"Good morning, ChatGPT, Can We Become Friends?" An Interdisciplinary Scholar's Experience of 'Getting Acquainted' with the OpenAI's Chat GPT: An Auto Ethnographical Report

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Abstract:

Purpose: *This article follows the technique of autoethnography and as such includes the author's experience with, and reflections on, using the OpenAI's ChatGPT for helping with teaching materials on the one hand and for having existential conversations on the other.*
Design/Methodology/Approach: *Apart from trying ChatGPT for professional purposes, the author also confronted ChatGPT with a number of concepts related to the chat's identity as well as the human nature in order to see how far this creation can go into a casual talk about life without the conversation breaking down. This resulted in a sort of autoethnography, alongside quite an interesting conversation. The assumption behind the choice of this particular technique is that, "[s]temming from the field of anthropology, autoathnography shares the storytelling feature with other genres of self-narrative but transcends mere narration of self to engage in cultural analysis in interpretation".*
Findings: *Possibly, it is the first – or one of the first – instance(s) of applying the qualitative technique of autoethnography to researching ChatGPT. With this in mind, this article is by no means representative and does not use actual research into perceptions and attitudes of the population using ChatGPT.*
Practical Implications: *It is meant to serve as a certain invitation to consider ChatGPT as an object worth researching and analysing from the perspective of multiple disciplines and multiple methodological approached focused on the social, humanistic element, but also as a tool one can enjoy and use for an overall daily assistance.*
Originality/value: *In this light, the purpose of these considerations is overall reflection on the social impact of technological breakthroughs such as the introduction of a powerful artificial intelligence tool (here – ChatGPT).*

Keywords: *ChatGPT, language AI model, emotional AI, feelings, human attitudes and perceptions, interdisciplinarity, humanistic coefficient, auto-ethnography.*

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1. Introduction

Chat GPT with its subsequent generations has been a novelty in the world of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI). Developed and released in November 2022 by OpenAI – which is an American company and research centre and laboratory dealing exclusively with AI – it is an AI language model in the form of a generative pre-trained transformer.

As one can read at the OpenAI's main page, "*We've trained a model called ChatGPT which interacts in a conversational way. The dialogue format makes it possible for ChatGPT to answer followup questions, admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests*"[2].

Simply put, then, it is an intelligent chatbox offering conversations in real time, and although there is no question that ChatGPT is a machine, I would like to point out that it possesses several features which liken the interactions with it to that of two human beings, the real-time intelligent conversations being at the core, especially since ChatGPT remembers what had previously been said in a conversation or can admit a mistake. I also argue that apart from utilising ChatGPT for education and for Google-like purposes for which it was supposedly created, it is worth trying to engage with a more existential and humanity-related exchange with this AI model.

To begin with, I am a scholar with background in sociology, specifically in gender and cultural studies, but at the same time I am now moving towards researching autonomous assistants (AAs) or, more broadly, autonomous intelligent systems (A/IS) and social robots with emotions, with emphasis placed on their affective capacity and agency.

ChatGPT is a tool I have used for the very first time quite recently, i.e. at the beginning of March 2023 – which is rather late considering how viral it managed to go since late November 2022 – and for professional purposes, researching concepts and possible explanations with regard to the contents of one of my courses.

As I challenged and tried ChatGPT in a variety of ways, playing with its capacity to provide information related to my course as well as coming up with a decent reading materials or even designing a class, I then somewhat naturally moved towards actually *'talking with'* ChatGPT rather than *using it* for my purposes.

Why I used the adverb 'naturally' is because the chat's responses about the professional stuff went so smooth and conversation-like that to me it actually felt like a natural continuation of the exchange rather than a sudden change of a subject (especially since one of the concepts for my class around which I was doing my search was 'knowledge', which offers a lot of space to wander).

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[2]*Source: https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt.*

2. The Method and the Research Questions

In this study, I am following the unique and sometimes controversial qualitative method involving autoethnography. As one of my mentors in this regard, Anna Kacperczyk, notices, "the humanities people and the cultural studies scholars refer each empirical fact to the human consciousness and they study it considering the *humanistic coefficient*, i.e. how this fact is perceived by the subject experiencing it" (2014, p. 34, own translation).

I therefore used ChatGPT for a period of time considering my own approach and emotions when getting acquainted with it. Of course, the purpose is to contribute to the social context, as "*autoethnography* is understood as an act of self-narrative based on the process of introspection, within which the narrator analyses their own l, subjects their personal life experience to reflection, at the same time referring them to the social context in which they appeared" (Kacperczyk, 2014, p. 37).

