The Impact of AI on the Instruction and Acquisition of Foreign Languages in Higher Education

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Artificial intelligence (AI) has completely changed instructional strategies and student learning outcomes. AI technologies, such as chatbots and automated writing assistance tools, provide personalized learning experiences, enabling learners to engage in interactive tasks that enhance language acquisition. Research indicates that AI platforms significantly improve academic writing skills among language learners by offering immediate feedback on language use, thus encouraging self-regulated learning. Furthermore, educators mention that AI tools allow for dynamic assessments and support diverse learning styles in online environments. Due to the increasing implementation of AI in foreign language classes, this article presents both opportunities and challenges of using AI in education. Educators express a mixture of enthusiasm and skepticism regarding its efficacy and potential to supplement traditional teaching methods. Nonetheless, the paper considers AI as a supplementary support mechanism instead of being a total substitute for human instructors, thus enhancing rather than undermining pedagogical approaches. Overall, the applications of AI in language classrooms upgrade pedagogical strategies, facilitating more accessible and effective language acquisition in the increasingly digital landscape of education.

Artificial intelligence; language learning; benefits; challenges; applications.

1. Introduction

The recent development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in foreign language classes marks a substantial transformation in pedagogical practices, enhancing educators' approaches to language teaching and learning. AI technologies can improve educational experiences by offering personalized learning pathways, automating administrative tasks, and facilitating interactive learning environments. As AI systems become more sophisticated, educators can tailor instruction and provide targeted support for individual students according to their needs (Nurjanah et al. 2024; Konyrova, 2024).

The potential of AI to analyze extensive datasets helps educators to discover crucial information about learners' performance and engagement, ultimately improving motivation and learning outcomes. AI systems can deliver personalized content that adapts to the pace and proficiency of each student, supporting engagement and promoting language acquisition (Konyrova, 2024). Additionally, AI-enabled platforms offer instantaneous feedback on language use, assisting students to quickly identify and correct errors—a critical component in language learning where continuous improvement is essential (Yunina, 2023).

Moreover, incorporating AI into foreign language classrooms aligns with contemporary educational trends that highlight the importance of stimulating learner autonomy and critical thinking skills. Technologies like chatbots and language learning apps can act as conversational partners, offering students the possibility of practicing speaking and listening in a low-stress environment (Liu, 2023). Through interactive learning experiences, AI tools actively engage students, encouraging them to control their learning journeys.

However, using AI in education presents some drawbacks. There's the persistent issue of equitable access—not every student has the same technical resources. Ethical concerns are another issue, especially when it comes to data privacy and the hidden biases of some AI systems (Holmes et al., 2021; Konyrova, 2024). For AI to actually make a difference in the classroom, teachers need adequate training session. When educators truly understand how to use these technologies, they will be able to enrich their instructional practices, offer more tailored support to students, and, ultimately, improve learning outcomes (Liu, 2023).

In summary, using AI in foreign language education provides transformative opportunities for enhancing language-teaching and learning experiences. Stressing the ethical and appropriate use of AI will be essential for instructors and students, in order to completely use its potential to enhance language proficiency and engagement.

2. Benefits and Challenges of Integrating AI in Teaching and Learning Foreign Languages

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education has reshaped traditional pedagogical methodologies, particularly within the field of language learning. Regarding foreign languages, AI tools offer significant advantages that strengthen teaching and learning activities. Nevertheless, these benefits are accompanied by notable challenges that require careful consideration and strategic planning. This paper examines the dual nature of AI in foreign language education, highlighting both its promising benefits and inherent challenges.

2.1. The Benefits of AI in Language Instruction and Acquisition

The domain of language teaching and learning has been revolutionized by the use of AI tools, offering unprecedented opportunities for learners, educators, and institutions.

