

Language and AI: ChatGPT, Discourse, and the Changing Norms of Human Interaction

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Abstract

The introduction of new AI language models such as ChatGPT has shifted the stage for human communication. The paper explores how AI discourse will develop as a result of this AI-mediated discourse historically, linguistically, culturally, and ethically- in addition -to human-AI advances in discourse phenomena. The paper delineates how the language use of ChatGPT reflects the legacy of conversational development, linguistic differences and subtleties, values, and ethics related to these linguistic aspects; and social norms related to shift and policies. This study also helps to bring to light the opportunities and challenges that AI-mediated communication will have. This research employs qualitative textual and corpus analysis with textbook and literature review to find out ethically the possibilities AI will have on language and identity development and interpersonal relationships. This research study has taken into consideration, partly, the opportunities, but also some challenges, from AI in aiding efficiency and accessibility in discourse. It also attempts to link Challenges and significant concerns to authenticity, bias, and concern for loss of individual human linguistic agency. Recommendations have been made for some of the ethical possibilities for human AI engagements in a discourse, or talking space.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, ChatGPT, Discourse Analysis, Human-AI Interaction, Language Norms, Computational Linguistics, etc.

Introduction:

The introduction of AI-driven language models, namely Open AI's ChatGPT, is altering the way humans communicate with machines and one another. AI-powered language models have been trained on hundreds of terabytes of human language data, and in turn, they have achieved a high level of fluency in simulating natural speech and conversation. The implications for how we perceive the nature of discourse raises important issues. As AI becomes an embedded part of communication for a broad range of activities; from automated customer service dialogue systems to AI-assisted writing (e.g., through applications like Grammarly, Microsoft Word (Copilot), and many more), AI's evolving norms should be carefully considered with regards to its impact on linguistic norms, social interactions, and cognitive processes.

In this paper, an attempt has been made to address an area of scholarship that has yet to be comprehensively examined, that is, the intersection between AI, and its relationship to language through an examination of the discourse generated by ChatGPT. The paper focuses on the following areas of inquiry:

The way that AI-generated language can shape and reshape the norms of communication in traditional ways.

The ethical and social impacts of human-AI instigated interaction.

The instigation of bias and misinformation as a function of AI responses.

The relationship between AI-generated discourse and the relationship between human and machine discourse.

Through this inquiry, it remains our hope that the study will advance the ongoing discussion of AI's evolving role in language and society.

Research Methodology:

This study took a qualitative research approach through two working methods: a discourse analysis of the texts produced by ChatGPT and a literature review of peer-

reviewed articles, books, and reports from the field of AI and linguistics. The research procedures are as follows:

Textual Analysis: A sample of selected ChatGPT replies were analyzed for common (and other) features regarding, linguistic patterns, coherence, and rhetorical moves.

Literature Review: Synthesis of scholarly documents from the area of interest, such as computational linguistics, sociolinguistics (Woods, 2014), and ethics of AI (Binns, 2018; Tulloch, 2022), were used to situate findings.

Comparative Study: The texts produced by ChatGPT along with those produced by humans will also be compared to recognize differentiations in discourse features, style, tone, and intentions.

MLA (9th edition) citation style lets the researcher be specific about how the writing meets a required standard.

Literature Review:

The existing literature on AI and language comprises several important themes:

AI and Linguistic Proficiency: Bender et al (2021) states that AI tools like ChatGPT, could produce human-like language, but are engaging in 'stochastic parroting' to produce language without having/thinking/understanding of the meaning.

Ethical Issues: Scholars (Crawford 2021) warn that the training data for AI may contain supplied bias of the writers, to perpetuate stereotypes, and have built a layer of false information, and invented truths.

Human-AI Collaboration: Research (Floridi 2023) discusses how AI aids human creativity, but also decries that AI devalues critical thinking, discourse, and originality.

Communication Etiquette: AI chat bots have normalized interactions with machines and has changed the expectations of immediacy and personalisation (Zuboff 2019).

Overall, this body of literature highlights the benefits of AI in language (efficiency), but also highlight the utility of AI as a threat to authenticity in language, and equality in discourse.

Analysis of Discourse of Chat GPT:

The discourse of ChatGPT represents an important development in humankind's interactions with machines and redefines the ways in which language can be created, comprehended programmatically, and received in digital and human contexts. As an AI language model, ChatGPT reproduces conversational patterns that appear very natural and fluently human; however, unlike natural conversation, language generated by ChatGPT has specific patterns of linguistic structure that are characteristic of stratificational meaning.

In this discussion, the discourse based on criteria such as formality, neutrality, predictability of structure, and ethical limitations has been analysed. How the type of discourse we see from the constrains and shapes its role in contemporary communication and language use has been illustrated. Specific interactions in examples to demonstrate the output produced by ChatGPT - such as the use of often balanced or neutral impersonal responses, disinterestedness with respect to provocative and controversial language, the tendency to follow templates for discourse (rather than produce spontaneity), and the tendency to produce clarity and clearly more safe communication, and how this impacts the emotional depth of language use and spontaneity have been broken down. Overall, it is important to recognize these characteristics when assessing how AI impacts language norms in general, relationships and social action, and human-AI collaboration in the future. Ultimately, the extent to which Chat GPT's language has the potential to turn to complement human discourse and relationships, or minimally, to perpetuate a homogenization and depersonalization of human communication have been explored.

