ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Introduction

Artificial intelligence is an extension of human intelligence. The term artificial intelligence creates the misconception of something related only to robotics. It is always unnoticed that artificial intelligence has wide applications in the field of education, media, language processing and to promote social change. Artificial intelligence had made many substantiative influences in the teaching-learning process of English language. All stake holders of education have been trying to come up with new technology for better acquisition of English language among students. From the classical method of grammar translation to the new multimedia approaches, made tremendous changes in language learning process. But unfortunately, we are still lagging in the process of language acquisition.

Mother tongue should be the medium of instruction till 5th grade and if possible, till 8th grade as envisaged by National Education Policy, 2020. NEP 2020 also recommends to make efforts to publish high quality textbooks and teaching learning materials in mother tongue. In case of non-availability of books in mother tongue, the curriculum transaction between the student and teacher will remain in the mother tongue. It is an appreciable attempt to promote mother tongue or local languages in the schools. One aspect to be pondered here is that, after 8th grade, a sudden shift in the medium of instruction will not make things smooth. We are trying to uplift the system of education to international standards and on the other hand we are diluting the basics and essentials. The whole world is viewed through English language and we must accept it. Equal importance should be given to both regional and second language. All the languages should be taught through high quality pedagogical interventions to all students at all grades. Artificial intelligence promotes natural learning process of English language. Students of the country do not get much opportunities to interact in English language despite of their classroom. Neither they take effort to communicate in second language outside the classroom. Therefore, classroom is the only platform which immerse the learners in the practice of English language. Artificial intelligence is the manifestation of innovative technology to promote social and cultural change.

Significance of Artificial Intelligence Technology on English language Teaching

1. **Providing instant feedback**: Artificial Intelligence provides instant feedback to both teachers and students. Receiving immediate feedback for the effort taken is always reinforcing and motivating. Waiting long for the feedback can be exhausting. As far as English language is concerned, acquisition of skills is important. The fourfold skills of the language need to be practiced for effective communication. Immediate feedback related to the pronunciation, accent, sentence structure, concord, use of syntax and comprehension is essential. Delayed feedback will not assist you to identify the mistakes on time and when we look back to the mistakes later, we may not recall where and how you made it. One of the major advantages of AI is that, it points out mistakes and provides suggestions and clarifications for further improvement of language skills. For teachers of English language, AI helps to identify the flaws in curriculum and curriculum transaction. It also assists them for improvement in teaching methodology, evaluation process, diagnosing problems of students, providing remedial teaching and in lectures.

2. **Deeper Involvement in Learning Process**: With the help of Artificial Intelligence, teachers would get rid-off from the monotony of syllabus year after year. AI advocates a customized approach to language acquisition considering the individual difference of learners. Learners can learn at their own pace from anywhere at any time using personalized curriculum. AI is promising child centred curriculum where students establish their own objectives and process using their own learning style. Deep involvement in the language acquisition process is initiated through games, exploration activities, quizzes etc. according to students' interest.

3. **Language bots:** Conversing in English language is a matter hesitation for most of the students inside and outside the classroom. They are afraid to deal with the fear of mistakes while talking to a real person. AI is resolving this issue with the help of language bots. Students can use language bots to converse with a virtual person on the other side. Language bots responds to your chats, assess your performance, and reinforce your language proficiency.

4. **Machine translation**: Machine translation has made a huge leap forward because of artificial intelligence technologies like neural machine translation. In addition to increased translation quality, neural machine translation can aid in the integration of machine translation into foreign language learning. Machine Translation as a Bad Model is a teaching technique in which students discover and fix inconsistencies and mistakes in machine-translated material. This aids students in better comprehending a language and its quirks, as well as improving comprehension, sentence creation, and vocabulary in the target language.

5. **No Fear of Failing:** In English language classrooms, students are afraid at the thought of the reaction of their teachers when they make errors or get poor grades. It is fine to make mistakes and that is how we learn. AI will not chastise students or deteriorate them regarding their poor performance, instead will assist them in locating their mistakes in the skills. Assessment without judging is the advantage of AI.