One of the most important benefits that AI offers in this domain is customized learning, which enhances engagement, a key element of contemporary language education. AI systems use natural language processing and machine learning to adapt to the individual needs of learners, providing tailored feedback and recommendations based on their performance (Gyawali & Mehandroo, 2022). AI tools, such as ChatGPT, have been employed to create interactive and responsive learning environments where students can receive immediate input and modify their learning strategies accordingly (Idham et al., 2024). This personalization offers students the opportunity to learn at their own pace, thus enhancing motivation and learning outcomes (Wei, 2023).

Furthermore, AI can also assist in assessment processes, helping educators to evaluate learners' progress more efficiently and accurately. For instance, AI-powered platforms can analyze language usage patterns and identify areas where students may struggle, allowing for timely interventions (Rusmiyanto et al., 2023). This is a crucial element in language learning, where the subtleties of pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary usage require ongoing and effective feedback. The algorithms that the AI tools use provide assessments which enable students to understand their mistakes and correct them immediately (Persulessy et al., 2024).

Additionally, using AI in language learning increases engagement and interactivity. The gamification of learning experiences, enabled by AI applications, has been shown to enhance students' enthusiasm for language acquisition (Citraningtyas & Cendana, 2024). Learners today are increasingly attracted to interactive tools and games that make learning enjoyable while simultaneously challenging them intellectually. These AI-based English language games have demonstrated effectiveness in developing communication skills due to their immersive nature, which provides a safe environment for experimentation and learning (Yu & Nazir, 2021).

A benefit of AI that cannot be overlooked is the stimulation of collaborative learning experiences. AI enhances collaborative learning by connecting learners with similar proficiency levels, even in different geographical locations. Such interactions encourage social learning and increase communication skills, as students engage with their peers in meaningful language use (Li, 2022). The combination of collaboration and personalized feedback creates an entertaining and engaging learning environment where students are comfortable, reinforcing their confidence and competence.

AI technology also allows for increased accessibility to language learning resources. After COVID-19 pandemic, online learning has become more prevalent, AI tools have ensured that students remain connected to educational opportunities (Persulessy et al., 2024). Platforms that incorporate AI provide immediate access to a variety of language learning materials, from vocabulary trainers to pronunciation guides, thus breaking down traditional barriers to education that may have hampered students in less resource settings (Akbarani, 2024). The accessibility of language learning resources through AI is crucial

for promoting equity in education, allowing all students to benefit from AI and develop their skills.

Equally important is the support AI provides in higher education contexts. Research indicates that AI-driven technologies help learners develop crucial self-regulation skills by enabling them to track their development and change their approaches according to their needs (Wei, 2023). This self-regulated learning is increasingly recognized as key characteristic for current students, as it cultivates lifelong learning habits essential for personal and professional growth.

2.2. Challenges of Using AI in Foreign Languages

Although Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers numerous advantages in language learning, it has many downsides. As technology increasingly spreads in educational contexts, several significant obstacles arise that educators and learners alike must overcome to ensure its effective implementation.

One of the primary challenges is the need for substantial training and professional growth for all educators. While AI platforms can offer customized learning activities and automated feedback, educators must be adequately equipped to integrate these technologies into their pedagogical frameworks effectively. Gyawali and Mehandroo (2022) emphasize the necessity of professional development that enables teachers to fully control the capabilities of AI-based tools. Adequate training is essential to implementing AI in a manner that enriches the learning experience, otherwise technology might be underused, and it might create confusion among students.

In addition, the reliance on technology can exacerbate existing inequalities in educational access and resources. AI-based tools often require internet access and technological infrastructure that may not be readily available in all educational settings. This digital divide can hinder the equitable use of AI in foreign language learning, limiting its benefits to learners in more affluent areas while leaving those in under-resourced environments at a disadvantage (Eslit, 2023). Access disparities also extend to students' varying degrees of technological literacy, affecting their capacity to engage with AI-based resources effectively.

