

From Pen to Prompt: Is AI Drowning Out the Human Voice in Academia?

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Rapid advancements in technology especially in artificial intelligence (AI) has made a drastic shift in academia. Academia is witnessing a seismic shift in how scholarly writing is produced, reviewed, and consumed. Academic writing used to rely on human creativity, effort, and personal expression. Now, it is more often influenced by computer programs that produce smooth and polished language, analysis and interpretation. The change raises an important question about the real authorship and originality of the work as academic writing is not only words but it is someone viewpoints, ideas and thinking. AI writing tools have undoubtedly opened new and challenging paths in academic writing.

AI helps those scholars for whom English is not their native or first language. They are now open to express complex ideas more clearly, not only in language related issues but in time consuming works like drafting literature reviews, generating research questions, or checking grammar have been streamlined, thereby accelerating the research process (Dergaa et al, 2023). Excessive or increased use of AI tools is basically concerned with the erosion of authorial identity. Academic writing is not merely about transferring information; it is a means of intellectual self-expression and scholarly positioning. When AI creates texts relevant to human ideas, it can lose the unique details that come from personal experience, culture, and individual thinking (Wu, Dang & Li, 2025). Now the question will arise that “if machines are articulating our ideas, are we still the authors of our work?”

Ethical boards and committees in the academia further complicate the picture. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has issued guidance on AI use, emphasizing that AI cannot be listed as an author and that human accountability remains central (COPE, 2023). However, as people rely more on AI tools, it becomes harder to tell the difference between getting help and letting the AI do the thinking for you. A study by Hosseini and colleagues (2023) showed that about one in five authors used AI to help write their papers but didn't mention it, which raises concerns about honesty and fairness in research. Another important concern is that how AI affects the way we think, understand and create knowledge. AI tools create text by copying patterns from existing information, which can strengthen common views and push aside new, critical, or non-Western ideas (Bender et al., 2021). Its obvious if all academicians are thinking about using AI excessively, it will limit the generation and creation of ideas. Generation of new ideas help to grow research. Learning and teaching are also affected by the excessive utilization of AI tools (Zhai, Wibowo & Li, 2024). Education is not only the gathering of information but it is the whole process of how thinking deeply, making argumentations, getting skillful and write in a clear way (Wu, Dang & Li, 2025). The students and young researchers with excessive focus on AI tools may miss the chance to grow mentally (Cameron et al, 2025).

In opinion we may use AI tools where we really need their help like we don't have the availability of subject tutor or other resources but it doesn't mean that we should completely stop using AI in education and research. Actually, the real challenge for researchers, students and academicians is using AI tools in a careful, honest, and human-focused way. AI should help people to make them more creative, not take their place. Researchers need to stay in control of their own thinking and writing, making sure that technology supports them but not replaces them. The future of academic writing depends not just on new tools, but on our shared promise to stay honest, responsible, and true to the unique value of human thought. Whether we use a pen or a prompt, the heart of good scholarship must stay alive.

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