

English Correction Software

ToBIT Paper

Tobias Koller

University of Applied Science Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW),
4000 Basel, Switzerland

Abstract. This paper forms

Keywords: Grammarly · Natural Language Processing · Language Correction Software

1 Introduction

Numerous software solutions on the market promise to help in particular non-native English speakers with grammatical error detection and improving the style and structure of their writing. In the course of the module “Innovative Topics in Business Information Technology” (ToBIT), I am going to evaluate different products regarding their functions, ease of use and effectiveness in supporting the writing process. The main goal is to use literature review to discover how effective the correction software is under real conditions.

One widely known and used writing tool for grammar checking, spell checking, and plagiarism is Grammarly®. Since it is one of the leading products in this field and there are innumerable research papers to support, I focus on this particular tool.

After the evaluation of the tools, I will also describe different natural language processing (NLP) techniques that are being applied. In the final part of the document, the findings will be discussed to show clearly the current state of art in this field. A recommendation to University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) will be given on what products to consider or how to develop a new product internally.

2 Introduction

The following chapter

3 Existing solutions

3.1 Grammarly

Grammarly, a company with its eponymous popular language correction software, aims to improve the communication of people. Max Lytvyn, Alex Shevchenko, and Dmytro Lider founded the company 2009 with a strong focus on supporting the student's writing process. In the meantime, they broadened their scope to businesses as well as personal writers. With Grammarly @edu and Grammarly business, they have their dedicated divisions for those clients. Their correction service is based on analysing the written content in real-time while showing suggestions in the form of correction cards. With a simple click, the changes can be applied or rejected. To promote learning of the writer further grammatical information regarding the specific issue can be retrieved from the card which can help to decide on whether to accept the changes or not. ("Grammarly." n.d.)

Being a successful grammar checker requires to be available where people create texts. With such a diverse client group, those places are multi-faceted. While academic and business end-users might use classical text processing software, most personal use cases are not so easy to unify. Web forums, chat messages, e-mails or social-media platforms are some of the areas users compose content. Grammarly responds to this with various products. Browser plugins for all major browsers (Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Edge) provide accompanying grammar service during your browsing experience. Input text fields are automatically detected and errors are highlighted with the option to see the correction card. Users of Windows and Mac can download a Grammarly text editor, but similar functionality can also be used in their web application on app.grammarly.com. To also serve customers who write on mobile devices, the Grammarly team developed a keyboard for Android and iOS. For both Microsoft Word and Outlook, Grammarly provides a special plugin that integrates directly and seamlessly with the writing process.

Which type of help can writers expect from the software? According to their webpage ("Grammarly." n.d.) support ranges from grammar checking, tone detector and for paying users even a plagiarism checker. They claim that their grammar checker does not only find misspelt words but also recognises comma and other punctuation misuses. Furthermore, their premium service includes more advanced suggestions to enhance the writing style. To help writing an appropriate language one can define so-called goals on which the algorithm bases its recommendations on. Parameters that can be predefined include target-audience, formality, domain and tone of writing.

4 Evaluation of effectiveness

4.1 Grammarly

Quality of feedback

- Number of comments Dembsey, 2017 page 70

- Type of issues
- quality of feedback (technical language) Dembsey, 2017 page 79

Accuracy Dembsey, 2017 page 83

Perceived Ease of use

Perceived Usefulness

4.2 Application in classrooms

5 Techniques of natural language processing

6 Discussion and recommendation

7 Self experiment

Just cite Dembsey, 2017

Text cite Dembsey (2017)
paren cite (Dembsey, 2017)

citep paragraph? And so on (Dembsey, 2017) The following chapter
text quote “word for word ” (Dembsey, 2017)

8 Bibliography used

The list of references is not final and will be extended during the process of writing the ToBIT paper.

References

- Dembsey, J. M. (2017). Closing the Grammarly® Gaps: A Study of Claims and Feedback from an Online Grammar Program. *The Writing Center Journal*, 36(1), 63–100. Retrieved October 14, 2019, from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44252638>
- Grammarly. (n.d.). Retrieved November 27, 2019, from <https://www.grammarly.com/>