Identifying Opportunities and Challenges in the Application of Natural Language Processing in Teaching and Learning Chinese for University Students: The Case of Viettel AI Platform in Vietnam

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Abstract
This study aims to identify the opportunities and challenges in applying Natural Language Processing (NLP) to teach and learn Chinese among university students, focusing on the case of the Viettel AI Platform in Vietnam. The research method primarily involves analyzing relevant literature and reports to evaluate the effectiveness and difficulties encountered in implementing NLP technology in education. By synthesizing existing studies and data from Viettel AI, this study provides a comprehensive overview of how NLP can enhance the learning experience, improve teaching methodologies, and support personalized education. The findings reveal significant opportunities, such as automated assessment, customized learning recommendations, and interactive learning tools, which can benefit students and educators significantly. However, challenges such as technical complexities, the need for substantial training for teachers and students, and the requirement for robust infrastructure are also highlighted. The study concludes with recommendations for optimizing NLP applications in educational contexts and suggests further directions for future research to advance the integration of NLP in language education.

Keywords—Natural Language Processing (NLP), Chinese Language Education, Viettel AI Platform.

I. INTRODUCTION
In recent years, there has been a notable global surge in the demand for learning Chinese, driven by China's expanding influence across economic, cultural, and geopolitical spheres. This surge underscores the recognition of Chinese proficiency as a strategic asset in an increasingly interconnected world (Gong et al., 2021). The strategic importance of Chinese extends beyond economic considerations; it encompasses a rich cultural heritage that provides learners with invaluable insights into one of humanity's oldest civilizations (Li et al., 2023). Universities worldwide have responded to this demand by integrating Chinese language programs into their curricula, acknowledging the pivotal role of multilingualism in preparing students for a globally competitive landscape (Wang et al., 2023).

Parallel to this trend, Natural Language Processing (NLP) technology has emerged as a powerful tool with transformative potential in language education (Alqahtani et al., 2023). NLP, a branch of artificial intelligence, enables computers to comprehend, interpret, and generate human language, revolutionizing various domains, including education (Gour, 2020). Its applications range from speech recognition to automated translation, offering personalized learning experiences and streamlining administrative tasks for educators (Kaswan et al., 2024).
Vi et al, a subsidiary of Viettel Group, stands at the forefront of technological innovation in Vietnam, leveraging advanced NLP solutions to enhance language education. Through its Viettel AI Platform, the company offers a suite of NLP services tailored to support various sectors, including education. These services encompass automated translation, speech recognition, and intelligent tutoring systems, each designed to optimize learning outcomes and foster engagement among students (Tran & Le, 2023).

In light of these developments, this research explores the intersection of NLP technology and Chinese language education, specifically focusing on the Viettel AI Platform in Vietnam. By examining the opportunities and challenges inherent in applying NLP in teaching and learning Chinese, valuable insights are sought by educators, researchers, and policymakers. Objectives encompass identifying the potential benefits of NLP in language education, evaluating its effectiveness in addressing pedagogical challenges, and proposing strategies for seamlessly integrating NLP into educational practices (Nguyen & Hoang, 2022).

This research aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on technology-enhanced language education, offering practical recommendations for optimizing the use of NLP in educational settings. By harnessing the transformative potential of NLP technology, the aspiration is to enhance the learning experiences and outcomes of university students studying Chinese, thereby equipping them with the linguistic and cultural proficiency needed to thrive in an interconnected world.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Research on NLP in Language Education

Natural Language Processing (NLP) has emerged as a promising field with transformative potential in language education, garnering significant attention from researchers and educators worldwide (Alqahtani et al., 2023). Within the expansive landscape of NLP applications, its role in language education has been a focal point of exploration, yielding a rich body of literature that underscores its diverse benefits and implications (Obaid & Rajest, 2023).

Numerous studies have delved into the myriad applications of NLP in education, demonstrating its capacity to revolutionize traditional teaching methodologies and enhance learning outcomes. For instance, Graepel (2022) elucidated the efficacy of NLP-driven chatbots in providing real-time feedback and support to language learners, fostering engagement and autonomy in the learning process. Similarly, Jones, Liang, et al. (2023) conducted a comprehensive meta-analysis of NLP applications in education, revealing substantial improvements in student performance and engagement across various language domains.

