

GenAI and the possible futures of education

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2035

What might Thai education look like?

Scenario 1: Business (not quite) as normal



Dominant neoliberal ideology

Education based on achieving and measuring objectives

Teacher roles reassigned to AI
Surface learning

Scenario 2: The teacherless classroom



Pragmatic cost-saving

Education based on achieving and measuring objectives

Teachers replaced by commercial AI
Surface learning

No interpersonal, critical, humanistic learning

Scenario 3: Shift to liberal humanism



Humanistic
project learning

Education
based on
achieving
personal goals

Teachers provide
framework; AI
provides support

Deep, but
unpredictable,
learning

2035

Scenario 1: Business (not quite)
as normal

Scenario 2: The teacherless
classroom

Scenario 3: Shift to liberal
humanism

What will impact which scenario happens?

NEOLIBERALISM IN EDUCATION

Market-Driven Reforms and the Corporate Reshaping of Public Education

INPUTS: NEOLIBERAL POLICIES



• **PRIVATIZATION**
Public funds flow to private schools and for-profit companies



• **DEREGULATION**
Reduced oversight for corporations and education providers



• **MARKETIZATION**
Competition, school choice, and ranking systems



• **STANDARDIZATION**
High-stakes testing and narrow curricula



• **AUSTERITY**
Cuts to public funding and resources

DRIVING FORCES

- Corporate Influence
- Profit Motive
- Individualism
- Competition

OUTPUTS: DESIRED OUTCOMES



• **COMMODIFIED STUDENTS**
Students seen as consumers and human capital



• **WORKFORCE PREPARATION**
Training for low-wage jobs in a global economy



• **SOCIAL INEQUALITY**
Reproduction of race, class, and gender hierarchies



• **CORPORATE PROFIT**
Public funds generate private gain



• **DEMOCRACY UNDERMINED**
Education becomes a tool for producing compliant workers, not active citizens

WHO BENEFITS?

Corporations, investors, and the wealthy elite accumulate profit and power.

WHO PAYS?

Students, teachers, communities—especially those most marginalized—bear the costs.

EDUCATION IS A PUBLIC GOOD, NOT A PRIVATE COMMODITY.
Defend. Dismantle. Reimagine.

Favouring AI

Instrumentalism

Education as job training

Focus on external goals

Predetermined specific objectives

Grammar points, speech acts,
specific skills, vocabulary

Research into genAI in language teaching focuses on:

- Automated feedback on writing/speaking
- Materials generation
- Test generation
- Adaptive personalisation

Instrumentalism



Education as job training
Focus on external goals
Predetermined specific objectives
Grammar points, speech acts,
specific skills, vocabulary

Suits genAI



Education as holistic development
Focus on internal goals
Broad loosely defined objectives
Self-regulation, critical and cultural
awareness, interpersonal skills

Suits human teachers

Theory of disruptive innovation

Sustaining innovation

Incremental change

Long-term impacts can be positive or negative (Scenario 1: Business (not quite) as normal)

Disruptive innovation

Major changes in practice with shifts in beliefs and values

Scenario 2: The teacherless classroom

Disruptive innovations are often based on cost and convenience, not effectiveness

Scenario 3: Shift to liberal humanism

Disruptive innovations can have unexpected effects

Social acceptance



OR



News articles on the first teacherless classroom: Examining reader comments

UK readers

Generally negative

“Education without human interaction doesn’t work and will damage social skills of people”

Thai readers

Mixed positive and negative

“AI doesn’t play favorites, doesn’t hit children, isn’t power-crazy, doesn’t give crazy punishments”

Reducing genAI misuse: Personal investment

Concerns about genAI use for cheating and plagiarism

Standard solution: Shift to in-class paper-and-pencil tests and oral assessments

Does not address why students use genAI to cheat

Meaningless assignments solely for assessment and only read by the teacher

Alternative solution: Meaningful assignments for a wide audience with a real-world purpose

