

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY AND AI FOR PERSONALIZED LISTENING PRACTICE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Annotation: This article explores the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and technology in personalizing listening practice for English language learners. By examining AI-driven tools, such as speech recognition applications and virtual teaching assistants, the study highlights how these technologies can customize listening exercises to meet each learner's proficiency level and specific needs. The article discusses the benefits of adaptive learning technologies, such as providing real-time feedback, addressing unique linguistic challenges, and enhancing engagement through tailored content. This analysis offers insights into how technology-enabled, individualized instruction can improve listening comprehension skills and foster a more effective, student-centered approach to teaching English.

Keywords: AI-driven tools, personalized listening practice, English language teaching, speech recognition apps, virtual teaching assistants, adaptive learning, individualized instruction, listening comprehension, EFL learners, technology in education.

In recent years, the integration of technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized English Language Teaching (ELT), particularly in the area of listening practice. Traditional methods often failed to provide personalized, real-time feedback, limiting learners' progress. However, AI and digital platforms now enable tailored listening exercises that cater to individual learning needs, making the process more efficient and engaging.

AI-driven tools, such as Duolingo, ELSA Speak, and LingQ, adapt listening content based on the learner's proficiency and progress, ensuring the material is neither too easy nor too difficult. These platforms track performance and adjust difficulty levels, providing students with challenges suited to their abilities.

Speech recognition technologies, like Google Speech-to-Text, allow students to practice listening and pronunciation by receiving immediate feedback. Additionally, AI-powered transcription tools, such as Otter.ai, help learners transcribe spoken language into text, improving both their listening and writing skills.

In the digital age, the integration of technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has brought about significant changes in the way English language learning is approached, particularly in the domain of listening practice. By leveraging these tools, English Language Teaching (ELT) can be personalized to meet the individual needs, pace, and preferences of each student. This article explores how technology and AI can be utilized to enhance personalized listening practice in ELT.

Personalized Content Selection

AI-driven platforms like Duolingo, Rosetta Stone, and ELSA Speak allow for the personalization of listening exercises based on the learner's proficiency level and learning style. These tools track a student's progress and suggest listening activities that are aligned with their current skill level, from basic phrases to more complex conversations and lectures. The content adapts in real time to challenge the learner without overwhelming them.

Example: Platforms like LingQ offer personalized listening content by tracking the learner's language progress and recommending audio materials that match their interests and proficiency.

Speech Recognition and Feedback

AI-based speech recognition tools such as Google Speech-to-Text or Siri provide immediate feedback on students' pronunciation and word recognition. These technologies help learners assess their listening comprehension by allowing them to listen to audio content, repeat what they hear, and receive real-time feedback on how well they've reproduced the sounds and words.

Example: ELSA Speak uses AI to analyze the student's speech and provide feedback on their pronunciation, helping them improve their listening and speaking skills simultaneously.

Transcription and Audio Interaction

AI-powered transcription tools like Otter.ai allow learners to transcribe spoken language, turning it into text and offering a more interactive approach to listening practice. These tools help students focus on both their listening and writing skills as they transcribe and compare their text with the original content. This method also enhances vocabulary retention and improves understanding of complex language structures.

Example: Students can listen to a podcast or lecture and use Otter.ai to transcribe the content. Afterward, they can review the transcription to check for mistakes and refine their understanding.

Interactive Learning with Virtual Assistants

Virtual assistants such as Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa can be used as tools for practicing listening and speaking skills. By engaging in simple dialogues or asking for clarification, learners can simulate real-world interactions and practice

understanding spoken English in various contexts. These assistants offer immediate feedback and correction, helping learners refine their comprehension skills.

Example: Learners can ask Alexa or Google Assistant to play podcasts or news stories in English, allowing them to practice listening to real-world content while getting used to different accents and speeds.

Exposure to Various Accents and Dialects

Technology enables learners to experience listening materials in various English accents and dialects. This exposure is crucial for developing the ability to understand native English speakers from different regions. Platforms like BBC Learning English and TED-Ed offer content in a variety of accents, from British to American to Australian English, broadening students' exposure to diverse linguistic variations.

Example: Beelinguapp provides bilingual text alongside corresponding audio, enabling learners to listen to English while simultaneously reading a translation in their native language. This can be particularly helpful for understanding diverse English accents.

Real-Time Monitoring and Adaptive Feedback

AI can continuously track learners' progress and offer personalized recommendations based on the learner's strengths and weaknesses.

Virtual assistants, such as Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant, enable students to engage in real-time dialogues, helping them practice listening in real-life scenarios. Furthermore, exposure to diverse English accents through platforms like BBC Learning English and TED-Ed broadens learners' ability to understand various speech patterns.

Overall, the use of technology and AI in ELT offers students a personalized, adaptive learning experience. It provides immediate feedback, tracks progress, and ensures learners receive the right content at the right time. As these technologies continue to evolve, they will further enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of listening practice in English language learning.

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