Special issue: Customizing Generative AI chatbots to Empower Language Teachers and Learners

Guest editors:

Dr Simon Wang, the Language Centre, Hong Kong Baptist University;

Dr Qin Xie, Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Background

Higher education has seen a paradigm shift with the advent of sophisticated language models like ChatGPT. With its advanced natural language processing capabilities, ChatGPT has the potential to revolutionize language education by providing interactive, personalized learning experiences. However, the tool's effectiveness is often not fully realized due to limited expertise in prompt engineering (i.e. skills in writing effective prompts for Generative AI chatbots) and a general lack of AI literacy among educators. This gap between capability and application limits the transformative impact that ChatGPT could have on language teaching and learning.

Call for papers

With the opening of the GPT store by OpenAI, it has become clear that customization is important for leveraging Generative AI in a wide range of usages including language teaching and learning in higher education. This special issue calls for contributions to the following categories of STiLE, the scholarship platform of the Association of Hong Kong Language Centre and offers a platform for language educators to share their experience of customizing Generative AI chatbots to meet the needs of their students. Please note the special issue not only considers contributions in English; we also welcome submissions in other languages.

Reflection: (a) Critical Reflections and Projections

This category calls for educators to engage in a reflective assessment of their language teaching practices while engaging customised Generative AI chatbots, ensuring that their evaluations are substantiated by and grounded in the extant published literature. Contributions, which can be in any language, may be submitted as text (2,500-3,500 words), audio, or video up to 12 minutes, with a preference for English subtitles in multimedia formats. This reflective space encourages the sharing of new methods, theoretical connections, outcomes, and the subsequent adjustments planned for teaching, fostering a shared growth in pedagogical approaches to teaching in the age of AI.

Reflection: (b) Scholarly Squibs/Stories/Takeaways

This section welcomes concise, impactful pieces relevant to language education. Submissions should address current issues, novel practices, or enlightening suggestions in the area of Generative AI chatbot customization, and can be in any language. Formats include text (up to 1,000 words), audio, or video (up to 4 minutes, preferably with English subtitles). This category seeks to provoke thought, present innovations, and critique existing theories or practices in language teaching, aiming to leave readers with valuable insights. Contributions should be clear, engaging, and maintain high production value for multimedia entries, offering fresh perspectives on contemporary teaching and learning, situated within published literature in language teaching and AI.

Plug and Play

This section seeks customised Generative AI chatbots that are ready for immediate use in language classrooms or supporting materials development through [poe.com](poe.com) or other platforms accessible in Hong Kong. Submissions should be innovative or effective for language teaching, applicable across various contexts, and in any language. Videos should not exceed 5 minutes unless specific needs arise. Ideal contributions are freestanding, require no adaptation by other educators, and demonstrate high production quality.

Timeline and instructions

Milestones	Dates
Briefing sessions (online, F2F, asynchronous video)	Late Mar to late Apr
Submit an Expression of Interest via [this form](#)	31 Mar
Submit an abstract to the HKBU LC conference (optional)	30 Apr
Presentation at the [HKBU LC conference](#) (optional)	17-18 Jun
Submission of the final papers/ scholarship pieces	31 July
Review and revision period	1 Aug to 31 Dec
Publication	Jan - Mar 2025

Further information

To learn more about this special issue, please sign up for a [poe.com](#) account and talk to the customized chatbot [https://poe.com/STiLEcustomGPT](#). To submit an Expression of Interest and stay updated about the upcoming briefing sessions and other resources for prospective contributors, please join our mailing list via [this form](#). Please contact Dr Simon Wang if you have any questions: [simonwang@hkbu.edu.hk](#)