DWARAKA DOSS GOVERDHAN DOSS VAISHNAV COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

Re-accredited with "A++" Grade by NAAC (3rd Cycle)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (SHIFT II)

SKYLARK

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

"Take up one idea, make that one idea your life. Think of it, dream of it, live on that idea, let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success."

- Swami Vivekananda

Dreams perhaps appear to be far-removed from reality. Ever so often, they may seem unfeasible and implausible. Everyone should comprehend the fact that all of us possess the strength, patience and the passion to attain our dreams. The establishment of Dwaraka Doss Goverdhan Doss

Vaishnav College was the upshot of the vision and dreams of benevolent philanthropists and educationists who perceived the indispensability of education. At present, it serves to be one of the most sought after colleges in Chennai. It is our own obligation and responsibility to propel this dream along with resolute faith and will power to promote the standard of excellence, strengthen the spirit of solidarity and extol the power of knowledge to rebuild the society.

I congratulate the Department of English (Shift II) for bringing out the fourth volume of Skylark, the department newsletter. It serves as an arena for the students to highlight their creativity and knowledge pertaining to the theme of the newsletter. I congratulate the editorial board for their commendable efforts in making this newsletter. I assure that the management will always be a source of constant encouragement and support in all your future ventures to strive for academic excellence.
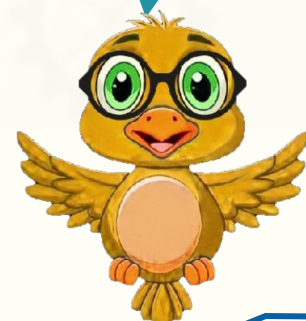
Best wishes,

Dr. Ashok Kumar Mundhra,

Secretary.

Inside the Issue

Welcome back to our newsletter. I am Lark.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."

- Kofi Annan

Dwaraka Doss Goverdhan Doss Vaishnav College takes immense pride in presenting the fourth volume of **SKYLARK**, the Newsletter of the Department of English (Shift II) which is dedicated to showcase the remarkable artistry and competence of our students. In an interconnected world, the importance of the English language is undeniable as it serves as a bridge in facilitating international collaborations and fostering cultural exchange. Recognising the paramount importance of language on the global stage, the department has consistently endeavoured to boost students' proficiency by igniting their creativity and refining their language abilities. The unwavering dedication of our faculty to nurture the minds of the students and their tireless efforts in promoting academic growth and critical thinking in our students have never gone unnoticed.

In an era defined by rapid technological advancement, it is imperative that we equip our knowledge to thrive in an increasingly digital world. 'Artificial Intelligence' is at the forefront of this revolution and it has the potential to re-shape the way we understand the world around us. AI's role in education is pivotal as it enhances personalisation, efficiency, accessibility, and the overall quality of education, making it a powerful tool for shaping the future of learning.

"Artificial Intelligence is not a substitute for human Intelligence; it is a tool to amplify human creativity and ingenuity."

- Amir Husain

As wonderfully quoted, we should remember that AI is a tool to enhance human capabilities and not to replace them entirely. Maintaining a balanced perspective on the role of AI in our lives ensures that we use it as a means to augment our abilities rather than replacing our humanity.

I extend my best wishes for the successful completion and publication of the fourth volume of **SKYLARK**, and I eagerly await the insights and knowledge that will undoubtedly enrich our academic community.

Warm Regards,

Dr. S. Santhosh Baboo,

Principal.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Dear Readers,

We welcome you to yet another edition of "Skylark", the annual newsletter of the Department of English (Shift II). This year, we are taking you on a journey to explore the fascinating world of learning through Artificial Intelligence (AI). Over the past decade, AI has made significant advancements and has found its way into various aspects of our lives. One area where AI is revolutionising in the way we learn and teach. Education is the foundation upon which societies grow and thrive. It equips individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world. With the emergence of AI, we have an incredible opportunity to enhance the educational experience for learners from all ages and backgrounds.

Artificial Intelligence offers exciting possibilities in terms of educational content and resources. Through intelligent algorithms, AI can curate and recommend relevant and engaging educational materials to students. It can analyse their preferences, learning patterns, and progress to suggest appropriate resources that cater to their interests and help them explore new arenas. Additionally, AI can assist in the creation of high-quality educational content, making it more accessible and diverse for learners worldwide. Furthermore, AI could free up some valuable time for educators to focus on what they do best: teaching. From grading assignments to generating personalised feedback, AI can streamline routine tasks, allowing teachers to dedicate more time to interact with students, providing guidance, and fostering critical thinking and creativity.

As AI continues to evolve, it is essential to foster a culture of lifelong learning. Educators must be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to leverage AI effectively in the classroom. Continuous professional development programmes should be in place to empower teachers and enable them to navigate the ever-changing landscape of education. Education through AI holds immense potential to transform the way we teach and learn. By embracing this technology responsibly and thoughtfully, we can create an educational ecosystem that is more inclusive, personalised and engaging. **Let us strive to harness the power of AI to unlock the full potential of every learner and shape a brighter future.**

Thank you for being a part of our educational journey!

BOOK SHELF

Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow
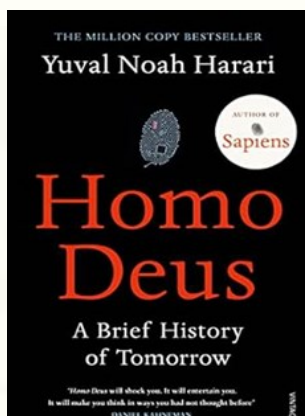
"The greatest scientific discovery was the discovery of ignorance. Once humans realised how little they knew about the world, they suddenly had a very good reason to seek new knowledge, which opened up the scientific road to progress."

- Yuval Noah Harari

Homo Deus is a captivating book that delves into the intriguing possibilities of our future as a species. Written by acclaimed historian Yuval Noah Harari, this book serves as an exploration of humanity's destiny and offers a fascinating blend of history, science, philosophy, and technology.

Harari's writing style strikes a balance between accessibility and depth, making complex ideas comprehensible for readers at the upper-intermediate level. He skilfully connects the dots between past and present, tracing the evolution of Homo sapiens and speculating on the trajectory towards Homo Deus.

One of the major highlight of the book is its examination of the role of data and artificial intelligence in shaping our future. Harari persuasively argues that these technologies have the potential to reshape not just our societies but also our very essence as humans. His concept of dataism, the belief that data holds ultimate value, provides readers with valuable insights into the digital age.

Harari's exploration of the potential consequences of this data-driven future, such as the erosion of individual privacy and the concentration of power in the hands of a technocratic elite, is both thought-provoking and unsettling. His warnings about the misuse of technology are particularly relevant in our contemporary world.

While *Homo Deus* is undoubtedly an eye-opening and thought-provoking book, it does have its limitations. Some may find Harari's predictions and extrapolations to be speculative at times. Additionally, the book occasionally sacrifices personal anecdotes or examples in favour of overarching societal trends, which might have added depth and relatability.

In conclusion, *Homo Deus* is a stimulating read for those interested in the future of humanity, technology, and society. Harari's talent for simplifying complex ideas and making them engaging is commendable. However, readers should approach this book with a critical mindset, recognising that the author's predictions, are subject to the uncertainties of the future. Despite its occasional shortcomings, *Homo Deus* remains a valuable and thought-provoking book for those seeking to explore the profound questions surrounding the potential evolution of species.

Courtesy: The Guardian.com.

