

A Study on College Spoken English Teaching Using AI Tools

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the application of artificial intelligence tools in college oral English teaching. Firstly, it outlines the definition and classification of artificial intelligence tools and clarifies their auxiliary role in teaching. Then, it analyzes the problems existing in current college oral English teaching, including the limitations of teaching materials, insufficient class hours, and the drawbacks of traditional teaching methods. Subsequently, it emphasizes the positive impact of artificial intelligence on improving students' oral English ability, such as enhancing language expression ability, strengthening learners' confidence, and promoting autonomous learning. Meanwhile, it puts forward strategies for applying artificial intelligence tools to college oral English teaching, including intelligent planning and tutoring, virtual situation training, the construction of an oral English learning social platform, as well as teachers' intelligent teaching assistance and training improvement. This research aims to provide theoretical support and practical guidance for improving college students' oral English ability.

KEYWORDS

artificial intelligence; college English; oral English teaching; application research

With the acceleration of globalization, the importance of English as an international common language has become increasingly prominent. Effective oral English ability is not only the basis for academic exchanges but also an important manifestation of students' future workplace competitiveness. However, current college oral English teaching faces many challenges, and traditional teaching methods can hardly meet the individualized needs of students. In recent years, the rapid development of artificial intelligence technology has brought new opportunities to the field of education. This paper aims to explore how artificial intelligence tools can play a role in college oral English teaching in order to effectively improve students' oral expression ability.

1 Overview of Artificial Intelligence Tools

1.1 Definition

Artificial intelligence tools are those that utilize advanced technologies such as machine learning and natural language processing to provide auxiliary support for teaching. Through machine learning, these tools can identify patterns and regularities from data, while natural language processing focuses on understanding and processing human language. The combination of the two injects intelligent elements into the teaching process(Wang,X.J.2024).

1.2 Classification

They can be subdivided into intelligent tutoring systems, speech recognition tools, and interactive learning platforms according to functional differences. The intelligent tutoring system is like an exclusive learning tutor, which can provide learning guidance according to students' learning progress and characteristics; the speech recognition tool is like a precise pronunciation referee, focusing on the recognition and evaluation of students' oral pronunciation and intonation; the interactive learning platform is a multifunctional learning community, building a broad space for the interaction and communication among teachers and students.

2 Problems in College Oral English Teaching

In current college oral English teaching.

Firstly, teaching materials often have certain limitations. On the one hand, the content of teaching materials is not updated in a timely manner, lacking timeliness, and it is difficult to reflect the current language changes and oral expressions in real life. On the other hand, the language materials in teaching materials are relatively single and lack diversity. It is difficult for students to be exposed to oral English expressions in different regions and cultural backgrounds, which also restricts the improvement of their oral English ability.

Secondly, the class hours for oral English are usually relatively few, and the proportion of the course is relatively low. This leads to a lack of continuity in teaching, and it is difficult for students to systematically learn and practice oral English.

Due to limited class hours, teachers can only conduct some basic oral training in class and cannot carry out in-depth oral English teaching activities(Xiao, G. H. 2024). Some students may feel that oral English classes are just a formality and have no substantial help for their English learning, thus having little interest in oral English learning.

Finally, traditional teaching mainly consists of teachers' demonstration or playing recordings, and students imitate and practice, so students are relatively passive in learning. Under this teaching mode, students often just mechanically imitate teachers' pronunciation and intonation, lacking opportunities for active thinking and creative expression. They passively accept knowledge and have great difficulty in truly understanding the connotation and skills of oral expression, and the learning effect is greatly limited.

3 The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Improving Oral English Ability

3.1 Improving Language Expression Ability

In traditional oral English teaching, it is difficult for teachers to correct each student's pronunciation and grammar in real time and accurately(Li,H.Z.2024). However, artificial intelligence tools can do this. For example, when students use speech recognition software for oral practice, the software can analyze students' pronunciation word by word and sentence by sentence. It can not only point out mistakes but also provide audio demonstrations of standard pronunciation, allowing students to intuitively feel the difference between correct pronunciation and their own pronunciation. For grammar mistakes, some intelligent writing correction tools can also conduct grammar checks on the text converted from students' oral English, point out the types of mistakes, and give examples of correct grammar structures. Through this timely and accurate feedback, students can continuously adjust their language expression, thereby improving the accuracy and fluency of language expression.

3.2 Strengthening Learners' Confidence

When students interact and practice with artificial intelligence, they don't have to worry about being laughed at or criticized for making mistakes. For example, when students conduct dialogue practice with an intelligent dialogue system, even if there are expression mistakes or pauses, the system will give feedback or guidance in a neutral and objective manner. This stress-free learning environment enables students to be bolder in trying to express their ideas, gradually overcome the fear of oral expression. With the increase in the number of practice times and the gradual improvement of expression ability, students' confidence will also be continuously enhanced, so that they will be more active in participating in oral English learning.

