

ChatGPT and College English Writing Teaching: Opportunities and Challenges Enabled by new Technologies

Shuzhen Yue

Liaoning University of International Business and Economics, Dalian, Liaoning, China

Abstract: *With the rapid development of artificial intelligence technology, large language models such as ChatGPT are increasingly used in academic and educational fields. This paper explores the opportunities and challenges of ChatGPT in college English writing teaching, analyzes how it empowers writing teaching by providing writing inspiration, optimizing language expression, and improving writing efficiency, and also points out the problems it may bring in terms of originality and academic norms. This paper aims to provide valuable references for educators when using AI tools such as ChatGPT for English writing teaching through case analysis and literature review.*

Keywords: ChatGPT; College English Writing; Teaching; Artificial Intelligence; Technology Empowerment; Opportunities; Challenges.

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's globalized information age, English has become an important tool for international communication. College English writing, as an important part of cultivating students' comprehensive English ability, faces many challenges. Traditional English writing teaching often focuses on the teaching of grammar and vocabulary, while neglecting the cultivation of writing thinking, paragraph structure and innovation ability. In recent years, with the continuous advancement of artificial intelligence technology, especially the emergence of large language models such as ChatGPT, new opportunities and challenges have been brought to English writing teaching.

ChatGPT, a conversational AI language model based on the GPT-3.5 architecture launched by OpenAI, has powerful natural language understanding and generation capabilities. It can communicate with users in a natural and intuitive way, providing a variety of services such as writing code, translating texts, solving problems, writing news, and composing poetry. In the field of education, the widespread application of ChatGPT has triggered discussions on whether AI technology products will replace the teaching profession. Although the answer is no, how to use this technology to empower English writing teaching has become a problem that needs to be solved in the current education sector.

2. OPPORTUNITIES OF CHATGPT IN ENGLISH WRITING TEACHING

2.1 Provide Writing Inspiration and Ideas

In traditional English writing teaching, students often face the problem of running out of writing ideas. ChatGPT, through its powerful language generation ability, can provide students with rich writing inspiration and ideas. For example, when students are writing an argumentative essay on "environmental protection", they can enter keywords or topics into ChatGPT, and ChatGPT will generate text related to environmental protection, including background knowledge, current situation analysis, solutions, etc., to point out the writing direction for students and greatly improve writing efficiency.

2.2 Optimize Language Expression and Structure

English writing requires a rigorous language style and a clear logical structure, which is a challenge for non-native students. ChatGPT can generate paragraphs that meet academic standards, helping students optimize the language and structure of their papers and ensure the accuracy and logic of expression. In addition, ChatGPT can also provide suggestions for different writing styles, making the paper more diverse and creative. For example, when revising a paper, students can enter the draft of the paper into ChatGPT for review. ChatGPT will check for language errors in the paper and provide suggestions for replacing vocabulary and reorganizing sentences, which

will help improve the quality and readability of the paper.

2.3 Improve Writing Efficiency

The traditional English writing process often consumes a lot of time and energy, but the emergence of ChatGPT has greatly improved writing efficiency. Whether it is writing the introduction, background knowledge, methodology or conclusion of a paper, ChatGPT can provide strong support and help. Students can quickly generate relevant texts through dialogues with ChatGPT to reduce the time cost in the writing process. For example, when writing a literature review, students usually need to read a lot of literature, screen, summarize and analyze relevant content. With ChatGPT, students can quickly generate summaries or review paragraphs of relevant literature by entering keywords or brief descriptions, thus saving a lot of time and energy.

3. CHALLENGES OF CHATGPT IN ENGLISH WRITING TEACHING

3.1 Originality Issue

Although ChatGPT can provide students with rich writing inspiration and ideas, the content it generates often lacks originality. Since ChatGPT is trained based on a large amount of text data, the content it generates may contain existing opinions and data, which increases the risk of students copying and plagiarizing. In addition, the text generated by ChatGPT may sometimes be too mechanical and templated, lacking personality and innovation. Therefore, when using ChatGPT for English writing, students need to learn to discern and filter information to ensure the originality and uniqueness of the text.

3.2 Academic Norms

Academic writing requires strict adherence to academic norms and citation standards, and ChatGPT may have unreliable issues in terms of citations and sources. For example, the citations generated by ChatGPT may be outdated, the information may be distorted, or the citation format may be incorrect, which may cause students' papers to be questioned in academic reviews. Therefore, when using ChatGPT for English writing, students need to strengthen their study of academic norms and citation standards to ensure the academic and normative nature of their papers.

