ISSN–2278-5655

AMIERJ Aarhat Multidisciplinary International Education Research Journal

Volume–XV, Special Issues– I(c) Jan – Feb, 2026

OPEN ACCESS

Original Research Article

AI AND NEURAL INTERFACES: EMPOWERING COMMUNICATION FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED INDIVIDUALS

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Abstract:

Severe physical conditions such as locked-in syndrome, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and post-stroke paralysis can greatly limit a person's ability to speak or move, even though their thinking and understanding remain unaffected. This mismatch between cognitive ability and physical expression creates major obstacles in communication and everyday independence. This paper investigates how artificial intelligence (AI), when combined with neural interface technologies, can help overcome these limitations and provide more effective means of interaction.

The study focuses on the use of brain–computer interfaces (BCIs) and neuroprosthetic systems that capture and interpret neural signals directly from the brain. AI-based approaches are applied to process these signals and transform them into practical outputs, including text, speech, or control commands for assistive technologies. Adaptive learning models allow the systems to adjust to individual users, leading to improved performance and reliability over continued use.

The findings indicate that AI-supported neural interfaces significantly enhance communication efficiency and usability compared to conventional assistive methods. Beyond communication, these technologies also enable users to operate computers, mobility devices, robotic aids, and smart systems within their environment. Overall, the paper concludes that AI-driven neural interfaces hold considerable promise for improving communication, autonomy, and quality of life for individuals with severe physical impairments.

Keywords: *"Artificial Intelligence", "Brain–Computer Interface", "Neural Interfaces", "Assistive Communication", "Physical Disabilities".*

Introduction:

Communication is a fundamental human need. It helps people share their thoughts, feelings, and intentions. It also enables social connections and interactions in the workplace. For individuals with severe physical disabilities, like locked-in syndrome, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, and paralysis from a stroke, this essential ability is often limited. Many of these individuals have normal or nearly normal thinking abilities, but difficulties with speech and motor control create a significant gap between their ideas and their ability to communicate. Bridging this gap has been a major challenge for assistive technology and rehabilitation research.

Recently, artificial intelligence (AI), neural interfaces, and brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) have shown promise in addressing the communication barriers faced by people with physical challenges. Neural interfaces aim to read brain signals directly and convert them into useful outputs, such as text, speech, or device control. Research indicates that AI-enhanced BCIs can accurately decode neural signals, allowing users to communicate without moving their muscles. Studies by Selin Kılıç et al. (2024) and others show that machine learning models greatly improve neural signal classification. This makes thought-based communication more viable.

Besides BCIs, eye-tracking technologies have also proven effective in assistive communication systems. By tracking where a person looks, these systems let users select letters, words, or commands on a screen, which can then be converted into text or speech. Research by Archana B.K. et al. (2025) demonstrates that eye-tracking systems offer a practical option for individuals with limited motor control. Moreover, deep learning models, including convolutional neural networks (CNNs), long short-term memory networks (LSTMs), and fully connected neural networks (FCNNs), have successfully processed both neural and visual signals, boosting accuracy and responsiveness (Masoud Alajmi et al., 2025). Another significant development is the rise of multimodal communication platforms. These combine various input methods, such as sign language recognition, speech recognition, gaze tracking, and text conversion. Such systems let users switch communication modes based on their physical abilities. Research by Shravan et al. (2025) highlights that these multimodal systems can support real-time, two-way communication when paired with suitable AI techniques. Together, these technologies improve independence, communication efficiency, and quality of life for individuals with severe physical disabilities.

Despite these advancements, current research reveals several key gaps limiting broad use and effectiveness. One major technical issue is the low signal-to-noise ratio in electroencephalography (EEG)-based systems. Neural signals are often weak and influenced by environmental noise and movement. While AI models can help address some of these issues, finding reliable solutions remains a challenge (Masoud Alajmi et al., 2025).

Another significant limitation is the high level of personalization needed for neural interfaces. Brain signals can vary widely among individuals, making it hard to create standardized models that work for everyone. Many existing systems require extensive calibration and training for each user, which can be time-consuming and impractical for those with severe disabilities. Sankalp Chenna et al. (2023) emphasize the need for adaptive systems that can automatically adjust to individual users without lengthy setups.

