Artificial Intelligence in Language Education FIG Report

Department: English as a Second Language (ESL)

Uses and Implications of Artificial Intelligence in Language Instruction

FIG Participants
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Purpose and Project Overview

Since the roll-out of Chat GPT in November 2022, students and instructors have been using it and other AI technologies for a variety of academic purposes. There is also considerable concern about how such forms of AI may be abused or lead to an increase in instances of academic misconduct. The goal of this inquiry was to explore how such technologies are being used to facilitate instruction in various skill areas within an ESL context while also reviewing some common concerns regarding acceptable use.

This inquiry examined some of the following questions: How can AI be used as an instructional tool to facilitate language education? How can the metrics we use to evaluate student learning be adjusted to account for use of AI? What challenges do technologies such as Chat GPT bring to the disciplines of Language Teaching and communication, and how can such challenges be met in a way that allows for best practices? Some of these questions even led to more existential discussions regarding the future of language and writing instruction and the need for institutions to reckon with the changes that such powerful tools will ultimately bring about.

The group met several times throughout the course of Winter 2024 to share and discuss readings and brainstorm possible applications and future directions.

Resources and Readings List The linked list of readings and resources was compiled prior to the first meeting of the FIG by Nancy Wood with the help of Claire Dannenbaum, the Lane Community College research librarian. Throughout the course of the FIG, participants read and discussed the articles highlighted in the resource list and workshopped some of the tools mentioned.

Summary of meeting activities and topics of discussion:

Meeting 1: Summary of what's happening at Lane from the perspective of ATC

Kevin Steeves attended this meeting and spoke with FIG participants about the basic functions of generative AI and went over some other forms of AI that have been involved in academic tools and platforms that we may not even recognize as such. In this meeting participants also generated a list potential research questions and went through the resource list to determine which of the resources would be most useful to read before our next meeting.

[Meeting 1 notes and points of discussion](#) are linked here.

Meeting 2: A closer look at uses for generating course materials and providing structured feedback for language students

In this meeting participants shared their personal experiences experimenting with Chat GPT, and Nancy Wood shared some materials she had created for her Medical English course, including some dialogues and cloze activities. Participants discussed the [the fourth article](#) on the resource list and an approach to using AI to provide ESL writers with individualized feedback based on the most salient errors in in-class writing samples.

Meeting 3: Concerns regarding student use and approaches to assessment

In this meeting participants reviewed [the eighth article](#) on the resource list and discussed how resources that automatically do many of the things that have been the focus point of ESL skill instruction may force language and writing teachers to shift their focus of ESL instruction from producing coherent text for academic purposes to a focus on cultural competence and interpersonal communication.

Meeting 4: Survey of current uses with a focus on AI tools for generating classroom assessments

In this meeting, participants looked at resource called [Quizzizz](#) which can create quizzes from a list of questions, a slideshow, or lecture notes. Some participants shared examples of quizzes they have made using the tool, and participants tried experimented with uploading slideshows and other samples of course materials to see what it would come up with.

Meeting 5: Discussion and Brainstorm of possible uses within our ESL context in various skill areas

In this meeting participants talked about the importance of having guidance from deans the Office of Student Conduct and administrators at the college regarding policies of acceptable use for AI within various teaching contexts. Nancy Wood shared some of her experience from working with Lane's AEI task force, and shared [some materials](#) she'd created for her ESL Listening and Speaking Level F Course to facilitate conversations with students about teacher expectations regarding AI use in academic contexts.

Meeting 6: Review of FIG meeting notes from winter sessions and FIG report

In this meeting, Nancy Wood and Kelley McMinn met at Meraki Coffee & Co to go over the notes from winter FIG meetings and compile the final FIG report. Participants also shared additional teacher-created materials and added them to the AI ESL FIG Resource List with additional comments and annotations.