

Exploring the Role of ChatGPT in Enhancing Speaking Skills for First-Year Students in IELTS Preparation

The advent of ChatGPT, an AI-powered chatbot developed by OpenAI, marks a significant milestone in the evolution of education, particularly in English Language Learning contexts. Its approach has garnered widespread adoption among educators and learners alike. However, its utilization in the flipped classroom model, specifically in bolstering speaking skills for ESL learners, presents a novel and promising avenue. Challenges faced by educators, such as providing timely feedback and cultivating an engaging learning atmosphere, underscore the need for effective tools like ChatGPT. This study investigates the efficacy of ChatGPT as a supportive tool for developing speaking proficiency among first-year students preparing for the IELTS exam. It additionally examines the challenges ESL learners encounter while using ChatGPT to hone their speaking abilities. Employing a mixed-method design involving a scale questionnaire and focus group interviews, both quantitative and qualitative data are analyzed. The study found that ChatGPT effectively enhances speaking skills among ESL learners in the flipped classroom, addressing challenges in providing instant feedback and creating engaging learning environments. Student feedback indicates positive experiences with ChatGPT, highlighting its potential as a valuable tool for personalized language development. The findings provide valuable insights for stakeholders in education, including course designers, educators, and learners, facilitating informed decision-making and fostering innovative teaching approaches to enhance speaking skills in the ESL flipped classroom setting.

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