

The Students' Perceptions Toward the Use of Google Translate in English Writing Assignment

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ABSTRACT

The continually advancing technology offers convenience across various educational domains, facilitating the process of writing in foreign languages. Google Translate, a widely embraced application for translating text into multiple languages, including English, stands out as a highly favored tool among university students for accomplishing their writing assignments. This study seeks to find out students' perspectives on using Google Translate in English writing assignments. Employing descriptive quantitative research, the study engaged approximately 50 college students with prior experience using Google Translate for English writing tasks. Data collection occurred through a combination of questionnaires and interviews. The findings from the questionnaire analysis revealed that 58% of the students affirmed agree with the significant effectiveness of Google Translate in enhancing their English writing skills. Positive responses also manifested in heightened confidence and the acquisition of new vocabulary among students utilizing Google Translate in their writing assignments, thereby contributing to the overall development of their writing proficiency.

Keywords: English writing assignment; Google Translate; students' perceptions

INTRODUCTION

The realm of science and technology contributes to success in many fields, especially in education. The rapid evolution of technology, driven by human innovation and creativity, has a very positive impact on the advancement of the education sector. According to (Arridho et al., 2023), technology has the potential to accelerate and enhance a seamless learning process. In the twenty-first century, the internet is the most widely used technology by

humans (Pham et al., 2022). One of the benefits of the development of the internet is that we can access everything easily, including Google, an application that can help in the public and educational fields. One of the trending Google tools is Google Translate, a translation machine by Google Company (Septiadi, 2019). In addition, with the internet, we also have many other translation tools or facilities that can be accessed anywhere, such as DeepL, Bing Translator, Yandex Translate, etc. Google Translate appears as a translator tool, assisting users in translating sentences into various languages. Offering services in more than 100 languages for free, Google Translate has become an invaluable tool, especially in the field of education. With the various conveniences provided by Google Translate, many students are now using Google Translate for learning foreign languages. The convenience provided by this app has gained popularity among students, especially for helping with English writing assignments. Google Translate is also capable of summarizing more than 200 billion words accompanied by complete phrases (Sukkhwan, 2014).

In English, four main skills need to be mastered: grammar, listening, speaking, and writing. English is the foreign language most widely studied on the Internet, and is a necessity both in education and career (Kurniati et al., 2021). Writing is a crucial skill that requires special attention because some students still experience difficulties, especially in foreign languages. Apart from that, difficulty in writing is also influenced by several factors related to students, such as the level of self-confidence, laziness, motivation, and awareness. Some students may not be confident about conveying their ideas to others, especially in the context of speaking English.

1. Students' Perception

The way that students see and interpret their interactions and experiences in an educational environment is known as student perception. Since perception is based on an individual's interpretation of reality rather than reality itself. Perception as a process by which individuals organize and interpret their sensory impressions to give meaning to their environment (Robbins & Judge, 2012). In other words, perception is the world that matters for behaviour. Attitudes and perception are frequently connected as well. A person's perception is how they see something. A person can have a positive or negative perspective. Because each person has a particular concentration, their opinions vary (Kipta Siritoitet & Ikhsan, 2021). It's critical to understand how students use Google Translate in order to assess its efficacy in assisting them with English writing tasks and how they learn. In addition, we may look into whether Google Translate helps students improve their writing abilities. The way that students see and interpret their interactions. Knowing students' perspectives regarding the use of Google Translate can become evaluation material and guidance

for developing more effective strategies for students in writing and translating a text.

2. The Effect of technology on Students' Perceptions of Writing

As a result of technological advancements, learning tools and ubiquitous online learning have become essential trends in achieving language learning objectives (Mulyadi et al., 2021). The many learning tools from technological developments can help us improve our writing skills more easily and be used anytime and anywhere. This certainly has a positive impact on the world of education. Overall, technology improved students' perceptions of learning challenges, individual writing development, and collaborative writing abilities. However, the technology could be useless if students aren't given joint writing responsibility (Zhang & Zou, 2022).

