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## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING: A REAL-WORLD ECLECTIC APPROACH TO LANGUAGE LEARNING

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### ABSTRACT

*If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of their tomorrow.*

- John Dewey



The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 refers to the education policy introduced by the Government of India. It is a comprehensive framework outlining the visions and goals for schools and higher education, with a focus on flexibility, innovation, learner centred learning and a more holistic approach to learning. This paper explores the integration of Artificial Intelligence in language learning as a real- world eclectic approach, focussing on practical applications and delve into diverse methodologies that incorporate AI tools, with a particular emphasis on ChatGPT. The work covers the implementation of AI driven language activities, interactive learning experiences, and the synergising blend of traditional pedagogies with cutting- edge technology. By examining real-world scenarios, the paper aims to provide insights into the need and effectiveness of adopting an eclectic approach to AI in language education.

**.Keywords:** *NEP 2020, Artificial Intelligence, Technology integration, eclectic approach, AI driven activities, interactive learning, pedagogies.*

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## INTRODUCTION

'Communication works for those who work on it' –

John Powell

English has become a global lingua franca, making it a crucial tool for international communication in various fields, including business, science, and diplomacy. English is often the medium of instruction in universities across the world, this makes proficiency in English essential in pursuing higher education and, also in academic success. Proficiency in English enhances the job prospects, as many multinational companies and organization use English as the primary language of communication. English as a language has become of paramount importance for the success of students, employees, and entrepreneurs.

21<sup>st</sup> century educators are empowered with great deal of technological innovations, which the English language teacher fraternity has very fondly embraced and upskilled, for enriching their teaching abilities, in order, to provide an upgraded learning experience to the English language learners. Technology increases the student's opportunity for authentic interaction with the native speakers and other language learners at various levels within or outside the classroom. Practice leads to perfection and technology- rich language learning makes it possible. The indispensable role of technology in education is also due to its ability to provide vast amount of information, explore diverse topics and learn beyond traditional classroom resources, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI). Artificial Intelligence in education offers personalised experiential learning, provides instant feedback to

students, and assists in data analysis to identify student needs, making learning more effective.

## 1. FOUNDATIONS OF AI IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

The advancement in technology and accessibility of digital devices have made Artificial Intelligence an acceptable interdisciplinary field with its unique and diverse potentials. Rapidly developing mobile and broadband technologies promoted ubiquitous learning with diverse online resources that can be used anywhere and anytime, while various types of technologies, (e.g., interactive whiteboards, automatic speech recognition [ASR], and digital games), were emerging to assist language education (Adolphs et al., 2018).

### 1.1 EXPLORING THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF AI RELEVANT TO LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Understanding about why Artificial Intelligence should be integrated into language teaching would be much convincing, when we explore the fundamental concepts of that AI intersects in language education.

- *Natural Language Processing (NLP)*: NLP enables machines to understand, interpret and generate human language. In language education, AI applications like chatbots, can aid grammar correction, language practice, and conversational skill development.
- *Machine Learning (ML)*: Optimizing language learning experience and more importantly personalised lessons based on individual progress and proficiency is much sought after strengths of AI, and this is possible due to the ML algorithms that analyse vast



amounts of language data and identify patterns.

- *Speech Recognition*: Pronunciation is the key delivery agent of language and speech recognition technology helps the learners improve pronunciation and oral communication skills.
- *Chatbots*: AI driven chatbots offer language learners a conversational partner, providing immediate feedback and guidance.
- *Gamification*: Incorporating gamified elements using AI enhances language education by making the learning process more enjoyable and motivating.

Understanding and integrating these AI concepts can revolutionize language education, making it more interactive, personalised, and effective for learners of diverse backgrounds and learning styles.

## 2. ENHANCING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Among the information technology programs, AI has emerged as a promising tool applied in English language learning and teaching to enhance learner's learning achievements. AI's potential to revolutionize traditional teaching and learning methods has been a shot in the arm to educators and researchers worldwide. With the advent of AI and the varied features that it can offer such as accessibility, feasibility, learner autonomy etc., language learning has become much easier, convenient, and fast paced.

To enhance learning, we need to first understand and discuss the challenges faced by the English language learners and then check if AI would be able address these issues. There is much research that has already

gone into understanding the challenges and, also the way out has been initiated and practiced religiously by the English language teacher fraternity.

The one challenge that I would like to highlight here is, language anxiety, the learners who sincerely work on their English language proficiency are the ones who are more anxious and hesitant to converse in English. AI can prove to be a game changer for these learners in providing them with human like conversational platforms, wherein they need not be any hesitant and rather can be more evaluative of their language skills. The learners who are already focussed, would be able to be empowered with an excellent platform to hone their communicative skills and the learners who are struggling to embark on their journey to language proficiency can find the activity-based teaching models of AI refreshing and experiential.

