Título de la Carpeta

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International Association of Teachers of Engish as a Foreign Language

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Venue: Edinburgh Conference Centre

Presentation: *Mastering Vowel Sounds through Emopron stories aided by Artificial Intelligence*

Center Website: https://www.iateflconference.org/home

SUMMARY

"Emo Pron," short for "Emotional Pronunciation," is a pronunciation teaching method that uses emotional engagement and storytelling to make pronunciation learning more enjoyable and memorable. By embedding linguistic concepts into narratives, learners resolve conflicts by acquiring phonological features, such as the articulation of new sounds, which serve as solutions to non-linguistic problems within the story.

In this talk, the presenter will demonstrate how one of her latest original Emo-pron stories,called *Vowel Land*, simplifies the teaching of vowel sounds to children.

Once the targeted sounds are internalized through the narrative , pronunciation opens a clear pathway to linking sound to spelling . Experimenting with sounds is an important part of the process too, which is why Emo-pron allows the creation of a meaningful context for repetition. This is made possible thanks to the marvels of A I ,which can generate lyrics and the music that accompanied them. This goes beyond the listen.and.repeat method to internalize new sounds. And it is memorable because it appeals to all senses.

The most amazing part is, the presenter will showcase how AI tools can support the creation of Emo-pron stories, guiding the audience in developing their own AI-assisted narratives to all age groups.The audience will be shown how simple it can be to create an Emo-pron story tailored to another aged group such as teens and adults. Last but not least, the practice will align with the Emo-pron approach, which suggests the use of stories to present pronunciation features and songs to boost the acquisition of new targeted sounds. That will complete the whole picture in a pronunciation class.

Many authors agree that vowel quantity is a far more significant feature of the pronunciation of vowels for international intelligibility (Englishglobalcom, 2020). All native varieties of English make oppositions based on vowel length (they all have some long vowels contrasting with some short vowels), and losing these contrasts impairs intelligibility (Jenner, 1989). Although vowel quality should not be forgotten, length is critical when it comes to explaining why many Spanish speakers have difficulty bringing out these differences. Spanish does not distinguish vowels by length: they are all short unless especially emphasised. Unless vowel length in the target language is mastered, it will be very difficult to help learners achieve true fluency (Celce.Murcia, et al., 1996).

The advent of artificial intelligence has brought weighty winds of change to the field (Lan, 2022). The presenter will review some known AI-based applications that may focus on vowel quality, but she will particularly target the acquisition and practice vowel quantity by using strategies other than the traditional listen-and-repeat method. A set of classroom tasks mediated by AI-created material can guide learners to distinguish between long and short vowel sounds, turning artificial intelligence into the smartest assistant any teacher can have (Alshumaimeri & Alshememry, 2024).

State-of-the-art spectrograms produced by read-aloud technology can foster a multisensory learning experience that benefits visual, auditory, and cognitive learning styles. The audience will discover, through AI-driven lab tasks, how to simplify pronunciation work with the help of this new powerful aid. These tools are of utmost importance for EFL teachers who find it extremely challenging to convince students of the importance of vowel quantity, and help them acquire it.

With an emphasis on a learning-to-learn approach, the audience will leave with many takeaways to aid and significantly enrich their professional practice.