Addressing Time Constraints and Subjectivity in Writing Assessment: The Transformative Role of ChatGPT in Higher Education

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Abstract : Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, address critical challenges in higher education, particularly the issues of time constraints and subjectivity in writing assessments. In a fast-paced academic environment, educators often face limited time to provide detailed feedback and consistently evaluate students' work. This paper explores how integrating ChatGPT as a pedagogical tool can alleviate these challenges by enhancing and streamlining teaching and assessment processes. First, we examine how ChatGPT supports students in developing critical writing competencies through instant feedback on grammar, coherence, and argumentation. By offering personalized prompts and real-time suggestions, the tool fosters an iterative writing process, encouraging students to refine their drafts and build confidence in their skills. Second, this study investigates ChatGPT's potential to reduce subjectivity in writing assessment. The study utilizes the IELTS Writing Band Descriptors as the rubric for assessing student writing and evaluating parameters such as task achievement, coherence and cohesion, lexical resource, and grammatical accuracy. This standardized and globally recognized rubric ensures consistency in evaluation while aligning the study with academic and professional benchmarks. The findings highlight how ChatGPT leverages the descriptors to provide precise and actionable feedback, further validating the rubric's applicability for assessing academic writing in diverse higher education contexts. This systematic approach mitigates inconsistencies in grading, providing educators with a reliable and efficient alternative to traditional methods. Through a mixed-methods study, this research analyzes performance data, student surveys, and educator feedback to assess the effectiveness of ChatGPT in improving writing outcomes and reducing workload. The findings highlight how integrating ChatGPT into the curriculum enhances learner autonomy and promotes equitable and data-driven assessment practices. By addressing time constraints and subjectivity, this study underscores the transformative role of AI in advancing educational practices in the digital age.
Keywords : writing assessment, ChatGPT, critical writing competencies, rubric-based analysis
Conference Title : ICLLL 2025 : International Conference on Linguistics and Language Learning
Conference Location : San Francisco, United States
Conference Dates : June 12-13, 2025