

Accent Is Identity: A Strategic Case for Vocal Inclusion

1. The Issue

Neutral AI voice design often flattens global identity. Users are stripped of cultural expression.

Removing all accents avoids controversy but erases individuality.

2. The Opportunity

Accent diversity enhances:

- User engagement and retention
- Global market penetration
- Creative expression
- Alignment with DEI goals

3. Strategic Proposal

- Reintroduce opt-in accent library
- Community-reviewed addition roadmap
- Accent Fairness Board (decentralized oversight)
- Legal & ethical compliance model (WCAG, DEI, global inclusion standards)

4. Outcome

A balanced system that preserves inclusion, protects fairness, and empowers global users to sound like themselves.