Scenario 3: Shift to liberal humanism

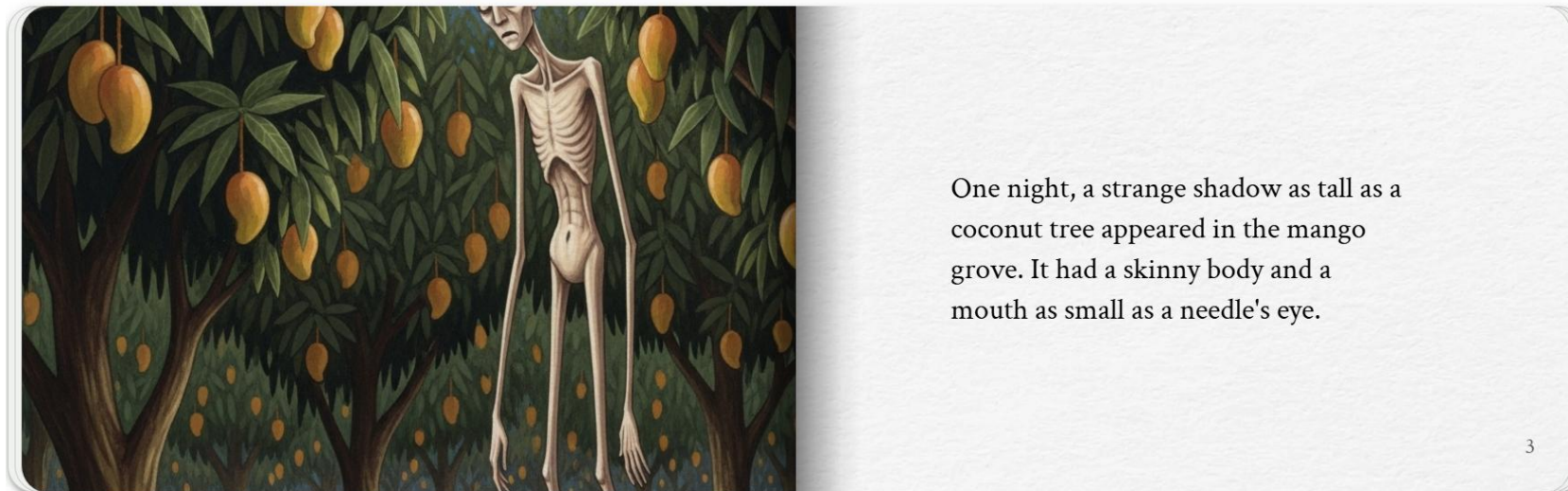
GenAI-supported liberal humanism

Junior high school students at a community school in Phichit

Interdisciplinary project to collect oral histories for a community website

Family involvement, diverse soft skills, wide audience

GenAI support for art and language



GenAI-supported liberal humanism

Foundation English courses at KMUTT – the languaging curriculum

Hobby course – Reddit, video

Review course – interview podcast

Wikipedia course

Focus on doing things with English

Focus on success

Focus on process

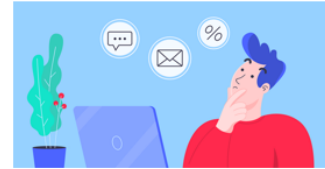
Language use strategies

Real-world use

Freedom of choice

Promote feelings of comfort

Learning to strategically make use of available tools



and resources to successfully do things in English for real-world purposes



“In other subject all you have to do is lecture, it is very rare to have chance to learning from doing like this course and every week you will always doing somethings new”

Our choices

Carry on as usual → Scenario 1

- Slow erosion of teacher roles and agency
- Steady decrease in education quality

Relinquish control → Scenario 2

- Major loss of teacher roles and agency
- Predictable and reductionist education

Change the narrative → Scenario 3

- Increase teacher agency (with genAI support)
- Meaningful, humanistic education