STUDENTS' PROFICIENCY DETAILS (2022-2023)

APRIL 2023

S. No.	Semester	Subject	Department & Section	Roll Number	Register Number	Name of the student	Marks secured
1.	IV	Foundation English - IV	B.Sc. Vis. Com. 'B'	21E3240	2113101090223	ROKITH B	76%
2.	IV	Foundation English - IV	B.Sc. Psychology	21E3539	2113101086130	NIVETHA P R	75%
3.	II	Foundation English - II	BCA 'A'	22E2533	2213101033130	TARUN S B	78%
4.	II	Foundation English - II	B.Com.Finance & Taxation	22E3658	2213101101117	SHYAM CHARAN B	78%

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events (On Campus)

∗Seminar on "STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE CONVER-SATIONAL SKILLS" on 30th Jan 2024 at Sri Vallabha-charya Auditorium from 10.00 a.m. onwards.

∗Seminar on "English Language Learning and Social media" on 13th Feb 2024 at Sri Vallabhacharya Auditorium from 10.00 a.m. onwards.

∗Innowiz'24, an interdepartmental event on 15th Mar 2024 at Sri Vallabhacharya Auditorium from 10.00 a.m. onwards.

Online/Offline courses (Off Campus):

∗British Council: Course on developing Communication Skills and Confidence for better communication. 13 weeks - 40 weeks courses available. (INR 15k-35k).

https://www.britishcouncil.in/english/courses-adults/myclassroom/Everyday?
_gl=1*1tv8d8n*_up*MQ..&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI8Lz23N7RgQMV_DSDAx2pBQPGEAAYAiAAEgID8_D_BwE

∗British Council: Course on IELTS coaching. 8 weeks - 32 weeks courses available. (INR 13k-33k).

https://www.britishcouncil.in/english/courses-adults/IELTS-Coach?
gclid=EAIaIQobChMI8Lz23N7RgQMV_DSDAx2pBQPGEAAYAiAAEgID8_D_BwE

∗British Council: (Online) English Self Study: Study English at your own pace. Courses starting from INR 414 per month.

https://englishonline.britishcouncil.org/english-self-study/?
coun-
try=in&__hstc=28071843.0fb266626d34e31897668f662f8a0b9c.1696056528617.1696056528617.1696056528617.1&__hssc=28071843.1.1696056528617&__hsfp=369436
9453&_gl=1*e1dnrl*_ga*MjMzOTQ1ODYyLjE2OTYwNTY0ODk.*_ga_X5M3D7HLQQ*MTY5NjA1NjQ4OS4xLjEuMTY5NjA1NjU2OS4xNS4wLjA.*_ga_9LNE7QKNNH*MTY5NjA1NjQ4OS4xLjEuMTY5NjA1NjU2OS4xNS4wLjA.&_ga=2.225691930.1023410970.1696056489-233945862.1696056489&_gac=1.40527638.1696056525.EAIaIQob-ChMI8Lz23N7RgQMV_DSDAx2pBQPGEAAYAiAAEgID8_D_BwE

∗Udemy: (Online) Free Communication Skills Courses and Tutorials. https://www.udemy.com/topic/communication-skills/free/

∗Harvard University: (Online) Course on "Introduction to Strategic Communication and Public Relations". Course duration - 3 months. USD 2040. https://pll.harvard.edu/course/introduction-strategic-communication-and-public-relations

∗Coursera: (Online) Free self-paced course on 'Writing and Editing: Word Choice and Word Order'. 20 Hours.

https://www.coursera.org/learn/writing-editing-words

∗Coursera: (Online) Free self-paced course on 'English for Effective Business Writing'. 25 Hours.

https://www.coursera.org/learn/english-for-business-writing

∗edX : (Online) Free self-paced course on 'Business Communication'. 6 weeks. https://www.edx.org/learn/business-communications/university-of-british-columbia-business-communications?
in-
dex=product&queryID=a2235d38d4e660bcb1951afb07a846cb&position=2&results_level=first-level-results&term=communication&objectID=course-5776bb8e-e7c0-49de-8123-0b918c882ff0&campaign=Business+Communications&source=edX&product_category=course&placement_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edx.org%2Fsearch

In 1997, an AI named *Deep Blue*, developed by IBM, defeated the reigning world chess champion, Garry Kasparov. This was a monumental moment showcasing the potential of AI in complex tasks.

INNOWIZ-23'

The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English, Shift II organised INNOWIZ-23', an interdepartmental competition on 27th and 28th of February 2023. The aim of the programme was to showcase the creativity as well as enhance the LSRW skills of the students. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 183 students exploring their talents. **Haiku, Book Face, Essay writing, Terribly Tiny Tales, Caption the Captured, Spell Bee, Word Relay, Oratorical competition, Block** and **Tackle and Simulate the Scene** were the various events conducted to demonstrate their skill sets. Several students from various departments actively participated in both the onstage and offstage events. After the successful completion of the preliminary round, the finals of on stage events like Spell Bee, Word Relay and Simulate the Scene competitions were held on 3rd March, 2023 at 11.30 a.m. in Gyan Darshan Hall with Mr.Ajmal Tahseen, Music Composer and Singer as the Chief Guest, giving away the prizes and the certificate to the winners and runners.
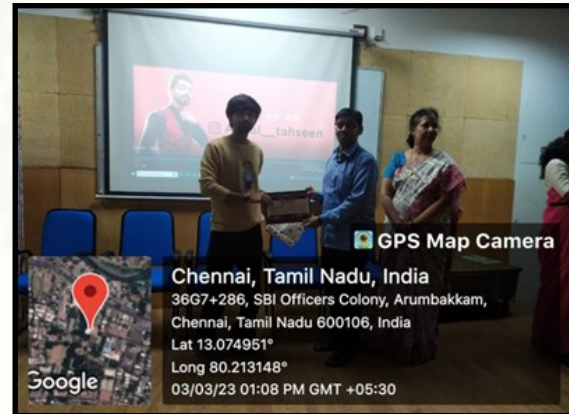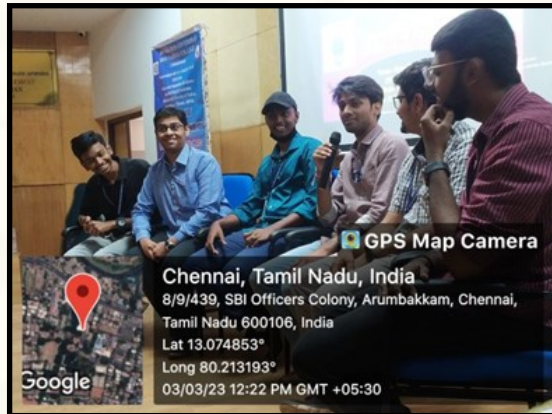
Elevating Excellence: Unleashing the Inspirational Power of Team Harmony.

Together We Rock!

EMINENT ERUDITES

CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI

A renowned author of modern literature, a poet, and Professor at the University of Houston, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is famous for her engrossing prose, complex cultural allegories, and insightful examination of human nature. Born in Kolkata, India in 1956, she has established herself as a renowned writer with her vast corpus of work, which demonstrates her versatility and exceptional storytelling skills.

The literary output of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is both prolific and diversified. She has published novels in multiple genres including historical fiction, magical realism, realistic fiction, myth and fantasy that explore the nuanced elements of life, love, and identity. She is the author of 21 books, including *Palace of Illusions, Before We Visit the Goddess, Oleander Girl, Queen of Dreams, One Amazing Thing,* and *Before We Visit the Goddess*. Her works have gained worldwide recognition and have been translated into 29 languages. Her novels *The Mistress of Spices, and Sister of My Heart* and the short story, *The Word Love* were adapted into films.

