On Application of Artificial Intelligence in Foreign Trade Documentation Course for Business English Majors

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Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been increasingly widely applied in English language teaching courses, especially for speaking and writing skills. Its application in foreign trade documentation course (FTD) has great potential. When learning to make out international trade documents for business English majors in class, AI offers enormous support from theoretical and practice perspectives for both teachers and students, such as lesson preparation, assignments completion, etc. The benefits of AI used in FTD include reducing human error, improving efficiency, etc. While the challenges are also obvious, such as ensuring of professionalism, developing personalized teaching, etc. Consequently, AI does help improve teaching and learning in foreign trade documentation course for business English majors.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Business English; Foreign trade documentation course; Application

1. AI applied by teachers in lesson preparation

1.1 Searching teaching resources

Foreign trade documentation course teaching materials for business English majors are different from that of other majors like international trade, E-commerce, etc. which are taught in the students and teachers' mother tongue, Chinese. In business English major, it is better taught in English. Therefore it is challenging for teachers to find proper bilingual or authentic materials. While, AI gives great help with acquiring suitable textbooks, cases, videos, etc., for teachers to select for their lesson plans.

1.2 Generating teaching contents

AI can automatically generate lesson content related to foreign trade documents based on the keywords and requirements provided by teachers. For example, generating a Beneficiary's Certificate. The main contents given by AI is: "This is to certify that [Name of Beneficiary], having its registered office at [Address of Beneficiary], is the beneficiary of the [Type of Trade Transaction] transaction under Contract No. [Contract Number] dated [Date of Contract] between [Exporter's Name and Address] and [Importer's Name and Address]. We hereby confirm that all payments under the said contract are to be made to the account of the Beneficiary mentioned above. Date: [Date of Issuance]; Authorized Signatory: [Signature] [Name] [Title] [Company Name].

1.3 Designing teaching and learning activities

When given correct instructions, AI can create teacher-student-tailored teaching and learning activities to adapt to students' learning situations and needs, and assist teachers better meet students' learning requirements.

1.4 Evaluating teaching and learning outcomes

AI can facilitate teachers in designing online quizzes and assignments, automatically assessing students' performance, and providing timely feedback and suggestions.

2. AI applied by students in completing assignments

2.1 Reducing Human Error

When business English majors complete their before or after class assignments in the foreign trade documentation course, it is unavoidable for them to make mistakes. Such errors will not only affect the authenticity and correctness of the documents, but also may lead to huge economic losses and legal risks suffered by students' future employers. The application of artificial intelligence can greatly reduce human error which is its outstanding feature.

2.2 Improving efficiency of document processing with an intelligent system

Business English majors learn to process foreign trade documents assignments not only after class but also in their future job, the adop-

tion of an intelligent document recognition and processing system greatly improves the efficiency of document processing. The system can automatically identify, classify and organize key elements in documents made out by students. By analyzing the corresponding data, the results show that the adoption of an intelligent system can shorten the processing time by about 50%. Meanwhile, without human intervention, the accuracy has been greatly improved. The intelligent system has another function: proofreading. The accuracy of documents made out by students will be carefully checked as well because it has a rule engine to automatically proofread the documents' consistency and accuracy.

3. Issues and solutions of AI application in Foreign Trade Documentation Course

3.1 Professionalism

Foreign trade documentation for business English majors is an interdisciplinary course which is a specialized field involving complex international trade rules and procedures. AI needs to help teachers and students deal with sufficient professional knowledge and skills to be correctly applied in teaching and learning. The AI's back up data resources can not always to academically and practically accurate.

3.2 Personalized Teaching

Business English majors' learning needs and levels vary from school to school. Providing personalized teaching content and assistance according to individual student situations is a challenge.

3.3 Teacher Training

Not all teachers teaching foreign trade documentation course to business English majors can make good use of AI. A teacher training of AI application is advisable. According to research data, in recent years, only 30% of China's foreign trade documentation courses have artificial intelligence technology applied in teaching and learning activities, which is far from some advanced countries. In order to better help students to complete the documentation in class, teachers initially need to learn data analysis, performance assessment and feedback giving through AI; some mother-tongue instruction teachers also need to improve their English language skills through AI, or English language educational background teachers learn to improve their foreign trade documentation professional knowledge and skills through AI.

3.4 Data security and privacy protection

When using AI for teaching and learning, it involves teachers' and students' personal information and learning data. Ensuring data security and privacy is an important issue. If the data is illegally accessed, huge economical and reputational losses may occur to them. Therefore, an effective data backup and recovery mechanism is needed. In practice, foreign trade documents contain the customer's name, address, contact information, etc. If the company's information is leaked, it will bring a great deal of trouble, too. As a result, it is necessary for AI to develop functions on data and privacy protection to release teachers, students and users from worries in the use of AI in foreign trade documentation course.

3.5 AI's updating and maintenance

In order to ensure the continuous use of advanced technology in the teaching and learning process, it is particularly important to update and maintain its technology, taking the intelligent system of documents processing and proofreading as an example. The system needs to constantly absorb a variety of new information, such as image recognition, natural voice processing, etc., in order to adapt to the increasingly complex document format. With the development of information technology, the continuous changes in the form and type of documents, all with the continuous development of information technology and continuous improvement.

In addition, technical maintenance can not be ignored. In order to ensure the normal operation of the system and good learning effect for students, it is very important to establish a reliable technical maintenance team and make emergency plans to ensure the application of artificial intelligence to the documentation course.

3.6 Specific application of AI in foreign trade documents course

3.6.1 Use of Intelligent Document Recognition and Processing System

An Intelligent Document Recognition and Processing System starts with the scanning or uploading of documents. The system utilizes built-in OCR technology to convert paper or electronic documents into editable text or images. This step greatly improves the documents processing efficiency, reduces the number of manual entries, and lowers the probability of errors.

Furthermore, based on the pre-set rules and algorithms, the identified information is intelligently classified and organized, and the data is automatically classified into the appropriate columns. This step increases the accuracy of data organization and facilitates data analysis in the future.

In this intelligent document audit system, the assessment and proofreading of documents are realized through pre-set audit rules and algorithms. This method can effectively improve the efficiency of the audit work and effectively reduce the errors caused by human factors.

3.6.2 Application of Intelligent Document Proofreading System

The system can realize automatic proofreading of important information such as commodity name, quantity, price and so on through advanced image recognition and natural voice processing technology, thus reducing the workload of manual input and the probability of making errors.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, document processing technology has been greatly upgraded, the traditional manual processing in foreign trade documentation course teaching and learning has not been able to well meet the students and teachers' demand for the up to date education. AI technology offers an indispensable role which can effectively improve the efficiency and accuracy of teaching and learning for business English majors. Further use of AI in the foreign trade documentation course will lie in more audio and visual teaching tools development.

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