

QuillBot as an online tool: Students' alternative in paraphrasing and rewriting of English writing

Tira Nur Fitria

Institut Teknologi Bisnis AAS Indonesia, Surakarta, Indonesia
tiranurfiria@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

QuillBot is an online application to paraphrase writing, avoid plagiarism, summarize long sentences and improve grammar to be more precise and look professional. The objective of this research is to review the QuillBot as an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool system for students' in paraphrasing and rewriting English writing both in the free and premium versions. This research applies descriptive qualitative. The data used is an English abstract article. The results show that QuillBot paraphrasing tools use several ways to paraphrase the text: 1) paraphrasing by using equations or synonyms, 2) paraphrasing by changing the form of the word, 3) paraphrasing by using active or passive sentences, and 4) paraphrasing by changing the order of words in sentences. This paraphrasing uses Standard Mode, which serves to balance changes to the text when users input them but still keeps them from changing the actual (original) meaning of the text, also making the result look more original. QuillBot is one of the paraphrasings and summarizing tools that can be used by students for rewriting any content based on a state-of-the-art AI system. This tool can be the students' alternative which provides a solution by helping paraphrase when students do not have the idea to paraphrase English writing manually. However, a good knowledge of vocabulary and understanding of English grammar, of course, will help students or other users (s) both in using online or manual paraphrasing to be better or the best quality.

Keywords: *QuillBot; Artificial intelligence (AI); Online tool; Writing; Paraphrasing*

1. Introduction

Writing is an aspect of language that is interrelated with aspects of writing other languages. This aspect conveys the ideas that have been prepared by the author in

conveying facts through his writings or the media mass. In the process of writing, a writer must know how to choose a structured language, paraphrasing, vocabulary (Fitria, 2018, 2019b). This means that writing is an ability that requires all skills meant to compile ideas that will be conveyed to the reader. Election the right words according to the paragraphs that are arranged. Compilation paragraphs require sentences to form unified content. Then paragraphs must be determined by the rules of syntax, vocabulary, and mastery of correct diction (Fitria, 2019a, 2020c). In addition, a paragraph must be composed with the expression of ideas that have been created for the imagination and creation of the author (Usman, 2015).

Writing essays or paragraphs takes a lot of practice (Al Hassan & Ahmed, 2019). Writing English is also difficult; therefore, it is not uncommon for students to plagiarize (Fitria, 2020a). In the application of writing sentences, essays, or paragraphs in English, one of the techniques that can be used by students is the paraphrasing technique. With this technique, students are expected to be able to develop and sequence ideas correctly, logically, and following the logic of the language so that it will not change the meaning of a text/essay in the essay. The ability to develop and show our comprehension of concepts via paraphrasing is an essential academic skill in writing (Hudson, 2006). While Na, Nhat, and Xuan (2017) also state that paraphrasing is a crucial skill in academic writing, it is a cognitive skill that involves higher-order thinking as well as strong reading and writing skills. Basori (2017) states that limitations to reformulating the meaning content and changing the structure of the sentence can encourage to use of paraphrasing techniques.

Paraphrasing is often difficult for students because they tend to want to simply repeat the original text (O'Reilly, 2012). This statement is in line with the research from Shi (2012) that the students have difficulties in understanding how to paraphrase to avoid plagiarism. Paraphrasing is the practice of rewriting a section from a written text in the manner and style of the paraphraser rather than the original author (Soles, 2003). This statement also is supported by Wilhoit (2003, p. 58) that paraphrase is not likely to be the same because each writer chooses what information to include, what language to use, and how to organize their para, no two are likely to be identical.

There are several ways to rewrite a sentence or paraphrase. Writers should follow these several steps to paraphrase sentences/paragraphs effectively. They should pay attention to each step to create a good paraphrase (Ramadhani, 2019). These methods include using word equations or synonyms, changing the order of words in sentences, changing word forms, and changing sentence forms from active sentences to passive sentences, or vice versa (Fitria, 2020b).

