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Utilising ChatGPT and Bubbl in My Directed Study Project

ZACHARY FAROUK CHAI, DOCTORAL STUDENT

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

UK

Name of the course of study:

Doctor of Education (EdD), Directed Study in Education

Describe the learning output produced:

This module aims to guide Doctor of Education (EdD) students to plan, design and implement their independent study skills by writing a piece of work on their topic of interest.

AI tool(s) used:

Bubbl and ChatGPT

Explain how AI played a significant role in shaping your educational output:

I used Bubbl to organise my points and thoughts. Bubbl is a helpful AI which actually works like a mind mapping or brainstorming tool. When I did my reading on Mobile-assisted Language Learning (MALL), I organised different terminologies, fundamentals and examples using Bubbl, making my ideas visually connected and I could see the relationships between these concepts. Furthermore, I used ChatGPT to brainstorm ideas related to my topic of interest. Aside from reading different articles on MALL, ChatGPT seemed to help me by aggregating inputs or information from various sources. I would organise the information generated by ChatGPT on Bubbl to identify the relationships between insights that I gained from my reading as well as information generated by ChatGPT.

Furthermore, throughout conducting my directed study, I encountered specific queries and needed some clarification especially regarding theoretical framework that might potentially ground the integration of MALL in second language learning. I found ChatGPT was able to answer a complex question like What are the educational theories that support MALL in the context of second language teaching and learning and how these theories support the implementation of MALL?. ChatGPT has a vast knowledge base to understand and respond to my questions.

Another significant impact of using ChatGPT throughout my directed study was enhancing my critical thinking. ChatGPT is considered an advanced GAI to provide tests that resemble human writing based on the contexts given by a person using it (van Dis et al., 2023). When ChatGPT provided responses and answered my questions, it led me to think about MALL from different perspectives. The conversation I had with ChatGPT engaged me in deeper learning to enhance my critical thinking skills.

Context of AI output production:

The context of the ChatGPT output was developed mainly to answer my inquiries on the topic MALL. The responses given by ChatGPT were used to tailor and clarify my ideas and thoughts after reading articles related to MALL.

I would say it was more like a personalised response given to answer my questions. The responses given were rather practical, creative and effective to assist my direct study. AI has the ability to converse with its users smartly and multilingually, opening for innovative and exciting inputs to writing (Barrot, 2023).

Detail the process you followed when interacting with the AI tool(s):

These are the steps that I did using these two AIs in doing my directed study:

1. I started using ChatGPT by asking some questions related to ideas on MALL that would be beneficial for me as a doctoral student.
2. I screened information that I got from ChatGPT. I compared the information with other sources like books and research papers.
3. I used Bubbl to create a mind map for all the information and insights I gained from my reading and ChatGPT. The mind map was more like a structure which contained points like introduction, key concepts, contents and concluding remarks.
4. I also used to draft my write-up. The draft generated by ChatGPT was used as a base for me to refine.
5. After writing, I discussed my arguments with ChatGPT. Sometimes, I purposely ask ChatGPT to counterpoint my points.
6. I reviewed my write-up using Bubbl and ChatGPT by referring to the mind map, checking coherence and flow. I also used ChatGPT for editing such as checking for clarity and grammatical errors.

Key learnings and recommendations:

Integrating AI in my directed study was really beneficial. Firstly, using ChatGPT and Bubbl sped up the process of gaining information. ChatGPT gave me quick access to various data and perspectives on MALL. I also learned the importance of critically evaluating information provided by ChatGPT. By comparing the information with other reliable sources, I could ensure the accuracy and reliability of the responses given. In terms of using Bubbl, it helped to organise and structure my ideas more effectively. Instead of using the traditional way of outlining my essay, I was able to visually map out all points and see the relationships between ideas. More importantly, using AI has taught me to balance between AI assistance and my personal inputs. While ChatGPT provided lots of a solid foundation, I learned that it was my thought and evaluation that added depth and originality to my write-up. To sum up, ChatGPT and Bubble are effective in improving my writing productivity and generating well-organised, informative and logical writings (Zhai, 2022).

My recommendations for all students, particularly those planning to use AI in a directed study module:

1. Use AI as a starting point to give initial ideas.
2. Be smart and critical in evaluating information generated by AI by comparing with other sources and making connections with our own experiences.
3. Use AI to organise ideas efficiently.
4. Be open-minded to new perspectives or ideas that we may not have considered.

Credits:

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Prof. Chrissi Nerantzi from the School of Education, University of Leeds who was my directed study supervisor for her invaluable guidance and mentorship.

Relevant literature resources

Zhai, X. (2022). ChatGPT user experience: Implications for education. SSRN Electronic Journal. https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4312418

Barrot, J. S. (2023). Using ChatGPT for second language writing: Pitfalls and potentials. Assessing Writing, 57, 100745. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asw.2023.100745

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