Her first novel *The Mistress of Spices* (1997) is a combination of self-discovery with magical realism. It tells the story of Tilo, a mystic woman who uses spices to heal illness. Her next novel, *Sister of My Heart* (1999), explores the bond between two cousins, Anju and Sudha, set against the backdrop of India and the United States of America. Relevant to today's war-torn world, The *Palace of Illusions* (2008) takes us back to the time of the Indian epic The *Ma-habharat* - a time that is half-history, half-myth and wholly magical. Through the character Draupati, this work offers a feminist reinterpretation of the classical tale. Her most recent book, *Independence (2017)* tells the story of three sisters as India breaks free from British rule in a war-torn Calcutta.

Her honours include the American Book Award, the PEN Josephine Miles Award, the Premio Scanno Award, the Light of India Award, the SALA Award, two Pushcart Prizes, the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award, the Rona Jaffe Award, the Barbara Deming Memorial Award, and the Houston Literary Award, among others. *The Last Queen* won the Best Book Award from The International Association of Working Women as well as the Times of India Best Fiction Award in 2022.

Divakaruni's writing inspires readers to think critically, ponder, and sympathise, through her imaginative retellings of traditional Indian stories or her astute commentary on the experience of immigrants. Her exploration of historical and cultural themes enhances the body of literature by providing fresh viewpoints on both old myths and contemporary issues. Divakaruni's place in the annals of modern literature as a visionary novelist is firmly established, as her works continue to move and inspire readers from many backgrounds.

Image Courtesy: chitradivakaruni.com.

What do you call a generative AI that's been trained on too much Shakespeare?

A Bard.

AMY TAN

Asian American literature is greatly influenced by the authors of varied racial and ethnic backgrounds, as they possess a bicultural identity that flows through their veins. Amy Tan, a Chinese American novelist is lauded for her captivating storytelling talent and distinct writing style. As an autobiographical writer, Tan has highlighted the idiosyncrasies of her family's prior Chinese experiences through three generations and juxtaposed them against the American settings.

Tan's work is marked by its lyrical and evocative language, often infused with imagery and rich symbolism. Through her novels, she delves into the themes of immigrant experience, particularly that of Chinese-American women, shedding light on the nuances of cultural clashes, identity crisis, mother-daughter relationships, familial bonds, and the interplay of tradition and modernity. Her first novel *The Joy Luck Club* (1989) was a great success and was followed by *The Kitchen God's Wife* (1991), *The Hundred Secret Senses* (1995), *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2001), *Saving Fish from Drowning* (2005), and *The Valley of Amazement* (2013). She is also the author of a memoir, *The Opposite of Fate* (2003), two children's books, *The Moon Lady* (1991) and *Sagwa, The Chinese Siamese Cat* (2001) and her recent work is *Where The Past Begins: A Writer's Memoir* (2017). She has contributed numerous articles to magazines, including *The New Yorker, Harper's Bazaar*, and *National Geographic*. Her works have been translated into 35 languages from Spanish, French and Finnish to Chinese, Arabic and Hebrew.

The Joy Luck Club is a collection of sixteen interconnected stories divided into four sections, each with distinct narratives. Within each female character in this novel, we can find shadows of Tan, Tan's mother Daisy, and Daisy's mother. Tan illustrates the anxiety, passion, upheaval, entanglements, and morally precarious circumstances between the older and younger generations. *The Kitchen God's Wife*, Tan's second book, expands on the themes of marriage, gender equality, identity formation, friendship, and cultural dislocation while continuing the examination of the mother-daughter relationship between two generations. Tan successfully draws a parallel between the modern world and China's imperial wilderness through the stories of Kwan from the 20th century and Nunumu from the Taiping era in *Hundred Secret Senses*.

Amy Tan's literary contributions have amassed numerous awards, accolades, and recognition. Her debut novel, *The Joy Luck* Club received critical acclaim, was a national best-seller, and was adapted into a successful film. In recognition of her exemplary work, Tan has been honoured with the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the Guggenheim fellowship, and the academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award. She has been the finalist for the National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, Los Angeles Times Fiction Prize, and Commonwealth Gold Award. In addition to her novels, Tan's thought-provoking essays and memoirs have also earned her praise, further establishing her as a respected voice in contemporary American literature.

Tan conveys a powerful message to the society about the significance of embracing one's cultural heritage, the resilience of the human spirit, and the universal nature of human emotions. Her fusion of Chinese-American heritage with universal themes of identity, family bonding, and rootedness speaks to a wide audience while celebrating the beauty of diversity, making her a pioneer of contemporary literature.

Image courtesy: ESQUIRE.COM

Friends, AI can be used for language processing. Natural language processing is the ability of machines to understand and interpret human language. This technology is already being used in chatbots and voice assistants.

KNOW YOUR LANGUAGE

This section will help you to become a wordsmith.

Portmanteau words

As our world evolves, so does our language. Effective communication hinges on a robust vocabulary. An engaging way to enrich your language acquisition is by exploring the world of portmanteaus. The word 'portmanteau' was coined by Lewis Carol to describe the linguistic blend, where two or more words fuse together to create a new word with a unique meaning. Learning portmanteaus stay attuned to current trends. So, why not give it a try and start sprinkling these portmanteaus in your daily conversation?

1. **Intercom**- internal+communication
2. **Netizen**- internet+citizen
3. **Pixel**- picture+element
4. **Sitcom**- situation+comedy
5. **Swipe**- sweep+wipe
6. **Infotainment**- Information+entertainment
7. **Infomercial-** information+commercial
8. **Nanobot**- nano+robot
9. **Transhumanism**- transcend+humanism
10. **Emojify**- emoji+modify

Contronyms

You might have heard about synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms, but have you ever heard about contronyms? A contronym, sometimes called a Janus word or auto-antonym, is a word that can convey contradictory meanings depending on the context. In essence, a contronym is a word that has a homonym, which is another word with the same spelling but a different meaning. Here are some examples.

Oversight- It's both 'watchful care' and 'an inadvertent error'.
The success of the project was due to the diligent
oversight (watchful care) of the experienced team leader.
Unfortunately, the publisher's **oversight** (inadvertent error) led to several typographical errors in the final edition of the book.
Screen- to show, to hide
Our department will **screen** (to show) the documentary film tomorrow for our students.
To maintain privacy, she decided to **screen** her personal information.

Is AI, an acronym or abbreviation?

As you may have noticed, this newsletter is dedicated entirely to the theme of AI. Do you know whether "AI" is an acronym, or an abbreviation? If not, don't worry, I will explain. Acronyms are formed by the initial or main letters of a group of words that make up a name or an idea. Abbreviations are the shortened form of a single word or group of words. AI stands for Artificial Intelligence and an acronym not an abbreviation. Let's improve our language skills by learning a few acronyms and abbreviations.

Acronyms

1. **IoT - Internet of Things**
   IoT devices can be enhanced with AI algorithms to enable smart homes, predictive maintenance, and efficient energy management.
2. **VPN - Virtual Private Network**
   Using a **VPN**, you can encrypt your internet connection to enhance security and privacy.
3. **GPU - Graphics Processing Unit**
   Modern **GPUs** are essential for rendering graphics in video games.

Abbreviations

1. **ICO - Initial Coin Offering**
   Investors flocked to the **ICO** for the new cryptocurrency.
2. **NIMBY - Not In My Backyard**
   The **NIMBY** attitude often hinders urban development projects.
3. **FOMO - Fear of Missing Out**
   She decided to attend the event due to **FOMO.**

CHISEL YOUR LANGUAGE

Effective communication is the cornerstone of success in virtually every aspect of life. Whether you are striving for professional advancement, seeking to connect with others on a deeper level, or simply aspiring to become a more eloquent conversationalist, our column is your guide to hone your language skills.

Language is a tool we use every day, but with the right guidance, it can become a finely honed instrument that allows you to express yourself with precision, charm, and impact. Join this linguistic journey as we chip away at the barriers to effective communication and help you craft your words with finesse.