Several previous studies were conducted in relation with paraphrase. The first research was written by Usman (2015) aimed to improve students' capacity to paraphrase poetry into prose and to describe how the paraphrase technique improves students' ability to paraphrase poetry into prose. The method could improve second-grade students' skill to paraphrase poetry into prose At SMP Al-Ittihat Pekanbaru. The

second research was written by Basori (2017) focusing on methods and approaches for paraphrasing phrases in a passage that substantially improved academic writing by presenting reasoning for academic objectives, providing examples, and providing succinct processes. The third research was done by Waningyun, Suwandi, & Setyawan (2018). Their findings revealed that the paraphrasing technique could: 1) improve short story writing skills by 70% for pre-cycle, 76 percent for the first cycle, and 80 percent for the second cycle; 2) increase the percentage of students passing the minimum score by 52 percent for pre-cycle, 74 percent for the first cycle, and 80 percent for the second cycle; and 3) improve the percentage of students passing the minimum score by 52 percent for pre-cycle, 76 percent for the first cycle, and 80 percent for the second cycle. The fourth research by Ramadhani (2019) found that the availability of paraphrase could be a means of avoiding plagiarism. Writers might use their own words to paraphrase a straight quotation from someone. The fifth research by Nurhana, Siddik, and Ridhani (2020) revealed that the development of instructional materials for short story writing using paraphrase methods received a 95 percent average score. With a very excellent category, the validation findings yielded an average score of 93.52 percent. The practicality of teaching materials for short story writing using paraphrase methods had an average value of 67.8 and 86.7 posttests, as well as field trials with an average value of 73.75 and posttests with an average value of 88.18 percent in the very good category.

Based on these previous studies above, research discussing about QuillBot as one of online paraphrasing tool is still understudied. As those studies explored about conventional paraphrasing techniques, the researcher is interested to investigate on an automatic paraphrasing tool named QuillBot.

QuillBot is one of the most popular free, paraphrasing tools. QuillBot offers a product that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to suggest paraphrases (Dale, 2020). According to Fitria (2021), the AI method blends deep learning with some approaches to natural language analysis. What it does is automatically takes away, adds, or changes words to create a brand new sentence. QuillBot provides a solution by helping paraphrase when teachers and students do not have the idea to paraphrase writing manually (Kusuma, 2020a, p. 64). The use of this tool is simple. QuillBot rewrites texts after we write or paste the texts and then press the Paraphrase button (Kinga & Gupta, 2021).

In light of these discussions, the objective of this research is to review the QuillBot as an AI tool system for teachers and students' in paraphrasing and rewriting English writing both in free and premium versions.

2. Literature review

2.1. Paraphrasing

Murray (2012) states that when we paraphrase another writer, we must double-check our work to verify that our interpretation of their idea(s) is entirely correct.

Paraphrasing is just writing something in our own words that convey the original concept of a section in a book or other research source (Trivette, 2020). A paraphrase is an attempt to restate ideas expressed by someone else in a new form (Fandl & Smith, 2014). With the ever-increasing need for paraphrasing tools as a means of avoiding plagiarism automatically (Bairagi & Munot, 2019).

From the explanation above, it can be concluded simply that in paraphrasing activities, we make new words and/or sentences in a paragraph without losing the meaning of the paragraph. It's like we listen to a story from someone else and retell it in our own words without changing the meaning. Paraphrasing is an operation that makes the source text easier to understand while keeping the original meaning intact and only slightly changing its structure.

2.2. Paraphrasing tools

A paraphrasing tool is a program that allows people to edit text so that it has different words without changing their meaning (Bin & Michael, 2019). We have probably heard the terms "paraphrase" or "rewrite" and here is how they work. The paraphrasing tool works with two text sources: the copied text that you used and the original text (if available). The program reads the source text and then generates a new text containing the same meaning (Kinkead, 2015).

