

## THE IMPACT OF AI WRITING TOOLS ON GRAMMAR ACCURACY AND CRITICAL WRITING SKILLS IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

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### **Introduction**

In today's world, the fast development of artificial intelligence (AI) has had an enormous impact on education, especially on the acquisition of writing skills. Currently, writing-related programs based on AI technology, including automatic essay scoring and grading services, text generating tools, and grammar checkers, are easily available to high school students. They can instantly help users with their mistakes related to grammar, vocabulary usage, coherence, and even writing style, thus becoming very popular among both teachers and pupils.

Despite this increasing popularity, the learning benefit that these applications bring has been the topic of much discussion. On one hand, some teachers say that AI improves the quality of writing, as well as helps students develop language skills. On the other hand, there are those who worry that the extensive use of technology can have an impact on the students' cognitive involvement and reasoning abilities. Writing is both a practical activity and a complex mental process.

The inclusion of AI technologies into the secondary education process makes students more proficient at grammar usage, although it makes them less capable of developing their own critical thinking through writing. This thesis paper will discuss the pros and cons of using AI to assist with the writing process. It is suggested that these technologies help achieve grammatical correctness but have some limitations in other respects.

### **The Role of AI in Improving Grammatical Accuracy**

One of the greatest advantages of using an AI tool to write is that it will help students achieve more grammatically accurate essays. Conventional techniques for the teaching of grammar include getting feedback from instructors after submission, but such techniques do not always result in efficient learning processes. On the other hand, instant correction is available to students when writing papers using AI. Through constant feedback from AI, students can understand their errors better.

Also, AI is especially helpful when used by English second or foreign language learners because such learners typically find it challenging to use complicated sentence structures. Automated help can minimize the frustration of the learner and increase their confidence. AI can provide recommendations on how to improve sentence construction, expand vocabulary, and correct punctuation.

Moreover, access to AI facilitates independent learning. Learners can learn on their own without the need for teacher intervention all the time. Eventually, consistent exposure to the proper forms of language can improve grammatical skills and contribute to better writing skills.

### **Limitations of AI in Developing Critical Writing Skills**

However, despite the above strengths, there are many challenges associated with the use of AI-based writing tools. First, the use of these tools may pose difficulties in fostering critical writing abilities among learners. While it is important for one to know how to write correct grammatically, critical writing entails a lot more than that. In fact, one needs to possess the capacity to analyze information, weigh various points of view, and formulate a unique argument.

For instance, it is likely to foster passive learning. While learners would continue to learn about various writing techniques through the software, they may do so in a passive manner. For example, instead of analyzing why certain changes in grammar and syntax were made by the AI software, they could simply accept them as good without understanding the reasons behind them.

Also, AI-generated texts may restrict the student's imagination and originality. The reliance on an artificial intelligence tool to generate ideas for essays means that students will no longer develop their own imagination or express personal opinions since their work will be focused on revising the generated text. This could ultimately hamper their ability to come up with original thoughts and arguments on various topics.

Furthermore, the use of artificial intelligence to generate essays may undermine the development of analytical skills. In particular, problem-solving plays an important role in writing, which requires the student to overcome various obstacles. With the help of an AI tool that generates texts instantly, students might lose out on these opportunities for intellectual progress.

### **The Risk of Overreliance on AI Tools**

Negative effects of AI in relation to critical thinking skills in writing stem from an overreliance on technology. Although using AI once in a while can be helpful, it poses some risks to students' engagement and effort in writing assignments. In this regard, the problem may prove even more troubling in the case of secondary school students since they are still developing basic academic skills.

Using AI software also has implications for students' motivation to write. As they start perceiving the writing assignment as something easy to do, they may spend less effort on planning, writing, and editing, which leads to rote learning. In this case, students will care more about coming up with correct responses rather than engaging in deep thinking about the content.

Moreover, relying on AI software poses ethical issues in relation to academic integrity. Since the quality of student work is largely influenced by technology, it becomes impossible to estimate students' performance honestly.

### **The Need for Balanced Integration in Education**

Considering the pros and cons of such technologies, it is vital to take an unbiased stance in regards to the implementation of AI writing tools into secondary education. Instead of seeing AI tools as substitutes for regular educational practices, it is important to see them as assistants in the process of acquiring knowledge without hindering critical thinking.

It is especially relevant for the process of teaching students how to interact with AI technology in the classroom. It is vital to establish clear boundaries regarding the usage of AI tools, think about the suggestions made by the software, and create tasks for which AI cannot be used.

In addition, schools should place emphasis on the importance of process-oriented writing. It is important for activities like brainstorming, outlining, drafting, and reviewing to be the main focus during the learning process of writing. With process-oriented writing, students can acquire the skills necessary for writing independently and critically.

Lastly, introducing AI literacy in schools will enable learners to become better technological consumers. This can be achieved by understanding the biases and limitations of AI technology.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, AI writing tools are useful in enhancing the accuracy of grammatical correctness and aiding language development within secondary school education. Nevertheless, they have several disadvantages, specifically pertaining to independent critical writing. The use of AI writing tools may cause students to adopt a passive attitude towards learning, limit their creativity, and reduce their ability to solve problems. For instance, the use of an AI tool such as Grammarly may help a student to develop grammatically correct essays, but it does not teach the student how to do so independently.

Overall, the integration of AI technologies within writing may be beneficial in some aspects; however, it should be done in moderation. This is because technology is meant to complement and not interfere with the learning process of students. The ultimate purpose of education involves not only developing writing skills but producing creative independent thinkers.