

Integration of AI Conversation Simulators into Language Teaching

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Abstract: This article explores effective strategies for integrating AI-powered conversation tools – such as ChatGPT, Duolingo, and Mursion – into language classrooms. By aligning these tools with specific learning goals, designing meaningful tasks, and employing blended learning approaches, educators can enhance student engagement and language proficiency. The article also discusses assessment methods and the importance of ethical, responsible AI use in education. These strategies offer a pathway to more interactive, personalized, and real-world language learning experiences.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Language Learning, ChatGPT, Duolingo, Mursion, Conversation Simulators, Blended Learning, Educational Technology, Speaking Practice, AI in Education.

Introduction: In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly transformed various sectors, and education is no exception. With the increasing demand for personalized and accessible learning, AI technologies have found a significant place in modern classrooms. From automating administrative tasks to providing tailored educational content, AI is reshaping how students learn and how teachers teach.

One of the most promising applications of AI in education is in the field of language learning, particularly through conversational AI tools. Platforms like ChatGPT, Duolingo, and Mursion are at the forefront of this shift, offering learners interactive, real-time opportunities to practice speaking, listening, and comprehension skills. These tools simulate authentic conversations, provide immediate feedback, and allow for personalized, low-pressure language practice—making them powerful supplements to traditional instruction. As language learning increasingly emphasizes communication and fluency, the integration of AI conversation simulators into classrooms presents both exciting opportunities and new pedagogical challenges.

To effectively integrate AI conversation simulators into language classrooms, it's essential to understand how each tool functions and what unique advantages it offers. Among the most widely used platforms –

ChatGPT, Duolingo, and Mursion – each provides a distinct approach to supporting language acquisition.

1. ChatGPT. ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI, is a powerful language model designed to simulate human-like conversations. Unlike traditional language learning apps, ChatGPT offers open-ended, flexible conversation practice that adapts to the user's input in real time. This allows students to engage in free-form dialogue on a wide range of topics, making the learning experience more authentic and immersive.

Teachers can use ChatGPT to create customized language tasks, such as role plays, scenario-based conversations, or even creative writing prompts. For example, learners might practice ordering food at a restaurant, conducting a job interview, or narrating a short story – interacting with the AI as their conversational partner. Additionally, ChatGPT can provide personalized feedback, correct grammar, and suggest improved phrasing, helping students refine their language use in context.

2. Duolingo. Duolingo is a widely recognized app that uses gamification to make language learning engaging and accessible. Its AI components include speech recognition, chatbot exercises, and adaptive learning algorithms that personalize content based on a learner's progress. Duolingo's structured lessons focus on vocabulary, grammar, reading, and listening skills,

gradually increasing in difficulty to build a strong language foundation.

The chatbot features simulate simple dialogues, helping students practice routine interactions like greetings, introductions, or shopping scenarios. Duolingo is especially effective for beginners or younger learners, as its game-like interface and reward system maintain motivation and encourage regular practice. While it may not offer the depth of real-time conversation like ChatGPT, Duolingo excels at reinforcing core language skills in a fun, structured way.

3. Mursion. Mursion is a unique platform that uses virtual reality (VR) and AI-driven avatars to simulate real-world communication environments. Unlike ChatGPT and Duolingo, which are text- and app-based, Mursion provides a more immersive, scenario-based experience, often used for professional and high-stakes language practice. Learners interact with avatars in realistic situations – such as customer service interactions, medical interviews, or teaching simulations – where they must apply language skills under pressure.

This tool is particularly valuable for developing fluency, speaking confidence, and soft skills in environments where tone, body language, and spontaneous responses matter. It is often used in teacher training, business English courses, and workplace communication programs, where practicing language in realistic social contexts is crucial.

Aligning AI Tools with Learning Goals. For AI conversation tools to be effective in language classrooms, their integration must be intentional and aligned with clearly defined learning objectives. Each tool – ChatGPT, Duolingo, and Mursion – offers different strengths that can support specific language skills, making it important for educators to match the tool's capabilities with the goals of the lesson or curriculum.

