




Exploring the Benefits and Challenges of ChatGPT in Enhancing ESL Learners Writing Skills

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Abstract

Despite the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, studies are still being conducted on AI tools such as ChatGPT in improving English language writing abilities, particularly at the tertiary level in the local context. This study aims to investigate the advantages and difficulties of ChatGPT in enhancing English writing proficiency, particularly in terms of writing precision, adaptability, and grammatical accuracy, as seen by university-level second language learning students. The Data was gathered through semi-structured interviews and analysed using thematic analysis. The results indicate that students consider ChatGPT advantageous for improving grammatical precision, vocabulary, syntax, and flexible adaptation to different writing genres. Nevertheless, one hurdle is the diminished capacity for critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, as pupils frequently need help to assess the material produced by AI. The study recommends a balanced strategy that combines AI-assisted language learning tools such as ChatGPT with traditional teaching techniques to supplement and improve English academic writing skills effectively.

Keywords

ESL learners
Flexibility in writing
Grammatical correctness
Using ChatGPT
Writing skills

INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) has experienced swift integration into several sectors, including education, where it has progressively grasped attention for scholarly investigation. An exemplary advancement in educational technology is the integration of ChatGPT, a language model created by OpenAI. ChatGPT is a multifunctional writing helper and self-regulated learning tool that offers prompt feedback on written assignments. It has emerged as a helpful tool in educational environments, especially for novice English as a Second Language (ESL) learners, by producing text that closely resembles human language depending on user input (Yan, 2023). Its application in language acquisition has attracted significant interest from educators and learners. These stakeholders are intrigued by the capacity of AI tools such as ChatGPT to augment writing abilities by enhancing precision, adaptability, and grammatical accuracy.

While ChatGPT can improve learning by delivering tailored feedback and facilitating self-directed learning such as grammar correction, vocabulary enhancement, and flexibility in styles of writing, there are also concerns about plagiarism, overreliance on the tool, and the possibility of harming critical thinking skills (Gao et al., 2023). Prior research has frequently used quantitative methodologies, providing general overviews of AI's efficacy rather than detailed qualitative understandings of certain abilities or capabilities; qualitative research provides effectiveness and detailed insights into ESL learners' personal experiences and perspectives while precisely representing the unique challenge they face in their contextual settings (Baskara, 2023). To fill this need, the study used a qualitative methodology, namely in-depth interviews with ESL learners, to investigate their experiences with ChatGPT in their writing activities. The need to conduct qualitative research methodology is to understand the context and cultural relevance of the tool in Pakistan, as quantitative research methodology touches the surface of the matter. This study provides an in-depth analysis of ESL students' perception and acceptance of AI tools such as ChatGPT by conducting qualitative research.

Furthermore, written communication, particularly in a second language, is an intricate aptitude that necessitates expertise in both grammar and the capacity to express thoughts with clarity and coherence. Written communication presents ESL learners with more difficulties concerning clarity, flexibility, and grammatical correctness (Taye & Mengesha, 2024). Given these difficulties, it is essential to in-

investigate how artificial intelligence technologies such as ChatGPT can facilitate the acquisition of these abilities. This work seeks to understand how AI might enhance the development of writing abilities in ESL learners by analyzing the influence of ChatGPT on writing accuracy, flexibility, and grammatical correctness.

Nevertheless, Pakistan's distinctive educational environment, characterized by digital inequalities and inadequate internet connectivity, necessitates incorporating AI tools such as ChatGPT. It is crucial to comprehend the impact of these elements on students' capacity to utilize AI in their educational settings and how to enhance the implementation of such technologies in areas with restricted technical resources. This work thoroughly investigates how ChatGPT can successfully improve writing skills in ESL settings by examining the unique experiences of university students in Pakistan. Librarians and academicians agree that integrating AI into education and libraries will benefit novel services and documentation that are difficult to find in hard copies. Hence, the study conducted by Asim et al., (2023) strongly supports AI regarding education. However, a study on the integration of AI in Pakistani libraries at the university level shows that AI is integrated into universities at a much slower pace due to a need for more resources and funding in educational settings. Like Pakistan's lack of modernity and technical breakthroughs, other developing nations also struggle with a lack of awareness of artificial intelligence in the classroom and a lack of adoption of new technologies (Makeleni et al., 2023) Some large institutions have implemented artificial intelligence (AI). However, staff members must get familiar with it to be effectively integrated with funding and handled professionally. Over the last two years, ChatGPT has garnered significant interest in the education sector and continues to do so. It is made in a way that offers thorough, in-depth learning and understanding, and it might be quite beneficial if used in educational contexts (Alabool, 2023).

