Dr. Sophia Bello
Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream
University of Toronto

Incorporating GenAI to Empower Learners and Support Instructors

As generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools become increasingly accessible, instructors and learners often find themselves at a crossroads, torn between cautious implementation and outright prohibition. During the course of this seminar, I explore the pedagogical potential of GenAI in undergraduate language and linguistics courses, drawing on practical examples and demonstrations from classroom experience. Activities such as AI-generated writing prompts, comparative analyses of human versus machine-generated discourse, and AI-assisted preliminary research were used to foster both language learning autonomy and research independence. Tasks and assignments were carefully framed to uphold academic integrity and ethical standards. Student feedback will be presented to inform future teaching projects, revealing a spectrum of engagement—from reluctance to use any GenAI tool to enthusiastic appreciation of its inclusion in course-based assessments.