QuillBot is an affordable paraphrasing tool available on the market that uses state-of-the-art AI to paraphrase any piece of content (Class, 2020). It is supported by Yadav (2021). QuillBot's paraphraser takes our sentences and adjusts them, allowing you to easily rework and rewrite our content. The tool's goal is to rewrite material by altering the structure of sentences and replacing words with synonyms while maintaining the original content's meaning. QuillBot was established in 2017 by Rohit Gupta, Anil Jason, and David Silin, three computer science students. Since then, they've been adding new features and increasing the product's quality daily (Kusuma, 2020b). QuillBot not only provides a paraphrasing tool, but also a summarizing and grammatical checking tool all in one place.

QuillBot is an online application that is used to help paraphrase writing to avoid plagiarism, summarize long sentences and improve grammar to make it more precise and look professional (Williams & Davis, 2017). This application has been trusted to help students, writers, bloggers, teaching staff, and so on (Chapelle & Sauro, 2019). QuillBot has a limit of up to 400 characters that can be paraphrased in the free version. This application consists of two versions, namely free and premium. The advantage of this application is that it is time-efficient, and can quickly paraphrase sentences in English. In the premium version, this tool can increase the maximum limit to 10,000 characters.

QuillBot has seven useful features, including 1) Standard Mode, which serves to balance changes to the text that you input by keeping it from changing the actual meaning of the text and making it look more original; 2) Fluency Mode, which is a

feature that focuses on making text look natural and using correct and proper grammar in English. This feature makes only minor changes to the text, but it will retain the original meaning of the text well; 3) Creativity Mode, which focuses on changing as much as possible in the inputted text. However, this may result in the meaning or overall coherence of the results being altered. This mode can be useful if your text wants to look very different from the original text; 4) Creative+Mode, which is used to make changes that are more intuitive and more grammatical in-depth, such as common phrases or sayings; 5) Formal Mode, which is a mode that functions to change the text so that it sounds more appropriate for a formal audience. This mode is great if you are writing in an academic or business context; 6) Shorten Mode, serves to shorten the text as much as possible while maintaining the meaning in it. Shorten mode is especially useful if you are trying to reduce the word count or the overall size of the text; and 7) Expand Mode, serves to try to increase the length of the text by adding more words if possible. This mode is useful if you want to have a higher overall word count. QuillBot free users can only access Standard and Fluency modes. Meanwhile, Creative, Creative+, Shorten, Expand, and Formal modes are only available for the premium version.

3. Method

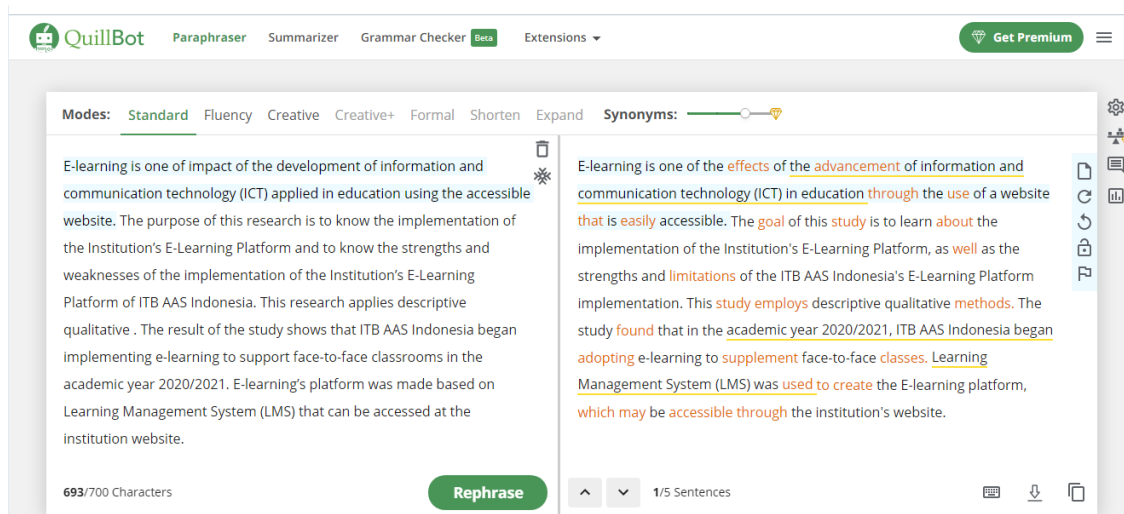
This research applied a descriptive qualitative method. In general, the main purpose of qualitative research is about descriptive, understanding, and interpretation (Lichtman, 2010). In collecting data, this research used document. Given (2015) states that documents can be used as the sole focus for data collection and analysis. The document used in this research is an English abstract of a journal article (Fitria, 2021b).

