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Press Release

A Research Team from HKU Faculty of Education Launches an Innovative AI-Powered Chinese Writing Assessment Platform to Transform Teaching and Learning Experience in Primary and Secondary Schools

Teaching and learning Chinese writing has long been a challenging task for educators and students alike, with teachers struggling to engage students in the writing process and provide personalised feedback, while students often lack motivation and guidance to improve their writing skills. In response to these challenges, a research team from the Faculty of Education at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) has launched its pioneering AI-powered Chinese writing assessment platform —“mAI Mind”. This platform is designed to revolutionise the teaching and learning experience.

Developed with reference to the Hong Kong Chinese Language curriculum framework, genre theory, cognitive process of writing and Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) assessment criteria, the “mAI Mind” platform aims to assist teachers in generating content and level-appropriate sample texts to facilitate their teaching. It can assess their students’ writing performance with comprehensive feedback on various aspects of writing, including content, structure, sentences, vocabulary usage, punctuation, and overall performance within just one minute. The platform also compares students’ vocabulary usage with the Education Bureau’s “Hong Kong Chinese Lexical Lists for Primary Learning”, enabling analysis of students’ word usage habits. This helps deepen and broaden the post-writing feedback and significantly reduces teachers’ workload.

Additionally, the platform provides students with writing suggestions and frameworks, such as suggesting relevant phrases, sentences, and recommendations for introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions to support them during the ideation stage of writing, which can help alleviate their learning anxiety. The “mAI Mind” also provides feedback on students’ performance, offering valuable insights for improvement and advancement.

Over the past six months, seven schools have successfully integrated the “mAI Mind” platform into their school-based Chinese writing curriculum, witnessing remarkable results. The platform has proven effective in addressing the challenges in writing education, providing timely and personalised writing suggestions and feedback for students, and significantly improving their writing attitudes and motivation in a short period. As a result, the students have experienced long-term enhancement of their writing abilities.

“We are thrilled to see the positive impact that ‘mAI Mind’ has had on both teachers and students in such a short time,” said Professor Loh Ka Yee Elizabeth, Assistant Dean (Knowledge Exchange) of the Faculty, who led the research and development team. “Our goal is to continue enhancing our platform and adding new functions to empower educators and inspire students to reach their full potential in Chinese writing.”

One of the students of Po Leung Kuk Wong Wing Shui Primary School expressed that the platform’s feedback helped him understand his strengths and weaknesses in writing while providing suggestions for improvement, enhancing the overall structure and aesthetics of his compositions. Ms Choi Ching Yan, a teacher from the same school, praised the platform for its comprehensive and specific feedback, time-saving features, and user-friendly operation.

Ms Keung Yee Wan, panel head of Chinese Language from Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School, observed that students actively engaged in self-directed learning and sought self-improvement by inputting their writing into the platform and continuously revising their writing by receiving instant feedback throughout the writing process.

The development of the “mAI Mind” demonstrates the Faculty of Education’s commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology to enhance teaching and learning. The system’s data analysis capabilities not only alleviate teachers’ assessment pressures but also enhance the focus and depth of writing feedback. By providing targeted and meaningful guidance, the “mAI Mind” is transforming the learning and teaching landscape of Chinese writing.

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