

Curipod: A Tool for creating and delivering AI-enhanced lessons

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In the plethora of AI-enhanced tools for education, Curipod stands out for its multiple features. The tool, powered by an AI generator, can be a smart aid for teachers as it allows them to generate slides, activities, questions, and feedback based on their learning outcomes and the students' interests. One of the immediate merits of Curipod is its user-friendly interface. Educators and students alike will appreciate the intuitive design that allows for easy navigation and quick familiarization with its features.

The most intriguing feature is the one that allows the design of entire lessons, complete with slides and interactive activities, based on textual input provided by the teacher. Simply by typing the lesson topic and the corresponding grade level, the AI system upon which it relies provides a clear design proposal consisting of editable slides. Students access lesson content through a QR code and can interact directly by responding in real-time to questions. The teacher may choose to use the Open Moderator, a tool that enables educators to preview submissions before they are displayed to all participants and, if necessary, intervene before inappropriate content becomes visible. Curipod also provides a library of ready-to-play lessons from verified educators and authors on various subjects and themes.

The tool uses AI to analyze the input from the teachers and generate content that is relevant, accurate, and personalized. The process follows Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Computer Vision (CV) techniques, such as text summarization, paraphrasing, question answering, image captioning, and object detection. Teachers can also edit and customize the content, adding images, videos, audio, animations, and other elements to make their slides more engaging and interactive. An extremely valuable feature of Curipod is the capacity to import a previously structured PowerPoint presentation or Google Slides to enhance their interactivity and engagement. In fact, the tool allows the incorporation of activities into pre-existing materials, including polls, word clouds, open questions, and drawings.

Studies have indicated that environments enriched with technology have the potential to boost students' motivation and engagement while also enhancing their productivity. The utilization of technology in foreign language learning offers a multitude of advantages. These include greater autonomy and individualization, expanded avenues for communication, the facilitation of identity development, recognition and harnessing of learners' existing IT skills, the implementation of content-based instruction, exposure to intercultural content, the creation of motivating tasks, heightened relevance of the target language, and the integration of alternative forms of assessment.

Regarding language learning, the incorporation of technology encompasses a diverse range of tools and strategies. In foreign language classrooms, students employ well-designed activities not only for presentation, practice, assessment, testing, reference, communication, or simulations but also for the purpose of creating, producing, and publishing content.

Curipod also uses AI to provide adaptive feedback and guidance to the students as they complete the activities and questions. The "Personalized Feedback" feature within Curipod is an AI-driven feedback generator that considers the grade level and contextual information provided by the teacher. This tool enables educators to specify their expectations for answers, which means

indicating what aspects to evaluate in the correction process, the grade level, the time allocated for the activity, and the specific focus of feedback. For instance, consider an example of a written production activity in the English language: "Write a text in which you describe yourself and your family." In this context, the teacher can define the answer expectation, such as "using verb conjugation correctly," if they intend to assess this aspect of the students' writing.

The AI feedback generator then tailors its suggestions and evaluations based on the guidelines provided by the teacher. This customization ensures that the questions and activities proposed by the AI align with the specified criteria, thereby streamlining the assessment process and providing targeted feedback to enhance the students' learning experience.

The significance of feedback in language learning cannot be overstated. It is described as 'one of the most potent catalysts for enhancing learning' (Hattie & Timperley, 2007). Feedback encompasses the information that learners receive regarding their language learning path, primarily pertaining to their language production in speaking and writing, but also encompassing reading, listening, study skills, attitudes, effort, and more. The emphasis here is on formative feedback, which is designed to assist learners throughout their learning process, continuously provided (Lee, 2017, p. 11). To be effective, feedback should revolve around learning tasks, be specific and aligned with learning objectives, pose an appropriate challenge, and actively engage the learner. Furthermore, constructive feedback should strike a balance between positive and constructive elements.

Taking these aspects into consideration, Curipod's feedback is generated using NLP and Machine Learning (ML) techniques including sentiment analysis, text classification, text generation, and reinforcement learning. However, teachers have the option to edit and customize the feedback according to their preferences. They have the capability to offer positive reinforcement, provide constructive criticism, suggest improvements, and share additional resources with each student. Teachers can also monitor the students' progress and performance through the dashboard.

Curipod fosters the sense of community, in fact teachers and learners can share their ideas and experiences. On one hand, teachers can browse, rate, comment, and collaborate on the lessons created by other users in workspaces. They can also share their own lessons with the community or keep them private. On the other hand, the tool aims to spark students' curiosity and engagement in learning, as well as to support teachers in using AI in a safe and effective way.

References

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