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STRENGTHS AND DRAWBACKS OF THE UTILIZATION OF SPELLING AND GRAMMAR CHECKER TOOLS: THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

One of the most challenging English language skills to master is writing vocabulary. Writing requires simultaneous cognitive and physical effort, which puts pupils trying to learn the skill at an issue. A study conducted by Chan (2023) reveals that the availability of AI-driven tools such as paraphrasing software, essay mills, and others has made it easier for learners to commit copyright infringement and produce authentic content. Consequently, educators must identify and deal with more complex instances of academic misconduct and challenges that need to be recognized. This type of artificial intelligence may potentially affect students writing skills with ongoing advancements in technology.

The syntax of English monitors has grown more and more common in Japan. Students could use mechanical instruments for translation to change the spoken language of their written work from the original (L1) to the intended phrase to finish a challenging assignment. AI-KAKU, an internet writing instrument, aids these students in writing in English. Instructors who teach language perceive these Rather than learning alone, students can use these resources to acquire English (Gayed et al.,2022). Additionally, given the circumstances in Indonesia, there have been problems that children could become overly reliant on these devices, impeding their ability to think critically and address problems (Marzuki et al., 2023).

In comparison, South Koreans utilized AI grammar and checker tools, which prompted students to voice their concerns about the clarity of explanations provided. The visual representation of an explanation could significantly influence a user's decision-making process. Recent studies suggest that the use of AI tools for collaborative writing, such as Grammarly and Quillbot, may alter users' perspectives and the information presented in the text, potentially resulting in an unbalanced outcome. Non-native English speakers and students, particularly those with limited language proficiency or those who heavily rely on analytical findings, may be particularly concerned as their dependence on such tools could lead to over-reliance (Kim, 2023).

One research analyzed inside the Philippines by Obsioma (2021), Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan established that most of the Versions of Grammarly needed to be more correct due to software bugs. Specifically, Grammarly struggled with managing regional and specialist jargon, and it needed help comprehending the substance and context of various presentations. Although other versions were grammatically correct, they were deemed inappropriate for the specific circumstances. These findings are consistent with the investigation of Nova (2017), which identified a critical weakness in the Grammarly program. Nova highlighted the program's inability to consider context and evaluate content created by English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students for academic purposes

The researcher is also experienced in Davao Del Norte, where students often submit written assignments in English, many express concerns about their English proficiency, primarily due to limited vocabulary. Consequently, they find internet grammar and spelling checkers helpful for correcting errors. However, discrepancies arise when comparing spoken language to the output of these tools, and not all suggestions are relevant. A senior high school adviser also noted students using these programs for grammar checking. She observed differences between in-class writing and digitally submitted homework assignments.

Chapter 2
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of the literature relevant to the research. It is based on the following subheadings: Grammar and Spelling checker tools, Experiences of Students on Grammar and Spelling checker tools, Future Directions and Implications for Teaching Practice.

Grammar and Spelling Checker Tools

The integration of spelling and grammar checker tools into word processing applications like Microsoft Word has greatly simplified the process of creating and managing documents. Utilizing a word processor enables users to identify and highlight spelling errors, problems, or mistakes, and suggests potential fixes. However, the spell checker is often perceived primarily as a tool for editing and rewriting rather than offering constructive advice (Aladwan, 2019).

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The Grammar and Spelling Checker is a widely used application that instantly detects spelling and grammar mistakes inside an entire paragraph or sentence. This tool focuses on analyzing and correcting sentence structure, improper word usage, typographical errors, and other faults found in printed documents, with the intention of assisting in recognizing and resolving various writing problems. Recent trends indicate a notable increase in the application of this specific method (Haleem et al, 2022).

Additionally, the application of automatic grammar and spelling checks has become more and more important in many people's daily lives. These tools employ methods such as insertion, deletion, permutation methods, and substitution (Hofmann and Goslin, 2022). Language and written expression are crucial components of all written works, and several online resources offer grammar and spelling checkers to enhance writing quality. On the other hand, Rao et al. (2019) claim that there is a developing pattern of pupils at all academic levels becoming more and more popular with these platforms.

Furthermore, Hladek (2020) presents a careful analysis of the different approaches to Automated Spelling Correction (ASC) developed between 1991 and 2019. The study directly refers to the increasing language efficiency in turned-in outputs by means of Grammar and Spelling Checker tools, therefore allowing students to produce error-free written outputs. The ability of these AI writing tools to save manual labor will allow students to learn over time from the provided inputs, therefore personalizing to their needs. The Grammar and Spelling Checker tools will help the students to raise their writing capacity.

