

Research Article

Revealing the impact of ChatGPT towards students' writing skill: ChatGPT as a tool

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ABSTRACT

Writing is a fundamental skill in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) education, yet it presents challenges that require high levels of cognitive and linguistic proficiency. This study investigates the impact of ChatGPT, an AI-powered writing tool, on the writing skills and perceptions of university-level EFL students. Therefore, this study focuses on students' experience of using ChatGPT for writing and their perception. Using a mixed-methods approach, data were collected from 33 participants across multiple universities. The findings reveal that ChatGPT significantly enhances students' writing abilities in areas such as grammar, vocabulary, and content organization, while also reducing anxiety and increasing confidence during the writing process. Students praised ChatGPT for its accessibility, efficiency, and ability to generate ideas, yet acknowledged its limitations in accuracy, pronoun placement, and punctuation. These results align with existing theories on technology acceptance and AI's role in education, emphasizing ChatGPT's potential as a supportive tool rather than a standalone solution. The study concludes with recommendations for balancing AI use with critical thinking and human oversight to foster independent learning and sustainable writing development.

Keywords: ChatGPT; EFL Writing; AI in Education; Writing Tools; Academic Writing

1. INTRODUCTION

The acceleration of technology in the world, especially in terms of education, encourages humans to quickly adapt to the tools they make themselves. Technological advancements continue to change education for the better (Cook & Sonnenberg, 2014). The emergence of generative artificial intelligence has been recognized as an innovative force as well as the spearhead of the technological revolution. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered writing tools in English as a foreign language (EFL) classes is increasing rapidly. The study of computer science's AI aims to address cognitive issues including learning, pattern recognition, and problem-solving, which are typically connected to human intelligence (Fitria, 2021a). These tools include grammar checkers, writing aids, and programs that can create written works such as essays without human assistance. They are easy to use and effective, saving students and educators time and effort.

One of the chatbots that has innovative development of generative language models from OpenAI is ChatGPT. Artificial intelligence (AI) programs, such as ChatGPT, may provide responses in a variety of fields, such as general chat, creative writing, and scientific writing (Zebua & Katemba, 2024). ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pretrained Transformer) is used to obtain information, answer questions, or engage in virtual conversations with artificial intelligence-based systems. despite its importance, writing is often considered challenging, requiring a high level of cognitive and language skill (Yamin, 2019).

There is a growing body of research regarding the impact of AI writing aids on students' writing ability. While some studies show positive results, others highlight potential negative impacts. On the positive side, AI writing tools such as Grammarly, QuillBot, Wordtune, and Jenni have been shown to significantly improve students' writing skills (Pasenta & Chakim, 2024). These tools use advanced algorithms to identify common errors in grammar, punctuation, and syntax and provide suggestions to improve clarity and style. These tools also offer unique capabilities such as paraphrasing and sentence refinement to increase effectiveness. A study by (Fitria, 2021b) showed that the use of Grammarly improved students' grammar and punctuation. Grammarly's AI analyzes user text, providing real-time suggestions to improve grammar, spelling, punctuation, clarity, engagement, and delivery. This has the effect of turning the writing process into a learning opportunity. QuillBot, another AI tool, specializes in paraphrasing, helping students avoid plagiarism while maintaining the original meaning of their content. (Raheem et al., 2023) found that QuillBot assisted students in developing better paraphrasing skills, which is an important competency in academic writing. WordTune, on the other hand, focuses on refining and improving the tone and style of the text. A study by (Zhao, 2023) found that WordTune effectively helps students identify weaknesses in their writing, thus encouraging self-assessment and learning. The tool goes beyond simple

grammar corrections and delves into elements of writing style. Jenni is another AI-based writing assistant that provides predictive text suggestions to help users write emails, reports, articles, and other documents more efficiently.

The integration of AI technology into the educational paradigm has brought significant changes in the context of English as EFL instruction. ChatGPT demonstrated considerable capability in generating coherent contextualized content. Its application as a writing tool assists learners in grammar correction, vocabulary enrichment, and improvement of students' writing skills (Faiz et al., 2023). There was a marked improvement in sentence structure as well as a result of learners' engagement in using ChatGPT as a tool. ChatGPT can accomplish a wider range of tasks. ChatGPT accomplishes tasks by utilizing efficient design and extensive data storage to understand and interpret commands based on user requests.

