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AI AND THE CLASSROOM: WHY THE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE TEACHER REMAINS IRREPLACEABLE

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Abstract

This paper explores the increasing presence of artificial intelligence in contemporary classrooms and examines its implications for language and literature teaching. While AI has significantly enhanced educational practices through improved access to information, structured content delivery, and instructional efficiency, this paper argues that language education remains deeply rooted in human expression, interpretation, and emotional engagement. Drawing from reflective classroom experience, it highlights the limitations of AI in addressing ambiguity, contextual nuance, and individual student needs. The discussion emphasises that teaching extends beyond the transmission of knowledge to include the interpretation of meaning shaped by lived human experience. It further asserts that teachers play a crucial role in fostering emotional connection, intellectual development, and critical thinking—dimensions that AI cannot fully replicate. The paper concludes by positioning AI as a supportive educational tool rather than a replacement for human teachers.

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence, Language Teaching, Literature, Human Expression, Education, etc.

Full Article

As artificial intelligence rapidly enters classrooms, a critical question emerges: can it replace the language teacher? I have often been part of conversations where people suggest that AI is going to replace teachers.

While AI may influence all teaching domains, my thoughts here come from the lens of a language and literature teacher. Every subject carries its own human essence, but in literature, that connection feels especially deep.

AI has undeniably enhanced teaching across subjects by improving access to information, structuring content, and supporting learning. I have seen it play a major role in creating organised notes, presentations, and resources that make teaching more efficient. However, when it comes to language and literature, the essence of the subject lies not just in information, but in human expression, interpretation, and emotional connection. AI can support education, but replacing the human teacher is a different matter altogether. My perspective aligns with a quote I once came across:

“I want AI to do my laundry and dishes so that I can do art and writing — not for AI to do my art and writing so that I can do my laundry and dishes.”

I believe AI should assist and improve the education system, but its complete replacement of human teachers may not be a good idea.



The Subject of Expression:

When it comes to language and literature, I find it difficult to accept the idea of AI replacing teachers. Literature is, at its core, a subject of expression. The way a human being interprets and conveys it cannot be fully replicated by an algorithm-driven system.

It is difficult to imagine AI replacing a language teacher. While AI can express itself in impressive ways, it cannot connect language to students in the way a teacher does in the classroom. It cannot truly understand students or respond to their emotional and intellectual needs. We, as teachers, are not merely delivering lessons; we are shaping minds through the lived experiences we have gathered over time.

I remember once teaching English grammar when a student asked me, “Sir, is star countable or uncountable?” There were multiple possible answers — countable, uncountable, common, concrete, even a mass noun. The student was confused, but I was able to guide them by providing the right nuance and context. That is the essence of teaching — the human understanding behind knowledge.

Teaching is not merely the delivery of knowledge, but the interpretation of it through human experience. AI may organise information, but it cannot replace the lived understanding, emotional connection, and intellectual guidance that a teacher brings to the classroom.

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