Using Voice & AI assistants for language learning

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Outline

- Who am I?
- Voice Interaction & AI assistants
- Why use them?
- Some experiences, opportunities & issues
- Looking to the future…
- Summary & questions

Who am I?

not

see joshua underwood for more info

I am...

- an EFL teacher & teacher trainer
- with a background in education technology research & design
- I'd self-assess my DigiCompEdu as C1 (see EU framework)
- What's yours? Answers in the chat…

novice A1 A2 | B1 B2 | C1 C2 **expert**

Why now?

...voice interaction has improved more in the last 30 or so months than it did in its first 30 years, word error rate for voice-recognition systems [...] is now on par with humans

Nordrum, A. (2017, January 04). CES 2017: the year of voice recognition

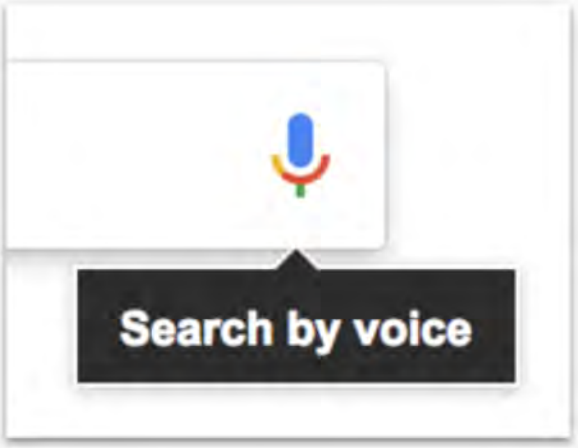
For example, try dication.io - What do you think? How accurate is it? What opportunities for learning does it offer?

Why now?

And Artificial Intelligence (AI) is getting much better at interacting in human like ways

Listen to Google Assistant phone to book a hair appointment, which one was the human?

Voice Interaction & AI assistants



Siri

Google Assistant

Google Home

Amazon Alexa

How much do they cost?

How do they compare to other classroom tech?

Meet my assistants

Why use voice interaction & AIs?

More,

more meaningful,

motivating,

and fun opportunities

for speaking

show me a picture of a sheep

show me a picture of a ship

Try getting dumpling to jump - https://www.dumplingthepug.com/

NAO humanoid robot

photo by ubahnverleih [CC0] from Wikimedia Commons

"...there was lower anxiety & a more positive attitude towards English...

...students... ...had great fun... (and) ...believed they were learning more effectively, which helped them boost their motivation in the long run."

Alemi, M., Meghdari, A. & Ghazisaedy, M. The Impact of Social Robotics on L2 Learners' Anxiety and Attitude in English Vocabulary Acquisition Int J of Soc Robotics (2015) 7: 523.

