

ChatGPT SUPPORTS SPANISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT have been used widely in the world in many educational programs, schools, colleges, and universities for the past 4 years. However, there is still debate on its use for language learning in higher education (Chávez and Naranjo 2024; Martínez et. Al 2023; Nugroho et. Al 2023). This work supports the use of AI in Spanish college classes using ChatGPT. The results, like in previous research, support its use in Spanish language learning for reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary and listening for 79 percent of the participants or more in survey 1 (Chávez and Naranjo 2024). For listening and speaking activities its efficacy went down to 58 percent of the participants on survey 2. However, more research is needed to go beyond the basics in ChatGPT with more training and guidelines for faculty and students.

Keywords: Spanish and artificial intelligence, Spanish and ChatGPT, Spanish learning, Spanish language, Spanish classes, language learning, Spanish second language, Spanish heritage language.

1. INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI), which has been around since the 1950s, saw significant growth in 2022 with the advent of OpenAI's ChatGPT and other large language models (LLMs) (Saville, 2023). According to Nugroho et al. (2023), ChatGPT has shown positive impacts on language learning, particularly in areas such as writing, grammar, vocabulary, and speaking. Similar research by Song and Song (2023) also supports the idea that AI and ChatGPT enhance writing and grammar skills as well as Chávez and Naranjo (2024).

However, some researchers caution against potential drawbacks, such as the risk of confusing students, promoting cheating, offering incorrect responses, and hindering natural learning, etc. (Martínez et al., 2023; Nugroho et al., 2023). Concerns also include job security for teachers and repeated answers, as discussed by Meniado (2023). To address these challenges, experts suggest that teachers must guide students effectively, and learners should have some foundational tech knowledge to use ChatGPT successfully (Chávez and Naranjo 2024; Mendes & Panhan, 2024). In other words, AI should not be used as a replacement to learn the language but as an additional support to learn a second language (Vázquez-Cano et. Al. 2023).

2. METHODOLOGY

In this research there were 13 classes of students in Spanish as a second language (L2) who were 18 and older and who were not in dual credit classes. The classes were Spanish 1411, 1412, 2311, and 2312. Although the classes were designed for students of Spanish as a second language classes (L2) or foreign languages (FL), there were some bilingual students (BS) who already knew the

language, known as Heritage Language Learners (HLL or bilingual students). They were in a two-year college in south Texas USA from summer 2024 to spring 2025. There were 9 classes that were all-online and 4 classes were face to face. There was a control group who did not do any ChatGPT activities, and that class was an all-online class from summer 2014. They all used the same textbook, workbook, and professor. They all completed a permission survey and two surveys related to the use of ChatGPT. One of those surveys was done at the beginning of the semester and the other one at the end of the semester. See the appendixes at the end of this research for examples.

3. RESULTS

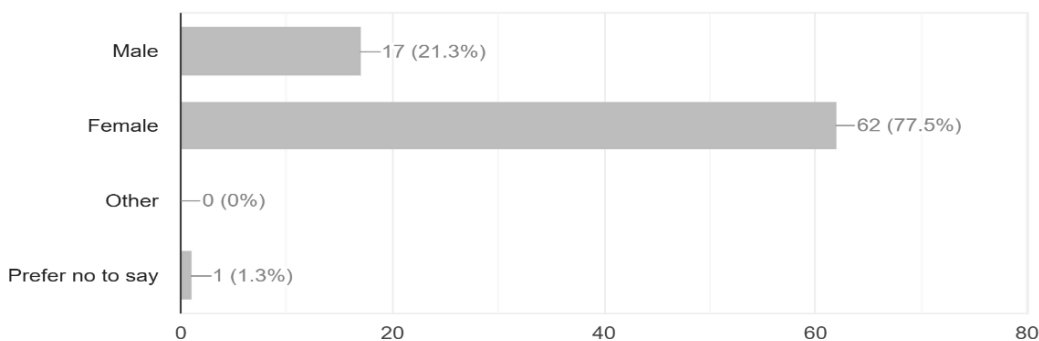
a. Survey 1 beginning of semester N=78

For the beginning of the semester survey, there were 78 participants. 17 were male or 21 percent, and there were 62 females or 78 percent. 1 preferred not to say or 1.3 percent. See table 1 for more information.

Table 1

3. Gender

0 / 80 correct responses

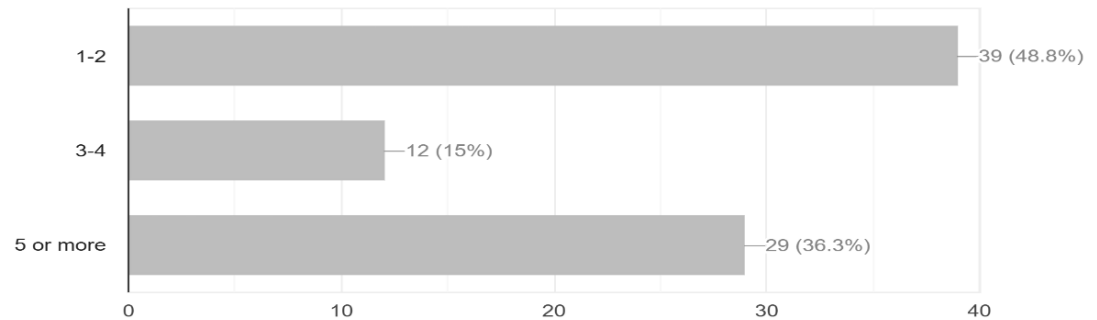


The participants in this research had different learning levels. Level 1-2 or beginning we had 39 or 49 percent, level 3-4 or intermediate 12 or 15 percent, level 5 or more or advanced or superior 29 or 36 percent. See table 2 below for more information.