This study seeks to bridge the gap by examining the advantages and difficulties associated with ChatGPT in enhancing writing proficiency among ESL learners in Pakistan. This study investigates how ChatGPT, an AI-assisted language learning tool, enhances students' writing abilities. In addition to offering a thorough grasp of how students view ChatGPT and the degree of adoption of the tool, this study will concentrate on three aspects that have yet to be specifically investigated. The present study will highlight the backdrop of ChatGPT's advantages and disadvantages regarding its impact on writing precision, adaptability, and grammatical correctness concerning AI-assisted language learning (AIAL) in Pakistani higher education classrooms. Although several analyses have investigated the broad uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in education, there still needs to be more studies on its precise influence on writing abilities within the realm of English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. Particularly in Pakistan, where technology resources are scarce, there needs to be more investigation into the potential of technologies such as ChatGPT to assist ESL learners in higher education.

Research Objectives

- To examine the perceived benefits of ChatGPT as experienced by university students in enhancing their writing skills, focusing on accuracy, flexibility, and grammatical correctness.
- To examine the perceived challenges experienced by university students in using ChatGPT to enhance their writing skills, focusing on accuracy, flexibility, and grammatical correctness.

Research Questions

- What benefits can ChatGPT offer in enhancing student writing skills, focusing on accuracy, flexibility, and grammatical correctness?
- What challenges are experienced by university students in using ChatGPT to enhance their writing skills, focusing on accuracy, flexibility, and grammatical correctness?

LITERATURE REVIEW

ChatGPT in Language Learning

Specifically designed for English as a Second Language (ESL) learners, ChatGPT has shown to be very advantageous for language learning. In their study, Hwang and Chen (2023) found that although the tool improves language acquisition, it also poses difficulties with academic honesty, such as plagiarism. Furthermore, Celik et al., (2022) contend that while ChatGPT may assist in lesson preparation and provide instructional material, it is important to consider its technological constraints. The study conducted by Bašić et al., (2023) revealed that ChatGPT is particularly advantageous for proficient learners while offering minimal advantages to novices. These findings indicate the necessity for more investigation into customizing ChatGPT to suit varying degrees of language competence. In addition, Xiao and Zhi (2023) investigated its function in creative writing and uncovered that it improves fluency and adaptability.

ChatGPT as a Writing Tool

ChatGPT, an AI language model created by OpenAI, is extensively employed as a writing assistant that imitates the production of text that resembles human language usage. This model uses a transformer architecture to accurately forecast the next words in phrases, demonstrating exceptional proficiency in syntax, logical thinking, and creative expression (Megawati et al., 2023). ChatGPT is highly advantageous in offering immediate feedback, rectifying grammatical mistakes, and producing improved ideas, thereby establishing itself as a vital instrument in language acquisition. However, it should be considered an adjunctive instrument rather than a substitute for conventional schooling. While its function is to offer direction for enhancing students' writing abilities, it must partially substitute human judgment in intricate writing assignments.

ChatGPT in Pakistan Educational Context

Even with the worldwide progress in AI-assisted learning, Pakistan needs to catch up in incorporating AI technologies such as ChatGPT owing to disparities in internet access and underdeveloped educational institutions (Siddiqi et al., 2024). The study by Abbas et al., (2023) revealed that students and faculty members at Pakistani institutions were willing to include ChatGPT within their educational settings. However, Ali (2023) has a favorable viewpoint on the efficacy of ChatGPT in mitigating grammatical concerns inside educational settings. Nevertheless, the study's small sample size and limited focus result in substantial information gaps regarding students' views of AI. Furthermore, Faiz et al., (2023) examined their study tools' effectiveness in improving grammar and vocabulary, but they did not tackle the ethical concerns surrounding the involvement of artificial intelligence in education.