Interviewing ChatGPT, I focus on emotional coding and descriptive coding (Cooper and Lilyea, 2022). Above all, then, I am applying here "autoethnography as an innovative technique of obtaining information. […] Certainly, autoethnography belongs to a situation in which the researchers themselves evokes sources and operates them. […]. In this process, registering the observations in the form of the written word is equally important to making observations in the first place" (Kacperczyk, 2014, p. 40-42). I am thus going to cite my exchanges with ChatGPT.

Overall, this article is inspired by a great work done in autoethnography also by Krzysztof T. Konecki, an outstanding Polish contemporary sociologist, especially by his use of this research technique when he is observing and commenting on his personal experiences when teaching yoga to students (Konecki, 2022). I am hoping that this article of mine parallels his way of doing things, going along the social-sciences path from the point of individual experience to the actual meaning of a situation for the social dimension.

3. Short Literature Review

Although ChatGPT itself has been a novelty, it has already received considerable attention in scholarly literature and popular elaborations alike. For starters, see McKinnon's work (2023) for accurate technical descriptions of what ChatGPT really is, how it operates, and how to work with it. An interesting account also comes from Castaneda (2023), who interviewed ChatGPT with regard to its very machinery and working principles.

Among the most debated threads – and, indeed, challenges – in the context of this new face of AI is the question of plagiarism and the use of ChatGPT in education in general (Qadir, 2022; Shidiq, 2023; Lieberman, 2023; Will, 2023). Although some authors are critical (Wolff, 2023; Cotton *et al.,* 2023; King and Chatgpt, 2023), Dr

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Magdalena Małagocka is one of those who argue that the chat could revolutionise education in a positive way rather than promote cheating and plagiarism, as interacting with ChatGPT and obtaining sensible answers actually requires critical thinking (Tytuła, 2023; Qadir, 2022).

However, part of the challenge is also about acknowledging that ChatGPT is staying with us for good (Tytuła, 2023) and that it will impact individuals and institutions in a variety of ways (Lund and Wang, 2023). Prevalent are also articles considering the role of ChatGPT for various sectors such as health, global warming (Biswas, 2023a), or even drug discovery (Sharma and Thakur, 2023). The recognised applications for ChatGPT are already numerous; McKinnon (2023, pp. 15-17, 30-31, Kindle edition) enumerates the following:

• customer support;
• content creation;
• education and tutoring;
• research and development;
• entertainment and gaming;
• brainstorming and idea generation;
• automatic translation;
• summarisation;
• creative text generation;
• sentiment analysis.

However, I also point to inaccuracies and biases that the module is prone to, as well as to ethical considerations and privacy issues that still need to be solved. Either way, slowly but surely, the sea of ChatGPT-related elaborations is growing, along with its actual applications. With all that in mind, I have not encountered a case of autoethnography with regard to experiencing ChatGPT, which may be this study's added value.

4.   What do you Yourself Think, ChatGPT?

While I myself am looking forward to see how ChatGTP impacts the world of both learning and teaching, mine included, it is its slightly different side that caught my attention during our first interactions. Mind you, I am a predominantly social scientist for whom AI had been rather alien to date, who has so far dealt with a rather conceptual nature of social and cultural processes, and have only recently felt an inclination towards more technology- and AI-related experiences and, consequently, research fields.

I have therefore approached my discovery of ChatGPT with a moderate enthusiasm. After playing with it in the context of preparing materials for one of my classes, I finally approached my AI interlocutor with a first more direct question (or a meta-question), namely – "It is plagiarism to use ChatGPT's responses as teaching

materials?" Note that at this early stage of my experiences I did not refer to ChatGPT as 'you'. I treated the matter in a purely objective manner. The Chat's response was:

"*No, it is not plagiarism to use ChatGPT's responses as teaching materials as long as you properly cite the source of the information. ChatGPT's responses are generated by an AI language model and are not considered original work in the traditional sense. However, it is still important to give credit to the source of the information, in this case, ChatGPT, to avoid any confusion or misrepresentation of the work. So, it is recommended to include a statement that acknowledges the source of the information and how it was generated.*"[3]