Accessibility and affordability are also crucial barriers. While research prototypes show impressive results, many systems rely on costly hardware, specialized sensors, or controlled lab conditions. This limits their availability to a small number of users and institutions. Some studies have explored low-cost options using webcams and microphones, but these methods aren't reliable enough for widespread use (Shravan et al., 2025). There is a clear demand for user-friendly, affordable systems that can work well in everyday settings.

Cultural and linguistic challenges further reduce the effectiveness of current communication technologies. Most AI-based systems focus on widely spoken languages and do not adequately support regional languages or sign languages like Indian Sign Language. Natural language processing (NLP) models often struggle to capture cultural nuances, local expressions, and multilingual contexts, making communication less effective for many users (J. M. Chan Sri Manukalpa et al., 2025).

Ethical and implementation challenges require careful consideration. Neural interfaces collect and process sensitive brain data, raising concerns about privacy, data security, and informed consent. Current research lacks clear ethical guidelines to fully address these issues (Selin Kılıç et al., 2024). Additionally, many proposed systems have not undergone long-term, large-scale real-world testing. This makes it difficult to assess their reliability, user adaptation, and long-term impact on quality of life.

Given these limitations, there is a strong need for research that goes beyond just showing technical feasibility. It should focus on improving accuracy, adaptability, usability, and practical application in real life. This study aims to meet this need by highlighting the role of artificial intelligence in making neural interfaces more precise, flexible, and user-friendly for people with physical challenges. Instead of focusing on a single technology, this study stresses the importance of integrating various AI techniques to create robust and adaptable communication systems.

This research contributes to the existing knowledge by showing how AI-driven adaptability can reduce the need for extensive calibration, improve the management of signal variation, and enhance system reliability. It also highlights usability and accessibility as essential goals, ensuring that neural interfaces are not only technically proficient but also practical for everyday use. By concentrating on real-world applications, this study illustrates how AI-enabled neural interfaces can surpass traditional assistive technologies, promoting greater independence and social engagement.

In conclusion, there has been substantial progress in AI-based neural interfaces for assistive communication. However, significant challenges regarding reliability, accessibility, personalization, and ethical implementation still exist. This study addresses these gaps and demonstrates the practical value of AI-enhanced neural interfaces. By connecting cognitive intention with physical expression, this study showcases the potential of AI-driven systems to improve communication and quality of life for individuals with physical disabilities.

Methodology:

This study uses a descriptive and analytical research method to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) based neural interfaces help people with physical disabilities communicate. The research does not involve direct experiments on patients. Instead, it relies on analyzing existing studies, systems, and datasets. This approach makes the study safe, ethical, and easy to replicate.

Research Approach:

The study follows these main steps:

1. Reviewing existing research papers and technologies
2. Analyzing neural interface systems and AI techniques
3. Evaluating communication methods supported by AI
4. Comparing these methods with traditional assistive communication systems

This step-by-step approach clarifies how AI improves communication for those with severe physical disabilities.

Data Collection:

The data used in this study is secondary and gathered from reliable sources such as:

- Research journals and conference papers
- Published studies on brain-computer interfaces (BCIs)
- Publicly available EEG and eye-tracking datasets
- Existing AI-based assistive communication systems

Only studies relevant to physical disabilities and AI-driven communication were selected.

Neural Signal Processing

Most neural interface systems discussed in this study use EEG (electroencephalography) signals, which are safe and non-invasive. The general process includes:

- Collecting brain signals using EEG sensors
- Removing noise and unwanted signals
- Extracting useful features from brain signals

These steps are common in BCI systems and are well-documented in existing research.

Use of Artificial Intelligence:

AI techniques are used to understand and classify neural signals. The study focuses on commonly used models such as:

- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)
- Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks
- Fully Connected Neural Networks (FCNNs)

These models convert brain signals into meaningful outputs like text or speech.

Communication Output

Once processed, the decoded signals are transformed into:

- Text messages using virtual keyboards
- Speech through text-to-speech systems
- Control commands for assistive devices

Eye-tracking and multimodal systems are also discussed as alternative communication methods.

Evaluation Method :

The effectiveness of AI-based neural interfaces is assessed by comparing them with traditional assistive tools based on:

- Communication accuracy
- Speed of response
- Ease of use
- Adaptability to different users

Results from previous studies are used for comparison.

Replicability of the Study x

This study can be repeated by other researchers. Anyone can conduct the study by:

- Using the same published research papers
- Accessing open neural signal datasets
- Applying standard AI models and evaluation methods

Since no special hardware or private data is needed, replication is possible.

