



Exploring the AI Assisting Tools for Reading: An In-depth Analysis

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Abstract

AI or Artificial Intelligence is all-pervading and the new dawn of the digital era. AI opens for infinite possibilities in every domain. Artificial Intelligence is the giant leap of programming, leading the machines to develop the sixth sense or simulate the Human Intelligence. AI has left no stone unturned and Reading as the basic activity, skill and art has also been enhanced by AI. Reading is the act of interpreting the symbols and figures to make sense out of the message, conveyed by the writer. Reading involves multiple aspects of brain and is not as simple and natural as opined in general. AI aids in the reading process of basic level learners to advanced research level reading with its multiple tools. Reading is being transformed significantly by AI which is recently integral part of learning environment as said by Luckin, 2016. This paper analyses the role of AI in reading process and lists the variety of tools available from kinder garden Reading to Research reading.

Keywords: AI, Artificial Intelligence, Reading, AI assistive Tools and Contextual Reading

Introduction

AI or Artificial Intelligence is a giant leap in the evolution of man-kind, AI is nothing but machines with Intelligence. The Intelligence or the thinking, decision making and executing aspect of the machines upgrades the human lives, saving time and energy. Since decades AI is being a part of our life in its primitive form as Pre-programmed gadgets and automated electronic tools. The advanced version is just use of more sensors and automated controls. Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning are used to create tutoring systems which provides Real time feedback and support in building reading skills, Vanlehn (2011)

Reading in Academics is a basic, foundation skill and the rapidly mushrooming AI tools to assist reading is a boon. AI tools are available in plenty for basic reading component's enhancement like Phonics, Phonemics, Fluency, and comprehension. In research the AI tools helps to summarize, analyse and interpret the data of the research findings. The free version and Trial period of Paid version are available to learn its features and leverage its adoption and usage.

Definition: Artificial Intelligence

AI HLEG definition of AI "Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are software (and possibly also hardware) systems designed by humans²⁵ that, given a complex goal, act in the physical or digital dimension by perceiving their environment through data acquisition, interpreting the collected structured or unstructured data, reasoning on the knowledge, or processing the information, derived from this data and deciding the best action(s) to take to achieve the given goal. AI systems can either use symbolic rules or learn a numeric model, and they can also adapt their behaviour by analysing how the environment is affected by their previous actions." (AI HLEG, 2019a)

As per Mc Carthy(2007)“It is the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs. It is related to the similar task of using computers to understand human intelligence, but AI does not have to confine itself to methods that are biologically observable.”
“Intelligence is the computational part of the ability to achieve goals in the world. Varying kinds and degrees of intelligence occur in people, many animals, and some machines.”

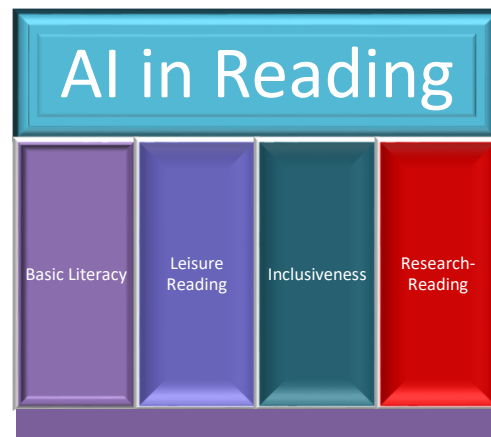


Fig:1; Representation of the AI Tools for various Reading Context

AI Tools supporting basic Literacy

Microsoft Coach: Basic Literacy development through Read-aloud strategy. The application helps in pronunciation, phonics, and phonemes. A free, open access feature designed for Kinder garden and utilized by reading instructors.

Word Coach: An initiative of Google helps to build vocabulary and language skills. The feature attracts and sustains the focus of the learners as its fun-based and interactive. <https://www.googlewordcoach.com/>

Amira Learning : The Education Platform listens to the students through speech recognition and provides real time tutoring and builds the literacy skills. The platform offers personalized and tailored content as per individual student’s capacity and style, hosts a Library of stories which interests the students reading. Using the platform 20 minutes per day, weekly twice has given proven results (Independent Research).<https://www.amiralearning.com/>

Ello: English Listening Lesson Library Online is a web-based feature that recommends physical book, recognizes the reading of the books through speech recognition and provides coaching to read based on phonics and phonemes. The Speech recognition and adaptive learning technology is utilized for enhancing the reading skills. <https://www.ello.org/>