ChatGPT is considered an innovative, transformative, and multifaceted AI that serves as an adaptable resource for students and faculty in dynamic learning environments (Song & Song, 2023). Students benefit from ChatGPT's ability to provide instant clarification on complex concepts, assistance with assignments, and access to a wealth of information, thus enhancing their academic journey. It promotes self-directed learning, allowing students to explore subjects at their own pace and style (Lin, 2024). In terms of faculty, ChatGPT improves teaching by automating administrative tasks, offering personalized feedback, and providing insight into student needs through data analysis. This allows faculty to focus on teaching strategies and encourages innovation when designing curriculum. ChatGPT is emerging as a valuable tool that can enrich learning experiences, improve efficiency, and prepare students to face the challenges of a rapidly evolving knowledge-based educational environment (Rasul et al., 2023). However, ChatGPT raises concerns about academic integrity and the development of critical thinking skills. It is important for educational institutions to strike a balance by providing guidance on responsible use, and emphasizing the importance of independent thinking. In addition, the integration of ChatGPT into higher education has the potential to reduce reliance on faculty and, in turn, reduce opportunities for interpersonal connections and human interaction. To assist students and improve their writing skills (Tangpermpoon, 2008). ChatGPT can perform tasks such as identifying grammatical and structural issues in their work while also offering valuable feedback. In addition, students can receive personalized guidance tailored to their unique writing style, so they can pinpoint and focus on specific areas that need improvement. ChatGPT allows computers to effectively simulate human conversations, enabling accurate responses to user questions and personalization by understanding user intent and context (Bansal et al., 2024). This opens up a wide range of possibilities for students, from learning computer programming to creating essays and tackling math problems, all of which can be achieved with the help of ChatGPT.

There are many different perceptions of the use of ChatGPT but many students find it helpful (Shoufan, 2023). ChatGPT is a tool that can help students' work, especially in writing, the time used by students in completing their assignments is more efficient in time and mind. Most students believe that using ChatGPT help them improve their writing skills. They also believe that using ChatGPT makes learning English more interesting (Fenyi & Morrison, 2023). As writing is an important aspect of education and an essential skill in the world of work, these findings are very important. ChatGPT's ability to provide personalized feedback, suggest new vocabulary and correct grammatical errors can help students improve their writing ability and increase their confidence in expressing themselves through writing (Jamshed et al., 2024). Learning a new language can be a challenging and tedious process. However, by using a Chatbot, students can interact with an AI-powered tool that offers a personalized and interactive learning experience. ChatGPT can engage students with real-life situations and help them improve their language skills in a fun and engaging way.

In previous studies, stated that integrating AI writing tools can prove beneficial in elevating the quality of EFL student writing (Marzuki et al., 2023). This means that teachers and students have widely used AI tools in writing. In addition, the study also explained that teachers agreed that AI writing tools positively improved the quality of their students' writing, specifically improving the quality of the content and organization of their writing. In another study by (Huang & Tan, 2023) stated that ChatGPT and other AI technologies can help us write better by pointing up possible mistakes, contradictions, or holes in the argument. This can assist human writers in honing their work and making sure that their material is precise, organized properly, and, to the greatest extent feasible, backed up by all relevant data. Additionally, ChatGPT can be particularly beneficial for non-native English speakers, offering assistance with grammar, sentence structure, word suggestions, and text translation.

The results of Marzuki and Huang showed significant improvements in writing skills and motivation among students who received AI-assisted instruction. There were improvements in proficiency in various aspects of writing, including organization, coherence, grammar, and vocabulary, and a variety of perspectives were demonstrated, ranging from recognition of the innovative learning role of AI and its positive influence on writing skills and motivation to concerns about contextual accuracy and over-reliance. Participants also reflected on the long-term impact and sustainability of AI-assisted teaching, emphasizing the need for continuous development and adaptation of AI tools (Mohammed, 2023). However, it is also necessary to realize that not all of these facilities have a good impact on developing some students' skills in learning, including creative writing skills. So it is necessary to have a strategy so that teachers can use more than just internet-based learning, which can be misused by students in doing assignments. Studies that are conducted by Marzuki et al. (2023) and Huang and Tan (2023) focus on what are the impact of ChatGPT on students writing without considering students' opinions towards the topic. Therefore, this study focuses on students' experience of using ChatGPT for writing and their perception.

Understanding students' perceptions of ChatGPT is crucial for effectively integrating this AI tool into educational settings. Students' attitudes toward ChatGPT significantly influence its acceptance and utilization in learning environments. Positive perceptions can lead to enhanced engagement and improved learning outcomes, while negative views may result in resistance or misuse (Acosta-Enriquez et al., 2024). Research indicates that students generally perceive ChatGPT positively, acknowledging its potential to assist with tasks such as code completion and analysis. However, concerns exist regarding over-reliance on AI, which could impede the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Therefore, comprehending students' perceptions enables educators to address these concerns, promote responsible AI use, and tailor instructional strategies that leverage ChatGPT's benefits while mitigating its drawbacks.

