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THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract. *This article examines the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in modern English language teaching. It explores how AI-based technologies can improve students' language skills, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Particular attention is paid to personalized learning, intelligent tutoring systems, automated feedback, and the use of AI-powered applications in educational environments. The article also discusses the advantages and challenges of integrating artificial intelligence into English language education. It concludes that AI can significantly enhance the effectiveness of language learning when used appropriately under the guidance of qualified teachers.*

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, English language teaching, digital education, language learning, personalized learning, educational technology, intelligent tutoring systems, digital tools, student engagement, language skills.*

Introduction

In the modern world, English has become one of the most important languages for international communication, education, science, business, and technology. The ability to communicate effectively in English provides learners with opportunities to access global information, participate in international projects, and develop their professional careers. Therefore, improving the

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quality of English language teaching has become a significant priority for educational institutions.

The rapid development of digital technologies has introduced new approaches to language education. One of the most important innovations is artificial intelligence. AI refers to computer systems designed to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as understanding language, recognizing speech, analyzing information, and generating responses.

In English language teaching, artificial intelligence offers opportunities to create interactive, flexible, and student-centered learning environments. AI-powered applications can help learners practise grammar, improve pronunciation, expand vocabulary, and develop communication skills. They can also provide immediate feedback and adapt learning activities to individual needs.

Traditional English language teaching often depends on classroom instruction, textbooks, written exercises, and direct interaction between teachers and students. Although these methods remain important, they may not always provide sufficient opportunities for individual practice. Artificial intelligence can complement traditional teaching by offering additional learning resources and personalized exercises.

The purpose of this article is to examine the role of artificial intelligence in English language teaching, identify its major benefits and limitations, and suggest practical ways to integrate AI-based technologies into the educational process.

1. The Concept of Artificial Intelligence in Language Education

Artificial intelligence is a branch of computer science concerned with developing systems capable of performing tasks that normally require human intelligence. Modern AI technologies include machine learning, natural language processing, speech recognition, and generative AI.

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These technologies have become increasingly relevant to language education because they allow computers to process and generate human language. Students can interact with AI systems through text or speech, ask questions, receive explanations, and practise language skills in different contexts.

Natural language processing enables AI applications to analyze written texts, identify grammatical errors, explain vocabulary, and generate examples. Speech recognition allows learners to practise pronunciation and spoken communication. Generative AI systems can create dialogues, reading passages, grammar exercises, and writing prompts based on learners' educational needs.

For example, an English learner can ask an AI assistant to explain the difference between the present perfect and past simple tenses. The system can provide explanations, examples, and additional exercises. Similarly, a student preparing for an oral examination can practise answering questions and receive suggestions for improving the clarity and accuracy of responses.

AI-based tools can also support teachers in preparing lesson plans, creating educational materials, and developing assessment activities. As a result, artificial intelligence can contribute to both teaching efficiency and student learning.

However, AI should not be considered a complete replacement for teachers. Effective language education requires human communication, emotional support, cultural understanding, and professional pedagogical judgment.

2. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Developing English Language Skills

English language proficiency consists of four main skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Artificial intelligence can support the

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development of each skill through interactive and personalized learning activities.

2.1. Developing Speaking Skills

Speaking is one of the most challenging aspects of learning English. Many students understand grammar and vocabulary but experience difficulties when communicating orally. They may feel anxious about making mistakes or lack opportunities to practise outside the classroom.

AI-powered conversational systems can provide a supportive environment for speaking practice. Students can participate in simulated conversations about everyday situations, education, travel, employment, and professional communication.

For instance, learners can practise ordering food in a restaurant, introducing themselves, attending a job interview, or discussing their future plans. The AI system can respond to their answers and encourage them to continue the conversation.

Speech-recognition technologies may help learners identify pronunciation problems and improve fluency. Some applications provide feedback on individual sounds, word stress, and intonation. Nevertheless, automated pronunciation assessment is not always accurate, especially when learners have different accents or speech patterns.

Regular speaking practice with AI can increase students' confidence and encourage them to use English more frequently. Teachers should combine this practice with real conversations, pair work, group discussions, and presentations.

2.2. Improving Listening Skills

Listening comprehension requires learners to recognize spoken words, understand sentence structures, and interpret meaning in different contexts. AI

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technologies can support listening development by providing audio materials at different proficiency levels.

Students can listen to conversations, interviews, short stories, and educational explanations. Some AI applications allow learners to adjust speech speed, display transcripts, and explain unfamiliar vocabulary.

For example, a beginner can listen to a short dialogue about daily routines, while an advanced learner can work with a discussion about environmental issues or technological development.

AI-generated listening exercises can also include comprehension questions, summaries, and vocabulary activities. These resources allow students to practise independently and repeat difficult sections when necessary.

By providing varied listening materials, artificial intelligence can help learners become familiar with different speaking styles and communication situations.

2.3. Enhancing Reading Skills

Reading is essential for developing vocabulary, grammatical awareness, and general language comprehension. AI technologies can make reading activities more accessible by adapting texts to learners' proficiency levels.