Moreover, there are various types of spell and grammar checkers accessible to everyone, including students who require assistance with sentence development frameworks. Some popular options include QuillBot, Grammarly, LanguageTool, Grammar Check, Scribens, and ProWritingAid (Caulfield, 2022). Among these, Grammarly stands out as one of the most popular tools due to its accessibility and availability. Furthermore, Grammarly offers several services, including proofreading for punctuation marks, vocabulary, and incorrect spelling (Halim, 2022).

A study conducted by McCarthy et al. (2019) emphasizes the growing necessity for comprehensive grammar correction among students, including both English language learners and non-learners, as it provides additional assistance for study beyond what schools typically offer. Utilizing self-access tools like internet grammar checkers is highlighted as one solution to this issue. Language scanners are able to detect and fix mistakes in language. Language scanners, capable of detecting and

Chapter 3
METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the methods and techniques used in gathering all the date needed for this study This includes the research design, research participants, role of the research, data sources, data gathering procedure, data analysis, the trustworthiness of the study, ethical considerations and the role of the researcher.

Research Design

This research is qualitative in nature specifically phenomenology, as explained by Creswell and Poth (2016), aimed at revealing the underlying nature of observed phenomena as the researcher closely investigated and scrutinized the personal accounts of the concerned participants. This research adopted a phenomenological perspective. The ultimate goal was to learn how students felt about the use of checks in their writing processes.

The researcher conducted qualitative research to collect the necessary data, which involved structured, semi-structured, or unstructured interviews and thus showed that they captured the various perspectives of their participants. Therefore, this research aimed to obtain reports following in-depth interviews with students about their interactions with such tools.

The phenomenological approach was employed in this study to explore the lived experiences of students and the challenges they faced when using checker tools in writing. This research was entirely based on qualitative methodology, allowing it to delve into the details of students' experiences with their behavior and the changes they could bring to them (Creswell & Poth, 2016). Teachers from these mentions defined qualitative research by focusing on canvassing societal issues or personal experiences with strong descriptions to give the reader the full scope of what was under study.

In this study, the approach was employed to explore the lived experiences of the students and insights they can share to others in utilizing the grammar and spelling checker tools in writing. By focusing on students' personal narratives, this research aimed to uncover their perceptions and insights as Creswell and Poth (2016) suggests, qualitative approach is particularly useful in capturing detailed insights into individual experiences.

Research Participants

Participants were the 14 senior high school students from the chosen private schools in Tagum City, Davao del Norte. A qualitative work involving 14 participants was conducted using the selected method of sampling. The above number adhered to the guidelines of Creswell (2013) as cited by Iii & Hagstrom-Schmidt (2022), indicating a range of three to fifteen participants when employing phenomenological studies. It was deemed sufficient to obtain comprehensive insights into participants' experiences.

Purposive sampling was utilized and the researcher selected the subjects according to their specific attributes (Dudovskiy, 2019; Arikunto, 2010). This proved to be an optimal possibility for the investigation's precision, as the participants had relevant attributes connected to the topic of research, which correlated

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with the aims of the investigation. This approach effectively referred to the people who could address the subject by using spelling or grammar checkers in their academic writing.

As an interviewer, I conducted structured and comprehensive interviews to gather reliable and relevant data. Next, as the moderator of the focus group discussions, I carefully wrote down all the details of these interviews, accurately transported the audio or video recordings into a written format, and thoroughly analyzed the obtained data using scientific guidance.

Furthermore, the researcher noted down the transcribed conversations completely and also did the translation if needed. as someone who ensures that the interview is properly recorded the researcher meticulously documented all discussions maintaining accurate and detailed records of each session

As a transcriber, I carefully converted audio or video recordings to into written form ensuring that all information was precisely documented for analysis and validated the authenticity of written data transcription.

As the translator, I translated the responses to the standard English format and ensured that all collecting data were accurately translated to maintain clarity and coherence in the research findings.

Lastly, as the primary data analyst, thoroughly I examined and process the data collected identifying significant patterns conclusions and implications relevant to the study

Chapter 4
RESULTS

This chapter presents the result of the study about the lived experiences of senior high school students on utilizing spelling and grammar checker tools. This includes the participants' responses from the interviews conducted. From transcriptions, core ideas were identified, and themes were generated. These themes generally describe the lived experiences of senior high school students on utilizing spelling and grammar checker tools.