To begin, educators should identify which language skills they aim to develop – such as speaking fluency, listening comprehension, grammar accuracy, or written communication. Based on these goals, they can then select the most appropriate AI tool. For instance:

- **ChatGPT** is best suited for open-ended dialogue and creative language use. It supports speaking and writing practice by allowing students to engage in dynamic conversations or compose responses that reflect real-life scenarios. Teachers can use ChatGPT for activities such as role-plays, debates, or storytelling, where students generate original language and receive instant AI-generated feedback.

- **Duolingo**, with its structured lessons and gamified

design, is ideal for reinforcing vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills. It works well for beginner and intermediate learners who need systematic input and frequent review. Duolingo can be aligned with learning objectives like “students will master the use of past tense verbs” or “students will recognize and use 100 core vocabulary words.”

- **Mursion**, by contrast, excels in simulation-based training that mirrors real-world communication tasks. It is highly effective for helping students build speaking confidence and communicative competence in specific, often high-stakes, contexts. For example, a targeted learning objective could be: “Students will practice conducting a job interview in English using Mursion’s virtual avatar system,” or “Students will engage in a simulated parent-teacher conference to practice professional English communication.”

By setting clear, measurable objectives and mapping them to the features of each AI tool, educators can ensure that technology use is purposeful, efficient, and tailored to students’ needs. This strategic alignment not only enhances the impact of AI in the classroom but also fosters deeper learner engagement and skill development.

Blended Learning Approaches. Integrating AI conversation tools into language classrooms works best when they are embedded within a blended learning model – a mix of traditional face-to-face instruction and technology-based learning. This approach allows educators to maintain the human element of teaching while leveraging the strengths of AI to enhance student engagement, autonomy, and practice opportunities.

One effective method is the “flipped classroom” model, where students use AI tools like ChatGPT or Duolingo outside of class to build foundational knowledge or practice conversation. Class time can then be used for discussion, reflection, or extension activities based on their AI interactions. For instance, students might complete a dialogue task with ChatGPT at home, and then perform a role-play based on that conversation in class with a peer or the teacher.

Another strategy involves integrating AI activities into classroom routines. Teachers can design lesson plans where students rotate through stations – one with the teacher, one with peers, and one with an AI platform. For example:

- ❖ At the ChatGPT station, students might ask the AI about cultural traditions in English-speaking countries.

- ❖ At the Duolingo station, they could complete vocabulary or grammar modules tied to the current unit.
- ❖ With Mursion, students might participate in scheduled simulations to apply what they've learned in a real-world context, such as handling a customer service complaint or giving a presentation.

Blended learning also makes differentiated instruction easier. Since AI tools can adapt to individual learner needs, teachers can assign different tasks based on proficiency levels. A beginner might work on structured grammar practice in Duolingo, while an advanced student uses ChatGPT to debate environmental issues or simulate a negotiation.

Ultimately, blending AI tools with traditional teaching provides a richer, more personalized learning experience. It allows students to learn at their own pace while still benefiting from the guidance, feedback, and social interaction that only a human teacher can offer.

Designing Meaningful Tasks. To maximize the benefits of AI conversation tools in language learning, it's essential to design purposeful, engaging, and context-rich tasks. Meaningful language tasks not only promote real-world communication skills but also give students authentic reasons to use the language – moving beyond rote memorization and into active, communicative use.

AI tools like ChatGPT, Duolingo, and Mursion can be incorporated into tasks that simulate real-life situations, challenge learners to think critically, and encourage creativity. For example, teachers can use ChatGPT to assign open-ended tasks such as:

- **Role-plays** (e.g., a doctor-patient conversation, travel agent-customer exchange),
- **Story continuations**, where students begin a story and ChatGPT responds,
- **Interview practice**, with ChatGPT acting as the interviewer.

