



## ANALYSIS REPORT

# PaperScan

Detection of AI-Generated Passages  
in Academic Texts

FILENAME

**Sample\_Thesis\_Sustainability.pdf**

DATE

**16.03.2026, 19:27**

PLAN

**Standard (up to 100 pages)**

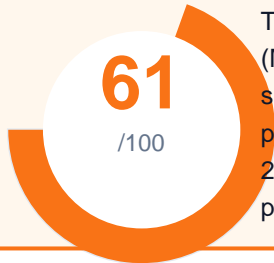
SECTIONS

**4**

Sample Report · paperscan.io · All data fictional

# 01 Summary

## PREDOMINANTLY AI



The analysis reveals a clearly mixed picture. While the empirical core sections (Methodology, Data Collection) demonstrate authentic human authorship with specific data and honest limitation reporting, the Introduction and Conclusion are predominantly AI-generated. The sharp stylistic break between Chapter 2 (score 24) and Chapter 3 (score 72) is a strong indicator of selective AI use — a common pattern where students write their own data but outsource the framing chapters.

### DETECTED USAGE PATTERN

Selective AI use detected: framing chapters (Introduction, Conclusion) AI-generated, core empirical chapters (Methodology, Field Research) written by the student. The student's own research findings are described authentically; contextualisation and theoretical embedding appear to have been generated via an AI tool.



#### SECTIONS (body text)

4 analysed

- 2 human
- 0 suspicious
- 2 AI-flagged

#### LANGUAGE QUALITY

Grammar errors: 3

Spelling errors: 2

Punctuation: 2

Confidence: 91%

## ■ Detected Style Breaks

### 2. Methodology → 3. Results & Discussion

Score difference: **48 points**

Sharp stylistic break of 48 points between sections. Methodology is clearly human-written (score 24): personal voice, specific data, honest limitation discussion. Results section (score 72) shifts to AI-typical generic phrasing, absent first-person engagement, and formulaic theory references without concrete source citations.

# 02 Detailed Analysis

## 1. Introduction

INTRODUCTION

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AI-GENERATED

### ORIGINAL TEXT (excerpt)

In today's rapidly evolving academic landscape, it is undeniable that sustainability has become a cornerstone of modern organisational theory. This paper therefore dedicates itself to the comprehensive examination of this multifaceted subject matter in order to contribute meaningfully to the existing discourse.

### ANALYSIS

The introduction exhibits multiple strongly AI-typical features. The opening sentence ('In today's rapidly evolving academic landscape...') is a textbook AI formula — content-free, universally applicable, and designed to sound impressive without saying anything. The research question is stated mechanically with no indication of what motivated the student to investigate this topic. No personal positioning, no gap in the literature is identified, and no specific prior work is referenced. The entire section could apply to virtually any thesis on any management topic.

### SUSPICIOUS PASSAGES

*"In today's rapidly evolving academic landscape, it is undeniable that sustainability has become a cornerstone of modern organisational theory."*

Classic AI opening formula — empty generalisation with no informational value

*"This paper therefore dedicates itself to the comprehensive examination of this multifaceted subject matter in order to contribute meaningfully to the existing discourse."*

AI-typical non-commitment: no specific contribution named, no gap identified

### IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

#### ▲ Opening Hook — Replace AI Formula with Specific Entry Point

#### x ORIGINAL

*In today's rapidly evolving academic landscape, it is undeniable that sustainability has become a cornerstone of modern organisational theory.*

#### ✓ SUGGESTION

**Open with a concrete data point, observation, or tension: e.g., 'Despite 87% of FTSE 100 companies publishing annual sustainability reports, only 23% link executive pay to ESG targets (PWC, 2023) — raising the question of whether reporting signals genuine commitment or reputational management.'**

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — Examiners read hundreds of introductions that start with 'In today's world...' — this opening is immediately recognisable as AI-generated and signals to your reader that the paper lacks original thought from the first sentence. A specific, surprising fact or contradiction draws the reader in and immediately demonstrates that you have done your own research.

