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Effects of synthetic language variety on personality perception and the socio-emotional evaluation in artificial agents

Research on intelligent agents has demonstrated that the degree an artificial entity resembles a human correlates with the likelihood that the entity will evoke social and psychological processes in humans. Language attitude studies based on natural voices have provided evidence that human listeners socially assess and evaluate their communication partners according to the language variety they use. Comparable effects could be achieved with synthetic speech. Moreover, language variety in combination with bodily behaviour influences a virtual agent's perceived personality. In the talk, I will briefly present the design of a set of synthetic voices representing standard and dialectal varieties of Austrian German, respectively Viennese, introduce key aspects required for the simulation of extrovert-introvert bodily behaviour in artificial agents, and discuss respective perception studies and their results.