

# Research on the innovative path of chatgpt in college English writing teaching

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**Abstract:** The emergence of ChatGPT (Chatbot), with its large-scale language model, has caused a stir in the academic and educational circles. Its massive corpus and powerful computing power have brought an opportunity for the reform of English writing teaching. How to use ChatGPT conversational AI technology to change the teaching concept of college English writing and innovate the teaching mode of writing has become an important issue for teachers to improve the quality of writing teaching. Based on the characteristics of AI technology, this paper expounds the theoretical basis of ChatGPT enabling college English education, and analyzes the existing problems in college English writing teaching from the perspectives of students' language expression ability, teachers' writing teaching activities and network writing resources. In addition, from four dimensions of exploring ChatGPT's educational function, using ChatGPT to retrieve information, integrating direct and indirect feedback, and using ChatGPT learning environment, this paper discusses the reform path of college English writing teaching.

**Key words:** ChatGPT; College English; Writing teaching; Paths

## Introduction

In November 2022, the United States Artificial Intelligence Research Laboratory used deep learning algorithms to generate a language model similar to human language and launched an AI chatbot -- ChatGPT, which can complete the task of talking with humans by analyzing a large number of phrases, words and text data. According to the dialog box information, ChatGPT can quickly analyze the context of information, generate diversified and natural answers, and output language that fits human habits. Before ChatGPT appeared in the public eye, various artificial intelligence technologies were widely used in foreign language education, such as intelligent translation, intelligent speech, intelligent correction and other technologies, which can be used by teachers to carry out oral English conversation, reading and writing teaching activities. As a chatbot with powerful language model and computing power, ChatGPT will enable foreign language writing teaching and writing learning activities in the future. It is necessary for teachers to correctly understand the application functions of ChatGPT and promote the integration of artificial intelligence technology with English writing teaching.

## I. Theoretical basis of ChatGPT enabling English writing teaching in colleges and universities

### 1. Ensure the synergy of language communication and interaction

When learning a foreign language, students lack real language communication and use situations, coupled with the limitations of classroom teaching objectives and teaching time, it is difficult for students to obtain good opportunities for language communication and writing training. Based on the interaction theory, by introducing ChatGPT, teachers can give full play to the real-time conversation function of the robot and use a large number of language training resources collected in it to guide students to have a dialogue with the robot, so as to meet the needs of students to participate in language dialogue and writing training at any time.

### 2. Provide a good language learning environment

At present, artificial intelligence technology is often used in thematic English reading, English listening practice and other aspects, these intelligent systems can assist teachers to carry out English teaching. Compared with other web chatbots, ChatGPT's advantages are reflected in real-time question and answer and ease of use. It is loaded with optimization algorithms, common result caching, GPU acceleration, block computing, distributed architecture, etc., and has the ability to quickly respond to user questions within a limited time. By using ChatGPT to carry out English writing teaching, teachers can create a good language learning environment, make students realize the advantages of this tool, and make them more willing to learn English and participate in writing activities with this tool.

### 3. Stimulate the communicative power of language use

Confidence and motivation in second language are closely related to students' willingness to learn. The stronger students' motivation, willingness and confidence in learning, the more they can produce a large amount of speech. However, once anxiety occurs, the willingness to communicate and use language will decline. While chatbot is a virtual human, when talking with ChatGPT, students will not feel anxious because of communication mistakes, but can accumulate language expression and writing experience through repeated communication with the robot, and gradually form writing confidence. At the same time, ChatGPT has a model of listening to others' opinions, and can take the initiative to admit mistakes and optimize answers. By using ChatGPT to implement English writing teaching, teachers can cultivate students' interest in English learning and positive learning attitude, and stimulate their motivation to express and write in English.

### 4. Enhance the communicative experience of language learning

Based on the language dialogue model, ChatGPT can not only generate a variety of language interactive practice content, but also accurately understand user questions and semantics. By using ChatGPT, teachers can encourage students to use English to talk with

intelligent robots, so that they can have a positive and interesting learning experience in multiple rounds of dialogue, and enhance the interest of English writing teaching.

## II. Problems in college English writing teaching

### 1. Students' language expression ability is not strong

From the perspective of their learning experience, many students in our country begin to learn English in third grade. Moreover, English is not their native language, and some of them are frankly difficult to learn and write. For various English writing topics and scenes, they are predisposed to be unable to write. At the same time, English writing is the process of output personal views, students with strong language expression ability can output their own views from multiple perspectives, but students with weak language expression ability often can only start from one or two dimensions, write articles lack of new content, content is not rich enough, logic is not strong, in the long run, it is easy to lose interest in English learning and writing self-confidence.

### 2. Lack of feedback from English writing teaching

In order to meet the needs of most students, teachers usually design writing topics around unit topics. However, due to the large number of students in the class, it is difficult to fully understand each student's writing situation and level, and it is not possible to give timely feedback, resulting in inefficient writing teaching.

