



Indonesian Journal of Multidisciplinary Research



Journal homepage: <http://ejournal.upi.edu/index.php/IJOMR/>

The Effect of ProWritingAid Writing Tool on the Writing Skills of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Students: A Systematic Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

This systematic review aims to analyze and summarize previous studies on The Effect of the ProWritingAid writing tool on the writing skills of English as a foreign language (EFL) Students, seeking to understand how this tool can enhance writing quality, and reduce writing anxiety. The use of technological advancement has significantly influenced education, especially in the development of writing skills among students learning EFL. Writing is one of the essential skills integrated with reading, grammar, and vocabulary, but it remains a significant challenge for many learners. Various digital tools or writing aids, like ProWritingAid, offer potential solutions by providing comprehensive feedback on writing. This systematic literature review aims to examine Following the guidelines of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), relevant studies published between 2019 and 2024 were identified through Google Scholar using keywords related to writing tools and ProWritingAid. This review analyses 12 journal articles. The review revealed consistent positive outcomes related to the use of ProWritingAid, showing that this tool is effective in improving grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and overall writing quality. It also helps reduce writing anxiety and promotes independent learning. The important findings include its ability to detect and correct errors, provide readability assessments, and offer detailed feedback on the writing skills of EFL students.

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Submitted/Received 23 May 2024

First Revised 28 Jun 2024

Accepted 01 Aug 2024

First Available online 02 Aug 2024

Publication Date 01 Sep 2024

Keyword:

Efl students,
Prowritingaid,
Writing tool.

1. INTRODUCTION

Creating a learning environment that puts students at the center of the learning process was a big problem for English teachers in the 21st century. Teachers are asked to meet the diverse student body's requirements, styles, and speeds in this native digital age (Santosa, 2017). To ensure that each student can succeed, this task involves skillfully integrating technology, encouraging student participation, and personalizing training. To keep education relevant and successful in a rapidly changing digital environment, meeting these needs requires sustained professional development and a readiness to try new things in the classroom. In the era of fast technology advancements, education has changed significantly by incorporating various digital tools to improve learning experiences. One area profoundly affected by these changes is the development of writing skills among English as Foreign Language (EFL) students. Writing is one of the crucial skills in English because it is integrated with reading skills, grammar knowledge, and a rigorous vocabulary. For students, mastering the ability to write is difficult because the process of creating is not easy. In writing, the students are required to express their ideas convey them in several drafts, and combine words into sentences and paragraphs by paying attention to the grammar, structure, and vocabulary used. Writing is the composition of sentences that are interconnected with each other. In parts of life, such as in academics (Arianto *et al.*, 2017). In today's digital era, various writing assistance tools are available to help EFL students develop their writing skills. The digital era offers advantages to both teachers and students, especially EFL students. Among the skills that EFL students need to improve, writing skills stand out as fundamental. Writing skills are essential competencies that EFL students should acquire in the classroom. Writing is very important to other language skills. However, despite its significance, writing often does not have enough attention and time allocation in the educational process (Aizawa *et al.*, 2023). Writing skill is considered the most challenging skill to learn compared to other skills. Most people consider learning English as difficult, especially in writing because writing skill is one of the skills that must be mastered in English. Some researchers (Nurhikmah, 2023) stated that writing is a process to create some ideas of students' knowledge to be written.

When someone learns a second language, then they also learn to communicate with them, one of the things that must be learned is writing skills (Handayani & Aminatun, 2020). The integration of technology makes teaching and learning easier for EFL students. Several writing tools can be used for EFL students. One increasingly popular writing assistance tool is ProWritingAid, a software designed to enhance writing quality by offering features such as spelling and grammar checks, sentence structure improvement, and text coherence enhancement. Developed by Chris Banks, ProWritingAid provides a comprehensive solution tailored for writers of fiction and non-fiction, bloggers, students, and content creators aiming to refine their writing style. The online editing tool and writing aid known as ProWritingAid is among the best of the kind currently accessible (Perdana & Farida, 2019). This study provides an overview of online grammar checkers and their role in improving EFL writing by assisting in correcting grammar mistakes, although there are limitations in enhancing content and organization. ProWritingAid has a positive impact on students writing, this statement can be confirmed by the following research. Some researchers (Arianto *et al.*, 2021) discuss the positive implementation of ProWritingAid and Teacher feedback in improving students' writing achievement and revision practices in a classroom setting.