An AI assistant can simplify a difficult paragraph, explain unfamiliar expressions, identify the main idea, or generate comprehension questions. It can also provide definitions and examples of new words in context.

For example, a teacher may use an authentic English article about scientific discoveries. For students at lower proficiency levels, the article can be adapted into simpler language while preserving its central meaning. More advanced students can analyse the original text and discuss its arguments.

AI can also assist learners in identifying key information, comparing ideas, and summarizing passages. These activities support the development of critical reading skills.

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However, teachers should ensure that simplified texts remain accurate and that students continue to engage with authentic materials. Excessive reliance on summaries may prevent learners from developing independent reading strategies.

2.4. Improving Writing Skills

Writing requires learners to organize ideas, use appropriate vocabulary, apply grammatical rules, and maintain coherence. Artificial intelligence can support writing development by offering feedback and suggestions during the drafting process.

AI-based writing assistants can identify possible spelling errors, grammatical problems, unclear sentences, and inappropriate word choices. They may also suggest alternative expressions and help learners improve paragraph structure.

For example, students can write a short essay about the importance of education and use an AI tool to identify grammatical errors. They can then review the feedback, correct their mistakes, and explain why the changes are necessary.

This process can help learners understand their weaknesses and improve their writing over time. Teachers can also use AI-generated writing prompts and model texts to support classroom activities.

Nevertheless, students should not simply copy AI-generated essays. The main objective of writing instruction is to develop independent thinking, original expression, and academic integrity. AI should therefore be used as a learning assistant rather than a substitute for students' own work.

3. Personalized Learning Through Artificial Intelligence

One of the most important advantages of artificial intelligence is its potential to support personalized learning. Students differ in their language

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proficiency, learning pace, interests, motivation, and educational needs. A single teaching method may not be equally effective for everyone.

AI-based learning platforms can analyze students' responses and identify areas where additional practice may be required. Based on this information, they may recommend exercises, vocabulary activities, grammar explanations, or revision tasks.

For example, if a student repeatedly makes mistakes when using English articles, an AI-supported platform can provide additional exercises on “a,” “an,” and “the.” Another student who has difficulty with listening comprehension may receive more audio-based activities.

Personalized learning can help students focus on their individual weaknesses and progress at an appropriate pace. It may also improve motivation by providing achievable goals and immediate feedback.

However, automated recommendations should be interpreted carefully. AI systems may misunderstand a learner's needs or make inaccurate judgments about their proficiency. Teachers should monitor progress, review learning outcomes, and adjust activities when necessary.

4. The Use of AI Tools in English Language Teaching

Several categories of AI-powered tools can support English language education. Their usefulness depends on the learning objectives, students' proficiency levels, available technology, and the teacher's instructional approach.

Conversational AI assistants can help students practise dialogues, ask questions, and receive explanations. Speech-recognition applications can support pronunciation and oral fluency. Grammar and writing assistants can provide feedback on written assignments. Adaptive learning platforms can recommend activities based on students' performance.

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Machine translation tools can help learners understand unfamiliar words and compare expressions across languages. However, students should also learn to interpret meaning independently rather than relying entirely on translation.

Generative AI can assist teachers in preparing lesson plans, creating vocabulary lists, developing quizzes, and adapting reading materials. For example, a teacher can request ten exercises on the past simple tense for intermediate-level students or generate a role-play activity about travelling abroad.

The following table summarizes the possible uses of artificial intelligence in English language teaching.

AI application	Educational purpose	Expected benefit
Conversational AI	Dialogue and communication practice	Increased speaking opportunities
Speech recognition	Pronunciation and listening practice	Better awareness of spoken language
Writing assistants	Grammar and text revision	Improved writing accuracy
Adaptive platforms	Individualized exercises	Learning at an appropriate pace
Generative AI	Creating educational materials	More flexible lesson preparation
Translation tools	Understanding unfamiliar vocabulary	Additional language support

The effective use of these tools requires clear educational objectives. Teachers should select applications that directly support the intended learning outcomes instead of using technology simply because it is available.

5. Advantages of Artificial Intelligence in English Language Teaching

Artificial intelligence offers several important advantages for students and teachers.

First, it increases access to language practice. Students can use AI-based tools outside the classroom and practise English at convenient times. This is

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particularly useful for learners who have limited opportunities to communicate with English speakers.

Second, AI can provide immediate feedback. Instead of waiting for a teacher to check every exercise, learners may receive instant suggestions about grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and sentence structure.

Third, AI supports differentiated instruction. Teachers can use digital tools to prepare different versions of an activity for students with different proficiency levels.

Fourth, artificial intelligence can improve student engagement. Interactive dialogues, educational games, quizzes, and personalized tasks may make language learning more interesting.

Fifth, AI can reduce some routine teaching tasks. It can help generate exercises, organize vocabulary activities, and prepare preliminary feedback. This may allow teachers to devote more time to individual support, communication, and creative classroom activities.

