

AI in English Teaching Changes How We Learn Think and Decide

Ganesh Balasaheb Mane

Assistant Professor of English
ShahajirajeMahavidyalaya, Khatav
Email: ganeshmane199@gmail.com

Abstract-

AI stepping into English teaching marks a major change in how classes are shaped today. Not just tools, these systems reshape how students engage with language and texts. From 2022 onward, findings show growing reliance on smart software across college-level courses. Instead of replacing teachers, machines often handle routine tasks, freeing up classroom time. Yet deeper thought is needed when responses come too fast or feel automated. Personal feedback can now be generated instantly, though sometimes it lacks depth. While tailored lessons help learners progress at their own pace, uniform outputs may dull unique voices. Some classrooms report improved results, yet others note reduced originality in student work. Even with advanced programs, instructors remain central to guiding interpretation and meaning. Technology speeds things up, but judgment still belongs to people. Thirty studies together suggest a middle path works best - using tech without surrendering control. Insight grows when algorithms assist rather than lead. Outcomes improve where rules exist for responsible use. Learning stays strong when humans set the direction, even if machines lend a hand. Progress does not mean full automation - it means smarter collaboration. Starting fresh might mean teaching teachers and learners how to question AI instead of trusting it blindly. Clear rules about right and wrong uses should come next, built openly so everyone sees how decisions are made. Thinking tools powered by machines work best when they push people to reason deeper, not less. Down the road, studies must compare different parts of the world to spot patterns others miss. Ways to measure

progress need reworking too, shaped around new realities. Watching how minds grow over time with these systems nearby becomes essential later on.

Starting off, artificial intelligence shifts how students learn English. Teaching methods change when machines write essays or correct grammar. Literature classes feel different because programs suggest themes or summaries. Thinking hard about texts gets new challenges with tools that offer instant analysis. Classrooms use set ways of teaching to include smart software. Doing what is right matters as computers make decisions in learning. New systems create answers, stories, or translations on demand. Learning English as a foreign subject adapts slowly to these changes

1. Introduction

Schools are changing fast because of new tools built on artificial intelligence. After ChatGPT reached millions near the end of 2022, systems that write like people became common in learning spaces around the world - offering ways to adjust comments for each student, study how words work, even draft full texts. In classes focused on English language or stories written in it, such changes bring both tough problems and big shifts needing serious research attention. Looking into this isn't just about liking tech trends. Right now, being able to use English well matters everywhere - for talking across cultures, moving up at jobs, doing well in school. Even now, studying English stories forms a core part of humanistic learning, helping people grow emotional insight, grasp diverse cultures, because it sharpens their ability to think closely about texts. As a result, bringing artificial intelligence into such areas changes deeply how students around the world develop a feel for literature while building skill with language.

Right now, scholars aren't looking closely enough at how AI fits into teaching English - both the literature and the language together. Most past work focuses either on general uses of artificial intelligence in schools or just on picking up new languages. But what happens when those two areas meet? Not much has been written about that link. On top of that, tech moves

fast - so anything studied before 2023 already feels outdated compared to today's smart systems. Because of this, the following pages aim to pull recent findings into one clear picture. One goal stands out: sorting through current studies on AI's role in English classrooms. Then comes a closer look - not just at how well it works, but also at its effects on thinking, ethics, and actual classroom practice. Lastly, an approach takes shape - one that guides teachers toward using AI wisely, reducing risks without losing benefits.

What does this research aim to explore? The inquiry focuses on these specific points. Questions guide the direction here. Each one shapes how things move forward. Attention centers on what needs uncovering. Clarity comes through examining each part closely

How is generative AI currently applied in literature and English language education, and what is its empirical effectiveness?

How does using AI in learning affect a student's ability to think deeply? One way to look at it is through how problem-solving changes over time. When tools help too much, original thought might fade slowly. Instead of building ideas alone, reliance shifts toward quick answers. Yet questioning can still grow if guided well by teachers. Over time, imagination may stretch further - or narrow sharply. Depends heavily on how the technology shapes daily tasks.

Which ethical dilemmas emerge from AI usage in English education, and how can institutional frameworks resolve them?

