Australia-ASEAN Academics Forum:
## Online Education during COVID-19 and Beyond

AAAF Mr Ahmad Syafi'I talk 9th Sep 2021

Transcript

Thank you.

Let me start my presentation. My presentation title would be optimizing artificial intelligence powered applications to enhance students' engagement in the writing classroom. I think this is the Indonesian context, particularly in preservice education.
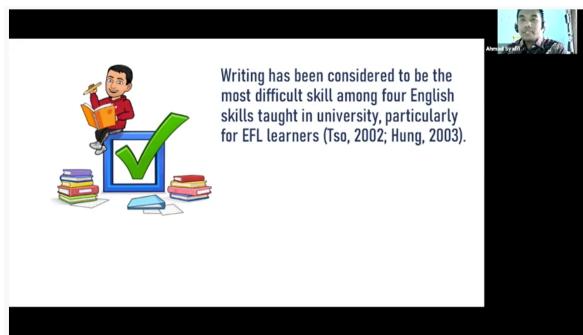

First of all, I'd like to start to see the fact that the writing is the most difficult skill, considered to my students, and also several experts stated that writing would be the most difficult skill among other skill. Before going further, let me tell you that this is not actually pure research. This is actually my experience when teaching basic writing to my students.
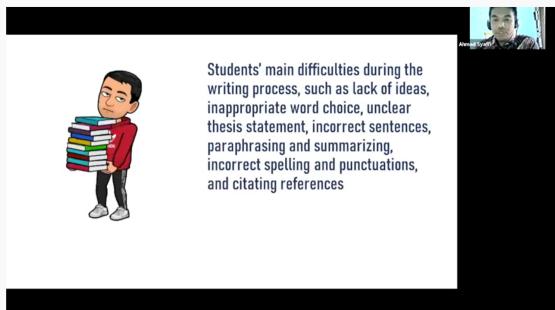
From the observation and also interview to my students, I can conclude that there are several main difficulties they experience in writing process, such as lack of inappropriate word choice and then unable to compose good thesis statement, correct sentence, paraphrasing and summarizing problem, correct spelling and so forth and so on. And…
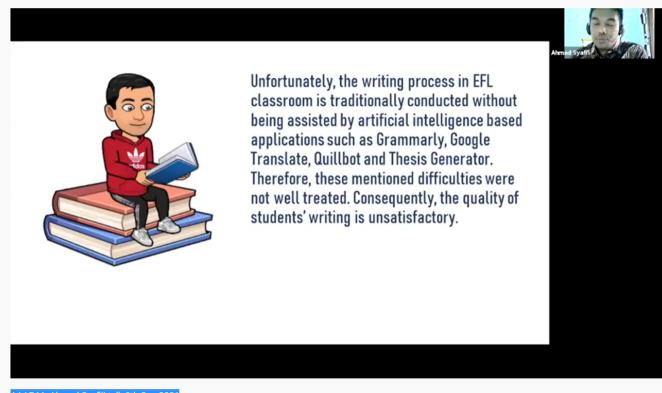
And also, before pandemic, before COVID-19 pandemic, as a teacher I conduct a semi-traditional classroom method where I do not employ several application or whatsoever it is, to facilitate my students in the writing process. However, this pandemic bring several challenges to me to optimize or maximize several applications such as Grammarly, then google translate, Coolbot and thesis generator and so forth. So then, the quality of the writing improved a lot compared to before. This is some application powered by artificial intelligence that I have already maximized in my class.
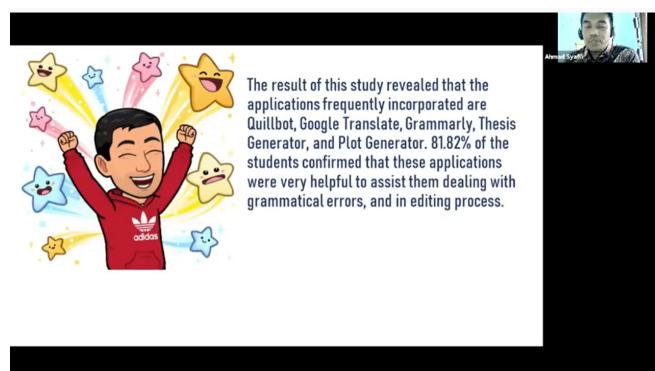
First one is google translation. Because Indonesian learners usually come from, the mother tongue, I mean, it's really interferes the second language acquisition.
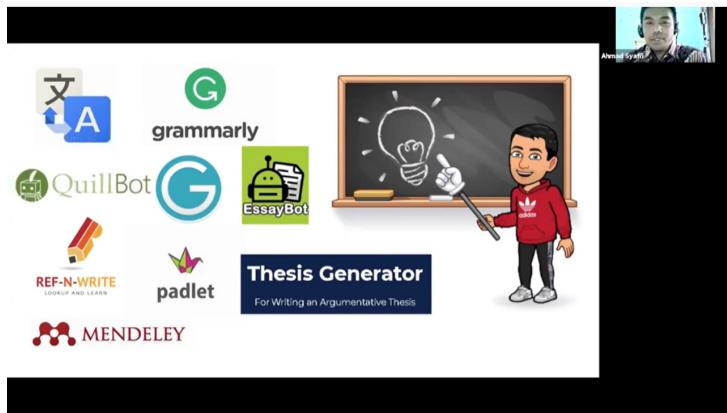
So google translate is the most powerful tools they always use when they are writing something. Then Grammarly. I use it to help them to check their grammar and then [x] also. And then, in EssayBot, Ref-N-Write, Padlet. I use Padlet in brainstorming stage before going further in the writing process. I usually ask them or invite them to brainstorm the idea using Padlet. Then to help them, to facilitate them to compose a good thesis statement, I also use Thesis Generator then they can formulated a good generated. And then to help them in reference manager I employ, Mendeley reference manager. So, in a whole class here there are a lot of applications that we use during the classroom. And the response, the student response, are good. They feel that they are very, those applications are very helpful for them, especially when they are writing something. But the weaknesses is that the role of the lecturer or the teacher will be minimized because everything is done by robot. And the challenge is that the role of the teacher or lecturer in the writing process. And also QuillBot. This is a language, yeah.
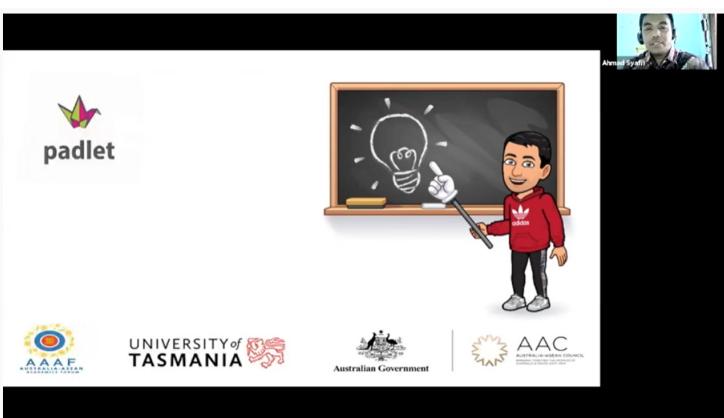
And it is actually my [x] that it's also is that...

