Perceptions of Secondary School Students Towards the Use of Gemini AI

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence has made a great impact in education since the emergence of Generative AI. However, studies on students' perceptions and acceptance towards AI are still lacking. Thus, this research investigated the perceptions of Malaysian secondary school students towards the use of Gemini, a Google AI. In this study, 30 secondary school students were taught essay writing using Gemini. Students used Gemini in their pre-writing, while writing and post-writing activities. Students' experiences and perceptions in using Gemini were collected through journal entries, open-ended questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The data collected shows that initially, students faced problems and difficulties in using Gemini as it was first time for some of them to use laptop and AI. They expressed anxiety and worried initially as they had to spend a great deal of time logging into their account and typed the essays into Gemini. However, through several practices, students were able to use Gemini with ease. All of them agreed that Gemini was very helpful in their lives and Gemini is easy to use. Gemini is indeed helpful in assisting students in essay writing as it provided them with words, translation, paraphrasing and ideas to write in their essays. All of them agreed that they would continue to use Gemini AI in the future for essay writing and also other subjects. Hopefully, Gemini AI will be popularised in teaching of other subjects as well.