

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING: AFFORDANCES AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract. *Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly transforming English language teaching (ELT) by providing innovative tools for personalized learning, automated assessment, and classroom management. This study explores the affordances of AI in ELT, including enhanced learner autonomy, adaptive feedback, real-time performance tracking, and improved teaching efficiency. It also examines the challenges associated with AI integration, such as technical limitations, data privacy concerns, teacher readiness, and ethical considerations. By synthesizing findings from current literature, this paper provides a comprehensive analysis of AI applications in ELT, highlighting practical implications for teachers and learners [1; 19-p].*

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence, English Language Teaching, ELT, Adaptive Learning, Language Education, AI Tools, Affordances, Challenges, Technology in Education.*

Introduction

English language teaching has undergone profound transformation due to technological advancements. AI, encompassing machine learning, natural language processing, and intelligent tutoring systems, has become an increasingly influential component in modern language education.

By providing adaptive feedback, personalized content, and automated assessment, AI tools have the potential to revolutionize both teaching and learning processes [3; 50-p]. This paper investigates the affordances of AI in ELT, examining its potential benefits, challenges, and implications for teachers and learners. It also aims to provide insights into effective integration strategies that maximize pedagogical outcomes.

Literature Review

Recent studies reveal that AI applications in ELT are diverse and rapidly expanding.

Intelligent tutoring systems offer personalized learning pathways, adapting content based on student performance and learning style [5; 104-p]. Chatbots and virtual assistants provide learners with authentic conversational practice outside the classroom, enhancing fluency and communication confidence. AI-powered automated writing evaluation systems support grammar and vocabulary development by providing instant feedback. Speech recognition and pronunciation tools allow learners to refine oral skills, making language practice more interactive and engaging.

Despite these benefits, researchers highlight potential challenges, including over-reliance on technology, algorithmic bias, ethical dilemmas, and insufficient teacher training. The literature emphasizes the importance of teacher mediation to ensure educational quality and address AI system limitations. Studies also indicate that combining AI tools with traditional instructional methods can optimize learning outcomes and maintain learner engagement [1; 100-p].

Methodology

Participants: This study synthesizes data from multiple ELT contexts, including secondary schools, higher education institutions, and online language learning platforms. Participants referenced in the studies include learners aged 12–25 and language instructors with varying levels of technological proficiency.

Quantitative Data: Quantitative data from prior studies include pre- and post-intervention language test scores, usage statistics from AI applications, frequency of learner interactions with chatbots and adaptive platforms, and improvements in learner performance metrics.

Qualitative Data: Qualitative data encompass observations of classroom practices, interviews with teachers and students, and surveys on perceptions of AI tools in language learning.

These data provide insights into the perceived effectiveness, engagement, and user satisfaction associated with AI-assisted ELT.

Data Analysis: A comprehensive theoretical and comparative analysis was conducted, integrating quantitative and qualitative findings. Key themes include the effectiveness of AI in enhancing personalized learning, learner engagement, teacher efficiency, and challenges related to ethical implementation and technical integration.

Findings

AI integration in ELT offers numerous benefits. Personalized adaptive learning platforms enable students to progress at their own pace, focusing on areas requiring improvement. Chatbots and conversational agents facilitate continuous language practice, providing immediate feedback and error correction. Teachers report that AI systems reduce administrative tasks, allowing more time for instructional planning and student interaction. Moreover, AI applications support inclusive education by accommodating diverse learning needs and styles.

Challenges remain, including the need for professional development to ensure teachers can effectively use AI tools, ethical concerns regarding data privacy and bias, and the risk of reduced critical thinking if learners rely solely on automated systems. Effective integration requires balancing AI-driven instruction with teacher-led guidance and traditional classroom activities.

Discussion

AI can significantly enhance pedagogical effectiveness in ELT when implemented thoughtfully. It facilitates personalized instruction, real-time feedback, and increased engagement, allowing teachers to tailor instruction to individual learner needs. However, AI is not a replacement for teachers; rather, it should function as a complementary tool. Strategic implementation, ongoing training, and ethical guidelines are critical to ensuring AI benefits learners without compromising educational quality. Future studies should focus on long-term impacts, scalability of AI solutions, and best practices for hybrid teaching models.

Conclusion

AI represents a transformative approach to English language teaching, offering innovative tools that enhance learning and teaching processes. While it presents challenges such as technical constraints, ethical considerations, and the need for teacher readiness, its potential benefits are substantial. Successful integration requires careful planning, professional development, and alignment with curriculum goals. Continued research and practical experimentation will help develop best practices for AI-supported ELT.

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