3. Google Translate

Technology plays an important role in the learning process, making things easier for many students. One technology product is Google Translate, a free multilingual translation tool created by Google to help translate text. Of course, with this more practical application, people prefer Google Translate to traditional dictionaries (Sagita & Balqis, 2021). Google Translate is an automated machine translation service provided by Google Inc (Li et al., 2014). A translation machine popular among students, Google Translate has many advantages for learning, especially in translating text into other foreign languages. The advantages of using Google Translate are language diversity, practicality, and simplicity, and, of course, it can be used anywhere and anytime for free.

Google Translate is present as a translation machine that offers many conveniences such as simplicity, flexibility, free, speed, and a variety of languages. Google Translate is one of the translation machines that is often used in class because it has the benefit of being able to be used anytime and anywhere (Khasanah et al., 2022). In addition, several features can be accessed via Google Translate, such as typing to translate, speaking to translate, camera translation, writing to translate, tap to translate, transcribe, and offline translation. The numerous features and conveniences provided by Google Translate make this application frequently used by users from various backgrounds. Previous research by (Lucas et al., 2015) stated that some researchers experienced significant challenges in analyzing large numbers of texts with diverse languages from various countries. Therefore, some analysts recommend using Google Translate to convert the entire text into English before starting the analysis. This not only makes the text easier to understand but also allows researchers to overcome the linguistic complexity of various sources. Google Translate continues to be a very useful tool for many users due to its rich functionality and easy accessibility, helping overcome language

barriers and expanding access to foreign language content. Google Translate has many benefits for improving our English skills. According to research conducted by (Chandra & Yuyun, 2018), students use Google Translate for 3 aspects, namely vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. The vocabulary aspect is the most often used in Google Translate. In addition, students also prefer Google Translate as a dictionary to understand vocabulary in English. By utilizing the speaker icon in Google Translate, we can also learn how to read the vocabulary correctly. The following research questions have been established to direct the search for answers:

1. What is the student's perspective on using Google Translate in English Writing Assignments?
2. How effective is the use of Google Translate in English Writing Assignments?
3. How does Google Translate affect students' writing abilities?

METHOD

This research uses a quantitative descriptive method. The subject of research were fifty the students college who had used Google Translate as a translation machine for English writing assignments. The instrument and data analysis of the research, the researcher used, questionnaire and interviews, as the method of data collection the researcher calculate the result of the questionnaire. The quantitative research method was obtained from data collection, with researchers giving a questionnaire of 12 questions in two indicators created from Google Forms. This questionnaire was distributed to fifty students to see each student's perception of using Google Translate for English writing assignments. The researcher also conducted interviews with five students to explore students' problems and experiences using Google Translate for English writing assignments with six questions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the research results about students' perceptions of using Google Translate in English writing assignments. The conclusions are based on the questions that students responded to. Questions from this questionnaire and interview were modified from (Axelina & Setiawan, 2021). The questionnaire provides options adapted from a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 4, namely strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree. This questionnaire has two indicators, namely students' perceptions and the effect of Google Translate on English Writing Assignments, with a total of six questions for each indicator, so the total number of questions in the questionnaire is 12.

From the resulting questionnaire data, 56.7% of participants used Google Translate for English writing assignments. This shows the frequency

of participants using Google Translate as a translation tool for English writing assignments. In the first indicator, namely the effectiveness of Google Translate. The results of the percentages of Google Translate effectiveness indicators will be presented in Table 1.

Table 1 :
 The Percentages of The Effectiveness of Google Translate

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1. GT is very effective in helping you complete English writing assignments.	24%	58%	18%	0%	100%
2. You always rely on GT translation results without making revisions.	12%	32%	44%	12%	100%
3. You often use other features of GT besides translation, such as word prediction or word synonyms.	28%	34%	20%	18%	100%
4. Have you ever felt dissatisfied with the translation results from Google Translate.	62%	22%	12%	0%	100%
5. You will look for other sources to check the accuracy of the translation results from Google Translate.	48%	36%	10%	6%	100%
6. You feel it is very important to have the ability to write without the help of a translator.	54%	36%	8%	2%	100%

This indicator has six questions. Based on the table above, 58% of participants agree that Google Translate is an effective translation tool for English writing assignments. Apart from translating a text, participants used other features of Google Translate in English writing tasks, such as word synonyms. This certainly makes it easier for students to write. With

various free features, this will attract more and more people to use Google Translate.