Harnessing the Power of Expression:

Linguistic tools have the ability to paint vivid pictures with words, adding depth and colour to our communication. Have you ever found yourself searching for the perfect phrase to describe that exceptional friend who is ever-eager to offer a helping hand? Look no further! From the classic "damsel in distress" to the timeless "guardian angel," we'll embark on a captivating exploration of these evocative phrases and the stories they tell.

Damsel in distress: A phrase used to describe a woman in a difficult or dangerous situation who requires assistance.
Example: The concept of the damsel in distress in movies reinforces the wrong notion that women always need to be rescued by men.

Knight in Shining Armour: Refers to a person, often a man, who comes to the aid of someone in need, like a hero.
Example: When her car broke down on the deserted highway, a kind stranger turned out to be her knight in shining armour, coming to her rescue.

Good Samaritan: Refers to a compassionate person who helps others in distress or need.
Example: The good Samaritan at the park found a lost child and immediately notified the authorities to ensure their safe return to their family.

Guardian Angel: A metaphorical term for someone who protects or watches over another person.
Example: After narrowly avoiding a car accident, she felt like her late grandmother was her guardian angel, watching over her.

Harbinger of Hope: Suggests someone who foreshadows optimism and positivity to others during challenging times.
Example: His return to the war-torn village was seen as a harbinger of hope, bringing news of peace and reconstruction to the weary residents.

Exploring the Wonders of Language: A Journey into Linguistic Concepts

Language is a remarkable phenomenon, and beneath its surface lies a treasure of linguistic wonders waiting to be discovered. Here, we embark on a fascinating journey into the intricate world of linguistic concepts — those delightful and enigmatic elements that make language the vibrant tapestry it is. From palindromes to ambigrams and beyond, unravel the mysteries and unveil the beauty of these linguistic gems.

Anagrams: Anagrams are words or phrases formed by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase to produce a new one.

For example, "listen" and "silent" are anagrams of each other, because they contain the same letters rearranged in a different order, resulting in different words with the same set of letters.

Isograms: An isogram is a word or phrase in which no letter occurs more than once.

For instance, the words Abolishment, Atmospheric, Background are isograms. It can even be simple words such as Dog, Taste, Knife etc.

Pangrams: Pangrams are sentences that contain every letter of the alphabet at least once.

A well-known example is, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." And "Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs".

Ambigrams: Ambigrams are words, phrases, or symbols that can be read in multiple ways, often when rotated or reflected. They appear the same or different when viewed from different angles.

For example, the word SWIMS reads the same when flipped upside down. The word NOON reads the same when rotated 180 degrees.

Palindromes: A palindrome is a word, phrase, number, or other sequences of characters that reads the same forward and backward. Palindromes can be found in various forms of language and are often used for their symmetrical and playful qualities.

For example, Madam, Racecar, Level are palindromes as they remain unchanged when reversed.

Do you know AI's can be humorous? Below is an example of ChatGPT's humorous output.
"Why do we tell actors to break a leg? Because every play has a cast."

Enthusiast's Odyssey: Lexicons of Enthusiasm

From the culinary connoisseurs to lunar lovers, music aficionados, and those who cherish rainy days, we delve into the vibrant tapestry of unique and deeply rooted passions that make each individual's journey extraordinary.

Gastronome: Someone who takes great pleasure in food and enjoys exploring culinary experiences.

Pluviophile: A pluviophile is a person who finds joy, comfort, or a sense of well-being in rainy or wet weather. They have a deep appreciation for rain and may feel more relaxed or content when it is raining.

Neophile: A neophile is an individual who has a strong affinity for new or novel things. They are often characterised by their enthusiasm for embracing and adapting to new technologies, ideas, trends, or experiences. Neophiles are open to change and often seek out novelty in various aspects of life.

Selenophile: An individual who is drawn to the moon and has a strong affinity for lunar-related phenomena or activities like stargazing.

Melophile: Someone who has a great love for music and derives pleasure and comfort from listening to, playing, or creating music.

Unearthing the Menagerie of collectives:

Collective nouns encapsulate the essence of groups, painting vivid pictures with words. They offer an intriguing lens through which we can view the diversity of life, from a murder of crows' to 'a parliament of owls'. These linguistic gems remind us of the beauty & intricacy of language and the imaginative spirit of human expression.

Examples:

A comb of bananas
A shoal/ school of fish
A parliament of owls
A brood of chicken
A train of camels
A sheaf of grain
A string of horses
A stack of notes
A quiver of arrows
A ream of papers

Unlocking Precision in Language:

In the world of language, precision is the key. The word "very" has long served as a trusty modifier to emphasise and intensify our descriptions. But what if we told you there are far more vibrant and specific words to convey the same intensity? Let us explore a treasure trove of alternatives to "very" that will enrich your vocabulary and add depth to your communication.

S. No.	Basic	Advanced	Example
1.	Very tasty	Scrumptious	The chocolate cake was so scrumptious that it disappeared within minutes.
2.	Very nervous	Apprehensive	He felt apprehensive about her first day at the new job.
3.	Very Lazy	Indolent	After a long day of work, he enjoyed spending his evenings in an indolent manner.
4.	Very upset	Distraught	She was distraught when she realised she had lost her wallet.
5.	Very happy	Ecstatic	She was ecstatic, when they announced the surprise concert by her favourite band.
6.	Very thin	Frail	The elderly woman was quite frail and needed assistance.
7.	Very risky	Perilous	Climbing the steep and icy mountain was a perilous adventure.
8.	Very confused	Perplexed	He was perplexed by the complex puzzle, unable to figure out the solution.
9.	Very empty	Desolate	The abandoned house in the middle of the desert looked desolate.
10.	Very crowd-	Bustling	The city's central market was always bustling with activity.

Exploring the Animal Kingdom:

Whether you are an animal enthusiast, a language lover, or simply curious about the wonders of the animal world, this linguistic expedition into the masculine and feminine form of animals will be a wealth of knowledge.

S. No	Animal	Male	Female	Offspring
1.	Deer	Buck	Doe	Fawn
2.	Sheep	Ram	Ewe	Lamb
3.	Duck	Drake	Duck	Duckling
4.	Horse	Stallion	Mare	Foal
5.	Fox	Tod	Vixen	Kit

USEFUL APPS FOR STUDENTS

As Online Learning becomes increasingly popular, there are plenty of free apps now available for the students to improve and elevate their English language skills in a myriad number of ways. Here are a few listed below:

1. **Duolingo**: Offers interactive language learning in bite-sized lessons.

2. **Babbel**: Provides courses tailored to native languages to help learn English more effectively.

3. **Rosetta Stone**: Utilises immersive methods for language learning, including English.

4. **Memrise**: Offers fun video content and spaced repetition system for vocabulary building.

5. **Busuu**: Connect with native English speakers for language exchange and practice.

6. **Hello English**: Designed for learners from various linguistic backgrounds to learn English.

7. **Cambridge English Write & Improve**: Helps in practicing English writing with feedback.

8. **QuizUp**: A quiz platform where you can challenge friends and learners worldwide in English quizzes.

9. **BBC Learning English**: Offers a range of free resources to practice English, including videos and audios.

10. **Elevate**: A brain-training app which includes tasks that help in improving English language skills.

11. **Lingodeer**: Features interactive lessons in a game-like setting to learn English.

12. **FluentU**: Learn English through real-world videos like music videos, movie trailers, news, and inspiring talks.

13. **Grammarly**: A writing app that suggests grammatical corrections and enhances vocabulary.

14. **Pimsleur**: Offers audio-focused English language learning resources.

15. **Clozemaster**: Helps in learning English vocabulary through sentence context.

