

Bibliometric Mapping of ChatGPT Use in Language Education:

Evolution, Trends, and Future Directions

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KEY TERMS



Generative AI (GenAI)
A type of artificial intelligence that creates new content, including text, images, code, audio and video.



Bibliometric Analysis
A quantitative method used to analyse scientific literature by examining publications, citations, authors, keywords and other patterns to map a research field.



Educational Technology (EdTech)
The use of digital tools and technologies to support teaching, learning and educational processes.

WHAT CAN I LEARN?



Gain an overview of how ChatGPT is being used in language education, current research trends, main areas of focus, and practical recommendations for teachers.



The study maps **222 Web of Science articles (2023–2025)** using bibliometric analysis to reveal publication trends, influential journals, institutions, authors, countries, and research theme

WHAT DOES IT FIND?



A RAPIDLY GROWING FIELD

- Publication output increased by **117.7% annually**, demonstrating exceptionally rapid growth.
- Most studies (71.6%) were collaboratively authored, although international collaboration remains comparatively limited.



RESEARCH FOCUS

- Nearly half of all publications focused on **academic writing**.
- Other major themes included language and grammar, the writing process, critical thinking, research literacy, creativity, and technical writing.



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

- **China** produced the largest body of research and received the greatest citation impact.
- The **United States, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Malaysia** were also major contributors.



EMERGING THEMES

- The most influential studies examine ChatGPT's role in **writing instruction, learner perceptions, teacher feedback, and AI-assisted language learning**.
- **Ethical use, academic integrity, and responsible integration** are recurring topics.



RESEARCH GAPS

- Research remains **heavily concentrated on writing**, leaving other language skills comparatively underexplored.
- **Greater attention is needed** to teacher education, environmental impact, AI ethics, AI-supported lesson planning and instructional design, and geographically diverse educational contexts.

HOW CAN I USE THE FINDINGS?



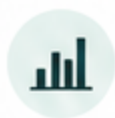
Use ChatGPT primarily for **writing support**, where the current evidence base is strongest.



Design activities that **promote critical thinking** by asking students to evaluate, revise and improve AI-generated responses.



Teach **responsible AI use explicitly**, including ethical, transparent and academically honest use of ChatGPT.



Experiment with **ChatGPT beyond writing**, exploring its potential for less-studied language skills while reflecting on student learning.



Continue developing your **own AI literacy** through professional learning as research and classroom applications continue to evolve.