In the context of language teaching, technological developments are happening very quickly to meet the needs of the learning process (Ghavifekr & Rosdy, 2015). ProWritingAid is competent in checking any mistakes in words or sentences as it provides error evaluation

or correction in many linguistic properties. EFL students can revise the misuse of words or sentences while also learning from the explanation given by the program (Khan, 2022). The results of the study revealed that teachers are interested in using these strategies for further learning, this is because teachers feel the benefits are suitable for both teachers and students. Teachers feel that these strategies can improve students' writing skills these strategies help teachers save work time. The ProWritingAid application is also considered more effective for correcting writing in terms of grammar, while teacher feedback is considered more effective for correcting writing in terms of content. However, another research (Rahma & Zen, 2023) aimed to find out the effectiveness of using ProWritingAid in improving the writing skills of 11th-grade senior high school students. It also improved their skills in specific areas like format, content, structure, and mechanics and the program effectively reduced students' writing anxiety levels. To solve the problem of writing skills for students, a previous study shows a lot of the effects of using ProWritingAid to improve students' writing skills (Fitria, 2023). The research simulates the use of ProWritingAid as a writing tool for checking grammar and spelling in English writing. The result shows that ProWritingAid can check students' writing and find several errors in grammar, spelling, and style. Further trials are needed to effectively check students' writing.

Based on the literature review matrix, shows several studies on the topic of The Effect of the ProWritingAid Writing Tool on the Writing Skills of EFL Students. The results show that these writing tools in English as a Foreign Language can improve students' writing skills, this writing tool has been proven to be effective in increasing students writing skills. Writing skill website evaluation online writing lab and ProWritingAid are equally effective overall (Soleimani & Moqimi, 2023; Wahyuda & Putera, 2022). The ProWritingAid application was effective in the writing skills of students across different writing levels (high, medium, and low at MAN Batu. The ProWritingAid application is effective in improving the writing skills of XI-grade high school students in terms of grammar, spelling, and other aspects (Wahyuda & Putera, 2022). Other research (Fitria, 2023) confirmed that the implementation of ProWritingAid and teacher feedback is perceived positively by both teachers and students, helping students detect learn and fix errors, leading to improved writing achievement. The writing tool ProWritingAid revealed a document score of 50% with several errors in grammar, spelling, and style. The research highlights the importance of using tools like ProWritingAid to enhance student's writing skills. ProWritingAid was able to detect errors such as punctuation mistakes, missing capitalization, preposition errors, pronoun errors, etc.

This systematic literature review attempts to close this gap by summarizing the information from the previous research related to the topic The Effect of the ProWritingAid Writing tool on the writing skills of EFL students, the context between 2019 and 2024. Furthermore, there is still a lack of systematic literature review conducted for future studies. This paper only reviews the previous journal articles about the effect of the ProWritingAid writing tool on the writing skills of EFL Students. Based on the preestablished goal, the research questions in this systematic review are, what is the effect of the implementation ProWritingAid Writing Tool on the Writing Skills of EFL Students?.

2. METHODS

To examine the effect of the ProWritingAid writing tool on the writing skills of EFL Students, the study was a systematic literature review (SLR). This type of research is used to define, evaluate, and interpret related research related to the topic also findings to achieve the objective of this research. The data and information for this research were collected from journals and articles published in between 2019 and 2024 using preferred reporting items for

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA). The study discussed in the systematic review was obtained from Google Scholar in this study, we began searching related to journal articles by using the keywords such as, “Writing tools”, “ProWritingAid” correlation between “writing tools ProWritingAid”.

Apart from that, this research also involves several topics, including the use of several writing tools such as ChatGPT, and Grammarly in the world of writing tools in the writing of EFL students. The PRISMA guidelines were used to describe the schema and visualize the identification and selection of the result in the review of the articles. This PRISMA model was applied to make eligible criteria, data collection process, data details, study information resources, and results. Around 20 journal articles were collected but 12 of them were selected based on inclusion criteria. The data is shown in **Figure 1**. To select the relevant articles, authors establish inclusion and exclusion criteria as shown in **Table 1**.

