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Artificial Intelligence for Language Learning: Opportunities and Challenges

Mahima Kalidindi[1], Dr. Devidutta Das[2], Akshaya Dandu[3]
[1,3]UG Scholar, Dept. of CSE(AI&ML), BVRIT Hyderabad College of Engineering for Women, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.
[2]Assistant Professor, Dept. of BS&H, BVRIT Hyderabad College of Engineering for Women, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.
Emails: *23wh1a6616@bvrithyderabad.edu.in[1], devidutta.d@bvrithyderabad.edu.in[2], 23wh1a6606@bvrithyderabad.edu.in[3]*

Abstract
Artificial Intelligence (AI) has brought transformative changes across all sectors, and education is no exception. Among the areas most significantly impacted is language learning, where AI has begun to reshape traditional teaching methods. In English language classrooms, particularly within Indian schools and colleges, AI has proven to be a powerful tool—offering personalized learning experiences and supporting students across varying levels of proficiency. This paper explores the growing role of AI in language education, focusing on how it adapts to individual learning needs and promotes engagement through interactive tools. Applications like Grammarly, Duolingo, and Babbel not only assist with grammar and vocabulary but also offer instant feedback and real-time progress tracking. However, the paper also addresses challenges such as the inability of AI to fully grasp cultural nuances and contextual meanings. To gain a broader understanding, a survey was conducted among students and teachers. Through this study, we aim to present a balanced view of how AI can enhance English language acquisition while acknowledging its current limitations and areas for improvement.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence, Language Learning, English as a Foreign Language (EFL), Personalization, EdTech, Grammar Tools, Speech Recognition, Indian Classrooms, Adaptive Learning, Educational Technology.*

1. Introduction

When learning a foreign language, specifically English, consistent practice and focusing on effective methods are needed. But what if each student could practice their language skills through activities tailored to their personal level, interests, and motivation? How can we support and challenge each student based on their individual needs, helping them achieve specific language learning goals independently? How might digital tools contribute to creating personalized learning experiences, especially in diverse classrooms with students of different skill levels? Recently, technology has become an important aspect of learning English as a foreign language (EFL). While some believe digital tools can be highly beneficial, others have concerns about the potential risks. Despite these differing views, studies show that technology can positively influence language acquisition, and many countries are incorporating it into their language education programs. As new technologies continue to emerge, they present both challenges and opportunities for improving how we teach and learn foreign languages. One of the most exciting recent advancements in language learning is the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). AI refers to technologies that can solve problems and complete tasks without needing constant human input. While AI can be defined in many ways, it generally involves systems that learn from data and improve over time. In language learning, AI has become a powerful tool because it can analyse large amounts of data and provide personalized lessons that suit each learner's needs. By combining Big Data with AI, we may see a future where each student receives a customized

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learning experience that helps them progress more efficiently. This paper aims to present data on how AI can enhance language learning, using statistical analysis to explore its effectiveness in this context.

2. Objectives

This study focuses on how AI technologies affect English language learning in Indian educational institutions with particular emphasis on personalization and adaptation features of these technologies. The research aims to determine the effect of various AI tools and platforms on students' participation, language skills, and learning in general. This research will assess the impact of AI on self-directed learning and the support of multi-faceted independent learners through statistical research and questionnaires given to students and teachers. Apart from this, the paper will discuss hurdles that AI encounters in language learning with special regard to cultural and contextual AI-abstractive features and suggest ways to bridge the gaps to enhance the learning experience [1-2].

3. Literature Review

The combination of AI technology with language instruction has received a lot of focus in recent years, with many experts in the field analyzing how it might change the process of learning a new language, especially in the cases of ESL and EFL. With the rise of personalized language learning, tools like mobile-assisted language learning applications, virtual tutors, and automated grammar checkers have come into widespread use because they make learning more engaging, effective and easily accessible.

3.1 AI and its use in Tailored Instruction

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of AI technology education is the ability to personalize learning processes. As Hwang and Chen state (2017), it is possible to provide platforms that cater for both learners' preferences and their achieved levels, meaning meaningful feedback and practice can be provided. For example, language learning applications such as DuoLingo or Babbel, have AI algorithms designed to follow students' progression during their studies. These applications ensure that the lessons and exercises given are relevant to their current levels of comprehension. The motivation and engagement of learners is greatly boosted because their needs and preferences are taken into consideration (Stockwell, 2018).

