



Using Artificial Intelligence as a Teacher Assistant in Teaching English

Masoumeh Alikhani

English Department, Najafabad Branch,

Islamic Azad University,

Najafabad, Iran

amasoumeh444@gmail.com

Hadi Salehi

English Department, Najafabad Branch,

Islamic Azad University,

Najafabad, Iran

hadisalehi1358@yahoo.com

Abstract: Teaching English as a second language is one of the most important and prominent issues that face many challenges and the importance of this issue has motivated English teachers to find creative ways in teaching English. Nowadays, with the progress of science and technology, methods of teaching have taken a different form and the old methods are used less frequently. One of the ways that helps English teachers is the use of artificial intelligence (AI) which has found a special place in the new era. By using AI, not only can teaching be more effective, but also it can be considered as a teacher assistant in the class. In addition to teaching, a teacher in the classroom has many other duties, including controlling the classroom, being

aware of the students' learning rate, keeping the class fun by games related to the subject of teaching, taking tests and many other tasks that must be performed in the teaching profession to achieve the desired learning results. The aim of this review article is to investigate the impact of using AI as a teacher assistant on teaching English. The study is descriptive in nature and the required data will be collected from previous related studies. The results showed that English teachers can use AI as a teacher assistant to make the teaching process more pleasant and effective. The results can also be useful for the researchers who are looking for using AI in teaching.

Key words: Artificial Intelligence (AI), teaching English, teacher assistant



I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the impact of technological progress in all affairs is evident, so that all people want to use technology, and this can help a lot to improve the performance of everything. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the most popular achievements in the world of technology, which has a very important place in human life today. One of the fields in which AI is widely used is in English language education, which has met with a unique welcome both from the teachers for better and more successful teaching and from the students, because the students also get a favorable result from the teacher's teaching. In fact, technology and the English language have a very close relationship with each other and this relationship causes influence on each other. (Singhal, 1997).

II. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI is the simulation of human intelligence for computers, and it is actually a machine that can think and act like a

human and imitate human behavior, so it is actually based on foundations such as learning, reasoning and understanding. Such a machine can help humans in different tasks. AI is actually technology that has the ability to think. Although the concept of thinking in technology is very different from human thinking, but it tries to imitate human thinking. AI technology has become an important pillar of human life in the 21st century. It is still progressing day by day and it also plays a significant role in the quality of human life. Also, due to its algorithmic power, this machine-based technique is capable of making decisions, diagnoses, recommendations, and predictions, and for this reason, it has recently attracted the attention of the educational community due to its efficiency in learning in various fields. (Hwang et al. 2020a). The field of AI in education has led to significant advances in the field of technology, theoretical creativity, and successful educational results. (Roll & Wylie, 2016). Today, AI has been promoted by most researchers as well as practitioners and they benefit from its efficiency in the discussion of education. Therefore, the



scientific results in the field of AI in education have increased dramatically. (Hinojo-Lucena et al. 2019).

III. TEACHING ENGLISH BY TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

It is clear that today the world is rotating based on technology and all humans have an urgent need of technology, so that it can be said it has become an integral part of human life. In the new era, as technology has made progress in all fields, in the field of teaching English, it is one of the methods that is very helpful in teaching and most of the teachers use it in their teaching, so that it has increased the quality of education. There are different methods for teaching English and teachers use different and new methods in teaching depending on the conditions. As technology has accelerated everything, it helps the teacher in teaching English, and in addition to making education easier, it is very attractive for students. When it comes to technology, first, working with a computer (personal computer) comes to mind, which also plays a fundamental role in teaching English. Basically, learning English is necessary to work with any technology

tool. However, the computer itself can help in teaching English and improve students' learning (Davies & Hewer, 2012). Therefore, combining English language education with technology can lead to complete and fruitful learning (Sharma, 2009).

IV. TEACHING ENGLISH BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ASSISTANCE

As mentioned, nowadays, English language teaching with technology has been noticed by everyone in the world and most of the teachers have created a great revolution in their teaching methods despite the technology. One of the ways that can be very effective and helpful in teaching English is the use of AI, which has attracted a lot of attention in recent years and in teaching English it is a very good stimulus for both the teacher and the student. In order to learn English, second language learners must have a lot of practice on the four skills of listening, speaking, writing, and reading (Ybarra & Green, 2003). To practice these four skills, which are the four main pillars of the English language, in addition to the



teacher who has a great impact on education, the use of AI can have a significant impact on students' learning because teaching these four skills by AI assistance in the presence and control of the teacher has a great impact on the students' learning and the learning occurs with a very high percentage. A study in Japan showed that a robot named Robovie plays the role of a partner for students, which not only helps students learn English but also motivates students to learn. (Kanda et al. 2004).