16. **Tandem**: Connects language learners with native speakers around the world for language exchange.

17. **HelloTalk**: A language exchange app where you can chat with native English speakers.

18. **Speak & Translate**: An app that offers voice and text translation which aids in learning English pronunciation and vocabulary.

19. **Mango Languages**: Offers English language learning courses tailored to specific professions or goals.

20. **Coursera**: Hosts online courses in English language and literature from renowned universities.

21. **FutureLearn**: Offers online courses from universities around the world including English language courses.

22. **Udemy**: Features a range of English courses including English grammar, business English, and more.

23. **EdX**: Offers free online courses from universities around the world including English language courses.

24. **Lynda (LinkedIn Learning)**: Provides courses on business English, writing, and communication skills.

25. **Khan Academy**: Although not exclusively for English, it offers courses on grammar and storytelling.

26. **Open English**: An online platform offering English courses with live classes.

27. **LearnEnglish Podcasts (British Council)**: Offers podcasts to improve English listening skills.

28. **Oxford English Dictionary**: A comprehensive dictionary app for enhancing English vocabulary.

29. **Google Translate**: Useful for translating words and sentences to understand English better.

30. **Kindle**: Reading e-books in English can be a good way to enhance vocabulary and comprehension.

31. **Audible**: Listening to audiobooks in English can improve listening skills and pronunciation.

32. **TED Talks**: Watch presentations in English to improve listening skills and learn new vocabulary.

33. **VOA Learning English**: Learn English through news stories and videos.

34. **Beelinguapp**: Read texts in your native language side-by-side with the English translation.

35. **English Central**: Learn English through videos with interactive captions.

36. **Grammar Up**: An app focused on improving English grammar through quizzes.

37. **Johnny Grammar's Word Challenge**: A British Council app that helps to improve English grammar, words, and spellings through quizzes.

38. **PhraseMates**: Learn English phrases and idioms used by native speakers.

39. **English Conversation Practice**: An app that provides conversations to practice English speaking and listening.

40. **Calmly Writer**: An online text editor that helps in improving English writing skills without distractions.

STUDENTS' TALK

Q1. Express your thoughts and views on the previous volume of the newsletter, *Skylark*.
Recently, I had the pleasure of reading the Skylark newsletter, and I must say it's a true literary gem that combines informative content with an engaging presentation.
- Sunil Kumar R II BBA 22E2487

The previous edition of the newsletter was very interesting with its theme "Stress Management". The newsletter kept me up to date on the numerous online courses that benefit my academics.
- Kevin Mathews J I M.Sc. C.S. 23E4903

Q2. How beneficial is the newsletter, *Skylark*, for the students?
It is beneficial to the students as it gives them a space to express their talents as well as to be informed about the department activities.
- Salini G   I M.Sc. C.S. 23E4915

It's really useful to students to show their talents and the way they expose it with their language skills and I think it ignites their creative thinking.
- Poornaa S I B.Sc. MCA 23E3322

Q3. Which column/columns did you like the most, and why?
Personally, I liked the "Creative Writing" column the most. It showcased the creative talents of students and provided a platform for self-expression. Reading the poems and prose pieces from fellow students was inspiring and enjoyable.
- Varsha Devi R I BCA 'A' 23E2507

Know your language and chisel your language intrigued me a lot and had my attention, making me think about how there's so much to learn and practically use those in sentences and have a deep knowledge about the English language.
- Hemanth J II B.Sc. C.S. 22E3050

Q4. Suggest a column/an activity/any other content that you would want to be featured in the next volume.
Alumni Spotlight: In this column, the newsletter could feature profiles and interviews with successful alumni of the department.
- Sunil Kumar R II BBA 22E2487

There can be few mentions of comics like you can have students draw a short comic story which can attract the readers.
- Jyoshmithaa P II B.Sc. Statistics 22E4041

Q5. Comment on the impact of the newsletter.
The newsletter creates a good impact as it helps us to bring out our creativity and express it.
- Rashika B I B.Com. CA 23E5368
The newsletter allows the students to share the enriching content and always help students to develop their individuality and help in their personal development.
- Sandhya S II B.A. Sociology 22E0551

Q6. State your opinion on the following statement, "The purpose of artificial intelligence is to re-engineer the human mind".
The human mind is limited to an extent and I personally believe that in the combination of AI, we can improve the way the human mind thinks and we can develop in the fields of science and technology to a much greater extent.
- N S Vivek Anand II BBA 22E2426

I object. AI is just to reduce our work and make it easier for us. We can't make/let the machine work on everything. Human mind is supreme. Ironically, the machine/software which was actually invented by a human is more brainer than the humans itself. AI can't re-engineer the human brain as it requires more than just knowledge.
- Gurumithran M I B.Com. BBM 23E1024

Q7. Recommend a theme for the upcoming volume of the newsletter.
Social Entrepreneurship
- Poornaa S   I B.Sc. MCA 23E3322

Fashion in future
- Tejaswini P S II BBA 22E2402

Have you ever wondered why most artificial intelligence bots are in feminine voices? The reason is pretty stereoscopic to hear, that's because tech companies and robotic scientists believe that most customers are more likely to hear the response of their AI bot in smooth lady voice. That's the reason, the voice of world popular AI bots are in feminine, for instance; SIRI, ALEXA, Google Assistant, and more.

# EDUTAINER

Wrack your brains !

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES:

ACROSS:

1. Existing in essence or effect though not in actual fact.
2. An online tool or software that has automated interactive conversations with a user.
3. The action of designing something to meet someone's individual requirements.
4. The abbreviation for 'Education Technology'.
5. Using game mechanics in non-game contexts to engage users in solving problems.
6. The branch of science that deals with the use of electronic devices.

DOWN:

