ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LANGUAGE LEARNING: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract. This article explores the growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) in language education, focusing on its key benefits and limitations. In recent years, the use of AI in education has expanded significantly, with more institutions adopting intelligent technologies to improve teaching and learning processes. These innovations have significantly transformed the process of language acquisition by making it more adaptive, efficient, and learner-centered. However, despite these advantages, the use of AI also raises several concerns, including overdependence on technology, potential loss of communicative competence, and issues related to data privacy and cybersecurity. The article further emphasizes the importance of maintaining a balanced approach by combining AI tools with traditional teaching methods, promoting digital literacy, and fostering critical thinking skills among learners. Overall, while AI has the potential to greatly enhance language education, its effective integration requires careful consideration of both pedagogical and ethical factors.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Language Education, Personalized Learning, Language Acquisition, Educational Technology, Digital Literacy, Writing Evaluation, Speaking Practice.

In recent decades, artificial intelligence (AI) has evolved into a fundamental component of contemporary life, exerting influence across a wide range of domains, including communication, transportation, healthcare, economic systems, and education. The integration of AI technologies into educational settings has, in particular, attracted increasing academic attention. Evidence from major academic databases such as Web of Science and Google Scholar indicates a steady growth in publications exploring the relationship between AI and education since 2010, with a substantial proportion of studies emerging between 2015 and 2019. This upward trend highlights a growing interest in employing advanced computational approaches—such as deep learning and data mining – to address educational complexities and to design more personalized learning experiences.

Within this evolving landscape, language education has become one of the key areas influenced by AI-driven innovation. As globalization continues to intensify, proficiency in foreign languages is widely regarded as an essential skill; nevertheless, the process of language acquisition is often associated with significant cognitive effort and learner fatigue. To mitigate these challenges, AI-powered tools are increasingly being utilized to create adaptive and interactive learning environments that respond to individual learner needs.

Originally conceptualized by McCarthy (1955), artificial intelligence broadly refers to computer-based systems capable of performing tasks that typically require

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human intelligence, including reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making (Garnham, 2017). Recent research suggests that the application of AI in second and foreign language education offers considerable potential to enhance and transform traditional approaches to language learning (Gao et al., 2024; Liang et al., 2023; Wei, 2023). In my view, the role of AI in language learning will continue to grow, but it should be used as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for traditional teaching.

AI and AI-powered tools offer numerous opportunities for language learners, significantly enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the learning process.

AI algorithms monitor a student’s learning process and identify their strengths and weaknesses. Based on this analysis, they provide adaptive tasks that target areas requiring improvement, allowing learners to progress at their own pace.

With the help of AI, students can independently check their writing. Platforms such as Grammarly, ProWritingAid, and Turnitin use Natural Language Processing (NLP) to assess grammar, style, tone, and plagiarism. These tools provide detailed feedback and are available 24/7, while also reducing teachers’ workload.

Modern speech recognition tools enable learners to practice pronunciation by analyzing their spoken language and offering immediate corrective feedback. Applications such as ELSA Speak and SpeechAce detect errors in sounds, stress, and intonation, offering targeted guidance for improvement.

AI reduces gaps in access to education by enabling learners from remote areas to access high-quality resources. It also supports inclusive learning for students with disabilities, allowing them to study at their own pace.

Despite its numerous advantages, the use of AI in language education also presents several limitations that should be carefully considered.

One of the major concerns is the risk of overdependence on AI tools. If learners rely too heavily on AI to complete their tasks, it may negatively affect the development of their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Instead of actively engaging with the learning process, students may become passive users of technology.

Although AI-powered chatbots can support language practice, an important question remains whether they can truly replace human interaction. The answer is largely negative, as chatbots lack genuine human emotions, spontaneity, and cultural nuance. Continuous reliance on such tools may reduce opportunities for real-life communication, which is essential for developing authentic communicative competence. As a result, students’ interpersonal and conversational skills may be adversely affected.

Another significant limitation relates to data security and privacy. AI systems often require access to users’ personal information in order to function effectively. This raises concerns about how such data is collected, stored, and used. Without proper safeguards, students may be exposed to potential risks, including data breaches and misuse of personal information.

In my opinion, in the modern era, artificial intelligence has become ubiquitous across almost every field, and language education is no exception. While its advantages are highly significant, it is also associated with certain challenges that should not be overlooked. Therefore, in order to minimize the negative impact of AI, several guidelines should be considered. Firstly, teachers should integrate both AI-based tools and traditional teaching methods in a balanced way. Secondly, it is essential to promote digital and AI literacy among users so that learners can use these technologies

responsibly and effectively. Finally, educators should emphasize critical thinking, independent study, and analytical skills (Pokrivcakova, 2019). Although AI can provide quick solutions and immediate feedback, students must still develop the ability to evaluate information critically and learn autonomously. This can be achieved through research-based assignments, critical thinking activities, and explicit instruction on the effective use of AI tools.

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