English as an international language has attracted a lot of attention and all the countries of the world started learning this language as a second language, so AI is a new opportunity and method for teaching English. In fact, AI takes the burden off the shoulders of the teacher and helps both the teacher in teaching and the students in learning English. In many cases, including teaching with new methods and correcting tests related to all four skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, the teacher uses different applications and programs in order to increase the quality of teaching and to attract students to learn English. Since different teaching methods should be used to

teach English at different ages, technology can play a colorful role in teaching English as a second language to help students to increase the learning of all four skills by the use of technology and AI. The games installed on phones and computers that are produced and prepared by AI have a great impact on students' learning because most students, especially young students, are very interested in mobile and computer games that these games can be planned according to English language skills so that students learn vocabulary, grammar and other skills while playing. Therefore, not only students are eager to learn English, but the quality of learning also increases by AI assistance. In teaching, in addition to encouraging students to imitate and repeat, teachers invite them to participate in activities and exercises, create an attractive educational environment, stimulate students to learn, and also maintain their interest and motivation. (Osfroverkaia & Anderecva,2019).

V. REMOVING GAPS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Generally, the positive and negative points of AI should be considered in order to



correct the known negative points and strengthen the positive points, otherwise the efficiency of the advancement of AI technology is not hidden from anyone. By the advancement of AI technology, the majority of humans who work in English language education have felt the alarm that in the past few years, when AI did not progress much, the public's interest in learning English was much greater but this dangerous and wrong attitude has unfortunately happened to people, why should they spend time to learn English when they can easily achieve their goals by AI assistance. Since people are looking for convenience and choose the easiest way to achieve their goals, instead of spending enough time, attention and patience to learn English, they use applications that can help them to translate, speak and write in English. Although such applications have made people comfortable in this field, it should be noted that, contrary to the advertisements that have been made to use these applications instead of learning them, these applications are not accurate enough. For example, in the field of translating, considering that a word has different

meanings so it may cause a wrong translation and also cause a person to make a mistake. Nevertheless, no one denies the goodness and efficiency of the progress of AI in teaching English, but this issue must be cultured that, for every new technology, its disadvantages and gaps must be told and its proper use must also be cultured.

VI. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Given that English is an international language, learning it has become an integral part of human life. Teaching English is a very important and difficult issue because it is a second language and many methods have been used for teaching, but by the advancement of technology, AI has been able to play a very important role in helping teachers for better teaching and due to the difficulty of a teacher's job, it can play a prominent role as a teacher's assistant in the classroom but since there are gaps in the AI technology, efforts should be made to solve them. Otherwise, it may cause the opposite result in AI assistance in teaching English.

REFERENCES



- [1] G. Davies and S. Hewer, "Introduction to new technologies and how they can contribute to language learning and teaching." Module 1.1 in Davies G. (ed.), 2012 Information and Communications Technology for Language Teachers (ICT4LT), Slough, Thames Valley University [Online]. Retrieved from http://www.ict4lt.org/en/en_mod1-1.htm
- [2] F.-J. Hinojo-Lucena, I. Aznar-Díaz, M.-P. Cáceres-Reche, and amp; J.-M. Romero-Rodríguez, "Artificial intelligence in higher education: A Bibliometric study on its impact in the scientific literature. Education Sciences, (2019), 9(1), 51.https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci9010051
- [3] G. J. Hwang, H. Xie, B. W. Wah, and amp; D. Gašević, "Vision, challenges, roles and research issues of Artificial Intelligence in Education."Computers and Education: Artificial Intelligence, (2020a)1100001.https://doi.org/10.1016/j.caeai.2020.100001
- [4] T. Kanda, T. Hirano, D. Eaton, and H. Ishiguro, "Interactive Robots as Social Partners and Peer Tutors for Children: A Field Trial", Journal of Human Computer Interaction, Vol. 19, No. 1-2, pp. 61-84, 2004.
- [5] Ostroverkhaia and N. Andreeva, "Adaptation possibilities of the «chain» instructional technique realized through teaching English at non-linguistic university," Lifelong education: #e XXI Century, vol. 28, no. 4, pp. 61–73, 2019
- [6] M. Singhal, "The internet and foreign language education: Benefits and challenges." The Internet TESL Journal, 3(6), 1997. Retrieved from <http://iteslj.org/Articles/Singhal-Internet.html>
- [7] P. Sharma, "Controversies in using technology in language teaching." (2009, April 8). Retrieved from <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/articles/controversies-using-technology-language-teaching>
- [8] R. Ybarra and T. Green (2003). "Using technology to help ESL/EFL students develop language skills." The Internet TESL Journal, 9(3), 2003. Retrieved from <http://iteslj.org/Articles/Ybarra-Technology.html>