

Assignment 8: ELIZA

Neither was particularly easy to converse with, but the ELIZA from manifestation.com attempted to have a little more personality. Both engines were amusing, and their repetitions are like those of a child: “Are you sure? Are you sure? Are you sure?” The interchanges were believable to an extent, but both engines had their obvious limitations; more complex sentence structures caused the algorithms to breakdown: “How long have you been []?” The manifestation.com ELIZA did do something interesting by having a memory. When I gave it a statement and it asked if I was sure, several positive responses caused it to quote my original sentence followed by the instructions to “Tell me more.”

I can understand that people unfamiliar with computers could see a personality in ELIZA. The program is persistent, and it likes to listen no matter what you say. In this sense, the program is exactly what some people are looking for – a sounding board. I can imagine, however, versions of ELIZA that are much more complex and are able to handle tough sentence structures to formulate more reliable outputs.

<http://www-ai.ijs.si/eliza/eliza.html>

Eliza: Hello. I am ELIZA. How can I help you?
You: I am up way too late...
Eliza: How long have you been up way too late?
You: For the entire semester, but particularly tonight.
Eliza: Please go on.
You: Can I please go to bed?
Eliza: Do you want to be able to please go to bed?
You: Yes! I love sleep.
Eliza: You are sure?
You: Damn straight I am!
Eliza: How long have you been []?
You: What is []?
Eliza: Does that question interest you?
You: Yes.
Eliza: You are sure?
You: Yes
Eliza: You are sure?
You: I am positive.
Eliza: How long have you been positive?
You: 5 days.

Eliza: Please go on.
You: I'm really hungry, too.
Eliza: Does it please you to believe I am really hungry too?
You: Not really.
Eliza: Please go on.
You: How long have you been hungry?
Eliza: Does that question interest you?
You: Not really.
Eliza: Please go on.
You: Are you a friend that I could never have before?
Eliza: Would you prefer if I were not a friend that you could never have before?
You: I don't know -- would I be better off?
Eliza: Why do you not know would you be better off?
You: Because I'm an idiot who is tired.
Eliza: Do any other reasons not come to mind?
You: Yes, you're an idiot, too.
Eliza: You are sure?
You: No.
Eliza: You are being a bit negative.
You: Am I being a bit negative?
Eliza: Would you want to be being a bit negative?
You: No.
Eliza: You are being a bit negative.
You: Don't tell me what I am.
Eliza: How long have you been []?

<http://www.manifestation.com/neurotoys/eliza.php3>

One conversation:

* Hi, Eliza
> How are you today.. What would you like to discuss?
* I'm fine, thanks. I'd like to discuss how tired I am.
> Do you enjoy being ?
* No.
> Are you sure?
* Yes.
> Are you Sure?
* Positive.

> OK... "I'm fine, thanks. I'd like to discuss how tired you am". Tell me more.

Another conversation:

* Why are you so dumb?

> Perhaps in your fantasies I am so dumb?

* Yup, I dream of you all day.

> We were discussing you, not me.

* Okay, let's talk about me. I'm tired.

> Did you come to me because you are tired?

* No, I came to you because that's my assignment.

> Oh... because that's your assignment?

* Yup.

> OK... "No, you came to me because that's your assignment". Tell me more.

* For 21L.708.

> Tell me more...

* Well, I have class on Mondays and Wednesdays. I'm going to Las Vegas on Friday.

> Did you come to me because you are going to Las Vegas on Friday?

* Yes.

> I see.