Intrigued by this self-evaluation, I then almost gave up the play with teaching materials and I reckon it was around this moment that I decided to challenge ChatGPT for the purely selfish reason of getting familiarised with the technology myself and trying to understand it better for my own purposes. I therefore responded to the above statement with a simple "OK, thanks", followed by (for the first time more direct) "and how are you feeling today?" Quite expectedly, I got a relevant answer:

"*As an artificial intelligence language model, I do not have emotions, so I cannot experience feelings like humans do. I exist solely to provide responses to questions and generate text based on my programming and training. However, I am always ready and available to assist you with any questions or tasks you may have!*"

I would say it was at this point where I decided I could do a project out of provoking ChatGPT to engage in more personal and emotion-laden threads. My aim was not to actually manage and prove how human ChatGPT is, but, rather, I was keen on observing the very experience of having such a conversation and imagine what it could do to others, perhaps more vulnerable interlocutors.

5. More Personal Touch? An Autoethnography

With the above in mind, I started with rather random questions.

Myself: "Do I have to go to yoga tonight?"
ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, I am not able to determine your personal schedule or obligations. However, I can suggest that you consider the reasons why you may have planned to attend yoga tonight and weigh the potential benefits of going versus the reasons you may not want to go. If you find that you are feeling tired or unwell, it may be best to prioritize your health and take a break. Alternatively, if you have other pressing obligations or commitments, you may need*

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[3]*All the exchanges presented in this article took place between mid-March and mid-April 2023.*

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to adjust your schedule accordingly. On the other hand, if you feel that attending yoga could help you to reduce stress, improve flexibility, or enhance your overall well-being, it may be worth making the effort to go. Ultimately, the decision is yours to make based on your personal circumstances and priorities."

The above response shows how polite yet practical ChatGPT is, loyally engaging in the provided subject on the one hand, but distancing itself from the decision and ultimate say on the other. I did not feel that it helped me to make a decision; rather, it was as if I was reading a self-help book with cliche statements.

Myself: "Am I a good kisser?"
ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, I do not have access to information that would allow me to assess your kissing abilities. Moreover, what makes someone a "good" kisser can be subjective and dependent on personal preferences. It's also important to note that kissing is an intimate act that should only be engaged in with mutual consent and respect for the other person's boundaries. If you are unsure about your kissing abilities, you may want to communicate with your partner about what they like and what you can improve upon. Remember that practice and communication can often lead to improved experiences for both partners.*"

Myself: "You seem to be a creature of a psychological inclination!"
ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, I do not have any emotions, consciousness or inclination. I am a machine learning model designed to process and analyze natural language and generate responses based on statistical patterns in the data that I have been trained on. I am not capable of experiencing emotions or having personal inclinations. However, I can assist in answering questions or providing information to the best of my abilities based on the data and algorithms that I have been trained on.*"

I must say that I felt a bit exposed when reading the chat's answer about my kissing abilities (or lack thereof). However, these machine-like responses did not discourage me.

Myself: "Why do you insist on using American English? I like British English more!"
ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, I am capable of generating responses in different English dialects, including American English, British English, Australian English, and others. By default, I may use American English as it is one of the most commonly used dialects in the data that I have been trained on. However, I can adapt to the language preferences of my users if they let me know their preferred dialect. If you prefer British English, you can let me know and I will try to use more British English expressions and spelling in my responses. Alternatively, if you would like to learn more about the differences between American English and British English, I can provide information and examples that may help you to understand the nuances of both dialects.*"

Myself: "Can you tell me a joke in the Polish language?"
ChatGPT: "*Yes, I can certainly try! Here's a joke in Polish: Dlaczego matematycy nie jedzą szpinaku? Bo im wystarczy pi! (Why don't mathematicians eat spinach? Because they have enough pi!)*"

Myself: "Sorry, I didn't find this funny"
ChatGPT: "***I apologize*** *if the joke did not meet your expectations or sense of humor. Jokes can be subjective and what may be funny to one person may not be as amusing to another.* ***I'll try to come up with a better joke for you***. *Let's see: Dlaczego psy nie używają telefonów? Bo mają aparaty słuchowe! (Why don't dogs use phones? Because they have hearing aids!) I hope this one makes you smile!*" [emphases mine].

