence produced by the Quillbot doesn't make sense, and because of that they must cross-check. This phenomenon is a common thing faced in several tools too. It's because the machine has limitations in doing something because of that we as a human have to do the cross-check. Therefore, Quillbot gives us a good impact, it can say that Quillbot helps us with the problem in English. Quillbot helps us to do our tasks. But Quillbot also makes paid features to access more about grammar checking, paraphrasing, and other features so that it becomes an obstacle for students to access the limited Quillbot.

Based on previous studies (Fitria, 2021) "QuillBot as an online tool: A student's alternative to paraphrasing and rewriting written English," Presents the results that Quillbot is a valuable tool for students to paraphrase or rewrite written English. Another article journal

research entitled "The QuillBot Grammar Checker: Is it a Friend or Foe of ESL Student Writers?" (Chui, 2022) explains that Quillbot avoids plagiarism successfully by repeating elements of grammar and other sources. From these 2 previous studies, the researchers give conclusions that Quillbot has significant advantages when creating a written English

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Quillbot is a very important tool used by students in learning English. Using Quillbot can make it easier for students to write something, as well as facilitate those who are still having difficulty with English. In addition to making it easier for students to write, the use of Quillbot is easy to understand and easy to access anytime and anywhere. In this study, there are several questions asked of students who use Quillbot to find out the views of these students when using Quillbot. Many of the students gave positive responses to the use of Quillbot as a tool for English Foreign Language (EFL) in helping students improve their English writing skills. In its use, students find many advantages in Quillbot such as being able to paraphrase sentences, find grammar and punctuation errors, and several other things even though they only use the free or unpaid version. With Quillbot they can minimize errors in writing and can improve their writing skills from the features contained in Quillbot. Quillbot as an AI power English writing assistant is an effective AI to use based on the many advantages found by the students.

Due to limitations in the use of existing features in the free version, it is recommended that users can use the premium version by paying a predetermined fee in order to use existing features without restrictions. With this Quillbot, it is hoped that students can train to improve their ability to write English, students can also increase their knowledge by reading several other journals related to this article which may be found new things or differences from other researchers that are not discussed by the writers in this article which still has limitations.

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