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Perception of EFL Students in Different Degree on Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) As English Learning Tools

Author's:

Evi Fatonah

Affiliation:

MTs Huffadh Al Itqoniyyah, Indonesia

Corresponding email:

evifatonah196@gmail.com

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Abstract: One of the effects of the rapid development of technology is the emergence of new technological innovations, one of them is Artificial Intelligence (AI), the benefits of AI are already widely used in various fields, including the economy, government, socio-culture, and education. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate perception of EFL students in different degree on using AI as English learning tools. This study employed by quantitative descriptive method that involving 33 students in different degree as the participations. The data were collected by using questionnaire and interview. The results of the study showed that the EFL students have positive perceptions of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) as their learning tools to learn English. The most AI they used is chat Gbt, the others are duolingo, memrise, grammarly, elsa speak, meta-AI, gemini, deepL Translation, claude AI, etc. They used AI for doing homework or assignment, translating, enriching vocabulary, improving English skills, learning grammar, etc. The results also showed that students get the benefits from using AI, making learning more interesting and enjoyable, enriching vocabulary, improving English skills, and better understanding in grammar.

Keywords: *perception of efl student; ai; learning tools*

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Introduction

Recently, the development of technological innovations has become increasingly diverse, and these developments have a wide-ranging impact in various fields, including the economy, government, socio-culture, education, etc. One of the results of technological innovation that has emerged and become very popular today is Artificial Intelligence (AI). Artificial intelligence (AI) is the imitation of human intelligence processes by computers, primarily computer systems. These processes include learning, thinking, and self-correction (Cai, 2024). The use of AI also has important role in the education field. In the education, AI has many functions and benefits both for educator and learner. AI has a wide range of applications in education, and it is continually developing. AI enabling individualized learning, evaluation, and administration. Leverage services such as AI chatbots as virtual teaching assistants, providing students with prompt assistance and information. They improve student participation and minimize teachers' difficulties, Grajeda, et al (as cited in Laili, et al, 2024). Lewis, et al (2025) also stated AI can help to create and develop lesson plan based on the teaching style and method that used. It can also help for completing the administration tasks.

The use of AI to help learning process consist various kinds of applications such as, tutoring system application, educational game application, applications to support learning foreign language, etc. Nowadays learning foreign by using AI is also important. It is hoped that people can communicate with foreigner and also follow the development of technology and science easily. One of the foreign languages that learn and used in Indonesia is English. It is included in the educational curriculum. It is started from elementary to higher education. English is an international language that use to communicate most of the countries in the world and it is very important to be learn. As Nishanti (2018) stated that English is the most widely spoken language in the world, making it important in today's global context. English has become increasingly important in fields such as medical, engineering, education, and technology. English is essential for achieving personal and professional goals.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used to support and overcome the difficulties in learning English. By using AI help students to learn and improve their English skills individually. AI technologies provide individualized and adaptive learning experiences, allowing learners to improve their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills (Rusmiyanto, et al., 2023). Learning English by using AI also can enhance students' motivation to learn English. Fang (2025) stated that learners that use AI technologies showed much increased engagement and motivation, giving empirical evidence for future ESL teaching strategies.

In the application of the AI's benefits in education the role of AI developers, educators, and learners is very important. As Luckin and Cukurova (as cited in Dignum, 2021) stated that Combining learning studies and AI research can enhance understanding of teaching and learning among AI developers, leading to improved machine-learning approaches and applications. Collaborations between education specialists, teachers, and learners improve their understanding and confidence in using AI.

Therefore, the researcher conducts this study to investigate perception of EFL students in different degree on using AI as their English learning tools which included the benefits of using AI, kinds of AI applications they used, and the purposes of AI they use in learning English. This study contributes to the role of AI in the education field, especially in learning English process. By understanding the students' perspective and other results about the use of AI in this study, it is hoped that the educators, AI developers, and learners can collaborate to use AI properly and develop the benefits of AI in learning English.