Table 2

4. Spanish language level 1-5. 5 more proficient (5 years or more experience), 1 less proficient (1 year or less learning Spanish)

56 / 80 correct responses

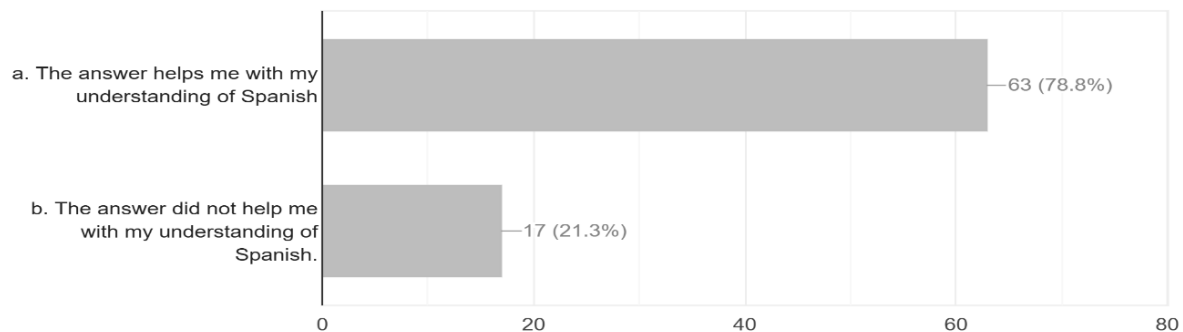


Regarding the use of ChatGPT and learning speaking in Spanish we found the following information. 63 students or 79 percent consider that ChatGPT helps them to understand better Spanish versus only 17 students or 21 percent who said that ChatGPT did not help them with learning Spanish speaking. See table 3 below for more information.

Table 3

6. Speaking Ask ChatGPT 2 questions about the topic you chose. Possible topics: mi rutina diaria, mi colegio, mi familia, mi pasatiempo favorito, en u...taurante, etc. ChatGPT Link <https://chatgpt.com/>

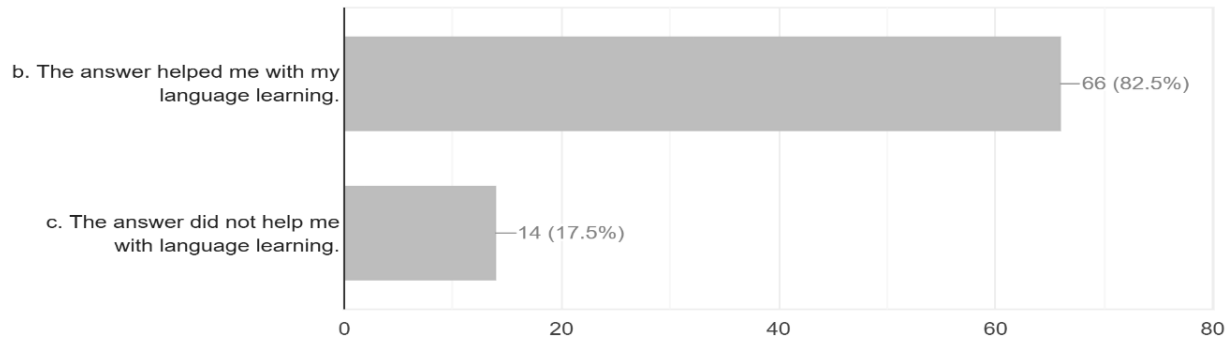
46 / 80 correct responses



Regarding writing and ChatGPT use, 66 percent of the participants stated that the answers given helped them with language learning versus only 18 percent that said otherwise. See table 4 below for more information.

Table 4

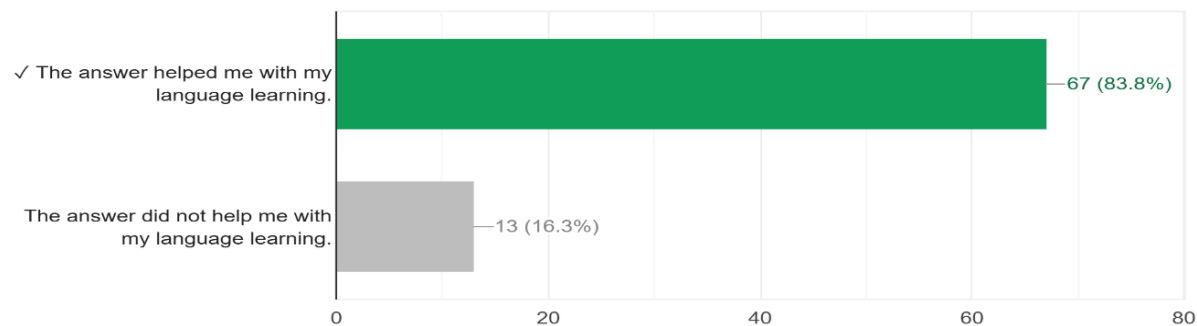
7. Writing: a. Step 1. Write a short paragraph about your daily routine, your hobbies, your school, your work, or your family. Ask ChatGPT to rewrite it f...Ask ChatGPT to rewrite it in a letter. Chatgpt link
46 / 80 correct responses