6. **Artificial Intelligence Changes English Teaching Environment**: The teaching-learning environment in the present Indian classrooms is not pleasant and aspiring for the students. Though we have been adopting many innovative approaches and methods in the classrooms, teachers are confined to the grammar translation method of teaching English. Acquisition of English language is even more difficult in the present classroom scenario. This deaf-mute situation of English language classrooms needs to be changed to an environment friendly. Integration of graphics, text and sound promotes a good learning environment for more stereoscopic learning of English. Authenticity and reliability of language learning environment is increased by man-machine Interface of Artificial Intelligence. Here students learn in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere through Voice Interaction, Text Interaction and GUI Interaction.

7. **Artificial Intelligence Optimizes English Teaching Effect:** Individual students have individual talents and skills. The foundation of skills of English will be different for different students. customizing the activities for different students according to their abilities and capabilities is possible through AI. Teachers could provide targeted teaching optimization measures as per the needs of students. AI caters the needs of students through allied teaching activities programmed by English language teachers. Students who are weak in speaking skill could invest their time on activities of development of oral communication skills assisted by AI. Simulated teaching through AI provides platform for better usage of vocabulary, pronunciation and writing skill. The recordings from students of different English-speaking countries are collected in AI and used to communicate and interact with students.

Tools of AI in English Language Teaching

1. **Google Docs speech recognition:** It is a widely known text processor that edit speech. Earlier it could only understand simple commands, but now voice recognition feature is enabled and is a free mobile friendly tool assisting in conversational activities. Google Docs also has the provision of providing feedback. Teachers could blend their classroom activities with Google Docs to maximize student benefit.

2. **Interacting with Google Assistant:** It may seem funny, but still an effective way to analyse your own pronunciation by asking simple questions to Google Assistant. The intelligibility of your accent is checked with the help of this virtual assistant following a question or model assigned by the teacher. Further discussions after different turn takings by students can be enhanced to share their strengths and weaknesses.

3. **Using Google Maps to practice directions in English**: Google map is a familiar navigation app that offers satellite imagery. This is available on most mobile devices which directs on how to get to places. Different basic commands related to direction can be taught in the initial stage using google maps. Further, group

activities can be conducted to make students search on how to move from one location to another. They will feel comfortable to give direction to their friends in English language.

4. **Lingvist**: It is supported by Artificial intelligence and machine learning. The free version of Lingvist will teach a maximum of 3000 most used words in English language. The pool of vocabulary is retrieved from various articles, books, journals film subtitles etc. Mistakes made by students previously are the base for the progression of teaching words. Reuse of the words gotten wrong and skipping the words which you have mastered is the method of teaching in Lingvist. Prompting is done by giving clues to help you learn.

5. **Duolingo** : It is a learning app that use Artificial Intelligence, games and machine learning to make learning English language enjoyable and interactive. Duolingo tracks the performance of students and identify the mistakes. Spaced repetition of activities is performed by students to reduce the errors. Frequent monitoring of the work of the students is done. The app has the intelligence to anticipate when students will forget what they have learnt and give exercises to retain the information. The possibility of making correct and incorrect responses of students is calculated with the function of "birdbrain". If the system identifies the possibility of making a response correct, it will give a more challenging activity that it estimates you only have about a 70% chance of acing. On the other hand, if the possibility is to make the response incorrect, it will give easier challenges.

6. **Other popular English language learning apps:** Hello English, Babbel, Memrise, and Busuu are the other apps popular for learning English. Solely depending on any of these apps will not help you to improve fluency unless you have real conversation with native English speakers. One such app is Lingbe which connect with native English speakers for conversations.

7. **Chatbot apps-**

   Some of the popular Chatbot apps are

   - *Andy:* It can be used in android devices to enhance vocabulary, syntactic structures with an integrated dictionary. Andy acts like an instructor to brush up language skills. Space for informal conversation is also provided through this app. Andy can be your game partner and is the best platform for beginners.
   - *Memerise:* Apart from language instruction, Memerise offers language instruction in allied courses. Techniques are incorporated to engage participants in language acquisition and vocabulary enrichment more natively. Both iOS and Android devices support this software. Users can take image of any object and upload it to the app for later reference in their preferred language. Algorithm to use real-time objects helps learners to engage themselves.
   - *Rosetta Stone:* This app helps in the study of more than 25 languages on any device. It is available is both online and offline mode. Bot iOS and Android devices support Rosetta Stone. Correct articulation is ensured using the True Accent speech engine software. This software incorporates translation tools in real-time augmented tools.

References

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