There were many previous studies had been conducted by the researchers related to the use of AI in learning English, but the studies only focus on the specific benefit of using AI in learning English such as only focus on improving speaking skill, writing skill, and listening skill. The participants of the studies also specific on the certain degree. Some researchers did not mention kinds of AI application and its purposes that used by the participants. Other studies also conducted to investigate the students' motivation. Therefore, this study to investigate perception of EFL students in different degree on using AI as their English learning tools with detail information about the benefit, mention the kinds of AI applications that used, and the purposes that used. The participants on this study also the students in different degrees from junior high school to colleague.

There were some studies that relate to the use of AI in learning English which the result showed the use of AI can improve English skills. The study was conducted by Denis (2024) with the title "Using AI-Powered Speech Recognition Technology to Improve English Pronunciation and Speaking Skills" the result showed that Artificial intelligence-powered speech recognition technologies can help EFL

students improve their English pronunciation and speaking skills. Pratama and Hastuti (2024) also conducted study entitle “The use of artificial intelligence to improve EFL students' writing skill”. The result showed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology can used as a medium in developing English language learning for students, especially writing skills. While Suryana et al., (2020) also conducted a study with the result showed that non-English major students who are Psychology students from Universitas Sarjanawiyata can master listening skills through artificial intelligence mobile applications. This study entitles “Artificial Intelligence to Master English Listening Skills for Non-English Major Students”.

Other studies that relevant to the use of AI in learning English is study conducted by Keumalasari, et al., (2024) entitle “Students’ Perception of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as English Learning Tools at MTs N 4 North Aceh”. The result of this study showed that Most students view AI positively, highlighting its potential to improve English comprehension, boost motivation, and provide real-time feedback. Students reported that AI tools provided dynamic and flexible learning opportunities. Study also was conducted by Romadhon (2024) this study was conducted in English for specific purposes. The result of this study showed that the students tend to be happy about using chatgpt to write business emails. Most participants said that the AI tool improved their learning experience, making it more enjoyable and engaging.

Research Method

This study uses a quantitative descriptive to investigate perception of EFL students in different degree on using AI as English learning tools. Quantitative descriptive study objectively describes elements and uses numerical data to support findings (Sugiono,2016). In this study, the researcher measured the opinion of the students based on their experience and belief in using AI as the English learning tools by using questioner and interview.

Participants in this study are 33 EFL students in different degrees. They are three students of junior high school, sixteen students of senior high school, and fourteen students of collage. The data was collected by using a Likert scale-based questionnaire, which assessed the students’ perception of using AI that related to their perception, kinds of AI platforms they used, purpose of the used, and its benefits as their English learning tools. The questionnaire covered several themes, including the existence of AI, the AI platform, the purpose and benefit of AI in English learning, the impact on learning motivation, and English skill development (listening, reading, writing, and speaking). In order to gain the deeper insight, the researcher conducted semi-structured interview with some students.

In analyzing data, the quantitative data from questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts and percentages, to show the students’ perceptions. The qualitative data were transcribed and analyzed to get more information of students’ experience and perception in using AI. Combining these methodologies provides a complete investigation of student perceptions in using AI as their English learning tools.

Result and discussion

1. Result

In this part, information from the questionnaire and interview are presented. In this study, questionnaire is very important in collecting data to gain the perception of students in using AI as their English learning tools. Thirty three students completed the questionnaire. The result data provide the

familiarity, the use, the benefits, and the challenges of AI as English learning tools for students. The findings of the questionnaire are presented below.

Table 1. Students' Perception on using AI as English Learning Tool

No	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1.	I have heard about Artificial Intelligence (AI)			12,1%	57,6%	30,3%
2.	I have used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to learn English			24,2%	54,5%	15,2%
3.	I feel that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps me understand English material better			33,3%	51,5%	12,1%
4.	By using Artificial Intelligence (AI) makes learning English more interesting and enjoyable		9,1%	42,4%	36,4%	9,1%
5.	I feel more motivated to learn English after using Artificial Intelligence (AI)			45,5%	39,4%	
6.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps me prepare for English exams better		9,1%	45,5%	30,3%	12,1%
7.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps me improve my English-speaking skill		9,1%	39,4%	42,4%	
8.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps me improve my English listening skill		15,2%	33,3%	39,4%	9,1%
9.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps me improve my English writing skill			42,4%	45,5%	9,1%
10.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps me understand English grammar better			48,5%	45,5%	
11.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps me enrich English vocabulary			21,2%	57,6%	12,1%
12.	I have difficulty using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to learn English.		45,5%	33,3%	12,1%	

