

Are we learning vocabulary from CHATGPT?

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Before 2023, words like 'prowess', 'streamline', 'bolster', and 'nuance' were rarely encountered in everyday English, whether in conversation, professional writing, or mainstream media. Even the use of the em dash (—), a punctuation mark more common in formal prose, was relatively uncommon in day-to-day writing. That began to shift dramatically with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Since its public release in late 2022, ChatGPT has become a digital presence almost everywhere. Whether in school assignments, office work, professional writing, video production, or casual conversations, AI tools like ChatGPT have noticeably changed people's vocabulary and stylistic choices by subtly enriching users' linguistic capacities.

A recent study from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development has revealed a notable increase in the use of certain words frequently found in ChatGPT's output. By analysing over 360,000 YouTube videos and around 771,000 podcast episodes spanning from 2019 to mid-2024, researchers observed a significant rise in the prevalence of words such as 'adept', 'meticulous', 'realm', and 'delve' following the release of ChatGPT in late 2022. These terms also appeared commonly in AI-generated texts during earlier experiments, pointing to a growing influence of the language patterns used by AI tools on human speech and communication.

The findings raise important questions about the ways in which AI is shaping human language, not through direct instruction but through constant passive exposure. The research highlights not only changes in vocabulary but also the possibility of broader shifts in tone and expression. While studies

have so far focused primarily on word choice, scientists suspect that AI is also shaping the structure of speech, making it more formal, emotionally restrained, and syntactically ordered: known characteristics associated with ChatGPT's default style.

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People are also concerned that AI is making different forms of English sound too similar, particularly when it comes to local dialects and informal ways of speaking. Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, found that ChatGPT and similar models often struggle with dialects such as Singlish or African American Vernacular English. In some cases, the models simply repeated the input without understanding it. In others, they exaggerated the dialect so much that it sounded cartoon-like. The study argues that these are not just technical mistakes but cultural ones, reinforcing a narrow idea of what counts as "correct" or acceptable language.

AI tends to favour certain ways of speaking, which risks reducing the variety of human language. Unique features such as regional expressions, hesitation sounds, and everyday words help build trust between people. As more speakers adopt AI-influenced language patterns, these natural and personal elements may gradually disappear.

Still, there are signs that this trend is not entirely one-way. Some academics and public speakers are reportedly beginning to avoid terms like 'delve' or 'tapestry' precisely

because they now feel overused or artificial. This kind of informal resistance suggests that users may eventually push back against the uniformity of AI-generated language.

The path forward is uncertain. As AI systems become more sophisticated, they may begin to reflect a greater range of human expression. At the same time, users will need to make conscious choices about how and when to rely on automated tools.

For writers, educators, and anyone who values originality in communication, this moment represents more than a shift in how we communicate, as it marks a broader cultural inflection point. The question is not just about technological capability, but about human originality. Those who genuinely care about writing and have built their vocabulary through constant trial and error, which includes reading, writing, and constant practice, will likely continue to prefer the authenticity of their own voice over that of an artificial one.

While AI can certainly offer a helpful grammar nudge or suggest an alternative phrase here and there, it can not replicate the subtle satisfaction of finding the perfect word on your own, nor the pride in crafting a sentence that feels entirely yours. In that sense, AI becomes less of a teacher and more of a tool, which is very useful indeed, but never a substitute for the human craft of language.

The bigger question is no longer whether AI will shape the way we write and speak, because it already has. The real challenge is whether individuals can continue to own their own voices. Whether in classroom presentations, dating profiles, or workplace emails, expressing oneself in a truly human way may soon require conscious effort and protection.



Bridging skills and enterprise: How BYETS is unlocking youth employment through SME support

A new approach to workforce development places SMEs at the heart of Bangladesh's drive for inclusive economic growth.

As Bangladesh seeks to diversify its economy and create sustainable employment opportunities for its growing youth population, one initiative is tackling two persistent challenges in tandem: the need for skilled labour and the limited capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to absorb it.

The Building Youth Employability Through Skills (BYETS) programme has taken a pragmatic approach to this challenge by aligning its training and skills development activities with the real-world needs of Bangladesh's SME sector. Rather than focusing solely on large industrial employers, BYETS is working to ensure that smaller businesses, which are more geographically dispersed and often more accessible to rural and peri-urban youth, are equipped to provide meaningful employment.

