

THE EFFECT OF AI-POWERED LEARNING TOOLS ON STUDENT WRITING SKILLS

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Abstract: This study explores the impact of AI-powered learning tools, such as grammar checkers and writing assistants, on the writing skills of high school students. A quasi-experimental design was used over a six-week period with two groups: one using AI tools and a control group without them. Results showed that students using AI-powered tools demonstrated significant improvements in grammar, coherence, and vocabulary usage. The findings suggest that integrating AI tools into writing instruction can enhance students' writing proficiency when used alongside teacher feedback.

Key words: artificial intelligence (AI), applications, benefits, technologies, drawbacks, insights, coherence, writing skills

Introduction

In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has increasingly transformed various aspects of education, offering innovative solutions to enhance teaching and learning processes. Among these advancements, AI-powered learning tools designed to assist students with writing tasks have gained significant attention. These tools include grammar and spell checkers, style enhancers, and even AI-generated content suggestions, which aim to support students in producing clearer, more coherent, and grammatically accurate writing. Applications such as Grammarly, QuillBot, and ChatGPT are widely used both inside and outside classrooms, reflecting a growing trend toward integrating technology into everyday academic activities. Writing is a fundamental skill crucial for academic success and effective communication. However, many students struggle with various aspects of writing, including grammar, vocabulary, organization, and clarity. Traditional instruction alone may not always provide the individualized feedback necessary for students to develop these skills fully. AI-powered tools promise to fill this gap by offering immediate, personalized feedback that can guide students through the writing process in real time. Despite the potential benefits, the increasing reliance on AI in writing instruction raises important questions. Critics argue that over-dependence on such tools might hinder students' ability to develop independent writing skills and critical thinking. Others are concerned that AI tools may encourage surface-level corrections without fostering a deep understanding of language mechanics. Therefore, it is essential to examine empirically how AI-powered learning tools impact student writing skills and whether they truly support meaningful learning improvements. This study aims to explore the effect of AI-powered writing assistants on high school students' writing performance. Specifically, it investigates whether regular use of these tools leads to measurable improvements in grammar,

vocabulary, coherence, and overall writing quality compared to traditional writing instruction without AI assistance. By examining student outcomes and attitudes, this research seeks to provide insights into the effective integration of AI technologies in educational settings.

Literature Review

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in educational contexts has been the subject of extensive research over the past decade, with a growing body of literature examining its impact on student learning outcomes, particularly in writing skills. AI-powered tools like grammar checkers, writing enhancers, and language models have been praised for their capacity to provide immediate, personalized feedback, which is often lacking in traditional classroom settings due to constraints such as teacher time and class size (Jones & Smith, 2020). Studies by Wang et al. (2021) and Lee (2019) demonstrate that students who regularly engage with AI writing assistants show improved grammar and vocabulary usage, suggesting that these tools can effectively scaffold the writing process. Moreover, these technologies help reduce anxiety related to writing by allowing students to experiment with language and receive corrections without fear of judgment (Kim & Park, 2022). However, the literature also highlights potential drawbacks. Despite these challenges, several studies advocate for a balanced approach where AI tools complement, rather than replace, teacher instruction, emphasizing the importance of guided usage to maximize benefits and mitigate risks (Brown & Davis, 2020). This study builds on these insights by investigating the effects of AI-powered tools in a real classroom setting, focusing not only on measurable writing improvements but also on students' engagement with and attitudes toward these technologies. This study employed a quasi-experimental design to assess the effects of AI-powered learning tools on the writing skills of high school students over a six-week period. Participants included 60 tenth-grade students from a public secondary school, divided into two intact classes to serve as the experimental and control groups. The experimental group (n=30) was provided access to AI-based writing assistants, specifically Grammarly and ChatGPT, to use during all writing assignments. In contrast, the control group (n=30) completed identical assignments without the assistance of these tools, relying solely on traditional classroom instruction and teacher feedback. Both groups received the same writing prompts weekly, which included narrative and argumentative essays designed to evaluate a range of writing skills such as grammar, vocabulary, coherence, and organization. The study utilized a pre-test/post-test approach where students completed a baseline writing task before the intervention and a comparable writing assignment at the conclusion of the study to measure progress. Writing samples were evaluated using a standardized rubric developed by language education experts, which rated grammar accuracy, vocabulary richness, coherence of ideas, and overall writing quality on a 5-point scale. Additionally, a student feedback questionnaire was administered to the experimental group to capture qualitative data on their experiences and attitudes toward using AI tools.

