

Second and Heritage language learners' writing processes with AI: Students' uses, processes, and decision-making

Introduction

Recent developments on machine-learning generative systems have heightened our need to understand how artificial intelligence tools can be utilized in language classrooms. Efforts on how to use ChatGPT, for instance, on L2 writing have been explored (e.g., Warschauer et al., 2023); however, we still know little about how to effectively implement ChatGPT to support students' composing processes, including content research, content development, and grammar and lexical editing. This study aims to analyze how Spanish language students in an advance Spanish writing course wrote collaboratively, both with and without the use of ChatGPT, to write a newspaper article based on an interview with a renowned Mexican literary author.

Faculty Voice

"I have enjoyed the interactions with Karen during the entire process and Karen's curiosity to learn to conduct research. She always has a positive disposition for working collaboratively. We have created a nice team."



-- Idoia Elola

Team

Faculty: Idoia Elola, Marta Tecedor

Students: Karen García

Goals

- **Analyze ChatGPT's Role in Collaborative Writing:** Investigate how Spanish language students in an advanced writing course use ChatGPT to collaboratively write a newspaper article based on an interview.
- **Develop a Theoretical and Pedagogical Framework:** Create a framework following an Activity Theory model to guide the effective use of ChatGPT in supporting content development, research, and editing in L2 writing.
- **Disseminate Findings:** Present the findings at a conference (abstract submitted to AAAL) and publish the study in a reputable journal.



Student Voice

"Through this project, I gained valuable research experience and worked closely with the Texas Tech community. It provided me with the research opportunities I hadn't encountered in my major, helping me enter the world of research, particularly as I pursue a future in the field of psychology."

-- Karen Garcia

To Date Progress

- Data Analysis:
 - In general students support the use of ChatGPT for idea generation and correction if used ethically.
 - Students' selections from ChatGPT results showed reflection and agency.
- Writing:
 - Conference Submission (AAAL conference).
 - First draft of the article

TrUE

Transformers

My Top 3
Transformative Priorities

Draw in new faculty

Intentionally Recruited
Underrepresented

Strong potential for
continuation post-grant