Ling 144
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Team 1: Project Update #2
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We propose to create a filtering program based on the Bechdel Test. This test was invented by Alison Bechdel as a means of analyzing films through a feminist lens, where films pass or fail based on three criteria (Selisker): the film must have at least two women in it, the women in the film talk to each other, the women talk to each other about something other than a man. By the women in film talking to each other, we mean that they each need to say a line for it to count as a conversation. The language variety we are using is English. We hypothesize that we will not get a high percentage of conversations that will pass the Bechdel Test. We believe that making a conversation count only if both women say at least one line of dialogue count rather than only one line from one of them will lower the number. This study is of interest to us because it could give an interesting insight into how 'feminist' (passed Bechdel Test) films affect/ are affected by trends in the industry.

A lot of the previous work we have seen shows that not many conversations in movies pass the Bechdel Test. With those results, they discuss the importance of the women's roles in the movies that pass. The Bechdel test is the bare minimum, but many movies still fail. This shows women to be portrayed in a negative light. However, that is also possible with movies that pass the Bechdel test, as the test is very surface level.

The data that we propose to use for this Bechdel Test filtering program is in the form of a corpus assembled by linguistics researcher Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil and published by Cornell University in 2011. It is a collection of fictional conversations extracted from 617 movie scripts. The data is set up where it labels the name and gender of the characters involved in the conversation. We will be narrowing it down by removing all of the conversations where a man is directly involved as part of the conversation. We will also narrow it down by splicing the conversations in a way where we can find the patterns of where the two characters are talking about a man and deleting those conversations. If we struggle to narrow it down more, we can be more strict into what defines a conversation that is valid.