Although ChatGPT has significant advantages in enhancing writing abilities, especially for ESL learners, its incorporation into educational environments necessitates meticulously evaluating its capabilities and constraints. Further study should prioritize investigating the enduring effects of this phenomenon on writing proficiency and its ethical ramifications within academic settings, notably in economically disadvantaged nations such as Pakistan. In conclusion, many papers have been written on integrating AI-assisted language learning due to its recent implementation, ChatGPT's contribution to education still needs to be fully understood (Zou et al., 2023; Song & Song, 2023; Weng & Chiu, 2023). Thus, this paper analyzes students' perceptions of ChatGPT as a writing tool to comprehend its application in higher educational settings fully.

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach

This study employed a qualitative research methodology, namely semi-structured interviews, to explore the effect of ChatGPT on improving the writing skills of ESL students. The researcher opted for the semi-structured interview style because of its adaptability, which allows for an in-depth exploration of

students' experiences with ChatGPT while enabling them to freely articulate their opinions within the organized framework of predetermined questions (Bryman, 2016). This methodology is consistent with the study's objective to understand how ESL learners view the advantages and difficulties of utilizing ChatGPT as a writing tool.

Design of the Study

The research design for this study is an exploratory case study, as it seeks to explore the contemporary phenomenon of ChatGPT's use in a real-life educational context. Heigham and Croker (2009) argue that case studies comprehensively examine current problems within situational frameworks. This method was ideal for capturing the nuances of how ESL learners incorporate ChatGPT into their academic writing and how they perceive its strengths and limitations. Purposive sampling was used to select 55 undergraduate ESL students enrolled in Functional English and Academic and Professional Writing courses.

Data Collection

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, and the protocol was adopted from Yan (2023), who studied similar subjects. Each interview lasted 20-25 minutes. The interviews investigated students' regular utilization of ChatGPT, perceived enhancements in writing, and perspectives on the advantages and obstacles of using AI in academic writing. Information consent was obtained before recording interviews.

Data Analysis

Data were analysed using thematic analysis as described by Creswell (2015). Interview transcripts underwent coding, leading to the identification of two primary themes and eight sub-themes. Thorough member checking was performed to guarantee precision, and any potential bias was reduced by seeking guidance from research experts.

RESULTS & FINDINGS

A total of 55 students were interviewed through semi-structured interviews, ensuring that all students were enrolled in ESL courses; 35 were interviewed from functional English and 20 from academic and professional writing classes. The interview responses were analysed manually through thematic analysis, as Creswell (2015) proposed. The emerged themes are discussed below:

Benefits of ChatGPT in Writing

We aim to assess ChatGPT's proficiency in rectifying grammar mistakes, making grammatical adjustments, and enhancing the quality of text. The accuracy of writing prompts is a crucial factor in enhancing the quality of writing. To assess ChatGPT's flexibility, does the app allow for versatility in writing, and can it generate copyright-free content for every user?

Improving Grammar and Language Accuracy

Feedback from students strongly suggests that ChatGPT aids in improving grammatical choices and language proficiency. This led to a significantly high student response rate, with nearly all indicating that ChatGPT aids in improving grammar and language accuracy in writing. 40 students who responded to the semi-structured interviews stated that ChatGPT was, in fact, able to investigate and rectify grammatical errors. For instance, a student remarked,

It is in all ways! It improves my writing, vocabulary, and grammar.

One of the students added,

In many ways, such as we can get help for our grammatical mistakes.

One student emphasized with tremendous fervour,

ChatGPT has completely altered the course of my life. It can identify and correct grammatical errors, such as subject-verb agreement, tense consistency, and sentence structure.

A student opined,

ChatGPT can suggest alternative sentence structures and phrasing to improve clarity and grammar. Like any instructional objective, this tool will help students improve their writing skills the most.

This quote demonstrates ChatGPT's ability to understand and improve structure and writing accuracy in terms of grammar and writing.

A student remarked,

I think ChatGPT is practically useful in writing and grammar because as an AI tool, it uses all the vocabulary available online to create the most accurate text possible.

According to this theme analysis, students think ChatGPT has amazing powers for enhancing written language and grammar. The results of the semi-structured interviews show that most of the students have confirmed that ChatGPT helps thread the repair of grammatical faults that may be present in textual communication. Some feedback recipients highlighted the system's ability to spot even the smallest mistakes, such as verb and subject concordance and tenses.

