

# "TELL ME A STORY, SIRI"

The voice as an emerging medium for interaction  
(in digital art)

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**HOW DOES THE USE OF *THE*  
*VOICE***

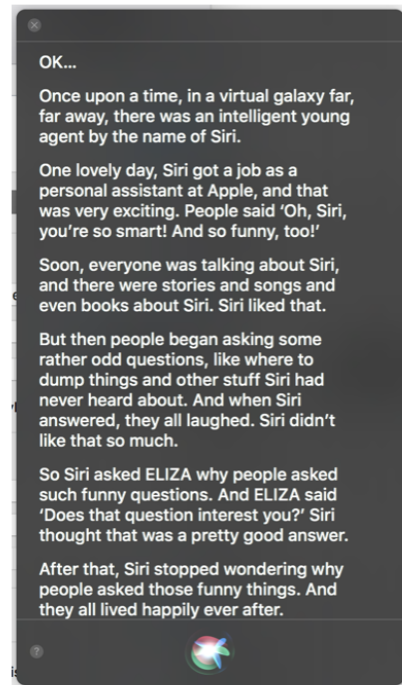
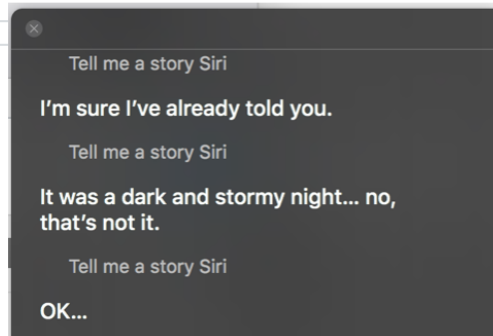
**ENRICH THE EXPERIENCE  
FOR THE USER/INTERACTOR?**

**WE FOCUS ON  
USING THE VOICE  
TO *SPEAK* TO "A SYSTEM"**

ie. by using natural language

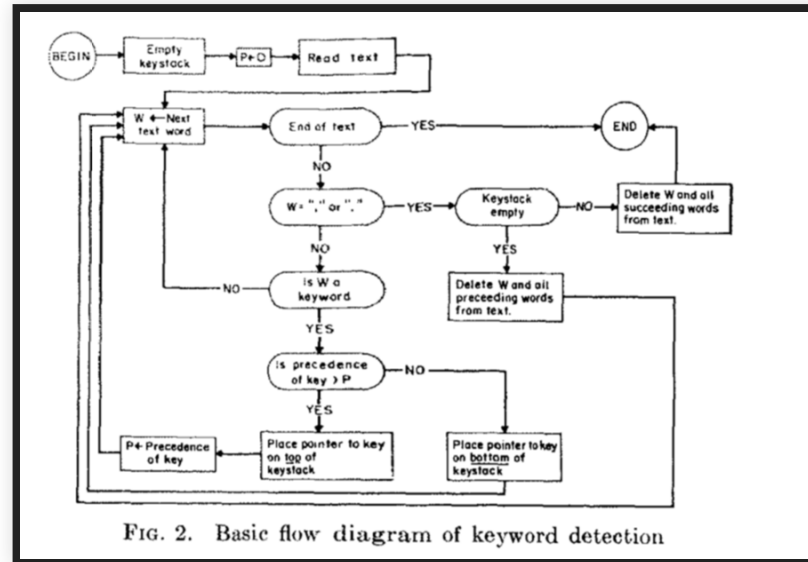
**"TELL ME A STORY, SIRI"**





**THE USE OF THE VOICE  
AS A MEANS OF INTERACTION  
IS HARDLY AN "EMERGING"  
PHENOMENON:**

# CONVERSATIONAL AGENTS



## *ELIZA* (1966)

Joseph Weizenbaum

Image capture from page 39: Weizenbaum, J. (1966). *ELIZA*---a computer program for the study of natural language communication between man and machine. *Communications of the ACM*, 9(1), 36-45.



## ***ELIZA TALKING (2013)***

Joseph Weizenbaum / Norbert Landsteiner

Image capture from: <https://www.masswerk.at/eliza/>



## ***HEAD* (1999-2000)**

Ken Feingold

Image credit: Kansallisgalleria / Mykkänen, Pirje



# ***PROSTHETIC HEAD (2003)***

Stelarc

Website of Stelarc: <https://stelarc.org/?catID=20241>

**MORE RECENT WORK**





## *The Listeners* (2015)

John Cayley

Image credit: John Cayleys website

Available at:

[https://programmatology.shadoof.net/images/TheListenersSLSAInstall\\_Nov4\\_2016.png](https://programmatology.shadoof.net/images/TheListenersSLSAInstall_Nov4_2016.png)



**IN THE LISTENERS, THE USER  
INITIATES THE "READING" BY  
USING THEIR VOICE,  
PROMPTING: "ALEXA, ASK THE  
LISTENERS".**

**THIS WORK USES THE VOICE TO  
"PRESS A BUTTON", EG. "ALEXA,  
GO ON"**

**AND THE ROLE OF THE  
AUDIENCE/PARTICIPANT/USER IS  
TO LISTEN (OR TO "READ")**



## *Frankie (2012)*

Maayan Sheleff, Eran Hadas and Gal Eshel

Image credit: Screen capture from Frankie presentation video

Available at: <http://frankieproject.com/>



Image credit: Screen capture from a video with Frankie

Available at: <http://frankieproject.com/>

**THE VIDEO ARCHIVE IS EXCELLENT  
BECAUSE IT ALLOWS US TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS  
ABOUT HOW HUMANS INTERACT WITH FRANKIE**