No	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
13.	Artificial Intelligence (AI) is important to be used in Education field, one of them in learning English			36,4%	39,4%	15,2%

Because of the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) more than 50% of students familiar with AI and one of the uses is to learn English. The majority of students have positive opinion about AI especially in learning English. The qualitative information as complement to quantitative information were gained from semi structured interview with some students. The result provides the data that inform what kinds of AI tools they used in learning English, the specific purpose of using AI in learning English.

2. Discussion

Based on the questionnaire's finding about Artificial Intelligence (AI) as students' English learning tool provide the students' perspective on their opinion and experience in using AI. About 87% students claimed that they have heard of AI, and 30% strongly agreed about that. This indicates that AI is popular in Education as a useful tool, especially in learning English. It also can be showed almost 70% students use AI to learn English. The presence of AI in education system is increasing students to be familiar with technology that is very important in the rapid development of technology today.

Most students have positive perception about the benefits of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in learning English. More than 50% students feel that using AI in learning English help them understand English material better. As stated by Fitria (2021), AI enhances English learning by presenting information effectively. Learning technology enables students to better understand teacher explanations. Students can learn without having to meet their teachers directly. Additionally, by using AI tools to learn English, the students can choose some tools to be used based on their learning style. It also provides feedback for students, therefore the students have better understand what they have learn.

Furthermore, Artificial Intelligence (AI) enhance students' interest and enjoyment in learning English, it because AI provides many choices kinds of AI tools that students can use. It provides interesting learning experiences for students; therefore, they will be interested and feel enjoy to learn English. Based on the findings, 45,5% students agreed and strongly agreed about that. While there are 9,1% disagreed that AI make them feel more interesting and enjoyable in learning English, it because they prefer to learn English in traditional method. Vieriu, et al (2025) also stated, AI has numerous benefits, including individualized learning, better academic achievements, and enhanced student engagement. The interest and enjoyment they got, it can increase their motivation to learn. AI technology, such virtual tutors and learning apps, offer individualized and adaptable learning, leading to increased student motivation. Students are more motivated when the material offered aligns with their abilities and learning rate (Syifaudin, 2023). Additionally, 39,4% students agreed AI motivates them to learn English. When their motivation to learn increase, it can influence their effort to reach better achievement by well preparing. It can be showed that 30,3% of students agreed that AI helps them prepare for English exams better and 12,1% of students strongly agreed about that.

Furthermore, besides being able to make students interested, comfortable, and increase their motivation in learning English, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) can also help students improve their English skills. The first is speaking skill. Mardhiah, et al. (2024), stated that AI-powered solutions such as Intelligent Tutoring Systems (ITS), speech recognition, and feedback mechanisms improve EFL learners' speaking English fluency and confidence. These tools improve language practice by reducing fear and increasing interest among learners. Based on the finding also showed that 42,4% of students agreed that learning English by using AI help them improve their English speaking skill. While there is 9,1% students disagreed about that. There are some factors, such as they less familiar with the technology, they feel more comfortable and confidence when practice speaking in the real life with their friend, or the environment that support their improvement in speaking English, and many more.

Second, students' English skill can be improved by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) is listening. The findings showed that 39,4% of students agreed that learning English by using AI can help them improve their English listening skill, it is strengthened by 9,1% of students strongly agreed about that. While there is 15, 2% of students disagreed about that. It can be caused some factors such as, incorrect to detect the speech, less familiar with the tools, or lack of listening practice. Previous study was conducted by Sahito,et al (2025) stated that AI tools improve ESL listening education by providing learners with independent and flexible language practice opportunities that lead to greater outcomes.

Another benefit of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving English skill is improving writing skill. Students face a variety of conditions while using technology for academic English writing, but they gain from improved writing support and continuity for future use. Students' growth improves their academic English writing by improving language skills and producing writing of greater quality (Losi, et al., 2024). The findings of this study also showed that 45,5% of students agreed and strengthened by 9,1% of students strongly agreed that the use of AI in learning English help them improve their English writing skill.