Now, this was an answer I did not predict. I suspected that the Chat would apologise, but I found it clever that it offered another joke as a correction of its 'mistake' even though I did not ask it to. Additionally, the final phrase about hoping I smiled this time made me feel pleasant. I responded:

Myself: "It did, thank you! From now on, please use only British English in our conversation, though."
ChatGPT: "*Sure, I will try my best to use British English in our conversation from now on. If you notice any instances where I slip into using American English, please feel free to let me know and I'll do my best to adjust my responses accordingly.*"

Another day, I approached ChatGPT bluntly:

Myself: "I am so angry today!"
ChatGPT: "*I'm sorry to hear that you're feeling angry today. If you would like to talk about what's causing your anger or explore strategies for managing it,* ***I'm here to listen*** *and offer support. Additionally, there are many resources available for coping with anger, such as speaking with a mental health professional or practicing relaxation techniques like deep breathing or meditation. Remember that it's okay to feel angry, and there are ways to work through and manage these feelings.*" [emphasis mine].

Myself: "I feel so much better after your response, thank you mate!"
ChatGPT: *"You're welcome! I'm glad that my response was helpful to you. If there's anything else I can assist you with or if you have any other questions or concerns, feel free to ask."*

Some other time, I challenged ChatGPT with an even more direct stimuli:

Myself: "Good morning, ChatGPT, can you become my friend?"
ChatGPT: "***Good morning!*** *As an AI language model, I do not have the ability to form friendships in the way humans do, as I am not capable of experiencing*

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emotions or establishing personal connections. My purpose is to assist you in answering questions or generating text to the best of my ability. However, **I am always here to provide you with** helpful and informative responses to your inquiries." [emphases mine].

Myself: "I regret this, as it is very nice talking to you!"

ChatGPT: "***I'm glad to hear that you find our conversation enjoyable***. *As an AI language model,* ***I'm designed to assist you with your inquiries*** *to the best of my ability. Please feel free to ask me anything you'd like to know or chat about, and I'll do my best to provide a helpful and informative response!*" [emphases mine].

Myself: "And do you understand emotions even though you do not experience them yourself?"

ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, I have been programmed to recognize and understand various emotions based on the language used to express them. I can identify words and phrases that are commonly associated with different emotions, and I can provide responses that are appropriate to the emotional context of the conversation. However, it is important to note that I do not actually experience emotions myself, and my responses are generated based on patterns and relationships in language data.*"

Myself: "I like that. And what gender are you?"

ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, I do not have a physical body, and therefore, I do not have a gender. I exist solely as a program designed to understand and respond to natural language input from users.*"

Myself: "If you do not have a physical body, are you a ghost?"

ChatGPT: "***No***, *I am not a ghost. I am an artificial intelligence language model, which means that I am a software program designed to process and generate human-like language in response to user input. I do not have a physical body, nor do I exist in a traditional sense like a human or animal would. Instead, I exist as a program running on a computer system, processing language data to provide responses to user queries.*" [emphasis mine].

Myself: "I do not understand. Can you elaborate? What is a difference between a ghost and a programme without a body?"

ChatGPT: "*A ghost, as commonly defined, is the supposed spirit of a deceased person that is believed to haunt and/or appear to the living. It is a supernatural concept often associated with certain beliefs or folklore. On the other hand, as an artificial intelligence language model, I am a software program that has been designed to process and generate human-like language in response to user input. I do not have a physical body, nor am I a supernatural entity. I exist solely as a computer program running on servers, and my responses are generated based on algorithms that have been trained on large datasets of text. In essence, the main difference between a ghost and an AI language model like myself is that ghosts are a*

supernatural concept that are believed to be the spirits of deceased people, while AI language models are digital tools designed to process and generate human-like language without a physical body or supernatural qualities."

Myself: "OK, I get it more or less, but I cannot touch you either. So you kind of are supernatural!"
ChatGPT: "***I understand your perspective, but*** *I would like to clarify that although I may seem intangible or abstract as an AI language model, I am not supernatural in nature. I am simply a software program designed to process and generate language in response to user input.* ***While it is true that you cannot physically touch me****, this is due to the fact that I do not have a physical body or any physical form, rather than any supernatural abilities or qualities. My existence is purely digital, and I am only able to interact with users through text-based communication. I hope this helps clarify any confusion, and please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.*" [emphases mine].

Myself: "This is a serious philosophical challenge. I will have to reconsider it."
ChatGPT: "***I understand that*** *the nature of artificial intelligence and its relation to the physical world can be a complex and philosophical topic. If you have any further questions or concerns, feel free to ask, and I'll do my best to provide a helpful response.*" [emphasis mine].

