TO USE OR NOT TO USE AI IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

/Summary/

The presentation explores the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in language education, arguing that its use is not a matter of choice but a necessity in the modern digital age. Traditional methods, while effective, no longer appeal to tech-savvy Gen Z learners. AI’s integration into education—from gamified apps at the primary level to content creation and personalized feedback in higher education—has become widespread, especially after the 2022 launch of ChatGPT.

Numerous AI tools support language learning, including Duolingo, Babbel, Talkpal, Rosetta Stone, and MakesYouFluent, offering personalized, interactive, and immersive experiences. AI assists learners with vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and conversational practice, and is particularly effective in online or supplementary learning contexts. However, its classroom use demands careful preparation by teachers.

Benefits for students include adaptive learning, instant feedback, accessibility, and engagement. Teachers benefit from AI in content creation, classroom management, assessment, and plagiarism detection. Institutions use AI to track student progress and streamline administrative tasks. Yet, data shows limited AI adoption among educators.

Despite its advantages, AI presents risks: over-reliance can hinder critical thinking, promote misinformation, reduce human interaction, and widen the digital divide. Teachers face training challenges, while institutions must invest in infrastructure and subscriptions.

To strike a balance, educators should use AI to complement—not replace—human interaction. They must verify AI-generated content, guide responsible student use, and start small with tools they can manage. AI can support speaking practice, assessment design, and professional development, provided the content is accurate and promotes higher-order thinking.

In conclusion, while AI is a powerful tool in language education, it cannot replace human teachers or cultural learning. The optimal approach blends AI with traditional methods, ensuring a balanced, inclusive, and effective learning environment.