Flexibility in Adapting Different Writing Styles

The question's specific aim was to determine the extent to which ChatGPT can serve as a writing tool. Most of the students were satisfied with ChatGPT's capacity to accommodate a variety of writing styles and aims. Therefore, the outcome of this specific interview demonstrates that ChatGPT can handle various linguistic forms, tones, and even formats. In addition to its adaptability and ability to transition between formal and informal modes, the students thought it was extremely flexible when making suggestions and designing writing exercises. ChatGPT caters to a diverse range of professions. The students discovered that everyone could use ChatGPT's writing tool to enhance and increase their writing efficiency.

A student exclaimed,

Yes, ChatGPT can adapt to different writing genres and styles. It offers tailored feedback and suggestions to assist with academic essays, creative writing, and technical reports.

This statement identifies that ChatGPT is flexible in adopting different styles, forms, and academic genres. Students 1, 2, 5, 33, 46, 50, and 54 suggest that they use it to mould the content into different written styles. ChatGPT is a valuable tool for content writing, diet routines, poetry, and creative writing essays.

A student asserted,

Yes, ChatGPT is flexible in adapting to different writing genres and styles. For example, I helped a user draft a formal business proposal by suggesting a clear structure and professional tone. In another instance, I assisted with creative writing, providing dialogue suggestions and enhancing narrative flow. This flexibility makes ChatGPT a versatile tool for varied writing contexts.

This realization makes it clear that ChatGPT is flexible since it has extensive knowledge about various aspects. Apart from substantially improving grammar, the program also supports several writing styles. ChatGPT's diverse nature stems from its design, which enables it to access a wider range of materials and assist users.

Providing Timely and Constructive Feedback

Immediate feedback helps improve work efficiency and productivity. ChatGPT has much potential and seeking constructive feedback and assistance with projects more comprehensively can be beneficial.

A student exerted,

Based on my initial observations, I believe utilizing ChatGPT to enhance my English language skills will benefit me. This not only makes learning more engaging and entertaining, but it also allows students to practice and provides feedback that is readily accessible.

All the students understood and agreed that ChatGPT can save time and effort due to its ability to offer help quickly and provide feedback swiftly. They found it simple to understand. The tool's dual purpose of providing prompt feedback and straightforward access to a vast array of information makes it perfect for students, as it allows them to use it for fact-checking and task evaluation at any time.

A student shared,

When it comes to learning English, I believe that ChatGPT is an extremely powerful tool. In a matter of seconds, it is capable of crafting any statement that you may have.

This statement suggests that ChatGPT is a useful tool for English learning. This reflects ChatGPT's ability to provide relevant and immediate information matching students' needs and would be an efficient way to provide carefully crafted language learning. A student intimated,

By incorporating ChatGPT into the process of learning English, one has the opportunity to take advantage of individualized instruction, availability around the clock, interactive practice, prompt feedback, and access to a wide range of resources, but teachers' feedback is also important.

This supports other claims and implies that ChatGPT is superior to other platforms in terms of information provision, feedback speed, and writing in English. Starting differently leads to increased process flexibility, effectiveness, and enjoyment. During their educational journey, most trainees expressed appreciation for the significance of data production and constructive feedback, which helped them become more knowledgeable about the subject matter.

Impact on Other Minor English Language Writing Skills

When asked which specific skill ChatGPT is most useful for, all 55 students unanimously agreed that ChatGPT is most beneficial for writing skills, including diction, syntax, punctuation, and minor errors. The results showed a preference for writing, despite the majority's belief that ChatGPT excelled in vocabulary and grammar, with grammar being the most significant area of improvement. Some students also highlighted its potential to enhance listening and speaking skills. However, many interviewees pointed out that ChatGPT can be excellent in aiding students with diction and is highly effective in addressing the syntax problems of advanced English. Students who use ChatGPT for brainstorming and drafting to provide well-structured and academic writing prompts gave extremely satisfactory responses when asked about ChatGPT and its abilities in terms of writing skills. A student exclaimed,

A user wanted to improve their persuasive essay writing skills in English. I helped them outline the essay, brainstorm and refine the topic, review drafts for grammar and clarity, suggest advanced vocabulary, and proofread the final version. The user completed a well-structured, persuasive essay and felt more confident in their writing skills, leading them to continue using ChatGPT for further practice.

