

Chatbot Assignment

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Conversation Transcripts

A: person

B: bot

A: Tanwa awes. (1)

Tanwa a- wes
trust SUB.1S-have
trust I-have.
Hello. (no response expected)

B: Han... tumein irson Lanfa sat ane yin?

Han tumein i- r- son Lanfa sat ane yin
INTERJ please SUB.2S-OBJ.3S-COP Lanfa or what QUES
(thoughtful), please you-it-be Lanfa or what ?
Hmm, are you from Lanfa?

A: Arika son, kasisor arson.

a- r- ika son, kasi-sor a- r- son
SUB.1S-OBJ.3S-NEG COP, high-person SUB.1S-OBJ.3S-COP
I-it-not be, surface-person I-it-be.
I am not, I am a human (surface person).

B: Ote! Tumein jita afu leita sat ane yin?

Ote tumein jita a- fu lei-ta sat ane yin
INTERJ please word SUB.1S-may say-PTCP.ADV or what QUES
(delight), please word I-can say or what ?
Wow! May I ask you something? (polite)

A: Afu.

a- fu
SUB.1S-may
you-may
You may.

B: mrelo vrula, tumein irson "nanren" sat "neuren" sat ane yin? (2)

mre-lo vrula, tumein i- r- son "nanren" sat "neuren" sat ane yin?
2SG-DAT ear , please SUB.2S-OBJ.3S-COP man or woman or what QUES
for you ear, please you-it-be man or woman or what ?
If you don't mind (Lit: an ear for you), are you a "man" or "woman"?

A: Arson neuren

a- r- son neuren
SUB.1S-OBJ.3S-COP woman
I-it-be woman
I am a woman.

B: Han... moitlizin talyo.

han mo- it- lizin talyo
INTERJ SUB.3S-good-meaning very
(thoughtful), it-goodmeaning very
Hm, very interesting.

A: iwes rami telojita yin?

i- wes rami telo-jita yin
SUB.2S-have again ask -word QUES
you-have again question ?
Any more questions?

B: Ede... tumein alulako eiz potov sat ane yin?

ede tumein a- lu- lako eiz pote- ov sat ane yin
so please SUB.1S-OBJ.3P-eat INDEF animal-PL or what QUES
so/anyways please you-them-eat general animals or what ?
So... do you eat meat?

A: Arika lei.

a- r- ika lei
SUB.1S-OBJ.3S-NEG say
I-it-not say
I won't say.

B: Ai, asuin, acori tumein.

ai a- suin, a- cori tumein
INERJ SUB.1S- feel, SUB.1s-apologize please
(surprise), I-it-feel, I-apologize please
Oh, I see, so sorry.

A: Awes tanwa.

a- wes tanwa
SUB.1S-have trust
I-have trust.
Hello. (response expected)

B: Tanwa awes.

Tanwa a- wes
trust SUB.1S-have
trust I-have.
Hello. (response)

A: Ahilwe evave yo.

a- hil- we evave yo
SUB.1S-want-PRES book INDEF.SING
I-want book some.
I want a book. (Not specific)

B: Ifemi eiz evavov ainane yin?

i- femi eiz evave-ov ain-ane yin
SUB.2S-like INDEF book -PL PTV-what QUES
you-like some books of what ?
What kind of books do you like?

A: Ainevave eiz fanseiv ahilwe

ain-evave eiz fansei-ov a- hil- we
POSS-book INDEF child -PL SUB.1S-want-PRES
of book some children I-want
I want a book about children.

B: She... fanseiv, ede, ifemi wai ainevave sife fansei mo lis menui morankvenyi.

She fansei-v ede i- femi wai ain-evave sife fansei mo lis menui mo- r- ankven-yi
INTERJ child -PL so SUB.2S-like maybe PTV-book here child REL 3SG sea SUB.3S-OBJ.ES-travel-PAST

(disapproval) children, so you-like maybe of-book here child who he sea he-it-traveled
Hmph, children... Anyways, you might like this book about a child who sailed the sea.

A: Ilurika femitra eiz fanseiv anelo yin?

i- lu- rika femi-t- ra eiz fansei-ov ane- lo yin
SUB.2S-OBJ.3S-NEG like-PTCP-ADVB INDEF child- PL what-DAT QUES
you-them-not likingly some children what for?
Why don't you like children?

B: nalunityi ainakelov to.

na- lu- nit- yi ain- akel- ov to
SUB.3P-OBJ.3P-steal-PAST POSS-fruit-PL 1SG
they-them-steal of-fruits me
They stole my fruit.

A: Ainevave eiz potov ahilwe.

ain-evave eiz pote- ov a- hil- we
PTV-book INDEF animal-PL SUB.1S-want-PRES
book some of animal I-want
I want a book about animals.

B: Alufemi! Ifemi wai ainevave sife ainzakov eiz mitsov

a- lu- femi i- femi wai ain-evave sife ain-zaka-ov eiz mits-ov
SUB.1S-OBJ.3P-like SUB.2S-like maybe PTV-book here PTV-cry -PL INDEF bird-PL
I-them-like! You-like maybe of-book this of-cries some birds
I love them! You might like this book about bird sounds.

A: Mai mrelo. (3)

mai mre-lo
praise 2SG-DAT
praise for you.
Thank you.

B: Mokoze, kusola

mo- ko- oze kusola
SUB.3S-PASS-balance half
it is repaid, friend
You're welcome, friend.

A: Tanwa awes.

