Training the Trainers: Preparing TESOL Teacher Educators for AI Integration

As artificial intelligence transforms language education, TESOL teacher educators face the critical challenge of preparing future educators to effectively integrate AI tools while maintaining pedagogical integrity. This paper examines current research on AI literacy among teacher educators, identifies key competencies needed for effective AI integration, and proposes a comprehensive professional development framework. Through analysis of recent studies, emerging challenges, and successful implementation strategies, this study presents a roadmap for developing AI-literate teacher educators who can guide the next generation of TESOL professionals. The proposed framework emphasizes critical AI literacy, pedagogical reasoning, ethical considerations, and practical implementation skills while addressing common barriers to adoption. As AI continues reshaping educational landscapes, teacher educators must evolve from technology users to technology leaders, fostering informed, ethical, and effective AI integration in language education.

Keywords: TESOL teacher education, AI integration, professional development, digital literacy, educational technology

Primary author: PHAM, Anh

Presenter: PHAM, Anh

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