

ChatGPT and AI text generation tools as the new 'language calculators': do we still need to learn and teach foreign languages?

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ChatGPT and AI text generation tools as the new 'language calculators': do we still need to learn and teach foreign languages?

Following previous studies on the use of corpora and online tools to enhance foreign language learners' awareness and autonomy, this paper delves into the new challenges posed by AI text generation tools such as chatGPT in the language classroom, particularly in their ability to produce native-like texts, translations, and answers.

Similar to the experiences with other online tools, learners often possess the knowledge of how to use these tools, while teachers and educational institutions are often unprepared for what appears to be an inevitable future development in learning practices

Is this new generation of online tools a threat language (and other subjects) teachers or can it be seen as an opportunity? How does it relate to the concept of autonomy in language learning?

Drawing a parallel with the impact electronic calculators had on mathematics teachers might provide a thought-provoking perspective. Suddenly, learners no longer needed to master time-consuming procedures to obtain results; they could simply had use a machine. Language interaction is not an exact science, but AI text generation tools will inevitably be utilized as "language calculators" in the near future. Non-experts will have access to ready-made solutions for their language needs, while advanced users will bwe able to enhance their performance.

The paper argues that we must find ways to increase teachers' and learners' awareness of how these tools can be integrated into the learning process to promote autonomy and proficiency.

P.S. This abstract has been translated into English and edited using ChatGPT... or not? Yes, it was... but maybe not... I will tell you in Padua.

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