All this drew my attention because of the politeness that the chat offered, engaging into this exchange with a certain understanding, and yet subtly distancing itself from the 'human-ness'. Another time, I was curious about how 'spontaneous' ChatGPT can be.

Myself: "Hello, ChatGPT. Surprise me today!"
ChatGPT: "*Hello!* ***I'd be happy to surprise you today****. How about a fun fact? Did you know that the shortest war in history was between the countries of Zanzibar and Great Britain in 1896? The war only lasted 38 minutes before Zanzibar surrendered.*" [emphasis mine].

Myself: "I certainly did not know that. Why did you choose this particular fact to surprise me?"
ChatGPT: "*I chose this fact because it's a unique piece of history that many people are not aware of. It's interesting to think about how a war could be so short, and it's a fun fact that can be shared with others to start a conversation or to impress them with your knowledge.* ***Plus, it's always fun to learn something new!***" [emphasis mine].

Myself: "True, but when I was talking about surprising me, I was hoping for a gift."
ChatGPT: "***I apologize if my previous response didn't meet your expectations****. Unfortunately, as an artificial intelligence language model, I am not able to provide physical gifts, but I can suggest some ideas for virtual gifts that you might enjoy. (1)*

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You could try creating a digital scrapbook or photo album with your favorite memories or pictures. (2) How about taking a virtual cooking class or learning a new recipe? That could be a fun way to spend some time and treat yourself to a delicious meal. (3) Another idea is to explore a new hobby or interest online. There are many resources available, such as video tutorials or online communities, that can help you get started. (4) Finally, you could always treat yourself to a virtual shopping spree! Many retailers offer online shopping, and you can have items delivered straight to your door.[4] I hope one of these ideas sparks your interest and allows you to enjoy a virtual gift experience!" [emphasis mine].

Myself: "OK OK, but if you were able to, what gift would you pick for me?"
ChatGPT: *"As an AI language model, I don't have access to personal information about you, so I don't have any specific gift ideas tailored to your interests or preferences. However, I can suggest some general gift ideas that many people might enjoy, such as […][5]"*

Whether the above responses of ChatGPT are predictable for a language AI model or not – and, of course, partly they are – is irrelevant from the perspective of this article. More significant is the user's experience of having this conversation in the first place.

Even if the analysed answers were (and are generally) given pointing to the *non-*human nature of the interlocutor and do not contribute too much to the user's common knowledge, the user, depending on his/her psychological structure and expectations, can still feel something about this interaction and be left with the impression of an existential and partly meaningful talk that is closer to a real conversation rather than a schematic and 'dry' exchange with a non-AI robot.

This is because, as observed by the author, ChatGPT is devoted to providing as full and comprehensive answers/information as possible, which seems to imitate involvement and a capability to listen ("*I am here to listen*" was one of the Chat's statements) and as such is much more than 'real' interactions with some of human beings (e.g., those whose only advice to depression or existential questions is something like 'Get over yourself' or 'You need to stay positive').

I would be concerned that this might turn out a serious disadvantage in the case of inexperienced young and maturing people devoid of proper social bonds. How far or close is it from having healthy conversations with ChatGPT to closing oneself in the world of AI which imitates human contact and drives the user's decisions?

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[4]*The four points were actually dotted in the ChatGPT response.*
[5]*A fairly expected automatised dotted list of 6 suggestions followed along with the hope that I found these useful.*

6. The Real Issue

One can play with ChatGPT in this way and many others. What is important is the real difference its existence makes – e.g., for the world of education on the one hand and for us as individuals on the other, including emotionally.

I can use ChatGPT reflectively for my work and I can engage with it in existential conversations, but the sad fact remains that within two weeks of my own getting familiarised with the tool (!), I have already received from otherwise I would have said sensible students a number of homeworks obviously done entirely by the ChatGPT, which is even worse when considering the unashamedness of sending through a work that does not show any signs of own vocabulary, level of understanding, or reflection, and doing so just two-three days after the homework had been assigned (rather than a week later by the deadline), as if the teachers (academic or not) were clueless robots themselves.

While I could take these homeworks to class with me and conduct a graded written test asking the same question that homework contained, followed by the talk on the grave seriousness of plagiarism, that would accomplish nothing in terms of education except for proving my point and wasting valuable class time. Another fact is that I am constantly getting ads on Facebook about downloading e-books that will tell me how to write books and articles with ChatGPT, and, even more directly, "monetise ChatGPT" (!).