Regarding Grammar and the use of ChatGPT in Spanish classes 67 of them or 84 percent of the participants agree that it helped them with their Spanish language learning versus 16 percent who said the contrary. See table 5 below for more information.

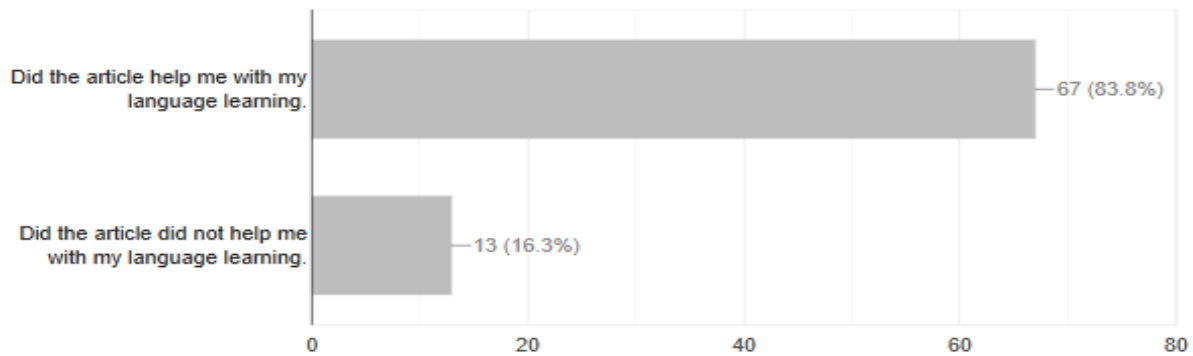
Table 5

8. Grammar: 1. Paste your text you wrote in step 1 in ChatGPT for communication question 7. 2. Check your grammar, spelling errors, etc. 3. Corr...e text in a new document or notebook. Chatgpt link
67 / 80 correct responses



Regarding reading and ChatGPT use participants stated the following information. 67 participants or 84% percent of the participants also stated that ChatGPT also helps with reading and language learning in the article provided created by ChatGPT versus 16 percent who said it did not help them to improve their reading comprehension skills. The article was about Hispanic Heritage Month. See table 6 below for more information.

Table 6

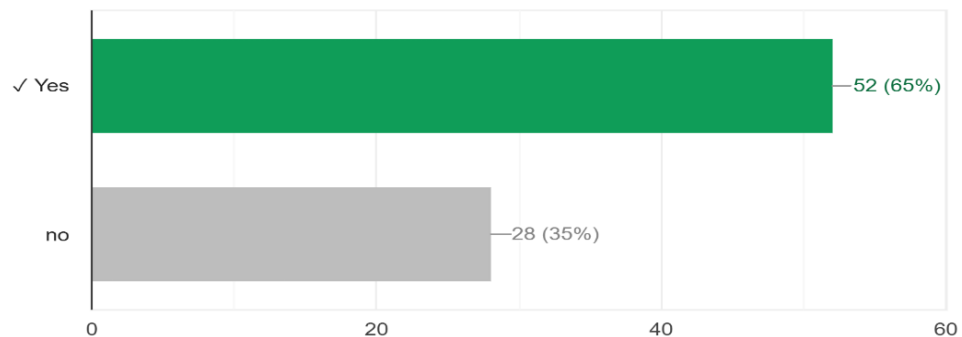


About the listening skills in learning Spanish and the use of ChatGPT 52 participants or 65 percent of the participants stated that ChatGPT helps them to learn listening skills. Only 35 percent of the participants stated that it did not help them. See table 7 for more information.

Table 7

12b. Language learning: I consider that ChatGPT helps me learn listening skills.