One way into this puzzle: what happens when quick machine answers meet slow, thoughtful talk about stories and words? Machines speed through tasks, yet real connection often grows in pauses, questions, back-and-forth. A classroom breathes differently when voices overlap, not just data streams. Still, tools that save time might free space for deeper exchange - if used with care. Meaning sticks less from output, more from shared effort. Surprise appears where people linger together on a line, a phrase, an idea. Balance shows up quietly, not in grand choices but small ones - when to turn the screen off, when to lean in.

This work offers clear approaches for those shaping policy, designing curricula, or teaching amid ongoing changes - insights built through focused questions. Ways forward emerge when real classroom needs meet structured review, guiding choices without rigid formulas. Each suggestion grows from observation, not theory, fitting practical realities more than abstract ideals.

2. Literature Review

2.1 The Growth of Artificial Intelligence in Teaching Languages

Using artificial intelligence to teach languages isn't new. Well before generative AI became widespread, earlier tools - such as chatbots and smart grading programs - already helped learners practice skills. Still, today's models go much further, bringing deeper complexity and broader reach. In 2025, Qiao and Gu reviewed 30 research papers spanning ten years, spotting clear trends. Most studies focused on college-level students, which leaves younger age groups less understood. On another note, putting thoughts on paper along with expressing them out loud got the most attention - shaped by what experts focused on and what tools they had at hand. Not far behind, studies mostly looked at people learning English in places where it isn't their main tongue, showing how widely teaching English matters across countries.

One gap stood out clearly when looking closer. Most projects used artificial intelligence to give answers or guide lessons, yet skipped tools that adjust to how students learn or track their progress. It struck many as odd that almost none tied their methods to established teaching frameworks, raising questions about how well they actually support learning. Without solid trial designs - especially random ones - it remains unclear whether these tools work as claimed.

2.2 Generative AI Meets Critical Thinking in EFL Learning

Looking into how generative AI shapes student thinking has grabbed attention lately. A review led by Zhang and team in 2025 pulled together findings from 15 papers spanning just three years, starting from 2022, all set in English-as-a-foreign-language classrooms. What turned up wasn't clear-cut. While many studies - about six out of ten - saw benefits, such as helping learners break down ideas, shape reasoning, or consider different angles, others told a different story. One in every three reports raised concern: leaning too much on AI might weaken a learner's habit of doubting, probing, or working through problems alone.

One split shows a central struggle. Thinking deep happens if learners apply artificial intelligence to spark ideas, explore different views, or gain insights - yet mental slowdowns appear when they take answers straight without questioning them. So the main teaching task becomes shaping how tech gets used, nudging minds toward analysis instead of skipping it. Studies looked mostly at effects on understanding texts, building written work, and exchanges during lessons. Framed mostly through critical literacy, these studies drew on sociocultural ideas along with self-directed learning models. Even so, problems remain - spotty teaching methods blend poorly, trust in AI wavers, while research stays tightly boxed.

2.3 AI In Literature Teaching A Growing Area

Though plenty of language courses now use artificial intelligence, teaching literature hasn't drawn much scholarly attention in that space. A scan of fifty cross-disciplinary papers by Lo (2023) turned up nothing centered on AI within lit classes. Other separate analyses - Vargas-Murillo and team (2023), then Perera with Lankathilaka (2023) - also came back empty when searching for studies linking AI to college literature education. That gap stands out sharply given how well machine-driven tools align with deep reading tasks. Think about unpacking story shapes, following how characters shift across time, or digging into symbolic meaning - all spots where big text-based systems shine through responsive conversation and written output.

Slowly, gaps are being filled by new research. In 2024, Alhammad looked at how learners of English used ChatGPT when studying characters, symbols, and deeper meanings in stories. It turned out the tool helped them understand better, build skills, while sparking thoughtful conversations about literature. A different project tried something fresh - students rewrote the ending of Orwell's Animal Farm using ChatGPT during a university course. A fresh look into classroom dynamics found stories built by artificial intelligence stirred deeper student involvement. While sparking sharper thinking, they nudged learners to question what makes a story feel real. Surprisingly, the computer-made conclusions acted like mirrors, reflecting layers of meaning back onto classic texts. These shifts didn't replace old methods - they deepened them quietly.