Another significant drawback is the possibility of over-dependence on AI systems. The automation provided by AI tools may unintentionally diminish learners' intrinsic motivation. As Ali mentions, students using AI for language learning can fall into the habit of relying too much on technology, which risks undermining their independent problem-solving skills and critical thinking capabilities (Ali, 2020). Moreover, this over-reliance can lead to a lack of engagement in traditional language practices, such as speaking and writing exercises that require human interaction and feedback. The balance between utilizing technology and engaging in authentic learning experiences is a delicate one that educators must manage carefully (Wei, 2023).

Privacy and ethical concerns represent additional challenges in the use of AI in language education. AI platforms often require extensive data collection to function optimally, a reality that raises significant questions regarding data privacy, security, and ethical usage. As Fitria (2023) discusses, these concerns can lead to anxiety among students about the safety of their personal information. The necessity for robust data protection protocols becomes critical, especially when considering the potential for misuse or unauthorized access to sensitive educational data.

Moreover, there is a challenge in ensuring the cultural context and nuances of language are effectively integrated into AI systems. Even though AI language tools can work with colossal data volumes and offer feedback, they may struggle to account for cultural differences or idiomatic expressions uniquely tied to specific English-speaking communities, for example. The absence of contextual understanding may result in learners receiving feedback that lacks depth or relevance to real-life language use, which is essential for effective communication (Vall & Araya, 2023). Understanding and interpreting the subtleties of language requires human expertise, raising questions about AI's potential to adequately replace traditional pedagogical approaches.

Lastly, variability in the effectiveness of AI tools presents an ongoing challenge. Not all AI systems perform equally well across diverse learner demographics or language proficiencies. Research indicates that the adaptability of AI systems can vary, affecting how well they meet the needs of each student (Авшенюк et al., 2024). For some learners, AI systems may reinforce language skills effectively, while for others, they may not yield the expected benefits. This inconsistency necessitates careful selection and evaluation of AI platforms to make sure they are in line with instructional goals.

3. Applications of AI in Foreign Language Writing Classes

3.1. The Use of ChatGPT into English Language Writing Classes

The integration of ChatGPT into English writing classes presents a tremendous opportunity for enhancing learners' engagement and skills. Research indicates that AI technologies like ChatGPT can significantly improve writing instruction by providing tailored feedback and suggestions according to students' needs. This dual capacity for personalization and immediate, interactive assistance aligns with pedagogical trends that prioritize learner-centered approaches, as discussed in several studies (Harunasari, 2023; Gyawali & Mehandroo, 2022).

Many researchers have highlighted the effectiveness of integrating AI into educational frameworks. We have also observed during the English writing classes that ChatGPT can enhance teaching efficacy while cultivating student motivation and engagement in language learning. Additionally, a structured approach to using ChatGPT in writing classes can facilitate higher-level cognitive engagement, enabling students to

generate ideas, structure their responses, and refine their writing (Harunasari, 2023). The introduction of AI tools supports strategic thinking in writing, reflecting a change from traditional pedagogical strategies to more inclusive and adaptive learning environments (Yunina, 2023).

Moreover, the advantages of using AI-driven platforms extend beyond individual assignments. ChatGPT can assist teachers in crafting lesson plans and educational material according to various proficiency levels within a classroom (Khan, 2023). This capability promotes a gradual, guided learning environment in which students can work at their own rhythm, thereby increasing their confidence and proficiency in writing (Akbarani, 2024).

One of the activities that we have carried out in English writing classes, in groups of 15 students, was to require students to correct their essays with ChatGPT, asking for a list of errors regarding sentence structure, grammar, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation. Next, students had to correct each mistake in their original draft and ask if they did not understand some of the mistakes they made. Together we have discussed some of the most common errors encountered, to make sure they learn from their mistakes. After that, students required ChatGPT to refine their essays at an advanced level, and students were supposed to decide what they would implement from the suggestions given by ChatGPT. The class was a success because every student worked at their own pace, received immediate and personalized feedback and they actively engaged in class.

