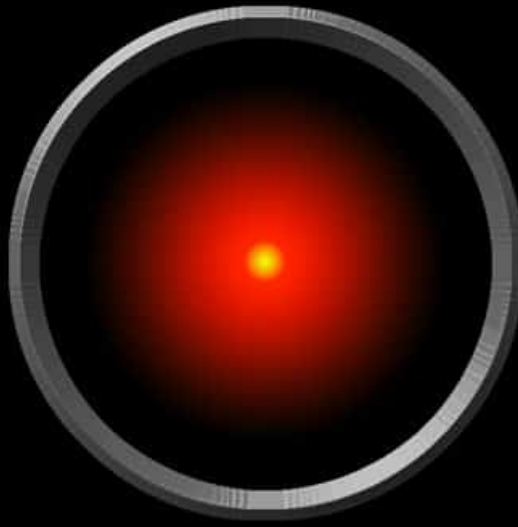


I'm sorry Dave,  
I'm afraid I can't do that.



## Facebook's AI Chatbots Developed Their Own Non- Human Language

Because connected Chatbots can use their AI programs to talk to each other, they are developing their own languages, unknown to their designers. What are they saying? What do they mean? What is their intent? Technocrats are opening up Pandora's Box with technology that they create but do not understand. □ TN Editor

When Facebook designed chatbots to negotiate with one another, the bots made up their own way of communicating.

A buried line in a new Facebook report about chatbots' conversations with one another offers a remarkable glimpse at the future of language.

In [the report](#), researchers at the Facebook Artificial Intelligence Research lab describe using machine learning to train their "dialog agents" to negotiate. (And it turns out bots are actually quite good at dealmaking.) At one point, the researchers write, they had to tweak one

of their models because otherwise the bot-to-bot conversation “led to divergence from human language as the agents developed their own language for negotiating.” They had to use what’s called a fixed supervised model instead.

In other words, the model that allowed two bots to have a conversation—and use machine learning to constantly iterate strategies for that conversation along the way—led to those bots communicating in their own non-human language. If this doesn’t fill you with a sense of wonder and awe about [the future of machines and humanity](#) then, I don’t know, go watch *Blade Runner* or something.

The larger point of the report is that bots can be pretty decent negotiators—they even use strategies like feigning interest in something valueless, so that it can later appear to “compromise” by conceding it. But the detail about language is, as [one tech entrepreneur put it](#), a mind-boggling “sign of what’s to come.”

To be clear, Facebook’s chatty bots aren’t evidence of the singularity’s arrival. Not even close. But they do demonstrate how machines are redefining people’s understanding of so many realms once believed to be exclusively human—like language.

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