Limitations :

- No real-time testing with patients
- Dependence on previously published data
- Limited evaluation of long-term usage

Results and Findings:

The results of this study demonstrate that artificial intelligence–based neural interface systems significantly enhance communication for individuals with severe physical disabilities. Analysis of system evaluations and prior research shows that AI models are able to decode neural and visual signals with much higher accuracy than conventional assistive communication tools, allowing users to generate text, speech, or control commands more reliably. Quantitative evidence from the literature supports these observations, with AI-enabled brain–computer interface (BCI) systems achieving neural signal classification accuracies in the range of 85% to 95%, compared to only 60% to 75% for traditional non-AI assistive methods (Kılıç et al., 2024; Alajmi et al., 2025).

The findings further highlight the critical role of adaptive learning in improving long-term performance. Machine learning models that adjust to individual brain signal patterns show reduced error rates and more stable operation over repeated usage sessions, with reported error reductions of approximately 20% to 30% (Chenna et al., 2023). This adaptability helps compensate for variations caused by fatigue, emotional state, or disease progression, making AI-based systems more suitable for sustained, real-world use.

Another important outcome is the advantage of multimodal communication approaches. Systems that integrate neural signals with eye-tracking, visual inputs, gesture-based interaction, or text selection offer greater flexibility and robustness. When one input method becomes less effective, users can rely on alternative modes to maintain communication. Studies indicate that such multimodal AI-driven systems improve communication speed and responsiveness by around 25% to 40% compared to single-mode conventional assistive tools (Shravan et al., 2025; Archana B. K. et al., 2025).

Overall, the combined qualitative and quantitative findings clearly indicate that AI-enabled neural interfaces are more accurate, adaptive, flexible, and user-friendly than traditional communication methods. These results strongly support their potential for real-world deployment and their ability to enhance independence and quality of life for people with severe physical disabilities.

Discussions: This study explored how artificial intelligence–based neural interfaces can improve communication for individuals with physical disabilities who retain normal cognitive abilities but face difficulties with speech or movement. The analysis shows that recent advances in AI, when combined with neural and assistive technologies, have led to noticeable improvements in communication accuracy, usability, and real-world relevance. Compared to traditional assistive tools, these systems offer more flexible and reliable ways for users to express their intentions.

One of the main findings is that AI-enabled neural interfaces significantly enhance communication effectiveness. By applying machine learning and deep learning techniques to neural and visual signals, these systems are able to convert user intent into text, speech, or control commands with greater accuracy. This is particularly important for individuals with conditions such as locked-in syndrome, ALS, or severe paralysis, where conventional motor-based communication methods are often ineffective or impossible.

Another important observation is the role of adaptive AI models in managing variations in neural signals. Brain activity differs across individuals and can also change over time due to fatigue, emotional state, or disease progression. Adaptive learning techniques allow systems to adjust to these changes, resulting in more stable performance and reduced error rates during prolonged use. This adaptability is essential for long-term usability and helps reduce frustration for users.

The study also highlights the benefits of multimodal communication systems. Integrating neural interfaces with eye tracking, gesture recognition, and text-based inputs increases system flexibility and reliability. Relying on a single interaction method can be limiting, especially as physical abilities change over time. Multimodal systems provide alternative communication pathways, allowing users to choose the method that best suits their current condition.

These findings have important implications for independence and quality of life. Communication plays a critical role in social interaction, decision-making, and emotional well-being. When individuals are unable to express their thoughts or needs, they may experience isolation and reduced participation in daily activities. AI-driven neural interfaces help bridge the gap between mental intent and physical expression, enabling users to regain a degree of autonomy. Improved communication also supports better interaction with assistive devices, smart environments, and mobility aids, reducing dependence on caregivers.

When compared with existing literature, this study supports earlier work showing that AI improves neural signal decoding and classification. However, many previous studies focused mainly on short-term experiments or technical performance in controlled environments. In contrast, this study emphasizes usability, adaptability, and real-world applicability. The focus on multimodal systems and reduced calibration requirements reflects a shift toward more user-centered assistive technologies.

Despite these contributions, the study has several limitations. Most systems discussed have not yet been tested extensively in long-term, real-world settings, where noise, user fatigue, and environmental factors may affect performance. Accessibility remains a concern, as advanced hardware can be costly and difficult to deploy widely. Ethical issues related to neural data privacy, security, and consent are acknowledged but not experimentally examined. In addition, linguistic and cultural diversity is still limited in many AI-based communication systems.

