



Students' Perception of Using Perplexity Application in Writing Skills at English Department

**Roisatul Hasanah^{1*}, Ulfa Wulan Agustina², Nurul Afidah³, Luluk Choirun Nisak Nur⁴,
Akhmad Kanzul Fikri⁵**

^{1,2,3,4}English Department, Universitas KH. A. Wahab Hasbullah

*Email: roisattulkhasanah04@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine Unwaha students' perception of using the perplexity application in their writing skills. The respondents of this research were 24 students of English Department 5 term at KH. A. Wahab Hasbullah University, Jombang. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative using triangulation in 3 stages, namely data reduction, data display, and conclusion. On the first day, students are introduced to the Perplexity application and asked to use Perplexity in learning writing skills. On the second day, students were asked to fill out questionnaires and interviews to collect data related to student perceptions through the Perplexity application in writing skills. The results of student responses stated that 74.8% of students responded well to the presence of perplexity in learning writing skills. This shows that perplexity has had a positive impact on students. Perplexity is considered a supporter in learning writing skills.

Keywords: Student Perception; Perplexity.AI; Writing skill

INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the most significant branch of computer science, which deals with creating systems and machines that can perform tasks typically done by people, such as reasoning, decision-making, and problem-solving. As a subfield of computer science, artificial intelligence (AI) is based on the development of computer programs capable of performing tasks that are attributed to human intelligence. Examples of such tasks are learning, perception, problem-solving, language understanding, and logical reasoning. Artificial intelligence (AI) has found numerous applications in the contemporary world, being widely adopted for personal assistance, self-driving cars, among others. The evolution of AI is occurring rapidly. Science fiction occasionally shows AI as a human-like robot Mohammed (2019).

Writing is one of the four language skills that students encounter when learning English. Writing is a key language skill used for communicating with others; it is a method of expressing language in written form Asiah et al.,(2020). Writing serves as a mode of communication; developing proficiency in it is important. This skill allows individuals, particularly students, to articulate their ideas, emotions, and experiences at a specific time and in a written context. Writing can be described as a means of conveying thoughts through written text. According to Kartawijaya (2018), Writing is not a natural skill because it cannot be acquired automatically or without effort. This statement means that writing is not an instinctive ability, but requires learning and practice to develop. Unlike skills that humans may develop naturally over time, writing requires conscious effort and training to master. Writing is a complex process because it involves more than just producing written words; it encompasses the procedures, methods, and steps required to create the final written work. Writing requires thought and study to convey the author's ideas effectively to readers. Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded that writing is a means of communicating ideas to others. It can be using symbols, graphics, and written text. Writing skill on this study is focus on the functions of the Perplexity application include: researching material, summarizing, editing, and revising.

For students, the study period is a challenging time. One of the biggest challenges is locating educational resources that adhere to scientific norms, among other things. These challenges can hinder the process of learning and hinder the attainment of the best possible outcomes. Furthermore, not every student has easy access to reliable resources like paid databases, academic texts, and scientific publications. Here is where artificial intelligence (AI) comes into play as a creative way to support pupils while they study. Perplexity is one AI tool that can support students' learning. Perplexity in the digital age, Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a creative way to assist students in overcoming their challenges in locating scientific resources Miaschi et al.,(2021). This platform has a number of cutting-edge features that can improve learning effectiveness and efficiency, lead to a deeper comprehension, and ultimately help students perform at their best in the classroom. Perplexity.ai is an innovative AI-based learning platform designed to help students overcome difficulties in finding and understanding learning materials that comply with scientific standards. Perplexity.ai uses AI technology to search and filter information from various trusted sources, such as scientific journals, academic databases, and official websites. This helps students find material that is credible and relevant to their needs.

Previous research has revealed that student responds of using artificial intelligence (AI) technology in writing skills. According to research conducted by Linet Christilda GnanaLilly & Professor (2024), students' perceptions towards the use of artificial intelligence tools in education, the majority view AI as a useful and effective technology, and consider it important in modern education. That shows that most students have a positive attitude toward using AI in the writing class, and they find AI easy to use. In other words, students feel comfortable and supported by AI technology when learning to write. According to research conducted by Sumakul et al. (2022), Students' Perceptions of the Use of AI in a Writing Class, the majority showed positive perceptions, and participants agreed that AI was easy to use. That shows that most students consider artificial intelligence (AI) tools to be useful and effective for education, and they believe AI plays an important role in modern education. In other words, students recognize the value and significance of AI in today's learning process.