52 / 80 correct responses

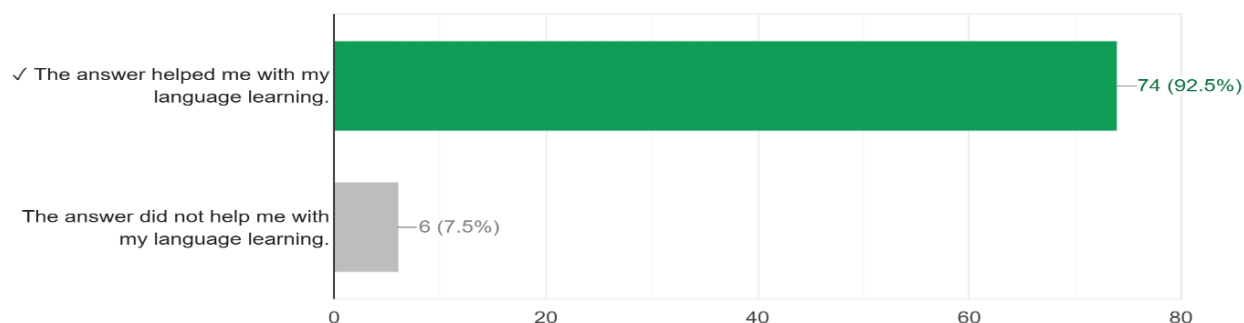


Regarding the speaking skills and the use of ChatGPT 61 percent of the participants stated that ChatGPT also helps them with their speaking skills in Spanish versus 39 percent who said no. See table 8 for more information. Regarding vocabulary learning in Spanish language and ChatGPT 93 percent of the participants stated that it helps them learning Spanish vocabulary versus 8 percent who stated otherwise. See Table 8 for more information.

Table 8

9. Vocabulary: a. Choose any five words in Spanish. Ask ChatGPT to do the following items: Tell me the meaning of the words. ChatGPT Link

74 / 80 correct responses



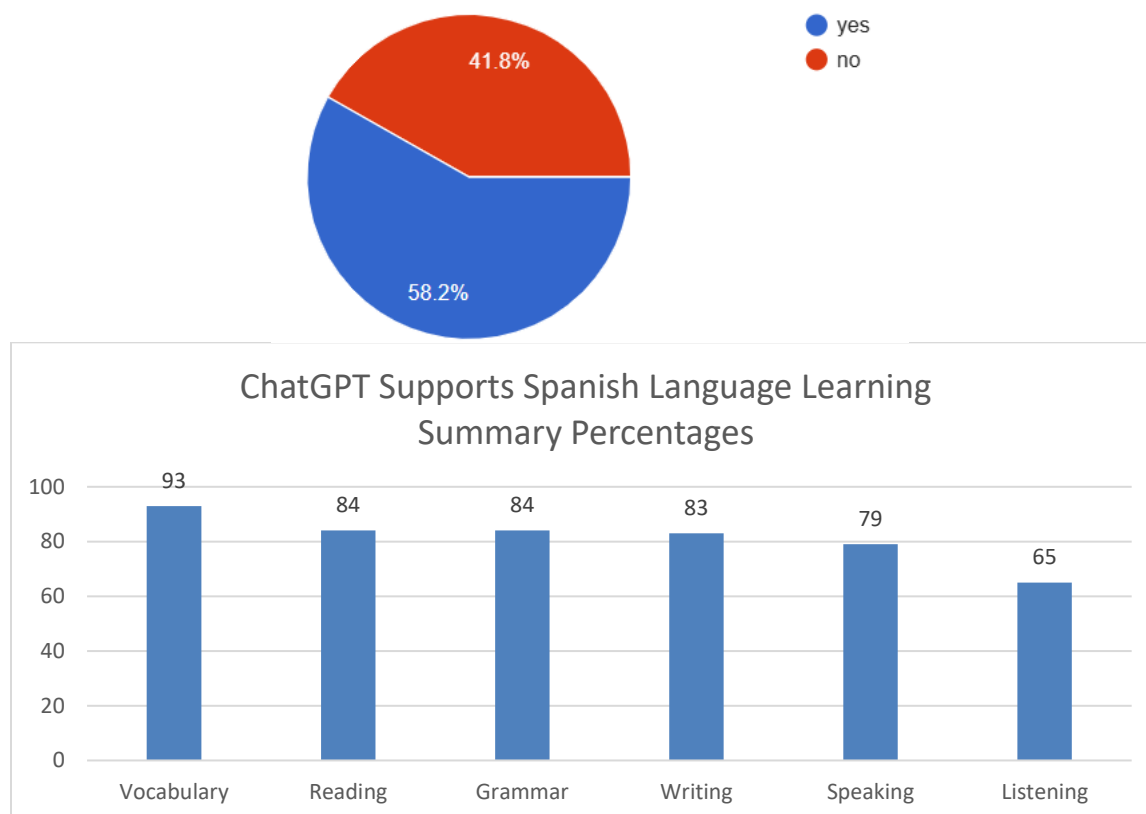
In additional space for comments on benefits and concerns, we got 80 comments in total. Some of the comments were in favor of the use of ChatGPT, and others were against ChatGPT. Regarding the comments in favor, they included the following: ChatGPT “was expansion of knowledge in each topic, quick responses, helps with basic concepts and definitions, good translator, helps with grammar, improves vocabulary, improves pronunciation, culture learning, it helps with reading and writing, faster responses than teachers, it helps with reading, etc.”

About the negative comments, they mentioned the following information. “Sometimes it gets grammar wrong, it has limitations, it cannot force you to learn language speaking, it does not translate right, structure mistakes, it cannot pronounce words, slang terminology could be confusing, lack of pronunciation tips, not always reliable, bad pronunciation, not real life experience, not leveled appropriate, etc.”

