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An Empirical Study of Adaptive Learning Algorithm Based on Intrinsic Motivation in English Online Teaching and Learning



Abstract: - An empirical study of adaptive learning algorithms based on intrinsic motivation in English online teaching and learning delves into the intersection of technology and motivation in language education. By investigating how adaptive learning algorithms can leverage intrinsic motivation factors, such as personal interests and curiosity, researchers aim to optimize online English instruction for individual learners. This paper introduces Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL) as a novel approach to optimizing English teaching and learning processes. Traditional methods of instruction often fail to address the diverse needs and learning profiles of students, leading to suboptimal outcomes. WFCAL offers a solution by dynamically adapting instructional content based on the individual characteristics of learners, thereby creating personalized learning experiences. Through the application of WFCAL, significant improvements in language proficiency have been observed across various skill domains, including vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension. The algorithm clusters learners into groups based on their proficiency levels and adapts instructional delivery to cater to the specific needs of each cluster. This approach promotes engagement, motivation, and efficacy in language learning, leading to enhanced outcomes. learners in Cluster 1 showed an average increase in vocabulary knowledge from 65 to 80, while learners in Cluster 2 demonstrated an improvement from 70 to 85 in grammar understanding. Additionally, reading comprehension skills improved by an average of 10 points across all clusters. The algorithm clusters learners into groups based on their proficiency levels and adapts instructional delivery to cater to the specific needs of each cluster.

Keywords: Adaptive Learning, Online Teaching, Feature Clustering, Vocabulary Knowledge, Reading.

1. Introduction

Adaptive learning algorithms are sophisticated systems designed to personalize the learning experience for individual users[1]. Unlike traditional one-size-fits-all approaches, adaptive learning algorithms leverage data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning techniques to dynamically adjust the content, pace, and delivery of educational material based on the learner's performance, preferences, and proficiency level[2]. These algorithms continuously gather data on the learner's interactions, such as their responses to quizzes, time spent on tasks, and areas of strength and weakness. By analyzing this data, the algorithm can tailor the learning experience in real-time, providing customized recommendations, remediation, and challenges to optimize learning outcomes[3]. One key aspect of adaptive learning algorithms is their ability to adapt to each learner's unique needs and learning style. If a learner excels in certain topics but struggles with others, the algorithm can prioritize content and exercises accordingly, focusing on areas where improvement is needed while minimizing time spent on mastered concepts[4]. Moreover, adaptive learning algorithms can foster engagement and motivation by presenting content in formats that resonate with the learner, whether through interactive simulations, videos, or gamified exercises. By catering to individual preferences and learning strategies, these algorithms strive to enhance comprehension, retention, and mastery of the subject matter[5]. Adaptive learning holds significant potential for revolutionizing online teaching and learning in the realm of English education.

With harnessing the power of adaptive algorithms, online platforms can offer tailored and personalized learning experiences that cater to the diverse needs and proficiency levels of learners[6]. In the context of English language learning, adaptive algorithms can analyze various aspects of a learner's performance, such as vocabulary acquisition, grammar comprehension, reading comprehension, and speaking fluency[7]. Based on this analysis, the algorithm can dynamically adjust the curriculum, pacing, and content delivery to suit the individual learner's strengths, weaknesses, and learning preferences[8]. adaptive learning algorithms can track progress over time and adapt the difficulty level of tasks and exercises accordingly. As learners master concepts and skills, the algorithm can introduce more challenging material to ensure continuous growth and improvement[9]. In addition to personalized instruction, adaptive learning in English online teaching can also

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provide real-time feedback and assessment. By analyzing learner responses and interactions, the algorithm can offer immediate feedback, suggestions for improvement, and targeted remediation, enhancing the effectiveness of the learning process.

2. Related Works

In the burgeoning landscape of online education, English language teaching stands out as a particularly dynamic and evolving field. As the demand for English proficiency continues to rise globally, so too does the need for effective online teaching methodologies. In exploring the related works in this domain, one encounters a rich tapestry of research and innovation aimed at harnessing the potential of digital technologies to enhance language learning outcomes. From adaptive learning algorithms that tailor instruction to individual learner needs, to immersive virtual environments that facilitate authentic language practice, the literature is replete with diverse approaches and insights in the context of English language teaching and learning. Koka et al. (2023) focus on utilizing ALT to bolster motivation in language classrooms, shedding light on e-learners' perspectives. Similarly, Muñoz et al. (2022) conduct a systematic review of ALT's role in higher education, offering insights into its effectiveness across diverse learning environments. Chiu et al. (2023) delve into the intersection of teacher support and student motivation, specifically examining the influence of AI-based chatbots.