It struck many how real it felt, right there in the middle of things. Whether machines might hold onto what a story truly meant - this kept coming up, again and again. Not just once did they untangle lines written by code from those shaped by human hands. Thinking about thinking showed itself clearly, woven into every comparison.

2.4 How Teachers Work and Plan Their Lessons

Good teaching shapes how well AI works in classrooms. A team led by Rahmawati in 2025 watched English teachers in Indonesia blend AI with a method called Nation's Four Strands to build lessons for flipped settings. Their work stood out because it grew from ideas about how people learn second languages. They spotted a pattern across four moves: adjusting texts with AI so learners grasp meaning more easily; turning AI comments on word choice and structure into support for growth; bringing chat-based programs into speaking practice that centers on real communication; lastly, using smart exercises tuned by AI to build smoother, faster language use.

Even with progress, some teachers worry AI might break apart teaching methods, question whether it works consistently, or misses subtle context clues. Teacher guidance stays essential, keeping educational theory intact while shaping course direction. A study from 2026

led by Pujiani and team looked into how college instructors in Indonesia handled ethics and beliefs about language using AI tools. Fast grammar fixes earned praise; yet doubts grew that learners might stop thinking deeply or making their own choices. Standardized versions of English pushed forward by AI drew criticism too - local ways of speaking often got left behind.

2.5 Ethical Frameworks and Principles

More AI in schools means clearer rules are needed. Backed by research, six core ideas guide fair tech use when testing language skills. A 2025 report from Cambridge University Press lays them out simply. Each principle helps keep decisions honest, open, and focused on learners. One follows another without overlap. Together they form a steady base for future tools

Failing to meet strict judging criteria risks unreliable outcomes. Human experts set a clear target - AI should reach that level every single time. When performance slips below this bar, results cannot be trusted. Consistency matters just as much as accuracy does. Only when systems perform on par with seasoned reviewers can they serve effectively.

Staying fair means watching for slant over time while using datasets that bring everyone in. What matters is checking drifts regularly instead of trusting early results.

When it comes to data consent, clarity matters most - people need to understand what happens to their information. Security must hold firm, without exception, because trust depends on protection that never slips. How organizations explain their practices shapes whether users feel informed or left in the dark.

When students see how AI shapes their outcomes, trust grows. Seeing the process helps them follow along. Clear reasons matter because guesses won't do. Knowing the why makes a difference. Hidden steps cause confusion. Openness keeps things honest. If it feels like magic, learning stops.

Folks need to stay involved so things don't drift off track, keeping language growth rooted in personal experience instead of machines taking over. Still, it's people who shape how words make sense through real-life use rather than automated rules filling the gaps.

Thinking about how much power AI uses leads straight into questions about Earth's limits. What happens when machines need more each year becomes hard to ignore. Running complex programs leaves marks on air, water, soil - seen or not. Heavy electricity use ties tightly to whether such tech can last long without harm. Choices today shape what clean energy means tomorrow.

What stands out here is how ethics reach past just coding and systems. Staying focused on people shapes better outcomes. It turns out that picking up a language lives inside human interaction - AI helps, yet falls short when real connection matters.

2.6 Research gaps and future directions

Most past work misses key pieces that still need exploring. Right now, almost no long-term projects follow how steady AI use reshapes students' sense of self, their ways of studying, or thinking patterns. Today's findings come mostly from short trials, so what happens over years stays unclear. On top of that, research zooms in on colleges, while schools for younger kids get little attention. Since children learn differently, they may need entirely separate rules and teaching methods.

Still, few have looked into how AI meets storytelling. Figuring out whether machines can help people see beauty in words takes real effort. On top of that, not everyone gets the same chances online. When some kids miss out on tech know-how or advanced tools, gaps in learning grow wider. Only when tied to proven teaching frameworks can tomorrow's AI studies truly matter. Tools might measure code well enough, yet miss what shifts beneath - how machines reshape understanding itself.

3. Methodology

A fresh look at recent studies shows how artificial intelligence fits into teaching English and literature. Following common research paths, yet ready to shift when tech changes fast.