As a summary for survey one, this research proves that ChatGPT use in Spanish college classes is beneficial. In general, 93 percent of the participants stated that ChatGPT is beneficial for Spanish vocabulary learning. For reading Spanish 84 percent of participants support its use, for writing in Spanish 83 percent of participants support it. For speaking in Spanish 79 percent of participants supports its use. Finally, for listening benefits, 65 percent of the participants agree that ChatGPT supports its learning.

Therefore, we can conclude that for 65 percent of participants or more ChatGPT supports Spanish language learning. See Table 9 for more information. These results are like the previous research done by Chávez and Naranjo (2024) were they also found that ChatGPT was beneficial for Spanish language learning in college classes.

Table 9

**b. Results Survey 2 end of semester**

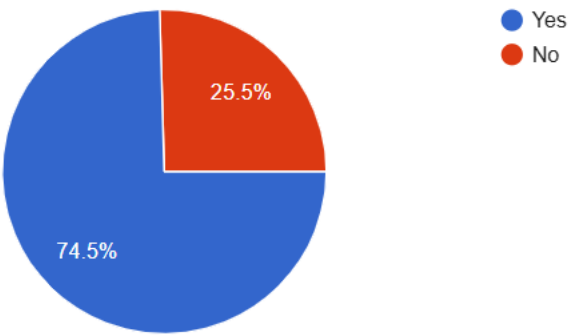
In total, there were N=165 participants who were 18 and older and not on dual credit. The students were enrolled in a two-year college at a south Texas community college during summer 2024, fall 2024 and spring 2025. The classes were beginning and intermediate classes of Spanish in college taught by the same professor and used the same textbook. The modality was all-online and face-to-face classes.

The first question is about listening skills, “I consider that ChatGPT helps me learn listening skills” and 58 percent of the participants stated that ChatGPT is beneficial versus 43 percent who said no. See Table 10 for more information.

Table 10

For question 2 regarding speaking skills, 58 percent stated that ChatGPT helps them learn speaking skills versus 42 percent who said no. See table 11 below.

Table 11



For question 3 regarding ChatGPT and reading skills, 74.5 percent of participants stated that ChatGPT helps them learn reading skills versus 25.5 who said that it does not help them. These results are similar to previous research (Chávez and Naranjo, 2024; Huang and Cassany, 2025). See Table 12 for more information.

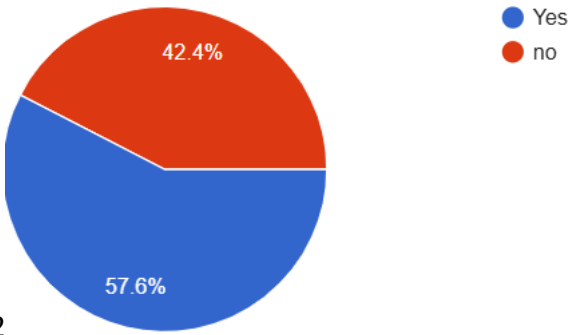


Table 12

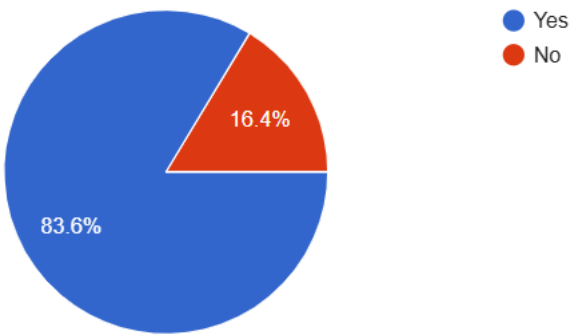
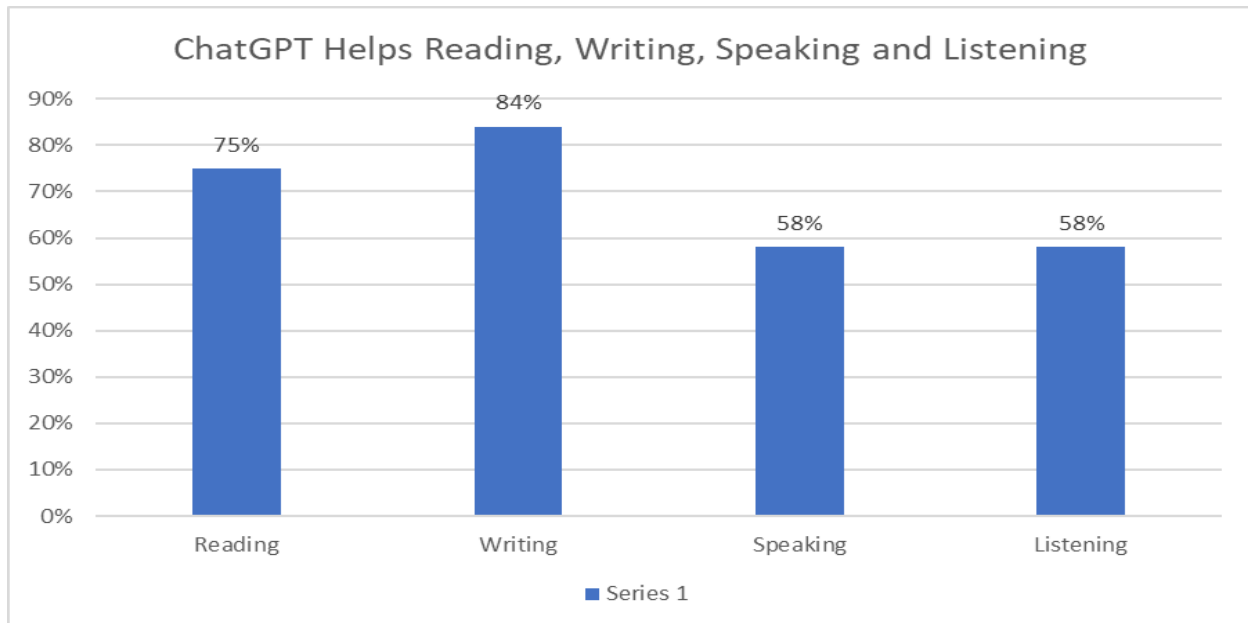