In analyzing the data, this research chose the text of an English abstract, copied the text into QuillBot both in a free and premium version, delivered the result of paraphrasing in several pictures, analyzed the paraphrasing results (texts), and described them descriptively.

4. Findings

The objective of this research is to review the QuillBot as an AI tool system for students' in paraphrasing and rewriting English writing. In this research, there are several findings related to the paraphrasing of the English abstract by using QuillBot both in a free and premium version, as follows:

4.1. First examples of QuillBot free vs premium versions



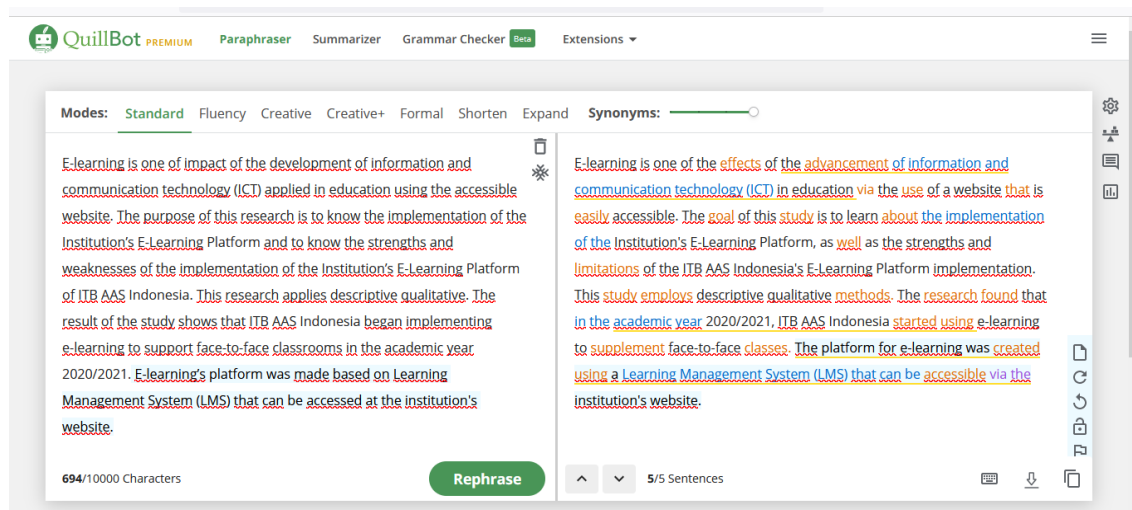
Picture 1. Paraphrasing texts using QuillBot free version (1)

The picture above shows the result of paraphrasing using QuillBot in the free version especially in standard mode. The “standard mode” is the QuillBot default setting. This mode strikes a balance between making modifications to the text and preserving the message and making it seem as natural as possible.

On the left side is original text, while on the right side is the paraphrasing result (orange text). As we can see, in original text, the word “impact” is paraphrased into “effect”, the word “development” is paraphrased into “advancement”. The sentence “the purpose of this research is to know...” is paraphrased into “this study is to learn about”. The word “weaknesses” is paraphrased into “limitations”. The clause “this research applies” is paraphrased into “the study employs”. The word “implementing” is paraphrased into “adopting”. The word “was made” is paraphrased into “was created”. This means that there is using equations or synonyms of the word.