In the realm of Chinese language learning, specific studies have illuminated the potential of NLP technologies to address the unique challenges learners face. Jia and Liang (2023) explored the effectiveness of gamified NLP applications in bolstering vocabulary acquisition among Chinese learners, unveiling significant enhancements in linguistic knowledge and engagement compared to conventional methods. Likewise, Hunte et al. (2021) conducted a longitudinal investigation into the impact of NLP-driven pronunciation feedback on learners’ speech accuracy and fluency, unveiling notable advancements in pronunciation skills and overall language proficiency over time.

These studies underscore the transformative potential of NLP in language education, particularly in Chinese language learning. By leveraging NLP tools and techniques, educators can create dynamic and personalized learning environments that cater to the diverse needs of learners, fostering deeper engagement and more meaningful learning experiences (Anis, 2023). As the field continues to evolve, further research into the applications of NLP in language education promises to yield valuable insights and innovations, paving the way for more effective and efficient instructional practices (Shah, 2020).

2.2 Theoretical Frameworks

The integration of Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools in education is informed by various theoretical frameworks that underpin its design and implementation (Shardlow & Roussell, 2022). These frameworks offer valuable insights into the underlying principles and mechanisms driving the effectiveness of NLP in language education.

Fundamental theories and models relevant to NLP in education include constructivism and sociocultural theory. As elucidated by Piaget, constructivism posits that learning is an active, constructive process where learners build their understanding through experience and reflection. In the context of NLP, constructivism emphasizes the significance of interactive and experiential learning facilitated by NLP technologies (Jamaludin, 2024). These tools allow learners to engage
meaningfully with language content, fostering deeper comprehension and retention.

Complementing this perspective is a sociocultural theory championed by Vygotsky, underscoring the role of social interaction and cultural context in learning and development. According to this theory, learning occurs within social and cultural frameworks, with language as a vital mediator of cognitive processes (Alkhudiry, 2022). In NLP, sociocultural theory accentuates the importance of authentic language use and meaningful communication in language learning. NLP technologies can support this by offering platforms for genuine language practice and interaction, thereby augmenting language acquisition and proficiency.

Pedagogical frameworks provide essential guidance for seamlessly integrating NLP tools into educational settings. The Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) framework, proposed by Mishra and Koehler, delineates effective teaching as the confluence of technological, pedagogical, and content knowledge. In the context of NLP, the TPACK framework encourages educators to discern how NLP tools can bolster language content delivery in meaningful and productive ways (Parks, 2023).

Similarly, the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework, advocated by CAST, underscores the importance of crafting adaptable learning environments that cater to diverse learner needs. In NLP, the UDL framework impels educators to contemplate how NLP tools can furnish multiple means of representation, engagement, and expression. This entails leveraging NLP technologies to provide personalized learning experiences, accommodate distinct learning styles, and fortify learners with varied linguistic and cognitive capabilities (Ayeni, 2024).

Educators can efficaciously incorporate NLP tools into their instructional practices by synthesizing these theoretical and pedagogical frameworks, fostering dynamic and captivating learning environments that promote language acquisition and proficiency.

2.3 Viettel AI Platform in the Context of Global NLP Applications

The Viettel AI Platform emerges as a standout contender in global Natural Language Processing (NLP) applications, boasting distinctive features and contributions that set it apart. Through a comparative analysis and exploration of its unique offerings, Viettel AI’s role in language education becomes evident (Viettel AI, 2022).

Viettel AI distinguishes itself from other global NLP platforms by prioritizing language education, a niche often overlooked by competitors. While many platforms focus on general language processing tasks, Viettel AI’s strategic emphasis on education reflects its commitment to addressing the specific needs of language learners and educators. This targeted approach ensures that its NLP solutions are finely tuned to enhance learning outcomes and facilitate effective language instruction.

One of Viettel AI’s standout features is its intelligent tutoring systems, which harness NLP technologies to deliver personalized learning experiences (Hoang & Bui, 2023). By analyzing students’ proficiency levels, learning styles, and areas of weakness, these systems tailor instructional content and feedback to meet individual needs. This adaptive approach fosters deeper engagement and motivation and maximizes learning efficacy by catering to each learner’s unique trajectory.