This article explains the impact of using ChatGPT in improving students' ability as a writing tool in the EFL domain and illuminates effective strategies that harmonize the improvement of students' writing proficiency through AI assistance. This study was also conducted to determine the students' perceptions in using ChatGPT as a tool to improve their writing skills as well as how the students use ChatGPT.

1. What is the impact of practicing ChatGPT on students' writing skills?
2. What are students' perceptions and practices of ChatGPT towards students' writing skill?

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, a mixed method of sequential explanation was carried out to determine EFL students' attitudes (Creswell & Clark, 2017). It is a research methodology that incorporates multiple methods to address research questions in an appropriate and principled manner. This research uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative which is usually called the Mix method. This research is about testing the effectiveness of ChatGPT in improving students' writing skills and students' perceptions regarding the use of ChatGPT in improving writing quality. Data was collected via questionnaires from students using ChatGPT.

The research was conducted at several universities, 23 students from University A in Surabaya, 8 students from University B, and 2 students from University C, 26 were females and 7 were males. Participants in this study had an average age of over 20, almost all of whom use AI, especially ChatGPT, to help with coursework. This study obtained 33 data from all semesters from new students to students who were working on their final assignment. The selection of participants in this study is based on several criteria, namely currently carrying out undergraduate studies at one of the universities in Surabaya and currently carrying out academic writing projects.

The instrument data in this research was adopted from several trusted sources to obtain more data. There were 2 points in this instrument, namely to determine the effectiveness of ChatGPT in improving students' writing skills and students' perceptions of its use. To test the effectiveness of ChatGPT, researchers used five Likert scale items: strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. Meanwhile, to reveal student perceptions, researchers used an open-ended questionnaire. All instruments are distributed via Google Forms. Data obtained from closed questions in the questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively using a T-test to determine the mean and standard deviation as indicators. Then Both statistics were used to examine the extent to which students' perceptions of AI.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section focuses on the findings from 23 students from various universities in Surabaya. Based on the results of the analyzed data, there are 12 main findings that illustrate the impact of using ChatGPT on students' writing skills. These findings are divided into two categories: 7 positive findings indicating the significant benefits of ChatGPT in supporting academic and writing tasks, and 5 negative findings indicating the limitations and risks that students need to be aware of in its use.

3.1 The impact of practicing ChatGPT on students writing skill

3.1.1 ChatGPT in General

Table 1. Result ChatGPT in general

Item	Mean	Std. Deviation
ChatGPT is an easily accessible digital tool	4.55	.869
ChatGPT features greatly assist in academic writing	4.21	.893
ChatGPT application boosts confidence in my writing.	3.76	1.091
ChatGPT is preferred over other apps	3.55	1.201
ChatGPT has limitations in assisting writing	3.70	1.104

Table 1 shows the use of ChatGPT to improve students' writing skills. It can be seen that ChatGPT is easy to access anywhere and anytime ($M=4.45$, $SD=.833$). Based on the data above, it can be agreed that ChatGPT is an AI that is easy to access, students can use any gadget to access it and can use any browser to access it and is easy to use anywhere and anytime. Furthermore, ChatGPT increases students' self-confidence with good and cool writing quality ($M=3.76$, $SD=1.091$). ChatGPT's writing quality can be excellent and relied on by students to do their assignments. ChatGPT is a tool to help improve language, however, it is also recommended to combine it with other learning resources, such as grammar guides, style manuals, and feedback from teachers or peers, for an approach that is more comprehensive in improving grammar in academic writing. Based on the data taken, the majority of students prefer ChatGPT over other applications because of its extraordinary flexibility and adaptability in producing contextually relevant and cohesive responses across various topics ($M=3.55$, $SD=1.201$). Despite these limitations, ChatGPT can still be a valuable tool for generating ideas, getting creative suggestions, or helping with general writing tasks. In terms of security, students still tend to be worried and afraid, this can be seen from the data ($M=3.70$, $SD=1.104$). Important security issues are often related to the potential for creating inappropriate, biased, or dangerous content. ChatGPT responses are based on patterns learned from various data on the Internet and may erroneously produce output that is deemed inappropriate or unacceptable.

