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Envisioning the future of AI in language education

Since its widespread availability at the end of 2022 in the form of ChatGPT, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has gained significant traction as one of the most discussed topics in a range of domains. This discussion also included the world of language teaching at all levels.

Universities globally have scrambled to issue guidance on when and how AI can or should be used in instruction more broadly. ChatGPT has also made its way into language classrooms, where language teachers and students have been experimenting with capabilities of such programs in the context of language learning and their reactions have ranged from "truly amazing" to a "dismally abhorrent."

This presentation will be grounded in the inescapable fact that AI is here to stay, that AI is only going to get better, and that educators are tasked with finding ways in which these tools can and should be used to enhance language learning and language teaching. I will illustrate how language teachers and language learners can harness the capabilities of AI tools such as ChatGPT and point out areas of concern, including the need to remain vigilant as we consider practical and ethical implications for the use of AI in the classroom or as a learning tool. I will also showcase concrete examples of how AI tools have been integrated into the curriculum and into assignments of first-year writing courses at a major U.S. university.