3.3 Promoting Autonomous Learning

The adaptive learning function of artificial intelligence tools is the key to promoting autonomous learning. Taking some intelligent oral English learning apps as an example, they will conduct a level test when students use them for the first time to understand students' basic situations such as vocabulary, grammar mastery, and pronunciation level. Then, based on these data, personalized learning plans will be formulated for students to determine the starting point and progress of learning. During the learning process, the app will continuously adjust the learning content according to students' learning performance.

If students have a good grasp of a certain knowledge point or skill, the learning progress will be accelerated and more challenging content will be provided; if students have difficulties in a certain aspect, the speed will be slowed down and more practice and tutoring will be provided. This learning mode can meet the learning needs of different students, stimulate students' autonomous learning motivation, allow students to learn at their own pace, and improve learning effects.

4 Application Strategies of Artificial Intelligence Tools in College Oral English Teaching

4.1 Intelligent Planning and Tutoring

With the help of artificial intelligence algorithms, accurately evaluate students' initial oral English levels, including the collection of data on pronunciation accuracy, vocabulary, grammar application ability, and expression fluency. Based on the evaluation results, tailor personalized learning plans for each student and clarify the learning goals and key contents at different stages. For example, for students with weak pronunciation, the intelligent system can push targeted pronunciation training courses and practice materials; for students with insufficient vocabulary, it can arrange special learning tasks for vocabulary expansion. During the learning process, artificial intelligence tools can track students'

learning progress and performance in real time, adjust learning plans in a timely manner, and provide intelligent tutoring. When students encounter problems or make mistakes, the system can give detailed explanations and guidance through voice or text prompts, just like an exclusive intelligent learning tutor, accompanying students anytime and anywhere to meet their learning needs and improve learning efficiency.

4.2 Virtual Situation Oral English Training

Use artificial intelligence technology to build immersive virtual oral English training situations (Yu, W. T. 2024). Create a rich variety of scenarios, such as business negotiations, travel exchanges, etc., so that students seem to be in a real English language environment for oral English practice. In these virtual situations, students can have interactive dialogues with virtual characters, and the virtual characters' responses can be automatically generated according to students' expressions, providing a realistic communication experience. This immersive training helps students overcome psychological barriers in oral expression, boost their confidence, and enables them to better master oral English expressions, pragmatic rules, and cultural connotations in different situations. For example, in the business negotiation scenario, students can learn professional business English vocabulary, negotiation skills, and expressions for dealing with unexpected situations, thus effectively improving the practicality and flexibility of oral English and laying a solid foundation for future English exchanges in actual scenarios.

4.3 Construction of an Oral English Learning Social Platform

Build an oral English learning social platform based on artificial intelligence and encourage students to participate actively (Du, F. L. 2023). The platform can conduct intelligent matching according to students' interests, learning goals, and oral English levels, and recommend suitable learning partners or learning groups for students. In group activities, students can conduct online or offline oral English communication and practice, such as role-playing, topic discussion, and group speeches. The artificial intelligence system can conduct real-time analysis and evaluation of students' oral English performance in the interaction process and provide feedback and suggestions to help students continuously improve. In addition, the platform can also set up incentive mechanisms such as ranking lists and medal rewards to stimulate students' competitive awareness and learning motivation. At the same time, students can also share their learning experiences and learning resources, learn from each other, promote each other, form a good learning atmosphere, broaden their learning horizons, and further improve their oral English expression ability and cross-cultural communication ability.

4.4 Teachers' Intelligent Teaching Assistance and Training Improvement

Equip teachers with artificial intelligence teaching assistance tools to help teachers optimize teaching processes and teaching methods. For example, the intelligent lesson preparation system can recommend suitable teaching contents, teaching resources, and teaching activity design schemes according to the teaching syllabus and students' actual situations; the classroom teaching management tool can monitor students' learning states, participation, and oral English performance in real time, providing data support for teachers so that teachers can adjust teaching strategies in a timely manner and conduct precise explanations and tutoring for students' problems.

Meanwhile, use artificial intelligence technology to carry out teacher training and improvement activities, such as online intelligent course learning and virtual teaching practice drills, to help teachers understand and master the latest artificial intelligence education technologies and application methods, and improve teachers' information literacy and teaching ability. On the basis of proficiently using artificial intelligence tools, teachers can better play the roles of guides and organizers, combine artificial intelligence with the advantages of traditional teaching, and provide high-quality oral English teaching services for students.

5 Conclusion

Overall, the application of artificial intelligence tools in college oral English teaching helps to solve the existing problems in current teaching and improve students' oral English ability. Through intelligent planning and tutoring, immersive training, and the construction of social platforms, students can participate in learning more actively and overcome psychological barriers in language expression. Meanwhile, teachers' teaching ability can also be improved, thus optimizing the teaching effect. In the future, with the further development and maturity of artificial intelligence technology, its application prospects in language teaching will be broader, providing richer and more effective learning experiences for English learners.

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