

Using Generative AI for Language Teacher Professional Development: Evolving Practices in the Southeast Asian Region

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Language Teacher Professional Development (LTPD)

Continual process of intellectual, experiential, and attitudinal growth leading to improved quality of teaching and student performance (Meniado, 2024)

Types/activities

Self-determined independent learning, mentoring, coaching, work-based projects, action research, individual reading of relevant articles, personal reflection, study groups, enrolment in post-graduate courses, and participation in formal training, workshops, and conferences (Meniado, 2024)

Qualities of effective LTPDs

Impactful, needs-based, context-based, practical, engaging, sustained, collaborative, reflective, measurable, long-term and intensive (Meniado, 2024)

Issues and challenges in ASEAN contexts

Lack of sufficient time; incompatibility or irrelevance of the content of the TPD programs to their work contexts; insufficient financial resources; lack of support from school management; lack of a system properly incentivizing LTPD participation; not personally meaningful to language teachers; often conducted in a one-shot, one-size-fits-all model; tend to be transmissive rather than transformational (Meniado, 2024)

Generative AI-supported LTPD

- Using generative AI tool for any purpose, form, activity, or process of TPD to transform teachers' knowledge, skills, perspectives, and attitudes towards teaching (Cukuruva et al., 2024).
- Language Teacher – AI Interaction/Collaboration to: a) seek advice and assistance in planning and completing learning and development tasks; b) practice different teaching approaches and strategies using Gen-AI as a simulator; and c) facilitate teacher reflection and action research (Peachey, 2024).

Benefits of Generative AI-supported LTPD

Personalization of professional learning and development goals and activities; better understanding of complex concepts and theories; application of educational concepts and theories in simulated scenarios; enhancement of language teachers' learning achievement, self-worth, and self-confidence; development of higher critical thinking and task efficiency

How do ASEAN language teachers use Gen AI for their independent language teacher professional development?

- Designer of structured personalized professional development initiatives
- Immediate source of new ideas in completing tasks
- Professional learning facilitator
- A tool for developing or adapting instructional materials
- Knowledge provider
- Explainer and illustrator of complex/abstract concepts
- Effective Communication support

Conclusion

- Gen AI is used as a learning assistant, facilitator, adviser, source of knowledge, and collaborator in LTPD.
- The role of Gen AI in LTPD is being recognized.
- Increasing Human-AI collaboration in LTPD
- New digital/AI literacies needed to collaborate effectively with Gen AI for LTPD

Future directions

- expand existing knowledge and discourse about the affordances of Gen AI
- provide more models and exemplars of Gen AI-supported LTPD
- develop AI literacy/fluency to transform mindset or attitudes toward the use of Gen AI for TPD
- partner with various agencies and communities to secure funding and support for the needed technological infrastructure and training for teachers

References

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