Ready for Reading: AI based phonics system in both print and digital mode to provide phonic instruction to the learners independently and supports the teachers to analyse the Phonics and Phonemes individually to provide custom-based instructions. <https://www.readyforreading.org/>

Wiseone helps in deriving better reading experiences by exploring and recommending additional resources, getting definitions and summaries. <https://wiseone.io/>

Language Learning Apps: Applications that help learn language and enhance linguistic skills can be listed infinitely. some popular Apps are: *Duolingo, Talkpal, Univerbal, Memrise, LangAI, Lune AI, Lingual coach, Fela, Babbel, Falou, Jumpspeak, simplr.*



AI Tools aiding Leisure Reading

AI supports and encourages leisure reading, the declining trend in leisure reading is overcome by analysing the user's interest and routing the relevant genre to the reader.

The AI tools make use of the data on user's preferences from various sources like their

1. Reading Lists and the reading materials purchased
2. Reading history
3. Rating and Reviews for the materials read
4. Browsing behaviour
5. Sentimental Analysis of the preferred genre content accessed through their online. This helps them to gather the right material that matches the taste and interest of the user and route to them.

The AI applications available to the common user are growing in number and features. Some of the widely acclaimed are GoodReads, Wattpad, Scribd, EPIC, MyOn, HeadSprout, Learning Ally Audiobooks, Light Sail, Newsela, Rewordify, commonLit, Actively Learn, Amplify Reading, StudySync, Literal, Serial Reader, Story Graphs, Kobo Books, Bookly, Bookmory, FBReader, Aldiko, Nook, and Google Playbooks. Most of them are free tools or free to try for a grace period. To proceed beyond the trial period and with enhanced features requires payment.

AI Reading Tools for Inclusivity

AI has opened the doors for a range of Tools and Applications which convert Image or Text to Speech to assist the Visually challenged. Tools that convert speech to text to facilitate reading for patrons with hearing challenges.

AI Tools for Visually Challenged

Braille AI – An online tool that displays translated digital text and web elements like charts and Infographics in Braille helping not only blind but also the deaf-blind to comprehend the web content

Natural Reader: A free online tool to convert text to speech instantly. Other features include voice changer, generating sound related to a text, cloning of other's voice is also facilitated.

Speechify: Helps to listen to online text as speech. With minimum features it's freely available as a Chrome extension.

Be My Eyes: An Application developed to identify the objects and manage daily life. An Online community of volunteers receive the photos or videos of the objects or the scene surrounding from random visually challenged individuals which the volunteer explains. The Speech Synthesis technology is used to read out loud the content.

Be My AI is the recent development of Be My Eyes, based on Open AI. The App is used for a variety of purposes like describing the people around, identifying the clothes and Reading texts.

Seeing AI is an MS Tool that is available free to help the visually challenged to listen about the objects, scenes and facial expression of people and recognize multiple page documents.

NVDA or Non Visual Desktop Access - works with MS as a screen reader for assisting visually challenged.



Dolphin Easy Reader - A Note taking software which also aids in live transcription of the content

Robobraille - A website freely accessible to load files to convert to formats which are convenient to assimilate the content.

Murf - An AI backed platform converts text to highly realistic speech with wide choices of voice, language and accents

Play.ht- helps in text-to-speech process with variety of output choices. Highly customizable with many languages, accents, voices and emotions.

AI Tools for the Hearing Impaired/Loss

Audiopen: is a facility that converts Audio to text to help learners with listening disorders or with perception issues pertaining to accent.

Otter AI The basic version is a open platform to convert spoken or audio to written texts in real time.

RogerVoice is a tool that helps in transcribing group or one-to-one conversations.

Balabolka is a free Application converts Text-to-Speech. Its widely acclaimed for its flexibility and quality. Read Aloud facility.

AI Reading Tools for Speech Impaired

The TTS technology to convert text to speech is primarily used in these tools to convert text to Audio for the individuals with speech impairment. Some of the built-in tools are the

Google Text to speech, Apple Voice over/Speak Screen, Microsoft Narrator or Read Aloud,

Google Chrome Extension like Helper Bird and Read Aloud.

Google's Parrottron Helps individual with speaking difficulties or stammering to convert distorted speech to Fluent speech for their presentation.