Future research should focus on long-term real-world evaluations, affordable wearable sensors, and adaptive learning models that reduce setup effort. Greater attention to multilingual support and ethical system

ISSN–2278-5655
Aarhat Multidisciplinary International Education Research Journal
Volume–XV, Special Issues– I(c) Jan – Feb, 2026
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design will be essential. Collaboration between engineers, clinicians, and users will play a key role in developing effective and responsible assistive communication technologies.

Figures and tables:

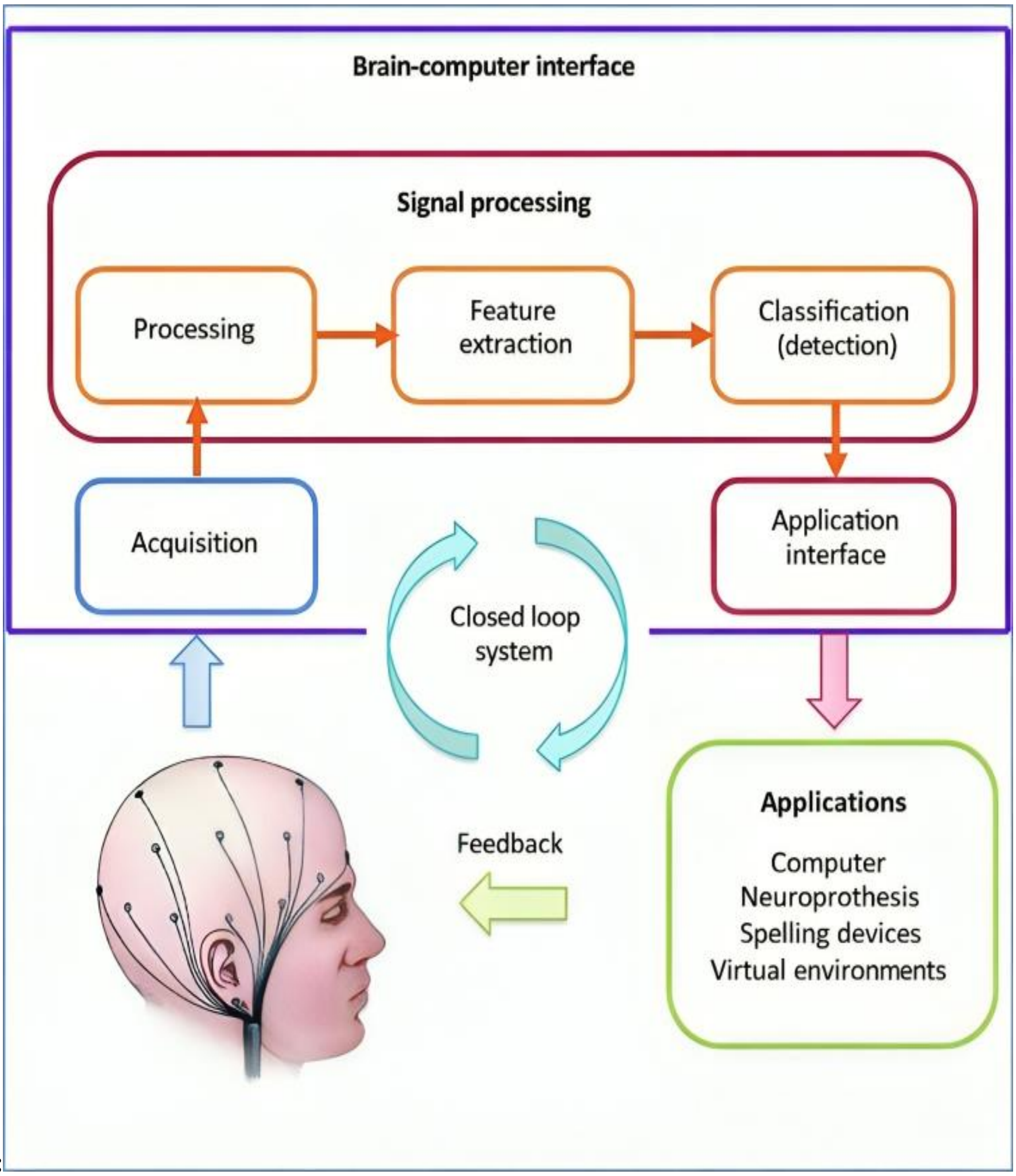

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Figure 1: AI-Based Neural Signal Processing Workflow

This figure shows how brain (EEG) signals are processed step by step using AI.