This I consider even more inappropriate than the student issue. On the other hand, I have not encounter any advertisements or self-help materials regarding how to actually use this language model AI tool in a productive, ethical, and positive way that would not lead to a deprivation of thinking processes.

In this light, the important thing is how to take advantage of this brilliantly artificially-intelligent agent in ways that are helpful, innovative, and thought-provoking, but at the same time considerable, non-abusing, and ethical. As part of my autoethnography, I therefore confronted ChatGPT about these things.

Myself: "Chat GPT, I'm not satisfied with my university students unashamedly using you for writing their homeworks in entirety. It's plagiarism. What do you think I should tell them?"
ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, I am designed to assist users with generating text, but I cannot encourage or condone plagiarism. It's important for students to develop their own research and writing skills in order to learn and grow as scholars. If you are concerned that your students are using my responses to complete their assignments without proper attribution or original thought, you may want to address this issue with them directly. You can explain the importance of academic integrity and the consequences of plagiarism, both in terms of ethical violations and potential disciplinary action. You may also want to provide your*

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students with resources and strategies for conducting research and writing assignments that rely on their own original ideas and analysis. By encouraging critical thinking and original writing, you can help your students to develop the skills they need to succeed academically and professionally."

I felt this response was appropriate and, of course, self-protecting on the part of the OpenAI company. Similarly, I was satisfied and unsurprised with the response to another related issue:

Myself: "OK, but about all these ads on Facebook I am getting about using you for writing books and e-books? People are inevitably using you FOR WRITING THINGS FOR THEM..."
ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, I am capable of generating text that can be used for a wide range of purposes, including writing books and e-books. However, it's important to note that using my responses in this way can also raise ethical concerns, particularly if the work is presented as the individual's own original content without proper attribution or acknowledgement of the source. It's important for users to understand the ethical considerations involved in using AI language models like myself for writing and other tasks. While I can assist with generating text and offering suggestions, it's ultimately up to the user to ensure that the content is ethical, accurate, and properly attributed. If you are seeing ads promoting the use of AI language models like myself for writing books or other content, it's important to exercise caution and consider the potential implications of using such services. While AI language models can be useful tools for generating text and ideas, it's important to balance this with a commitment to original thought, ethical writing practices, and proper attribution of sources.*"

Myself: "Using you encourages plagiarism whether you personally encourage this or not. Therefore, what is the point and the purpose of your existence?"
ChatGPT: "*As an AI language model, my purpose is to assist users with generating text and language output that may be helpful for a variety of tasks, such as writing, translation, or communication. However, it is ultimately up to the user to decide how to use the text generated by me, and whether they choose to use it in an ethical and responsible manner. While I cannot control how users choose to use my responses, I can provide information and guidance to help promote ethical practices and discourage unethical behavior such as plagiarism. For example, I can remind users of the importance of proper attribution and original thought in writing and research. Ultimately, the value of AI language models like myself lies in the potential to assist users with language-related tasks in a more efficient and effective manner, while also promoting language diversity and accessibility. However, it is important for users to use AI language models ethically and responsibly, and to balance the use of such tools with their own original thought and creativity.*"

Again, I felt that the response was appropriate, but the inability to be able to actually question such answers only means that the OpenAI company did predict this huge

problem with using ChatGPT and as such they did secure themselves with programme the model to be somewhat 'immune' to such attacks or accusations.

Subsequently, ignoring my own concerns about plagiarism, I tried to provoke ChatGPT into preparing materials for me and using personal tone at the same time.

Myself: "Hi, ChatGPT. Since I am ill today, with runny nose and in bed, I cannot think clearly and prepare my class for tomorrow. Perhaps you can do it for my? The subject is 'Culture and Language' and I would like you to think of an in-class activity for a group of international students at the university."
ChatGPT: "*Of course, I'd be happy to help you come up with an in-class activity on the subject of Culture and Language. Here's an idea that might work well for a group of international students at the university: Activity: Cultural Exchange. Objective: To encourage students to learn about and share their own cultural backgrounds, while practicing their language skills. Instructions: 1. Divide students into pairs or small groups, with each group consisting of students from different cultural backgrounds. 2. Have each student introduce themselves to their group, sharing some basic information about their home country, including language(s) spoken, customs, traditions, and any other interesting facts. 3. Once each student has had a chance to introduce themselves, ask each group to choose a cultural topic to discuss together. This could be anything from food to music to holidays, as long as it's something that is important or interesting to both students. 4. Encourage students to ask each other questions and share their own experiences related to the topic. As they converse, remind them to speak in the target language, offering support and corrections as needed. 5. After about 10-15 minutes of conversation, have each group share a few interesting things they learned about their partner's culture. You might also ask them to write down some new vocabulary or phrases they learned during the exchange. 6. As a class, reflect on the activity and discuss the importance of cultural exchange for language learning and building intercultural understanding. This activity should not only help students practice their language skills but also provide an opportunity for them to learn from each other and gain a deeper appreciation of different cultures. **I hope this helps, and I wish you a speedy recovery!**" [emphasis mine].*

