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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an undoubtedly important technology which covers lots of areas of our daily life. AI is used in medicine for diagnoses and treatment, in the automotive industry to develop autonomous vehicles, in finance for data analyses and trend predictions, as well as customer service, marketing and many other industries.

AI has the power to influence a variety of everyday fields, including education, by enabling personalized and adaptive learning and offers students learning assistance resources. Artificial Intelligence is a branch of science producing and studying the machines aimed at the stimulation of human intelligence processes. The integration of Artificial Intelligence into the classroom has the potential to revolutionize the way students learn and teachers teach.

The history of AI and generative AI dates back several decades. AI was recognized for the first time in 1956 by John McCarthy. At the time, it generated a considerable number of disputes and controversies around “Can machines think?” and the difference between human intelligence and AI was studied. Though the dispute is still on, the use of artificial intelligence continues to become increasingly commonplace in our everyday lives, it’s no surprise that it’s also making its way into the world of English language learning. AI's entry into the field of education initially involved basic tasks such as automated grading and personalized learning recommendations. However, it quickly expanded to more advanced areas like language learning platforms and applications with multiple advantages. Some researchers claim that in 2023 using AI in English language learning can be the fastest way to learn English. The importance of AI applications in education lies in their ability to adapt to the needs and capabilities of learners, their educational preferences, and track their progress. These applications offer various options that are suitable for learners of all levels, enhance their motivation to learn, and help them to cope with lack of attention.

Personalization is the main advantage of AI. It’s a universal solution to get a collection of tools designed to meet the individual requirements of students and teachers that will optimize their daily activities, boost productivity, promote

accessibility, and scale the processes. AI algorithms can identify areas where students may be struggling and provide targeted assistance to help them overcome challenges. By leveraging student data, AI can adapt and refine its recommendations, ensuring that students receive the most relevant and beneficial support throughout their learning journey. Individualized schedules, customized tasks, interactive digital technologies, and personalized recommendations are integral components of the tailored approach that each student receives using AI. Moreover, this personalized approach not only fosters a sense of uniqueness among students but also enhances their engagement and cultivates a genuine interest in their academic pursuits.

We've explored nearly 50 AI-powered language learning apps and software and classified them into categories according to the aspects of language learning they help to improve: pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, listening and speaking skills. We have also identified a revision application as an essential educational tool for language learning. We have thoroughly analyzed all of these applications with a discerning eye in order to identify their advantages and disadvantages.

AI apps designed to improve language skills offer several benefits. Firstly, they provide personalized learning experiences by adapting to the individual's level and progress, allowing users to learn at their own pace. These apps employ advanced algorithms to analyze the user's strengths and weaknesses, tailoring exercises accordingly. Secondly, AI language apps are accessible anytime, anywhere, making it easy to fit language learning into a busy schedule, reducing dependency on physical classroom environments. Moreover, AI language apps often offer real-time feedback on pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary usage, allowing learners to identify and correct errors immediately. AI apps utilize gamification and interactive learning methods to keep users engaged and motivated. Additionally, these apps can provide a vast amount of content in various formats such as interactive lessons, speech recognition exercises, making language learning more engaging. Virtual tutors provide learners with the opportunity to master their language skills in real-time and in a less stressful way.

While AI tools for language skills have made significant advances in recent years, they still possess some limitations and drawbacks. One major drawback is the lack of human interaction. Relying solely on AI may hinder social interaction with native speakers or limit opportunities for dialogue in real-world situations. Contextual understanding and creativity can be a challenge. Although these systems can accurately analyze and generate grammatically correct sentences, they often struggle with comprehending the deeper meaning. This limitation is especially evident when dealing with sarcasm, double entendre, or cultural references. Additionally, AI language tools heavily rely on technology, which can sometimes be unreliable or difficult to use. Learners may encounter technical issues with speech recognition or other features, which can impact the learning

experience. Furthermore, the registration process can be long and intricate, which is also frustrating. Moreover, though the use of AI-powered language apps personalizes learning experiences, adapting to learners' specific needs, self-discipline has become highly required. Intrusive ads have become a cause for concern as learners are constantly distracted by frequent commercial breaks or ads often strategically placed in prominent areas of an app or website. The fee-paying applications or levels can hinder the overall usability and cause frustration among users.

This means that if we want to get involved into a learning process with AI powered tools it is important to take into consideration the advantages and disadvantages of the apps in conformity with the learning target. We have developed the guideline which can help learners willing to improve their language skills choose suitable apps for studying. The recommendations for the more effective utilization of AI-powered language learning tools have been included into the guide.

We conducted a survey titled "Do you use AI for studying? How?" in order to gain insights into how senior students and English teachers at our school are taking advantages of AI. A total of 68 students and 9 teachers participated in this survey. Initially, the participants were asked whether they utilize AI tools and, if so, what specific objectives they aim to achieve. 52 percent of the respondents reported using AI applications as they provide prompt answers to their queries. Additionally, nearly 30 percent of the participants admitted to utilizing AI for generating articles or reports. Those who use AI learning apps to improve their language skills made up 21 percent.

To further support the improvement of language skills, we introduced various learning tools and encouraged students to make use of them. Impressively, 84 percent of the students expressed their willingness to try these tools. Subsequently, we asked for their opinions on the experience of utilizing these tools to enhance their language skills. While some students admitted to not having tried all the recommended tools due to time constraints and lack of conscientiousness, they acknowledged the beneficial impact of certain applications. Notably, 42 % of the students actively employ these apps to memorize vocabulary through flashcard generation tools, develop grammar proficiency using grammar checkers, and enhance their speaking abilities.

In conclusion, our survey shed light on the utilization of AI among senior students and English teachers for studying purposes. The findings revealed a significant interest in AI tools, particularly for obtaining immediate answers, generating written content, and improving language skills. Despite some limitations in fully exploring all recommended tools, the positive impact of certain applications was acknowledged by the majority of the participants.

Thus, we believe that the use of AI language learning tools can enhance the opportunities to learn a foreign language, though the emerged concerns should be taken into consideration.