The results of the second indicator, namely the effect of Google Translate on writing, will be presented in table 2.

Table 2 :
 The Percentages of The Effect of Google Translate on Writing

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
7. GT helps you in translating and arranging a sentence/paragraph well.	14%	74%	12%	0%	100%
8. GT helps you to enrich vocabulary/phrases in your writing.	12%	32%	54%	2%	100%
9. GT increases your confidence in writing academic assignments.	64%	0%	14%	22%	100%
10. Google Translate improves your understanding of vocabulary and sentence structure.	8%	30%	56%	6%	100%
11. GT helps your ability to write independently.	74%	2%	10%	14%	100%
12. Google Translate improves your understanding of writing course material.	72%	12%	16%	0%	100%

This indicator also has six questions. The second indicator explains the effects of using Google Translate in writing. Based on the table above, many positive perspectives emerged from the participants. 64% of participants agreed that Google Translate increased their confidence in doing English assignments. Apart from that, Google Translate is also able to increase participants' understanding by helping them understand writing subject matter.

The following data is the result of the interview. In collecting this data, researchers selected five students who had used Google Translate in English writing assignments. This interview consists of 6 questions regarding students' experiences in using Google Translate and how Google Translate influences students. In this interview, we were also asked about the advantages and disadvantages of Google Translate when used for English writing assignments. The following data results from the interview will be presented in table 3.

Table 3 :
 Interview Results

Students	Answers					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
S.1	Yes, I use Google Translate usually when I have difficulty finding vocabulary for my writing.	Yes, Google Translate helps me search for a word.	The challenge I face in using Google Translate is that sometimes there are inaccuracies in Grammar and the solution is that I usually check the results again.	Yes, I find Google Translate quite effective.	In my opinion, the disadvantage of Google Translate is that when making sentences it doesn't always use the right structure, while the advantage is that I know a lot of vocabulary.	The positive impact of using Google Translate is increasing my vocabulary, while the negative impact is that I rarely and feel lazy about opening dictionaries and books.
S.2	Yes, I usually use Google Translate to translate Indonesian texts into English, and interpret difficult	Yes, Google Translate helps in writing.	The difficulty is that sometimes the translation sentences are strange in my opinion, there is use of vocabulary that is rarely	I don't one hundred percent trust the results from Google Translate, because there are often incorre	The disadvantages are the use of grammar which is sometimes wrong, sentences that are too formal and not in accordance with everyday language,	The positive impact is that I can look for difficult vocabulary and sentences that I have difficulty understanding. The negative impact is that I rely too much

	vocabulary.		used in everyday life. To overcome this, I looked for synonyms of the vocabulary.	grammar and pronouns.	errors in pronouns or pronouns. The advantage is that it is practical and makes work easier.	on Google Translate and it can make me distrust my abilities.
S.3	Yes, I use Google Translate. Usually I use it to look for vocabulary from difficult sentences or phrases.	Yes, Google Translate helps in writing by giving me a rough idea of what I want to convey, especially when I get stuck on a certain word.	One of the challenges I face when using Google Translate is that Google Translate usually provides a translation that doesn't sound quite right. And the way I use to overcome this is to check again through	I don't feel that Google Translate is completely effective, but Google Translate is quite helpful for me in translating quickly, so I need to be more careful in using it.	In my opinion, the main limitation of Google Translate is that it is prone to errors and inaccuracies and that it may not always capture the nuances and intricacies of the language. On the other hand, its ability to translate complex languages and its ability to	From my experience, Google Translate has had a positive impact, namely helping me with my English writing assignments and giving me a sense of direction and confidence. Meanwhile, the negative impact is that I need to think more critically in receiving

			other sources.		translate instantly are the main advantages of Google Translate .	translation results from Google Translate because sometimes there are discrepancies.
S.4	Yes, to look up some meanings of words in English that I don't understand	Yes, it helps.	Sometimes the results from Google Translate don't match, so I check it with a dictionary.	In my opinion it is less effective.	The advantage is that it can be accessed easily. The disadvantage is that sometimes the results of the Google Translate translation do not match the grammar.	For the positive impact related to ease of use for translating per word, but for per sentence the translation results are not appropriate.
S.5	Yes, I use Google Translate.	Very helpful because if there are words you don't understand, immediately open Google	The challenge is usually that there are sentences that are not suitable, while the solution is to ask	I find it quite effective.	The disadvantage of Google Translate is that sometimes there are some sentences that are not appropriate, while its	The benefit that I feel from Google Translate is that it helps students understand a foreign language, while there are no

