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THE INTEGRATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) INTO ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING: ADVANTAGE OR CHALLENGE

The integration of *Artificial Intelligence (AI)* into English language teaching offers a variety of advantages and challenges. *AI* tools are increasingly being used to enhance learning experiences, making language education more personalized, efficient, and accessible. However, there are also potential downsides to consider.

If we talk about advantages, then it is definitely 24/7 accessibility. *AI*-powered platforms are available around the clock, giving students the flexibility to learn at their own pace and on their own schedule. This is particularly useful for busy students or those in different time zones. Virtual assistants or chatbots can help students with grammar queries or vocabulary questions outside classroom hours, acting as a supplementary learning resource (Гуліч., & Четверик, 2024).

Many *AI* platforms use gamification techniques to make learning more engaging. Quizzes, challenges, and rewards can motivate students to practice English regularly. Moreover, virtual tutors, voice recognition software, and *AI* conversation bots (like ChatGPT) enable students to practice speaking and listening in a more interactive and less intimidating environment. *AI* tools can quickly assess writing, grammar exercises, or multiple-choice tests, saving teachers time and providing students with instant feedback. These tools can evaluate large volumes of student work more efficiently than traditional methods. *AI* systems can track student progress over time, providing teachers with valuable insights into strengths and weaknesses. This helps educators adjust their teaching strategies based on real data.

The main disadvantages of using *AI* in teaching English (from my point of view) are lack of human interaction and over-reliance on technology. While *AI* can simulate conversations, it lacks the emotional intelligence and cultural nuance that human teachers bring to language learning. Language is deeply tied to culture, and *AI* cannot fully replicate the social and cultural contexts that are essential for mastering a language. Relying heavily on *AI* tools may limit opportunities for students to practice real-time, face-to-face communication, which is crucial for developing speaking and listening skills in authentic situations. *AI* follows predefined algorithms and may not always encourage creative or critical thinking. While *AI* is excellent for structured language practice, it may not be as effective in fostering creative language use, such as storytelling or nuanced discussions. Students may become overly reliant on *AI* tools for corrections or answers, potentially diminishing their ability to self-correct or think independently when using the language.

Thus, the use of *AI* in teaching English offers numerous benefits, such as personalized learning, greater accessibility, and efficient assessments. However, it also presents challenges, including the risk of reduced human interaction, and over-reliance on technology. To maximize the potential of *AI*, it should be used as a supplement to, rather than a replacement for, traditional teaching methods. Combining *AI* with the guidance of skilled teachers can provide a balanced and effective language learning experience.

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