Interview Transcription

Speaker	Transcript
Interviewer (me)	Good afternoon, Ms. Loh. Thank you so much for taking the time to participate in this interview. As mentioned before, this interview will be about your views on the use of generative AI in assignments in education. So first of all, would you like to introduce your education and work experience background?
Interviewee	Yeah. So I'm currently doing a masters in AI at Monash and previously I did my bachelors in psychology and then I worked for a year in the psychology field and I just started my masters. Yeah, this semester.So this is my first.
Interviewer (me)	Alright, thank you. So now let's talk a bit more about what you're like. So do you prefer being assessed by exams or assignments?
Interviewee	I think a balance of both would be good.For certain things, I find that assignments are more effective and for certain things, I find that exams are more effective in terms of my learning outcomes.
Interviewer (me)	So is that roughly a 50/50 split, or…?
Interviewee	I think depending on the subject like certain subjects, maybe a higher weightage for exams would be more effective and for certain subjects that are more hands on and practical, a higher weightage for the assignments will be more effective.
Interviewee	And before generative AI existed in the first place, how difficult did you find learning content?
Interviewee	Sorry, like if we don't have AI tools?
Interviewee	So generative AI is quite new, right? So how difficult do you find learning things before generative AI existed.
Interviewee	I think it's a bit hard to compare because the kind of stuff that I did before generative AI existed is quite different from what I'm studying now. But for the content I'm studying now, I find that without generative AI's help it will be very very difficult because I don't come from a IT background. So there's a lot of new things that I'm learning, a lot of new terms and concepts and all that, and I find that generative AI tools have been a big help in sort of becoming like a personal tutor to me.
Interviewee	I see. So generative AI is like a personal tutor.
Interviewee	Yeah.
Interviewee	So how often do you use generative AI?

Interviewee	I think it's safe to say almost every day, yeah.
Interviewee	Oh, that's very often. So, can you describe one instance of how you might use generative AI?
Interviewee	Yeah, sure. So let's say there's some sort of pre-class activity or something. And then there's the problem that we're supposed to solve.Then let's say it's very difficult and I don't even know where to start.Sometimes I'll just put the problem into like, I use chatGPT the most, so I'll just say chatGPT, I'll just put the problem into chatGPT, and maybe I'll ask like, I don't quite understand what sort of concepts or how should I get started with this and then I'll ask for sort of like steps? What sort of topics I should look at to understand this question? Or could you break down this question in simpler terms? Something like that.
Interviewee	So, you're asking generative AI to breakdown this question for you and to help you understand the topic.
Interviewee	Yeah, exactly.
Interviewee	OK. So on the generative AI pages themselves, they themselves say that generative AI may not always be factually correct. How do you deal with generative AI's unclear factual correctness?
Interviewee	Yeah, so, that's why I only use it sort of like as a form of guidance or like first draft if you may call it that.I don't exactly ask them for the answers, even if I do, I don't take it as it is.I just kind of like use it as a reference. So like I said, when I have a difficult question or problem then maybe I'll ask for some steps and guidance and then from there I'll look for my own information. I'll study the topic by myself and then yeah, if I ask for certain information then I'll treat it like a draft and then I will still fact check whatever they are giving me.
Interviewee	So you use it as a starting point to create a template for, what do you start with.
Interviewee	Yeah, yeah.
Interviewee	I see. So when you want to, search for information on how to do something, what makes you choose between generative AI and other traditional sources like Google. So what makes you go to generative AI and not to Google or textbooks?
Interviewee	Yeah, I think the main reason would be that it's very fast and it's very concise.Like, let's say there's a certain topic that you understand. If you put it into chatGPT and then you ask them to give you an output that is like in simple terms or something like that, then you just get a quick like it answers your question directly versus if you were to go to Google and search a topic then you might get a very in-depth articles or things that are

