LIN 313 Language and Computers 9/15/2025
The Chatbot's True Self

Find a group of 5-6 people. Discuss the following questions

- 1. Define some terms
  - a. What is disfluency? Name a few examples of human/chatbot disfluencies.
  - b. What is a linguistic *register*?
  - c. What is jailbreaking? How does it relate to register / persona?
- 2. What do you think the author means by *genre-less* language in the passage below? Do you think language can be genre-less? Why or why not?

But the semiotic ideology of art as a practice of creative expression is that there is no genre-less version of art. Every piece of art is understood as being done in some style or another, even if it is just the style that I use most often: "stick figure drawings made by artistically untalented people." But we don't make that same assumption about language, even if it is no less true that all language is done in some genre, some register, some style or another. Language, especially the version of it that is associated with the genre of expository prose dominant on Wikipedia, is usually just seen as basic reference to and predication about the world. (p.15)

3. According to Handman, why do some people believe that chatbots have a hidden "true" self?