

THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DIGITALIZING FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract: This thesis discusses the role of artificial intelligence in the digitalization of foreign language teaching. It explains how AI-based tools support individual learning, immediate feedback, interactive lessons and learner autonomy. The paper also emphasizes that technology should be used as an assistant to the teacher rather than as a complete replacement.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, digital education, foreign language teaching, feedback, personalization, learner autonomy.

The digital transformation of education has changed not only the form of the lesson, but also the relationship between the teacher, the learner and educational content. In foreign language teaching this process is especially important, because language acquisition requires constant practice, immediate feedback, rich input and active communication. When lessons are supported by artificial intelligence, students receive more opportunities to learn according to their own pace, level and needs.

Artificial intelligence can be understood as a set of technologies that imitate certain human intellectual activities, such as analysing language, recognising speech, correcting written texts and recommending suitable learning materials. In language classes, these functions make AI a practical assistant for both teachers and learners. For instance, an AI-based platform can check a student's grammar, identify repeated mistakes, suggest alternative vocabulary and provide extra exercises on weak areas.

One of the main advantages of AI in foreign language education is personalization. In a traditional classroom, students usually have different levels, but the teacher has to work with the whole group at the same time. Some learners may understand the topic quickly, while others may need more explanation and practice. AI tools help reduce this gap because they can adapt tasks to the learner's individual progress. This makes the learning process more inclusive and more effective.

Another significant benefit is instant feedback. Writing and speaking tasks are often difficult to assess immediately because they require careful attention from the

teacher. AI-based writing assistants can highlight grammatical errors, show problems in sentence structure and recommend clearer expressions. Speech-recognition tools can analyse pronunciation, intonation and fluency. As a result, students do not wait long for correction; they see their mistakes and can revise their work at once.

Digital technologies also increase motivation. Modern learners are used to mobile applications, interactive platforms, quizzes, videos and online communication. If these tools are included in language lessons, the classroom becomes more dynamic and student-centered. Learners are not passive listeners; they complete tasks, compare answers, receive feedback and monitor their own progress. This is particularly useful in developing learner autonomy.

At the same time, the use of AI requires methodological responsibility. Artificial intelligence should not be treated as a complete replacement for the teacher. It can correct language forms, but it cannot fully understand a student's emotions, cultural background or communicative intention. The teacher remains the person who explains meaning, creates a supportive atmosphere and develops students' critical thinking. Therefore, the most effective model is not technology instead of the teacher, but technology together with the teacher.

There are also some challenges. Not all students have equal access to the internet or digital devices. Some AI tools may provide inaccurate feedback, especially when the learner's text is complex or when pronunciation is influenced by an accent. In addition, overdependence on technology may reduce students' ability to think independently. For this reason, teachers should choose digital tools carefully and teach students how to use them critically.

In conclusion, artificial intelligence is an important factor in the digitalization of foreign language teaching. It supports personalization, improves feedback, saves time and makes lessons more interactive. However, its real value depends on how teachers integrate it into the lesson. If AI is used as a supportive pedagogical tool, it can improve the quality of foreign language education and help students become more confident, independent and successful learners.

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