# Technical University English-major Junior Students' Difficulties and Attitudes toward Using Web-based Corpus in an English Writing Class

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## Abstract

The study aimed to investigate 58 technical university English-major students' difficulties and perceptions of use of a corpus in an English writing class.　The participants were required to form a four-student group to conduct a weekly corpus search practice.　The corpus searches were based on their mistakes made in their writing samples.　The participants had four weeks to do the corpus search practice outside the classroom. They were required to bring their corpus search results in the class and share with their classmates.　The results of the study indicated that the participants believed that web-based corpus were helpful for the following areas:　the usage of vocabulary (83%), the learning of vocabulary meaning (80%), and the usage of phrases (76%). Their difficulties in corpus use were unfamiliar vocabulary in the corpus output and too many sentences in the corpus output. Only 63% of the participants believed that the web-based corpus was helpful for improving their English writing skills.

**Key Words: Web-based corpus, EFL learners, English writing class.**

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