

## The future of language instruction in the age of Artificial Intelligence: A roundtable

As Spanish language teachers, we are slightly removed from massive impacts of technological advancements in computer language processing due to the initial work being focused on the English language. However, the combined weight of the technology available and its pace of development necessitates a conversation about how we will format our assignments, how we will mark, what our jobs will be like soon, and the future of language instruction.

This round table or series of round tables depending on the interests and numbers of the participants will consider technological advancements like AI, translators, grammar and spelling checkers, and their pedagogical implications for learning, teaching, and evaluating in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

As a primer or a justification of the need for a discussion:

The following text was generated by ChatGPT, an open AI engine to the question “What is the impact of AI, translators, grammar, and spelling checkers on language instruction?”

Artificial intelligence, translators, grammar checkers, and spelling checkers can all have an impact on language instruction. These tools can help students improve their language skills and make learning a new language easier and more efficient. However, it's important to keep in mind that they are not a replacement for human language instruction and should be used in conjunction with traditional teaching methods.

For example, AI-powered translation tools can be useful for getting a general understanding of a text written in a foreign language. However, they are not always accurate, and it's important for students to learn how to use context clues and other strategies to infer meaning in a foreign language.

Grammar and spelling checkers can be useful for identifying and correcting errors in written work, but it's important for students to understand the rules of grammar and spelling so that they can produce accurate written work on their own.

Overall, it's important for language instructors to carefully consider how they integrate these tools into their teaching and to ensure that students are learning to use them effectively and appropriately.

The above text was then fed into Google Translate.

La inteligencia artificial, los traductores, los correctores gramaticales y los correctores ortográficos pueden tener un impacto en la enseñanza del idioma. Estas herramientas pueden ayudar a los estudiantes a mejorar sus habilidades lingüísticas y hacer que aprender un nuevo idioma sea más fácil y eficiente. Sin embargo, es importante tener en cuenta que no reemplazan la instrucción del lenguaje humano y deben usarse junto con los métodos de enseñanza tradicionales.

Por ejemplo, las herramientas de traducción impulsadas por IA pueden ser útiles para obtener una comprensión general de un texto escrito en un idioma extranjero. Sin embargo, no siempre son precisos y es importante que los estudiantes aprendan a usar claves de contexto y otras estrategias para inferir el significado en un idioma extranjero.

Los correctores de gramática y ortografía pueden ser útiles para identificar y corregir errores en el trabajo escrito, pero es importante que los estudiantes entiendan las reglas de gramática y ortografía para que puedan producir un trabajo escrito preciso por sí mismos.

En general, es importante que los instructores de idiomas consideren cuidadosamente cómo integran estas herramientas en su enseñanza y se aseguren de que los estudiantes aprendan a usarlas de manera efectiva y adecuada.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Michael Dabrowski ([dabrowsk@athabascau.ca](mailto:dabrowsk@athabascau.ca))