Furthermore, Viettel AI’s automated translation services play a pivotal role in language education by facilitating seamless communication and language practice (GiaiThuongSaoKhue, 2022). Unlike conventional translation tools, which often produce awkward or inaccurate translations, Viettel AI leverages advanced NLP algorithms to generate natural-sounding translations that capture the nuances of language and culture. This ensures that language learners have access to authentic language materials, promoting immersive learning experiences and cultural understanding.

In essence, Viettel AI’s innovative approach to NLP in language education underscores its commitment to driving meaningful advancements in the field (Viettel AI, 2022). By combining cutting-edge technologies with a deep understanding of language learning dynamics, Viettel AI is poised to revolutionize language education, empowering learners and educators with transformative tools and resources.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The research design employed in this study primarily revolves around literature analysis, aiming to comprehensively examine existing literature on Natural Language Processing (NLP) in language education. This approach involves systematically reviewing and synthesizing relevant studies,
conference papers, academic journals, and reports to gain insights into NLP's applications, challenges, and opportunities in language learning.

### 3.2 Data Collection

Data collection for this study entails sourcing literature from various academic journals, conference papers, and reports related to NLP and language education. The selection criteria for identifying relevant studies and documents include relevance to the research objectives, information currency, and source credibility. Only peer-reviewed articles, reputable conference proceedings, and authoritative reports are considered for inclusion in the review.

### 3.3 Data Analysis

The collected literature is subjected to a rigorous synthesis and analysis process to extract key insights and themes related to NLP in language education. Techniques such as thematic and content analysis are employed to identify patterns, recurring themes, and notable findings across the literature. This involves systematically coding and categorizing the data to facilitate meaningful interpretation and synthesis of findings.

### 3.4 Validity and Reliability

Several strategies are implemented to ensure the validity and reliability of the literature review process. Firstly, a comprehensive search strategy is employed to identify a diverse range of literature sources, minimizing the risk of selection bias. Secondly, the inclusion criteria are clearly defined and applied consistently to all selected studies, enhancing the rigor and consistency of the review process. Additionally, potential biases and limitations in the literature analysis are critically evaluated and addressed transparently in the final review. This includes acknowledging any gaps or areas of uncertainty in the existing literature and providing recommendations for future research to mitigate these limitations.

By adhering to these methodological procedures, this study endeavors to provide a robust and credible analysis of the current state of research on NLP in language education, offering valuable insights and implications for theory, practice, and future research directions.

## IV. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES

### 4.1. Enhancing Learning Outcomes

Viettel AI’s NLP services offer innovative solutions to cater to the diverse needs of language learners and enhance learning outcomes. Through personalized feedback mechanisms, Viettel AI’s NLP-powered systems can analyze learners' language usage patterns and strengths to generate tailored feedback targeting specific language skills, facilitating more effective learning. For instance, Viettel AI’s language learning platforms can incorporate interactive language games designed to reinforce Chinese language skills, fostering student engagement and deeper understanding. Furthermore, Viettel AI’s NLP algorithms can analyze students' language proficiency levels and preferences to create personalized learning paths. This approach ensures students receive customized exercises and resources tailored to their needs. By leveraging Viettel AI’s NLP technologies, educators can create dynamic and immersive learning experiences that cater to diverse learning styles and preferences, ultimately enhancing learning outcomes for students studying Chinese at the university level.

### 4.2. Supporting Educators

In supporting educators, Viettel AI’s NLP services streamline administrative tasks and provide valuable tools for instructional planning and student support. Viettel AI’s NLP-powered grading systems automate assessing students’ language proficiency and giving feedback on their assignments, freeing educators’ time and resources for more meaningful instructional activities. Additionally, Viettel AI’s adaptive learning platforms analyze learners' progress and preferences to deliver personalized recommendations for instructional materials and activities, empowering educators to create customized learning experiences for their students. By leveraging Viettel AI’s NLP technologies, educators can optimize their instructional practices and better meet the diverse needs of their students. With automated administrative tasks and personalized learning resources, educators can focus on delivering high-quality instruction and providing individualized support to ensure student success in learning Chinese at the university level.

