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AI-ENHANCED USE OF AUTHENTIC VIDEO MATERIALS FOR DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING AND COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in language education has significantly transformed traditional teaching approaches, particularly through the use of authentic video materials. Authentic videos, which reflect real-life language use, provide learners with meaningful context and exposure to natural communication. When combined with AI technologies, these materials become more interactive, adaptive, and effective in developing higher-order thinking skills and communicative competence. This study explores how AI-enhanced authentic video materials contribute to the development of students' critical thinking and communicative skills in foreign language learning. AI tools such as speech recognition systems, automated feedback platforms, and intelligent tutoring systems enable personalized learning experiences and real-time evaluation. The research also examines the pedagogical benefits and challenges of integrating AI into video-based instruction. The findings suggest that AI-supported authentic video materials significantly improve learners' engagement, analytical abilities, and communication skills. However, effective implementation requires a balanced approach that combines technological innovation with pedagogical guidance.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, authentic video materials, critical thinking, communicative competence, language learning, AI tools

Introduction

In the modern educational landscape, the integration of digital technologies has become essential for improving learning outcomes. Among these technologies, artificial intelligence has emerged as a powerful tool for enhancing language teaching and learning processes. At the same time, authentic video materials have gained popularity due to their ability to present real-life language use in meaningful contexts.

Authentic videos expose learners to natural speech, cultural nuances, and real communicative situations, which are often absent in traditional textbooks. However, without proper guidance, learners may struggle to fully benefit from such materials. This is where artificial intelligence plays a crucial role. AI technologies can transform passive video watching into an active learning experience by providing interactive tasks, personalized feedback, and adaptive content.

The aim of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of AI-enhanced authentic video materials in developing students' critical thinking and communicative competence. It also seeks to analyze how these technologies influence learner engagement and language skill development.

The relationship between artificial intelligence, authentic video materials, and learning outcomes can be conceptualized as follows (see Figure 1).

AI Technologies

(chatbots, NLP, speech tools)

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Authentic Video Materials

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Critical Thinking Communicative Skills

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-------- Learning Outcomes --------

Methods

This study adopts a qualitative research approach based on theoretical analysis and observation of AI-supported language learning tools. Various AI applications, including speech recognition systems, automated feedback platforms, and intelligent tutoring systems, were examined in relation to their use with authentic video materials.

The research also draws on existing literature in the fields of artificial intelligence and language education. According to Luckin (2018, p. 72), AI technologies enable personalized and adaptive learning environments, which are essential for developing higher-order thinking skills.

In addition, classroom-based observations were considered to evaluate how students interact with AI-enhanced video materials. The focus was on learners' engagement, participation, and ability to analyze and interpret video content critically.

Results

The findings indicate that the integration of AI with authentic video materials significantly enhances both critical thinking and communicative competence. One of the key outcomes is increased learner engagement. AI-powered tools transform video watching into an interactive process by incorporating quizzes, prompts, and real-time feedback.

Students demonstrated improved critical thinking skills as they were required to analyze video content, interpret meaning, and evaluate information. AI systems facilitated this process by guiding learners through structured tasks such as prediction, inference, and discussion. As noted by Holmes et al. (2019, p. 30), AI supports deeper cognitive engagement by adapting learning activities to individual needs.

Communicative competence was also significantly improved. Learners engaged in speaking and discussion activities based on video content, often supported by AI chatbots or speech recognition tools. These technologies provided immediate feedback on pronunciation and fluency, helping students refine their speaking skills.

Furthermore, the use of authentic materials exposed learners to real-life language use, including idiomatic expressions and natural speech patterns. This contributed to more effective language acquisition and better communicative performance.

Discussion

The results highlight the effectiveness of combining artificial intelligence with authentic video materials in language learning. This integration not only enhances engagement but also promotes higher-order thinking skills. AI technologies support learners in analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating information, which are essential components of critical thinking.

However, several challenges must be considered. One major issue is the potential over-reliance on technology. Excessive dependence on AI tools may limit learners' ability to think independently (Alam, 2021, p. 8). Additionally, technical limitations and unequal access to digital resources may affect the implementation of AI-based learning.

Another important factor is the role of teachers. While AI provides valuable support, it cannot replace human interaction and pedagogical guidance. Teachers are essential for facilitating discussion, clarifying complex concepts, and ensuring meaningful learning experiences.

Conclusion

The study concludes that AI-enhanced authentic video materials are highly effective in developing students' critical thinking and communicative competence. These tools provide interactive, personalized, and engaging learning environments that support both cognitive and linguistic development. However, successful implementation requires a balanced approach that integrates AI technologies with traditional teaching methods. Educators should carefully design learning activities that maximize the benefits of AI while maintaining meaningful human interaction. Future research may focus on experimental studies to further explore the impact of AI on language learning outcomes.

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