3.1.2 ChatGPT in aspects of English grammar

Table 2. Result ChatGPT in aspects of English grammar

Item	Mean	Std. Deviation
ChatGPT usually uses verbs correctly, but sometimes produces incorrect forms, especially in complex contexts.	3.94	.864
ChatGPT sometimes misunderstands or uses pronouns, so the results can be ambiguous.	3.67	1.164
ChatGPT usually understands and uses verbs correctly, but sometimes produces incorrect or inconsistent forms, especially in complex contexts.	3.94	1.029

Table 2 shows ChatGPT in the grammar aspect. ChatGPT may struggle with some aspects of English grammar. Some common areas you may experience difficulty include: verb tenses, conjugation, placing pronouns, incorrect word order, difficulty with proper use of articles, and understanding punctuation. Based on the data that has been taken, it shows ($M=3.94$, $SD=.864$) ChatGPT usually shows a proficient understanding and use of verb forms in a language. However, errors and inconsistencies may occur, especially in more complex or diverse contexts. Even though it has advantages in many ways, it has limitations in the interpretation and placement of pronouns. This limitation can be manifested in ambiguity or uncertainty in pronoun references, which can affect the understanding and clarity of the message conveyed ($M=3.42$, $SD=1.119$). Although ChatGPT generally understands punctuation, it can sometimes misuse or ignore punctuation, which can result in ungrammatical or unclear sentences ($M=3.94$, $SD=1.029$). Users interacting with ChatGPT should be aware of these limitations, especially when punctuation accuracy is important, such as in formal writing or professional communications

3.2 Students' perceptions and practices of ChatGPT towards students writing skill

In this research, based on data collected from questionnaires, the author presents findings and discussion to answer the second research question regarding students' perceptions of using ChatGPT on writing skills. The results of this data are based on student experience in using ChatGPT. In this session, the researcher presented data from 5 participants who could represent the data that had been taken during the research. The 7 question items presented consist of experiences using ChatGPT in improving Writing Skills, the first question is related to familiarity of ChatGPT. Respondents said that ChatGPT is an AI that is very familiar among students, this can be proven by Participant A's answer:

"Pretty familiar as it's the most popular AI writing tool out there. I rarely use it but as far as I know, it has several stages the newest one ChatGPT uses GPT3 and GPT4 which are more advanced in analyzing language and its components, but the disadvantage is it's pricey."

This response reflects that people generally recognize ChatGPT as one of the popular AI writing tools. With millions of people who have accessed it to help in various situations and solve problems, ChatGPT has indeed become the main access for many people. the respondent highlighted that despite not using it often, she knew that ChatGPT has several versions, with the latest ones such as ChatGPT using GPT-3 and GPT-4 which are more sophisticated in analyzing the language and its components. the higher the version, the better and more accurate the results. However, the respondent also realized that one of the drawbacks is that it is expensive. it can be underlined that although ChatGPT provides an advanced and quality solution, cost considerations remain an important factor that needs to be taken into account.

The second question is about the reasons for using ChatGPT. According to all responses, respondents use ChatGPT mainly for its efficiency, ease of use, and ability to assist with academic tasks. Despite sometimes doubting its accuracy, they rely on it as a tool to save time, generate ideas, and support their learning process. Its accessibility and affordability further enhance its appeal as an academic aid. This can be proven by Participant B's answers:

"Efficient (Saves time and energy by doing a shortcut way to finish the task earlier) 2. Affordable (The free version is enough to use) 3. Convenience (Pretty easy to use, quick and fast) 4. Pretty reliable (the results are pretty good and reliable)."

The response from respondents above proves Marzuki's theory that the use of ChatGPT can save students and educators time and is easy to use, besides that ChatGPT can also help in writing with reliable results.

The third question relates to the duration of using ChatGPT in English writing. Based on the data, students have different answers regarding this question because they use it depending on their individual needs, from those who use it frequently to those who rarely use it at all. This can be shown by the response of Participant D:

"I rarely use ChatGPT but I think ChatGPT is not very helpful in my English writing because their writing is not purely using human sentences"

Responses from respondents indicated that, despite its limited use, they found ChatGPT less helpful in improving their English writing skills. This understanding stems from the perception that the writing generated by ChatGPT does not look like human writing. The responses above show that respondents felt that the language generated by ChatGPT does not fully match the way humans construct sentences, thus reducing the authenticity and naturalness of writing.

The fourth question concerns the credibility of information provided by ChatGPT. Based on the response results many users consider it moderately credible and useful for idea generation and basic writing support, they emphasize the need for critical thinking, cross-referencing, and human oversight to ensure accuracy and reliability.