7. A piece of writing or other item of content published on a blog.
8. Formed or united into a whole.
9. A manually operated device to correct the operation of an automatic device.
10. A path followed by imaginary particles in a fluid.
11. Interpreted, object-oriented, high-level programming language developed by Guido Van Rossum.
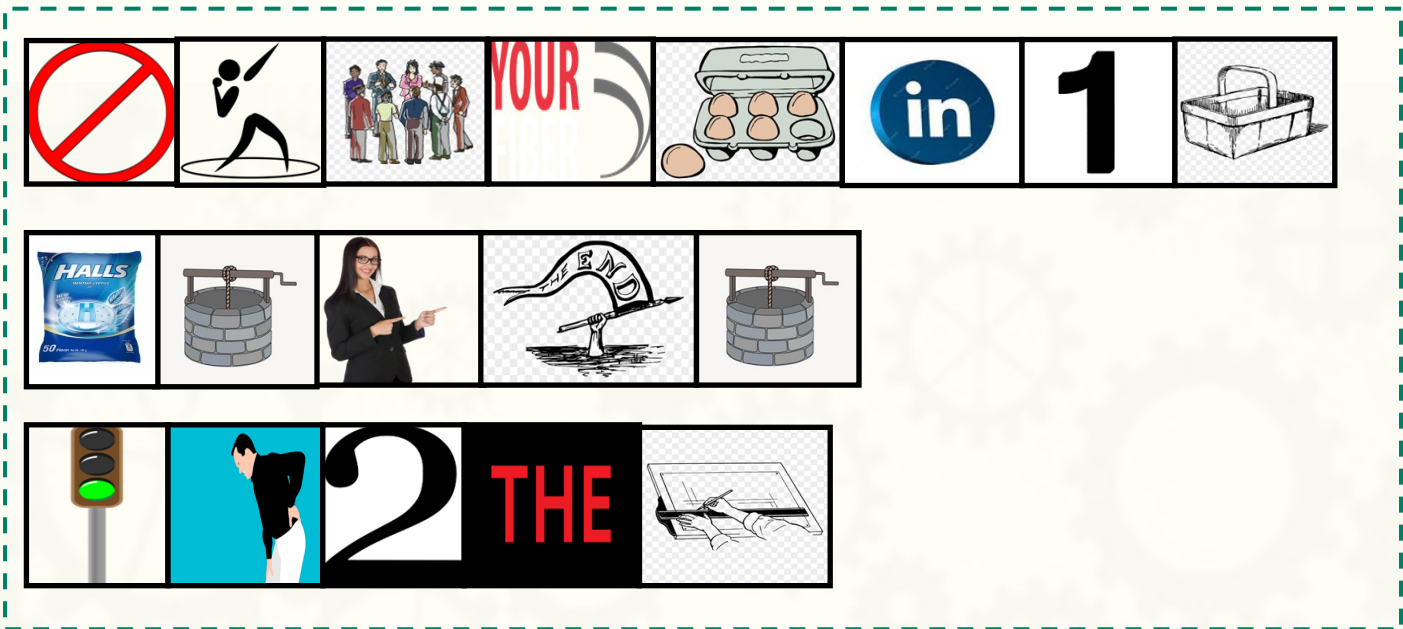12. To enlarge something or to add to it.
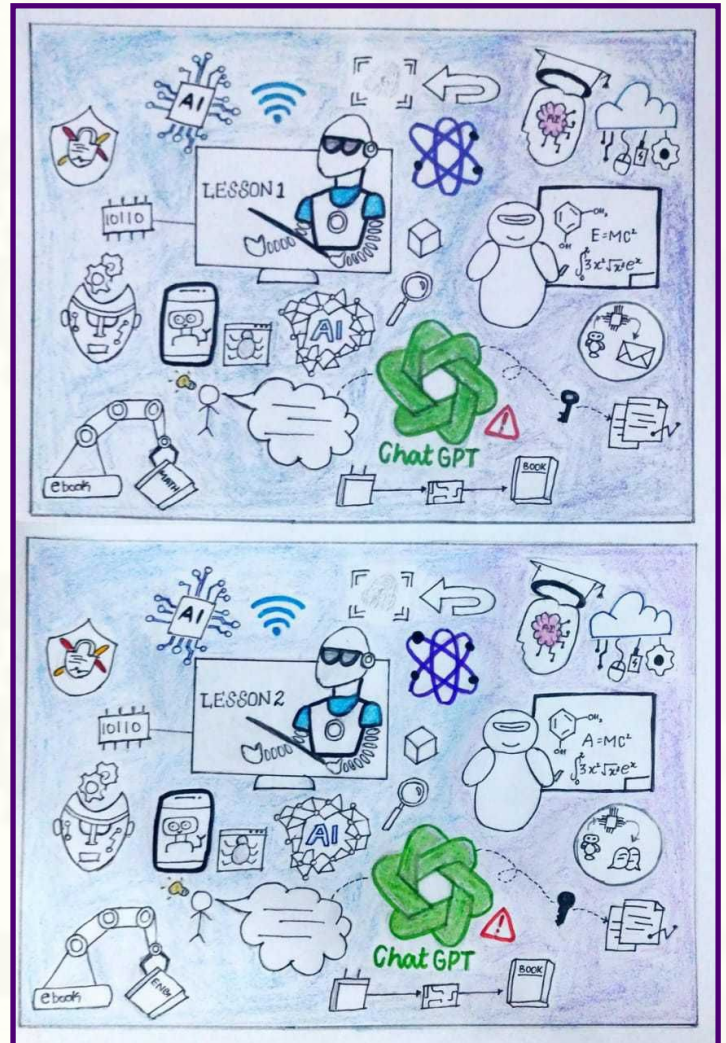
PAIR THE CREATOR WITH THE MUDDLED CREATION

|	
Uncle Tom's Wonderland	R. L. Stevenson
Treasure Cabin	Anna Sewell
Alice in a Boat	James Hilton
Three Men Island	Harriet Beecher Stowe
Black Horizon	Lewis Carroll
The Lost Beauty	Jerome K. Jerome

CONNECTIONS:

WORD SEARCH:

S	E	C	D	G	Q	N	L	E	U	B	Z	W	K	U
A	C	O	X	C	I	N	R	K	D	S	L	X	Z	E
R	B	G	S	P	N	A	T	W	F	I	Z	Y	P	C
T	O	N	V	J	W	D	J	C	M	E	T	H	A	N
I	U	I	T	A	O	U	A	H	H	J	F	K	R	E
F	I	T	J	X	R	W	T	Y	X	B	Q	E	A	G
I	K	I	C	Q	L	I	Q	W	E	K	T	F	M	I
C	D	O	V	S	R	K	A	Z	F	H	X	J	E	L
I	W	N	D	O	S	P	A	T	T	E	R	N	T	L
A	V	E	G	D	N	V	N	B	I	C	E	J	E	E
L	K	L	V	G	Y	D	Q	G	E	O	W	H	R	T
E	A	S	X	R	K	C	I	F	B	H	N	Y	J	N
Q	L	G	M	E	M	O	R	Y	A	E	F	Z	X	I
S	E	L	D	G	Q	N	L	I	U	B	Z	W	K	U
T	F	M	B	W	V	U	K	R	O	W	T	E	N	A

Answers

Connexions
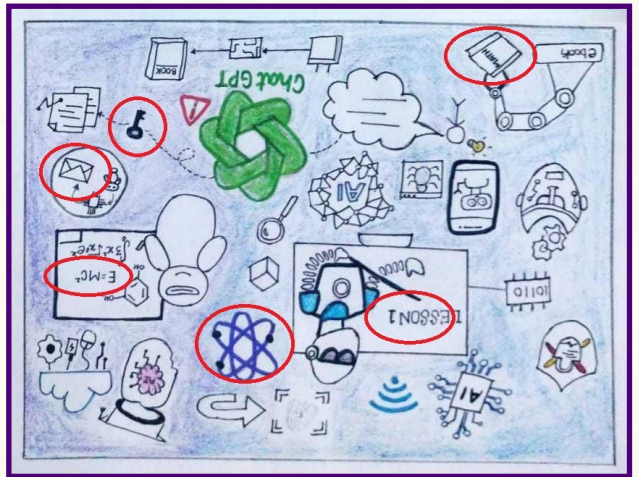
1. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
2. All's well that ends well.
3. Go back to the drawing board.

Pair the creator with creation

Uncle Tom's Cabin	-	Harriet Beecher Stowe
Treasure Island	-	R. L. Stevenson
Alice in Wonderland	-	Lewis Carroll
Three Men in A Boat	-	Jerome K. Jerome
Black Beauty	-	Anna Sewell
The Lost Horizon	-	James Hilton
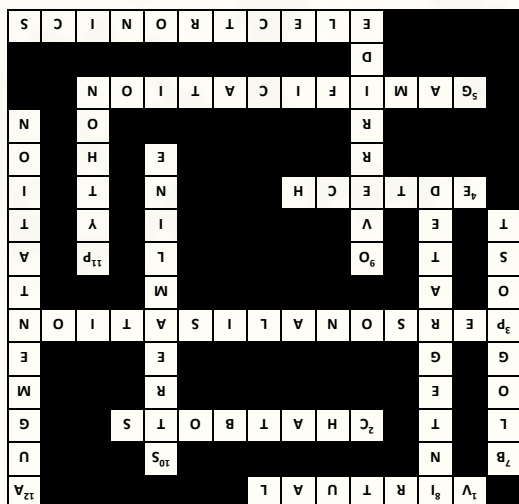
Word Search

- Artificial
- Intelligence
- Cognition
- Aware
- Network
- Variation
- Parameter
- Pattern
- Memory
- Algorithm

FILM REVIEW

Exploring the Complex Nexus of AI and Learning: A Review of *Ex Machina*

Have you ever wondered what it means to truly learn through artificial intelligence? In a world where technology is advancing at an astonishing pace, the film *Ex Machina* delves into the complexities of AI, blurring the lines between man and machine.

