

Integrating Generative AI in EFL Instruction: A Case Study with Adult Learners

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The constant advancement of technologies, especially in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), has brought about a transformative shift in the educational landscape. Amid discussions about the widely varied applications of AI-related innovations, the introduction and integration of generative AI (GenAI) in the English language classroom has gained substantial traction in recent months. Research examining the adoption of AI has probed the roles of AI tools in teaching, learning, and assessment. Yet, how GenAI can be integrated into the classroom setting remains unclear. This study explored how English teachers implement GenAI in their courses to extend their existing pedagogical practices within a Taiwanese EFL (English as a Foreign Language) context. The study encompassed an EGP course (Conversational English) and an ESP course (Business English), which were led by two teachers and had a total of enrollment of 26 adult learners with proficiency levels ranging from B1 to B2. GenAI was integrated to facilitate collaborative learning in tasks such as vocabulary acquisition and speaking activities. The engagement and perceptions of both teachers and learners were examined using surveys and interviews. Preliminary results suggested that the viability of incorporating GenAI into English lessons was influenced by learner language proficiency, classroom task types, and operational readiness level. In addition to examining task design and stakeholder perceptions, this research also has implications for AI-supported pedagogies and the potential demand for professional teacher training for GenAI. Through documenting the user trajectories of both teachers and learners, the study hopes to provide insights into how teaching and learning are evolving in the era of AI. The findings should not only inform a more practical AI-supported pedagogical framework in the TESOL area but also highlight the need for teacher professional development in the age of GenAI.