3.1 Search Strategy

Starting with Google Scholar, the team pulled data from several major academic platforms. Not just ProQuest but also ERIC, Scopus, and Web of Science were included in the sweep. Though older studies existed, only those published from 2022 to 2026 made the cut. That window mattered because it caught the rise of newer generative AI systems. Terms like "EFL" appeared alongside "English language teaching" in varied sequences. At times, "ChatGPT" paired with "large language models"; other searches mixed in "artificial intelligence." Now and then, phrases such as "pedagogical frameworks" linked with "critical thinking." Literature education popped up too, woven into different query shapes.

3.2 Inclusion Criteria

A handful of conditions shaped which studies made the cut. Focusing on how AI plays out in teaching English or literature was step one. Each needed to bring either hard evidence, clear theory, or some form of moral lens. They came from places with standing - journals that review work carefully, organizations known for rigor. Written entirely in English, nothing else qualified. Dates mattered just as much - the clock started in 2022, stopped by 2026.

3.3 Analysis Framework

A close look at the selected research began with sorting key ideas. Right away, patterns showed up around ethics, teaching methods, how thinking is affected, along with ways AI gets used. Later on, these pieces came together under broader labels shown in the results.

4. Findings

4.1 The Dual Nature of AI's Cognitive Impact

One clear idea stands out across studies: AI shapes thinking in opposite ways at once. Inside English classrooms, smart machines can grow careful analysis just as easily as they limit it. Starting a lesson with machine-generated questions pushes learners to weigh different perspectives. Stories take new turns when software imagines fresh endings, making pupils examine meaning and structure more closely. While working on essays, students spot gaps in reasoning after seeing how the tool builds opposing points.

When kids turn to AI every time they face a challenge, thinking skills start to fade. Because someone else does the work, real learning often gets skipped. Even small mental efforts matter; skipping them reshapes how brains handle problems later. Some classrooms see sharp insights bloom with tech help, while others watch attention drift into passive copying. It depends less on the machine and more on what teachers ask of it. How assignments are shaped changes whether minds grow or shut down. Blind trust in answers without checking sources opens doors to false ideas spreading quietly. The way guidance happens shapes everything - what counts as progress, what gets ignored. One group digs deeper using tools, another just grabs results and moves on. Context bends outcomes sharply; intent behind usage steers the result far more than code ever could.

4.2 Changes in How Literature Is Taught

What if machines could change reading? Studies find they already do - breaking tough stories into pieces anyone can grasp. Puzzled by old books? Talking with smart programs eases the stress of guessing meanings. Instead of drowning in pages, short versions pull out what matters. Rewriting someone else's story path helps see how one twist shifts everything around it.

Faced with AI, questions pop up about who really gets to decide what art means. A machine reading poetry serves number-driven guesses instead of lived insight. Teachers need to shape how learners see these tools - more like a talkative partner than a flawless expert - clear about where it falls short.

4.3 How Teachers Work When AI Is Part of Learning

Nowhere else shows it more clearly: teachers remain central, even when machines assist learning. With AI in play, sharp judgment matters more - so do subject knowledge and teaching instinct. Instead of fading away, instructors shape lessons where technology supports real thinking, not just quick answers. They show students how to question results, test claims, leave room for doubt. Machines cannot mimic the depth of personal history, shared culture, or situational insight that educators bring daily. That human layer turns data into meaning.

When it comes to AI, teachers guide what's fair. They protect honest learning by setting clear limits on machine help. Some assignments fit with tech support, others do not - judgment falls to them. Students without strong internet or devices might fall behind, so fairness matters just as much. Decisions about tools often come down to who gets left out.

4.4 Ethical Challenges and How Institutions React

A steady challenge shows up when schools use AI. Teachers find it hard to tell real student work apart from text made by machines, raising worries about honesty in schoolwork. Because of this, questions grow around fairness and trust. Some voices get left out when artificial intelligence learns mostly from data based on Western ways of speaking. Strange echoes appear - old power imbalances sneak into classrooms through language choices coded into software. In places shaped by colonial history, losing one's way of speaking feels like losing part of who they are.