	not exactly what you're looking for. So I find that yeah, it saves a lot of time to use chatGPT and get your answers directly.
Interviewee	So you say that it is more accurate in getting you what you are looking for.
Interviewee	Yeah
Interviewee	What about the quality of the answers you get? Are they of better quality or just the same?
Interviewee	I think it depends.I haven't tried it for very sort of in depth things. Normally it's like maybe there's a concept I don't understand. I need a quick brief description of what it is just so that I can quickly understand what it is, and I find that the responses are pretty good and I think the quality is subjective, but it kind of depends on how from the tools.So how you ask the questions if you want the answers to be like a level that is easily understandable for someone for like a high schooler, so I think being very specific with your prompts can improve the quality of the answers.
Interviewee	So if you are very specific with your prompts, then you can get very good quality answers from chatGPT, better than Google.
Interviewee	Yeah, I mean, like we mentioned earlier, the responses might not be 100% accurate. So quality in terms of that, might be a concern, but then in terms of getting accuracy in terms of exactly what you're looking for, I find that most of the time, yeah, it is accurate in that sense.
Interviewee	OK, so now, how do you think using generative AI like chat GPT impacts your learning experience?
Interviewee	I think it makes learning a lot smoother for me because normally I just use it to understand certain things. So like, like I said, it's like a personal tutor, you know? So anything I don't understand I just consult chatGPT so definitely makes learning a lot smoother and faster compared to searching on Google, having to discuss with your peers. And yeah, it's very direct and fast.
Interviewee	So if I get that right, you find that it helps you learn faster because you get direct answers to what you want to know. As opposed to having to go through many hoops to find this and that.
Interviewee	Yeah.
Interviewee	OK. So one thing I want to highlight is that, in the news, we sometimes see that students use generative AI to do their assignments themselves. Do you think that can be considered authentic work?
Interviewee	I think it depends. It really depends on how the student is using the AI

	tools, like if you were to just paste your assignment question and then stick whatever output they give and then call that your assignment, then definitely that's sort of like cheating, but I think if you use it sort of like a search engine to help you like provide some guidance. So let's say you have a question. You ask chatGPT, can you break down this question, can you provide some guidance on how I can get started with this problem and all that. So chatGPT isn't exactly giving you the answer and then you are just using it like some sort of guidance to write your own content, then I think that's fine.
Interviewee	So you think that if you just use it as a tutor, and not so much to do the questions, then it's fine.
Interviewee	Yeah.
Interviewee	Do you think using generative AI helps you to spur your creativity and your critical thinking skills.
Interviewee	I'm not sure if it can really help in terms of like, your creativity and critical thinking or have an effect on it. I think it's like if someone were to critically think about the problem and then have a discussion about it with chatGPT, then yeah, that would sort of like exercise your creative juices and critical thinking. But if you were to just, you know, not have that sort of discussion and just take whatever output that they give then like, obviously you're not critically thinking about whatever it is.
Interviewee	So, as a result, would you say that this is very much a matter of how well the user uses it.
Interviewee	Yeah, highly dependent on how the user uses it.
Interviewee	What do you think the long term effects of generative AI might be?
Interviewee	Hmm, long term effects like on students learning or in what sense?
Interviewee	Yes, in students learning.
Interviewee	I think it's highly dependent on a lot of things like how the student utilises it and what sort of guidelines are put in place for students to use it. I think if used appropriately then it can have a really good impact on students' learning. But if misused, then I think a lot of times the learning outcomes won't be achieved. So let's say like if there is some sort of guidelines or some guide on how to appropriately use, chatGPT and all these generative AI tools, like how to use it effectively as a tutor or something of that sort, I think definitely it will be very beneficial because it's like every student has their own personal tutor, you know. But if it's not really regulated and students are just like in general cheating by copying assignments and stuff from chatGPT itself without actually understanding the content, then definitely that will have a very negative

	impact on their learning.
Interviewee	So, once again, if the student uses it well then this becomes a very helpful tool to help become a personalised tutor. But if the student does put in the effort, then it becomes essentially a very advanced tool to cheat.
Interviewee	Yes.
Interviewee	Do you have any other thoughts that you would like to share about generative AI that you haven't already covered?
Interviewee	Maybe, I think I mentioned it earlier, but I just find it very important to sort of like allow the use of generative AI, like accept the use of generative AI because everyone's using it using it as much as a Google search nowadays for what I assume, but it should be regulated, like I think that students should be allowed to use it for their assignments. But we really need to sort of educate people on how to use it effectively and place some sort of regulations on what's considered appropriate and not appropriate use of generative AI tools, yeah.
Interviewee	So would you say that, as a result, you need more regulations on generative AI?
Interviewee	Yeah, in terms of specifically for assignments, I think yeah, there needs to be some regulation. But in terms of learning I think it's pretty free, like to use it to help you understand your class material or whatever.
Interviewee	So would you say that it is assignments that need to be restructured to be less impacted by students cheating by generative AI then?
Interviewee	Yeah, exactly, I think it's kind of like I feel like restricting the use of generative AI like chatGPT is like telling the student, you cannot Google search for this assignment. It's quite impossible to regulate that right? People are bound to use all these free tools, so it's kind of just accepting that people are going to use it and how you can regulate the appropriate use of it.
Interviewee	And so would you say that this is something you cannot ban, because students are going to find a way to use it anyway, and banning it will only serve to hinder the students that follow the rules.
Interviewee	Yeah, sort of. People are still going to find a way to use it, even if you strictly ban it, so I think it's much better, more effective to accept it and set some sort of regulations.

| Interviewee | Alright, thank you so much for your time. That was very insightful. |