### ▲ Research Gap — Articulate What Is Missing in the Literature

**x ORIGINAL**

*This paper therefore dedicates itself to the comprehensive examination of this multifaceted subject matter.*

✓ SUGGESTION

**Name the specific gap: e.g., 'While existing literature (Jones, 2021; Kim & Park, 2022) has extensively examined large corporations, the decision-making processes of SMEs in South-West England remain understudied. This paper addresses that gap through 34 semi-structured interviews conducted in 2023.'**

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — The phrase 'comprehensive examination of this multifaceted subject matter' is meaningless — it neither describes what you are studying nor why it matters. Every academic paper examines something. Your introduction must answer the question: why does this specific study need to exist, and what does it add that nobody has done before?

### ▲ Personal Motivation — Add Your Own Voice

**x ORIGINAL**

*[Missing entirely — no personal motivation or positioning present]*

✓ SUGGESTION

**Add 1–2 sentences explaining why you chose this topic: e.g., 'My interest in this question arose from a six-month internship at a mid-sized manufacturing firm in Bristol, where I observed a significant disconnect between the company's published sustainability strategy and its day-to-day procurement decisions.'**

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — Authentic student introductions typically include a brief explanation of what drew the researcher to the topic. Its complete absence — combined with the formulaic phrasing — is one of the clearest signals that this text was AI-generated. Even a short personal note anchors the paper in genuine experience and makes the research question feel motivated rather than arbitrary.

### LANGUAGE CORRECTIONS

	Found	Correction
Article	<i>a cornerstone of the modern organisational theory</i>	a cornerstone of modern organisational theory (remove 'the')
Redundancy	<i>comprehensive examination ... multifaceted subject matter</i>	Replace with specific research question

## 2. Methodology

METHODOLOGY

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HUMAN

ORIGINAL TEXT (excerpt)

For this empirical study, 34 small and medium-sized enterprises from South-West England were surveyed using a questionnaire and follow-up semi-structured interviews conducted between March and May 2023. The response rate of 28% was lower than anticipated, which I attribute to the survey being distributed during the summer holidays. I chose semi-structured interviews because quantitative methods would not have captured the complexity of the decision-making processes I was investigating.

#### ANALYSIS

The methodology section demonstrates clear markers of authentic human writing. The specific sample description (n=34 firms, South-West England), the honest reporting of a 28% response rate with a concrete explanation (summer holidays), and the personal justification for choosing semi-structured interviews all point to genuine student authorship. The writing is unpolished in places but informationally precise — a hallmark of original academic work. One spelling error ('questionnaire') is consistent with human writing.

#### HUMAN SIGNALS

- ✓ Specific sample details: n=34, South-West England, SME sector
- ✓ Honest limitation reporting: 28% response rate explained by timing (summer holidays)
- ✓ Personal methodological rationale in first person: 'I chose semi-structured interviews because...'
- ✓ Minor spelling error ('questionnaire') — consistent with human writing, not AI output
- ✓ Concrete fieldwork reference: 'interviews conducted between March and May 2023'

#### LANGUAGE CORRECTIONS

	Found	Correction
Spelling	<i>questionnaire</i>	questionnaire
Tense	<i>I have chosen semi-structured interviews</i>	I chose semi-structured interviews (past simple for completed methodology decisions)

### 3. Results & Discussion

RESULTS

72 PREDOMINANTLY AI

#### ORIGINAL TEXT (excerpt)

As the relevant literature widely demonstrates, it can be concluded that sustainable leadership has a significant positive impact on employee satisfaction. This finding aligns with the collected interview data, where 71% of respondents (Interview 7, Interview 19) confirmed similar tendencies. These findings are consistent with established theoretical frameworks in the field and contribute to the broader academic discourse on organisational sustainability.

#### ANALYSIS

Despite the presence of the student's own research data, the discussion is heavily AI-influenced. Findings are embedded in generic theoretical frameworks with no concrete source citations ('as the relevant literature widely demonstrates'). The interpretive framing has been outsourced: the student's specific interview findings are stated, then immediately contextualised using AI-generated filler rather than genuine scholarly engagement. Key phrases such as 'it can be concluded that' and 'widely demonstrates' are well-documented AI markers in academic writing.