When AI collects huge volumes of student information, keeping that data safe becomes a real challenge. Without global rules in place, schools must handle privacy on their own. That shift has led many to favor assignments based on projects, live exams, tests requiring unique thinking - types of work machines struggle to mimic. On top of this, some colleges now require courses helping students understand how to use artificial intelligence responsibly.

4.5 Emerging Pedagogical Frameworks

What comes through in the research is a set of core ideas about bringing AI into English classes

Imagine a classroom where questions matter more than answers. Pupils spot hidden patterns in machine choices, noticing how some voices get louder while others fade. They peek behind digital results, asking who shaped them and why. Privacy isn't just a word - it's a habit of mind, like checking shadows before stepping forward. Each result gets tested, not trusted. Assumptions crack under repeated pressure. Thinking sideways becomes normal.

Teachers bring something machines cannot - understanding shaped by culture and values. When algorithms step in, they should stand beside, not take over from, those who guide learning. Machines follow patterns; people interpret meaning. Without human presence, education loses its depth. Technology works best when it supports, rather than substitutes, the lived experience of teaching.

Rooted in theory, practice draws from how people learn together, question power in education, alongside insights into picking up new languages along the way.

Start here - AI works best when used only where it fits, leaving room for people to think and act on their own. Not every task needs it. What matters is using it well, not using it everywhere. Quiet judgment beats constant automation. Leave space for hands-on work. Some things stay clearer without digital help. Aim for fit, not force. Thoughtful gaps matter just as much as tools.

5. Discussion

5.1 Teaching English Differently Now That AI Exists

Here's what shows up in the numbers: how English is taught needs a full rethink. Old ways built on memorizing rules plus repeating set lessons fall short since machines now offer instant corrections and perfect writing samples. Strange twist? Machines handling basic work makes the personal, messy parts of learning more vital. What matters most today isn't

delivering facts but guiding students through moral thinking, emotional understanding across cultures, responses to art, and questioning assumptions - spaces tech still stumbles in. Those skills used to sit at the edges. Now they're front and center in studying words and stories.

Change pushes updates in how teachers learn, what gets tested, students follow. Instead of old thinking paths, lesson plans now climb toward deeper reasoning. Tests move off scripted tasks into real questioning shaped by people. Training for educators grows two directions at once - handling tools with care while teaching with judgment.

5.2 The Critical Thinking Paradox

Here's a strange twist: AI might weaken deep thinking while also making it stronger. When learners question what AI says - checking facts against original material - it becomes a powerful aid. But doing that well means having sharp reasoning skills. The catch? Those very abilities often fade if people rely on AI without scrutiny.

Figuring out this puzzle starts with how tasks are built. Built right, using artificial intelligence means thinking hard instead of skipping the work. Learners should see these tools like shaky collaborators - helpful but needing double-checks. Scoring needs to value how someone thinks through problems, not only what shows up on paper.

5.3 Balancing Innovation and Tradition

Starting fresh with AI means looking again at old school habits - some stay, others go. Proof shows the old ways fit alongside new ones when balanced right. Things like developing your own way of writing, pushing through tough books, or studying stories closely still matter deeply. Patience grows here. So does personal expression. Both remain powerful even as screens take over learning spaces.

Right now, teachers can try fresh approaches - using artificial intelligence to give custom feedback that works across large groups while also offering new ways of seeing classic texts.

Done well, tech tools support core lessons instead of replacing them. Staying on track means constantly tweaking how old methods mix with new ones, especially as AI keeps changing.

5.4 Effects on Fairness in Education

When some kids get advanced AI help while others do not, gaps in learning widen fast. Those with strong internet skills plus top-tier tools move ahead quickly, whereas those without fall behind just as fast. Not every school treats tech the same way. Richer ones hand out powerful software and support, something underfunded areas simply can't match. The split shows up inside classrooms, across towns, in how time gets used, and who ends up left out. When kids have parents who understand tech, they often get help others must do without. In poorer countries, shaky internet access makes learning online harder than it is where money flows easier.