Table 13

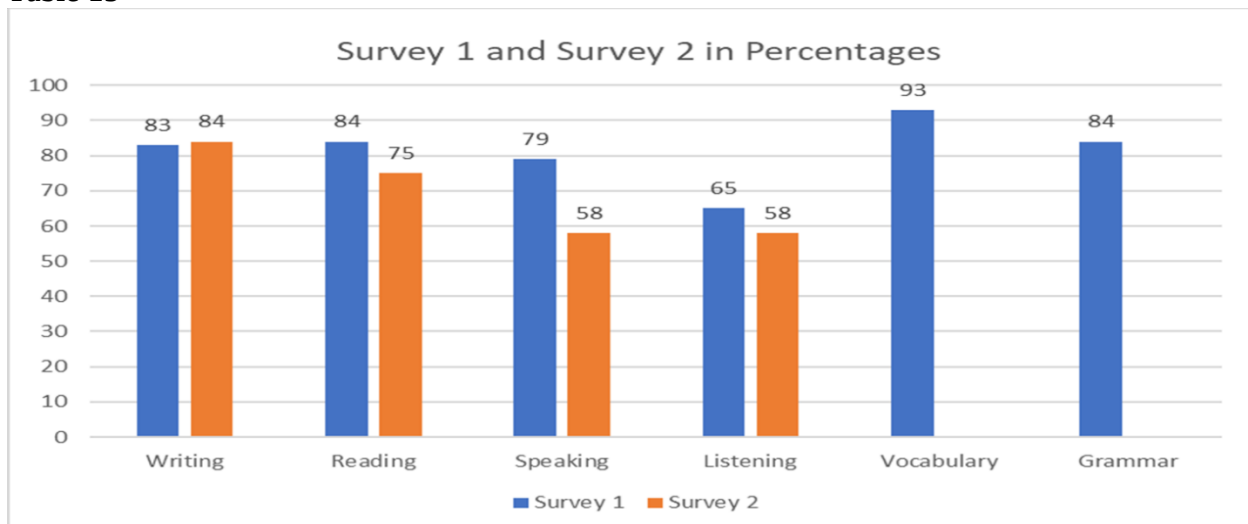
Question 4 was about writing skills and ChatGPT, and 84 percent of the participants stated that ChatGPT also helped them with the writing skills versus the 16 percent who said no; it did not help them. This research results are also like previous research (Chávez and Naranjo 2024; Huang and Cassany, 2025). See Table 13 for more information. On table 14 you can see the results for survey 2.

Table 14



Here is a summary table with our results for the first and second survey done at the end of the semester. The vocabulary and grammar questions were not given at the end of the semester survey. See table 15 for more information.

Table 15



There were 121 comments left about how ChatGPT helped them to learn their Spanish language learning skills including spelling, studying, access, vocabulary, writing, pronunciation, examples, translation, explanation, feedback, grammar, conjugations, interpretation of literature, definitions,

placement of letters in words, faster responses, accents, fill in the blanks, translation and explanation of key concepts, creates study guides, simplifies works, being a tutor, helps them with pragmatics, accents, could be a tutor, etc. Unfortunately, there was no question about vocabulary nor grammar at the end of semester survey to compare them with the beginning of the semester survey. However, 12 (7%) expressed that ChatGPT helped them with vocabulary learning in the comments section and 55 (33%) said that ChatGPT helped them with grammar learning in the comments section in the survey 2 done at the end of the semester.

4. DISCUSSION

In general, 93 percent of the participants stated that ChatGPT supports learning vocabulary in Spanish in survey 1. However, there was no survey 2 for vocabulary nor grammar. We only know that 7 percent of them stated that it helps them to learn new Spanish vocabulary in the comments and 33% percent stated that it also helped them with Spanish grammar. The participants also stated that ChatGPT is beneficial to learning Spanish with 65 percent of more of the participants approval in the beginning of semester survey for listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. However, its acceptance or approval rate decreased to 58 percent by the end of the semester in the second survey for reading and speaking support as seen in the results above. It seems to support better the reading Spanish skills at 75 percent and the Spanish writing skills at 84 percent support. The results are still like those found in previous research where authors also found a higher support of ChatGPT for reading and writing skills (Naranjo and Chávez, 2024).