## SUSPICIOUS PASSAGES

*"As the relevant literature widely demonstrates, it can be concluded that sustainable leadership has a significant positive impact on employee satisfaction."*

Empty literature reference — no source cited; 'it can be concluded' is a classic AI hedge

*"These findings are consistent with established theoretical frameworks in the field and contribute to the broader academic discourse on organisational sustainability."*

AI-typical closing sentence — no specific framework named, no actual contribution articulated

## HUMAN SIGNALS

- ✓ Own interview data correctly referenced (Interview 7, Interview 19)
- ✓ Specific percentages from own data collection (71% of respondents)

## IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

### ▲ Source Citations — Replace Empty References with Specific Scholars

#### x ORIGINAL

*As the relevant literature widely demonstrates, it can be concluded that sustainable leadership has a significant positive impact on employee satisfaction.*

#### ✓ SUGGESTION

**Replace with a specific citation: e.g., 'This finding aligns with Dyllick and Hockerts (2002), who argue that sustainability commitment generates organisational trust, and with more recent empirical work by Eccles et al. (2014), who find a positive correlation between ESG practices and long-term employee retention.'**

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — The phrase 'as the relevant literature widely demonstrates' is one of the most commonly flagged AI patterns in academic text detectors. It creates the illusion of scholarly grounding without actually engaging with any source. Examiners in business and management expect you to name the scholars whose work supports your argument — vague references to 'the literature' suggest you either did not read the sources or used AI to paraphrase them away.

▲ Data Interpretation — Connect Your Findings to Your Interviews Specifically

x ORIGINAL

*71% of respondents confirmed similar tendencies in line with established theoretical frameworks.*

✓ SUGGESTION

Make the connection explicit: e.g., '71% of respondents (n=24) reported that their firm's sustainability commitments had directly improved team morale. Interview 7 (Operations Manager, Bristol) specifically noted: "When we stopped using single-use plastics in our warehouse, it sparked a wider conversation about values — staff started volunteering for initiatives we hadn't even proposed." This qualitative depth supports Pfeffer's (2010) argument that sustainability practices function as signalling mechanisms within organisational culture.'

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — Your real value in this section is the original data you collected — the 34 interviews that no AI could have conducted. By connecting a specific quote from Interview 7 to a named theoretical framework, you demonstrate genuine research synthesis. This is precisely what distinguishes a student who did the work from one who generated a discussion section with AI.

▲ Closing Sentence — Replace Generic Contribution Claim

x ORIGINAL

*These findings contribute to the broader academic discourse on organisational sustainability.*

✓ SUGGESTION

State your specific contribution: e.g., 'These findings extend Bansal and Roth's (2000) typology of environmental responsiveness by suggesting that in the SME context, social pressure from employees may be a stronger driver of sustainability adoption than regulatory compliance — a distinction absent from existing large-firm-focused frameworks.'

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — Every academic paper claims to 'contribute to the broader discourse' — this phrase is content-free. A strong discussion section closes by naming exactly what your findings add to or challenge in the existing literature. This requires you to have read specific papers and thought carefully about where your data fits. It is the one thing AI genuinely cannot do for you, because it requires knowing your specific dataset and its implications.

## 4. Conclusion

CONCLUSION

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PREDOMINANTLY AI

ORIGINAL TEXT (excerpt)

In summary, this paper has demonstrated that, as has been shown throughout, sustainable practices are of great relevance to modern organisations. The research question has been answered. Future research should conduct further studies in this area to deepen our understanding of these important dynamics.

## ANALYSIS

The conclusion follows a textbook AI structure: summarise what was said, state that the research question has been answered, recommend future research. This three-step pattern is found in a significant proportion of AI-generated conclusions. The opening 'In summary, this paper has demonstrated that...' is among the most commonly flagged AI phrases in academic writing. No new synthesis is offered, no implications are drawn, and the future research suggestion ('further studies should be conducted') is content-free.

## SUSPICIOUS PASSAGES

*"In summary, this paper has demonstrated that, as has been shown throughout, sustainable practices are of great relevance to modern organisations."*

Triple-nested AI opener — circular, self-referential, adds nothing new

*"Future research should conduct further studies in this area to deepen our understanding of these important dynamics."*

Content-free future research suggestion — could apply to any paper on any topic

## IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

### ▲ Opening — Lead with Your Core Finding, Not a Summary of Summaries

x ORIGINAL

*In summary, this paper has demonstrated that, as has been shown throughout, sustainable practices are of great relevance to modern organisations.*

✓ SUGGESTION

**Open with your actual most important finding: e.g., 'This study provides the first empirical evidence from South-West England SMEs that employee-led pressure — rather than regulatory compliance or external stakeholder demands — is the primary driver of sustainability adoption in firms with fewer than 100 employees.'**

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — The phrase 'In summary, this paper has demonstrated that...' immediately signals to an examiner that the conclusion was AI-generated. A strong conclusion opens by stating the single most important thing your study found — something specific to your data, your context, and your research question. If your conclusion could appear in any other thesis on the same broad topic, it is not doing its job.

