

Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Language Learning: A Brief Guide.

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Introduction

The incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) into the realm of second language (L2) learning marks a profound transformation, reshaping the landscape of how individuals embark on their language learning journeys. In recent times, there has been increased research and user interest in AI-driven language learning applications and platforms that include impressive capabilities that cater to learners across a wide range of age and proficiency levels, affording them L2 experiences finely attuned to their learning interests and needs. In short, AI enhances language acquisition effectiveness and makes learning more engaging, accessible, and adaptable for learners worldwide. Given the advantages of AI in language learning, the aim of this article is to provide a brief guide that illustrates three ways AI could be used to enhance L2 learning.

Personalized Language Learning

AI's ability to analyze learner data ensures a personalized experience (Chen et al., 2021; Huang et al., 2023). Through initial assessments and continuous evaluations, AI gauges a student's proficiency and learning preferences. This data informs the creation of tailored learning paths, delivering lessons and exercises that match the learner's current skill level and areas requiring improvement. Furthermore, AI also suggests supplementary resources such as articles or videos, aligning with the student's interests and language level.

Moreover, AI's ability to adapt and customize the learning experience is pivotal in promoting a personalized language learning environment. As learners evolve, AI continually fine-tunes their curriculum, introducing more challenging material for those excelling and providing extra support for areas of struggle. This dynamic approach ensures that learners remain engaged as the content always aligns with their skill level

and evolving needs. Whether a beginner or an advanced learner, AI ensures that each student's language learning journey is uniquely tailored to help them achieve their goals efficiently and effectively.

In addition to these adaptative features, AI employs strategies to maintain motivation. AI adjusts the difficulty of exercises as learners progress, ensuring a constant challenge without overwhelming the student. Gamification elements, such as points and rewards, are incorporated to make learning engaging and fun. Additionally, AI-driven chatbots and virtual tutors are available for on-demand assistance, allowing learners to seek clarification, practice conversations, and ask questions as they navigate their personalized language learning journey. Together, these elements create a cohesive and individualized language learning experience.

Corrective Feedback

AI can play a crucial role in providing corrective feedback to L2 learners (Ai, 2017; Osawa, 2023). Firstly, through advanced speech recognition technology, AI can accurately assess learners' pronunciation and fluency. By comparing their spoken language to native speakers' models, AI identifies areas of improvement and offers immediate feedback. This real-time correction helps learners refine their accent and intonation, enhancing their overall speaking proficiency.

Additionally, AI employs natural language processing (NLP) techniques to analyze learners' written work. It detects grammar and vocabulary errors, providing constructive feedback on sentence structure, word choice, and punctuation. This feedback is invaluable for improving writing skills and ensuring clarity and coherence in written communication. Learners can view detailed explanations of their mistakes, fostering a deeper understanding of the language rules.

Moreover, AI offers personalized feedback tailored to each learner's specific needs and areas of struggle. By continuously monitoring their progress, AI adapts the feedback based on individual strengths and weaknesses. Learners receive guidance on the aspects of the language where they require the most attention, ensuring that their language learning journey is efficient and targeted. In this way, AI not only corrects errors but also serves as a supportive and personalized language-learning companion as noted in the previous section.

Conversation Partner

AI empowers L2 learners to practice their target language; thus, allowing them to practically apply the linguistic knowledge they have gained through their language studies (Ericsson & Johansson, 2023; Huang et al., 2023). While human interlocutors are ideal for language practice, AI chatbots serve as invaluable alternatives when learners lack access to native or other L2 speakers. These AI-driven chatbots engage learners in conversations, providing a platform for real-time language practice.

Moreover, AI chatbots offer a controlled and supportive environment for L2 learners to hone their speaking and listening skills. They simulate a wide range of conversational scenarios, allowing learners to practice greetings, common phrases, and even more complex dialogues. Learners can interact with these chatbots at their own pace, building confidence and fluency over time.

Furthermore, AI chatbots are available 24/7, providing learners with the flexibility to practice their L2 whenever and wherever they choose. This accessibility is particularly valuable for those with busy schedules or limited opportunities for in-person language practice. By offering a convenient and consistent platform for language practice, AI ensures that learners can actively engage with their target language, even in the absence of human interlocutors. In this way, AI not only complements traditional language learning methods but also extends the possibilities for language practice and skill development.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the integration of AI into language learning has ushered in a transformative era, offering personalized learning experiences and valuable feedback to learners. AI's ability to analyze learner data, provide immediate feedback, adapt to individual needs, and facilitate language practice through chatbots has the potential to revolutionize the L2 learning process. While human interlocutors remain the gold standard, AI chatbots prove invaluable when access to native speakers is limited.

For L2 learners seeking AI applications and software, several options are available. Duolingo, for instance, offers gamified language courses with AI-driven exercises and assessments. Babbel provides personalized lessons and feedback tailored to individual learners' needs. Moreover, ChatGPT can be used to study an L2 by engaging in text-based conversations where users can practice vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills in their target language. Users can also ask the AI chatbot for

translations, language explanations, or cultural insights to aid in their language-learning journey. These AI-powered tools offer diverse and interactive ways to enhance language learning, making the journey to mastering a second language both engaging and efficient. As AI continues to advance, it holds the potential to further enrich and individualize language learning experiences for learners worldwide.

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