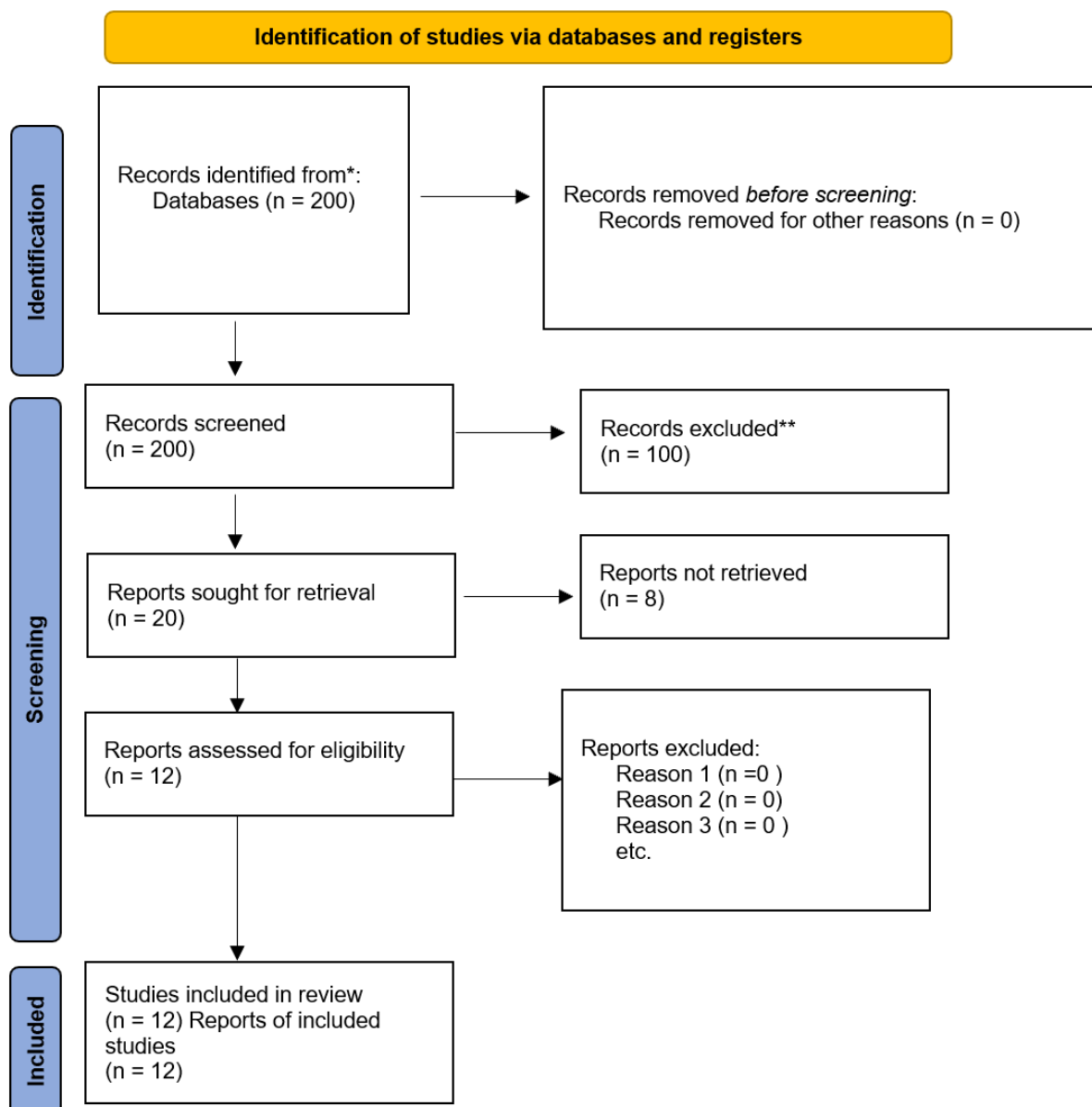


Figure 1. The prisma diagram.

Table 1. Criteria used.

Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Using ProWritingAid Writing Tool on the Writing Skills of EFL Students	Not using the ProWritingAid writing tool on the writing skill of EFL students.
Must be about the effect of the ProWritingAid writing tool on the writing skills of EFL students	Must be not about the effect of the ProWritingAid writing tool on to development of EFL students
Must be empirical research Published in the year 2019-2024	Non-empirical Research Published in the year of 2019-2024
EFL and Teacher English Language Context	Not in EFL and Teacher English Language context

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We found 12 journal articles that fit the selection criteria through a systematic review. The journal articles that have been selected discuss the effect of the ProWritingAid Writing Tool on the writing skills of EFL students. There are several studies have been conducted exploring the effect of ProWritingAid on writing skills, specifically to improve EFL student's writing. Several studies have highlighted the development of the effect of writing tools and ProWritingAid on the writing skills of EFL students. Based on previous studies, it is known that several studies have been conducted in Indonesia and abroad, such as in Egypt, Japan, Iran, and India which focused on the use of writing tools. Some studies show that ProWritingAid writing tools have a positive impact on student's writing skills. One of them (Wahyuda & Putera, 2022) research aimed to find out the effectiveness of using ProWritingAid toward improving the writing skills of 11th-grade senior high school students. On the other hand, ProWritingAid is commonly used to improve students writing and ProWritingAid can check grammar, and spelling in students. And other research shows that there is a positive correlation between the writing tools ProWritingAid and writing skills. The information about the findings of previous research is presented in **Table 2**, which presents more details regarding the research results.

Table 2. The overview of related study.

No	Location	Result	Findings	Ref.
1	Egypt	Effective	ProWritingAid and BASDELL model intervention improved Business English writing skills and reduced writing anxiety among second-year management sciences students.	(Aboufotoh, 2024)
2	Japanese	Effective	ProWritingAid was able to detect errors such as punctuation mistakes, missing capitalization, preposition errors, pronoun errors, etc.	(Long, 2022)
3	Indonesia	Effective	The ProWritingAid application was effective in the writing skills of students across different writing levels (high, medium, and low at MAN Batu.	(Wahyuda & Putera, 2022)
4	Indonesia	Effective	The implementation of ProWritingAid and teacher feedback was perceived positively by both teachers and students, helping students detect learn, and fix errors, leading to improved writing achievement.	(Ariyanto et al., 2021)

Table 2 (continue). The overview of related study.

No	Location	Result	Findings	Ref.
5	Indonesia	Positive	The emphasizes expanding vocabulary, the overall positive impact of Writing tools Grammarly, and also mixed findings on its effectiveness.	(Perdana & Farida, 2019)
6	Japanese	Effective	Writing tools indicate that ChatGPT was found to be the most helpful tool for Japanese English Language learning in improving grammar skills.	(Fajlik, 2022)
7	Indonesia	Positive	Writing tools ProWritingAid revealed a document score of 50% with several errors in grammar, spelling, and style. The research highlights the importance of using tools like ProWritingAid to enhance student's writing skills.	(Fitria, 2023)
8	Indonesia	Significance	ProWritingAid application is effective in improving the writing skills of XI-grade high school students in terms of grammar, spelling, and other aspects.	(Defianty <i>et al.</i> , 2022)
9	Indonesia	Significance	Writing tools Prowriting was a significant improvement in students' writing recount text scores when applying. The research demonstrated a consistent positive trend in student's writing performance when utilizing the Prowriting tool.	(Rahman, 2022)
10	Iran	Effective	Writing skill website evaluation online writing lab and ProWritingAid are equally effective overall.	(Soleimani & Moqimi, 2023)

The systematic literature review aims to find answers to the research questions formed, what is the effect of the implementation ProWritingAid writing tool on the writing skills of EFL students? From the PRISMA method, it was found that the ProWritingAid writing tool had a significant and effective effect in increasing the writing skills of EFL students. Technology has become an integral part of education, especially in teaching EFL. Various technology-based writing tools offer a range of significant benefits for EFL students. Various studies conducted show that ProWritingAid writing toll has a broad positive impact. Writing skill website evaluation online writing lab and ProWritingAid are equally effective overall (Soleimani & Moqimi, 2023; Wahyuda & Putera, 2022). Not only that The ProWritingAid writing tool was effective in the writing skills of students across different writing levels such as high, medium, and low at MAN Batu.