Finally, AI can encourage independent learning. Students can ask questions, repeat exercises, review explanations, and monitor their progress without depending entirely on classroom instruction.

Despite these benefits, the effectiveness of AI depends on how it is integrated into teaching. Technology alone does not guarantee improved language proficiency. Learning outcomes also depend on student motivation, teaching quality, regular practice, and appropriate assessment.

6. Challenges and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence

Although artificial intelligence offers significant educational opportunities, its implementation presents several challenges.

One major concern is the accuracy of AI-generated information. AI systems may provide incorrect grammatical explanations, unnatural expressions, or misleading translations. Students who cannot evaluate these

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responses critically may learn incorrect language patterns.

Another challenge is excessive dependence on technology. If learners use AI to complete every assignment, they may fail to develop independent writing, problem-solving, and communication skills.

Data privacy is also important. Some applications collect personal information, voice recordings, written assignments, or learning activity data. Educational institutions should choose suitable services and follow relevant privacy requirements.

Unequal access to digital devices and reliable internet connections may create additional difficulties. Students in different educational environments may not have the same opportunities to use AI-based applications.

There are also concerns about academic integrity. Students may submit AI-generated texts as their own work without understanding the content. Teachers should establish clear rules about acceptable AI use and design assessment activities that evaluate individual understanding.

Furthermore, artificial intelligence cannot fully reproduce the human aspects of education. Teachers provide encouragement, understand students' emotional needs, interpret classroom dynamics, and develop interpersonal relationships. These functions remain essential to effective language teaching.

To address these challenges, AI literacy should become an important part of modern education. Students need to learn how to formulate effective prompts, verify information, protect personal data, and use AI responsibly.

7. Practical Recommendations for Integrating AI into English Lessons

The successful integration of artificial intelligence requires careful planning and cooperation between teachers and students.

First, teachers should identify specific learning objectives before selecting an AI tool. For example, a lesson may focus on improving

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pronunciation, practising conditional sentences, or developing academic writing.

Second, AI activities should be integrated into a balanced teaching approach. Digital exercises can be combined with textbook activities, classroom discussions, pair work, presentations, and independent reading.

Third, teachers should encourage students to evaluate AI-generated information. Learners can compare AI explanations with textbooks, dictionaries, and reliable educational resources.

Fourth, students should be encouraged to revise their own work rather than accept every AI suggestion automatically. Teachers can ask learners to explain the corrections they make and identify recurring mistakes.

Fifth, educational institutions should provide teachers with professional development opportunities. Teachers need to understand the capabilities and limitations of AI systems and develop strategies for using them effectively.

Sixth, assessment methods should emphasize genuine learning. Oral examinations, classroom writing, project presentations, reflective assignments, and supervised activities can help teachers evaluate students' actual abilities.

Finally, AI use should follow clear ethical principles. Students should disclose AI assistance when required by institutional rules, avoid presenting generated work as entirely their own, and protect confidential information.

These recommendations can help educational institutions benefit from AI while maintaining the quality and integrity of English language education.

8. The Future of Artificial Intelligence in English Language Teaching

The future of English language teaching is likely to involve closer cooperation between human teachers and intelligent educational technologies. As AI systems develop, they may offer more sophisticated conversational practice, more responsive feedback, and improved adaptation to individual learning needs.

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Virtual tutors may provide structured speaking activities, while intelligent platforms may help teachers identify patterns in student performance. AI-supported simulations may allow learners to practise English in realistic professional and social situations.

In vocational and technical education, artificial intelligence can support the development of profession-specific English. For example, students studying information technology, business, medicine, engineering, or automotive services can practise the terminology and communication patterns required in their future careers.

At the same time, the development of AI requires continuous attention to accuracy, fairness, privacy, and educational quality. Schools and colleges should evaluate tools according to their pedagogical value rather than their technological novelty.

The most effective approach is likely to combine AI-supported practice with teacher guidance, authentic communication, collaborative learning, and critical thinking. In this model, technology expands educational opportunities while teachers remain responsible for designing meaningful learning experiences.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence is becoming an important component of modern English language teaching. It provides opportunities to improve speaking, listening, reading, and writing through interactive exercises, personalized activities, automated feedback, and flexible learning resources.

The use of AI can help students practise English beyond the classroom, identify their weaknesses, and develop greater independence. It can also assist teachers in preparing educational materials, differentiating instruction, and managing routine tasks.

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However, AI technologies also present challenges related to accuracy, privacy, academic integrity, unequal access, and excessive dependence on automated systems. These limitations demonstrate the importance of responsible implementation and professional teacher supervision. Artificial intelligence should not replace teachers or eliminate human communication from language education. Instead, it should complement established teaching methods and create additional opportunities for meaningful practice.

In conclusion, the successful integration of artificial intelligence into English language teaching depends on a balanced approach that combines technological innovation with pedagogical expertise, ethical responsibility, and active student participation. When used appropriately, AI can contribute to more accessible, engaging, and effective English language learning.

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