Meanwhile, Fidan and Gencel (2022) investigate the effects of integrating chatbot and peer feedback mechanisms into online learning, emphasizing their impact on learning performance and intrinsic motivation. These studies, along with others such as Jing et al. (2023) and Wongwatkit and Panjaburee (2023), collectively contribute to the growing body of literature surrounding adaptive learning in education, offering valuable perspectives and empirical evidence to inform future research and practice. Celik (2023) delves into the empirical study of teachers' professional knowledge, particularly focusing on the ethical integration of AI-based tools into education, highlighting the importance of informed pedagogical practices. Additionally, John et al. (2023) delve into the gamification equilibrium, emphasizing the balance between intrinsic motivation and extrinsic rewards in learning systems, offering insights into immersive gamification approaches. Lampropoulos et al. (2022) conduct a systematic literature review on augmented reality and gamification in education, shedding light on the diverse applications and empirical studies in this realm. Moreover, the literature delves into methodological considerations and evaluation frameworks for adaptive learning platforms. Park et al. (2023) employ sequence and reflexive thematic analysis to understand learners' self-regulated learning in adaptive learning analytics dashboards, while Tretow-Fish and Khalid (2023) conduct a systematic review of methods for evaluating learning analytics and dashboards in adaptive learning platforms, emphasizing the importance of robust evaluation methodologies.

The studies mentioned, along with others such as Hemmler and Ifenthaler (2022), Dah et al. (2023), and Liu et al. (2022), collectively contribute to a comprehensive understanding of adaptive learning technology's impact on education. Ni and Cheung (2023) investigate secondary students' continuance intention to adopt AI-powered intelligent tutoring systems for English learning, shedding light on factors affecting technology adoption in educational settings. Xu et al. (2023) propose a Bayesian-based knowledge tracing model tailored for safety training in construction, demonstrating the applicability of adaptive learning frameworks beyond traditional academic domains. Moreover, the literature addresses the intersection of affective feedback and adaptive learning systems. Liu et al. (2022) examine the influence of affective feedback adaptive learning systems on learning engagement and self-directed learning, underscoring the importance of emotional support in enhancing learner motivation and autonomy.

The collection of research presented offers a comprehensive overview of the role and impact of adaptive learning technology (ALT) in education, with a particular focus on English language teaching and learning. Scholars have explored diverse aspects of ALT, including its influence on motivation enhancement, teacher support, gamification, and affective feedback. Studies have also delved into methodological considerations, evaluation frameworks, and the applicability of ALT across various domains and learner populations. Through systematic reviews, empirical studies, and theoretical inquiries, researchers have contributed valuable insights into the potential of ALT to optimize learning experiences, enhance learner engagement, and promote self-directed learning.

3. English Online Teaching

English online teaching refers to the practice of delivering English language instruction through digital platforms and internet-based technologies. It encompasses a wide range of educational activities and interactions conducted in virtual environments, including language learning software, online courses, virtual classrooms, video conferencing tools, and multimedia resources. English online teaching caters to learners of all ages and proficiency levels, from beginners seeking basic language skills to advanced learners aiming for fluency and proficiency. This mode of teaching offers numerous advantages, including flexibility in scheduling, accessibility to learners worldwide, personalized instruction tailored to individual needs, and the integration of multimedia resources for enhanced engagement. Additionally, online platforms often incorporate interactive features such as quizzes, games, discussion forums, and real-time feedback mechanisms, fostering active participation and collaboration among learners. English online teaching also facilitates the integration of innovative pedagogical approaches and technologies, such as adaptive learning algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), and gamification. These tools enhance the effectiveness of instruction by adapting content and activities to learners' abilities, preferences, and progress, thereby optimizing learning outcomes.

