



FROM TRANSLATION TO INTERACTION: EVOLUTION OF AI TOOLS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract. *Over the last decades, digital technologies have dramatically transformed the landscape of language education. AI-based tools, which initially served primarily translation and error-correction purposes, have evolved into interactive systems capable of sustaining human-like dialogue, analyzing learner progress, and personalizing instruction. This paper provides an expanded overview of this evolution by comparing traditional CALL methods, early machine translation tools, and the new generation of conversational agents such as ChatGPT and localized AI systems. Special emphasis is placed on the pedagogical, cultural, and policy implications for multilingual regions such as Uzbekistan, where digitalization is rapidly reshaping educational practices. The study demonstrates that modern AI shifts the focus from translation-dependent learning toward communicative competence, critical thinking, and authentic interaction.*

Keywords: *AI in language teaching, CALL, generative models, conversational agents, machine translation, pedagogy, Uzbekistan.*

In Uzbekistan today, the integration of artificial intelligence in education has become a national priority. The government supports large digital reforms, encourages AI literacy among teachers, and invests in localized AI language models that can understand Uzbek, Karakalpak, and Russian. These developments make it essential to analyze how modern AI tools can positively impact language learning. As Uzbekistan aims to expand English proficiency for global mobility and economic development, AI-powered tools offer scalable opportunities for speaking practice, writing feedback, and automated assessment. However, these benefits must be balanced with responsible use, teacher training, ethical considerations, and contextual adaptation.

According to Karimov, CALL encompasses all computer-based and mobile-based technologies used to support foreign language learning, including multimedia materials, interactive exercises, and digital assessment systems [Karimov, 2022, p. 41]. It highlights learner autonomy and the integration of technology into everyday study routines.

As Johnson explains, conversational AI refers to intelligent systems capable of producing dynamic, context-aware language output, simulating human-like dialogue, and offering instant feedback in listening, speaking, and writing [Johnson, 2020, p. 58]. Such systems include chatbots, voice assistants, and generative AI tutors.

According to Borisov, machine translation is a computational tool that transforms text from one language to another, using linguistic rules or neural networks. While highly useful, its pedagogical use requires structured guidance to prevent learners from



depending on literal translation rather than developing genuine language competence [Borisov, 2024, p. 25].

These three concepts demonstrate the evolution of digital language tools: from computer-based practice (CALL), to automated linguistic support (machine translation), and finally to interactive, communicative AI capable of engaging learners in meaningful dialogue. Together, they form the theoretical foundation for understanding how modern AI shifts language learning from translation-focused activities toward dynamic interaction.

To illustrate the transition from translation-based learning to interactive AI-driven communication, the following examples demonstrate how modern AI tools operate in real educational settings. Each example highlights a specific pedagogical shift and shows how AI enhances the learning process in practical, meaningful ways:

1. AI-Powered Classroom Chatbots

Teachers introduce chatbots as conversation partners for warm-up discussions and vocabulary activation. Students practice simple dialogues on everyday topics, gaining confidence before interacting with humans.

2. Speaking Simulations Through Voice-Based AI

Learners rehearse job interviews, travel scenarios, or exam questions with AI that responds naturally to their speech. This provides unlimited speaking practice without fear of judgment.

3. AI-Assisted Writing Workshops

Students draft essays and receive real-time suggestions on structure, coherence, grammar, and style. Instead of simply correcting errors, AI explains the reasoning, helping learners develop self-editing skills.

4. Machine Translation Comparison Tasks

Instead of relying on translation, students compare AI-generated outputs with human interpretations. They analyze differences in tone, pragmatics, and cultural nuance – transforming translation into a thinking activity.

5. AI Support for Teachers

AI generates quizzes, comprehension tasks, pronunciation feedback rubrics, and personalized study plans – saving teachers time and allowing them to focus on meaningful instruction rather than routine tasks.

The evolution of AI tools from translation-based support to interactive communication partners marks a paradigm shift in language education. While CALL established the foundation for technology-enhanced learning, the emergence of conversational AI offers new opportunities for individualized instruction, authentic communication practice, and data-driven insights into learner progress. However, successful integration requires teacher training, curriculum alignment, ethical safeguards, and strategies to ensure that AI supports rather than replaces meaningful human teaching.

In our view, this transformation reflects not only technological progress but a deeper pedagogical shift. Modern AI encourages learners to move beyond translation and memorization toward interaction, creativity, and critical thinking. For language learners, especially in multilingual contexts like Uzbekistan, AI becomes a bridge that connects



traditional learning with global communication. Its value depends on how thoughtfully, ethically, and creatively it is used in real classrooms.

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