

THE ROLE OF AI IN TEACHING ESP: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

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Abstract. Artificial intelligence integrates effortlessly with language learning in the realm of online education. Online education has sparked a widespread revolution, and the rapid integration of AI into foreign language learning is driving a comparable transformation. By leveraging AI-driven language learning tools and the advanced capabilities of neural networks, a new era of education is recounting, benefiting both students and educators. The article examines the current role of artificial intelligence in teaching English for Specific Purposes, its significance, the extent to which it can replace human resources, advantages as well as disadvantages.

Keywords: artificial intelligence (AI), foreign languages, English for Specific Purposes (ESP), automation of the educational process.

Introduction. The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized education, including the specialized field of teaching English for Specific Purposes (ESP). ESP focuses on training learners with the language skills they require for specific fields such as business, medicine, ICT, or law. It may simplify people's daily lives and make them more comfortable. Innovative technologies for learning foreign languages enable learning anytime and anywhere. AI tools, ranging from natural language processing applications to adaptive learning platforms, have the potential

to transform ESP instruction. However, these advancements come with both advantages and disadvantages.

Main part. There is a range of challenges in learning foreign languages that can be simplified through the use of AI. The role of artificial intelligence has grown significantly in recent times. AI has become relevant in many fields and industries. Moreover, it has proven to be highly beneficial in education, where it is increasingly being applied across various educational concepts.

Experts believe that artificial intelligence is particularly effective in learning foreign languages, especially through online methods. AI is the foundation for developing both applications and comprehensive language platforms, creating more opportunities for both students and teachers.

But can one truly learn English with the help of artificial intelligence, and what advantages does it offer? While exploring some key challenges in learning foreign languages that AI can help simplify, we will also research how to connect its potential for more effective education.

Main challenges in learning foreign languages are to master a foreign language, it is essential to acquire, reinforce, and continually develop four key skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. However, during lessons - whether independent or with a teacher - students often encounter difficulties that delay their progress and, at times, lead to a loss of motivation.

Advantages of AI in teaching ESP:

1. Personalized learning experiences. AI enables highly personalized learning paths. Tools like adaptive learning platforms analyze individual progress and adjust lessons accordingly. For example, a medical student learning ESP can focus on terminology and contexts relevant to their field, while a business student might work on negotiation phrases or corporate communication. This personalized approach enhances efficiency and engagement.

2. Access to authentic contexts. AI-powered tools like chatbots or virtual reality simulations allow learners to engage in real world scenarios. An aviation ESP learner can simulate communication with air traffic control, providing practical, immersive experience without needing real life exposure.
3. Efficiency and automation. AI reforms administrative tasks such as grading and feedback. Writing assistants, like Grammarly or AI-based essay graders, evaluate students' work, highlighting specific areas for improvement. This frees educators to focus on teaching rather than repetitive evaluations.
4. Rich data insights. AI gathers and analyzes data on learners' performance, highlighting trends and problem areas. In ESP, where learners often have diverse needs, these insights help instructors refine their approaches and focus on common linguistic or contextual challenges.
5. Language proficiency assessment. AI tools can accurately assess pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. For instance, speech recognition software evaluates learners' ability to pronounce technical terms specific to their field, offering corrective feedback in real time.

Although AI is an extremely valuable tool for language learning, like any revolutionary technology, it also raises certain ethical and other concerns.

Disadvantages of AI in Teaching ESP:

1. Limited contextual understanding. While AI excels in recognizing patterns and analyzing data, it often lacks the clear understanding required for effective ESP instruction. Contexts in specific professions can be highly self-motivated, and AI might struggle with idiomatic expressions, cultural distinctions, or field-specific language evolution.
2. Dependence on quality data. The effectiveness of AI relies heavily on the quality of its training data. In ESP, where specialized vocabulary and contexts are critical, AI tools may underperform if they are not trained on comprehensive, up-to-date datasets relevant to specific fields.

3. Reduced human interaction. Effective ESP teaching often involves collaboration, discussion, and contextual alterations, which human instructors best at. Over-reliance on AI could limit opportunities for learners to develop soft skills, such as intercultural communication or emotional intelligence, that are crucial in professional settings.

4. Cost and accessibility. Advanced AI tools can be costly to implement and require reliable internet access and hardware. In regions with limited resources, this could widen the educational divide and make AI-driven ESP instruction less equitable.

5. Ethical and privacy concerns. The practice of AI in education often includes the collection and analysis of personal information. This raises concerns about data security, privacy, and potential biases in AI algorithms that could disadvantage certain groups of learners.

In balancing AI and human instruction in ESP to maximize the benefits of AI while mitigating its disadvantages, a hybrid approach (AI and human instruction) is essential. AI can handle repetitive and data-driven tasks, freeing human educators to focus on activities requiring empathy, creativity, and adaptability. For example, instructors can use AI tools to create personalized learning plans but lead discussions on ethical dilemmas in a profession or provide cultural insights that AI cannot emulate.

Conclusion. We can state that the role of artificial intelligence in learning foreign languages is quite significant today and continues to grow. AI holds great potential in the field of education and foreign language teaching and offers exciting possibilities for teaching English for Specific Purposes by enhancing personalization, providing authentic simulations, and automating routine tasks. However, it also has limitations related to contextual understanding, accessibility, and privacy. Therefore, it is advisable to use AI only for tasks where it is most

effective and avoid attempting to fully replace human resources in foreign language education.

Enhancing AI language learning with traditional classroom methods and human interaction can help students attain a more accomplished language learning experience. A thoughtful integration of AI with traditional teaching methods can harness its strengths while addressing its challenges, ensuring a balanced, effective approach to ESP education.

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