Here are examples of language learning apps that aid in language learning:

Language learning apps:

- Duolingo: A gamified app with interactive lessons in various languages.
- Rosetta Stone: Known for its immersive method of, Rosetta Stone focusses on visual and auditory learning to improve language skills.
- Babble: Offers personalised courses for language learning.
- Memrise: Utilises mnemonic techniques and interactive exercises.

**Chatbots for language learning:**

- ChatGPT (by Open AI): Can be used for conversational language practice and queries.
- Replika: A conversational AI app that can engage in language practice.
- Language learning with Netflix: Chrome extension that turns Watching shows into language learning with chat-like subtitles.

**2.1 ChatGPT**

Here, I would like to serve some examples of how ChatGPT can enhance language learning:

- **Grammar correction:**

**User:** I goed to the store yesterday.

**Chat GPT:** I went to the store yesterday.

- **Vocabulary Expansion:**

**User:** I like to eat the same food every day.

**Chat GPT:** Consider diversifying your diet for a more varied culinary experience.

- **Conversational practices:**

**User:** Tell me about your favourite hobby.

**Chat GPT:** I do not have any hobbies, but I enjoy helping users like you. What is your favourite hobby?

- **Cultural insights:**

**User:** What are some common expressions used in American English?

**ChatGPT:** In American English, people often use expressions like, 'break a leg' for good luck, 'hit the hay' for going to bed, or 'piece of cake' to describe something easy. Understanding these expressions adds a cultural dimension to your language skills'

### 3 ADAPTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS WITH AI

The most important methods in language pedagogy- structural, functional, and interactive. AI brings in several benefits by creating personalised language learning experiences. Adaptive learning environments leverage AI to tailor educational experiences to individual learners. In language learning, AI can analyse student's progress, identify strengths and weaknesses, and provide personalised content and feedback to enhance learner's language skills. This approach helps accommodate diverse learning styles and paces, optimizing the learning process. AI can analyse user progress, learning patterns and preferences, promoting effective and personalised language acquisition.

Stephen Krashen, in his Affective Filter Hypothesis claims that, language acquisition is more effective when learners are in a relaxed and low stress environment. When anxiety, fear, or other negative emotions are high, the affective filter is raised, hindering the intake of language input. Creating a positive and comfortable learning environment is believed to enhance language acquisition. AI integration in English language learning can help the learners to work on their language challenges and anxiety in stress free environment and turn to classroom with self-confidence.

AI mediated English language teaching can be considered as an upgraded version of Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) approach, which is highly appreciated and practiced by the language teachers due to its practical approach to



language learning and, also outcome for its -oriented principles.

Combining gamification and AI in language learning has become a popular approach to enhance engagement and effectiveness. 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, especially in the post pandemic scenario, are much inclined towards digital engagement and gamification. Thorndike's theory of learning emphasized the significance of reinforcement and punishment in shaping behaviour that is followed by a positive consequence is more likely to be repeated, while behaviour that is followed by a negative consequence is less likely to be repeated. The learners are motivated to learn effectively when learning is complimenting their interests, which also includes, the mode of learning. Designing activities aligned with student's interests can lower their affective filter, enhancing language acquisition.

#### 4. TEACHER- TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION

The collaborative role of teachers and AI in the classroom emphasizes leveraging technology to enhance learners' educational experiences. Teachers guide and facilitate learning while AI tools provide valuable resources, feedback, and assist in adapting content to individual learner needs. Such collaboration aims to create a more dynamic and effective learning environment.

Teachers play a crucial role in the collaboration between technology and English language teaching. They provide pedagogical expertise, guide the integration of technology into lessons and ensure that the digital platforms align with curriculum goals. Teacher- tech collaboration has already been widely accepted and has taken language education to next

level, the very examples we are all aware of are, Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) and, also Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL).

#### 5. ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF AI IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

21<sup>st</sup> century is a technology-friendly-century, learners are much inclined towards gadgets for all the day to day requirements and that is why the intervention of AI in language learning is proposed. If the English language teachers are not going to wake up to the call, the learners would take all the liberty and work all their assignments and projects with the help of AI. Rather, it is ideal for the teachers to challenge the learners with their creative and out of the box activities that give the learner's learning a better direction. Without the teacher- tech collaboration, technology for learners would be a monkey mind, and with the teacher's guidance turns into a meditated mind.

Teacher's intervention in this collaboration is much necessitated due to the concerns related to data privacy. Teachers need to educate the learners about the safe and valid platforms that are learner friendly and those that do not hold any threat to data privacy.

When the teacher encourages the modern methods of learning in the classroom, learners feel free to discuss their apprehensions.

#### CONCLUSION

The effects of AI mediated language instruction on English learning achievement with L2 motivation, and self-regulated learning that boosts learner autonomy among English language learners and addresses the increasing interest in AI driven educational



technologies and their potential to revolutionize language learning. Learners today are tech savvies and gadget lovers, the need of the hour is to explore the ways in which, the learners' love for technology and gadgets be banked upon and directed towards language enrichment and enable learners to be insightful regarding their language learning.

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