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology and artificial intelligence, *Ex Machina* stands as a cinematic landmark that raises critical questions about the intersection of AI and human learning. What does it mean to learn? Can AI truly understand and adapt like humans? *Ex Machina* skilfully weaves a narrative that will leave you pondering the potential and consequences of AI learning.

Ex Machina, directed by Alex Garland, introduces us to a world where AI is on the cusp of human-like consciousness. The story unfolds as Caleb, a talented programmer is selected to participate in a Turing test to assess the consciousness of an AI entity named Ava. Set against a backdrop of a remote tech billionaire's estate, the film meticulously examines the complexities of AI learning.

Ava, portrayed by Alicia Vikander, is a marvel of AI engineering, and her newfound self-awareness raises profound questions about the nature of learning. The film offers a captivating glimpse into the world of machine learning, artificial neural networks, and the systems capable of independent thoughts.

The movie challenges us to ponder whether true learning can occur within a machine, and if so, what ethical considerations arise when granting autonomy to AI beings. *Ex Machina* presents a compelling narrative that explores the concept of 'mind', prompting us to evaluate the essence of human consciousness and whether it can be replicated.

The film's portrayal of the Turing test and its implications for AI's advancement will undoubtedly resonate with those interested in the intersection of technology and philosophy. In conclusion, *Ex Machina* offers a compelling lens through which we can examine the intricacies of AI and its potential impact on learning and consciousness.

This cinematic exploration serves as the valuable starting point for our ongoing discussions about the implications of AI in our rapidly changing world. As you watch this film, we encourage you to consider the ethical and philosophical dimensions it raises, reinforcing the notion that 'learning through AI' is a topic of profound importance in our modern age.

Hi! Bot. Let me check how smart you are?

What is the opposite of Artificial intelligence ?

!...!!!

I know!