		Translat e.	the lecturer directly. I		advantag e is that it helps in knowing vocabular y.	drawback s, because it is quite helpful, you just need to double check it again.
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The interview results show that Google Translate is quite effective in helping students do English writing assignments. The participants also said that using Google Translate helped them add new vocabulary, and this could undoubtedly improve their writing skills. There are several advantages of Google Translate mentioned by participants, such as adding new vocabulary, being practical, very easy to use and helpful in work, and being able to translate various complex languages. On the one hand, the average participant said that the results of the Google Translate translation sometimes contained errors and needed to be rechecked.

Google Translate is an application that we can use to learn foreign languages. Its uncomplicated usage system makes Google Translate very effective for helping us learn new languages or vocabulary. As a translation machine from Google, we can also use Google Translate to find out the meaning of a word. Based on student responses, they provide a more positive perspective on the use of Google Translate, even though they also find shortcomings or weaknesses in Google Translate. Based on the interview results, several advantages of Google Translate make students interested in using it. Of course, this also makes it easier for students to develop their writing skills.

- Free machine translation.
- Practical and instant.
- The translation results are exact.
- Able to add new vocabulary.
- There are various languages.
- Able to translate complex languages.

Apart from the points above, Google Translate also has many free features that students can use as a medium for learning, such as audio to listen to the pronunciation of a word. This can certainly improve students' speaking skills as well. With the many advantages of Google Translate, this tool is an important tool that can be used in learning, especially writing. However, an application has shortcomings that require solutions. Students feel several shortcomings when using Google Translate to write based on interview results, namely that sometimes there are discrepancies or inaccuracies in the translation results and also errors in grammar.

This shows that even though Google Translate can provide translation results quickly, users still have to be wise and double-check their written results to perfect the desired results. The advantages of using Google Translate outweigh the disadvantages, and of course, this gives students many advantages in learning. This is in line with previous researchers, namely, according to (Sukkhwan, 2014), students have a positive attitude towards Google Translate because it is easy to use and valuable for all students learning English, especially in terms of vocabulary. Meanwhile, according to research from (Yanti et al., 2019), students search for vocabulary definitions more quickly using Google Translate as a fast dictionary. It is straightforward to achieve it. Students' vocabulary is improved with the help of Google Translate. In addition, students quite often translate sentence by sentence using Google Translate. The inaccuracy of Google Translate is one of its main drawbacks. Not all words in a paragraph can be translated correctly and contextually by Google Translate.

Based on the results of questionnaires and interviews, Google Translate is quite effective for translating sentences. However, students must correct the translation results from Google Translate because, of course, as a translation machine, Google Translate needs to improve pronouns, tenses and grammar (Krisdayanti et al., 2022). Rahayu in (Indah Lestari et al., 2023) believes that Google Translate translation results can provide a general overview but can only be very accurate if the essential words used are correct. Therefore, to provide good translation results, we need to double-check the results from Google Translate. This also allows us to relearn sentence structure in English. By knowing the advantages and disadvantages, users can use Google Translate intelligently. The key to maximizing the benefits of these tools in a language-learning context is to strike a balance between the quality and efficiency of cross-language communication.

CONCLUSION

Google Translate is an online translation machine from Google that offers many benefits, such as being practical, fast, flexible, easy to access, and using various languages. Google Translate is one of the translation machines that is currently trending and is widely used by students, especially for doing English writing assignments. Based on research results, 58% of students consider Google Translate to be effective in helping with English writing assignments. This certainly shows a positive perspective for students when using Google Translate for English writing assignments. A significant additional benefit of Google Translate is its multilingual capabilities, making accessing information from various foreign languages more accessible. Further benefits that help students' English language development include

better writing skills, increased self-confidence, learning new vocabulary, and knowing how to translate challenging words.

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