3.2 The Role of AI in Grammar and Pronunciation Correction

Corrective AI tools like Grammarly are crucial for learners focusing on writing and grammar. Liao and Wang (2018) explain that AI grammar-checking tools do not simply indicate mistakes; rather, they suggest corrections alongside accompanying logic. This provides learners more room to think and reflect. The study revealed that employing AI-powered grammar tools improved students' writing skills due to the reinforcement of grammar structures through repetition and instant feedback. AI has also proven useful for correction of pronunciation. Kukulska-Hulme (2012) cites an example of a learner practicing speaking and a speech recognition program giving instant feedback along with the option of exercising and improving their verbal skills. This type of assistance is crucial for EFL learners in non-English speaking countries where opportunities to directly engage with native speakers are scarce. Vandergrift (2017) further advocates the use of speech recognition systems by arguing such systems can provide learners with timely and precise feedback on their pronunciation and intonation, which would enhance their proficiency and confidence in communication [3-5].

3.3 Motivation and Gamification

The use of AI in gamifying language learning is of primary concern to me. Numerous apps aimed toward using technology for language learning implement game strategies to engage learners and facilitate enjoyment while learning new languages. Hew (2018) studied its impact and found that gamification considerably improved the learners' willingness to work with the language learning items available. Systems such as Duolingo use points, levels, and badges as motivators for active participation. This has resulted in a greater frequency of favourable study habits and many learners' language proficiency appreciates considerably. Furthermore, Shute and Kim (2014) claim that the self-motivation provided by a gamified AI system serves to enhance the learners' capabilities because they are free to move within a structured

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environment without being scrutinized. This method attends to the learner's preferred level of difficulty and his or her individual interests, thus alleviating the pressure typically placed on a learner in conventional language classes [6].

3.4 AI Challenges and Limitations in Language Learning

Although AI has several advantages in language learning, researchers have emphasized its limitations and challenges. One of the main concerns is the lack of understanding of culture and context. Gonzalez (2018) argues that the automatic AI driven instruments tend to misinterpret figurative language, slangs, and even cultural contexts which greatly affect the learning outcomes. For this reason, AI is not able to provide the interactive experience in learning that can engage students in different cultures and languages in the real world. Also, Li and Ni (2020) pointed out the negative effects of using AI tools in language learning, stating it helps to learn, but it does not replace the necessary human input needed for interaction and shift in communicative competence. In their research, students could become too reliant on the AI tools to gain useful feedback and would, therefore, be deprived of the fundamental talking and non-verbal interaction opportunities which are necessary for language learning. The other problem is the availability of the AI systems, more so in poorly funded teaching and learning environments.

3.5 Future Directions in AI and Language Learning

The work of Brynjolfsson and McAfee encourages us to think about the future possibilities of integrating AI with the scope of language education, as they suggest that the ability of AI to work with large sets of data can help create more powerful and competent systems of learning. Considering that AI is progressing towards better understanding and processing of natural language, this could open new doors in understanding cultural nuances, idioms and verbal interactions. Woolf (2010) has argued that the integration of context and emotional intelligence into machines powered by AI can enable learning to take place beyond the boundaries of the virtual environment. That is to say, systems could start to facilitate more real-life communication. Moreover, integration of AI with other technologies like VR and AR, as predicted by Barrett and Glynn (2019), can result in highly realistic and immersive experiences of learning new languages. When learners are provided with the contexts in which they are expected to use the language, they will surely appreciate and enjoy the process of learning [7-10].

4. Applications

AI has gained substantial applications in many features of language learning, especially in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classrooms. AI is transforming language learning methods, including adaptive learning platforms, speech recognition tools, and personalized feedback systems. We provide an overview of the main uses of the tool, and how they improve the learning process.