The sentence “ITB AAS Indonesia began implementing e-learning to support face-to-face classrooms in the academic year 2020/2021” is paraphrased into “in the academic year 2020/2021, ITB AAS Indonesia began adopting e-learning to supplement face-to-face classes”. It means that there is changing the sentence order). In the original text, the adverb of time “in the academic year 2020/2021” is located in the beginning, but the paraphrasing result shows that the adverb of time is located at the end of the sentence. While the other example also shows similar proof. The phrase “E-learning platform” is paraphrased into “The platform for e-learning...”. It means that there is changing of word order.

The clause “the study shows” is paraphrased into “the study found”. It means that the changing of tenses of the simple present into simple past in paraphrasing result. Then, the clause “that can be accessed at the institution website” is paraphrased into “which may be accessible through the institution website”. This clause seems quite convoluted.



Picture 2. Paraphrasing texts using QuillBot premium version (1)

Picture 2 above shows the result of paraphrasing using QuillBot in the premium version especially in standard mode. This shows that more change in synonym. Standard mode is the QuillBot default setting. This mode strikes a balance between making modifications to the text and preserving the message and making it seem as natural as possible.

On the left side is original text, while on the right side is the paraphrasing result (orange text). As we can see, in original text, the word “impact” is paraphrased into “effect”, the word “development” is paraphrased into “advancement”. The word “using” is paraphrased into clause “via the use”.

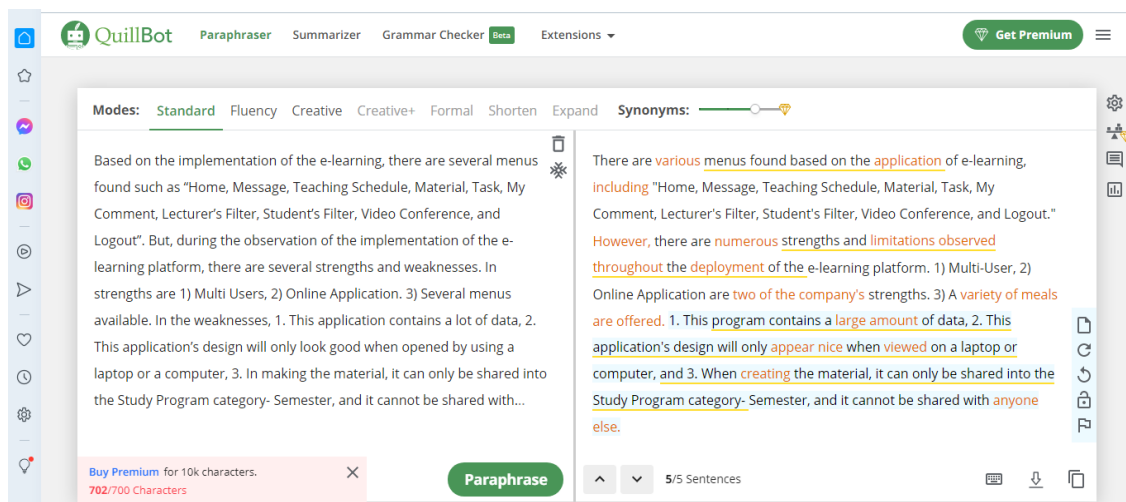
The clause “the result of the study shows” is changed into “the research found”. It means that the changing of tenses of the simple present into simple past in paraphrasing result. Then, the clause “that can be accessed at the institution website” is changed into “that can be accessible via the institution’s website”. This clause seems quite convoluted.

The sentence “the purpose of this research is to know...” is changed into “this study is to learn about”. The word “strengths” is changed into “limitations”. The clause “this research applies” is changed into “the study employs”. The phrase “began implementing” is changed into “started using”. The word “was made” is changed into “was created”. This means that there is using equations or synonyms of the word.

