

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

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Abstract. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming educational practices, particularly in English Language Teaching (ELT). This paper examines the affordances and challenges of AI in ELT. It explores how AI can enhance personalized learning, provide immediate feedback, improve learner engagement, and support teachers in classroom management. Additionally, the paper addresses technological, pedagogical, and ethical challenges that accompany AI integration in language education. Recommendations for effective AI use in ELT are also discussed.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, English Language Teaching, ELT, AI tools, educational technology, challenges, affordances.

Introduction

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education has brought innovative changes to teaching and learning processes. In English Language Teaching (ELT), AI offers a wide range of tools that enhance both teaching efficiency and learner outcomes. Traditional language teaching methods often face challenges in providing personalized instruction, immediate feedback, and engaging learning experiences. AI can address these gaps by using data-driven approaches to adapt learning content according to individual student needs.

AI technologies, such as machine learning algorithms, natural language processing (NLP), and intelligent tutoring systems, are increasingly used in language classrooms. For instance, AI can analyze learners' speech to provide pronunciation feedback or automatically correct grammar in written assignments. While these affordances are significant, AI implementation is not without challenges, including technical limitations, teacher preparedness, and ethical concerns.

One of the most significant benefits of AI in ELT is the ability to offer personalized learning experiences. AI-driven platforms, such as Duolingo, Lingvist, or Rosetta Stone, analyze learners' performance and adapt exercises based on individual strengths and weaknesses. For example, if a learner consistently struggles with past tense verbs, the system will provide additional exercises targeting that area.

Personalized learning increases learner motivation and promotes faster language acquisition. Moreover, AI can track progress over time and suggest next steps, allowing learners to take control of their learning journey.

Immediate feedback is critical for language learning, as it helps learners recognize errors and improve accuracy. AI tools, such as Grammarly, Write & Improve, or ELSA Speak, provide instant corrections for grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Unlike traditional classroom feedback, which may be delayed, AI tools allow learners to receive guidance in real time, enhancing both writing and speaking skills.

AI-powered chatbots, virtual assistants, and gamified platforms create interactive learning environments. Chatbots like ChatGPT can simulate conversations with learners, providing opportunities to practice speaking and listening skills. Gamified platforms reward learners for completing exercises, maintaining engagement and motivation. These interactive tools make language learning more enjoyable and effective, particularly for younger learners and self-directed students.

AI can assist teachers by automating routine tasks such as grading, attendance tracking, and progress monitoring. Tools like Turnitin or QuillBot not only check for grammar and plagiarism but also provide teachers with analytics on student performance. By reducing repetitive tasks, teachers can focus on higher-order activities, such as facilitating discussions, providing individualized support, and designing creative learning activities.

Despite its potential, AI implementation requires reliable infrastructure, including internet access, modern devices, and compatible software. In many regions, these requirements present barriers to effective AI integration. Additionally, technical issues, such as software bugs or server downtime, can disrupt the learning process.

Effective use of AI in ELT demands digital literacy from both teachers and students.

Many educators may lack the necessary training to utilize AI tools effectively. Professional development programs are essential to equip teachers with skills to integrate AI into lesson planning, classroom management, and assessment.

AI systems often collect and analyze large amounts of learner data to provide personalized experiences. This raises concerns about data privacy, security, and ethical usage. Educators and policymakers must ensure compliance with privacy regulations and promote responsible use of AI technologies. Excessive reliance on AI tools can reduce face-to-face communication and critical thinking opportunities in the classroom. While AI provides instant feedback and interactive learning, it cannot replace human interaction, empathy, and contextual judgment.

Therefore, a balanced approach that combines AI support with traditional teaching methods is necessary.

Practical Examples of AI Tools in ELT

1. Duolingo – Offers adaptive exercises and gamified learning for vocabulary and grammar.
2. Grammarly – Provides instant writing feedback and error correction.
3. ELSA Speak – AI-driven pronunciation correction and speaking practice.
4. ChatGPT – Simulates conversations, answers questions, and aids in writing tasks.
5. Socrative and Kahoot! – AI-assisted quiz platforms for formative assessment.

These tools demonstrate the diverse applications of AI, from personalized learning to interactive engagement, supporting both teachers and learners.

Recommendations for Effective AI Integration in ELT

- Blended Approach: Combine AI tools with traditional classroom activities to maintain meaningful human interaction.
- Teacher Training: Implement professional development programs to enhance teachers' digital literacy.

- Ethical Guidelines: Establish policies for data privacy, security, and responsible AI usage.
- Infrastructure Development: Ensure access to reliable internet, devices, and compatible software for all learners.
- Continuous Evaluation: Regularly assess AI tools' effectiveness and adjust instructional strategies accordingly.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence has significant potential to enhance English language teaching through personalized learning, immediate feedback, interactive engagement, and teacher support.

However, challenges such as technological limitations, lack of teacher training, ethical concerns, and over-reliance on AI must be addressed. A balanced approach that integrates AI tools while preserving human-centered teaching practices can maximize the benefits of AI in ELT and improve learning outcomes for diverse learners.

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