

Chapter 2

AI-Enabled Assessment and Feedback Mechanisms for Language Learning: Transforming Pedagogy and Learner Experience

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ABSTRACT

This chapter examines the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in language learning assessment and feedback. It highlights limitations of traditional models before exploring AI-driven innovations in automated scoring, speech recognition, multimodal analytics and adaptive testing. The ensuing pedagogical transformation is discussed. AI feedback mechanisms including automated writing evaluation, intelligent tutoring systems, conversational agents, affective computing and learning analytics dashboards are analyzed. Benefits are presented alongside challenges regarding ethics, overreliance on technology and transparency. Case studies provide examples across educational contexts. The future outlook considers emerging innovations, increased accessibility, research gaps, policies and human-AI partnerships. The conclusion emphasizes responsible, human-centric integration of AI to enhance pedagogy and learner experience.

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INTRODUCTION

The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) has spurred a paradigm shift in various fields, including language education. The confluence of AI technologies with traditional teaching methods has opened new vistas for personalized and automated assessment and feedback mechanisms. The application of AI in language learning is not a novel phenomenon, yet its integration in assessment and feedback is an emerging and transformative area (Liu, 2023).

This chapter delves into the intricacies of AI-enabled assessment and feedback in language learning, bridging the gap between technological advancements and pedagogical practices. It explores the limitations of traditional assessment models and highlights AI-driven innovations, pedagogical transformation, feedback mechanisms, case studies, benefits, challenges, evolving roles of educators, and future outlook. The chapter complements the broader theme of the book, “Transforming the Language Teaching Experience in the Age of AI,” by focusing on the transformation of assessment and feedback through AI.

The scope of this chapter encompasses the intersection of AI, assessment, and feedback in language learning. It aims to provide educators, researchers, and practitioners with insights into the transformative potential of AI in enhancing pedagogy and learner experience. The objectives include an in-depth examination of AI-enabled assessment techniques, the exploration of ethical considerations, and a critical evaluation of the impact on learners and educators. This chapter contributes to the academic discourse by presenting a comprehensive and innovative perspective on AI’s role in transforming language learning assessment.

LIMITATIONS OF TRADITIONAL ASSESSMENT MODELS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

Traditional language learning assessment models predominantly emphasize summative assessments, which often occur at the end of an instructional period. This approach primarily aims to evaluate learners’ overall proficiency rather than the learning process itself. While summative assessments are essential for gauging performance, they can lead to a narrow view of language competence, overlooking the nuances of ongoing learning and development (Shohamy, 2020).

In traditional assessment models, personalized and timely feedback is often constrained by various logistical and practical barriers. Teachers’ time and resources are limited, making it challenging to provide individualized and immediate feedback that addresses each learner’s unique needs. This lack of personalized feedback can

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