THE IMPACT OF CHATGPT ON IMPROVING PRONUNCIATION SKILLS AMONG EFL STUDENTS

Narzullayeva Zarina Asatulla qizi
English teacher, Tashkent State Agrarian University

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Abstract. The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into language learning has created new opportunities for improving students' pronunciation and speaking fluency. Among AI tools, ChatGPT has emerged as an effective and interactive platform for English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners. This study explores how ChatGPT can enhance learners' pronunciation skills through personalized feedback, conversational practice, and real-time correction. The research aims to analyze the pedagogical potential of ChatGPT as a pronunciation partner and evaluate its effectiveness in improving the accuracy and fluency of EFL learners' speech.

Introduction. Pronunciation is one of the most challenging aspects of English learning for EFL students. Traditional classroom instruction often lacks the time and resources needed for individual pronunciation correction. Recently, AI-based tools like ChatGPT have been introduced as supplementary aids to help learners practice spoken English more frequently and confidently. ChatGPT can serve as an intelligent conversational partner that provides immediate feedback and repetition opportunities, which are essential for mastering pronunciation. This study seeks to understand how integrating ChatGPT into pronunciation practice can support students in achieving clearer and more natural speech.

Methodology. The study involved 30 EFL university students who practiced English pronunciation using ChatGPT over a period of four weeks. Each participant interacted with ChatGPT for 20 minutes daily, focusing on pronunciation-focused dialogues and imitation exercises. Data were collected through pre- and post-test oral recordings and analyzed to measure changes in pronunciation accuracy and rhythm. A qualitative survey was also conducted to gather learners' perceptions about their experience using ChatGPT.

Findings and Discussion. Results revealed significant improvement in students' pronunciation clarity and confidence. Learners reported that ChatGPT's instant corrections, phonetic suggestions, and stress-pattern recognition features helped them identify and correct their own mistakes. Additionally, students appreciated the non-judgmental environment ChatGPT provided, allowing them to practice freely without fear of embarrassment. However, the study also noted that ChatGPT has limitations, such as not always recognizing regional accents or subtle phonetic nuances. Nevertheless, the overall response from participants was positive, indicating ChatGPT's strong potential as a pronunciation learning assistant.

Conclusion. The findings suggest that ChatGPT can be an effective tool in improving pronunciation skills among EFL learners. When integrated into English language classes as a supplementary practice method, it can enhance learners' oral proficiency, motivation, and confidence. Teachers are encouraged to use ChatGPT alongside traditional pronunciation drills to achieve better results. Future research may focus on developing ChatGPT-based pronunciation modules adapted to specific learner needs.

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