3.3 Technology Dependency Issues

The widespread use of ChatGPT may cause students to become overly dependent on technology, thereby weakening their independent thinking and innovation abilities. In the writing process, students may rely too much on the text generated by ChatGPT and neglect in-depth analysis and thinking of the problem. In addition, excessive use of ChatGPT may also lead to the degradation of students' writing skills and affect their future academic and career development. Therefore, when using ChatGPT for English writing, students need to maintain independent thinking and innovation and avoid over-reliance on technology.

4. CASE ANALYSIS OF CHATGPT IN ENGLISH WRITING TEACHING

4.1 Case 1: Using ChatGPT to Select Paper Topics and Write Outlines

When writing an academic paper, choosing a topic and writing an outline are crucial steps. However, many students often feel confused and at a loss when it comes to choosing a topic and writing an outline. Take a student majoring in English at a certain university as an example. When writing a paper on "cross-cultural communication", the student used ChatGPT to choose a topic and write an outline. He entered the keyword "cross-cultural communication" into ChatGPT and requested to generate several related topics. ChatGPT gave multiple topic suggestions, such as "language barriers and coping strategies in cross-cultural communication", "cultural differences and conflict resolution in cross-cultural communication", etc. The student chose one of the topics and asked ChatGPT to generate an outline for the paper. ChatGPT generated a detailed outline based on the topic, including introduction, background knowledge, research methods, results analysis, conclusions and other parts. By using ChatGPT to choose a topic and write an outline, the student not only saved time and energy, but also improved the structure and logic of the paper.

4.2 Case 2: Using ChatGPT to Write a Literature Review

Literature review is an important part of academic papers, which requires students to systematically sort out and summarize the research in related fields. However, due to the large number of literature and the complexity of the content, many students feel overwhelmed when writing literature reviews. Take a student majoring in English at a certain university as an example. When writing a literature review on "Second Language Acquisition", the student used ChatGPT to screen and summarize the literature. He entered the keyword "Second Language Acquisition" into ChatGPT and requested to generate the abstract and review paragraphs of relevant literature. ChatGPT generated the abstracts and review paragraphs of multiple relevant literature based on the input keywords. The student further screened and summarized the generated abstracts and review paragraphs and finally completed the writing of the literature review. By using ChatGPT to write a literature review, the student not only improved the efficiency of literature screening and summarization, but also ensured the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the literature review.

4.3 Case 3: Using ChatGPT to Revise and Polish a Paper

Paper revision and polishing is the last step of academic writing, which requires students to carefully check and revise the paper to ensure the quality and readability of the paper. However, due to the length and complexity of the paper, many students often feel overwhelmed in revision and polishing. Take a student majoring in English at a certain university as an example. When writing a paper on "English Education", the student used ChatGPT to revise and polish the paper. He entered the draft of the paper into ChatGPT, asked ChatGPT to check the language errors and logical problems in the paper, and provide modification suggestions. ChatGPT generated detailed modification suggestions based on the input draft, including replacing vocabulary, reorganizing sentences, adjusting paragraph structure, etc. The student made further revisions and polishing based on the generated modification suggestions, and finally completed the writing of the paper. By using ChatGPT to revise and polish the paper, the student not only improved the quality and readability of the paper, but also enhanced the logic and coherence of the paper.

5. CONCLUSION

As a new language model, ChatGPT has injected new vitality and creativity into college English writing teaching. By using ChatGPT, students can improve their writing efficiency while ensuring the quality and uniqueness of their papers. However, ChatGPT also faces many challenges in English writing teaching, such as originality issues, academic norms issues, and technology dependence issues. Therefore, when using ChatGPT for English writing, students need to maintain independent thinking and innovative spirit, strengthen their study of academic norms and citation standards, and avoid excessive dependence on technology. At the same time, educators also need to strengthen the research and application of AI tools such as ChatGPT, explore its best practices in English writing teaching, and provide strong support for cultivating students' comprehensive English ability.

REFERENCES

- [1] Wang Youmei. Challenges and opportunities brought by ChatGPT to education[J]. Educational Research, 2023(1): 3-10.
- [2] Cai Jigang, Lin Yun. Challenges and changes in academic paper writing: An experiment of directly generating a dissertation with the help of ChatGPT[J]. Foreign Language Teaching and Research, 2023(2): 20-28.
- [3] The Application and Challenges of Large Language Models in Academic Writing: A Case Study of ChatGPT [J]. Journal of Educational Technology & Society, 2023, 16(1): 56-65.
- [4] Huang, J. ChatGPT in Education: Opportunities and Challenges[J]. The New York Times, 2023-03-15.
- [5] Antony Aumann. ChatGPT in Academic Writing: A Case Study[J]. Journal of Philosophy Education, 2023, 57(1): 123-134.