### 4.3. Accessibility and Inclusivity

Viettel AI’s NLP services also play a pivotal role in promoting accessibility and inclusivity in language education. By dynamically adjusting instructional content, pace, and support mechanisms, Viettel AI’s NLP-powered platforms accommodate diverse learning needs and styles, ensuring all students have equal opportunities to succeed. Moreover, Viettel AI’s
accessibility features, such as speech recognition and text-to-speech capabilities, enhance accessibility for students with different learning needs, including those with disabilities or language barriers. For example, Viettel AI’s language exchange platforms connect university students learning Chinese with native speakers for real-time language practice, fostering meaningful interactions and cultural exchange opportunities. Additionally, Viettel AI’s adaptive learning materials recommend supplementary resources based on students’ performance, ensuring all students have access to high-quality language education resources tailored to their needs. In summary, Viettel AI’s NLP services offer a comprehensive suite of tools and resources to enhance learning outcomes, support educators, and promote accessibility and inclusivity in language education. By leveraging these innovative technologies, educators can create dynamic and inclusive language learning environments that empower students to achieve their full potential in learning Chinese at the university level.

V. IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES

5.1 Technical Challenges

Despite the potential benefits of NLP in language education, inherent technical challenges need to be overcome. One such challenge pertains to the accuracy and reliability of NLP tools, particularly in teaching and learning Chinese. While NLP algorithms have made significant advancements, they may still encounter difficulties in accurately processing and analyzing the complexities of Chinese characters and syntax, leading to potential inaccuracies in language comprehension and generation. For example, the Viettel AI Platform may face technical challenges in developing NLP models that accurately recognize and interpret the nuances of Chinese language input, including variations in dialects and tones. Issues such as tokenization errors or misinterpretation of context could impact the effectiveness of NLP-powered language learning applications, potentially hindering students’ language acquisition progress. Additionally, speech recognition and natural language understanding limitations pose significant technical hurdles in implementing NLP for teaching and learning Chinese. Variability in accents, pronunciation, and intonation patterns in Chinese speech may pose challenges for NLP algorithms in accurately transcribing and comprehending spoken language input, thereby affecting the quality of automated feedback and assessment provided to students.

5.2 Pedagogical Challenges

In addition to technical obstacles, pedagogical challenges are associated with integrating NLP into language education, particularly in teaching and learning Chinese for university students. One such challenge is the resistance from educators and students to adopting new technologies and methodologies in language instruction. Educators may be hesitant to incorporate NLP-powered tools into their teaching practices due to concerns about the effectiveness of these technologies or a lack of familiarity with their use. For instance, the Viettel AI Platform may encounter resistance from educators accustomed to traditional teaching methods and reluctant to embrace NLP-powered language learning platforms. Similarly, students may resist using NLP tools if they perceive them as impersonal or prefer traditional classroom interactions with instructors. Moreover, there is a need for training and professional development to support educators in effectively integrating NLP into their teaching practices. Educators may require guidance and resources to leverage NLP-powered tools for personalized instruction, feedback, and assessment. Without adequate training and support, educators may struggle to harness the full potential of NLP in enhancing students’ language learning experiences.

5.3 Implementation Challenges

Beyond technical and pedagogical considerations, the Viettel AI Platform may encounter implementation challenges when deploying NLP solutions for language education. One such challenge relates to infrastructure requirements and technological limitations. Implementing NLP-powered language learning platforms may require robust infrastructure and computational resources to support the processing and analysis of large volumes of language data in real time. For example, the Viettel AI Platform may face challenges in scaling up its NLP infrastructure to accommodate the growing demand for language education services, particularly in regions with limited access to high-speed internet or advanced computing resources. Additionally, technological limitations, such as compatibility issues with existing learning management systems or devices, may impede the seamless integration of NLP tools into educational settings. Furthermore, cost and resource allocation pose significant implementation challenges for the Viettel AI Platform in Vietnam. Developing and deploying NLP-powered language learning solutions
requires substantial investment in research and development, software engineering, and infrastructure maintenance. Moreover, ongoing support and maintenance of NLP systems entail additional costs, including personnel training, software updates, and data management.

