

## THE IMPACT OF CHATGPT-ASSISTED SPEAKING PRACTICE ON SPEAKING CONFIDENCE AMONG UZBEK EFL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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### Abstract

This article examines the use of AI, particularly ChatGPT which is the most well-known AI tool. The study shows the effect of using one-to-one speaking function of ChatGPT on improving speaking level of English learners. Using opinions of a number of Uzbek students, the author demonstrates the effect that AI-assisted speaking has on various English learners. English learners of different levels reacted similar to the use of AI-assisted speaking practice. The findings indicated that, while AI can be a good speaking partner as the speech it provides is quite fluent, it lacks clearness and reliability. In order to use ChatGPT effectively to improve English speaking skills, a student should give the correct command, control the practicing process and do not fully rely on the feedback of ChatGPT. The results highlight that AI-based feedback on speaking practice cannot be trusted fully, a student should always ask for constructive feedback for their speech from English teachers with high level of speaking in English.

**Keywords:** ChatGPT assist, speaking practice, different levels, AI-based feedback, correct command, constructive feedback, English teachers.

### Introduction

#### ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqola sun'iy intellektdan foydalanishni, xususan, eng mashhur SI vositasi bo'lgan ChatGPTni ko'rib chiqadi. Tadqiqot ChatGPT-ning yakkama-yakka gaplashish funksiyasidan foydalanishning ingliz tilini o'rganuvchilarning nutq darajasini oshirishdagi ta'sirini ko'rsatadi. Muallif bir qator o'zbek talabalarning turli fikrlaridan foydalangan holda, sun'iy intellekt yordamida nutq so'zlash turli ingliz tilini o'rganuvchilarga qanday ta'sir ko'rsatishini ko'rsatdi. Tadqiqot davomida uch xil darajadagi ingliz tilini o'rganuvchilar sun'iy intellektni nutqi bilan shug'ullanish uchun foydalanishda turlicha fikrlarda bo'lishdi. Topilmalar shuni ko'rsatdiki, sun'iy intellekt yaxshi nutq ko'nikmasini oshirishda yaxshi sherik bo'lishi mumkin, chunki u taqdim etayotgan nutq juda ravon, ammo aniqlik va ishonchlilik yo'q. Ingliz tilida so'zlashish ko'nikmalarini yaxshilashda ChatGPT dan samarali foydalanish uchun talaba to'g'ri buyruq berishi, amaliyot jarayonini nazorat qilishi va ChatGPT fikriga to'liq tayanmasligi kerak. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, nutq amaliyoti bo'yicha sun'iy intellektga asoslangan fikr-mulohazaga to'liq ishonib bo'lmaydi, talaba har doim ingliz tilida yuqori darajadagi nutqqa ega



bo'lgan ingliz tili o'qituvchilaridan o'z nutqi uchun konstruktiv fikr-mulohazalarni so'rashi kerak.

**Kalit so'zlar:** ChatGPT yordami, nutq amaliyoti, turli darajalar, AIga asoslangan fikr-mulohazalar, to'g'ri buyruq, konstruktiv fikr-mulohazalar, ingliz tili o'qituvchilari.

## АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье рассматривается использование искусственного интеллекта (ИИ), в частности, ChatGPT, наиболее известного инструмента ИИ. Исследование показывает влияние использования функции индивидуального разговора в ChatGPT на повышение уровня разговорной речи изучающих английский язык. Используя различные мнения ряда узбекских студентов, автор демонстрирует влияние ИИ на разговорную практику у разных изучающих английский язык. Изучающие английский язык трех разных уровней по-разному реагировали на использование ИИ для практики разговорной речи в ходе исследования. Результаты показали, что, хотя ИИ может быть хорошим партнером по разговорной практике, поскольку предоставляемая им речь достаточно беглая, ему не хватает ясности и надежности. Для эффективного использования ChatGPT для улучшения навыков разговорной речи на английском языке студент должен давать правильные указания, контролировать процесс практики и не полагаться полностью на обратную связь ChatGPT. Результаты подчеркивают, что обратной связи на основе ИИ для практики разговорной речи нельзя полностью доверять, студент всегда должен запрашивать конструктивную обратную связь по своей речи у преподавателей английского языка с высоким уровнем владения английским языком.

