HOW AI IS CHANGING THE WAY WE LEARN LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This article examines the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on foreign language learning and the ways in which AI-based technologies are transforming traditional approaches to language education. The study analyzes the advantages and limitations of AI tools in comparison with traditional language learning methods. The findings indicate that AI provides learners with immediate feedback, personalized learning opportunities, interactive practice, and access to language materials at any time. However, AI cannot completely replace human communication, particularly in developing cultural awareness, emotional understanding, and authentic social interaction. Therefore, the article argues that combining traditional teaching methods with AI-based tools can provide a more effective and engaging language learning experience.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), language learning, foreign language education, personalized learning, digital learning, AI-powered tools, language technology.

Introduction:

The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly influenced many areas of modern life, including education and foreign language learning. In the past, language education mainly depended on textbooks, grammar rules, vocabulary lists, classroom activities, and direct interaction with teachers. Students often memorized new words, practiced dialogues from textbooks, and completed grammar exercises. Although these traditional methods provide learners with a strong foundation, they may not always meet the individual needs of every student.

Today, the situation is changing rapidly. AI-based technologies have created new opportunities for language learners by making education more accessible, flexible, interactive, and personalized. Students no longer have to wait until their next lesson to ask questions or receive feedback. They can practice a foreign language at almost any time by using AI-powered applications and platforms.

Tools such as ChatGPT, Duolingo, and other AI-based language learning systems can support learners in developing different language skills. They can provide explanations, correct mistakes, generate exercises, simulate conversations, and recommend learning materials according to individual needs.

The purpose of this article is to examine how AI is changing foreign language learning, identify its main advantages and limitations, and explain why combining AI technologies with traditional teaching methods may be one of the most effective approaches to language education.

Main Part:

1. From Traditional Language Learning to AI-Based Learning

Traditional language learning has generally focused on textbooks, grammar instruction, vocabulary memorization, written exercises, and classroom interaction. Teachers have traditionally played the central role in explaining new topics, correcting mistakes, and organizing learning activities.

These methods remain valuable because they provide structure, discipline, and systematic knowledge. However, traditional classroom instruction may sometimes be limited by time and

the number of students. A teacher cannot always provide detailed individual feedback to every learner during a single lesson.

AI technologies can help address some of these limitations. Learners can use AI tools outside the classroom to practice vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, writing, listening, and speaking. This allows language learning to continue beyond the traditional classroom environment.

2. Immediate Feedback and Error Correction

One of the most important advantages of AI in language learning is its ability to provide immediate feedback. When learners make grammatical, spelling, or vocabulary mistakes, AI systems can identify these errors and provide corrections.

For example, if a learner uses an incorrect verb tense, an AI tool can correct the sentence and explain why the particular form is incorrect. It can also provide additional examples so that the learner can understand how the grammatical structure is used in real-life situations.

Immediate feedback is particularly useful because learners can recognize and correct their mistakes without waiting for the next lesson. This can make the learning process more efficient and encourage students to become more independent learners.

3. Personalized Language Learning

Another major advantage of AI is personalization. Traditional textbooks usually follow a fixed program designed for a general group of learners. However, students have different levels, abilities, learning styles, and weaknesses.

AI-based systems can adapt learning materials to individual needs. For instance, if a learner has difficulties with listening comprehension, an AI system can recommend additional listening exercises. If another learner has strong grammatical knowledge but limited vocabulary, the system can provide new words, phrases, and contextual examples.

This personalized approach allows students to learn at their own pace. As a result, learners may feel less pressure and become more motivated to continue studying.

4. Interactive Speaking Practice

Speaking is one of the most challenging skills for many foreign language learners. In order to improve speaking ability, students need regular opportunities to communicate. However, not every learner has access to a language partner or a native speaker.

AI-powered chatbots can provide an alternative form of speaking and conversation practice. Learners can communicate with AI in the target language, discuss different topics, answer questions, and practice everyday conversations.

Although communication with AI cannot completely replace interaction with a real person, it can help learners develop confidence and fluency. This can be especially beneficial for shy students who may feel nervous about making mistakes in front of other people.

5. The Limitations of AI in Language Learning

Despite its many advantages, AI is not a perfect solution for language education. One of its main limitations is that it cannot completely replace authentic human communication.

When learners communicate with native speakers, they learn much more than vocabulary and grammar. They also learn about cultural traditions, humor, emotions, social norms, body language, and different ways of expressing ideas. These aspects of communication are difficult to reproduce completely through AI.

Another important issue is the reliability of AI-generated information. AI systems can sometimes provide inaccurate or inappropriate answers. Therefore, learners should not depend on AI blindly. They should develop critical thinking skills and check important information using reliable sources or consult their teachers.

6. Combining AI with Traditional Teaching

Considering both the advantages and limitations of AI, completely replacing traditional

language education with artificial intelligence would not be the most effective solution. Instead, AI should be used as a complementary tool alongside teachers, textbooks, and authentic communication.

Teachers provide structure, motivation, cultural knowledge, emotional support, and professional guidance. Textbooks provide organized learning materials and systematic progression. At the same time, AI can offer additional practice, immediate feedback, personalized activities, and opportunities for independent learning. Therefore, the combination of traditional teaching and AI-based learning can create a balanced educational environment. In such an approach, AI does not replace the teacher but supports both teachers and learners.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Artificial Intelligence is changing the way people learn foreign languages by making the learning process more flexible, personalized, interactive, and accessible. AI tools can provide immediate feedback, adapt learning materials to individual needs, and offer learners opportunities to practice language skills at any time. However, AI has limitations and cannot completely replace human interaction. Authentic communication is essential for developing cultural awareness, emotional understanding, and natural communication skills.

Therefore, the most effective approach is not to choose between traditional education and AI but to combine them. Teachers and textbooks can provide structure, guidance, and cultural knowledge, while AI can provide additional practice, personalized support, and instant feedback. When used responsibly, AI can transform language learning from a routine academic task into a more engaging and enjoyable experience.

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