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The Disappearance of Thought and the Loss of Semantic Agency

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Abstract

This paper examines how the integration of generative AI into educational communication environments reshapes learning, pedagogy, and assessment. Rather than a rupture, the shift is understood as an accumulation of habits, interfaces, and systems that prioritize fluency, prediction, and stylistic conformity over reflection and meaning. As students and educators adapt to AI-mediated text generation—autocomplete, smart replies, generative assistance—language becomes less a space of cognitive agency and more a mechanism of alignment. The result is a learning environment where essays emulate templates, dialogue mirrors predictive systems, and interpretation collapses into confirmation. This condition, described as the gradual loss of semantic agency, challenges foundational principles of pedagogy: inquiry, reflection, and interpretive struggle. By analyzing the implications for digital literacy, assessment validity, and the development of learning theory, the paper argues that elearning strategies must go beyond efficiency and fluency to cultivate spaces of hesitation, divergence, and critical thought. The contribution is both diagnostic and prescriptive: it identifies how AI reshapes educational communication and offers a framework for pedagogical responses that preserve meaningeducation making a central aim of in the digital era.

Keywords: Ai in Education, Semantic Agency, Pedagogy and Methodology, Digital Literacy, Assessment in Elearning-learning