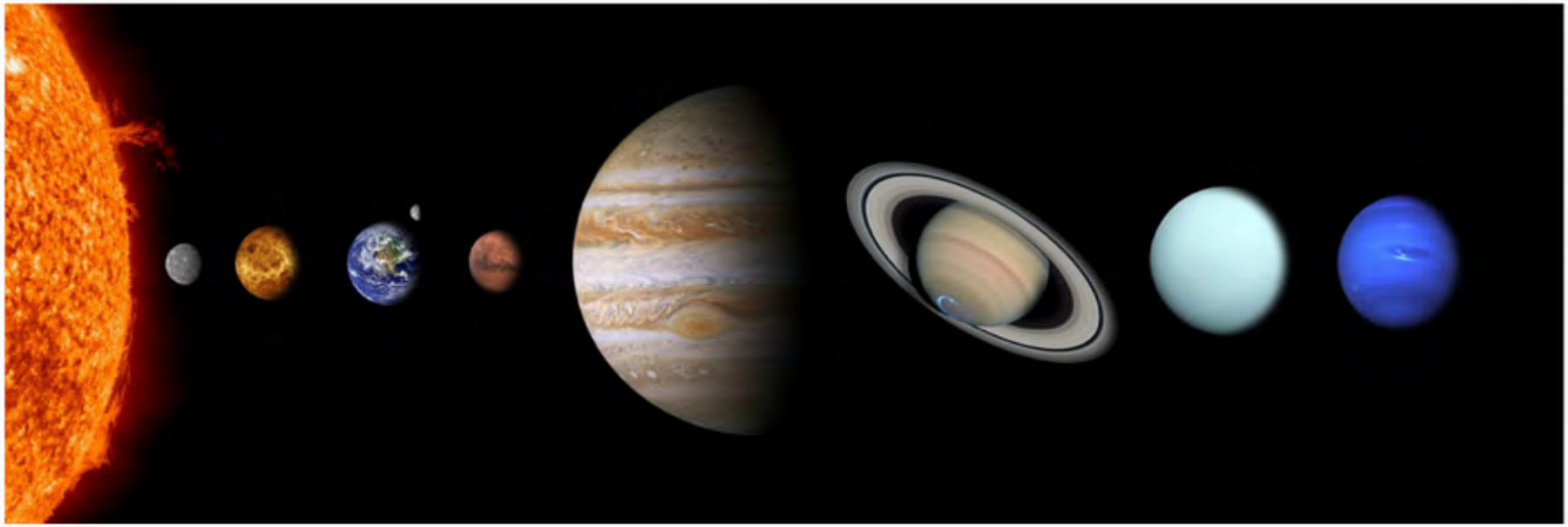
Experiences & opportunities

How do you say…?

What does… mean?

How do you spell…?

Experiences & opportunities



How many planets are there?

What’s the coldest planet?

Which planet is closest to the sun?

Experiences & opportunities

Other teachers are doing similar things:

“We’re using it for spelling, checking facts, math…”

http://www.coolcatteacher.com/amazon-alexa-classroom/

“set a countdown timer, choose a student at random, talk about the weather, etc”

https://www.erintegration.com/2016/12/26/amazon-echo-dot-and-alexa-in-the-classroom/

What kinds of questions are AIs (currently) good/bad at answering?

- Think of some questions to test the AI
- Try them out
- Prepare a mini presentation on what AI's are good/bad at. Say why? P.E.E.L

What would you ask? Answers in the chat

& many more opportunities...

Skills

Guess the animal, Jeopardy, Jokes, Quizzes, etc…

Voice Experiments

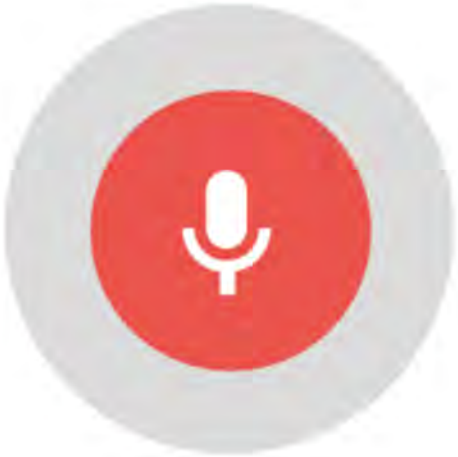
Mystery Animal, Safari Mixer, Mixlab, etc...

Getting Creative

Interactive Spoken Stories, Skill Blueprints, Making Quizzes, Cognimates - AI for Scratch

Negotiation of meaning

what do you think I said ...?



Some issues & more opportunities

Frustration, Safe search, Data protection,

Transcription, Assessment, English for the future

Looking to the future...

English for the future - living with AI?

Critical & active engagement with AI?

The future of English?

The nature of learning?

& language learning?

I for one welcome our robot teacher overlords by Phillie Casablanca (2011)
https://www.flickr.com/photos/19451080@N00/5349349058/

Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

Photo Attribution by PhotosForClass.com

"It is easy to envision a future when robots initially take the positions of teaching and administrative assistants and then gradually, when the students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and government officials accept this technology, replace most of the teachers in the education institutions."

Ivanov, S. (2016) Will robots substitute teachers? Paper presented at the 12th International Conference "Modern science, business and education", 27-29 June 2016, Varna University of Management, Bulgaria. Yearbook of Varna University of Management, Vol. 9, pp. 42-47.

“...we imagine quite a different scenario—one involving AI designed to support, not usurp, teachers”

A.I. Is the New T.A. in the Classroom by Rose Luckin and Wayne Holmes

Looking to the future...

Do you fear the robot teacher?

What are the advantages & disadvantages?

What is important about what teachers do & how might this change?

Is it about relationships? Try building a relationship with him

Summary

Opportunities for more, more meaningful speaking practice
thoughtfully integrated into our teaching & learning practices

&

English for the future
opportunities to ‘critically’ prepare students to actively engage in this future