The sentence “ITB AAS Indonesia began implementing e-learning to support face-to-face classrooms in the academic year 2020/2021” is changed into “in the academic year 2020/2021, ITB AAS Indonesia started using e-learning to supplement face-to-face classes”. It means that there is changing the sentence order). In original text, the adverb of time “in the academic year 2020/2021” is located in the beginning, but the paraphrasing result shows that the adverb of time is located at the end of the sentence. While the other example also shows similar proof. The phrase “E-learning

platform” is changed into “The platform for e-learning...”. It means that there is changing of word order.

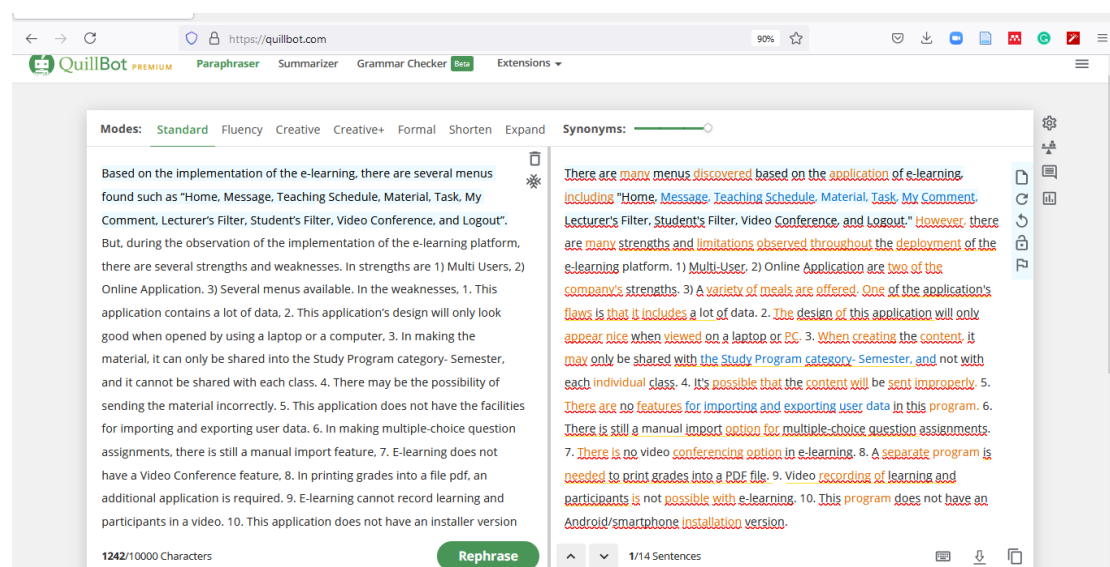
4.2. Second examples of QuillBot free vs premium versions



Picture 3. Paraphrasing texts using QuillBot free version (2)

Picture 3 shows the result of paraphrasing using QuillBot in the free version especially in standard mode. On the left side is original text, while on the right side is the paraphrasing result (orange text). As we can see, in original text, the word “several” is changed into “various”. The word (conjunction) “but” is changing into “however”. The word “several” is changed into “numerous”. The word “weaknesses” is changed into “limitations”. The word “implementation” is changed into “deployment”. The clause “several menus available” is changed into “a variety of meals are offered”. It shows that “menus” is changed into “meals”, and “available” is changed into “are offered”. The word “a lot of” is changed into “large amount”. The phrase “look good” is changed into “appear nice”. The word “opened” is changed into “viewed”. Then, the word “making” is changed into “creating”. Here, there are changes of a word based on the synonym.

The clause “Based on the implementation of e-learning...” is changed into “...based on the application of e-learning...”. It shows that there is changing the position of the sentence order. In original text, the clause “based on the implementation” is located in the beginning, but the paraphrasing result shows that the clause is located in the middle of the sentence.



Picture 4. Paraphrasing texts using QuillBot premium version (2)

The picture above shows the result of paraphrasing using QuillBot in the premium version especially in standard mode. This shows more changes in synonyms.