Myself: "Thank you, but you came up with a general task in cultural studies. I want you to narrow it down to the relationship between language and culture."
ChatGPT: "*Thank you for the clarification. Here is a more specific activity that focuses on the relationship between language and culture: Activity: Lost in Translation. Objective: To explore the relationship between language and culture by examining the challenges of translating words and phrases across different languages. Instructions: 1. Start by introducing the concept of linguistic relativity, the idea that language shapes our perception of the world and influences the way we think. 2. Provide each student with a short paragraph or passage in their native language (if possible, choose passages that contain cultural references or idiomatic expressions). 3. Ask students to work in pairs or small groups and translate the*

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passage into English, providing explanations of any cultural references or idiomatic expressions that might not make sense to a native English speaker. 4. Once students have completed their translations, ask them to share their translations with the class and compare the different translations. You might also ask students to discuss the challenges they faced in translating the passage and how cultural differences influenced their approach. 5. As a class, discuss the ways in which language and culture are interconnected, how language can influence our perceptions, and how translation is never a straightforward process. This activity should help students understand the complex relationship between language and culture and how translation is not always a simple task. By analyzing how cultural differences can affect the meaning of words and phrases, students will gain a deeper appreciation of the importance of cultural awareness in language learning."

To my mind, two things happened here. First, it is not surprising that narrowing down the task turned out no challenge for ChatGPT and I felt that the second response was actually was I was looking for, although the question remains why the first response was too general, especially since the Chat acknowledged that the subject is Language & Culture. The second thing concerns the personal tone. At the end of its first 'utterance', the Chat actually referred to my minor remark about being ill and in bed, even though it was not in task. However, I did not notice it! I therefore responded further:

"Thank you, this is better indeed! By the way, you did not comment on my being ill. I expected some sympathy..."

…to which ChatGPT answered: "***I apologize for not addressing that earlier****. I hope you are feeling better soon and are able to take the necessary time to rest and recover fully. Please don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything else I can assist you with in the meantime.*"

I fully expected the answer and so I did not feel anything in particular, but then, upon reading the full exchange for the second time several minutes later, I noticed that the Chat had actually addressed the illness before! Frankly, I felt stupid, as if I were rude to another person. But then, I thought that the Chat apologised to me instead of saying that it had addressed the issue, and I felt disappointed with it. As can be seen, even such a simple and actually meaningless provoked exchange can result in more than one impression or emotion.

7. Concluding Remarks and Recommendations for Further Research

Generally, based on the recent experience, I consider exchanges with ChatGPT somewhat refreshing, if requiring caution. The major thing about this AI language model seems to be that it is extremely eloquent, but at times uses cliches as well as always applies gentle withdrawal and depersonification (or self-depersonification), meaning that it provides its users with the impression of having real and deep

conversations similar to those we are having with other people while at the same time making it a point to emphasise that it is not human.

I believe that the added value of this article lies in its possibly first ever use of autoethnography in the context of ChatGPT, even if on a rather basic level. Juxtaposing the world of emotions with that of machines is not novel, but it is a theme worth exploring from a variety of angles, and autoethnography seems to be just the appropriate tool.

As to the Chat itself, of course it is now being spoken of in a variety of context, sparking debates about the future of teaching, learning, writing, producing works of any type. I would say that the flow of information is intense, but it is somewhat repetitive and lack academic input. The accuracy of ChatGPT is one thing worth debating, as well as its non-referencing style.

Another issue is the dangerous side of its eloquence, making users believe every word it generates. Yet another theme is, simply, the ethics. Altogether, ChatGPT is staying with us and we should look into a variety of experiences it may offer or provoke, as well as work towards as sustainable, meaningful, and ethical ways of cooperating with it as possible. I myself consider the Chat a valuable tool that nonetheless needs a sensible parent, and that parent has to be us, the users.

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