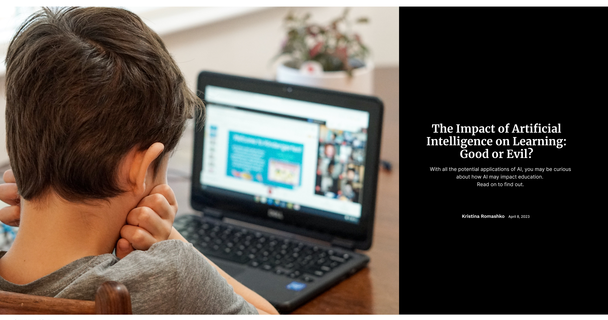






Source: Pixels

Artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT have been grabbing headlines over the last few months, though not always in the best ways, especially when it comes to how they are used in schools and universities. The recent scandal with a student's diploma paper written by a neural network has sparked fears among society regarding the future of artificial intelligence. What to do with it — fight, prohibit, control... or integrate? Let's discuss whether the education system should regard neural networks as an enemy or not.

Students vs Teachers: AI in the classroom

The survey conducted among teachers and students at MGIMO University shows that 97% of students and 75% of teachers have heard about AI programs that can be used in the studying process. While almost half of the students have tried these tools, this number is significantly lower among teachers. Remarkably, many of the respondents used neural networks for entertainment purposes to test how they work. As for the impact of artificial intelligence on education, opinions are divided. Students are definitely more positive about this phenomenon, while teachers tend to consider artificial intelligence a negative trend. Here is what the respondents themselves say about their experience.

> *Sometimes I use it [ChatGPT] to do homework. It helps not only to come up with arguments for an essay but also to perform creative tasks well. For example, when I need to write scenarios. To be honest, I don't see any problem with it. I never copy exactly the same, but rather rely on the text written by the ChatGPT and redo it for my task.*
>
> *The School of International Journalism*
> *4th year student*

> *To be honest, I and other teachers were very puzzled when we first learned about what ChatGPT can do. Now any student can write an essay in 1 minute with ChatGPT and even ask it to use active vocabulary, and the teacher won't even recognize it. That is why we have been thinking about running more oral tests for students.*
>
> *The School of International Journalism*
> *English teacher*

As we can see, there are those who exploit artificial intelligence to do homework. However, experienced teachers successfully detect cases of cheating. At the same time, nowadays there are some tools such as AI Content Detector that can detect any ChatGPT-generated content and AI-generated text. It can facilitate the process of checking work for teachers.

It should also be noted that artificial intelligence is already successfully managing student assignments checking. It can be a tedious task even for experienced teachers, who often note that this time would be much better spent on more thorough preparation for lessons and more active interaction with students. Advances in AI can make this possible.

For example, the works of Russian schoolchildren in humanitarian subjects will be tested in a pilot mode by a neural network. This was reported by RIA Novosti with reference to the press service of the National Technology Initiative (NTI) on December 19, 2022. The program will check essays on the Russian language, literature, history and social studies. The algorithm fixes errors better than the average teacher-expert, the NTI reported. The program finds grammatical, punctuation and semantic mistakes. It is expected that the neural network will save teachers up to 20% of their time.

Will the use of AI be regulated at universities?

Using an AI program is not "plagiarism" in the traditional sense — there's no previous work for the student to copy. It means that AI is making it easier than ever for students to cheat. Will the education system be able to deal with this problem and what effect will artificial intelligence have on education?



Yaroslav Skvortsov,
Dean of the Faculty of International Journalism at MGIMO

> *As for cheating with the help of artificial intelligence, let's leave this moral question. I don't want to engage in moralizing. With the advent of the internet, it has become more convenient to cheat, and I do not think that artificial intelligence is able to aggravate this situation. I think it is much more important how artificial intelligence can help teachers and students improve the educational process. That's what we should bet on. If some mechanical tasks can be performed by artificial intelligence, that's a positive thing. Or, with artificial intelligence, students will be able to better assimilate the material. And then there will be more room for an individual approach to each student, as teachers will be able to concentrate on what is really important.*

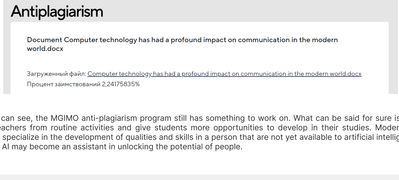
Is AI really that intelligent? Let's check it out

Let's see what will happen if I ask the artificial intelligence ChatGPTBot to write an essay on computer technology.



Telegram screenshot

It turned out to be quite a good job, with a logical structure and arguments. There are no logical and grammatical mistakes in it, and with a high probability the teacher would rate it for a good grade. And now let's check it for anti-plagiarism. What do the results show?



As we can see, the MGIMO anti-plagiarism program still has something to work on. What can be said for sure is that AI can free teachers from routine activities and give students more opportunities to develop in their studies. Modern education should specialize in the development of qualities and skills in a person that are not yet available to artificial intelligence. In the future, AI may become an assistant in unlocking the potential of people.

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