

ENHANCING SPEAKING SKILLS IN EFL LEARNERS  
THROUGH REPLIKA CHATBOT

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**Annotation:** *This study investigates the use of the Replika chatbot, a Generative AI-based conversational agent, to enhance speaking skills among EFL learners. By integrating Replika into classroom and extracurricular learning contexts, the study emphasizes the platform's capacity to support a personalized, low-anxiety, and reflective learning environment. Findings suggest that Replika serves as both a motivational speaking partner and a confidence-building tool.*

**Keywords:** *Generative AI, EFL speaking skills, Replika, reflective learning, chatbot in education*

**Аннотация:** *В данном исследовании рассматривается использование чат-бота Replika, основанного на генеративном ИИ, для развития разговорных навыков у изучающих английский язык как иностранный. Интеграция Replika в учебный процесс и внеаудиторную деятельность способствует созданию персонализированной, низкострессовой и рефлексивной обучающей среды. Результаты показывают, что Replika выступает как мотивационный собеседник и средство повышения уверенности в разговорной речи.*

**Ключевые слова:** *генеративный ИИ, разговорные навыки, Replika, рефлексивное обучение, чат-бот в образовании*

**Annotatsiya:** *Ushbu tadqiqot Replika chat-botidan foydalanish orqali ingliz tilini chet tili sifatida o'rganayotgan talabalar nutq ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirish imkoniyatlarini o'rganadi. Replika o'quv jarayoniga integratsiyalashganida, shaxsga yo'naltirilgan va reflektiv o'rganish muhitini yaratadi hamda o'quvchilarning nutqiy ishonchini oshirishda muhim vosita bo'la oladi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *generativ sun'iy intellekt, nutq ko'nikmalari, Replika, reflektiv o'rganish, chat-bot*

## Introduction

In recent years, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education has transformed language learning approaches. Replika (<https://replika.com>), a Generative AI-based chatbot, offers EFL learners a platform for practicing spoken English in a non-judgmental and personalized environment. Unlike translation or search tools, Replika focuses on conversation, making it a suitable tool for enhancing fluency and building confidence.

## Methodology

This study involved a small group of university-level EFL students who interacted with Replika over a four-week period. The participants engaged in speaking exercises both in

class and independently. Instructional design followed the ABC Learning Design framework and incorporated reflective practices.

### Results

Feedback from students revealed that they appreciated the instant responses and emotional engagement offered by Replika. They reported being less anxious and more motivated to speak English. They also noted that Replika's ability to prompt and continue conversations helped them practice various language structures and vocabulary in context.

### Discussion

The findings align with Kılıçkaya's (2020) study, which emphasized Replika's role in promoting confidence and reflection in language use. Instructors observed improved student participation and willingness to communicate. Replika proved especially effective in topics like "Introducing Yourself," where students practiced structures and then applied them in AI-guided dialogues.

### Conclusion

Replika can be a valuable tool for fostering speaking skills in EFL learners. Its integration into both classroom instruction and independent learning encourages reflective practice and lowers communication anxiety. Further research may explore long-term impacts and integration with other language skills.

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