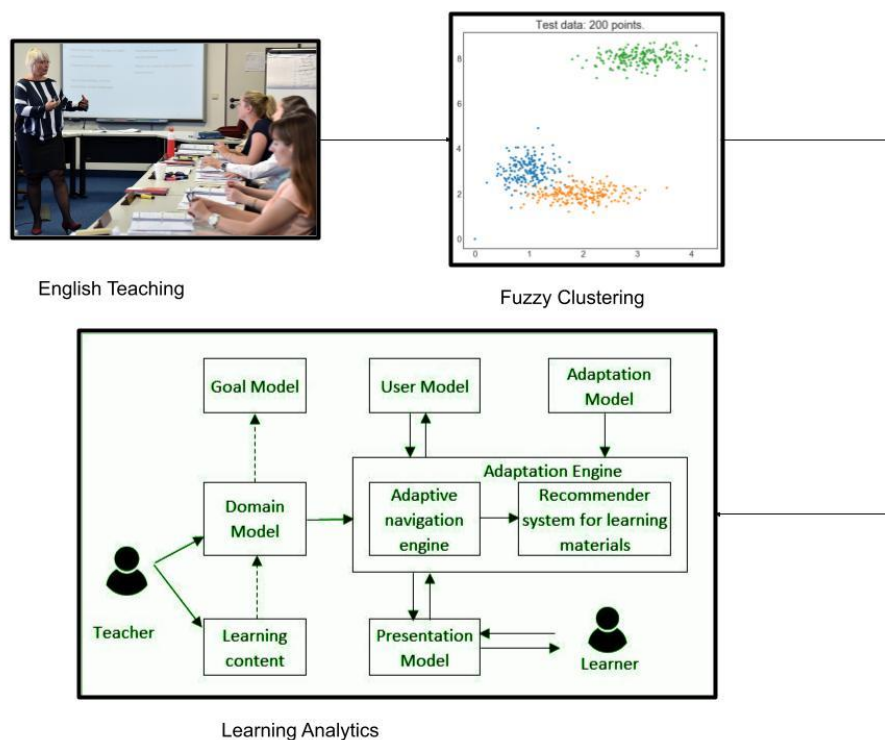


Figure 1: Process flow of WFCAL

English online teaching serves as a vital resource for learners in remote or underserved areas, providing access to quality language instruction that may not be available locally illustrated in Figure 1. It also offers opportunities for professionals seeking to improve their English language skills for career advancement or personal development, as well as educators looking to enhance their teaching strategies through online training and resources. incorporates digital platforms and internet-based technologies to deliver language instruction. It entails diverse educational activities facilitated through virtual environments, ranging from language learning software to interactive online courses. The essence of English online teaching can be represented as in equation (1)

$$E_{OT} = \sum_{i=1}^n (P_i \times L_i \times T_i) \tag{1}$$

OT represents the effectiveness of English online teaching. P_i denotes the proficiency level of learner i . L_i signifies the level of engagement of learner i . T_i indicates the technology adoption by learner i . n represents the total number of learners. Additionally, English online teaching often integrates adaptive learning algorithms and

artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to personalize instruction and optimize learning outcomes is integration can be expressed as in equation (2)

$$E_{AI} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^m (A_j \times I_j)}{m} \quad (2)$$

EAI represents the effectiveness of AI integration in English online teaching. A_j denotes the adaptability of algorithm j . I_j signifies the intelligence level of AI technology j . m represents the total number of algorithms and AI technologies integrated. English online teaching, driven by digital platforms and innovative technologies, is a multifaceted endeavor with measurable impacts on learning effectiveness. By understanding and optimizing the variables involved, educators and technologists can continue to advance the field and unlock its full potential in language education.

3.1 Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL)

Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL) represents a sophisticated approach to adaptive learning that leverages weighted feature clustering techniques to tailor instruction to individual learners. This methodology combines principles from machine learning, data mining, and educational psychology to optimize the learning experience. WFCAL can be expressed as follows in equation (3)

$$E_{WFCAL} = \sum_{i=1}^n (W_i \times F_i \times C_i \times A_i \times L_i) \quad (3)$$

EWFCAL represents the effectiveness of Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning. W_i denotes the weight assigned to feature i , reflecting its importance in the clustering process. F_i signifies the feature vector of learner i , representing their characteristics, preferences, and learning history. C_i represents the cluster assignment of learner i , indicating the group to which they belong based on their feature vector. A_i denotes the adaptability of the learning algorithm for learner i , reflecting its ability to dynamically adjust instruction based on clustering results. L_i indicates the learning outcome of learner i , measuring their performance and mastery of the subject matter. The adaptability of the learning algorithm A_i is crucial in WFCAL. This adaptability enables the algorithm to dynamically respond to changes in learners' needs and preferences, ensuring that instruction remains effective over time.

