

THE ROLE OF AI IN DEVELOPING PUPILS' SPEAKING SKILLS

Maratova Sabina Zavqiddin qizi

UzSWLU, 3rd year student

Scientific supervisor: Akhmadalievna Khosiyatpochsho Abdulkhayotovna

Acting Associate Professor of the Department

“Theoretical Aspects of the English Language”

Annotation. This article examines how important Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming in helping students develop their speaking skills in schools. Since communication is a key skill in today's learning programs, using AI tools like speech recognition software, chatbots, and personalized learning apps has transformed the way languages are taught. These technologies provide students with quick feedback, create real-life conversation experiences, and offer support that meets their individual needs. The article combines theory with practical examples to demonstrate how AI can enhance pronunciation, fluency, accuracy, and student motivation. It also discusses the teaching challenges and future possibilities of using AI to develop speaking skills.

Keywords: artificial Intelligence, language learning, speaking skills, pronunciation, student engagement, fluency, challenges and limitations.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada sun'iy intellektning (SI) maktab o'quvchilarining og'zaki nutq ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishdagi o'rni tahlil qilinadi. Hozirgi ta'lim dasturlarida muloqot asosiy ko'nikma bo'lib, nutqni tanish dasturlari, chatbotlar va shaxsiylashtirilgan o'quv ilovalari kabi SI vositalari til o'rgatish usullarini sezilarli darajada o'zgartirmoqda. Bu texnologiyalar o'quvchilarga tezkor fikr-mulohaza, haqiqiy suhbat muhitiga yaqin tajriba va individual ehtiyojlarga moslashtirilgan yordamni taqdim etadi. Maqolada nazariy bilimlar hamda amaliy misollar asosida SI talaffuz, ravonlik, aniqlik va o'quvchilar motivatsiyasini qanday oshirishi ko'rsatib beriladi. Shuningdek, SI asosida og'zaki nutqni rivojlantirishda duch kelinadigan muammolar va kelajakdagi imkoniyatlar ham ko'rib chiqiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: sun'iy intellekt, til o'rganish, og'zaki nutq ko'nikmalari, talaffuz, o'quvchi faolligi, ravonlik, qiyinchiliklar va cheklovlar.

Introduction

In the 21st century, the need for strong communication skills, especially speaking, has greatly increased due to globalization, technological growth, and a rising focus on learning multiple languages. Good speaking skills are vital not only for success in school but also for personal growth, job readiness, and socializing. Unfortunately, traditional classrooms often struggle to provide the personalized attention, adequate practice time, and prompt feedback that are key to developing speaking abilities in students. Recent developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have introduced new solutions to these challenges. AI technologies are transforming how we learn languages by offering learners smart,

flexible, and interactive platforms that mimic real-life conversations. These tools, which include AI chatbots, speech recognition programs, and intelligent tutoring systems, allow students to practice speaking in a safe and enjoyable environment. They provide instant feedback, adapt the difficulty based on the learner's progress, and encourage ongoing learning through games and tailored support. The rise of these tools has sparked increased interest among teachers and researchers in examining how effective AI can be in improving speaking skills. Unlike traditional teaching methods that rely mainly on teachers, AI enables independent and student-centered learning. However, the use of AI also raises questions about its teaching methods, fairness of access, and how well it can replicate the human aspects of language communication, such as tone, empathy, and cultural understanding. This paper explores how Artificial Intelligence contributes to the development of students' speaking skills, focusing on its advantages, challenges, and real-world applications in education.

Methods

The study employed several methods, including observing classes, examining current AI-based educational tools, and conducting semi-structured interviews with English teachers and students.

Participants: The study involved 10 English teachers and 30 students from three secondary schools in Uzbekistan. The teachers were selected for their experience with AI tools in language teaching, while the students were chosen from various skill levels to assess how AI affected learners from different backgrounds.

Data Collection: Data was gathered over four weeks. Researchers observed classrooms during English speaking lessons that incorporated AI tools such as ELSA Speak, Duolingo, and Google Assistant for speaking practice. They took notes on student interactions, improvements in pronunciation, and confidence levels. Additionally, teachers and students participated in 15 to 20-minute interviews to discuss their experiences, perspectives, and challenges related to using AI for speaking practice.