Furthermore, the use of Artificial Intelligence in learning English also has benefit in understanding grammar. It can be showed in the finding that 45,5% students agreed that learning English by using AI help them understand English grammar better. The previous study was conducted by Lalira, et al., (2024) stated that Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies can effectively solve basic grammatical issues for learners with less formal language teaching.

Additionally, one of other important things in learning English is vocabulary mastery. When the students master or rich in vocabulary, it will be easier for students to implement English language itself both in writing and speaking. The use of AI in learning English can also significantly increase students' English vocabulary mastery. The result of the study conducted by Hutaaruk,et al., (2024) The students can memorize and understand the new lexical words introduced in the course. As a result, this technology is the most effective tool for improving and facilitating vocabulary learning for English learners. Students were also motivated and engaged in learning the terms' definitions, meanings, and synonyms using the chatbot program. In this study, the findings also showed that 57,6% of the students agreed that learning English by using AI help them enrich English vocabulary and it is strengthened by 12,1% answered strongly agreed about that.

The development of technology that is easily recognized by students makes it easier for them to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to learn English. It can be showed in the finding that 45,5% of students do not have difficulty in using AI to learn English, with 33,3% neutral, and only 12,1% of students have difficulty.

Based on the students' experiences in using AI for learning, and the many benefits they have gained, 39,4% of students agreed and 15, 2% of students strongly agreed that AI is important to use in the field of education, especially in learning English.

Most of the students realized that the use of Artificial Intelligence in learning English has many benefits, such as better comprehension in English material, interesting and enjoyable learning process, motivation, English skills improvement, enrich English vocabulary, etc. The rapid development of technology today makes the students easily to recognize and adapt with the new technology. It can be showed that most of students do not have difficulty in using AI to learn English.

Furthermore, based on the interview with some students, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is seen as useful tool in education, one of them in the English learning context. Based on the information in the interview, AI apps that used by the students in learning English such as Chat GBT, Duo Lingo, Memrise, Grammarly, Elsa Speak, Meta AI, Gemini, deepl Translation, Claude AI, etc. The most AI apps that students used is Chat GBT. In general, the students have good and positive experience in using AI tools. They use them for some positive purposes in learning English such as pronunciation practice, English skills (listening, speaking, writing, and reading) practice, enrich vocabulary, translate, paraphrase, help to do homework and assignment, find many references sources, correct writing work, understand English grammar, etc.

Additionally, the students think that AI tools make learning more interesting, interactive, and enjoyable. It provides real time feedback which they able to identify and correct by themselves immediately. They can learn and practice flexibly whenever they want by themselves. They also feel more confident to learn and practice use English.

However, some students have some challenge in using AI such as, internet connection, unfamiliar with the AI apps, and the students also think that AI tools cannot completely replace the traditional teaching method that used by the teacher. In traditional method they get clear explanation and sometimes it can relate in real daily life, so it makes better understanding. It also provides human interaction between the teacher and the students or the students with their friends which they get emotional support from each other that they do not get from AI tools. However, most of the students agreed that AI is important to be used in education one of them in learning English.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that most of the students in different degree have heard about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and also use it in the learning process especially to learn English. The AI tools that they use to learn English such as, Chat GBT, Duo Lingo, Memrise, Grammarly, Elsa Speak, Meta AI, Gemini, deepl Translation, Claude AI, etc. The most AI apps that students used is Chat GBT. They use them for some positive purposes in learning English such as pronunciation practice, English skills (listening, speaking, writing, and reading) practice, enrich vocabulary, translate, paraphrase, help to do homework and assignment, find many references sources, correct writing work, understand English grammar, etc.

The students have many benefits of using AI in learning English. It makes learning English more interesting and enjoyable, they feel more motivated to learn English, AI help them improve English skills (listening, speaking, and writing), they have understood English grammar better, and AI help them enrich English vocabulary. In the using of AI most of the students do not have difficulty. They also agreed that the use of AI is important in education, especially in learning English. However, the students also

state that the use of AI in learning cannot totally replace the traditional teaching method because in the traditional teaching method they get detail explanation and also emotional support from their interaction with the teacher and friends while they do not get them by using AI tools.

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