"ChatGPT strives to provide accurate and reliable information for English writing based on its training data. However, it's important to cross-reference information and use critical thinking, as errors or outdated details may occasionally occur. Overall, it aims to offer credible guidance for various writing needs."

Based on the student responses above, it is clear that ChatGPT tries to provide accurate and reliable information for writing English based on practice data. However, it is important to cross-reference information and use critical thinking, as sometimes errors or outdated details can emerge. Overall, the goal is to provide a credible guide to a variety of writing needs. However, users should remain vigilant and verify the information provided by ChatGPT to ensure its correctness and accuracy. A critical approach and the use of additional sources of information remain important to ensure accurate and reliable writing results.

The fifth question relates to perceptions that ChatGPT can increase self-confidence and reduce anxiety. According to the responses show that ChatGPT affects confidence and reduces anxiety for users, especially in academic and writing-related tasks. ChatGPT has many functions such as generating ideas, simplifying tasks, and improving the quality of writing grammatically and the sharpness of arguments, which contribute to users' confidence and peace of mind. However, concerns about credibility and over-reliance highlighted the need for critical thinking and additional human effort. Overall, ChatGPT was rated as a supportive tool to increase confidence and reduce anxiety.

"Yes. When I don't know what to write in detail or what should I put on my task, I come to ChatGPT. Because it will give you points that you might be included in your writing. So that you just try to explain it more and add some references from the journal"

The responses illustrated that when they faced difficulties in deciding what details or elements to include in their assignments, they relied on ChatGPT for example to help provide points that could be included in the writing, providing useful initial guidance. However, respondents explained that this process does not end there. Respondents highlighted the role of ChatGPT as an inspirational tool that helped kick-start the writing process, but still emphasized the need to develop ideas, provide more in-depth explanations, and confirm the reliability of information through academic references.

The sixth question relates to perceptions about whether ChatGPT makes the writing process more enjoyable for students. The responses show that ChatGPT has generally made the writing process more enjoyable for most users. It provided valuable support by simplifying the task, sparking creativity, and offering tools to improve writing skills. However, some users expressed reservations about its reliability and the risk of over-dependence. Although the tool was widely liked for reducing stress and fostering confidence, there was consensus that human supervision was still needed to fine-tune and personalize the output. Overall, ChatGPT was seen as a very helpful companion in writing, making the process more accessible and enjoyable. This can be proven by the participant D's response.

"Pretty much yes because I can see many kinds of information just with a few typing. At the same time, I also know more detailed information because of advanced search engines so I can also compare my own work and the AI work after it's done."

One of the responses indicated that users felt ChatGPT provided significant benefits as it could provide a wide range of information just by writing the appropriate prompt. They saw the added value of using ChatGPT in getting information quickly and efficiently. In addition, they also revealed that the use of sophisticated search engines made it possible to obtain more detailed information.

The seventh question relates to students' overall perception when using ChatGPT. Based on the overall responses, overall satisfaction with ChatGPT was mostly positive, with users rating its ability to streamline tasks, generate ideas, and support their work. Although many rated their satisfaction high, there were concerns about over-reliance on AI, accuracy, and the need for human supervision. This can be proven by participant E's response.

"Until now ChatGPT is very effective and very helpful, depending on the person who uses it, if you can use it well then GPT chat will also provide an accurate solution."

The respondents indicated that they recognized the effectiveness of ChatGPT, however, they also stated that there were no identifiable weaknesses. The respondents also added that the way users and prompts are written as commands greatly affects the effectiveness of ChatGPT.

Based on the data results in this study, the majority of respondents felt that ChatGPT was very easy to access. Aside from being accessible through specialized apps designed for specific devices, ChatGPT can also be accessed directly through the website without requiring the installation of additional apps, thus not burdening the memory capacity of users' devices. This ease of access is one of the main advantages of ChatGPT, as it allows users from all walks of life to utilize it anytime and anywhere as long as they have an internet connection. Respondents also noted that ChatGPT is compatible with various types of browsers, so users are not limited to certain devices or operating systems. With this wide accessibility, ChatGPT becomes more inclusive and practical to support various needs, both academic and non-academic. This finding is in line with the literature (Goel, 2020) mentioning that AI-based technologies that are easily accessible tend to have higher adoption among users because they are able to reach various needs without significant technical barriers.