**Ключевые слова:** помощь ChatGPT, практика разговорной речи, разные уровни, обратная связь на основе ИИ, правильные команды, конструктивная обратная связь, преподаватели английского языка.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

English speaking skill – outcome of English language fluency while giving a speech. In today's world of innovations and online tools, practicing speaking skills has also been brought to a higher level. New digital gadgets enable the use of different platforms, websites and applications for English language learners. AI has been developing rapidly among language learners as it helps them with their instant response and detailed answers.

ChatGPT had become one of the most widely used AI tool for studying. The feature of live speaking with AI has drawn many students' attention since they can talk with them in English anytime they want. Although AI-based speaking assistant can help students practice their speaking at any time and at any place, the lack of reliability and constructive feedback is clearly visible while using them. Speaking assistant feature of ChatGPT record the voice of a human and writes the transcript to analyse the speech. Therefore, this function of ChatGPT is not trustworthy for students as they may get the wrong conclusion about their speech because of the feedback ChatGPT provides. This research aimed to examine the effect of AI speaking



assistant via ChatGPT and addressed the main benefits and problems with using ChatGPT speaking assistant as a help to improve speaking skills.

## 2. METHODS

This study adopts a comparative approach and a small experimental analyzing to investigate the opinions taken from a range of language learners. Three student with different English language levels were selected and they participated an oral questionnaire about the use and effect of AI-based speaking assistant feature of ChatGPT. The levels of the selected students were elementary, intermediate and advanced.

The methodology of this research is based on three stages: selection of three different students whose English language levels differ from each other, doing an oral questionnaire with each of them, and comparing the answers.

The questionnaire was conducted based on three questions: Does your AI-assistant understand all your sentences fully? Does it keep the track of questions it gives to you when you ask it to give some speaking questions? What feedback does your AI assistant usually provide you with after each practice?

## RESULTS

Each student's answers for the questions given were different from each other. The first student (elementary level) said that his AI assistant cannot understand what he says fully sometimes and he has to repeat what he says in a written form. To the second question, he said when he commands his AI assistant to give him 5 different questions, it finishes the dialogue with 2 or 3 questions and concludes the chat. For the third question, he answered that AI always tries to be nice while talking about the mistakes he had while speaking, and that the feedback was always short, finishing with luck wishing with his language learning.

The second student (intermediate) also answered the questions. Her answer for the first questions was that AI speaking assistant usually get the general meaning with some slight misunderstanding and that she thinks that is because of her bad pronunciation. The response to the second questions was that AI usually forgets what she commanded it, such as how many questions should it give. The third answer was similar to the one of the first student. The second students also said that AI usually gives general feedback with advice on how to improve fluency and grammar.

The third student's answers were also similar to the other 2 respondents. For the first question, she said that mostly, her AI assistant understands what she said and transcribes it correctly. To the second question, she answered that she usually has to remind the AI assistant what command she gave her earlier, because it forgets the command easily and finishes the chat asking if she needs help with something else or not. Lastly, her respond to the third question was that the AI tool mostly gives advice with very little detailed feedback to her answers and mostly praises her.



## DISCUSSION

The answers of the three students above show that AI is not a great choice as a speaking partner for ones who want to improve their speaking skills. ChatGPT-based speaking assistant can misunderstand what a person says simply because of accent or external noise from surrounding. Also, AI memory is not advanced and it is likely to forget the command easily after some time. The feedback provided by ChatGPT speaking assistant is also very general, most of the time and it lacks details about the mistakes that a student did in his/her speech. From the study, it may be seen that AI-based speaking assistants can be a good speaking partner to speak to sometimes. It can give general feedback based on a student's speech which can help them slowly develop their speaking skill.

However, the tool cannot interpret sentences like a human does. Besides, while English speaking instructors can give detailed and constructive feedback after a student finishes speaking, the AI tool is not able to give reliable feedback to a student which is an extremely important part of the speaking skill development.

## CONCLUSION

This research highlights the potentials and limitations of ChatGPT-based speaking development. While AI assistant can help students as a listener, can tell their general mistakes, they cannot be fully trusted with speaking skill development, since they cannot give instructive feedback like a human teacher, cannot track the student's progress over time and monitor their speaking skill development.

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