Central to this strategy is the recognition that SMEs are often overlooked in national workforce planning, despite their potential to drive innovation, generate jobs, and contribute to decentralised economic development. Many operate outside the reach of conventional support structures and face common barriers, including limited awareness of compliance and regulatory frameworks, weak links to global supply chains, and difficulty accessing skilled manpower.

BYETS is addressing these issues

from both ends. On one side, it is training young people with practical skills tailored to sectors like agro-processing—a field that spans everything from food and beverage manufacturing to agro-machinery, sustainable packaging and jute-based products. On the other, it is working with SMEs to strengthen their organisational capacity, improve their understanding of compliance requirements, and connect them with market opportunities.

A key part of this effort was a recent international expo co-organised with CEMS Global. Unlike traditional trade fairs that focus narrowly on machinery or end-products, this event offered a comprehensive view of the agro-processing value chain. By bringing together producers, processors, technology providers and packaging firms, both domestic and international, the expo provided SMEs with a unique opportunity to explore innovations, forge partnerships and identify export avenues.

The aim was not simply to showcase products, but to create an ecosystem in which skilled youth and growth-oriented SMEs can find one another. For a country where industrial hubs like Gazipur and Chattogram attract much of the investment, SMEs—dotted across the country—offer a chance to broaden the economic base and enable young people from a wider range of backgrounds to access stable livelihoods.

The seminars held during the

expo reinforced this vision, tackling core issues such as regulatory barriers, compliance standards, and the challenge of entering non-traditional markets. These discussions were designed to give SMEs the tools they need to expand, and to help policymakers understand what support is required.

At its heart, BYETS' model is one of integration. It understands that equipping youth with skills is only half the solution; those skills must meet real demand. By embedding its training efforts within a broader strategy of enterprise development and trade facilitation, the programme is creating the conditions for more inclusive growth.

This joined-up thinking reflects a shift in how development programmes approach employment. Rather than viewing training and job creation as separate endeavours, BYETS is treating them as interdependent, recognising that sustainable employment comes from strengthening both the supply and the demand sides of the labour market.

If successful, this model could offer a template for other sectors, and for other countries grappling with similar challenges: how to create opportunities for young people not just in industrial hubs, but across the full landscape of the economy.

The BYETS project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by Swisscontact.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

Optimizely

Senior Manager, Software Engineering (.Net)

Deadline: N/A

Eligibility:

🔗 Bachelor's or Master's in computer science or engineering, or related experience.

Minimum experience: 3 years



MJL

Bangladesh Mobil PLC.

Senior Executive, Sales & Marketing

Deadline: July 31

Eligibility:

🔗 BBA or equivalent from any reputed university. MBA or equivalent from any reputed university is preferred.

Minimum experience: 3-4 years



International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Data Administrator

Deadline: July 27

Eligibility:

🔗 University degree or equivalent in statistics, business studies, or development studies.

Minimum experience: 2 years



SMC Enterprise Limited

Officer/Sr. Officer, Production

Deadline: July 31

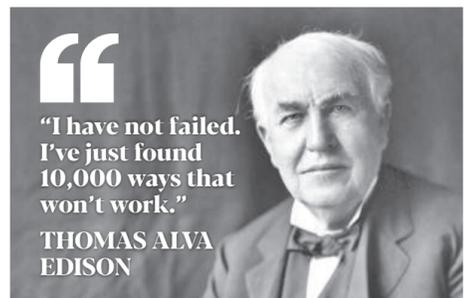
Eligibility:

🔗 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in EEE/ IPE/ Food Engineering & Technology/ M. Pharm.

Minimum experience: 3 years



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OpenAI announces \$50 million fund to help nonprofits

NEXT STEP DESK

OpenAI has announced a \$50 million (£39 million) fund to help nonprofit and community organisations implement AI solutions. The fund will support organisations working in education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and community organising, says the company.

The initiative builds on OpenAI's recent 'Nonprofit Jam' events that brought together 1,000 charity leaders to explore AI applications. It also follows recommendations from an independent commission that engaged over 500 nonprofits representing 7 million Americans, as per an official statement.

"AI should help solve humanity's hardest problems," OpenAI stated in the announcement, emphasising the fund aligns with its mission to ensure artificial intelligence benefits society. The company also added that the initiative will support both immediate AI implementation and longer-term community-led research into AI's potential for public good.

