

LTANT 2024 Annual Conference reflection

Bee Huang Khoo

Attending the recent annual language conference was a transformative experience for me as a learner. The keynote speaker's focus on elevating metacognition with digital tools, particularly through the use of ChatGPT and other AI technologies, provided valuable insights into how we can enhance our learning processes.

One of the most significant takeaways from the keynote was the importance of metacognition—being aware of and reflecting on my own learning. The speaker introduced a helpful mnemonic based on the A, E, I, O, U rule to guide our metacognitive practices. This framework encourages us to answer, elaborate, I, (personal, interesting fact, idiom…), Opinion (contrast, compare favourite, belief…) and U (you, recommendation, future). I found this mnemonic particularly empowering, as it provides a clear structure for students in speaking especially those in seniors.

Following the keynote, I participated in several workshops that focused on various edtech tools for formative and summative assessments. These sessions broadened my understanding of how technology can be leveraged to track and enhance my progress as a language learner. I learned about tools that allow for real-time feedback, helping me identify strengths and areas for improvement. This personalised approach has motivated me to take a more active role in my learning journey.

The discussions about the ethical use of AI in education were particularly thought-provoking. It reminded me of the importance of balancing technology with critical thinking and self-reflection. While these digital tools can enhance my learning, I realise that they should complement traditional study methods rather than replace them.

Overall, the conference has inspired me to embrace these innovative tools in my language studies. I feel more equipped to take charge of my learning, utilising technology to deepen my understanding while remaining mindful of my thought processes. This experience has truly enriched my approach to language learning, and I look forward to applying these insights in the future.

LTANT 2024 Annual Conference reflection

Chee Hock Tan

I found the experience incredibly rewarding and full of innovative ideas for enhancing language education. The event started with Jaclyn Curnow's keynote, where she introduced the AEIOU mnemonic, a simple yet effective framework to communicate information and interact meaningfully with students. She also highlighted tools like Flippity, Quadables, and Baamboozle.com, along with gamification platforms like Jeopardy Labs. These resources are valuable for making language lessons more interactive and aligned with high impact teaching strategies, fostering greater student engagement.

The second keynote by Linden O'Brien was equally insightful, emphasizing TikTok as a tool to make language learning relevant and appealing to students. O'Brien shared tips on filtering videos to ensure appropriateness and recommended Slayingsocial.com, a platform for keeping up with current trends, helping teachers connect with students on a cultural level. The idea of having students create TikTok videos as assessments is something I am excited to try in future classes.

Alexis Miller's session on PowerPoint techniques taught us how to create engaging, interactive games and utilize transitions and randomization, adding a dynamic touch to presentations. I was honoured to lead my own workshop on integrating diverse EdTech tools, including Minecraft, Quizlet, Blooket, and Lumio, for assessments. It was inspiring to see teachers eager to make assessments engaging and fun. The online workshop with Maria Sabo on ChatGPT was also a highlight, showcasing how to use it for creating flashcards, presentations, assessments, rubrics, and even interactive games. These skills simplify lesson planning and make grading more efficient.

Receiving the Outstanding Educator Award 2024 from LTANT was an incredible honour. I am deeply grateful for this recognition, which reflects the importance of language education in the community and the meaningful connections we build with students. LTANT's appreciation for teachers, shown through students' reflections, made this event even more memorable. Thank you, LTANT, for this well-organised and fulfilling experience, complete with wonderful meals that kept us fuelled throughout the day.

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Virginia Price

The Languages Teachers' Association of Northern Territory (LTANT) conference offered an enriching experience with diverse keynotes, workshops, and inspiring moments. The first keynote by Jaclyn Curnow introduced a creative way to share information and engage students using the AEIOU mnemonic, a method that emphasises different ways to communicate effectively. Jaclyn also highlighted various EdTech tools, including Flippity for language practice, Quadables, Baamboozle.com, and Jeopardy Labs, which can be used to gamify learning experiences. These tools align with high-impact teaching strategies, providing language teachers with engaging ways to reinforce language skills.

In the second keynote, Linden O'Brien explored the use of TikTok in language classrooms, emphasizing the potential of short videos to make lessons more relatable. She shared practical tips, like previewing and filtering videos before sharing them, ensuring appropriateness for students. Additionally, Linden recommended Slayingsocial.com, a platform that allows teachers to stay updated on current trends, fostering a "cool teacher" image that students relate to. She also suggested using student-created TikTok videos as an assessment tool, an idea I am excited to implement in my upcoming classes.

The workshops by Colleen and Alexis were equally insightful. Colleen Barclay's session on ChatGPT demonstrated its utility in creating rubrics and PowerPoint presentations with images, streamlining lesson preparation. Alexis Miller's "PowerfulPoint Practices" workshop taught us how to create interactive games in PowerPoint, use Morph Transition for dynamic visuals, and incorporate randomizing functions to add variety.

In the final workshop, integrating tools like Minecraft, Quizlet, Blooket, and Lumio for assessments, I was inspired to explore new ways of assessing student progress.

The day was a wonderful way to connect with fellow language teachers and, also enjoy wonderful refreshments. Thank you to LTANT organisers.

The day concluded with a memorable moment as Mr. Tan received the Outstanding Educator Award 2024, a testament to the dedication and excellence in our teaching community. The LTANT conference was not only informative but truly inspiring. Thank you so much.

LTANT 2024 Annual Conference reflection

Chloe Swee

Attending the 2024 LTANT Conference was an inspiring and enriching experience. The event was well organised, with knowledgeable speakers and valuable networking opportunities with fellow language educators. This experience broadened my understanding of how digital tools can significantly enhance teaching and learning.

The conference began with Jaclyn Curnow's keynote on "Elevating Metacognition with Digital Tools". She highlighted the power of digital tools in fostering students' self-awareness and agency through metacognitive strategies such as planning, monitoring comprehension, and self-reflection. It was compelling to see how tools like AnswerGarden, Flippity, and Baamboozle engage students in interactive and reflective learning.

Linden O'Brien's keynote "Welcome to TikTokyo", introduced innovative ways to leverage social media platforms for language learning. Her session sparked ideas for integrating multimedia into my lessons, making learning more engaging and accessible for students.

Colleen Barclay's session on ChatGPT demonstrated how AI can streamline resource creation across subjects and grade levels. I was particularly impressed by ChatGPT's adaptability in generating resources for diverse learning needs such as differentiating instruction, lesson plans, rubrics, activities, and even downloadable PowerPoint presentations. Learning that ChatGPT could also produce sample texts with intentional errors for grading practice was eye-opening and a highly practical takeaway for me.

Chee Hock Tan's presentation on diverse EdTech tools for formative and summative assessments was equally inspiring. His use of Minecraft for summative assessments in language was a standout, providing insights into how this popular platform can be applied to assessment design. Tan's session broadened my perspective and gave me the confidence to explore Minecraft as a teaching tool.

Finally, Maria Sabo's virtual session on empowering language educators with ChatGPT and trending AI tools showcased practical applications of AI in lesson planning, personalised learning, and student engagement. Tools like Brisk, Diffit, Gamma, and AI image generators offer great flexibility. I'm especially excited about Diffit, as it customizes reading materials to different proficiency levels - a fantastic addition for my language classroom.

This conference has equipped me with innovative tools and strategies that I'm eager to bring into my classroom, creating more engaging and supportive learning experiences for my students. I'm excited to build on these insights and look forward to reconnecting with this inspiring community at next year's LTANT Conference