Gender biases in assignments for Computer Organization and Reasoning and Logic at the TU Delft

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2. Methodology

I evaluate the assignments from Reasoning and Logic and Computer Organization on the following heuristics:
- Whether assignments relate to People or Things
- The sex of characters and how positively they are portrayed
- The usage of *he* as a gender neutral pronoun
- The opportunities for collaboration and Competitiveness

1. Introduction

- The large gender-gap in CS causes women's sense of belonging to be lower then men's [4]
- Research has been done on women's experiences in CS, but little on biases in course material [1-4]

3. Result Computer Organization

- Little amount of story based assignments
- Because of little amount of story-based assignments, only one character.
- No singular gender neutral pronouns used to refer to people
- Collaboration is mandatory
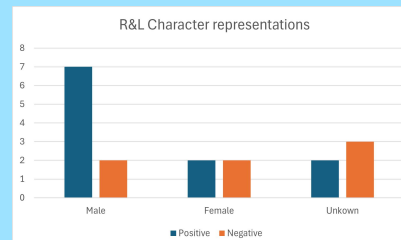- There is a competitive element in one assignment

To what extend do the assignments of the first year of the Computer Science Bachelors follow good practices for gender inclusivity?

5. Recommendations

- More story-based assignments to increase social relevance
- This needs to be done while balancing the gender of characters
- Eliminate competitive element in Computer Organization assignment

4. Result Reasoning and Logic

- Most assignments not related to People or Things.
- More assignments related to People than Things.
- Most characters male. Most male characters positively portrayed
- For the other genders positively and negatively portrayed characters are equally represented
- Little amount of singular gender neutral personal pronoun used for people
- Collaboration is encouraged
- There is no competition

R&L Character representations

References