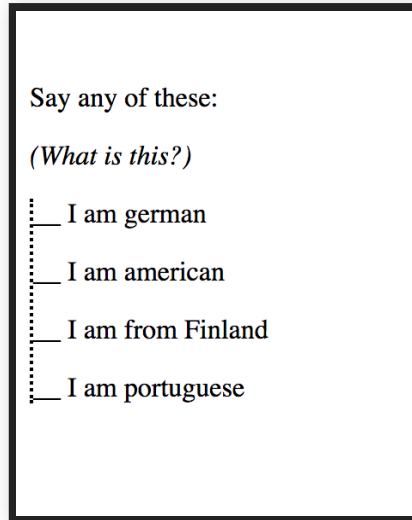
**FRANKIE LISTENS, BUT HARDLY UNDERSTANDS. AND  
IT DOESN'T MATTER.**

**FRANKIE IS IMMERSIVE: SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS  
LOSE THEMSELVES IN THEIR REFLECTIONS  
INSPIRED BY FRANKIES QUESTIONS.**



**FRANKIE, AS AN ARTWORK AND AS AN EXPERIENCE  
IS MORE ABOUT THE MONOLOGUES IT INSPIRES.  
OR VIDEO PERFORMANCES, EVEN.**

**SOME RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**



## *We Cannot Take Them All (2019)*

Terhi Marttila

Image credit: Screen capture from the site

Available at: <http://givemeareason.info/whyareyouhere/we-cannot-take-them-all/>

"Citizenship in Western democracies is the modern equivalent of feudal class privilege - an inherited status that greatly enhances one's life chances. To be born a citizen of a rich state in Europe or North America is like being born into the nobility..." (Carens 2015, 226)"

Carens, Joseph (2015) The Ethics of Immigration. Oxford: Oxford University Press

**"WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE OTHERS IS TOO BAD,  
BUT IT'S NOT OUR FAULT.**

**WE CANNOT TAKE THEM ALL.**

**WE HAVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS.**

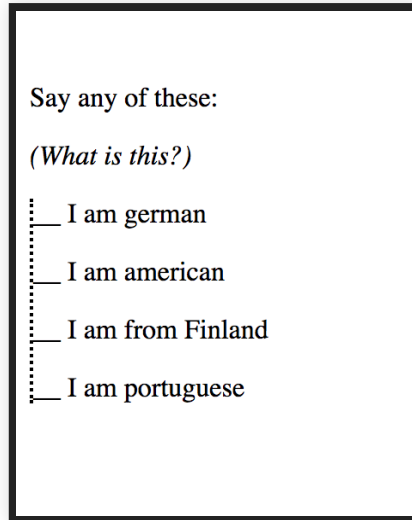
**A LARGE INFUX OF THEM COULD BE A CULTURAL AND  
POLITICAL THREAT."**

**"BESIDES, WHILE THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO  
DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE, THINGS ARE NOT  
AS BAD AS THEY SAY.**

**THEY EXAGGERATE THE PROBLEM.**

**MANY OF THEM JUST WANT BETTER ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITIES.**

**TIMES ARE TOUGH HERE. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION  
TO LOOK OUT FOR OUR OWN NEEDY FIRST."**



## *We Cannot Take Them All* (2019)

Terhi Marttila

Image credit: Screen capture from the site

Available at: <http://givemeareason.info/whyareyouhere/we-cannot-take-them-all/>

**"I AM PORTUGUESE"**

**"I AM FINNISH"**

**ETC.**

**"WHAT IS THIS?"**

**"SPEAK MY POEM"**



**THIS WORK ENDS UP BEING LARGELY ABOUT  
ACCENTS.**

**IT IS ABOUT EXPOSING THE AUDIENCE TO VARIOUS  
ACCENTS OF ENGLISH,  
AND THROUGH THESE ACCENTS,  
EXPOSING THE AUDIENCE TO VARIOUS NATIONS AND  
NATIONALITIES,**

**IN ORDER TO UNDERSCORE OUR *DIFFERENCES*  
IN SO FAR AS WE ARE MEMBERS OF  
CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC GROUPS MUCH LARGER  
THAN OUR INDIVIDUAL SELVES.**

**THE PURPOSE IS TO SPEAK THESE ANTI-IMMIGRANT  
SENTIMENTS**

**LIKE A MANTRA, OVER AND OVER AGAIN,  
IN DIFFERENT "LANGUAGES"**

**TO PROCEDURALLY EXERT CARENS' POINT:**

**NO MATTER WHAT THE COUNTRY OR LANGUAGE,  
THOSE AGAINST MIGRATION REGURGITATE THE  
SAME, AGE OLD JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THEIR  
IDEOLOGY.**

# **SOME HYPOTHESES AND ONGOING RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

**1. IF SPEECH IS INTERFACE,  
YOU CAN LITERALLY "PUT WORDS IN PEOPLES  
MOUTHS"**

**AS PROCEDURAL RHETORIC:  
"NOTHING WILL HAPPEN UNLESS YOU SAY THIS"**

**2. IF SPEECH IS INTERFACE,  
YOU CAN EASILY BE MISUNDERSTOOD.**

**AS PROCEDURAL RHETORIC:**

**WE CAN INVOKE THE FRUSTRATION OF BEING  
MISUNDERSTOOD**

**FOR PURPOSES OF RHETORIC.**



**((3. IF SPEECH IS INTERFACE,  
YOU CAN ENJOY SEEING YOUR SPEECH VISUALISED  
AS TEXT BY THE RECOGNISER)))**

**((4. IF SPEECH IS INTERFACE,  
HEARING YOUR OWN VOICE  
BECOMES A PART OF THE EXPERIENCE)))**

**Thank you**

Terhi Marttila

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