4.1 AI-Powered Language Learning Platforms

AI-Based language learning platforms like Duolingo, Babbel, Memrise are a huge hit as they can take the teaching part so personalized. These platforms use artificial intelligence algorithms to evaluate a learner’s progress, pinpoint weaknesses and adjust lessons accordingly. It features a realistic AI system that tweaks lesson difficulty to keep a learner engaged (but not bored or frustrated). It also increases the engagement of learners to keep practicing. Duolingo, for instance, has an A.I. component that tailors the difficulty of tasks to users’ past responses. It even incorporates a spaced repetition algorithm that makes users review vocabulary and grammar at the best time to memorize them. Babbel, customizes its lessons based on learners' proficiency levels and helps students focus on real-world conversational skills, providing them with context-specific language exercises. These AI-powered platforms create an interactive and engaging learning environment that keeps students motivated and encourages consistent practice

4.2 Tools for Speech Recognition and Pronunciation

Speech recognition technology driven by AI has transformed into the ultimate ally for enhancing your pronunciation and speech. It can provide real-time corrective feedback to language learners as they

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practice pronunciation. Since many learners lack access to a native speaker, this type of feedback is vital. AI models like Google Speech-to-Text, Rosetta Stone, and Elsa Speak can instantly correct your speeches and give suggestions on how to improve the pronunciations.

4.3 Assistance with Grammar and Writing

Integration of AI-based programs for writing and grammar checking has greatly improved the ability of learners to write in English. Some of the AI tools used most frequently by students include Grammarly, Ginger, and ProWritingAid. These programs help users check their writing for grammar, spelling, punctuation, and overall style and provide learners with text analysis, improvement tips, and examples along with explanations of rules towards telling and suggesting how to use the language. With the aid of AI technology, Grammarly not only checks for grammar or punctuation mistakes, but provides suggestions on how to improve the quality of writing by using better words and phrases, correcting style, tone, and even clarity of the paper. This assures students that every refinement made is backed up with useful suggestions.

4.4 Adaptive Testing and Assessments

AI-powered systems are being developed to provide more precise evaluation of language proficiency. Traditional testing does not cater for varying learner capabilities and often results in under or over assessing students. Tools like Pearson's Versant and Mettl's powered assessments utilize AI to offer personalized assessments that change in difficulty depending on the user's inputs. Pearson's Versant is an AI-based multi-skill assessment in speaking and listening. Its score reporting is based on Speech Recognition Technology and AI, therefore marking does not involve human bias. This system perfects the learner's level of the language they are using because it adapts to their level. Mettl offers AI modules for various language skills and provides differential assessments and comments on them as per learners' requirements.

5. Methodologies

Proposed methodology for client segmentation using AI.

- **Step 1: Data Processing:** The goal is to prepare data for subsequent analysis. It normalizes data to guarantee uniformity throughout its features. Variables can be converted to numerical representations as needed. It handles missing values through suggestions or elimination.
- **Step 2: Describe Data:** Its goal is to understand the survey results.
- **Step 3: Visualization:** This step involves presenting the data in the form of graphs and charts to help visualize the data and the influence of AI in EFL.

6. Data Collection

We included the following statements in the survey:

- Do AI powered tools enhance language learning and efficiency?
- Personalized AI based language platforms improve engagement and retention.
- AI can effectively replace human language teachers in certain aspects.
- AI-driven grammar and writing assistants (e.g., Grammarly, ChatGPT) improve language accuracy.
- AI-based speech recognition tools enhance pronunciation and speaking skills.
- AI-generated feedback in language learning is as reliable as human feedback.
- AI in language learning poses risks related to data privacy and ethical concerns.
- Over-reliance on AI tools may reduce critical thinking and problem-solving skills in language learners.
- AI-driven language learning is more accessible and cost-effective than traditional methods.

The Table 1 options given for each question were:

Table 1 Options

Option 1	Strongly Disagree
Option 2	Disagree
Option 3	Neutral
Option 4	Agree
Option 5	Strongly Agree

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7. Results and Discussions

The results from the survey done across various colleges all over India are as follows:

Question 1:

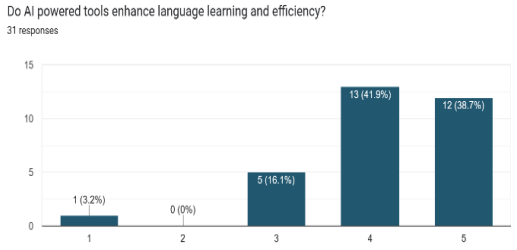

Figure 1 AI-powered Products

Figure 1 Many individuals feel that AI can considerably improve language acquisition by offering individualized learning experiences. AI-powered products may adapt to individual learners' demands, resulting in more efficient progression. With speech recognition, students may practice pronunciation while receiving immediate feedback. AI-powered apps can provide 24-hour access, making language practice more adaptable and convenient. Additionally, AI may analyze learner performance and provide specific activities. As a result, students can move more quickly and with greater retention.