Some aspects to consider in the future include the following. First, this research was mostly done by female participants with about 78 percent of the participants. We could do it with a bigger number of participants with also more males and compare the results. Second, it could be interesting in the future to see what happens with a bigger number of participants. Third, about 49 percent of the participants stated that they were beginning and intermediate students. 36 percent stated that they were advanced or superior, and the rest were at intermediate levels. Those participants were a very varied class of levels. However, we should also note that the participants rated themselves in their language level. Maybe other ratings could be used in the future moderated by the professor or faculty. Some students may have overrated themselves. Therefore, the participants' level varied from beginning to advanced and superior. This is like Chávez and Naranjo (2024). Therefore, in the future, students could be rated by the professor to add more validity to the research.

Fourth, the researchers must also include vocabulary and grammar questions in the survey for the end of the semester. Fifth, keep track of the classes that are All-Online or Face-to-Face. Sixth, keep track of the prompts used by the professor and/or students for future reference and prevention of the same mistakes. Seventh, as seen in previous research, we also recommend using short, specific prompts as the more specific you are, the better the answers we will get (Chávez and Naranjo, 2024). Eighth, we also consider that students and/or faculty should have basic knowledge about this tool to get better results. Ninth, AI changes continuously, we started using ChatGPT 2 for the research and we ended using ChatGPT 4.0 at the end of the survey noting better results back as well as better illustrations and or images. Therefore, faculty, teachers, and students using it should also keep up with their training regarding ChatGPT and AI in general. Tenth, users should cite it properly that way we know where the information comes from.

Regarding faculty support of ChatGPT, we agree with previous research as it does support curriculum and or faculty, and or teachers, in the following areas: creating worksheets or handouts

for faculty like grammar, vocabulary, culture, poems, pronunciation, lyrics for songs, holidays, power points, short biographies, infographics, short reading passages by levels with multiple choice questions, fill in the blanks, illustrations, holidays, illustrations, etc. (Chávez and Naranjo, 2024; Álvarez Peña et. Al. 2025). Again, the more specific with the prompts, the better results you will get. However, professors need to list in their syllabus the portion or percentage they can allow to use in their classroom in the assignments like 30 percent, as ChatGPT does not replace the knowledge in the students. They also need to check and adhere to their school policies regarding AI and make sure they support its use at their school, college, etc. We also recommend using it under adult supervision for minors to prevent any incidents related to fatigue in the web. We also noticed that ChatGPT gave advice to faculty who were using it and said things like, “take a break” or you have been using it for too long as it is easy to get carried away by its content.

We also noted some limitations with ChatGPT, like others found in previous research for faculty and students. Some include the following: errors in answers, some students may rely too much on ChatGPT and inhibit their learning skills, it may not be appropriate for students who are 18 years old or younger, wrong citations, it may be easy to cheat in classes, if faculty does not have a clear syllabus or regulations regarding AI or ChatGPT use in class, some of those problems may arise. Therefore, supervision, revision, or monitoring is also recommended for all results that ChatGPT gives out as it does make mistakes.

5. CONCLUSION

Although this research gave us some ideas on its support in Spanish language learning in college classes, other items can be done in the future to help students and faculty. Some of those include doing the research with bigger number of participants, ask the same questions on survey one and survey 2, keep track of all the All online and Face to face and get the difference in the results, do it with other languages, include more males in the study and divide results by levels of students, do better training for faculty and students regarding their specific use of ChatGPT regarding their curriculum. Some faculties use it now only for cultural or guided content which can be also repetitive and basic (Orellana Mauri et. Al. 2025). Hopefully in the future we will be able to use ChatGPT to create better teaching materials, activities, exercises, and illustrations beyond its basic use that also adhere to ethical rules and regulations for students, faculty, and the community in general (Pérez-Núñez, 2023; Reyes et al. 2025; Romero-Rodriguez et al. 2023). We also want our students to learn beyond the basic skills in language through cultural scenarios that promote higher critical thinking skills.

1. Appendix

1. Consent Sample and Survey 1

Survey Questions

Survey on ChatGPT and Spanish Language Learning adapted from Nugroho et. Al (2023)

1. Demographic information:

Name and Last Name: (later it will be changed to an identifier)

2. Permission: I am older than 18 years old and I am not on dual credit class. I give permission to do use this survey in the research that will be done by Yesenia Chavez and Carlos Naranjo. I understand this research will help them to improve their teaching skills and improve their student success rate if the activities here prove to be successful. They are professors of Spanish.