…the previous problem that I said before, lack of ideas, generating thesis statements, summarizing, maintaining unity, choosing appropriate word, paraphrasing, selecting correct spelling, maintaining coherence, composing correct sentences, situating references and selecting appropriate punctuation.
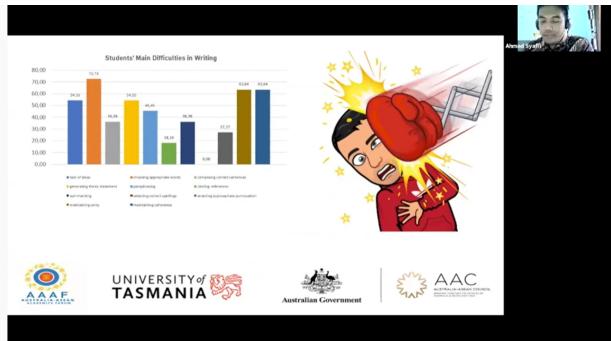
And the highest, or the most serious problem will be 72.7% is choosing appropriate words. So, google translate and Grammarly will be the most suitable application to help them in writing. And this is the application powered by artificial intelligence used by my students.
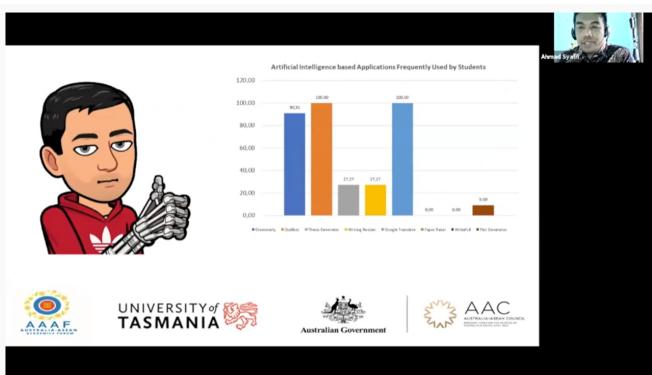