Question 2:

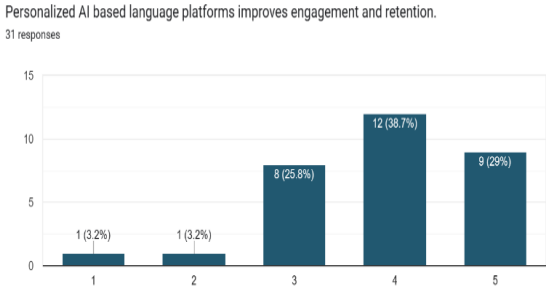

Figure 2 AI-Based Language Platforms

AI-based language platforms may adjust lessons to individual learners' needs, resulting in a more personalized experience. By analyzing a learner's strengths and shortcomings, these platforms adjust to their speed and deliver focused workouts. This tailored method keeps students engaged by presenting challenges appropriate for their ability level. As learners gain confidence and accomplishment, their motivation rises, resulting in better long-term retention. Regular feedback supports development while reducing frustration. Finally, this personalized learning experience results in increased language comprehension and a stronger connection to the topic, Figure 2.

Question 3:

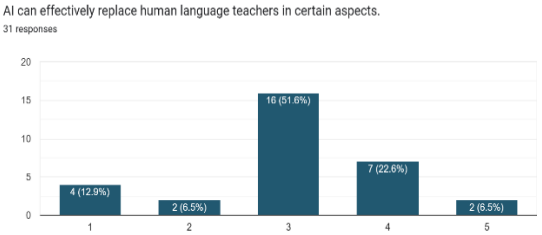

Figure 3 AI Cannot Completely Replace Human Teachers

While AI cannot completely replace human teachers, it can perform repetitive activities such as vocabulary drills and grammar exercises. Machine learning can provide quick feedback, allowing learners to progress at their own rate without the need for a teacher's constant presence. AI can also detect typical errors, assist learners in self-correction, and monitor their progress. Furthermore, it provides round-the-clock availability, guaranteeing that learning continues beyond typical classroom hours, Figure 3.

Question 4:

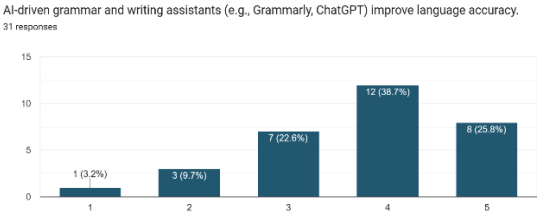

Figure 4 AI-Powered Writing Tools

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AI-powered writing tools assist users identify grammatical problems, improve sentence structure, and propose word alternatives. These solutions offer real-time corrections, ensuring that learners comprehend and learn from their mistakes. They also help people comprehend language norms better by explaining grammar. Regular use of these tools improves writing accuracy and fluency. Additionally, AI assistants can support learners in practicing and refining their writing skills, making suggestions that improve both style and intelligibility. Users improve their ability to create error-free material as they learn more, Figure 4.

Question 5:

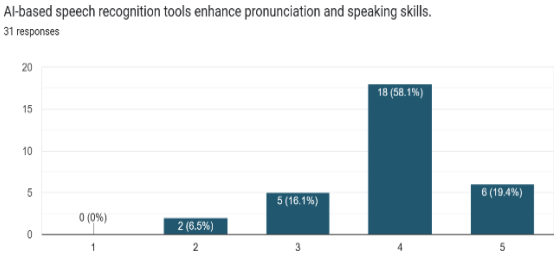

Figure 5 AI-Powered Voice Recognition Software Analyzes

AI-powered voice recognition software analyzes pronunciation and provides real-time feedback and correction to help students sound more natural. These tools evaluate accuracy by comparing the learner's speech to native pronunciations. With the flexibility to practice speaking at any time, students gain confidence and fluency in conversational skills. AI fosters ongoing progress by recognizing and correcting mispronunciations. The interactive element of these technologies also engages students, making speaking practice easier. This regular feedback loop allows learners to improve their speaking skills faster than traditional techniques, Figure 5.