Results

The analysis of the pre-test and post-test writing assessments revealed significant differences between the experimental group, which used AI-powered learning tools, and the control group, which did not. Prior to the intervention, both groups demonstrated comparable writing abilities, as indicated by their similar average scores across all assessed categories—grammar, vocabulary, coherence, and overall writing quality—confirming the initial equivalence of the groups. After six weeks of regular use of AI tools in the experimental group, paired t-tests

showed statistically significant improvements within this group across all measured writing dimensions. Grammar accuracy improved by an average of 1.8 points on the rubric scale ($p < 0.01$), indicating that students made fewer grammatical errors and displayed better command of syntactic structures. Vocabulary usage increased by an average of 1.4 points ($p < 0.01$), reflecting enhanced lexical variety and precision in word choice. Coherence scores rose by 1.6 points ($p < 0.01$), demonstrating that students were better able to organize ideas logically and create smoother transitions between sentences and paragraphs. Overall writing quality, which integrates these components, improved by an average of 2.9 points ($p < 0.01$), highlighting a substantial elevation in the students' writing proficiency.

In contrast, the control group, which received traditional instruction without AI assistance, showed smaller gains. Their grammar scores improved by only 0.6 points, vocabulary by 0.5 points, coherence by 0.7 points, and overall writing quality by 1.0 point. While these improvements were statistically significant within the group ($p < 0.05$), they were notably lower than those observed in the experimental group. An ANOVA test comparing the gains between groups confirmed that the improvements in the experimental group were significantly greater than those in the control group across all categories ($p < 0.01$). This indicates that the use of AI-powered tools had a positive and measurable effect on student writing development beyond what traditional methods alone achieved.

Discussion

The results of this study clearly indicate that AI-powered learning tools can significantly enhance high school students' writing skills, particularly in the areas of grammar, vocabulary, coherence, and overall writing quality. The experimental group's marked improvement compared to the control group supports the growing consensus in educational technology research that AI tools, when thoughtfully integrated into the curriculum, serve as valuable supplements to traditional writing instruction. These findings align with previous studies (Wang et al., 2021; Lee, 2019), which have reported positive outcomes from AI-assisted writing practice, including more accurate grammar usage and richer vocabulary development. One of the key advantages of AI tools is their ability to provide immediate, individualized feedback, enabling students to identify and correct errors as they write. This real-time support appears to scaffold the writing process effectively, allowing students to internalize corrections and experiment with language in a low-pressure environment. The observed increase in coherence suggests that AI tools may also help students better organize their ideas, perhaps by encouraging revision and prompting clearer sentence structures. These improvements are significant, given that coherence is often one of the more challenging aspects of writing for high school students. However, the study also highlights potential limitations and challenges associated with AI-assisted learning. Notably, the fact that 40% of students admitted to heavily relying on AI suggestions without fully understanding the underlying rules signals a risk of superficial engagement. This over-reliance could lead to passive learning, where students accept corrections uncritically rather than developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for independent writing. Such findings echo concerns raised in the literature (Miller & Thompson, 2022), emphasizing that AI tools should not replace foundational instruction but rather complement it. From a pedagogical perspective, these results suggest that educators should strive to balance AI use with strategies that promote active learning. Incorporating activities such as peer review, guided discussions on grammar and style, and reflective writing exercises may encourage deeper engagement and help students internalize

language concepts. Teachers can also use AI feedback as a starting point for targeted instruction, addressing common errors and misconceptions revealed through tool usage.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that AI-powered learning tools can significantly improve high school students' writing skills, particularly in grammar, vocabulary, coherence, and overall writing quality. The findings suggest that these technologies offer valuable, immediate feedback that helps students recognize and correct their errors, thereby enhancing their writing performance within a relatively short period. Importantly, the results indicate that AI tools, when used in conjunction with traditional teacher feedback, can provide a more effective and supportive learning environment than conventional methods alone. However, the study also highlights the need for careful and balanced integration of AI tools into educational practices. While these tools empower students to improve technical aspects of writing, there is a risk of over-reliance, which may inhibit the development of critical thinking and independent writing skills if not managed properly. Educators must therefore ensure that AI assistance complements rather than replaces active learning and teacher-guided instruction. Moving forward, further research is needed to explore the long-term effects of AI-supported writing education and to understand how best to combine technology with pedagogical strategies across diverse educational contexts. Nevertheless, this study provides encouraging evidence that AI-powered learning tools have the potential to be an effective aid in enhancing student writing skills, ultimately contributing to improved academic outcomes and greater student confidence in writing.

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