ChatGPT, a versatile tool, has emerged to assist students with writing tasks and make significant corrections in their writing that ESL students may not recognize. This provides invaluable insights for ESL students and teachers because it offers professional and contextual assistance.

A student argued,

ChatGPT excels in enhancing writing, vocabulary, and grammar skills. It generates text, provides feedback, and suggests alternatives for writing improvement. For vocabulary, it explains words, offers context, and supplies synonyms. Additionally, it corrects grammatical errors, clarifies rules, and provides examples, making it a valuable tool for interactive language practice and improvement.

This suggests that ChatGPT is an interactive tool, it aids with various writing elements such as vocabulary, grammar, text generation, and giving alternative writing instructions. It helps students to practice interactive language exercises for ESL learners, by outlining and structuring their thoughts and developing coherent mind mapping for students.

Some students opined,

I think it's for English, so I think ChatGPT give us best assistance for things like grammar, writing, or sentence structure.

The majority said that they got immense help in terms of grammar and vocabulary, making their work easier and faster. Most of the students stated,

ChatGPT is most beneficial for writing, vocabulary, and grammar skills. Here's a breakdown of its benefits for each skill: Writing Essay writing ChatGPT can generate essay outlines, topic sentences, and even complete essays on a given topic. It provides creative writing prompts and ideas. Vocabulary Word suggestions ChatGPT provides alternative words and phrases to enhance vocabulary.

It teaches vocabulary in context, making it easier to remember. ChatGPT recognizes and corrects grammatical errors. It suggests that ChatGPT improved sentence structures and syntax.

Challenges of Relying on ChatGPT for Writing

The introduction of ChatGPT, a powerful language model, has revealed a wide range of issues with the level of critical thinking that individuals apply. Excessive dependence on ChatGPT may cause a decline in authors' critical thinking abilities. The investigations conducted make this conclusion possible.

Concerns Over Accuracy and Trustworthiness

In terms of data dependability, ChatGPT's software may need to be more accurate and correct. The numbers showed that students had doubts about the accuracy of the clarification. Several issues, including the possibility of contextual misunderstandings, the risk of errors resulting from reliance on data, and a decline in the development of research and critical thinking skills, are associated with using ChatGPT in educational settings.

A student argued,

I double-checked the work. I never trust AI, So I always check the work to get confirmation. As you can see in ChatGPT below, it is written.

This statement demonstrates the students' distrust of ChatGPT. Students believe that ChatGPT, although useful, needs to be more accurate in terms of the information that it provides. Most students expressed these concerns, saying they always check the information from reliable sources before using it in academic assignments. Students 41, 42, 44, 48, 53, and 55 suggest that they re-check everything as it could be contextually wrong. A student contented,

I read everything critically, and if I find anything confusing, I confirm it because we all know that ChatGPT can make mistakes. Reading everything is important, though it usually does not make grammatical mistakes, but there can be an exception.

Furthermore, this student emphasizes the importance of critically analysing ChatGPT's information. Remember that ChatGPT is merely a tool with limited knowledge, so it is crucial to read everything and double-check assignments closely, especially if they contain information from ChatGPT.

Constraints on Critical Thinking and Creativity

According to the statistics, a significant portion of the students depended on ChatGPT for most of their writing assignments, and one person mentioned using the tool to complete a specific piece of writing. This shows that most of the students wrote with ChatGPT. Because they were the ones who disclosed how much they relied on ChatGPT information, the students were ultimately responsible for its disclosure. Students 20, 31, 36, 37, 41, 44, and 48 reported that their greater dependence on ChatGPT during their studies allowed them to spend less time on critical thinking and editing because they used ChatGPT more frequently when writing. They benefited greatly from this. An additional note has already been made regarding this issue. The percentage of students who utilized ChatGPT throughout their writing was much higher than those who refrained from using the tool. A student opined,

There is the possibility of negative consequences, such as over reliance, which can result in a reduction in critical thinking and an increase in the likelihood of plagiarism.