A variety of digital writing tools such as Grammarly, and ProWritingAid, provide instant feedback that can make students easy to correct grammar, spelling, and writing mistakes in real-time. The ProWritingAid writing tool is effective in improving the writing skills of XI-grade high school students in terms of grammar, spelling, and other aspects (Wahyuda & Putera, 2022). Other research (Fitria, 2023) confirmed that the implementation of ProWritingAid and teacher feedback was perceived positively by both teachers and students, helping students detect learning and fix errors, leading to improved writing achievement. The writing tool will not only improve students writing accuracy but can also enable students to learn from their mistakes immediately, thus accelerating the learning process (Ranali, 2018; Geta & Olango, 2016; Golonka *et al.*, 2014).

Various features of ProWritingAid are expected to help the learners or students as partners in compiling an article or paper (Benzie & Harper, 2020; Tran & Nguyen, 2021; Alharbi, 2023). This tool offers various features that allow students to correct grammar, spelling, and sentence structure on their own, allowing them to learn from their mistakes and improve the quality of their writing more efficiently. ProWritingAid enables educators teachers or lecturers to instruct and evaluate students' writing editing because students can edit their work without relying on their teachers. (Nasution & Fatimah, 2018).

In the learning process, by integrating simple and easy-to-use digital writing tools, teachers can create more engaging learning activities and can also enhance student learning interests. In addition, Abdulfotah (2024) and Intiser *et al.* (2023) talked about the application of ProWritingAid and the BASDEL model to improve business English writing skills and reduce writing anxiety among management sciences students over 8 weeks. This research also found that BASDEL model activities were effective in enhancing student's writing skills and integration of ProWritingAid into business writing models is recommended for ESPP. However, I also found several studies that show different or even contradictory results. Some researchers (Fajlik, 2023; Perdana & Farida, 2019; O'Neill & Russell) found mixed results regarding the effectiveness of writing assistance tools like Grammarly. They noted that although Grammarly can help correct technical errors in writing, its impact on overall writing quality still needs further research. Writing tools indicate that ChatGPT was found to be the most helpful tool for Japanese English Language learning in improving grammar skills, this study suggests that other factors might influence the effectiveness of writing assistance tools, such as the students' initial skill levels, individual learning styles, and how the tool is integrated into teaching. Improvements in student writing related to the use of sentence fragments, inconsistencies in verb tense, word choice, and clarity after using AI-based writing tools such as Grammarly, ChatGPT, and Google Bard.

From this systematic literature review is clear that using writing assistance tools like ProWritingAid, Grammarly, ChatGPT, and Google Bard generally has a positive effect on EFL students' writing skills. These tools are effective in improving grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and overall writing quality. Utilizing these technology tools can create a more student-centered learning environment that responds to individual needs. This approach is in line with the contemporary educational paradigm that places students at the center of the learning process, ensuring that their unique learning preferences and needs are met (Hannafin & Land, 1997). Based on the findings above, the use of the ProWritingAid writing tool on EFL students has a significant and positive impact on EFL student's writing skills.

4. CONCLUSION

This systematic literature review explores the effect of the ProWritingAid writing tool on the writing skills of EFL students. Based on the journal articles published in the year 2019-2024. In conclusion, the implementation of ProWritingAid writing tools on the writing skills of EFL students had a significant and positive impact. ProWritingAid tool is a comprehensive writing tool proofreading and editing tool that can significantly improve the writing skills of EFL students. Writing skill is also a crucial thing for EFL students because is related to grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. The studies reviewed consistently show positive results, emphasizing improvements in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and overall writing quality. Because these writing tools have features, such as grammar checks, plagiarism detection, and readability assessments, provide valuable support for students, encouraging independent learning and reducing writing anxiety. ProWritingAid tool integration with various platforms makes it easier to use in educational settings and leads students to get

better writing skills. The suggestions for further studies can relies and explore other aspects than writing skills, to conduct more research about the different stages of EFL and teachers of English language context, and to do research on ProWritingAid in different periods.

5. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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