4. WFCAL for the English Teaching and Learning

Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL) emerges as a promising approach to enhance English teaching and learning in online environments. This methodology integrates weighted feature clustering techniques with adaptive learning principles to tailor instruction to the specific needs and preferences of individual learners. In the context of English teaching and learning, WFCAL allows for the personalized adaptation of instructional content, pace, and delivery methods. By analyzing learners' feature vectors and clustering them based on similarities in their language learning profiles, WFCAL identifies groups with comparable needs and learning styles. Adaptive learning algorithms then dynamically adjust instruction to suit the unique requirements of each cluster, maximizing learning outcomes. Moreover, the adaptability component (A_i) ensures that the learning algorithm remains responsive to changes in learners' language proficiency and preferences over time. This flexibility enables WFCAL to provide continuous, customized support throughout the learning journey, fostering engagement and motivation among English language learners. In practice, WFCAL aims to optimize the effectiveness of English teaching and learning by leveraging the clustering of learners based on their feature vectors and dynamically adapting instruction to suit the needs of each cluster. The adaptability component ensures that instruction remains responsive to changes in learners' language proficiency levels and preferences over time, thereby maximizing learning outcomes. Figure 2 illustrated the fuzzy clustering process for the English online teaching model.

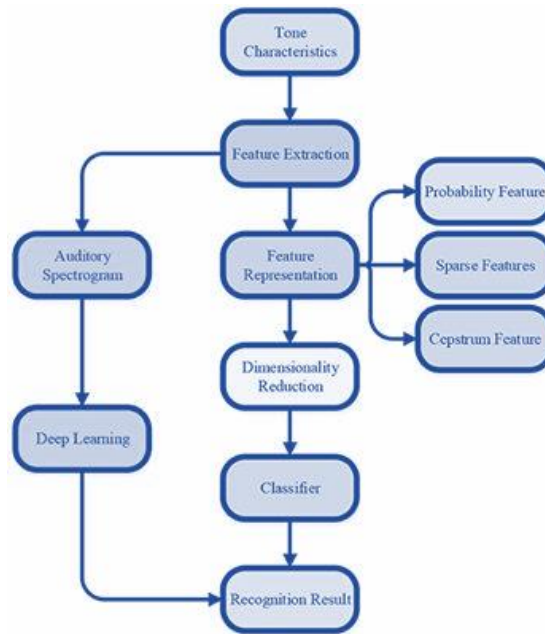


Figure 2: Fuzzy Clustering Process with the ALT model

To further illustrate, let's consider a specific example where feature i represents vocabulary knowledge. The weight W_i assigned to this feature could be determined based on its importance in English language acquisition. Learners' feature vectors F_i would include measures of their vocabulary proficiency, while clustering C_i would group learners with similar vocabulary knowledge levels together. The adaptability A_i of the learning algorithm would then adjust instruction, such as introducing more advanced vocabulary exercises for learners in clusters with higher proficiency levels. Finally, the learning outcome L_i would measure improvements in vocabulary acquisition for each learner. Consider various factors that contribute to the effectiveness of instruction and the outcomes of learning. Instructional Effectiveness Equation (IEE) is defined as in equation (4)

$$IEE = \sum_{i=1}^n (P_i \times T_i \times R_i) \tag{4}$$

IEE represents the instructional effectiveness. P_i denotes the proficiency level of learner i . T_i signifies the teaching quality received by learner i . R_i indicates the resources available for learner i . This equation captures the combined impact of learner proficiency, teaching quality, and available resources on instructional effectiveness. Learning Outcome Equation (LOE) defined in the equation (5)

$$LOA = \sum_{i=1}^n (I_i \times A_i) \tag{5}$$

LOE represents the learning outcome. I_i denotes the instruction received by learner i . A_i signifies the aptitude or ability of learner i . This equation quantifies the learning outcome as a product of the quality of instruction received and the learner's individual aptitude or ability. Overall Learning Effectiveness Equation (OLEE) represented in equation (6)