KH. A. Wahab Hasbullah University continues to adapt to technological developments in the digital era by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support the learning process. In the English Education study program, the use of AI is one of the innovations to improve skills and learning, especially in writing skills. For this reason, Perplexity is used to help students organize their writing in a clear way, correct grammar and spelling mistakes, and provide recommendations for relevant reference sources. The use of Perplexity is expected to get a good response from students and to improve their writing skills and learning motivation. This research focuses on finding out students' responses to using Perplexity in their writing skill learning.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a triangulation design to obtain more accurate results. This design helps the researcher to check the validity of data collected from two different data collection methods at the same time. The research instruments used are questionnaires and interviews were conducted using techniques structured interview. The subjects of this study are English department students at KH. A. Wahab Hasbullah University, with a total of 24 students. Data analysis in this research used qualitative descriptive analysis techniques. Measurement of score data from the questionnaire is calculated by finding the mean of the questionnaire data result. With the categories Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD).

Table 1. Assessment weights

Answer	Code	Score	
		Positive Question	Negative Question
Strongly Agree	SA	4	1
Agree	A	3	2
Disagree	D	2	3
Strongly Disagree	SD	1	4

The total percentage of the questionnaire is expressed in the form of assessment result categories. The categories of assessment results are used to determine student perception through perplexity application in writing skills. Determining the qualitative average percentage category using the indicators in Table 2.

Table 2. Questionnaire assessment categories

Percentage Interval	Categories
86% - 100%	Very Good
85% - 70%	Good
69% - 54%	Not Bad
53% - 38%	Bad

The procedure is as follows: a) In the implementation phase, the researcher introduces Perplexity to the students and directs them to access the Perplexity website through the available devices. b) Next, the students are asked to practice using Perplexity independently to improve their writing skills. c) After the students use Perplexity, the researcher collects data using questionnaires and interviews containing questions or statements for the students. The questionnaire consists of 20 questions in paper form, and the interviews are conducted directly with 5 questions answered by 24 students. Data are collected through the questionnaire responses and interviews. d) Then, in the data analysis phase, the researcher analyzes the data through data reduction, data display, and data verification processes.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the results of the study, there are 2 instruments used in data collection, namely the questionnaire and the interview.

- Questionnaire

Table 1. Questionnaire results regarding Perplexity accessibility.

No	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Score (%)	Mean
1.	I have a Perplexity account	6	16	2	0	76	6,08
2.	Perplexity is easy to use	11	13	0	0	83	6,08
3.	I can access Perplexity anytime and anywhere	13	10	1	0	84	6,08
4.	Perplexity features are very easy to use, so I really enjoy using Perplexity	7	16	1	0	78	6,08
5.	I feel happy and satisfied while using perplexity	5	15	4	0	73	6,08
6.	Perplexity helps me use my time as efficiently as possible	4	18	2	0	74	6,08
	Total					468	78

Table 2. Questionnaire results regarding functionality.

No	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Score	Mean
1.	I get writing skills material from perplexity	3	20	1	0	74	5,92
2.	It's easier for me to complete college assignments using Perplexity	6	15	3	0	75	6
3.	Perplexity helps me improve my writing skills	4	17	0	1	72	5,76
4.	Perplexity helps me seek new knowledge	10	12	2	0	80	6,4
5.	I understand that Perplexity has contributed to learning writing skills	3	18	3	0	72	5,76
6.	I get a positive impact from learning writing skills through perplexity	5	16	3	0	74	5,92
7.	Perplexity is very interesting and fun to use in learning	8	14	1	0	79	6,32
8.	Perplexity can help me improve my understanding and knowledge of a material	10	12	2	0	80	6,4
9.	Using perplexity can increase my learning productivity to the maximum	4	16	4	0	72	5,76
10.	Using perplexity can increase my creativity in learning writing skills	4	19	1	0	75	6
11.	I'm worried about the risks of using	5	10	9	0	52	4,16

	perplexity, such as plagiarism						
12.	I worry about over-reliance on perplexity	4	10	9	1	55	4,4
13.	I doubt the accuracy of the information source due to perplexity	1	4	16	3	69	5,52
14.	The use of perplexity has had a negative impact on my learning of writing skills	1	2	15	6	74	5,92
	Total					1003	71,6

Table 3. Overall results of students' perception

Indicator	Mean	Category
Accessibility	78	Good
Functionality	71,6	Good
Total	74,8	Good

Based on the table, the results of the response of the average score of student questionnaires obtained 74,8% included in the category good. This means that the results of student responses stated that the majority of students gave positive responses to the use of Perplexity in their writing skills.