However, the incorporation of ChatGPT does not come without challenges. Just like using AI in general, the issue of over-dependence, as well as concerns regarding the authenticity of student work, must be addressed. Some scholars argue that although AI can enhance the learning process, students may become dependent on AI, potentially damaging their critical thinking and writing skills (Liu, 2023). Thus, educators are encouraged to maintain a balance, using AI as a support mechanism and not a substitute for traditional teaching and learning. Continuous feedback and adaptation will be essential to maximize its potential while safeguarding the integrity of academic learning.

3.2. Integration of Scoring Rubrics

Assessing student work through AI-based tools in language classes presents unique opportunities and challenges for educators. Writing scoring rubrics are essential for providing structured and consistent assessments. When using AI in foreign language writing assessments, these rubrics can be fine-tuned to incorporate AI-generated insights into students' performance. For instance, educators can design rubrics that evaluate students on specific criteria, such as complexity of language, fluency, and grammatical accuracy, while referencing insights from AI tools. This can help ensure scoring is both qualitative and quantitative, providing a proficient evaluation of student work.

Furthermore, engaging students in co-creating rubrics can enhance their motivation and understanding of assessment expectations (Gong, 2023). This collaborative approach

empowers students and promotes critical thinking as they actively participate in evaluating their peers' work.

3.3. Using Peer Feedback through AI

Peer assessment is an effective method to evaluate student writing while also encouraging collaborative learning among students. Educators can utilize AI tools to facilitate peer feedback processes by generating prompts and guiding questions for students to reflect on their peers' drafts (Harunasari, 2023). For example, ChatGPT can assist students in developing constructive feedback, ensuring that the review process is clear and based on specific criteria outlined in the rubrics.

This AI peer review process can increase student engagement and responsibility for their work, as reflected in studies showing students respond positively to peer assessment initiatives (Ekizoğlu & Demir, 2025). Moreover, using AI to analyze peer feedback can provide educators with insights into common areas of misunderstanding or strengths among students, informing future instructional strategies.

3.4. Formative and Summative Assessment Enhancement

AI tools can complement traditional formative and summative assessments by enabling real-time monitoring of student performance. Language learning applications that incorporate AI can track progress over time by documenting improvements in writing capabilities (Wei, 2023). These tools can automatically assess drafts and provide analytics that inform both students and teachers about growth in specific areas, such as vocabulary usage or sentence complexity.

Moreover, educators should consider integrating AI evaluations with traditional assessments to create a holistic view of a student's language abilities. By combining AI's real-time feedback capability with formal examinations or written assignments, teachers can create a more comprehensive assessment experience that considers both structured and informal learning environments.

3.5. Emphasizing Academic Integrity and Ethical Use

Although AI tools offer significant advantages for assessment, it is crucial to consider potential ethical problems, particularly regarding plagiarism and academic integrity. Educators must be proactive and inform learners about the limitations and appropriate use of AI. Expectations for original work and rules on academic integrity are essential for creating a responsible and ethical learning environment (Khalil & Er, 2023).

Encouraging students to use AI to enhance their writing rather than solely relying on it for completion can stimulate students to take responsibility for their work and education. Educators can integrate discussions about the ethical implications of AI into the

curriculum, ensuring that students understand the balance between using technology and maintaining academic integrity (Liu & Wang, 2024; Khalil & Er, 2023).

4. Conclusions

Incorporating AI-based tools in assessing student work offers dynamic and multifaceted approaches to evaluation. By using AI for immediate feedback, structured rubrics, facilitating peer assessments, enhancing formative assessment processes, and emphasizing academic integrity, educators can create a supportive and effective assessment environment. These strategies not only improve language proficiency among learners but also prepare them for an increasingly digital and automated learning future.

The effective use of AI technologies in language instruction and acquisition requires proactive engagement from both educators and students. By encouraging AI literacy, personalizing learning experiences, and promoting collaboration, both parties can maximize the benefits of these technological advancements. Furthermore, attention to academic integrity and the constructive use of feedback will enhance the overall educational experience. In order to succeed in a foreign language class, we need to remain adaptive and open to new methodologies.

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