## III. Innovative application path of ChatGPT in college English writing teaching

### 1. Explore ChatGPT's educational function and arrange writing activities reasonably

First of all, teachers should have a correct understanding of the application orientation of ChatGPT, combine with the characteristics of English teaching, and explore the educational function of ChatGPT. English teaching is inseparable from the two-way interaction between teachers and students. Teachers should regard ChatGPT as a teaching aid, combine students' interests, hobbies and personality characteristics, and flexibly use the functions of chatbot to guide students to explore, discover and learn knowledge. Secondly, teachers can integrate ChatGPT into the writing class. ChatGPT can provide foreign language learners with personalized learning environment, exploratory learning process, and diversified learning activities. Incorporate ChatGPT into your writing activities in the following ways. In order to guide students to master effective learning methods, teachers can carry out project-based, problem-solving and collaborative inquiry teaching activities, make use of unit topics to develop independent learning and writing tasks, let students choose writing content that they are interested in, and use ChatGPT tools to collect and understand relevant topics. After receiving the task, students can analyze the situation of the writing task, understand the advantages of AI tool assisted learning, according to the requirements of the writing project, and chat robot to start a dialogue, in a relaxed dialogue, the initial formation of writing ideas, and data collection, complete an English composition. In addition, teachers should be aware of the limited content of English textbooks. For students facing CET 4 or CET 4 or CET 8, the writing topics from the textbooks have certain limitations, the topics are not novel enough, and the materials are relatively limited. At this time, teachers can use ChatGPT to prepare English writing teaching lessons, or directly integrate this tool into the writing class, and use the dialogue function of the tool to screen out the contemporary writing topics related to the teaching content, so as to broaden students' writing horizons.

### 2. Use ChatGPT to retrieve information and reasonably collect writing materials

At present, ChatGPT has shown certain value in academic paper writing, which impacts students' critical thinking and creativity. Therefore, teachers should guide students to establish the concept of honesty, correct their learning attitude, make reasonable use of ChatGPT tools, organize students to use the tool retrieval function, critically screen information, and give play to the auxiliary role of ChatGPT in English writing. In the process of writing, students can use ChatGPT as an information retrieval and resource screening tool to search for expressions related to topics. Taking the writing topic of "procrastination" as an example, teachers can let students do it themselves, chat with ChatGPT, search the causes, phenomena, definitions and solutions related to the topic, and let them know how to write a well-framed and logical article, clarify the writing method and writing ideas. In order to break through the shortcomings of traditional English writing teaching, teachers can set ChatGPT as a digital tutor and carry out personalized writing activities. Students can ask questions to the chatbot to correct their wrong cognition and opinions and deepen their impression on vocabulary or grammar when they have problems or confusion in writing. Teachers can also guide students to use ChatGPT to generate the beginning or prompt of the writing topic, so that students can refer to the sentences or vocabulary provided by the tool, discuss the writing ideas and enrich the writing content.

### 3. Integrate direct and indirect feedback to improve the quality of writing teaching

Within a certain period of time, ChatGPT can use algorithms and language models to retrieve language knowledge points from a huge corpus and output coherent language texts. No matter how many questions users ask, this tool can give comprehensive and systematic feedback. In English classes, it is difficult for teachers to give comprehensive feedback to students due to the large number of students and heavy teaching tasks. Therefore, teachers can cooperate with ChatGPT to combine indirect feedback from teachers with direct feedback from AI tools to guide students to actively participate in English writing modification activities, so that they can quickly think about problems, find writing deficiencies and practice their writing ability in ChatGPT conversation. At the same time, ChatGPT can break through the limitations of time and space and give feedback directly to students, but the feedback has a certain passivity, only when students give instructions or ask questions, they can give feedback. Although the teacher's feedback is limited by time and space, it can quickly capture the writing situation

of students in class and give targeted help, and the feedback is characterized by initiative. Therefore, teachers should combine classroom writing teaching with students' extracurricular writing needs, design online and offline writing teaching activities, use class time to focus on solving students' writing problems, improve the efficiency of classroom writing teaching, and use ChatGPT passive feedback function to let students communicate with AI online to form personalized revision and problem solving solutions. By integrating online and offline writing teaching activities, teachers can combine indirect and direct feedback, integrate English writing teaching and feedback in and out of class, form a long-term writing training mechanism, timely understand students' writing rules and progress, and adjust teaching plans.

#### 4. Guide students to write after class with ChatGPT learning environment

ChatGPT tools provide conditions for students to learn writing independently. In the past writing practice, students tend to encounter the situation that peer evaluation is nowhere to be found, no one is quiet after writing, and there is no way to revise. ChatGPT can just solve the above problems. First of all, teachers can break out of the closed writing teaching evaluation system in English classroom and use ChatGPT tool to combine English writing projects with social development, so that students can understand the themes of the new era through dialogue with chatbots and stimulate their enthusiasm for independent writing. Secondly, teachers can guide students to use ChatGPT to make English learning plans and English writing training plans. When making the English writing training plan, students can ask questions to ChatGPT. The system provides a monthly review, a weekly plan, a daily schedule and other plans. Considering the need to improve multiple language skills at the same time, students can combine vocabulary, grammar and writing training. According to the progressive learning plan provided by ChatGPT, students can start from memorizing vocabulary and learning grammar knowledge, and gradually transition to using vocabulary and grammar, and participate in open writing training. Specifically, according to the recent English learning content and personal interests, students can communicate with ChatGPT to train their language skills in light of the recent problems encountered in reading, translation and grammar learning in a relaxed virtual conversation, and realize language input and output without interference. On this basis, students can communicate with ChatGPT in combination with their writing problems to obtain writing sub-tasks that are easier to achieve and less difficult. By gradually exploring and completing sub-tasks, students can accumulate writing experience and form writing confidence.

## IV. Concluding Remarks

To sum up, promoting the combination of ChatGPT and college English writing teaching is related to the modernization of English teaching and the individuation of students' learning. Therefore, teachers should have a correct understanding of the opportunities and challenges brought by ChatGPT to English writing teaching, and integrate this tool into the whole process of English writing teaching on the premise of emphasizing honest writing, so as to meet students' personalized learning needs. Specifically, by tapping ChatGPT's educational function, using tools to retrieve information, integrating direct and indirect feedback, and using ChatGPT's learning environment, students should be guided to learn how to use artificial intelligence technology, learn to construct English writing framework, use novel writing materials to write independently, cultivate their critical thinking and creative thinking, and improve their writing ability.

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