Chapter 7
Developing AI-Enhanced Task-Based Language Learning (TBLL) Activities

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ABSTRACT

This chapter explores the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Task-Based Language Learning (TBLL) to create innovative, learner-centered language education experiences. It examines the theoretical foundations of TBLL and AI's transformative potential in language instruction, highlighting technologies such as adaptive learning platforms, natural language processing, and immersive virtual environments. By leveraging AI, educators can design dynamic, personalized tasks that foster meaningful communication, real-time feedback, and cultural relevance. The chapter also addresses challenges, including ethical considerations, algorithmic biases, and the digital divide, emphasizing the need for balanced implementation to

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-9606-3.ch007

maintain TBLL's communicative focus. Future directions include advanced personalization, multimodal interaction, and the incorporation of emerging technologies like augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR).

1. INTRODUCTION

Task-Based Language Learning (TBLL) has emerged as a leading approach in language education, which focuses on the use of authentic, goal-oriented tasks to foster communicative competence and linguistic development (Ellis, 2003). TBLL differs from traditional grammar-focused methods in that it situates learning within meaningful contexts, allowing learners to engage in real-world activities that mirror everyday language use. This focus on task authenticity is in line with the growing recognition that language acquisition is most effective when learners are actively involved in purposeful communication (Nunan, 2004).

Recent developments in artificial intelligence have opened new frontiers in education, especially in language learning. AI technologies like NLP, adaptive learning systems, and virtual assistants have demonstrated the potential to personalize instruction, provide instantaneous feedback, and simulate immersive conversational environments (Luckin et al., 2016). Such tools not only complement the principles of TBLL but also respond to some of its intrinsic challenges, like real-life interaction and individualized support.

While the integration of AI into TBLL is a paradigm shift, educators can now create activities that are at once both learner-centered and technology-enriched. With the added powers of AI, language tasks can be adjusted to the proficiency levels, learning preference, and cultural contexts of the learners. In addition, AI analytics allow detail on learners' progress to emerge, thus helping interventions be more specific and improving overall effectiveness (Kukulska-Hulme & Traxler, 2019).

This chapter explores the intersection of AI and TBLL to provide a framework for designing AI-enhanced language learning activities that are at once pedagogically sound and technologically innovative. It first establishes the theoretical underpinnings of TBLL, followed by the examination of the role of AI in language education. It is followed by useful tips on developing TBLL activities using AI and illustration, respectively. Lastly, it discusses themes of challenge, ethics, and future prospects in view of how AI may soon revolutionize the face of language instruction.