Question 6:

AI-generated feedback can be precise and trustworthy, particularly for specific tasks such as grammar correction and speech. Many AI systems are based on large linguistic datasets, which allows them to deliver detailed feedback. These technologies can instantly assess learners' mistakes and make targeted, actionable recommendations. While AI feedback lacks the personal touch of a human educator, it is constant and unbiased Figure 6.

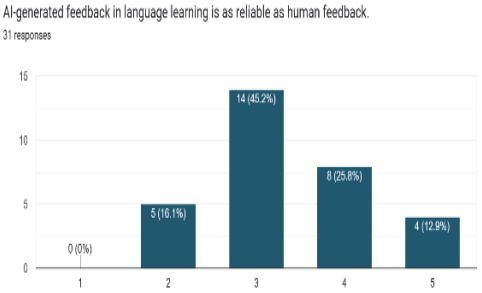

Figure 6 AI-Generated Feedback

Question 7:

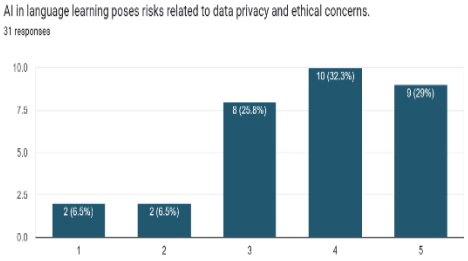

Figure 7 AI Systems

AI systems collect massive quantities of personal data to tailor learning experiences, raising concerns about data privacy and security. If not adequately protected, this information may be exploited or accessed by unauthorized persons. There is also the possibility of bias in AI systems, which could influence how students are taught or judged, Figure 7.

Question 8:

While AI programs are valuable tools, over reliance can impede students from acquiring problem-solving abilities. AI can deliver immediate solutions, which may deter learners from tackling issues on their own. Learners' cognitive skills may not improve if they are not required to analyze and resolve problems on their

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own, Figure 8.

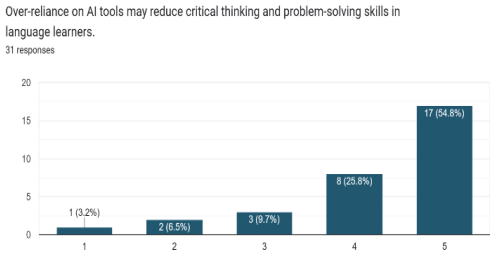

Figure 8 AI Programs Valuable Tools

Question 9:

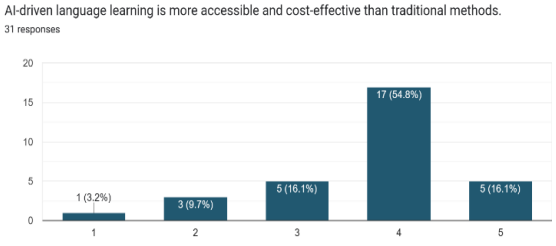

Figure 9 AI-Powered Platforms

AI-powered platforms enable flexible learning opportunities at any time and from any location, eliminating geographical and scheduling constraints. Unlike traditional classrooms, which may demand high tuition fees and strict timetables, AI technologies are frequently less priced and available through subscription models. Furthermore, AI-powered language learning systems frequently provide a plethora of content, such as courses, exercises, and quizzes, making them an affordable option for students, Figure 9.

Conclusion

Research has shown that AI is very beneficial for personalized learning, correcting grammar, improving pronunciation, and motivating language learners through gamification. Nevertheless, there are still issues that AI faces, such as cultural and contextual AI limitations, excessive reliance on technology, and accessibility challenges. For optimal employment of AI for language acquisition, further studies need to integrate contextual improvement of AI with human interaction and address issues of AI liberal accessibility.

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