THE FUTURE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THE AGE OF AI

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Annotation: The article reviews the role of artificial intelligence in English Language Teaching, focusing on tools such as adaptive learning systems, automated assessment platforms, gamified applications, and generative AI. It explains how these technologies enhance personalization, provide immediate feedback, and increase learner engagement. At the same time, the article notes challenges such as ethical issues, potential overreliance on technology, and the need for teacher training. Overall, it presents AI as a major force reshaping the methods and practices of English teaching worldwide.

Key words: globalization, teaching, Artificial Intelligence, education, tool, adaptive learning, platform, human factor, learning affordable, interactive learning.

Introduction. Digital technology is revolutionizing education, with artificial intelligence at the forefront. This transformative AI wave has attracted attention from substantial numbers of educational researchers and practitioners to exploit AI's pedagogical potential. And there is a statement that every person who's related to linguistics faces: " Will AI replace English teachers, or will it become their most powerful assistant?" Since AI has become the most useful source in every aspect of people's life, it also shows rapid growth in the education system. Because of informative recommendations, individual guidance to educators or students, it quickly spread around them. Even some people believe that learning languages by AI is more efficient than taking real life classes. Actually, they have a point, as the proverb says, "A horse runs faster alone". When a learner studies with one specific mentor who works individually, adapted to the student's pace, it works well. But remember, AI is a

tool. It is transforming English teaching, but it should be seen as a tool that compliments, not replaces human teachers. As mentioned in the continuation of the proverb above, “A horse runs faster alone, but it doesn’t go far”. AI’s current role in language learning. Learning a new language means opening new doors of quests. Familiarizing new cultures, trying new tastes, meeting with strangers and their habits that surprise you gives amazing feelings about lingualism. Maybe therefore most people love to learn languages. Especially, if it’d be Lingua Franca like English. To accomplish this objective, ChatBots(Chat GPT), Duolingo’s AI tutor and adaptive learning platforms help easily. They have got lots of beneficial sides of these platforms. For example, personalized feedback. When you study with a teacher in the classroom, your teacher can not focus on each of the students. Also, instant corrections and 24\7 availability can not be found in teachers sometimes. Additionally, after AI availability, people who want to learn languages but live in remote areas can now access quality language support. We can say that this is the most powerful and useful achievement in our era.

Advantages of AI in ELT. AI technologies bring several advantages that traditional classrooms alone cannot always provide. As an example we can see the personalization: AI adjusts to learners’ pace and needs, ensuring that each student receives targeted practice. Andalsoefficiency: Teachers can rely on AI to handle repetitive tasks such as grammardrills, spelling checks, or quiz grading.

Engagement: Gamified applications make learning more enjoyable, motivating students to practice consistently.

Accessibility: AI platforms are available anytime and anywhere, breaking down geographical and economic barriers to education. There are more and more examples that Artificial intelligence can be used in as the best assistant in learning language systemLimitations and Concerns Despite these benefits, the integration of AI into ELT raises important concerns:

The human factor: AI cannot replace empathy, motivation, or cultural awareness provided by teachers.

Overreliance: Excessive dependence on AI tools may weaken learners’ critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Bias and accuracy: AI systems sometimes generate incorrect, biased, or culturally insensitive content.

Teacher adaptation: Many educators feel unprepared to incorporate AI effectively into their teaching, creating gaps in classroom practice.

The Future: Partnership Between AI and Teachers.

The most promising future for ELT lies in a partnership between AI and human educators. Rather than competing with teachers, AI can complement their role. Machines can take care of repetitive exercises and assessments, while teachers focus on creativity, communication, and nurturing learner confidence. To achieve this balance, teacher training programs must include digital literacy and AI integration strategies. In this way, English classrooms of the future will combine technological efficiency with the irreplaceable human touch.

Conclusion. Artificial intelligence is not a passing trend but a powerful force reshaping English Language Teaching. However, it is not a substitute for teachers-it is a tool that, when used wisely, can enrich the learning process. The challenge for educators, policymakers, and students alike is to embrace AI responsibly, ensuring that it enhances rather than diminishes the human essence of education. The classroomsof tomorrow will belong not to machines or humans alone, but to both, workingtogether to create more effective and inclusive language learning experiences.

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