Strengths and Drawbacks on Utilizing Spelling and Grammar Checker Tools

From the obtained data, ideas were formed from the responses of the participants about their experiences in using spelling and grammar checker tools and drawn the following major themes: a) enhancing writing efficiency and accuracy, b) strengthening grammar and writing proficiency c) recognizing the advantages and drawbacks, d) dealing with inaccurate results, e) risk of over-reliance and reduced critical thinking.

Table 1
Major Themes and Core Ideas on the Strengths and Drawbacks of Utilizing Spelling and Grammar Checker Tools

Major Themes	Core Ideas
Enhancing Writing Efficiency and Accuracy	• improving punctuation, sentence structure, and comma placement with tools like grammarly • enhancing grammar, capitalization, spelling, and sentence construction • paraphrasing and grammar checking streamline writing quality • correcting grammar efficiently, improving text output through grammarly • generating paragraphs that improves writing
Strengthening Grammar and Writing Proficiency	• expanding vocabulary, confidence, and writing skills through regular grammar checker use • developing the ability to spot and correct subtle errors • learning grammar and writing styles • reading to improve grammar by observing conventions and formats • encouraging seeking for help to peers or teachers to enhance grammar tool familiarity
Recognizing the Advantages and Drawbacks	• acknowledges grammar tools' advantages in writing better • highlights benefits like improved grammar, vocabulary and writing • warns against over-reliance, stressing confidence in writing • cautions that over-dependency weakens independent skills • sees personal writing growth but observes peers overusing AI, affecting their critical thinking

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Risk of Over-Reliance and Reduced Critical Thinking	• hindering self-study and independent research • causing dependence and reducing learning from proofreading • impeding natural learning of grammar structure • offering convenience but risking over-reliance • providing suggestions but fostering dependency
Dealing with Inaccurate Results	• experiencing unsatisfactory information from grammar and spelling checkers occasionally • encountering inaccurate or hard-to-find results in some cases • struggling with paraphrased words not fitting well, affecting overall coherence • facing issues where intended ideas change after using grammar-checking tools

Chapter 5

DISCUSSIONS

This chapter covers the conclusions and discussions drawn from the findings of the study. As this phenomenological study is being established, its purpose is to delve deeper into utilizing spelling and grammar checker tools among Senior High School students in their written outputs. This section includes a discussion of the themes that emerged from the responses of the participants and is supported by the related literature. This chapter also includes the implications for teaching practices, recommendations for further research that the researcher draws from findings, and concluding statements.

Strengths and Drawbacks on Utilizing Spelling and Grammar Checker Tools

The senior high school students chosen as participants shared their experiences using the Grammar and Spelling Checker Tools in their written English outputs. From the gathered and analyzed data five themes were identified: a) enhancing writing efficiency and accuracy, b) strengthening grammar and writing proficiency c) recognizing the advantages and drawbacks, d) dealing with inaccurate results, e) risk of over-reliance and reduced critical thinking.

Enhancing Writing Efficiency and Accuracy

Grammarly, among other tools, plays a significant part in the development of students writing skills, enabling them to enhance their writing in numerous respects. These tools can help students improve their punctuation, sentence structure, and overall writing skills, particularly concerning comma placement. Grammarly also motivates grammatical accuracy by instantly spotting capitalization, spelling, and sentence construction mistakes.

Fitria (2023) studied the efficacy of Grammarly, a Grammar checker tool emphasizing tool effects across several writing categories, including grammar, punctuation, and overall writing abilities. Their writing correctness and fluency have improved, especially in writing essays. It also emphasized how the application can enable pupils to spot and fix grammatical issues they might have missed. Moreover, its real-time comments let students grow and learn from their faults, promoting self-awareness and enhancing writing.

Implications for Teaching Practice

The rise of grammar and spelling checker tools has paved the way for students to refine their academic writing, presenting both opportunities for learning and challenges in utilizing these writing tools. The tools enhance writing accuracy, improve efficiency, and support students in improving their written outputs and correcting errors without spending too much time. However, as much as these help students, there is also a challenge that they need to overcome: over-reliance on these tools because this may impede their learning process and limit their ability to think critically and internalize grammatical rules. Therefore, students need to be encouraged for a balanced approach where these tools should be viewed as learning aids rather than making this the sole source of their knowledge.

To the English language learners, the primary users of grammar and spelling checker tools, as they have increasingly used these tools as partners in their academic journey. This study provides valuable insight into how the participants perceived and utilized the writing tools. This research offers a deeper understanding of the benefits and drawbacks experienced by the students. However, while these tools can enhance writing accuracy, students must also exercise cautionary measures to avoid over-reliance which may hinder their ability to develop independent writing skills as well as proofreading skills.

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