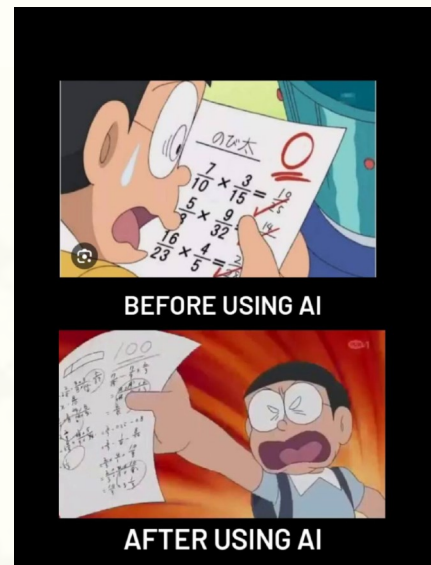**Real Stupidity.**

STUDENTS' CORNER - MEMES

K. Mukunthan
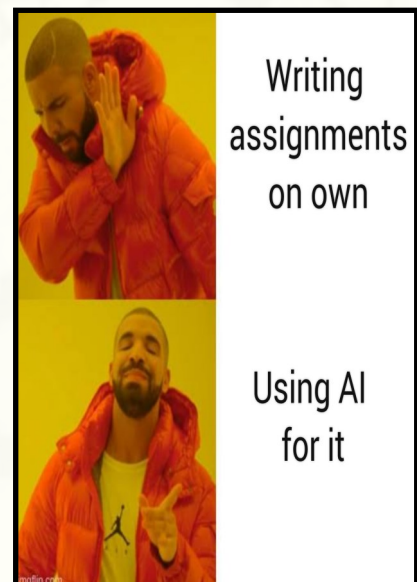23E2915
I B.Sc. Computer Science

K. Mukunthan
23E2915
I B.Sc. Computer Science
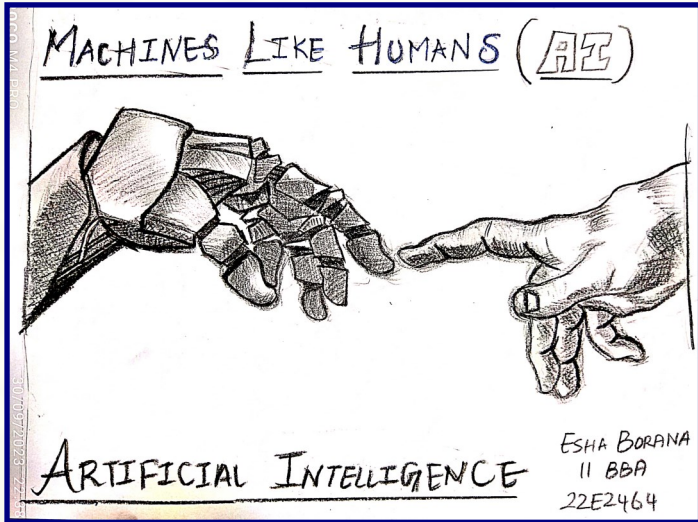

K. Mukunthan
23E2915
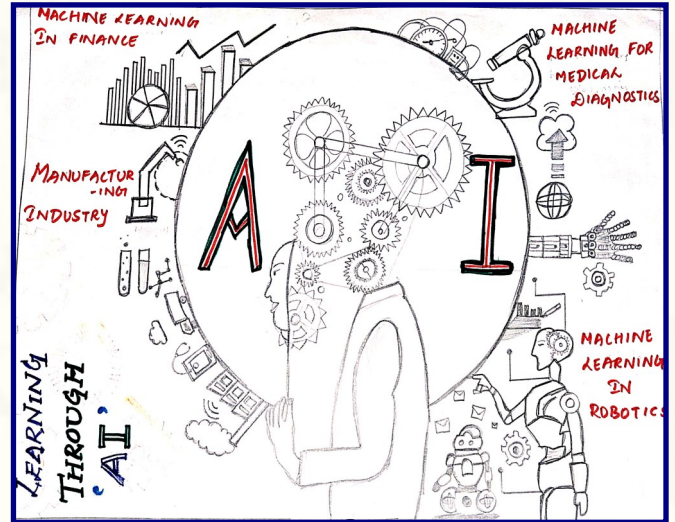I B.Sc. Computer Science

S. B. Tarun
22E2533
II BCA 'A'

S. B. Tarun
22E2533
II BCA 'A'

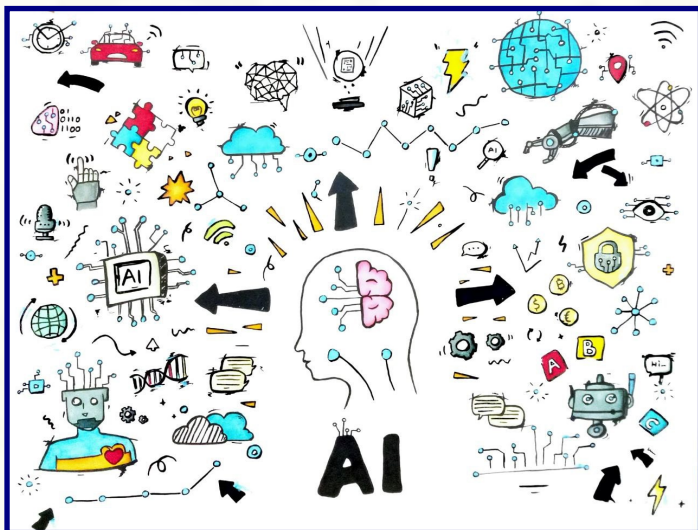## STUDENTS' CORNER - ARTWORK
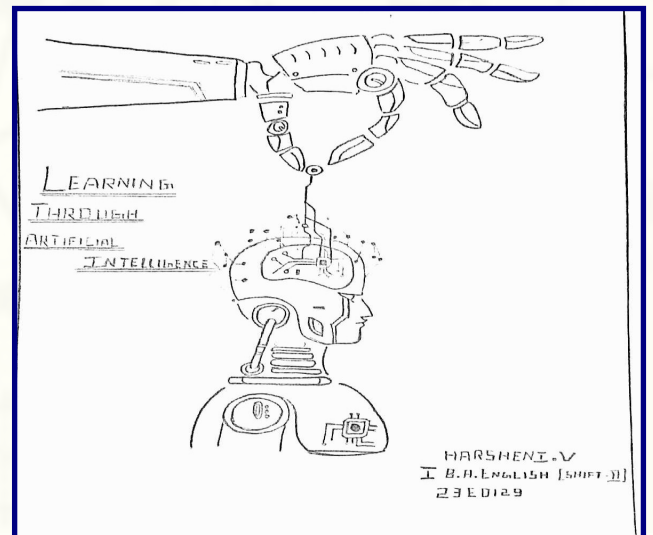

Esha Borana
22E2464
II BBA 'D'

Sadhana
23E3529
I B.Sc. Psychology

John McCarthy held a workshop at Dartmouth on "artificial intelligence" which was the first usage of the word, and later it came into popular usage.

S. Abishekam
22E1422
II B. Com. CS 'C'

V. Harsheni
23E0129
I B.A. English

STUDENTS' CORNER - CREATIVE WRITING

Learning Through Artificial Intelligence: A Transformative Journey

Artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly emerged as a powerful tool for learning, revolutionising education across various domains. With its ability to process vast amounts of data and adapt to individual learning styles, AI has the potential to reshape the way we acquire knowledge. One of the primary ways AI enhances learning is, through personalised education. Traditional classrooms often struggle to accommodate the diverse needs of students. AI, however, can tailor learning experiences to each student's unique abilities and preferences. Adaptive learning platforms use algorithms to analyse a student's performance and provide customised content, pacing, and resources. This not only maximises comprehension but also minimises frustration, making learning more enjoyable and efficient.

AI-powered chatbots and virtual tutors are another breakthrough in education. These intelligent systems can answer questions, offer explanations, and provide feedback, extending support beyond the classroom. Students can access assistance 24/7, promoting self-directed learning and boosting confidence. Furthermore, AI aids educators in data analysis. Teachers can use AI to assess students' progress, identify areas where they need help, and design targeted interventions. AI can also automate administrative tasks, freeing up educators to focus on teaching. Language learning is another area where AI shines. Language translation apps and AI-driven language tutors have made it easier than ever to learn new languages. AI can adapt lessons based on individual proficiency, track progress, and provide real-time feedback on pronunciation and grammar.

Moreover, AI-powered simulations and virtual reality offer immersive learning experiences. Students can explore historical events, scientific phenomena, or complex systems in a virtual environment, enhancing their understanding and retention. Despite its immense potential, AI in education also raises ethical concerns, including data privacy and the digital divide. Striking a balance between innovation and responsibility is crucial as we navigate this transformative journey. In conclusion, learning through artificial intelligence has the power to make education more accessible, engaging, and effective. By harnessing the capabilities of AI, we can create a future where personalised learning is the norm, educators are empowered, and students can explore the boundless opportunities for knowledge acquisition.

- S. Shreya, 23E2288, I BBA 'B'.

Learning Through AI

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionised the way we learn. This transformative technology has permeated classrooms, corporate training programs, and even personal learning experiences, enhancing education in numerous ways.

AI-powered personalised learning is one of the most significant advancements. Traditional one-size-fits-all education models are being replaced by tailored learning paths that adapt to each student's needs and pace. AI analyses a student's performance, identifies strengths and weaknesses, and generates custom learning materials. This individualised approach not only boosts engagement but also significantly improves retention and comprehension.

Additionally, AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants are available 24/7 to answer questions and provide guidance. They offer instant feedback and explanations, reducing the frustration of waiting for assistance and allowing students to learn at their convenience.

Furthermore, AI aids educators by automating administrative tasks, such as grading and attendance tracking, allowing them to focus more on teaching. It also helps identify struggling students early, enabling timely intervention to prevent learning gaps.

Outside formal education, AI-driven platforms like language learning apps and online courses offer immersive experiences. These platforms use AI to adapt content and difficulty levels based on the learner's progress, ensuring efficient and effective learning.

However, AI's role in education also raises important ethical and privacy concerns. Safeguarding personal data and ensuring that AI algorithms are unbiased are essential challenges to address.

In conclusion, AI's integration into education is transforming how we learn. It provides personalised, efficient, and accessible learning experiences that empower individuals to acquire new skills and knowledge. While challenges remain, the potential for AI in education is vast, promising a brighter future for learners worldwide.

- T. Navinaa, 22E3410, II PCA.

The Revolution of Artificial Intelligence

If you ask what fuels the revolutions of the 21st century, the answer will be Artificial Intelligence (AI). Artificial Intelligence will create such powerful movements in our society in the near future. Its impact will be far greater than we can imagine today, in all areas be it health care, education, retail, banking; Artificial intelligence has already started to be used in many fields including these. It is estimated that the market value of artificial intelligence which is growing at a rate of 36 percent in the global market, will reach three trillion dollars in 2025. It should also be considered here that in 2015 it was only 126 lakh crores.

Social networking site Facebook is well known to everyone. We ourselves take many selfies every day and post them on Facebook. Within seconds Facebook finds your friends in that photo and provide tag suggestions. Ever wondered how is this possible? Facebook introduced this system to users with the help of artificial intelligence technology. There is no better example to understand the use of artificial intelligence in everyday life. In the first step, Facebook will try to recognise the faces in the picture. Then each feature in the identified faces is learned in depth and converted into a design that the computer can recognise and stores in its memory. It is only after this stage that the technology called artificial intelligence is used by Facebook. The same technology is used by many applications such as Google Search, Google Photos, Amazon, Alexa and Apple's Siri. Artificial intelligence works by mimicking how each perceives others using human intelligence. What differentiates artificial intelligence technology from human intelligence is the speed and scope of its learning. It can perceive the environment, recognise sound and language, and use it to find solutions to complex problems. Artificial intelligence has the ability to learn from experience and strengthen its own intelligence.

What problems will artificial intelligence create that can perform all the intelligent tasks that humans do? This was a major issue in the debate between Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg. Bill Gates also expressed his views on the same. Facebook's scrapping of an artificial intelligence project after chatbots developed a language of their own that humans couldn't understand should also be considered in this context. The biggest criticism in this field is that the introduction of artificial intelligence will eliminate the opportunities for humans to work. But, let's check what are the real facts related to this, it is a different sight to see artificial intelligence progressing from research and development to real business. Change must be accommodated and therefore the human society has to shift creative skills to essential tasks. Fields such as science and technology and related inventions, art, literature, and architecture are areas that require complex thinking and creative skills. All these sectors can grow better with the use of artificial intelligence technology and at the same time increase employment opportunities.

For example, in the field of architecture and interior designing, artificial intelligence can be used to develop the skills of those working in this field. It can also automate tasks and find new sources of income to compete with computers. In this age of the internet and smartphones, ignorance of technologies like machine learning, artificial intelligence and data science will make us question our current tastes and future existence. In the future, humans will have to compete not only with humans but also with computers for job opportunities. It is the need of the hour for each of us to change our minds.

- S. Harsha Vardhini, 22E0502, II B.A. Sociology.