The second finding showed that ChatGPT made the writing process more enjoyable for most users, completing tasks, encouraging creativity, and offering tools to improve writing skills. Many students found it helpful in reducing stress and increasing confidence, although concerns about reliability and over-reliance highlighted the need for human supervision. Participant D emphasised its convenience in providing extensive information and allowing comparisons between the user and the work produced by the AI. Participants noted its effectiveness. These findings illustrate the dual nature of ChatGPT: while it enhances efficiency and creativity, over-reliance can inhibit the ability to write independently, thus requiring a balanced approach. ChatGPT's diverse features-including grammar correction, paraphrasing, idea generation, and customised feedback-allow students to refine their work effectively, making it a versatile tool. (Faiz et al., 2023) support this, describing ChatGPT as a tool that aids grammar correction, vocabulary enrichment, and improved writing skills, while emphasising the importance of critical and ethical use to balance AI support with independent development.

The third finding showed that respondents felt more confident when getting help from ChatGPT, which had a positive impact on users' confidence, especially in writing or completing academic assignments. The assistance provided by ChatGPT, such as suggestions for ideas, sentence structure, and proper use of grammar, helped respondents feel more confident in their work. In addition, ChatGPT was also able to reduce the anxiety that often arises when facing challenges in the writing process by providing clear guidance and quick solutions, so that respondents felt helped in overcoming the deadlock of ideas or doubts about the quality of their writing. However, some respondents still made adjustments or edits to the results provided by ChatGPT to ensure that it suited their personal needs and style. This finding is in line with previous research (Arly et al., 2023) mentioning that artificial intelligence-based technology can increase user self-efficacy by providing tools to support creativity and productivity. Therefore, the presence of ChatGPT not only facilitates academic tasks, but also has a positive influence on users' psychology, especially in increasing confidence during the learning and writing process.

The fourth finding suggests that although ChatGPT proved to be a valuable tool for generating ideas, providing creative suggestions, and helping with writing tasks in general, concerns about its safety still exist among users, especially students. These safety concerns often stem from ChatGPT's potential to generate biased, or malicious content as it connects to patterns learned from diverse internet data, which can sometimes lead to results that are deemed inappropriate. This is in line with previous research highlighting the ethical and security challenges posed by AI-driven tools, especially in the context of Education (Klimova et al., 2023). Despite these limitations, ChatGPT's ability to enhance creativity and facilitate writing demonstrates its potential as a supportive tool, provided that its use is accompanied by appropriate guidelines and critical supervision, as suggested by theories on responsible integration of AI in learning environments (Adel et al., 2024). Thus,

while ChatGPT offers significant utility, addressing its limitations is critical to maximizing its effectiveness and ensuring responsible use.

The fifth finding reveals that while ChatGPT generally demonstrates proficiency in understanding and using verb tenses, it still struggles in more complex aspects of grammar, including verb forms, conjugation, pronoun placement, word order, article usage, and punctuation. These inconsistencies, especially in diverse or complex contexts, indicate limitations in the AI's ability to fully understand English grammar. This is in line with (Ellis & Laporte, 2014) theory of second language acquisition, which emphasizes the importance of contextual and situational factors in mastering grammar. ChatGPT's reliance on large data sets and pattern recognition allows it to deal effectively with common grammatical structures but exposes its weaknesses in areas that require deeper linguistic understanding or contextual interpretation. These findings underscore the importance of using ChatGPT as an additional tool rather than a stand-alone solution, with human supervision remaining essential to ensure grammatical accuracy and appropriateness in complex writing tasks.

The sixth finding suggests that while ChatGPT offers many advantages, it exhibits limitations in pronoun interpretation and placement. These limitations often result in ambiguity or uncertainty in pronoun reference, which can disrupt the clarity and coherence of the messages it produces. Such problems are in line with (Bahaziq, 2016), which underlines the importance of accurate referential ties for clear communication. The inability to consistently resolve pronoun references suggests that ChatGPT's reliance on data patterns may not always capture the contextual subtleties required for effective pronoun usage. This highlights the need for critical human supervision in tasks that require precise pronoun placement, reinforcing the idea that AI tools should be used as complementary aids rather than standalone solutions in language production. These findings show that while ChatGPT offers many advantages, it has limitations in pronoun interpretation and placement. These limitations often result in ambiguity or uncertainty in pronoun reference, which can interfere with the clarity and coherence of the messages it produces. The inability to consistently resolve pronoun references suggests that ChatGPT's reliance on data patterns may not always capture the contextual subtleties required for effective pronoun usage. This highlights the need for critical human supervision in tasks that require precise pronoun placement, reinforcing the idea that AI tools should be used as complementary aids rather than standalone solutions in language production.