- Interview

The results of interviews with resource persons based on the 5 questions that have been given:

- In your opinion, what influence does Perplexity have on learning writing skills?

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based applications like Perplexity has a positive impact on improving students' writing skills. Research shows that by using Perplexity, students' ability to write explanatory texts improves significantly in terms of grammar, spelling, and writing structure. Perplexity helps students organize their writing systematically, provides automatic corrections, and offers relevant references, making the writing process easier and more effective. Therefore, Perplexity is an effective tool to support the development of writing skills in education.

- Are there any particular concerns about using Perplexity?

The use of Perplexity has a positive impact and makes it easier for students to develop their writing skills. This application helps students organize their writing more systematically, provides automatic corrections, and offers references that can enrich the content of their work. As a result, the writing learning process becomes more efficient and enjoyable. However, despite the many benefits, some students still have doubts about the accuracy and reliability of the sources provided by Perplexity, so they remain cautious when using the information for their writing assignments.

- Are you satisfied with your experience using perplexity?

The majority of them feel very satisfied when using Perplexity because this application makes it easier to find information and helps organize writing in a more structured way. In addition, Perplexity provides a more interactive and effective learning experience, which motivates students to continuously develop their writing skills.

- What are your problems when using Perplexity?

The majority of students do not experience problems when using Perplexity because the application can be accessed anytime and anywhere, providing flexibility in the learning process. This easy access allows students to study independently according to their preferred time and place. However, some students complain about issues mainly related to internet connectivity, as Perplexity cannot be used without a stable internet connection. This becomes an obstacle for some students who have limited network access, reducing the effectiveness of using the application to support writing learning.

- Does Perplexity affect your productivity or interest, and enthusiasm for learning?

The use of Perplexity has a significant positive impact on students' productivity and enthusiasm for learning. By providing fast, structured, and reliable information, Perplexity helps students save time and focus more on their academic tasks, especially in writing and research. The easy access to relevant data increases their motivation and interest in learning, as they can independently explore topics and receive immediate feedback.

Discussion

Based on the data analysis results, the questionnaire showed that 74.8% in the good category. It can be concluded that the Perplexity application is one of the AI applications that has a positive impact on students' writing skills. The findings suggest that students respond positively to the use of AI in writing skills. This was supported by Sumakul et al., (2022), who stated that participant showed positive perceptions towards the use of AI technology in their writing class, the AI used could help them understand the theoretical concepts, assist them during the writing process, and help them learn the grammar and vocabulary items in their writing.

Observations conducted by the researcher showed that most students responded well to the use of Perplexity in learning their writing skills. Even though there are some of them who do not respond well to the use of Perplexity in learning their writing skills, they are still doubtful about using Perplexity in their writing skills. Although the use of the Perplexity application provided benefits, several obstacles were identified during the study. One of the primary barriers was limited internet access; without internet, the students cannot access the AI tools, including the Perplexity application. On the plus side, AI tools have made studying simpler and more available by providing students with a selection of tools for various academic purposes. However, this also becomes one of the students' concerns that they fear dependency, which can reduce their ability to write independently. Research by Linet Christilda GnanaLilly & Professor (2024) also noted that using AI technologies can be problematic too, since students will become more dependent on them and lose their ability to think independently.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of discussions in research conducted by researcher regarding students' perception through Perplexity application in writing skills of UNWAHA students by taking 24 respondents from the all-junior students of English department, it can be concluded that the results of the questionnaire show 74.8% in the good category, which means that most of them responded well to the use of Perplexity in learning their writing skills. The data also shows that they are very satisfied and enjoy using Perplexity. Even though some of them do not respond well to the use of Perplexity in learning their writing skills, they are still doubtful about using Perplexity in their writing skills. The results of the interviews showed that most of them gave a positive response to the use of Perplexity; they said that Perplexity influenced their writing skills. Besides that, Perplexity is very easy to access; it can be accessed anytime and anywhere as long as there is internet. Some of them also stated that there was a little doubt about the accuracy of the source of perplexity, and they said that the problem with using Perplexity was the internet; they could not access Perplexity without the internet.

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