On the left side is original text, while on the right side is paraphrasing result (orange text). As we can see, in original text, the word “several” is changed into “many”. The word “implementation” is changed into “application”. The word “such as” is changed into “including”. The word (conjunction) “but” is changing into “however”. The word “several” is changed into “numerous”. The word “weaknesses” is changed into “limitations”. The clause “several menus available” is changed into “a variety of meals are offered”. It shows that “menus” is changed into “meals”, and “available” is changed into “are offered”. The phrase “look good” is changed into “appear nice”. The word “opened” is changed into “viewed”. Then, the word “making” is changed into “creating”. The word “material” is changed into “content”. The clause “there may be the possibility...” is changed into “it’s possible that...”. This paraphrasing to be simpler but still same meaning. Here, there are changes of a word based on the synonym.

The clause “sending material incorrectly” is changed into “to be sent improperly”. The word “incorrectly” is changed into “improperly”, while the word “sending” as Ving (present participle/present continuous” and the active form is changed into “to be sent” or “to be + V3” as passive form.

The sentence “this application does not have the facilities...” is changed into “there are no features...in this program”. This uses other words but still shows the same meaning. The word “facilities” is changed into “features”. The phrase “this application” is changed into “this program”. There is also changing the position of the word order in the sentence. The sentence “In making multiple-choice question assignments, there is still a manual import feature” at the beginning of a sentence, this clause is changed into “there is still a manual import option for making multiple-choice question assignments” to be at the end of the sentence. There is changing position of word order in the sentence. Besides, the word “feature” is changed into “option”. The sentence “E-

learning does not have a video conference feature” is changed into “There is no video conferencing option in e-learning”. This example shows that changing the word order in the sentence. The clause “video conference” is changed into “video conferencing”. These words are still in the same meaning. The sentence “In printing grades into a file pdf, an additional application is required” is changed into “a separate program is needed to print grades into a PDF file”. Here, there is changing the position of word order in the sentence. Several words also changed, such as the word “required” is changing into “needed” which shows the synonym with the same meaning. The word “in printing” present participle form is changed into “to print” to be “to + infinitive” form. The sentence “E-learning cannot record learning and participants in a video” is changed into “video recording of e-learning and participants is not possible with e-learning”. This paraphrased is quite different but still in the same meaning. Then, the sentence “This application does not have an installer version on the Android/smartphone” is changed into “this program does not have an Android/smartphone installation version”. The phrase “application” is changed into “program”. The phrase “an installer version of the Android/smartphone” is changed into “an Android/smartphone installation version”. There is changing of word order in this sentence. The word “installer version” is changed into “installation version”.

5. Discussion

In this research, this paraphrasing of QuillBot used Standard Mode, which serves to balance changes to the input text while still keeping it from changing the actual (original) meaning of the text and making the result look more original. In making paraphrases by using QuillBot, there are several ways of paraphrasing analyzed in this research, they are as follows:

1. Paraphrasing using equations or synonyms

Synonyms or synonyms are when two different words have the same meaning or meaning. In Indonesian, for example, the words can and can have the same meaning but are two different words. By changing a few words in a sentence, it can be said that the sentence has been changed. This method is the most basic in paraphrasing. The thing to note is the use of the right synonyms because two words can have meanings that at first glance are similar but are different. When paraphrasing it is necessary to change some of the vocabulary, but not all of it. Therefore, it is necessary to identify which words/phrases cannot be changed (Chin et al., 2012).

2. Paraphrasing by changing the order of words in sentences

Changing the word order is another way to paraphrase. In changing the order of words, so that the sentence remains following the applicable rules, sometimes there are additions or subtractions of words that need to be done.

The easiest way to change the word order is in a compound sentence by changing the clauses used. Paraphrasing can also be a combination of changing the order of words in a sentence and using word equations or synonyms together.

3. *Paraphrasing by changing the form of the word*

The form of the word referred to in this section is the type of word whether the word is a verb, adjective, adverb, and so on. To keep the meaning of the sentence the same and not violate the rules of grammar, sometimes other words need to be changed, added, or removed.

4. *Paraphrasing by using active or passive sentences*

In sentences that have subjects, verbs, and objects, they can be changed from active sentences to passive sentences, or vice versa, from passive sentences to active sentences.