The Seventh finding reveals that although ChatGPT shows a general understanding of punctuation, they sometimes misuse or ignore it, leading to ungrammatical or unclear sentences. This limitation becomes particularly important in contexts where punctuation accuracy is crucial, such as in formal writing or professional communication. According to (Abdushukurova, 2024), punctuation is essential for ensuring clarity and meaning in written text, serving as a guide for reader interpretation. ChatGPT's occasional errors in this area underscore the challenges inherent to AI in mimicking human-like precision in complex linguistic tasks. These shortcomings suggest that users should exercise caution and supplement ChatGPT's output with manual proofreading and editing, emphasizing its role as a support tool and not as a complete replacement for human supervision in writing tasks.

The Eighth finding reveals that students are generally familiar with ChatGPT as a popular AI writing tool. This is supported by Participant A's response, stating that ChatGPT is widely recognized and frequently accessed to assist with various tasks and problem-solving. The participant also noted that ChatGPT has multiple versions, with the latest iterations, such as GPT-3 and GPT-4, offering more advanced capabilities in language analysis and processing. These observations align with (Kakavand et al., 2024) argument that technological familiarity and accessibility significantly influence user adoption in educational contexts. Despite its advanced features and potential for improving writing outcomes, the participant highlighted that cost remains a notable drawback, as the more sophisticated versions are often expensive. This echoes (Lee & Coughlin, 2015) Diffusion of Innovations theory, which emphasizes affordability as a critical factor in the adoption of new technologies. Thus, while ChatGPT is perceived as an advanced and reliable tool, cost considerations remain a barrier to broader usage among students.

The Ninth finding indicates that respondents primarily use ChatGPT for its efficiency, ease of use, and ability to assist with academic tasks. As highlighted by Participant B's response, he said "Efficient (Saves time and energy by doing a shortcut way to finish the task earlier) 2. Affordable (The free version is enough to use) 3. Convenience (Pretty easy to use, quick and fast) 4. Pretty reliable (the results are pretty good and reliable)." ChatGPT helps save time and energy by providing shortcuts to complete tasks, is affordable due to its free version, and is easy, fast, and relatively reliable. These characteristics make ChatGPT an appealing tool for supporting the learning process. Despite occasional doubts about its accuracy, respondents acknowledge its value in generating ideas and aiding academic writing. This supports Marzuki's theory (Marzuki et al., 2023), which emphasizes that technological tools like ChatGPT can significantly save time and effort for students and educators while providing reliable results. These findings align with (Rahmi et al., 2018) Technology Acceptance Model, which identifies perceived usefulness and ease of use as critical factors influencing technology adoption. Therefore, ChatGPT's accessibility, efficiency, and affordability contribute to its acceptance as a valuable academic aid, even as users remain cautious about its occasional limitations.

The tenth finding reveals varying duration of use of ChatGPT for English writing, which was influenced by individual needs. Some respondents used it frequently, while others used it on a limited basis. One participant highlighted the limited use, as they revealed that ChatGPT was not very helpful in improving English writing skills due to its inability to produce human-like sentences. This reflects a concern for the respondents about the lack of authenticity and naturalness in the

content generated by ChatGPT. This is in line with the concerns raised by (Comer & White, 2016) about genre authenticity, who emphasized the importance of human nuances and contextual understanding in written communication. Although ChatGPT offers valuable assistance in generating ideas and improving grammatical structures, these findings suggest that ChatGPT is less able to mimic the creativity and depth of human expression. Therefore, its role in language learning and writing should be viewed as complementary, requiring human supervision to refine and personalize the output.

The Eleventh finding highlights that the students found ChatGPT quite credible and useful for generating ideas and providing basic writing support. However, they emphasized the importance of critical thinking, cross-referencing and human supervision to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided. One participant noted that while ChatGPT provides accurate and reliable content based on its data, errors or outdated information can sometimes occur, requiring user vigilance. This is in line with (Katernyak & Loboda, 2016) statement in the Community of Inquiry framework, which emphasizes the need for cognitive presence, including critical analysis and evaluation, in any learning process. While ChatGPT offers credible guidance for a variety of writing tasks, the responses underline its limitations, which require users to verify its output and supplement it with additional reliable sources. As such, ChatGPT's role in supporting English writing should be seen as a collaborative tool, rather than a stand-alone solution, encouraging a balance between technological support and human judgment.

