



Next-Gen AI: Harnessing Generative AI for German Teaching

**A workshop for German Teachers in High Schools and Colleges
APRIL 13TH, 2024, 9AM-2PM**

Please bring a computer and sign up with ChatGPT for this workshop (register in chat.openai.com or bring your login details if you already have an account). We will also be using apps on smartphones, so please bring them as well.

Part 1: "Harnessing Generative AI and Machine Translation for German Teaching: A Comprehensive Workshop"

Join us for an enlightening spring workshop designed for language educators, focusing on the innovative uses of Generative AI and Machine Translation in German teaching. This session, titled "Harnessing Generative AI and Machine Translation for German Teaching: A Comprehensive Workshop," will be great for teachers looking to integrate Artificial Intelligence into their lesson planning to save time and effort.

The aim of this workshop is to empower language educators to use artificial intelligence productively in their work. By the end of our session, you'll be equipped with the knowledge and skills to harness the time-saving potential of ChatGPT and machine translation in your German teaching practice, re-invigorating the way you approach language education. AI is capable of serving as an interlocutor, content provider, teaching assistant, evaluator and many other activities (Jeon & Lee, 2023). It is now time to explore the ins and outs of teachers actively using human-centered artificial intelligence in education.

We will begin with an "Introduction to Generative AI," exploring the fundamentals of how this technology works and its transformative impact in languages education over the past year. This segment will lay the groundwork for understanding the practical applications of Generative AI in language teaching. It will give teachers overview of key terms and an opportunity to establish some criteria for selecting useful tools.

We will then delve into an "Introduction to Machine Translation". No other professional area has been as directly impacted by AI as Language Learning. Machine translation, one of the core aspects of Natural Language Processing, lies at the heart of AI. This could be seen as somewhat threatening, but there is a different way of looking at it: machine translation is also a tool that can be helpful in second language teaching! We will have a look at the mechanics behind free translation websites like DeepL and how they can be applied to create language learning lessons. You'll come away with a repertoire of activities that you and your students can use in the language learning process.

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A significant portion of the workshop is dedicated to "How ChatGPT Can Assist in German Teaching." The workshop will guide you through various strategies to utilize ChatGPT effectively for planning lesson activities. You'll learn how to use this innovative tool to write prompts for assessment pieces, create comprehensive unit plans aligned with curriculum requirements, develop engaging PowerPoint presentations for lessons, and craft worksheets tailored to your students' needs.

Additionally, we will showcase how ChatGPT can be used to script teacher talk in German, providing an invaluable resource for language practice and classroom instruction.

Whether you're a beginner in using AI tools or seeking to expand your existing knowledge, this workshop is tailored to offer valuable insights and practical applications for all levels of expertise. Join in to transform your teaching approach and engage your students with the latest advancements in language education technology. While the capabilities of AI are mind-boggling, they have also highlighted how educational experiences can never be "automated" - language learners are yearning for that interaction with a real person. In fact, instead of losing ground for languages, this is the moment to reclaim language learning as a deeply *human* experience.

Part 2: "Exploring the Intersection of AI and German Literature: Redefining German Teaching through "Enchantment"

Building upon the foundational knowledge from our initial workshop on machine translation and ChatGPT, the second part titled "Exploring the Intersection of AI and German Literature: Redefining German Teaching through "Enchantment" transitions into a content-based exploration of why language teaching can be a key human experience of wonder, and indeed fosters openness to new and unusual experiences. It is easy to focus on the capabilities of modern technologies, but there is a danger that we are losing sight of the unique and magical moments that language learning offers.

This session first looks into language teaching, and specifically Germany teaching, as the site of "enchantment". We define enchantment and link it to languages and languages teaching. Teachers will assemble a collection of arguments and ideas that support their advocacy for German language learning. It's time to reclaim a more central position for language learning in young people's cognitive development, beyond mere "job"-related reasons.

The session then embarks on an exploratory journey into the roles of AI and technology in today's world and their intersection with the teaching of the German language. Participants will create lesson plans that develop students' language skills in the topics of AI and the relationship of humans with machines. The workshop will focus on crafting lessons to explore key contemporary global themes, such as AI in evolving work landscapes, shifting demographics (AI and senior citizens), and using AI to tackle sustainability challenges.

One focal point of the workshop is the exploration of E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Sandman," particularly the character of Olympia, an early literary representation of an android.

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This discussion serves as a springboard into contemporary conversations about AI and robotics, providing a historical lens through which the often uncanny android can be seen. What lies behind the “creepiness” of androids? Why does it feel weird to see a machine that looks like a human? Teachers will develop and share lesson plans on this topic that engage young learners of German with this shared human experience.

Embracing the unusual, both in literature and technology, becomes a key theme. The workshop invites participants to compare the elements of the uncanny in German literature with similar aspects found in modern AI. This includes stimulating discussions around the 'creepy' and eerie sensations elicited by technology, drawing parallels to themes prevalent in German literary works.

Both workshop parts focus on the creation of engaging and interactive student activities and lesson plans. The workshop culminates with a forward-looking discussion about the future role of AI in language teaching, with a special focus on sharing activities, ideas and resources. This workshop will be great for German teachers using their expertise in traditional language teaching methods to explore what is possible with AI, and want to give it that German “twist”!

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