The study also found that in QuillBot, a free account is one created by a user and is available for use without payment. There are three modes available, three Synonyms settings, and the ability to paraphrase up to 700 characters at once.

In contrast, a Premium account of QuillBot is connected with a paid subscription. These accounts include all of the same features as free accounts, including others that are only available to premium users. The following are some of the advantages that premium accounts, are: 1) Increased character limit: Premium accounts now can paraphrase and summarize up to 10,000 characters at a time. 2) A premium account enables four more modes: Creative+, Shorten, Expand, and Formal. 3) The highest Synonyms option: The highest level allows you to use Synonyms to replace as many words as feasible. 4) Faster processing: Premium accounts' content is paraphrased more quickly. 5) Compare Settings: This function allows users to compare findings by seeing a single text in various modes at the same time. 6) Freeze Words: The paraphraser's ability to prevent particular words or phrases from being changed. 7) Show longest unaltered words: This allows users to view the longest portion of your text after paraphrase that stays the same as the original.

Paraphrasing is a way of conveying an idea or concept in another relevant language, without reducing or adding to the original content. Paraphrasing is used as an alternative to the quoting method in writing. Besides, the purpose of using paraphrasing is to avoid the possibility of plagiarism, especially in writings that use many reference sources in the writing process.

With the exponentially increasing need for paraphrasing as a tool to avoid plagiarism, students who may have problems in paraphrasing can use QuillBot as an alternative to paraphrase source texts. Paraphrasing is one way to borrow ideas from a source without plagiarizing. Paraphrasing, or recasting source material in our own words, is one way to avoid the choppyness that can result from a series of quotations (Hopko, Scott, & Garrison, 2017). Writing English by using the paraphrasing technique is an alternative that uses the students' words to express the same idea. Besides, in making ideas easier to understand, paraphrasing can also be used to maintain coherence and coherence in the flow of their writing.

QuillBot is a paraphrasing and summarizing tool that helps millions of students and professionals reduce their writing time in half by rewriting any phrase, paragraph,

or essay using state-of-the-art AI. To paraphrase our content using QuillBot, we can copy and paste the text we wish to paraphrase into the editor or upload our document from your computer. After that, we must choose from Standard, Fluency, Creative, Creative+, Formal, Shorten, and Expand modes. The quality of the paraphrased text is mostly determined by these styles. Apart from that, adjacent to the modes is a "Synonyms" slider. We may modify the frequency of the words substituted in the paraphrased results by changing the corresponding slider.

Using QuillBot paraphrasing tools has several advantages, including: first, saving time when writing. QuillBot's paraphrase tool uses cutting-edge AI to rewrite a sentence, paragraph, or article. QuillBot may help the users enhance writing immediately by removing superfluous words and assisting the users in delivering a clear message. Second, QuillBot help identifying the correct synonyms. QuillBot has a built-in thesaurus feature that allows the users to quickly alter specific words to get the right term every time. Third, it boosts clarity and meaning. QuillBot's writing modes allow users to write in users preferred style. They will receive the results they need right away, whether it's for grammar, brevity, or originality. Fourth, it has rich vocabulary. QuillBot's Word Flipper allows the users to quickly alter more (or less) of texts. Fifth, it is integrated. QuillBot works with Microsoft® Office, Google Docs, and Google Chrome directly. Sixth, it is trusted by millions of users such as students, authors, bloggers, and business people all around the world. QuillBot is used by over 2 million people who want to write better, quicker, and more clearly. Seventh, it is available in a Premium version. QuillBot Premium may help the users experience better features.

6. Conclusion

QuillBot is a convenient paraphrasing tool available on the market that uses state-of-the-art AI to paraphrase any piece of content. The tool's main goal is to rewrite text material by altering the structure of sentences and replacing words with synonyms while maintaining the original content's meaning. This tool can be the students' alternative to paraphrase when students do not have the proper idea to paraphrase English texts in their writing.

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