Such tasks allow learners to explore language dynamically and receive instant AI-generated responses, which keeps the interaction fluid and natural.

With Duolingo, teachers can design targeted practice assignments focused on specific grammar structures or vocabulary themes that tie into larger classroom units. For instance, if the class is working on "daily routines," Duolingo lessons on verbs and time expressions can reinforce classroom learning. Teachers can also challenge students to complete a certain number of XP (experience points) or achieve specific streaks, turning

independent work into a game-based classroom challenge.

Mursion, on the other hand, offers a platform for scenario-based simulations that closely mimic professional or real-world environments. Teachers can design tasks such as:

- "You are a hotel receptionist handling a guest complaint."
- "You are a teacher conducting a parent-teacher conference."
- "You are a job applicant answering behavioral interview questions."

These immersive, high-stakes tasks help students practice spontaneous speaking and active listening in a low-risk environment, building confidence and fluency.

To deepen learning, teachers can ask students to reflect on their AI interactions through journals or class discussions. Questions like "What did you learn from your conversation with ChatGPT?" or "What vocabulary was new to you during the simulation?" encourage metacognitive awareness and language retention. Designing meaningful tasks ensures that AI tools are used not just for passive learning, but as powerful enablers of interactive, student-centered language development.

Monitoring and Assessment. While AI conversation tools can provide valuable language practice, their integration into the classroom must be supported by effective monitoring and assessment strategies. This ensures that student progress is tracked, learning outcomes are met, and the use of technology contributes meaningfully to language development.

One practical approach is to use conversation transcripts generated by tools like ChatGPT or Mursion as evidence of student performance. Teachers can analyze these transcripts to assess:

- **Accuracy** (grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary usage),
- **Fluency** (natural flow of ideas and use of cohesive devices),
- **Complexity** (variety in sentence patterns and expressions),
- **Task completion** (how well the student responded to the prompt or scenario).

For example, after a simulated conversation about travel planning with ChatGPT, the teacher can review the student's responses to evaluate how effectively they used future tense and travel-related vocabulary.

Similarly, Duolingo's built-in progress tracking offers valuable insights into a student's learning path.

Teachers can monitor metrics such as:

- Daily or weekly activity,
- Skill mastery levels,
- Error patterns (e.g., recurring grammar mistakes),
- Streak maintenance, which can be a motivational indicator.

These analytics can help teachers tailor future lessons and provide targeted feedback based on individual needs.

Mursion simulations also provide detailed performance feedback, often including session recordings and competency evaluations. Teachers can assess students on communicative goals such as tone, pronunciation, professional language use, and confidence in high-pressure speaking tasks. These assessments are particularly relevant for students preparing for careers in teaching, business, healthcare, or hospitality.

To foster deeper learning, teachers can incorporate self- and peer-assessment tools, such as checklists or rubrics that focus on communication skills. Students might evaluate their own performance after using AI tools by reflecting on what they did well and what they need to improve.

Finally, integrating formative assessment – small, ongoing evaluations rather than high-stakes tests – encourages students to view AI as a learning partner rather than just a practice tool. This continuous feedback loop reinforces skills development and builds confidence in using the target language in both academic and real-world settings.

CONCLUSION

The integration of AI-powered conversation tools into language classrooms represents a significant step forward in educational innovation. Platforms like ChatGPT, Duolingo, and Mursion offer unique strengths that can enhance learners' engagement, autonomy, and communicative competence when aligned thoughtfully with instructional goals. By understanding the capabilities of each tool, designing meaningful tasks, blending them with traditional instruction, and applying effective monitoring and assessment strategies, educators can create a dynamic, student-centered language learning environment. Moreover, the responsible and ethical use of AI tools must remain a priority, ensuring that learners are not only benefiting linguistically but also developing digital literacy and critical thinking. As these technologies continue to evolve, language educators have the opportunity to reimagine how communication skills are taught – making language learning more interactive, accessible, and relevant to the real world.

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