Fixing these gaps means bold moves - like government money flowing into free AI programs, help aimed at country classrooms, plus beefed-up tech networks. Without those steps, artificial intelligence could widen the hole in learning chances even more.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Summary of Contributions

A fresh look at ethics, past research, and real-world results shapes how we see artificial intelligence in teaching English. Though machines help sharpen language skills, they also stir deep concerns about fairness, hidden biases, honesty in learning, and students thinking for themselves. Instead of seeing reading and grammar as separate worlds, this work ties them together through shared problems. Key clashes come into view - old ways against new tools, thoroughness weighed against speed, relying on tech compared to growing stronger with its aid. A fresh approach takes shape when safeguards meet tools made for today's classrooms. What follows is shaped by shared values already recognized across universities. Rules for using artificial intelligence begin here, rooted in what most agree matters right now.

6.2 Limitations

It is worth mentioning that some limits exist here. Because tech moves fast, what we see now about AI could look different later. Looking only at English texts means useful work in other tongues got left out. Sticking just to academic journals might miss fresh teaching ideas popping up outside usual classrooms. Pulling together so many varied studies tends to smooth over fine details each one carries.

6.3 Recommendations for Practice

Few clear steps come into view after looking things over

Teachers should learn how AI works - what it can do, where it falls short. Assign tasks that make students think critically when using AI instead of skipping steps. Show caution when accepting AI answers without question. Prioritize parts of education machines cannot replicate, like judging right from wrong or understanding social backgrounds.

Schools should build clear guidelines around artificial intelligence, supporting new ideas but penalizing copied work. Teachers need ongoing training so they stay up to date on how AI changes learning. Every student must have fair chances to use AI tools, helping those left behind catch up. Data used by these systems ought to be open about sources, with strong safeguards protecting personal information.

Look into how artificial intelligence changes thinking over time - support studies that track these shifts year after year. When rules are made, make sure they hold systems responsible, especially when bias shows up. Help neighborhoods with slow internet get what they need to keep pace. Work across borders so schools everywhere follow shared principles, not just local guesses.

6.4 Future Research Directions

Subsequent academic inquiries must prioritize the following areas:

Over time, watching students closely could show how depending on artificial intelligence shapes their thinking. Years pass. Learning who they are as scholars might shift when machines help too much. What grows inside their minds? Answers need patience. Following real lives across months, then years, reveals what short tests never can.

Looking into kids compared to college students might show how growing up shapes using tech in school. What changes happen at certain ages could affect learning with machines.

One big gap sits right in the middle of how schools teach literature - almost no studies look at what AI actually does in those spaces. Figuring out how it changes deep reading might start with paying attention to real classroom moments. Without evidence, guesses fill the silence around artful thinking and machine tools. What happens when students analyze poems alongside algorithms stays mostly unknown. Answers need more than theory - they need observation, messy and close-up. Until someone watches closely, assumptions run the show.

Looking into different cultures helps show how language and local customs shape the way people use artificial intelligence. Studies across countries could uncover patterns in acceptance, resistance, or adaptation of these systems.

Rooting future AI tests in proven teaching ideas keeps them credible. Because learning science matters, skip untested methods. After all, solid theory backs real progress. Not every tech trend fits education. So anchor innovations where research points. That way, results mean something. Without foundations, even smart tools drift.

Grading schools will need fresh rules soon, simply because computers now write essays too. A shift comes when machines draft papers once made by hand. New ways to score work must hold steady without losing strict standards. Teachers face pressure as software mimics student voices more each day. Old checklists fall short where artificial words flow freely. Fair judgment means rethinking marks from start to finish. Rules stuck in the past risk failing tomorrow's classrooms.

6.5 Final Reflections

Putting AI in English classes does not erase old teaching ways - it shifts how we face long-standing learning struggles. Questions about honesty in work, why school matters, what thinking brings - all stirred up again by machines - have lived in classrooms for ages. Teachers need steady judgment, sidestepping wild enthusiasm just as much as outright rejection. Tools shaped by code offer no automatic doom, bring no miracle fix - the way people use them sets their worth. Not everything new breaks tradition. Meaning grows from choices, not features. Aim high with AI, but keep sight of lasting aims - growing passion for writing, shaping sharper minds, one lesson at a time. Success leans on teamwork between leaders, schools, educators, each playing their part. Progress means trying things that might not work. Above all, hold tight to what matters in education. In the end, classrooms belong to people; real growth comes through strong guidance, clear insight, meaning beneath every word spoken.

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