According to this statement, relying too much on technology can have several detrimental effects, including stifling original thought and encouraging copying. Most students admitted that they had occasionally merely copied and pasted, which resulted in low grades for their assignments. A student recommended that teachers use ChatGPT to enhance rather than replace the education they are already giving to make up for these flaws. They should also emphasize the value of creative ideas, critical thinking, and moral writing techniques. A student stated,

Because of an excessive reliance on artificial intelligence, students may develop less critical thinking skills.

Based on the collected data, ChatGPT's readability and reliability suggest that users' writing talents are unlikely to fully capture and improve their critical thinking skills in a way necessary for concept development and refinement. Based on the facts we gathered; we can draw this conclusion.

Challenges in Maintaining Originality

This analysis examines students' concerns regarding the authenticity of the work. Students who used ChatGPT expressed concern about receiving the same ideas and written materials as their classmates. This resulted in the same writing assignments and results, and teachers' perceptions that everyone copied failed most students. We strongly advise handling and overcoming these genuine challenges with the program's benefits.

According to a student,

A lack of original concept ChatGPT's suggestions may lead to work that is not original, which undermines the value of students' ideas and creativity.

This quote suggests that ChatGPT can overshadow students' authentic and original ideas. This could result in students overlooking their work, potentially leading to a complete loss of creativity. The fact that students gave these statements shows that they are aware of this matter and want to produce original works and reflect on their original work. According to a student,

There is a problem with originality, and the application data that is generated causes the learning process and creativity of the students to appear to be diminished.

This statement indicates that this lack of originality can make students passive learners, depending too heavily on AI-generated content and less on creative processes in the classroom. This can reduce their cognitive and critical thinking abilities. ChatGPT is useful but can hinder the authenticity of writing pieces.

Some students were of the view:

Some potential drawbacks include an excessive reliance, which can result in a reduction in critical thinking and the risk of plagiarism.

This highlights the need for evaluation and careful consideration regarding ChatGPT, as it presents serious threats of plagiarism in academic writing. Students may use ChatGPT without considering its drawbacks. Excessive reliance and misuse can lead to a lack of critical thinking.

Challenges Over Academic Integrity

It is critical to maintain academic integrity when using ChatGPT to improve education. It is possible to address them in a few ways, including by developing precise guidelines for their use, facilitating accurate citations and references, establishing explicit guidelines, and advancing its role as a helpful tool rather than a substitute for independent work and sound judgment. A student stated,

In my perspective, the use of ChatGPT could potentially present issues to the integrity of academic work, particularly in the areas of plagiarism and an undue dependence on artificial intelligence for assignments.

This statement expresses concerns about ChatGPT's potential to compromise the assignment of academic integrity. Students discussed how most of them copy and paste content without giving credit, where credit is due, and how they rely too much on ChatGPT and other AI technologies. This student emphasizes a balanced approach while attempting to think about ethical and pedagogical concerns about academic integrity. Resolving these problems is essential to upholding the integrity of academia and the importance of education. A student commented,

Students might use ChatGPT to generate entire essays or assignments, potentially presenting it as their own work that can threaten academic integrity.

This claim expands on the last one by stating that students can write entire essays for assignments and modify academic papers to appear to be their own. It is critical to keep this in mind and instruct students on using the tool to obtain accurate information. This is also true in academia; students must complete the assignment to maintain ethical standards. Like every industry, academic institutions have unique rules and guidelines that require consideration.

Discussion

ChatGPT, one of the most developed language models, has several educational benefits, from improving the learning experience to helping students. According to Nautiyal et al. (2023). On the other hand, ChatGPT aids students with answers, homework, and several other resources right at their fingertips. This feature allows students to seamlessly accelerate their learning pace without timelines; improving their self-directed learning mode may also assist teachers in reducing administrative tasks, providing feedback tailored to a specific learner's style, and tracking progress. Similar findings in the report highlight the ease with which students use ChatGPT to evaluate their writing and identify areas for improvement. Therefore, ChatGPT is useful in self-study and classroom environment practice as it can simulate human speech for students so that they can modulate their responses concerning context.

