

Artificial Intelligence and English Language Teaching: The Present and The Future of English Language Teaching

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Abstract

Human intellect is expanded upon by artificial intelligence. The phrase "artificial intelligence" gives the impression that it primarily refers to robotics. It is frequently overlooked that artificial intelligence has a wide range of uses in the fields of media, education, language processing, and social transformation. The teaching and learning of English has been significantly impacted by artificial intelligence. Every educational stakeholder has been working to develop new technology that will help students learn English more effectively. The technique of learning a language has changed significantly from the traditional method of translating grammar to the modern multimedia approaches. But regrettably, we are still falling behind in our language learning.

***Key Words:** Artificial Intelligence, English language teaching, Artificial Intelligence Technology, AI for Teachers*

Introduction

According to the 2020 National Education Policy, mother language instruction should continue until the fifth grade and, if feasible, until the eighth grade. Additionally, NEP 2020 suggests working to publish excellent textbooks and instructional resources in the mother tongue. The curricular transaction between the teacher and the student will continue to take place in the mother tongue if there are no books available in the mother tongue. Promoting mother tongues or regional languages in schools is a commendable endeavor. One thing to consider is that a sudden change in the medium of instruction after eighth grade won't make things go more smoothly.

While we are working to raise the educational system to international levels, we are also eroding the fundamentals. We have to realize that the English language is used to perceive the entire world. Both regional and second languages should be valued equally. Every student, regardless of grade level, should get instruction in all languages using excellent pedagogical interventions. Artificial intelligence facilitates the English language's natural learning process. Despite their classrooms, the nation's students are not given many opportunity to communicate in English. Outside of the classroom, neither of them makes an attempt to speak a second language. As a result, the classroom is the sole setting where students may fully practice their English. The application of cutting-edge technology to foster social and cultural transformation is known as artificial intelligence.

The Importance of Artificial Intelligence Technology for Teaching English

1. Giving immediate feedback: Teachers and students can receive immediate feedback via artificial intelligence. Getting prompt recognition for one's efforts is usually encouraging and inspiring. It can be draining to wait a long time for the response. When it comes to the English language, skill development is crucial. To communicate effectively, one must practice the four language skills. Feedback on pronunciation, accent, sentence structure, concord, syntax, and comprehension must be given right away. We might not remember where and how you made the mistakes when we look back on them later, and delayed feedback won't let you spot them in time.
2. Deeper Involvement in the Learning Process: Teachers would be able to escape the tedium of the syllabus year after year with the aid of artificial intelligence. AI supports a personalized method of language learning that takes into account each learner's unique characteristics. Personalized curricula allow students to learn at their own speed, from any location, at any time. AI has promise for a child-centered education in which pupils set their own goals and follow their own learning preferences. Depending on students' interests, games, exploration exercises, quizzes, and other activities are used to start a deep engagement with the language acquisition process.

3. **Language bots:** Most students find it difficult to communicate in English both inside and outside of the classroom. When speaking with a real person, they are scared to face their fear of making mistakes. Language bots are helping AI solve this problem. Students can communicate with a virtual person on the other end of a language bot. Language bots reply to your messages, evaluate your work, and help you improve your language skills.
4. **Machine translation:** Thanks to artificial intelligence technologies like neural machine translation, machine translation has advanced significantly. Neural machine translation can help integrate machine translation into foreign language acquisition in addition to improving translation quality. Using the teaching strategy known as "Machine Translation as a Bad Model," students find and correct errors and inconsistencies in content that has been machine-translated. This helps students improve their vocabulary, comprehension, and sentence construction in the target language, as well as their understanding of the language and its peculiarities.
5. **No Fear of Failing:** Students in English language classes are terrified of how their teachers would respond if they make mistakes or receive low marks. Making mistakes is okay since that's how we learn. AI will help pupils identify their skill errors rather than punishing them or making them worse for their subpar performance. The benefit of AI is its ability to assess without passing judgment.
6. **Artificial Intelligence Modifies the Environment for Teaching English:** Students in Indian classrooms today do not find the teaching-learning environment to be inspiring or pleasant. Though we have been adopting many innovative approaches and methods in the classrooms, teachers are confined to the grammar translation method of teaching English. Acquisition of English language is even more difficult in the present classroom scenario. This deaf-mute situation of English language classrooms needs to be changed to an environment friendly. Integration of graphics, text and sound promotes a good learning environment for more stereoscopic learning of English. Authenticity and reliability of language learning environment is increased by man-machine Interface of Artificial Intelligence. Here students learn in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere through Voice Interaction, Text Interaction and GUI Interaction.

7. Artificial Intelligence Enhances the English Teaching Effect: Every student is unique in their abilities. Each student will have a varied base of English skills. AI makes it possible to adapt the activities for various pupils based on their skills and aptitudes. Depending on the needs of their students, teachers could implement specific teaching optimization strategies. Through related educational activities created by English language instructors, AI meets the demands of pupils. Students that struggle with speaking could spend their time practicing oral communication techniques with AI support. AI-powered simulated instruction offers a platform for improved writing, pronunciation, and vocabulary use. AI gathers student recordings from various English-speaking nations and uses them to engage and converse with other students.

AI's Benefits for Teachers

Planning

Receiving data about students' backgrounds and helping teachers choose the learning material during class planning were two benefits of AI in planning. In one study, an AI system gave teachers background data on the aggressiveness and other delinquent risk indicators of their kids (Pelham et al., 2020). Dalvean and Enkhbayar (2018) employed machine learning to categorize the readability of English fiction works in order to support teachers in creating instructional materials. According to their study's findings, the classification can assist English teachers in organizing their lessons while taking readability characteristics into account.

Implementation

Timely monitoring of learning processes is AI's most notable benefit. For instance, Suetal (2014) used artificial intelligence to create a sensor-based learning concentration detection system for use in a classroom setting. Teachers were able to keep an eye on how focused their students were on the class activities thanks to the system. Teachers can give prompt feedback (Burstein et al., 2004; Huang et al., 2010, 2011) and swiftly carry out the required interventions (Nikiforos et al., 2020; Schwarz et al., 2018) with the aid of such AI-based monitoring. Teachers, for example, were able to identify key points in group learning and offer flexible interventions to each group (Schwarz et al., 2018). Therefore, by giving teachers feedback and helping them with intervention planning and student monitoring, AI systems can lessen the workload for educators.

Assessment

A number of current AI-based systems (e.g., Turnitin) enable teachers to verify the authenticity of essays submitted by students in graduate courses (Alharbi & Al-Hoorie, 2020). AI aids teachers in exam automation, essay scoring, and decision-making regarding student performance. It has been discovered that an automated essay scoring system can not only significantly advance the effectiveness of essay scoring but also make scoring more objective (Yuan et al., 2020). As a result, researchers are interested in using AI affordances to investigate automated systems.

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