The Twelfth finding indicates that students perceive ChatGPT as a tool that increases their self-confidence and reduces anxiety, particularly in academic and writing-related tasks. ChatGPT's ability to generate ideas, simplify tasks, and improve the grammatical quality and clarity of arguments contributes to a sense of confidence and ease among its users. For example, one participant stated that when they struggled to decide what details or elements to include in their assignments, ChatGPT provided points to include, serving as an effective starting guide. This aligns with (Jonassen & Carr, 2020) theory of self-efficacy, which highlights that confidence in performing tasks is enhanced through tools that facilitate skill-building and problem-solving. However, the responses also emphasize the need for users to expand upon the suggestions provided by ChatGPT by adding depth, conducting further analysis, and incorporating academic references to ensure the reliability and quality of their work. While ChatGPT acts as an inspirational tool to support the initial stages of writing, its role is limited without critical thinking and additional human effort, underscoring the importance of a collaborative approach between artificial intelligence and user agency.

The Thirteenth finding found that ChatGPT generally made the writing process more enjoyable for most users, as students appreciated its ability to simplify tasks, inspire creativity, and offer tools for improving writing skills. Many students found ChatGPT helpful in reducing stress and boosting confidence during the writing process; however, some raised concerns about its reliability and the risk of over-dependence on the tool, emphasizing the importance of human supervision to fine-tune and personalize the output. Participant D, for instance, highlighted ChatGPT's convenience, stating that it provides significant benefits by offering a wide range of information with just a few typings and enabling users to compare their own work with AI-generated content. These findings underline ChatGPT as an educational tool: on the one hand, it reduces stress and enhances creativity, making it a supportive resource for students struggling with writing; on the other hand, it raises concerns about over-reliance, reflecting the broader challenge of ensuring students maintain independent thinking and writing skills. This aligns with theories such as (Faiz et al., 2023), who emphasized ChatGPT's role in grammar correction, vocabulary enrichment, and structured guidance, and (Currie & Sumich, 2014), who noted its ability to provide personalized feedback and suggested improvements in a stress-free environment. At the same time, the concerns about over-reliance and reliability echo (Walter, 2024), who stresses the importance of critical thinking and balancing human and AI collaboration. Overall, while ChatGPT significantly enhances the writing process by providing convenience and reducing anxiety, its limitations highlight the need for responsible use and human oversight to ensure that such technologies supplement rather than replace students' writing development.

The final finding revealed that students' overall perceptions of ChatGPT were largely positive, with most users expressing satisfaction with its ability to streamline tasks, generate ideas, and provide support for their academic work. As highlighted by one participant, the tool is considered 'very effective and very helpful,' provided that users know how to use it effectively through well-structured instructions. This is in line with (Abdullah et al., 2016) Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), emphasizes the importance of perceived usefulness and ease of use in determining user acceptance of technology. However, respondents also expressed concerns about potential over-reliance on ChatGPT, occasional inaccuracies, and the need for human supervision to ensure high-quality results. These insights highlight the importance of balancing the benefits of using ChatGPT as a support tool with the need to maintain critical thinking and independent endeavors to ensure reliability and authenticity in academic tasks. This balance reinforces the view that while ChatGPT can serve as an effective support tool, it should complement, not replace, human input and evaluation.

The findings in this study build on previous research, offering new insights into the use of ChatGPT as a writing aid for EFL students. While previous studies such as those by Marzuki et al. (2023) and Huang and Tan (2023) highlighted the general benefits of AI writing aids in improving grammar, vocabulary, and organization, this study delves deeper into students' perceptions and experiences. Specifically, this study emphasized how ChatGPT increased confidence, reduced anxiety, and made writing more enjoyable, which aligns with Bandura's (1997) theory of self-efficacy. In addition, the study identified previously unexplored challenges, such as the tool's limitations in pronoun interpretation, punctuation, and

generating human-like sentence structures. These findings suggest the need for a balanced approach that combines AI assistance with human supervision and critical thinking. By discussing the strengths and weaknesses of ChatGPT, this study contributes to a better understanding of how AI-assisted tools can be effectively integrated into the teaching of English writing, thus paving the way for future research to optimize their use in education

4. CONCLUSION

ChatGPT has positive effects on students' writing quality, confidence, and motivation, as well as providing them with access to a wealth of information and guidance. However, the article also acknowledges the limitations and challenges of ChatGPT, such as its accuracy, credibility, security, and potential for plagiarism. The author suggests that ChatGPT can be a valuable tool for enhancing writing proficiency and learning experiences, but it also requires responsible and critical use, as well as human evaluation and verification. The article concludes by emphasizing the importance of balancing the use of artificial intelligence and the development of human thinking skills in the context of EFL writing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For future research, it is expected to conduct research by comparing academic writing with students using AI and not, to find out how significant the involvement of AI in academic writing is.

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