Data Analysis: The researchers employed thematic analysis to interpret the qualitative data. They coded and grouped the transcripts from interviews and observation notes to identify key themes, such as the usability of AI tools, student engagement, motivation, and pronunciation accuracy. They then compared the results from different AI platforms to determine which ones were most effective for improving speaking skills.

Note: *The methods and data presented in this article are part of a simulated study created for academic purposes.*

Results and Discussion

The use of AI tools in language learning has had a strong positive impact on developing speaking skills. By using applications like ELSA Speak, Duolingo, and ChatGPT, students have shown clear improvements in pronunciation,

fluency, vocabulary, and confidence. These results support the goals of this study, proving that AI technologies can greatly assist in language learning, especially for speaking skills.

Pronunciation and Fluency: One major benefit of AI tools is their ability to provide quick and accurate feedback, particularly regarding pronunciation. Apps like ELSA Speak significantly improve learners' pronunciation accuracy by offering real-time corrections, helping them sound more like native speakers over time. The app's speech recognition feature identifies specific pronunciation problems and assists users in correcting them, which also leads to improved fluency (Nguyen, 2022) [1; p. 45-61]. Likewise, Duolingo's speaking tasks promote fluency by encouraging consistent practice and providing feedback on intonation and sentence structure, which helps build confidence in conversation.

Vocabulary Usage and Confidence: Tools like ChatGPT are essential for enhancing vocabulary usage by allowing learners to engage in diverse, real-time conversations. Using ChatGPT enables learners to explore new subjects and experiment with new words in a way that simulates real-life discussions. According to Khosravi (2023), students who practiced with AI chatbots felt more confident using new vocabulary and participating in spontaneous discussions without worrying about making mistakes [2; p. 134-147]. This boost in confidence is important as it helps learners confront common challenges like anxiety and self-doubt when speaking.

Personalized Learning and Student Engagement: AI tools provide a major advantage by creating personalized learning experiences. Adaptive learning systems, like those found in ELSA Speak and Duolingo, evaluate students' progress and modify the difficulty of tasks to match their needs [3; p. 256-264]. This method keeps students consistently challenged without overwhelming them, which helps them stay motivated. Additionally, these tools create a flexible learning environment, allowing students to practice their speaking skills whenever they want, no matter where they are. This flexibility is especially helpful for those in areas with fewer resources or for students who cannot access qualified language teachers [4;p 130-134].

Challenges and Limitations: Despite their many advantages, AI tools come with some challenges. One of the biggest issues is the lack of human interaction, which can hinder the development of important skills like understanding tone, humor, and cultural differences. While AI tools are good for providing structured practice and feedback, they cannot completely imitate the depth of real human conversations, especially in casual or culturally rich situations. There is also the concern of unequal access to AI technologies, as not all students have the same access to devices or the internet, particularly in low-income areas.

Future Directions: The success of AI in enhancing speaking skills indicates that more research is needed to see how these tools can be better integrated into traditional education. Future studies could investigate how AI tools work with different age groups, language levels, and school systems, especially in regions

with limited resources. Furthermore, improvements in AI technology, such as enhanced Natural Language Processing (NLP), could result in more advanced tools that closely mimic human conversations and provide a more accurate assessment of speaking skills[5; p.140].

Conclusion

To sum up, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in language learning has proven to be very helpful for improving students' speaking skills. This study reveals that AI technologies like ELSA Speak, Duolingo, and ChatGPT are important for enhancing various aspects of speaking abilities, such as pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, and student confidence. These tools provide quick feedback, offer personalized learning experiences, and present flexible learning options, all of which help boost students' language skills and motivation. Although AI in language learning has many benefits, it also presents some challenges, particularly in mimicking human communication and ensuring equal access to these technologies for everyone. Still, the positive effects of AI on speaking skills are significant, as it provides students with crucial support, especially in situations where traditional methods might fall short. For schools and teachers, the recommendations emphasize the importance of integrating AI tools into language learning classes and ensuring that teachers receive appropriate training to use these technologies effectively. Additionally, policymakers should focus on promoting digital literacy and the responsible use of AI in education. The role of AI in language learning is poised to expand, creating new opportunities to enhance communication skills and address challenges in language education. As AI continues to advance, its application in teaching languages will likely become even more essential, providing customized, interactive, and engaging learning environments for students worldwide.

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