

Chapter 8

AI as a Teaching Assistant: A Practical Guide for English Educators

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ABSTRACT

AI integration in education has revolutionized traditional learning methods, offering new tools for English teachers. This chapter, “AI as a Teaching Assistant: A Practical Guide for English Educators,” provides an in-depth overview of AI tools and their applications, including lesson planning, personalized learning, real-time feedback, and student engagement activities. It uses practical examples and case studies to illustrate how AI can simplify administrative tasks, address diverse learners' needs, and promote interactive learning environments. The chapter also addresses challenges like technical accessibility, pedagogical balance, and ethical issues like data privacy and algorithmic bias. It offers actionable strategies for meaningful AI integration, allowing educators to see AI as an opportunity for collaborative partnership in the teaching process. The final chapter envisions a future where AI supports inclusivity, creativity, and innovation in English education.

INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a need for change in education, and it has changed the learning and teaching approaches in various fields of education, such as English Language Teaching (ELT). AI refers to machines that can learn

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-1952-0.ch008

and act like humans without human intervention (Chen et al., 2022). The term is an umbrella term for different technologies, such as natural language processing, pattern recognition, or data analysis. Specifically, AI serves as a personalized learning experiences facilitator, a teaching methodologies enhancer, and an administrative support provider for educators in education (Ahmad et al., 2022). In a modern and globalized world where information access is no longer a problem, using more efficient and effective educational practices that can meet the needs of diverse learners has made it necessary for educators to insert AI into their classrooms (Pratama, 2023).

An example of an AI application in which both personalized feedback and support are given to learners through intelligent tutoring systems and chatbots, but interactions are primarily in an education context (Adıgüzel et al., 2023). Additionally, AI technologies have played a significant role in tackling the hardships of remote learning, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when teachers have had to adapt to a new learning paradigm (Ng et al., 2023). AI's capability to process immense quantities of data creates personalized learning, allowing teachers to adjust their teaching methods to fit the unique needs of every student (Li & Wong, 2023). Furthermore, research suggests that introducing AI-assisted tools improves learning outcomes (Barua et al., 2022), highlighting their acceptability, feasibility, and implementation in learning environments.

This chapter aims to highlight the role of AI as a teaching assistant and offer examples of how AI can be integrated seamlessly with English educators. However, like any other fast-developing technology, AI might have disadvantages. Therefore, this chapter serves the purpose of preparing English educators with the understanding and resources that enable them to leverage the potential of AI to enrich their pedagogy and support and promote student engagement and learning (Liu, 2023). This chapter illustrates how the use of AI in ELT is practical but practical in the context of best practices that enable integration; therefore, it highlights best practices by focusing on personalized learning, adaptive assessment, and interactive learning environment basics (Luo, 2024).

Moreover, the chapter provides insights into AI's opportunities and challenges and delves into them. Still, it includes mitigating biases in AI systems and ensuring transparency and accountability in their use (George, 2023). While educators are left to decipher the specific AI dynamics, ensuring equity and access for students – especially those with diverse learning needs – is critical (Shirin, 2022). AI tools have the potential to complement traditional language instruction and support a more personalized and efficient approach to learning, fostering creativity and critical thinking away from the one-size-fits-all, as well as helping students individually reach their goals (Aithal, 2023).

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