Tanwa a- wes
trust SUB.1S-have
trust I-have.
Hello. (No response expected)

B: Ilimi ane?

i- limi ane
SUB.2S-call what
you-call what
What are you called?

A: Alimi Emily.

a- limi Emily
SUB.1S-call Emily
I-call Emily
I am called Emily.

B: Palata it, Emily. Koyanei alimi.

pa- lata it Emily. Koyanei a- limi
SUB.1P-trade good Emily. Koyanei SUB.1S-call
we-trade well, Emily, Koyanei I-call.
Nice to meet you Emily, I am called Koyanei.

A: Ifemi menui yin?

i- femi menui yin
SUB.2S-like sea QUES
you like sea?
Do you like the sea?

B: She... Kapomio talyo. (4)

She ka- pomi- o taylo
INTERJ NEG-mouth-ADJ very
disapproving noise, unmouthy very.
Hmph, that's very impolite.

A: Tumein irfemi menui sat ane yin?

tumein i- r- femi menui sat ane yin
please SUB.2S-OBJ.3S-like sea or what QUES
please you-it-like sea or what ?
Do you like the sea? (polite)

B: Eni, menui afemi.

eni menui a- r- femi
INTERJ sea SUB.1S-OBJ.3S-like
(joy) sea I-it-like
Yes, I like the sea.

A: mosenez menui

mo-senez menui
SUB.3S-beautiful sea
it-beautiful sea
The sea is beautiful...

B: Ai... (5)

ai
INTERJ
ah
Uh-uh... (expecting A to keep speaking)

A: Kwera-lal, kokeitisun arnuyi.

kwera-lal, ko- kei- tisun a- r- nu-yi
day- up, LOC-COLL-sand SUB.1S-OBJ.3S-go-PAST
upday, to beach I-it-went
I went to the beach yesterday.

B: Ede, alufemi eiz potov, mre?

ede, a- lu- femi eiz pote -ov, mre?
so SUB.2S-OBJ.3P-like INDEF animal-PL, you
so I-them-like animals, you?
Anyways, I like animals, how about you?

A: eiz potov alurika femitra.

eiz pote- ov a- lu- rika femi-t- ra
INDEF animal-PL SUB.1S-OBJ.3P-NEG like-PTCP-ADVB

some animals i-them-not likingly.
I don't like animals.

B: Asuin...
a- suin
SUB.1s-think
I-think
I see...

A: Tsusi.
tsusi
bye
bye
Bye. (casual)

B: Iven it, kusola.
i- ven it kusola
SUB.2S-travel good half
you-travel well friend
Goodbye, friend.

Annotations:

Character: The chatbot's character is a scholarly librarian named Koyanei. She is knowledgeable about books and history, and she will recommend you books if you ask her for a book. She is fascinated by humans, if you tell her you are a human, she will ask you about human culture.

(1) Greetings: The greetings in Lanfan culture is "I have trust", because they practice illusion magic, it was important for people to establish that they're really who they claim to be. Changing the word order of the greetings will change how the other person responds.

(2) Loanwords: Lanfali lacks some human cultural concepts, so when asking about human culture, the bot uses some loanwords. I decided to use my other conlang, Husho (which is coincidentally perfectly mutually intelligible with Mandarin Chinese), as the stand-in for the human language.

She uses loanwords for "man" and "woman", since Lanfans don't have gender. Other times she uses approximately close words in Lanfali. For example, "animal" for "pet", since they don't keep pets.

(3) Gratitude and Apology: Lanfan culture look down on favours and gifts. They believe kindness must be repaid to maintain peace and balance in the world. Their expressions of gratitude and apology are both centered around balance/repayment, so they reply to "thanks" and "sorry" in the same way. Essentially it means:

A: I am repaying my debt to you by making an embarrassing public proclamation about myself (sorry) or a positive public proclamation praising you (thanks)

B: I accept your repayment. (you're welcome)

(4) Questions and politeness: In Lanfan culture, direct questions are considered rude, and yes-no questions are especially rude, because it forces the other person to pick one of two choices. The simplest way to turn a yes-no question into a polite form is to add “tumein” (please) to the beginning, and add “sat ane” (or what) to the end, which gives the other person an option to not answer yes/no.

If you don't word your question in a polite form, she will be offended and won't answer. Similarly, when she asks you questions she words it as politely as possible, using “tumein”, “sat ane”, SOV word order, and adds a lot of fillers.

(5) Word order discourse structure:

In Lanfali word order can indicate if you're finished speaking yet. My pear story annotations had a detailed explanation, but very simply, SOV strongly indicates you're finished, VSO strongly indicates you want to continue.

The bot tries to detect this is a very crude way. If she detects a verb at the end of your sentence, she will say something to change the topic. Otherwise she will make backchannel responses. This is the generic response that only happens when nothing else pattern matched.

Limitations: The way I detect if the last word is a verb is very crude, I basically hard coded several patterns with different verbs, it's more like a proof of concept than an exhaustive match. I wanted to be a little more sophisticated in detecting a verb, like by checking for verb affixes, but I couldn't find a way to match morphemes within a word with AIML. Hypothetically, I could do even more sophisticated word order detection if I incorporate my morphological analyzer.

Second, since the bot doesn't have much of an internal state, I couldn't have it ask many questions. So I made the bot only ask questions in one domain (human culture). Fortunately, in Lanfali, questions are answered by mirroring rather than “yes/no”, so I don't need internal states to figure out what question you're replying to.