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Meme-ified in Teacher Training: AI-Enhanced Learner-Generated Content for Collaborative Lesson Design

This workshop introduces a research-based approach to integrating AI-supported meme creation tools into English language teacher training. Grounded in a TESOL Quarterly publication, the session explores how trainee teachers engaged in collaborative lesson planning through the creation and critique of pedagogical memes using platforms like imgflip.com.

Framed within the context of learner-generated content (LGC), this process allowed teacher-trainees not only to design contextualized materials but also to develop a deeper understanding of audience awareness, multimodal communication, and visual literacy. Although meme generators operate through semi-automated templates rather than full generative AI, they offer an accessible, low-barrier entry point into AI-enhanced content design. This supports teachers in developing creativity, technological fluency, and collaborative skills —core competencies in 21st-century teacher education.

As the workshop facilitator, I will share practical insights from my teacher-trainer perspective, including strategies for guiding reflective discussions, managing digital tools, and adapting meme-based tasks for diverse TESOL contexts. Attendees will engage hands-on with meme creation and analyze how such tasks can enhance both trainee engagement and student-centered teaching. By the end of the session, participants will leave with strategies for using AI-enhanced visuals in teacher training, fostering both pedagogical creativity and collaborative planning.

Keywords: teacher training, learner-generated content, memes in TESOL, AI-enhanced tools, collaborative lesson planning

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