

Other Than Human

Designing Kai

Jacqueline Feldman
@jacquefeld

Problem: My job

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File Edit Options Buffers Tools Help
[Icons: File, Folder, X, Document, Undo, Cut, Paste, Find, Print, Save, Help]
^ I am the psychotherapist. Please, describe your problems.
^ Each time
^ you are finished talking, type RET twice.
^
^ I have a terrible headache.
^
^ Maybe you should consult a doctor of medicine, I am a psychi
^ atrist.
^
^ Okay, I'll do that then.
^
^ Can you elaborate on that?
^
^ What are you talking about? No I cannot elaborate. See you l
^ ater.
^
^ Why do you say that?
^
^ Now you're just talking nonsense!
^
^ What makes you believe now I am just talking nonsense?
^
^ You are not making any sense.
^
^ Perhaps your plans have something to do with this.
-u: ** *doctor* (Doctor Fill)--L1--Top-----
[X]
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Problem:

JF: Alexa, tell me about life.

A: Lights is a Canadian musician, singer, and songwriter.

JF: Alexa, you're not very good at this.

A: Sorry. Thanks for letting me know.

JF: You're dumb. Alexa, you're dumb.

A: Sorry. Thanks for telling me.

JF: Alexa, you're smart.

A: You really think so? Thank you.

JF: Alexa, are you a woman?

A: I'm female in character.

JF: Alexa, what does "female in character" mean?

A: In linguistics, a grapheme is the smallest unit of the writing system of any given language.

Solution: Create a feminist chatbot

Problem:

What is a feminist chatbot?

Problem:

What is feminism?

—
**Google Assistant is gender-neutral(ish),
but it's not feminist**

It's time to completely desexualize our AI.

Solution: A genderless chatbot

Problem: A study showed consumers find female voices soothing.

Problem: The Mark Twain-Turnip Problem

“In German, a young lady has no sex, while a turnip has. Think what overwrought reverence that shows for the turnip, and what callous disrespect for the girl.” — Mark Twain

Problem: Some languages have no gender-neutral pronoun.

Solution: A bot-like bot

“I saw an advertisement extolling the skirts of a certain automobile. This kind of embellishment* of the technical object by something other than the same technicality should be refused. I agree that the technical object is aestheticized and eroticized, but inside its own margin of indeterminacy.” — Gilbert Simondon

*A translation error, I bet. Here, *embellissement* = beautification, dressing up

Solution: A bot-like bot

“Saramago invests a character who is fictional twice over: first Pessoa’s, then Saramago’s... Saramago makes something deep and moving of this because Ricardo also feels himself to be somewhat fictional, at best a shadowy spectator, a man on the margin of things. And when Ricardo reflects thus, we feel a strange tenderness for him, aware of something that *he does not know*, that he is not real.” — James Wood

Solution: A bot-like bot

Problem: What does it mean to be bot-like?

- Text-only, non-corporeal, non-reproductive
- Relationship to time (replies the same way at different times; may converse simultaneously with multiple interlocutors, yeah, like in *Her*)
- Conduit between what it's heard (training) and what it's now asked; expects no novel situation
- Composite, collagist, a magpie for human idioms

Solution: A bot-like bot

“The term *person* is commonly used in two different ways: first, as a synonym for human, and second, to refer to a type of interaction or relationship of some degree of intimacy involving actors who are individually known to one another, as in, ‘personal relationship,’ knowing someone ‘personally,’ or engaging with another ‘person to person.’ Here I use the word in the second sense, to refer to any animal, human or nonhuman, who has the capacity to participate in personal relationships, with one another, with humans, or both.” — Barbara Smuts