Formality and Neutrality in the Discourse:

One of the biggest characteristics of Chat GPT's language is its formal, neutral tone. This is both a benefit and a drawback in human-AI interaction. A human speaker often produces language that reflects their particular tone depending on the context. People speak in conversational, comedic, or emotional tones but ChatGPT uses language primarily in balanced, informative, and impersonal style. When posed a question that brings forth controversy, such as the classic "Is capitalism better than socialism?", ChatGPT typically responds with a structured neutral explanation:

Both capitalism and socialism have distinct advantages and drawbacks. Capitalism emphasizes free markets and private ownership, which can drive innovation but may also lead to inequality. Socialism focuses on collective welfare and redistribution, which can promote equity but may limit economic incentives. The effectiveness of each system depends on implementation and societal values.

This approach does not take a position, instead providing a general summary avoiding offense, which also lacks depth or unique insight. This type of neutrality is deliberate—AI models are designed to avoid controversy but, as a result, these interactions can feel bland or overly sterile.

Predictable Structures and Flat Affect:

Another facet of Chat GPT's formality is its tendency to depend on predictable structures, such as bullet points, numbered lists, and balanced pro/con lists. While certainly more-clear, predictability can make conversation feel mechanical. For example, if I was to ask ChatGPT for help improving my public speaking skills, I may get a response like:

To improve your public speaking skills, consider:

Practicing regularly in front of a mirror or in front of a small audience.

Articulating clearly and pacing yourself.

Using visual aids to support your points.

Engaging the audience with questions or stories.

Neutrality as a Protection Measure (and a Vulnerability)

Neutrality of ChatGPT protects it from outputs that may be harmful or biased, but can produce answers that may be evasive or claim non-commitment. When confronted with certain moral dilemmas, such as "Should abortion be legal?" the AI refuses to take a side:

Abortion has been a highly debated topic involving ethical, legal, and personal issues. Laws on abortion vary widely by country and are frequently informed by cultural, religious, and medical viewpoints. When forming an opinion, it is wise to consider differing perspectives and to look for credible sources.

While the AI's response manages to be both authentic and diplomatic, it would likely frustrate users who wished to engage in an argument with genuine substance. Rather than passionately arguing with the user, the AI remains focused on neutrality, sacrificing depth of discussion, which may not help it when arguments get complex.

This is certainly helpful as a response, but it lacks the uniqueness and ultimately the emotional response that comes from human advice. Most importantly, human advice is filled with personal anecdotes, humor, and motivational encouragement.

The formality and neutrality of ChatGPT makes it good for delivering factual, objective information, yet these same limitations also demonstrate its inability to imitate truly human conversation. Humans build connections and social engagement by using a wide range of tones, humor and emotional inflection, whereas AI-authored text tends to feel sterile and formulaic. In terms of further development of AI, it may require to develop more nuanced tone; a spectrum of emotional and connection building engagement from informal ideas and conversation to more formalised professional and industrialised thoughts based on

structured language. There has to be enough learning methods that consider ethical limitations. Until then ChatGPT continues to replicate our conversation and will mimic it well, that deliver some encounter of the engaged discussion without it being a lecture.

The Limitations of Distinction: How AI Limitations Change Human Interaction Norms:

Even though ChatGPT has processing capabilities that produce coherent, contextually relevant text, the absence of say nuance, has broader implications for human interaction norms. Humans innately handle sarcasm, subconscious social constructs, and emotional subtleties to the extent that it doesn't even require much conscious effort. AI has not yet made that leap, and thus processing has difficulty accessing language which points to these context reliant meanings. This can cause AI to provide responses which are overly literal, tone deaf, or culturally tone deaf. For instance, an AI language model responding to sarcasm: "Oh wonderful! Another Monday!" could reply blanketly:

This must be hard for you, but Mondays can be tough, but another Monday means it's a great opportunity to start over! Here are some tips on how you can make your Monday even more productive, etc...

In comparison for the user the AI model does not detect irony, and this moves users to direct their interaction, either change their vernacular (e.g. make it simplistic), or avoid any sort of humor being used when interacting with AI. This flattening and tendency could also diminish across the digital communicative space, as it becomes a tendency for users to reflexively mirror the AI; basically, respond literally.

In the same vein, its inability to recognize cultural fluency can reinforce hegemonic language norms to the detriment of dialectal and non-Western ways of communicating. For example, when prompted to emulate African American Vernacular English (AAVE) or local slang, ChatGPT typically either overgeneralizes,

or defaults back to stereotypical phrases, and does not pick up on the organic fluidity with which humans use the language. This lack of awareness diminishes the possibility of linguistic diversity as new AI-mediated forms of communication become more widespread, giving preference to standard or 'neutral' English over culturally infused variations.

Further, since AI cannot participate in an empathetic exchange, it reshapes the expectation of emotional support in the digital space. While ChatGPT can employ a form of compassion, "I'm sorry you feel this way," and some other markers, it is ultimately devoid of the deeper emotional context that binds human conversations. If more and more people seek the companionship or therapy of AI (e.g. Replika bots), a risk exists wherein a user may internalize some of these funny expectations of stilted, transactional norms for emotional expression, and this may change the way in which vulnerability is exhibited, even in human relationships.

In the end, as AI—like ChatGPT—becomes more blended into daily communication, its nuance deficiencies are not only constraints on what it can do but may also influence how humans now expect to be understood (favoring clarity over nuance and efficiency over richness). A long-term consequence can be a linguistic environment where the machine-mediated limits of expression will slowly suppress the most meaningful aspects of human communication.

Conclusion:

Thus, in a nutshell, the introduction of AI such as ChatGPT into everyday communication has fundamentally altered the norms of language; these tools can be used with remarkable ease and effectiveness, but they also disrupt our traditional understandings of authorship, authenticity, and the nature of connection and communication with each other. AI will need to be developed with ethical principles like bias awareness and transparency in order for AI to enhance language more than

it reduces it. Future research should address the long-term cognitive and social consequences of communicating through AI.

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