Project Activate aids the non-verbal persons to communicate through eye movement and gestures.

Speechify, Natural Reader and TTS Reader are reading tools available online free of payments.

Eleven Reader Developed by Eleven Labs supports communicating in various languages and formats.

AI Tools for Neuro -Diverse Conditions and Intellectual Disabilities

Studies have shown that SIRI and ALEXA are playing a significantly prominent role in helping children with intellectual disability to lead a nearly-normal life.

Read Easy.AI -A tool that simplifies the complex text to easily understandable. Available as chrome extension, integrating with MS Word and Outlook is just a click-away

Quizlet – An app that aids for slow learners and dyslexics. The application is free and has features of digital flash cards, short definitions and for assessment fun-based quiz and tests.

Kahoot is a learning App similar as quizlet and helps conduct quiz online, *Brainscape*, *Quizizz* are the other similar learning platforms with gaming features.



AI Reading Tools for Research

Reading Tools for research papers may be despising but the intellect efforts and stress can be recognized only by the pursuers. Research reading is not as easy as reading any other texts as it demands high intellectuality, involvement and perseverance to perceive and understand the data collected, methods adopted, the process involved in the research.

Enago Read: The AI tool that helps to explore, read, and learn the research papers with minimum efforts. It supports the Academic research by providing the summaries of the research carried out.

Scite .ai helps in evaluating the research papers. The smart citations reveals the context of the citations that helps to get deep insights of the research and for which aspect the citations were received.

Explainpaper: As the name implies the platform explain that part of text which is difficult for the reader. The reader may just highlight the content which he feels ambiguous and unable to comprehend.

SciSpace It has the facility to explore and explain the papers. Clarification and explanation for that part of paper which is unclear may be sought. SciSpace helps in comprehension by Q&A strategy. Scipaper has multi-research aspects which aids in Literature Review, Citations, Data management and plagiarism.

Scholarcy: Summarizes the research articles for ease reading and comprehending. The research may be in any form of Journal Article, Book Chapter in PDF or document.

ChatPDF: Helps to clarify the queries related to the articles.AI based tool for question and answers on the content of research papers.

Casper: Casper is yet another summarizer that also has the added feature of Idea Brainstorming.

JSTOR Text Analyzer: A built-in feature of JSTOR, helps to analyze the research paper before reading it thoroughly.

Semantic Scholar: Semantic Scholar unlike Google Scholar highlights the most important and influential element in any research.

AI2 Scholar: A website to extract, read and understand scholarly information from research papers.

R Discovery: Helps stay updated in the filed of research by forwarding the latest research articles thus helps in Literature Review

Research Rabbit: Aids in Review of related Literature, creates citation Maps and tracks the research trends in the concerned topic.

Paper Digest: Brings to notice not only articles but patent, Grants, and clinical trials of the related research.

AI Reading Tools for Professionals

AI Reading Tools for PDF Processing: The tools which help to analyse, summarise, edits, process the data available in Pdf format is available in plenty. some of which are *pdfgear.com*, *Foxit.com*, *Chatpdf.com*, *aipdf* and *pdf gpt.io*. *AI Reading Tool for Professionals*: A range of AI Assisting tools for Meeting schedules, transcribing, summarizing, Analysing, and highlighting with recommendations for Action and time schedules. These tools provide the email recap facility, schedule and record meetings. The facilities are available for different pricing and the basic level is free and can be tried to learn its potential. *Read AI, Inc*, *Otter.ai*, *Fireflies*. *AI Corp*, *Open AI*, *Avoma, Inc* and *Google Gemini.Incite.ai* provides insights for financial decisions. Every Profession has a unique requirement and multiple customised tools are available which can be personalized by individuals.

Future of AI in Reading

The AI reading tools may grow exponentially with infinite number of online tools budding every dawn which aids in reading for different contexts. The extensive reading is exploding with numerous applications compared to Intensive reading which is deteriorating. The future of reading activity is found to be much dependent on AI tools due to increased use of gadget based digital reading.

Conclusion

The Art and Science of reading will be more advanced, automated, and personalized in the future. AI holds the key for the progress in advancements. The availability of tools for reading are bliss for everyone. The challenge is to cope up with the skill requirement to use the technology and self-regulations for screen time to maintain the digital wellbeing. The Z generations are equally blessed and challenged by the technological upgradations.

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