1. Yes
2. No

3. Gender

1. Male, b. Female c. other d. Prefer not to say.

4. Spanish Language Level 1-5. 5 more proficient (5 years or more experience), 1 less proficient (1 year or less learning Spanish)

1. 1-2
2. 3-4
3. 5 or more

5. Rate your language in Spanish 1 less proficient, 5 more proficient (1-5)

1. Listening
2. Speaking
3. Reading
4. Writing

6. Communication

1. Speaking Ask ChatGPT 2 questions about the topic you chose. Possible topics: mi rutina diaria, mi colegio, mi familia, mi pasatiempo favorito, en un restaurante, etc.

a. How was the answer? Good or bad

2. Writing:

- a. Write a short paragraph about your daily routine, your hobbies, your school, your work, or your family.
- b. Ask ChatGPT to rewrite it formally.
- c. Ask ChatGPT to rewrite in a simpler manner.
- d. Ask ChatGPT to rewrite it in a letter.

3. Grammar:

- a. Paste your text you wrote in step 1 in ChatGPT for communication question 6.
- b. Check your grammar, spelling errors, etc.

c. Correct the text in a new document or notebook.

d. Analyze it, a. is it better b. or worse?

4. Vocabulary:

- a. Choose any five words in Spanish.
- b. Ask ChatGPT to do the following items:
- c. Tell me the meaning of the words

5. Reading

- a. Provide article

6. Listening

- a. Provide link to video

7. Tell me 5 sentences using the specific word you choose.

8. Speaking: Start a conversation with ChatGPT in Spanish about any topic you prefer.

Examples: mi rutina, mi pasatiempo, mis clases, mi trabajo, etc.

1. How was it? It helps me.

- a. It did not help me.

9. Survey on ChatGPT and Spanish Language Learning

1. I consider ChatGPT helps me learning listening skills yes no
2. I consider ChatGPT helps me learning speaking skills yes no
3. I consider ChatGPT helps me with learning reading skills yes no
4. I consider ChatGPT helps me with learning writing skills yes no

10. What benefits has ChatGPT in learning Spanish if any?

11. What limitations has ChatGPT for learning Spanish if any?

12. Questions on your satisfaction with this survey about the following activities: (rate it 1-5)

1 is the less like it, 5 you like it

1. Listening
2. Speaking
3. Reading
4. Writing

Consent

Project Title:

Study Overview: The purpose of this study is to improve teaching methodologies based on the student's surveys regarding the use of ChatGPT and language learning in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Participants: You must be a student enrolled in a class at San Jacinto College in a face-to-face class or on a All Online Class. You must be 18 years of age and/or older and have graduated high school to participate in this project. You will be asked to provide feedback on language learning, and you will sign a permit survey stating that you give the research permission to use you answers to improve teaching methodologies, present it in a conference and or publish it in a journal. No student will be identified in the study. You were selected to participate because you are enrolled in a Spanish class either ...

Associated Risks/Benefits: There is no risk in participating in this project. All feedback that you provide will be kept confidential. If your comments are shared in future presentations or papers, they will be done so anonymously. The benefit of participating in this study is that it may help you learn more about the way you learn your Spanish language. It will also help your professor improve her teaching skills to better serve the students in her classes. In addition, you will be helping future generations of learners, teachers, and researchers by providing insight into the benefits of using a cultural identity survey in your Spanish college classes.

Participation/ Confidentiality/Payment: Taking part in this project is voluntary. If you choose not to participate in the project, or if you choose to withdrawal from the study at any time, it will not affect your grade in the class. You will still complete the same assignments and activities as your peers who are participating in the survey as part of your normal classwork, however, your comments will not be included in the presentation of this project's research, conference presentation or presentations, or any future publications related to the study. The records of this study will be kept confidential as required by the college research department. Unfortunately, you will not receive any payment for your participation on this research. Your participation is voluntary. There are no consequences nor penalties if the participant decides no participating in the survey.

Questions/Concerns: The researchers conducting this study are Professor. They work in the Modern... Please ask any questions that you may have about this project now. If you have questions at a later date, you may contact

Consent: Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand all of the information presented in this form and that you accept to be included in the study. You may request a copy of this form at any time during the current semester to keep for your personal records. By signing this form, I confirm that I over the age of 18. I am not enrolled in this class as a dual credit student in high school.

Printed Name of Participant: _____ **Signature of Participant:** _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Investigator: _____ **Date:** _____

2. Survey 2 sample

Appendix C: Survey 2

Survey 2 on ChatGPT End of Semester Adapted from Nugroho et. Al (2023)

1. Demographic information:

Name and Last Name: (later it will be changed to an identifier) _____

2. Permission: I am older than 18 years old and I am not on dual credit class. I give permission to do use this survey in the research that will be done by Yesenia Chavez and Carlos Naranjo. I understand this research will help them to improve their teaching skills and improve their student success rate if the activities here prove to be successful. They are professors of Spanish. There are no consequences nor penalties if the participant decides no to participate in the survey.

1. Yes
2. No

3. I consider ChatGPT helps me learn listening skills. a. yes b. no

4. I consider ChatGPT helps me learn speaking skills. a. yes b. no

5. I consider ChatGPT helps me with learning reading skills. a. yes b. no

6. I consider ChatGPT helps me with learning writing skills. a. yes b. no

7. What benefits has ChatGPT in learning Spanish if any? Leave blank if no comments.

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