VI. PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

6.1 Technical Solutions

To address technical challenges associated with NLP, the Viettel AI Platform can focus on improving the accuracy and performance of NLP algorithms. This entails ongoing research and development efforts to enhance the capabilities of NLP models in accurately processing and analyzing Chinese language data. The Viettel AI Platform can optimize NLP systems for better language comprehension and generation by refining algorithms and incorporating linguistic expertise. Additionally, the Viettel AI Platform can prioritize the development of robust speech recognition and understanding systems tailored to the nuances of Chinese speech. By investing in advanced speech processing technologies, the Viettel AI Platform can improve the accuracy and reliability of speech-to-text conversion, facilitating more accurate transcription and analysis of spoken language input for language learning purposes.

6.2 Pedagogical Solutions

In addressing pedagogical challenges, the Viettel AI Platform can implement solutions to support educators in effectively integrating NLP into their teaching practices. One key initiative involves providing comprehensive training programs for educators to familiarize them with NLP-powered tools and methodologies. These training programs can include workshops, webinars, and hands-on tutorials to equip educators with the knowledge and skills needed to leverage NLP technologies for personalized instruction, feedback, and assessment. Moreover, the Viettel AI Platform can design user-friendly interfaces for NLP-powered language learning platforms to enhance user adoption and engagement. By prioritizing intuitive design and user experience, the Viettel AI Platform can create interfaces that are accessible and easy to navigate for both educators and students, fostering a positive learning environment conducive to language acquisition.

6.3 Implementation Strategies

To overcome implementation challenges, the Viettel AI Platform can adopt strategies to facilitate the seamless integration of NLP into educational institutions. One approach involves establishing partnerships with educational stakeholders, including schools, universities, and educational technology providers, for resource sharing and support. By collaborating with partners, the Viettel AI Platform can leverage existing infrastructure and expertise to accelerate the adoption of NLP-powered language learning solutions. Furthermore, the Viettel AI Platform can develop scalable models for integrating NLP into educational institutions, considering infrastructure requirements, cost-effectiveness, and scalability. By offering flexible deployment options and customizable solutions, the Viettel AI Platform can accommodate educational institutions’ diverse needs and constraints, ensuring the successful implementation of NLP technologies for teaching and learning Chinese at the university level. In conclusion, by implementing technical solutions, pedagogical solutions, and implementation strategies, the Viettel AI Platform can overcome challenges and unlock the full potential of NLP in teaching and learning Chinese for university students. Through ongoing innovation and collaboration, the Viettel AI Platform can drive positive change in language education, empowering educators and students to achieve their learning goals effectively and efficiently.

VII. CONCLUSION

Various opportunities and challenges have been unveiled in exploring the potential of Natural Language Processing (NLP) in teaching and learning Chinese for university students. NLP offers promising avenues for enhancing learning outcomes, supporting educators, and fostering inclusivity in language education. However, alongside these opportunities come significant technical, pedagogical, and implementation-related challenges that must be addressed to realize the full potential of NLP in language education.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach. Technical solutions, such as improving NLP algorithms and developing robust speech recognition systems, are necessary to enhance the accuracy and reliability of NLP tools. Pedagogical solutions, including comprehensive training programs for educators and user-friendly interface designs, can facilitate the effective integration of NLP into teaching practices. Additionally, implementation strategies, such as establishing partnerships for resource sharing and
developing scalable deployment models, are vital for overcoming barriers to adoption and ensuring the widespread implementation of NLP in educational settings.

Looking ahead, there are implications for both research and practice in the field of NLP in language education. Further research is needed to explore the effectiveness of NLP-powered tools and methodologies across diverse educational contexts. At the same time, practical implementation and policy development efforts should focus on fostering equitable access and effective utilization of NLP technologies in language education.

In conclusion, while challenges abound, the potential of NLP to transform language education is undeniable. By embracing innovation, fostering collaboration, and prioritizing student-centered approaches, the field of NLP promises to revolutionize language education and empower learners to achieve their language learning goals effectively and efficiently.

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