EXPLORING STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE IN USING AI TO ASSIST THEIR WRITING

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Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as an effective strategy for helping students improve their writing abilities in today's ever-evolving educational environment. Thus, this study investigates the benefits and applications of using an artificial intelligence assistant to strengthen students' writing skills. Thus, this study aims at investigating the benefits and applications of using an artificial intelligence assistant to strengthen students' writing skills. The data were obtained through observation, questionnaire, and interview. The results of the study revealed that the most commons AI used by the students are Chat GPT, QuillBot, Jenni AI, Grammarly, and StoryAI. The students used AI for different purposes such as for grammar checking, finding story line, getting ideas for the writing topic, and getting first feedback. In line with the results of this study, it can be concluded that AI can be one of the alternatives tools to foster students' writing skills.

Keywords: *students' writing, AI assistants*

Introduction

Academic and professional writing abilities are highly valued; yet many students struggle to develop these essential abilities. Researchers have studied various strategies to foster and assist student writing, including employing heuristic tools and computer-assisted training; within environmental literacy circles, SWH has proven effective at improving students' capacity to develop arguments based on evidence; when combined with green chemistry courses using these methodologies it has significantly enhanced learners' environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. Process writing was designed to start from within each student's personal world and guide his or her own creative self-expression by way of drafting and conferring, like real writers would, towards producing published works with an intended audience in mind (Campbell & Green 2006).

Recent research has highlighted the potential use of artificial intelligence (AI) for providing personalized feedback and direction to student writers. AI-powered writing assistants are capable of offering instantaneous and tailored guidance by assessing student work's content, structure, grammar and style;

offering personalized suggestions for improvement as they arise. These approaches can support the development of metacognitive skills, encourage revision and editing practices, and ultimately enhance student writing quality. This research paper seeks to explore the relationship between heuristic approaches, environmental education and AI-driven writing support systems. Ultimately, its goal is to discover new strategies that may improve students' written communication abilities in preparation for success in both academic and professional environments. Misson (2012) asserts that, in this digital era, English education may well serve to "give students textual control they need for engaging all aspects of their lives".

Development of effective writing skills is an integral component of education, enabling students to communicate their ideas clearly and concisely (Shamuganathan & Karpudewan, 2017). Process writing movement sought to begin in students' own worlds and guide that process of self-expression through drafting and conferring, just like real writers do - towards producing published works with an imagined or actual target audience (Campbell & Green 2006).

Recent innovations in artificial intelligence (AI) assistants have presented numerous opportunities to foster students' writing abilities. Writing skills are a cornerstone of education, as they enable students to articulate their thoughts more lucidly (Shamuganathan & Karpudewan 2017). Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools have opened up new opportunities for improving students' writing abilities. Science Writing Heuristic (SWH), has proven itself an effective approach for developing writing abilities across many fields including biology (Shamuganathan & Karpudewan, 2017). This framework facilitates student participation in reflective writing processes, helping them better comprehend scientific topics while providing them with effective ways to convey their discoveries and communicate them to others. Studies have demonstrated that including metacognitive assistance and peer cooperation into instruction can significantly increase students' environmental literacy. Communicating effectively is key component of environmental literacy. Janks (2010) might recognize this evolution within this tradition: she discusses the shift from critical reading to critical writing as part of this transition: "a critical approach to writing allows us to explore ways in which multimodal texts may be revised; it enables us to think creatively and critically Reformat texts, alter words and reinvent language

AI assistants can be an invaluable asset during this step by offering personalized feedback, improvement suggestions, and guidance throughout the writing process. Artificial Intelligence-powered

solutions are capable of analyzing students' writing, identifying areas that need improvement, and offering specific recommendations to strengthen their skills. AI-driven platforms also make the incorporation of peer collaboration and metacognitive methods easier, providing students with ample opportunity to participate in meaningful discussions about their writing as well as introspection on its contents. By employing AI assistants to assist their students with honing their writing abilities, educators can empower students to become more self-assured and skilled communicators - thus further increasing academic and professional achievements.

An advantage of AI assistants in writing teaching is their ability to offer instant and tailored feedback. AI assistants offer timely, thorough suggestions for improvement across grammar, syntax, organization and general coherence compared to the time and resource constraints imposed by traditional instructor evaluation. Offering prompt and specific comments can aid students in recognizing and correcting areas of weakness in their writing, ultimately strengthening their skills as writers. Artificially intelligent writing helpers may promote metacognitive abilities by prompting students to reflect upon their writing process and make more informed choices regarding edits (Dong 2023). This source has been cited in support of this argument.

By offering suggestions and explanations, writing assistants can assist students in comprehending the rationale for their recommendations, leading to deeper comprehension of effective writing strategies while increasing autonomy among self-directed learners. Research has already demonstrated the promise of AI writing assistants in improving students' writing abilities - studies have revealed significant gains in writing quality, organization, clarity as well as increased student engagement and motivation thanks to using AI assistants (Shamuganathan & Karpudewan 2017 and Adler et al 2015).