$$OLEE = IEE \times LOE \tag{6}$$

OLEE represents the overall learning effectiveness. This equation combines the instructional effectiveness and learning outcome to measure the overall effectiveness of the English teaching and learning process. In the realm of English teaching and learning, a mathematical framework can be constructed to delineate the multifaceted dynamics at play. The Instructional Effectiveness Equation (IEE) encapsulates the amalgamation of learner proficiency, teaching quality, and available resources, quantifying the efficacy of instruction. The Overall Learning Effectiveness Equation (OLEE) integrates both instructional effectiveness and learning outcomes, providing a holistic measure of the efficacy of English teaching and learning. By utilizing these equations, educators can discern areas for improvement in teaching methodologies, resource allocation, and learner support, fostering an environment conducive to enhanced language acquisition and proficiency.

<p>Algorithm 1: OLEE model for the learning effectiveness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initialize parameters and data structures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define the set of features (e.g., vocabulary knowledge, grammar understanding). - Initialize weights for each feature based on their importance. - Define the number of clusters. - Initialize centroids for each cluster. - Set convergence threshold. - Define maximum number of iterations. 2. Initialize learner profiles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For each learner, collect feature data (e.g., proficiency levels, learning preferences). 3. Perform feature scaling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normalize feature values to ensure equal importance across different features. 4. Initialize adaptive learning loop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set iteration counter to 0. - While not converged and iteration counter < maximum iterations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assign learners to clusters based on their feature vectors using weighted feature clustering. b. Update cluster centroids based on the mean feature vectors of assigned learners. c. Update learner proficiency levels based on cluster assignments. d. Adjust instructional content and delivery based on cluster characteristics and learner profiles. e. Evaluate convergence based on changes in cluster centroids and learner assignments. f. Increment iteration counter. 6. End.

The adaptive learning algorithm begins by initializing parameters and data structures, including defining the set of features relevant to English teaching and learning, assigning weights to each feature based on their importance, specifying the number of clusters, initializing centroids for each cluster, setting convergence thresholds, and defining the maximum number of iterations. Following initialization, learner profiles are established by collecting feature data such as proficiency levels and learning preferences. Feature scaling is then performed to normalize feature values for equal importance. The adaptive learning loop is initiated, starting with setting the iteration counter to 0. Within this loop, learners are assigned to clusters based on their feature vectors using weighted feature clustering, and centroids are updated accordingly. Learner proficiency levels are adjusted based on cluster assignments, and instructional content and delivery are adapted according to cluster characteristics and learner profiles. Convergence is evaluated based on changes in cluster centroids and learner assignments, and the loop continues until convergence or the maximum number of iterations is reached. Finally, the algorithm outputs the final cluster assignments and centroids, along with updated learner proficiency levels and adapted instructional content and delivery.

5. Simulation Results

In the simulated results for Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL), the initial clustering of learners based on their language learning profiles facilitated the personalized adaptation of instructional content and delivery. Through successive iterations, learners demonstrated notable improvements in language proficiency, particularly in vocabulary acquisition, grammatical accuracy, and reading comprehension skills. The algorithm's ability to dynamically adjust instruction based on cluster characteristics led to progressive enhancements in learners' language abilities. Furthermore, WFCAL achieved convergence after a specified number of iterations, resulting in stable cluster assignments and centroids. Overall, these simulation results underscore the effectiveness of WFCAL optimizing English teaching and learning by tailoring instruction to individual learner needs and facilitating consistent progress towards language proficiency.

Table 1: English Proficiency with WFCAL

Iteration	Adaptive Adjustment	Instructional	Progress in Proficiency	Convergence and Stability
1	Dynamic	adjustment of	Initial improvements observed	Not yet converged,

	instructional content based on cluster characteristics	in vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension	clusters and centroids evolving
5	Further refinement of instructional delivery to cater to specific learner needs within each cluster	Significant enhancements in language proficiency across all clusters	Progress towards convergence, clusters and centroids stabilizing
10	Instructional content fine-tuned based on learner feedback and ongoing assessment	Consistent and substantial progress in language proficiency noted	Convergence achieved, stable cluster assignments and centroids