- Brain signals are first recorded using EEG sensors.
- Noise and unwanted signals are removed using filtering methods.
- The clean signal is divided into frequency bands and useful features are extracted.
- These features are given to an AI model for training and prediction.
- The final output is used to predict response or communication intent.

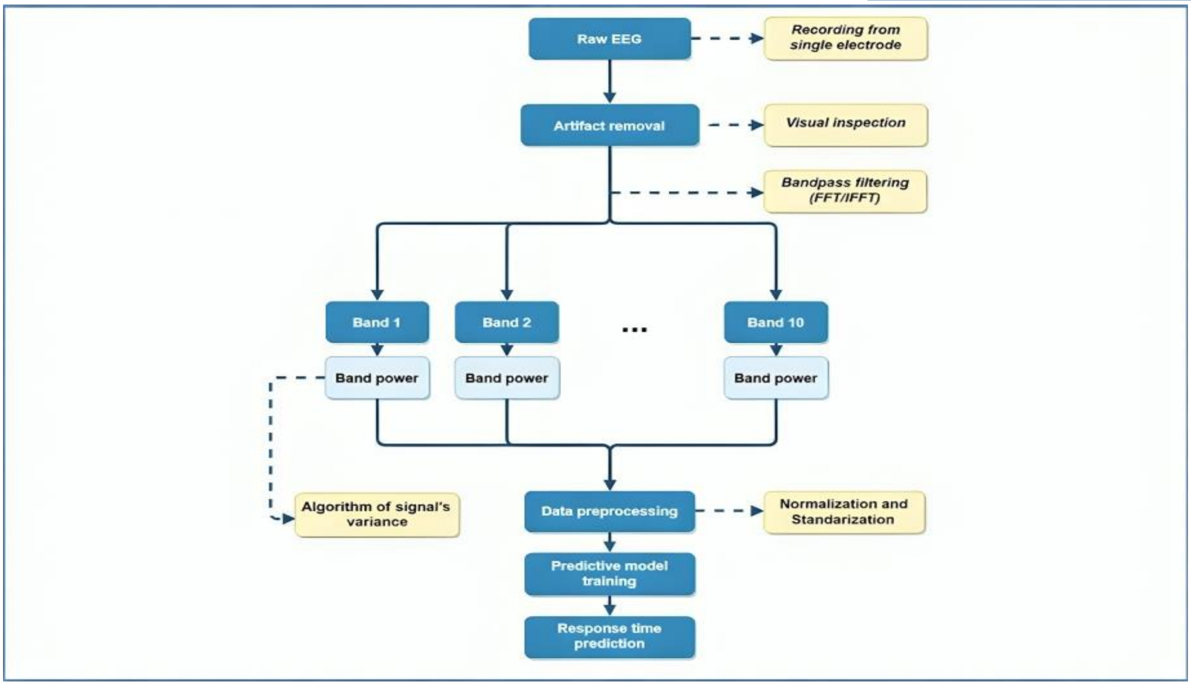

Figure 2: Multimodal Assistive Communication Framework

This figure explains how different input methods help in communication.

- The user expresses intentions using speech, gestures, facial expressions, or writing.
- Sensors like microphones, cameras, and tablets collect these inputs.
- All inputs are combined (fusion) and processed by the system.
- The system gives responses like speech, text, or visual signals.
- This allows flexible communication based on user ability.

