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CSE 354
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Assignment 3 - Ideas from Medical Ethics for NLP Ethics

- 10 - It is the duty of the **NLP Developer** in **NLP Applications** to protect the life, health, privacy, and dignity of the **user**.
    - This is most definitely applicable to NLP, as the principle emphasizes the importance of ensuring that our applications serve the greater good by making sure that the uses are not harmed as a result of using the application. The life and health aspect seems a bit less relevant, but I could see how it relates to NLP when it comes to certain applications of NLP in healthcare and similar fields.

- 15 - **NLP Applications** involving **users** should be conducted only by qualified persons and under the supervision of a competent **NLP Developer**.The responsibility for the **user** must always rest with a qualified **NLP Developer** and never rest on the subject of the research, even though the subject has given consent.
    - This one is not very relevant to NLP, as an NLP application will only really be developed by a qualified person. Regardless, the point that the responsibility for the user lies with the developer is a valid point, as it is the developer's responsibility to ensure that the user is in good hands.

- 18 - **NLP Applications** involving human subjects should only be conducted if the importance of the objective outweighs the inherent risks and burdens to the subject. This is especially important when the human subjects are healthy volunteers.
    - This is applicable to NLP, as the outcome of any application or research should be important enough to justify and inconvenience for the participants. This one doesn't hold as much weight however, as this field does not involve as much risk or burden that a typical medical study would.

- 22 - In any research on **users**, each potential **user** must be adequately informed of the aims, methods, sources of funding, any possible conflicts of interest, institutional affiliations of the researcher, the anticipated benefits and potential risks of the study and the discomfort it may entail. The subject should be informed of the right to abstain from participation in the study or to withdraw consent to participate at any time without reprisal. After ensuring that the subject has understood the information, the **NLP Developer** should then obtain the subject's freely-given informed consent, preferably in writing. If the consent cannot be obtained in writing, the non-written consent must be formally documented and witnessed.
    - This point is applicable to NLP, as it involves communication between the developer and users. It is important to inform participants and users of the specifics of the program and what the research entails in order to maintain trust between the NLP developer and the users.

I believe that many of these points can transfer over to NLP as many of them emphasize maintaining the trust and wellbeing of the users as well as the use of these applications for the greater good. I believe that these core tenets transfer over well to NLP ethics, as the applications we develop as NLP Developers can have a great impact on the everyday lives of people, with the results of our applications having the potential to impact the world and people's lives.

The one major difference between these principles I've come to notice is how the medical points emphasize the physical health of the research participants, a risk that inherently comes with the field, but is something that does not transfer over as well to NLP ethics, as our programs typically would not deal with the physical health of users as much as, say, a medical research. Furthermore, These principles may miss some of the more minute details of NLP ethics such as the technical details that would not typically be present in the medical field. To that end, some ideas that seem overly protective to me is the emphasis on a clearcut, scientific approach such as that in point 13 that the medical field tends to lend itself towards. I believe that such a rigid, uncompromising approach would not transfer over well to a technological field, and would serve to merely hinder any progress or innovation in NLP.