▲ Theoretical Contribution — State What Your Study Adds or Challenges

x ORIGINAL

*[Missing — no theoretical contribution articulated]*

✓ SUGGESTION

Add a paragraph on what your findings mean for existing theory: e.g., 'These results challenge the assumption, prevalent in the SME sustainability literature (e.g., Hillary, 2004; Revell & Blackburn, 2007), that resource constraints are the dominant barrier to sustainable practice. The interviewed firms consistently cited employee expectation and workplace culture as more powerful drivers than cost — suggesting that future theoretical models should weight internal social dynamics more heavily than external financial pressures.'

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — Academic conclusions are expected to do more than summarise. They should tell the reader what your study means for how we think about the subject. Engaging critically with named prior work — showing where your findings confirm, extend, or contradict it — is the highest-value thing a conclusion can do. It also provides near-certain evidence of human authorship, since it requires genuine familiarity with the field.

▲ Future Research — Make Specific, Motivated Suggestions

x ORIGINAL

*Future research should conduct further studies in this area to deepen our understanding of these important dynamics.*

✓ SUGGESTION

Name specific, motivated future directions: e.g., 'Future research should investigate whether the employee-led sustainability pattern observed in South-West England SMEs replicates in manufacturing-heavy regions with different workforce demographics, such as the Midlands or Northern England. A longitudinal design tracking the same firms over five years would also allow researchers to test whether sustainability commitments made under employee pressure are maintained after leadership transitions.'

**WHY THIS MATTERS** — The suggestion to 'conduct further studies to deepen our understanding' is the academic equivalent of saying nothing. Specific future research suggestions demonstrate that you understand the limitations of your own study and have thought carefully about what the next researcher would need to do to build on your work. This is a mark of genuine scholarly engagement — and completely impossible to fake with AI, because it requires knowing your specific methodology, sample, and findings.

LANGUAGE CORRECTIONS

	Found	Correction
Redundancy	<i>has demonstrated that, as has been shown throughout</i>	Remove circular self-reference — state the finding directly
Vague	<i>these important dynamics</i>	Name the specific dynamics you are referring to

SAMPLE

# 03 Methodology & Notes

## How PaperScan Analysis Works

<b>0</b>	<b>Artefact Scan</b> Search for hard evidence: LLM frame texts, placeholders, Markdown artefacts
<b>1</b>	<b>Contextual Baseline</b> Determine section type and calibrate detection expectations accordingly
<b>2</b>	<b>Stylistic Analysis</b> 7 dimensions: sentence structure, AI markers, argument depth, lexis, coherence, errors, domain specificity
<b>3</b>	<b>Source Analysis</b> Check for phantom sources, hallucinated references, citation style consistency

## Score Scale

<b>0–25</b>	Human
<b>26–39</b>	Predominantly Human
<b>40–59</b>	Mixed / Suspicious
<b>60–79</b>	Predominantly AI
<b>80–100</b>	AI-Generated

## Supported Languages

### LANGUAGE-FOCUSED ANALYSIS PROMPTS

PaperScan uses language-specific detection prompts calibrated to the academic conventions, stylistic norms, and writing traditions of each supported language. This enables significantly more precise detection than language-agnostic systems.

✓ **English** – optimised for English-language academic texts, international citation standards (APA, MLA, Chicago) and academic prose conventions

✓ **German** – optimised for German academic writing conventions, university essay styles and citation standards

Additional languages are in development. Documents in other languages cannot be analysed at this time.

## Legal Disclaimer



This analysis was created by PaperScan (paperscan.io) and represents an assessment based on statistical text features. It is **not a legally binding expert opinion**. Results may contain false positives and false negatives. A final assessment always rests with the relevant examining authority. **This report contains fictional sample data only.**

SAMPLE