The first one is the thesis generator and also google translate, and the second one is Coolbot to help them summarize and also paraphrase the ideas of the sentences. And also Grammarly, and then writing adviser. And also Preparator when I have to check their writing. This is the benefit of artificial intelligence powered application based on my students' opinion.
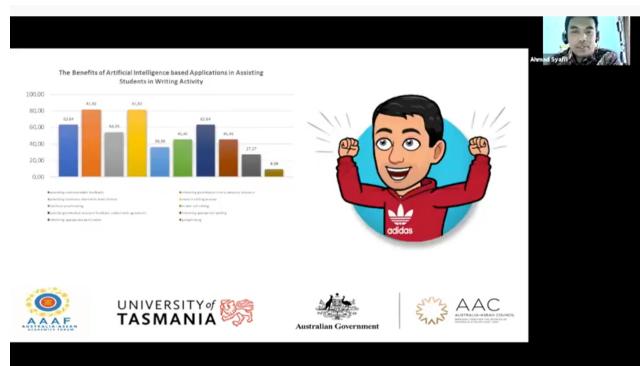

80.8 percent students stated that it's very helpful in informing grammatical error, sentence structure. It means that they feel the beneficial in the highest point. So is that grammatical errors and sentence structure are the most critical point of the writing process and also assist them in editing process. And then the next one is providing understandable feedbacks, providing numerous

alternatives for choices, facilitate proofreading, provide grammatical structural feedback, subject of agreement, informing appropriate punctuation and so forth. And from this benefit, I conduct a deep interview with my students that they feel engaged in writing process rather than just letting them provide. But after writing process, I usually conduct such kind of deliberating room. I asked them what's your problem and then having feedback from this application. So, what do you feel and what do you need, do you understand the feedback and something like that. And in the deliberating room we, are discussing about the feedback given by the robot and I mediate them to understand what's meant by the feedback and so forth. And this is the strength based on my survey, the strength, based on my students, that 100% of students stated that again and again grammatical error will be the most strong aspect on this application.

And the assisting and editing process, same from the previous line, and then the other [x], and the weaknesses or the drawback of this application is that this is internet consuming. And then the word limitation, because mostly uses a free version not premium one, so the words are limited.
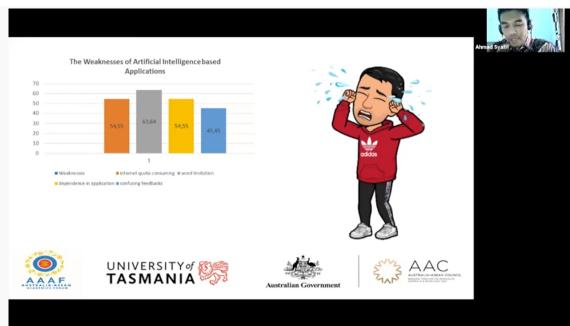
And then, the dependence of the application. So, when I introduce this application, the students feel that creative process is not really important. Just put your idea into the application and the application will finish your writing. So I, again and again, my position in this class is that I have to be a facilitator to not only introduce them with the application but also I have to facilitate their misunderstanding about a feedback and so forth and so on. So, that was my experience. Actually, this is not the research. Even this is not the research, but I think this is my pre-research before going further into the real research.