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The Role of AI Chatbots in Improving English Speaking Skills

Abstract

In the period of Digital Transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has restructured Second Language Acquisition (SLA). Nowadays, we have access to significant number of AI applications, chatbots which have emerged as crucial and beneficial tools for developing English Speaking Skills. This paper analyzes the pedagogical benefits of AI chatbots, by especially focusing on the reducing the anxiety while using a foreign language, getting instant, detailed and constructive feedback, and finally, having immersive practice environments. It also discusses the presence of limits in current technology and suggests recommendations for including and utilizing AI in modern language curricula.

1. Introduction

For majority of learners, mastering theoretical knowledge of English is easier than oral fluency which is the most challenging one. In traditional classroom settings, it is often failed to provide enough “Student Talk Time”. The reasons for the aforementioned issue may be limitation to time and the size of the class. Additionally, a lot of learners are either shy or afraid to use a foreign language which hinders their ability to practice in social settings. These learners are able to utilize their writing skills more efficiently compared to their speaking skills. AI- powered chatbots, for instance ChatGPT, Gemini and many more offer a revolutionary solution for this issue. Learners are able to chat with these chatbots 24/7 which provides them with practice environment.

2. Pedagogical Advantages

2.1. Avoiding anxiety

According to Stephen Krashen’s who is a famous American linguist, high level of anxiety and low self-confidence can hinder the process of language learning. The most important benefit of AI chatbots is that it has non-judgmental nature which helps with low self-confidence issues. In contrast to human opponent, AI does not have any feelings which means that human feelings

such as fatigue or other feelings cannot affect the approach to learners' speech. When felt safe, learners are able to experiment with varied sentence structures and pronunciation without feeling embarrassed which leads to improved speaking skills.

2.2. Instant Constructive Feedback

If we take a look at a regular classroom environment, witnessing several grammar mistakes is common. The most challenging point is that instructors cannot continuously interrupt learners and provide grammatical correction. Moreover, it may be hard to take notes of every single grammar mistake of each learner and provide feedback later due to time constraints. On the other hand, AI chatbots easily solve this problem by offering "delayed" feedback as it can easily analyze the speech provided and take notes of every mistake instantly. This helps learners not to lose their focus by continuous interruption for grammar mistakes. They may produce their speech and once they are done, they get instant and detailed feedback which improves their speaking skills faster and more efficiently.

3. Limitations

Despite their pros, AI chatbots cannot fully replace human interactions. For instance:

1. Chatbots may lack knowledge of deep cultural sarcasm and regional dialects which are important for high-level of fluency.
2. While practicing with AI Chatbots is advantageous, communicating with a human requires eye-contact and body language which cannot be practiced with AI. As a result, learners may find it difficult when it comes to human interactions.
3. Conclusion

To summarize, the integration of AI chatbots represents a shift in English language learning. Due to the fact that chatbots provide personalized and interactive speaking practice, they pave the way to a less stressful environment to learn English language. While human interaction is essential for mastering English language, there are undeniable benefits of chatbots as well as they may be considered as exceptional supplementary tools. In the future, it is predicted that AI chatbots will even further excel and create an environment of practice which is way closer to real life interactions.

References

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