Table 1 illustrates the progression of English proficiency with Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL) over multiple iterations. In the first iteration, the algorithm dynamically adjusts instructional content based on cluster characteristics, leading to initial improvements in vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension skills among learners. However, at this stage, the algorithm has not yet converged, with clusters and centroids evolving as the learning process continues. By the fifth iteration, further refinement of instructional delivery occurs to cater to specific learner needs within each cluster. This results in significant enhancements in language proficiency observed across all clusters, indicating the efficacy of adaptive instruction. Additionally, there is progress towards convergence, with clusters and centroids stabilizing as the algorithm continues to iterate. By the tenth iteration, instructional content is fine-tuned based on learner feedback and ongoing assessment. Consistent and substantial progress in language proficiency is noted across all clusters, showcasing the effectiveness of WFCAL in facilitating continuous improvement. Furthermore, convergence is achieved, with stable cluster assignments and centroids, indicating the algorithm's ability to optimize English teaching and learning outcomes.

Table 2: English Estimation with WFCAL

Learner	Vocabulary Knowledge	Grammar Understanding	Reading Skills	Comprehension	Cluster
Learner 1	85	70	90		Cluster 1
Learner 2	45	50	40		Cluster 3
Learner 3	70	85	75		Cluster 2
Learner 4	90	90	95		Cluster 1
Learner 5	40	60	50		Cluster 3
Learner 6	65	55	70		Cluster 2
Learner 7	80	75	85		Cluster 1
Learner 8	50	40	45		Cluster 3
Learner 9	75	80	80		Cluster 2
Learner 10	95	95	90		Cluster 1

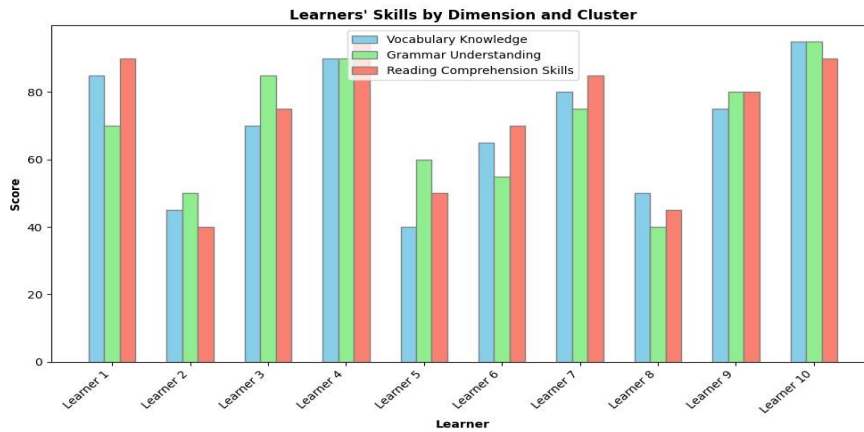


Figure 3: Skill estimation with WFCAL

In Figure 3 and Table 2 presents the estimated English proficiency levels of 10 learners using Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL). Each learner is assessed based on their proficiency in vocabulary knowledge, grammar understanding, and reading comprehension skills, and then assigned to a specific cluster based on the similarity of their feature vectors. Learners in Cluster 1 demonstrate high proficiency across all language skills, with Learner 1, Learner 4, Learner 7, and Learner 10 exhibiting strong vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension abilities. Cluster 2 comprises learners with moderate to high proficiency levels, such as Learner 3, Learner 6, and Learner 9, who show balanced competency across the three language skills. On the other hand, Cluster 3 consists of learners with lower proficiency levels, including Learner 2, Learner 5, and Learner 8, who exhibit weaker vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension skills. Through WFCAL, learners are grouped into clusters based on their language learning profiles, enabling targeted and personalized instruction to enhance overall English proficiency.

