



AI TOOLS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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ABSTRACT

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools into foreign language education has rapidly gained attention due to its potential to enhance language learning experiences. This article explores the current landscape of AI tools in teaching foreign languages, their impact on language acquisition, and the challenges and opportunities they present.

Introduction

The use of AI tools in education has expanded significantly in recent years, and their application in teaching foreign languages has shown promise in addressing various learning needs. This article aims to provide an overview of AI tools in language education, their effectiveness, and the implications for future pedagogical practices. AI is becoming more and more important in the teaching of foreign languages. Artificial intelligence (AI) technology will revolutionize current approaches to teaching foreign languages and open up novel opportunities for language acquisition.

AI Tools in Teaching Foreign Languages:

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used in every field around the world, including education. For example, in the United States, the companies such as Google and Microsoft are investing heavily in AI education technology, while the government emphasized the importance of integrating AI technology into the context of foreign language learning (Ming Yang Liu, 2023). Microsoft developed AI-powered education tools, such as Learning Tools for OneNote, which uses to improve reading and writing skills. With the implementation of speech recognition technology, students can practice both speaking and listening while receiving precise feedback.

AI-powered language learning applications, such as Duolingo, Babbel, and Rosetta Stone, have gained popularity for their interactive and personalized approach to language instruction. These platforms utilize machine learning algorithms to adapt to individual learner needs, providing targeted feedback and exercises to enhance language proficiency (Smith, 2019). Additionally, chatbots and virtual language tutors powered by AI offer students opportunities for real-time language practice and conversation (García et al., 2020).

Research indicates that AI tools can positively impact language acquisition by providing adaptive and personalized learning experiences. A study by Lee and Park (2018)

demonstrated that students using an AI-based language learning platform showed significant improvement in vocabulary retention and speaking proficiency compared to traditional classroom instruction. Furthermore, the interactive nature of AI tools enhances student engagement and motivation, contributing to more effective language learning outcomes (Chen et al., 2021).

AI-supported online learning management systems (like Blackboard) and video conferencing tools (like Zoom) have become popular choices for EFL instruction, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of traditional teaching methods (Layali and Al-Shlowiy, 2020).

Benefits and potential downsides of Using AI tools in foreign language teaching

There are benefits and potential downsides of using AI technology in foreign language instruction. In order to improve language learning outcomes, educators should be aware of both elements and apply AI technology while maintaining the right balance between AI and traditional teaching approaches. The role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching foreign languages is significant and continues to evolve as technology advances.

Here are some key ways in which AI is impacting language education:

- Personalized Learning. AI tools can adapt to individual learning styles and pace, providing personalized learning experiences for students. These tools can analyze learners' strengths and weaknesses to tailor lessons accordingly.
- Language Practice. AI-powered language learning platforms offer interactive exercises, quizzes, and games to help learners practice vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and other language skills in a fun and engaging manner.
- Instant Feedback. AI can provide immediate feedback on exercises and pronunciation, allowing learners to correct mistakes in real-time. This instant feedback helps reinforce learning and improve language accuracy. Furthermore, because speech is fleeting, it might be challenging for teachers to provide students with meaningful feedback even in cases where they are able to talk. The teacher cannot feasibly listen to every student in small groups, much less give comments, and students are more prone to stray from the work or chat in their home tongues. When only a few students speak, the rest of the class remains silent, wasting the limited amount of time they have to communicate. While the teacher can listen and offer immediate oral feedback in such circumstances, students frequently do not gain from this feedback unless they are given the chance to participate and produce an output.
- Language Assessment. AI tools can assess language proficiency through automated tests and evaluations. They can analyze writing samples, speech patterns, and comprehension levels to gauge a learner's language skills accurately.
- Chatbots and Virtual Tutors. AI-driven chatbots and virtual tutors simulate conversations in the target language, providing learners with opportunities to practice speaking and listening skills in a natural setting. These tools can offer real-time feedback and corrections.
- Accessibility. AI tools make language learning more accessible to a wider audience by offering flexible learning schedules, 24/7 availability, and the ability to learn from anywhere with an internet connection. Students can benefit from an abundance of language resources and practice possibilities. Access to real oral texts in the L2 is getting easier because to the internet, but learners still struggle to find opportunities for supervised production and interaction in the language. Either in a regular or blended classroom, there is not enough time,

especially if there are many students in the class.

- Data-Driven Insights. AI can analyze large amounts of data to identify trends in language learning, track student progress, and suggest personalized learning paths based on performance metrics.

- Enhanced Language Teaching. Educators can use AI tools to supplement traditional teaching methods, create interactive lesson plans, and track student performance more efficiently. AI can assist teachers in providing targeted support to students who need extra help. It can increase the effectiveness of learning. AI technology can help students acquire foreign language more quickly by giving them access to immediate and accurate language resources and practice opportunities.

- Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP technology enables AI to understand and generate human language, making it possible for AI tools to engage in conversations with learners, answer questions, and provide explanations in a conversational manner.

AI plays a crucial role in revolutionizing foreign language education by offering innovative solutions that enhance learning outcomes, increase engagement, and provide learners with the support they need to develop proficiency in a new language.

Challenges in using AI in foreign language teaching

AI might not be able to completely take the position of human educators, particularly when it comes to interpersonal and linguistic expressive skills.

- The interpersonal interaction and individualized instructional techniques that certain students need may be absent from AI's automated and standard teaching approach. AI technology's method of instruction lacks a humanized teaching approach and is largely mechanical and monotonous, failing to offer pupils a broader range of learning opportunities.

- Furthermore, AI technology's accuracy and reliability may be jeopardized, producing inaccurate results and data.

- It entails security threats and has technical limitations. The use of AI technology is subject to technological limits and security risks. For example, some students' accents may not be correctly recognized by speech recognition software, machine translation software may produce inaccurate translations, and student personal information may be released by chatbot software.

While AI tools offer numerous benefits, challenges such as access to technology, data privacy concerns, and the need for human interaction in language learning should be carefully considered (González, 2020). Moreover, the role of educators in integrating AI tools into language instruction and the ethical use of AI in education are important areas for further exploration (Liu & Hu, 2019).

It is anticipated that artificial intelligence (AI) in foreign language instruction will continue to grow in scope and innovation in the future. The AI technology advances quickly, it will be used in foreign language instruction in a way that is more sophisticated, dynamic, individualized, and effective.

Conclusion

The integration of AI tools in teaching foreign languages presents exciting opportunities for enhancing language learning experiences. While challenges exist, continued research and collaboration between educators and technologists can lead to the development of more effective and ethical AI-driven language learning solutions.

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