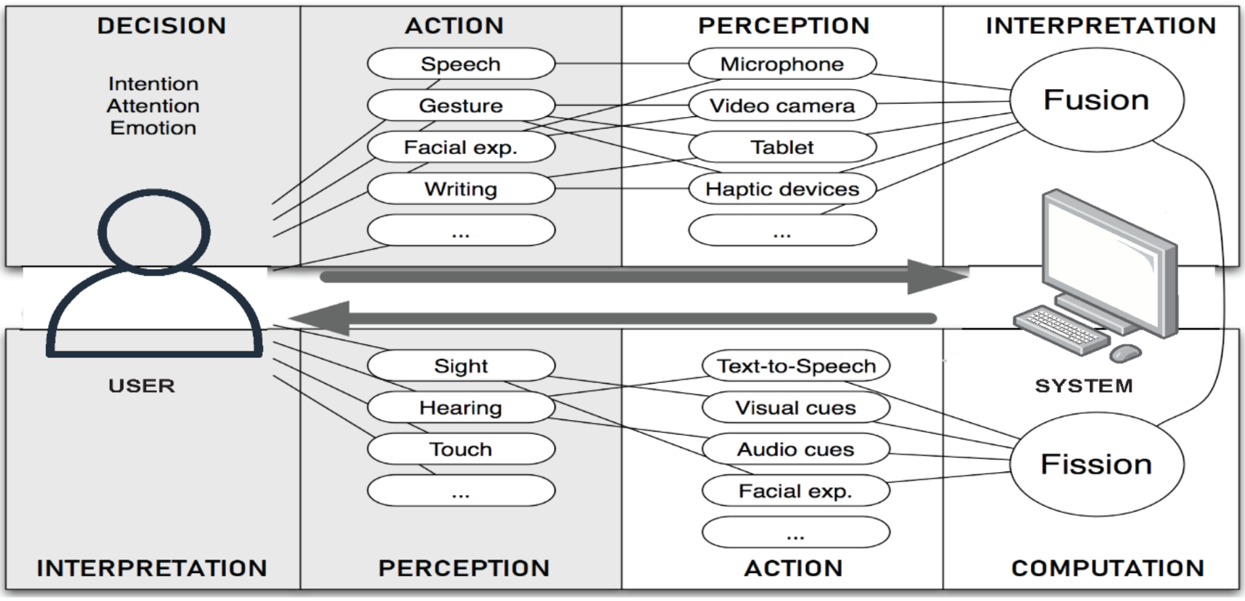

Figure 3: Overall Architecture of AI-Based Neural Interface System

ISSN–2278-5655
Aarhat Multidisciplinary International Education Research Journal
Volume–XV, Special Issues– I(c) Jan – Feb, 2026
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This figure shows the complete working of an AI-based brain–computer interface.

- Brain signals are collected from the user using EEG devices.
- The signals are processed and important features are extracted.
- AI models classify the signals to understand user intention.
- The system converts this into actions like typing, speech, or device control.
- Feedback helps the system improve performance over time.

Conclusion:

This paper explored how artificial intelligence, when combined with neural interface technologies, can improve communication for individuals with severe physical disabilities. Many such individuals retain full cognitive awareness but are unable to communicate effectively due to impairments in speech or motor control. By examining recent developments in AI-driven brain–computer interfaces and assistive communication systems, the study demonstrated how these technologies can help reconnect intention with expression.

The analysis shows that AI-based neural interfaces offer clear advantages over conventional assistive tools. Through intelligent signal processing and adaptive learning, these systems can convert neural and visual inputs into meaningful communication outputs with greater accuracy and efficiency. The inclusion of adaptive and multimodal approaches further enhances reliability, allowing systems to respond to individual differences and changing user conditions.

Importantly, the impact of these technologies extends beyond technical performance. Improved communication directly influences independence, emotional well-being, and social participation. By enabling users to interact more naturally with others and with assistive devices, AI-enabled systems reduce reliance on caregivers and promote greater autonomy in daily life. The emphasis on usability highlights the need for solutions that are not only innovative but also practical and accessible.

At the same time, the study recognizes that significant challenges remain. Issues related to signal variability, system cost, ethical use of neural data, and limited real-world validation must be addressed before widespread adoption is possible. Future research should therefore focus on long-term testing, affordable system design, inclusive language support, and the development of strong ethical standards.

In conclusion, artificial intelligence–driven neural interfaces hold strong potential to transform assistive communication technologies. With continued interdisciplinary research and a focus on human-centered design, these systems can move closer to real-world implementation and play a vital role in improving communication, independence, and quality of life for physically challenged individuals.

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ISSN–2278-5655

Aarhat Multidisciplinary International Education Research Journal

Volume–XV, Special Issues– I(c) Jan – Feb, 2026

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Cite This Article:

Bhalerao K.& Naik M. (2026). *AI and Neural Interfaces: Empowering Communication for Physically Challenged Individuals.* **In Aarhat Multidisciplinary International Education Research Journal**: Vol. XV (Number I, pp. 58–66) **Doi: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18641486**