Methods

This study was conducted in one of the universities in Majalengka – West Java Province. Participants involved in this study were five students in the second semester who were joining writing class. Data collection techniques were used to collect the fact for this study, namely observation, open - ended questionnaire, and interview. Open - ended questionnaire were used to obtained the data related to AI that used by the students in assisting their writing. Observation and interview were employed to gain a clear portrait of the students' experience (Creswell, 2016) related to the purpose of using AI.

Findings and Discussion

Findings

Based on observation and questionnaire result, the students frequently utilize artificial intelligence (AI) in writing to improve the quality of teaching and learning such as Chat GPT, StoryAI, Quillbot, Grammarly, and Jenny AI. In addition, the students use AI for assisting their writing such as for grammar checking, finding story line, getting ideas for the writing topic, and getting first feedback The data from the questionnaire can be seen in the following table.

AI	Number of Students who use AI	Percentage (%)
Chat GPT	5/5	100%
StoryAI	3/5	60%
Quillbot	4/5	80%
Grammarly	4/5	80%
JennyAI	4/5	80%

The data on the table above shows that there was five AI that used by the students in assisting their writing draft. Revealing the result from the interview, Chat GPT was used by all participants because it is easy to use. The data can be seen in the following excerpt:

Participant 1 (P1) : Chat GPT is easy to use. I can use it to search ideas, build arguments, help find and discussion content.

Further, 80% of the students used Quillbot, Grammarly, and Jenny AI for asking feedback, for checking grammar, and for helping them to find ideas. These AI assist in detecting and rectifying errors, enhancing sentence structure, and improving overall readability. AI writing aides such as ChatGPT and Jenny AI assist in creating ideas, providing writing prompts, and making suggestions for improvements. The data can be seen in the following excerpts:

P2: Quillbot allows me to identify errors, enhance sentence structures and enhance readability in my writing.

P4: I use JennyAI to find the ideas, then I can develop the ideas by my own.

P3: Grammarly help me a lot, I can revise my writing before submitting the draft by using Grammarly.

In addition, StoryAI was used by 60% of the participant because some the participants mentioned that this AI is as easy as others AI.

P5: The features of StoryAI are not as complete and easy as others common AI that I generally use.

Discussion

Artificial intelligence (AI) is used in writing education to optimize writing process and raise output quality. Thus, AI should be introduced to the students. This is in line with Misson (2012) who asserts that, in this digital era, English education may well serve to "give students textual control they need for engaging all aspects of their lives". AI-driven applications like Chat GPT, StoryAI, Quillbot, and Jenny AI provide grammar and style analysis that allows students to identify errors, enhance sentence structures and enhance readability. Thus, by using AI significant gains in writing quality, organization, clarity as well as increased student engagement and motivation thanks to using AI assistants (Shamuganathan & Karpudewan 2017 and Adler et al 2015).

Plagiarism detection programs such as Turnitin ensure the authenticity of students' work by comparing it against extensive databases, while AI writing aides like ChatGPT assist students by creating ideas, providing writing prompts, and suggesting enhancements. In addition, process writing movement sought to begin in students' own worlds and guide that process of self-expression through drafting and conferring, just like real writers do - towards producing published works with an imagined or actual target audience (Campbell & Green 2006). Thus, as teachers, we have to guide the students on how to use AI by considering the authenticity and ethic.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence (AI) plays a significant role in improving writing processes for both instructors and students in writing classes. AI simplifies and expedites the writing process by employing tools like Chat GPT, Story AI, Quillbot and Jenny AI for grammar or style analysis, Turnitin plagiarism identification as well as AI writing helpers like ChatGPT for idea generation and improving written material. Personalized learning platforms, automated feedback systems and AI-powered translation tools all enhance student

support by customizing instruction to meet individual student needs, providing immediate feedback and helping overcome language hurdles. Interactive learning platforms and research help tools enhance the student-learner experience by making learning more engaging and efficient. AI also enhances students' and lecturers' abilities by improving writing training effectiveness, customization, and availability. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a revolutionary writing aid that dramatically simplifies and enhances the writing process, offering comprehensive assistance and enhancement. AI-powered software like Grammarly and ProWritingAid aid students in improving their grammar, style and readability. Turnitin offers plagiarism detection systems to guarantee the authenticity of their work, while AI writing helpers such as ChatGPT help in brainstorming ideas and providing helpful prompts and suggestions for writing. Individualized learning platforms tailor writing tasks to individual requirements, while automated feedback systems offer instant and comprehensive evaluations for continuous progress. AI translation tools offer support to students who speak multiple languages, while research aids such as Research Rabbit make collecting and organizing research materials simpler and more efficient for students. By employing these artificial intelligence (AI) tools in learning sessions, the process becomes more efficient, interesting, and successful allowing students to develop writing skills more quickly with deeper comprehension.

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