

Plenary Lecture 3

Enhancing EIL Pronunciation Teacher Capabilities for a New Era

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The new era has been dramatically changed by artificial intelligence (AI), which is revolutionising various sectors, particularly through large language models (LLMs). AI's impact on language teacher education has been equally profound and far-reaching. This presentation offers an overview of how language education and teacher capabilities, particularly in EIL pronunciation, have the potential to leverage AI's resources to provide unprecedented experiences of personalised learning for individual and group needs. These opportunities include adaptive learning systems, text-to-speech affordances, collaborative learning across time zones and geographical locations, automated grading, virtual tutoring, and inclusive accessibility tools such as immediate closed captions. While the advantages of AI are evident and exciting, the challenges and concerns AI poses are less frequently discussed. Ethical considerations include data privacy issues and the responsible use of AI models to maintain respect and inclusivity for diverse learners. This also extends to the need to teach EL communications skills for linguistic diversity, equity and inclusion. Another concern is how dominant languages, such as English, used in LLMs may contribute to the extinction, rather than the sustainability, of other languages and varieties. This keynote will explore potential ethical applications of AI in language and teacher education, and address the importance of equitable access to AI. Using Singapore as a case study, this keynote will examine how language teacher education needs to strike a balance between addressing the issues and challenges of EIL pronunciation teaching, and empowering language teachers and teacher educators through underlying frameworks that enable educators and learners. The keynote introduces a new theoretical framework known as the Cline of Glocality. In tandem with the implications of Gardner's (2008) Five Minds for the future for EIL pronunciation teaching, the keynote postulates the necessity of two additional minds and 8 effective habits of the EIL pronunciation teacher to navigate this new era.



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