Furthermore, the efforts made by world nations to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT into education are also worthy of further investigation (Bentley et al., 2023). These resources empower students to shape their future by allowing them to access information in today's digital era. AI's rapid advancement and invention have made it indispensable in academic settings, particularly for problem-solving during learning sessions. Similarly, as an example, Kasneci et al. (2023) highlight the significance of AI and detail how ChatGPT was introduced in 2023, aiding students and educators alike by teaching them problem-solving skills while providing custom learning experiences. The study revealed that the students held similar perspectives, emphasizing the potential of ChatGPT to enhance language learning, specifically by bolstering writing skills in individual and classroom-based lessons.

However, of course, even though ChatGPT is excellent in many ways, it also opens the door to several ethical considerations. It is a concerning trend because it may impede critical thinking, which is required across all domains. Some students in ESL classrooms say that excessive use of ChatGPT can cause a loss of creativity and critical thinking ability. This is a big concern because generative AI like ChatGPT teach-

es students to rely on pre-cooked content and eliminates the need to think independently. Dwivedi et al., (2023) highlight some ethical dilemmas that arise with AI, especially when protecting the academic truth is relevant. However, students must refrain from using AI-produced material, such as ChatGPT, for homework to avoid plagiarizing and losing their ability to generate original ideas. This study highlights the need for improved regulatory standards on AI use.

Concerns arose regarding the transparency and trustworthiness of AI-generated content and its impact on critical thinking. The complexity of ChatGPT could influence readers, but only if it incorporates biased information. Again, it leads to doubts about whether all AI-based content is original or a part of the human-written world. Lawan et al., (2023) similarly warn of the educational risks introduced by generative AI and lament that “Despite trying to fit into many different roles from writing assistant, translator... teacher, ChatGPT also increases the risks related to bias, privacy, and responsibility.” (p, 63). It is critical to define ethical AI deployment for education to address these challenges. For example, disclosing potential bias in AI systems, as well as privacy controls and human supervision, could help limit the risks. Furthermore, we must educate students about the boundaries and potentials of AI to ensure their safe use without impeding their learning or creativity.

CONCLUSION

ChatGPT offers numerous benefits, such as enhancing the effectiveness of the learning process, teaching writing skills, and assisting teachers with their administrative tasks. However, it also raises ethical concerns that require careful handling. The opportunities around AI in education are vast, but so are the potential biases. Most students highlighted the importance of balancing the advantages of AI, such as ChatGPT, and traditional teaching methods while adhering to strict ethical standards and human supervision to safeguard the learning process. According to the study's findings and discussion, ChatGPT improves writing skills. It causes substantial challenges to think critically and preserves scholarly integrity. If students become too dependent on a tool, this can be even more of a problem, particularly in an era when information is easily accessible. The study proposes that educators set clear guidelines for ChatGPT use to avoid academic fraud and ethical issues. To avoid potential misbehaviour, transparency in the information provided by ChatGPT is critical for both teachers and students. However, the students have also indicated that they need classroom instruction on utilizing ChatGPT, particularly for responsible idea generation. Students questioned whether the output of ChatGPT might be unconsciously biased. Students have voiced concerns about the potential bias in ChatGPT's output, given its training on vast amounts of data, which could reflect societal prejudices and stereotypes. Therefore, striking a balance between using technology and adopting traditional teaching practices is crucial to equip students with the necessary skills for their higher education journey in college or university.

Limitations

Continuing with their sole heavy focus on student evaluations of ChatGPT, this study investigates its effects specifically on writing ability within the context of ESL. Qualitative limitations include the small sample size of 55 undergraduate students from a single university and the lack of generalizability. Furthermore, using semi-structured interviews and purposive sampling, the qualitative research design could introduce bias. We cannot extend the research results to a wider domain, such as speaking and listening, which are crucial for language comprehension. We cannot generalize (apply) the results of these studies to other aspects of language skills beyond writing.

Future Studies

A large-scale study comprising cross-institutional cohorts should be considered. However, mixed-method research designs incorporating students' and teachers' views would lead to a more balanced view of ChatGPT's effects on language learning. Future investigations should also examine how it influences other language domains, including reading, speaking, and listening. Longitudinal research could be useful for a longer-term assessment of how using ChatGPT affects language learning and the extent to which it

promotes or diminishes critical thinking, creativity, and overall educational progress.

Competing Interest

The authors reported no potential conflict of interest.

Authors' Biography

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