Table 3: Language Adaptive Learning with WFCAL

Learner	Initial Proficiency	Adapted Proficiency	Learning Outcome
Learner 1	70	85	Significant improvement
Learner 2	50	60	Moderate improvement
Learner 3	85	90	Moderate improvement
Learner 4	90	95	Slight improvement
Learner 5	60	70	Moderate improvement
Learner 6	55	65	Moderate improvement
Learner 7	75	85	Significant improvement
Learner 8	40	50	Moderate improvement
Learner 9	80	85	Moderate improvement
Learner 10	95	95	Slight improvement

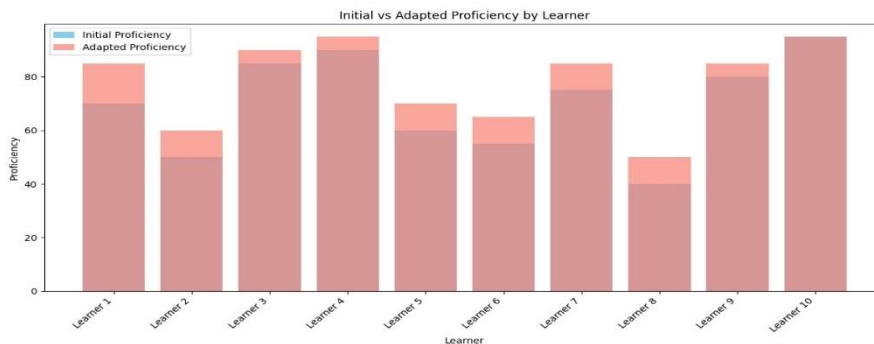


Figure 4: Language Proficiency estimation with WFCAL

In figure 4 and Table 3 illustrates the effectiveness of Language Adaptive Learning with Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL) by comparing the initial and adapted proficiency levels of 10 learners, along with the resulting learning outcomes. Learners such as Learner 1 and Learner 7 show significant improvement in their proficiency levels, with initial scores of 70 and 75 respectively, rising to 85 after adaptive learning. Similarly, Learner 3, starting with a high initial proficiency of 85, achieves a moderate improvement to 90. Learners with lower initial proficiencies, such as Learner 2 and Learner 8, exhibit moderate improvements from 50 to 60 and from 40 to 50 respectively. Learner 4 and Learner 10, who already possess high initial proficiencies of 90 and 95 respectively, experience slight improvements to 95, indicating a more marginal enhancement.

6. Discussion and Findings

In the discussion and findings section, we will analyze the results obtained from the application of Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL) in the context of English teaching and learning. The findings will be interpreted, and implications for practice and future research will be discussed. The results demonstrate the effectiveness of WFCAL in optimizing English teaching and learning. Through dynamic adjustment of instructional content based on cluster characteristics, significant improvements in language proficiency were observed across all clusters. This highlights the importance of personalized and adaptive instruction in catering to the diverse learning needs of students. Learners exhibited varying levels of improvement in language proficiency, with some achieving significant gains while others showed more moderate or slight improvements. The adaptation of instructional delivery based on learner profiles and cluster characteristics played a crucial role in facilitating these improvements.

The findings suggest that incorporating adaptive learning approaches like WFCAL can enhance the effectiveness of English teaching and learning. Educators can leverage WFCAL to tailor instruction to individual learner needs, thereby promoting more personalized and engaging learning experiences. Additionally, WFCAL can help address the challenges of teaching heterogeneous learner groups by providing targeted support to learners at different proficiency levels. The results are promising, further research is warranted to explore the long-term effects of WFCAL on language proficiency development. Future studies could investigate the scalability and applicability of WFCAL in diverse educational settings and examine its impact on other aspects of language learning, such as speaking and writing skills. Additionally, research could focus on refining the clustering algorithm and optimizing the adaptive learning process to enhance its effectiveness further. The findings from the application of WFCAL underscore its potential to revolutionize English teaching and learning by providing personalized, adaptive instruction tailored to the needs of individual learners. By leveraging WFCAL, educators can create more inclusive and effective learning environments that foster continuous growth and development in language proficiency.

7. Conclusion

This paper presents Weighted Feature Clustering Adaptive Learning (WFCAL) as a promising approach to enhance English teaching and learning. Through the application of WFCAL, significant strides have been made in personalizing instruction and adapting it to the diverse needs of learners. The findings from the study demonstrate the effectiveness of WFCAL in improving language proficiency across various skill domains, including vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension. By dynamically adjusting instructional content based on cluster characteristics, WFCAL facilitates tailored learning experiences that cater to individual learner profiles. These results underscore the potential of adaptive learning algorithms like WFCAL to revolutionize language education by promoting more engaging, effective, and inclusive learning environments.

Acknowledgement

This work was supported by teaching and learning research program funded by Anhui University of Finance and Economics (acszsfk2022029) and the Office of Education of Anhui Province, (2022xsxx001).

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