**Graesser's Answers to Substantive Chat Responses on Webinar February 20 and 21, 2019**

FEBRUARY 20

00:44:47 Sandra Gillam: Is there a handout? Or a place we can download the powerpoint?

Alelo has posted the slides to webinar website.

00:48:56 Michelle Ampong: what was that website again? read.autotutor…. ???

read.autotutor.org

00:54:37 Sandra Gillam: We are interested in whether Ch-Metrix might be used with oral narrative discourse; would that be appropriate (Sandi Gillam, Utah State University)

Cohmetrix.com has been used with oral corpora from time to time. That includes speeches of presidential candidates, the united nations discussions, tutoring interactions, and literature. However, performance is best on print media that is edited and on informational texts.

01:05:09 Michelle Ampong: do you have a list serve to announce when big changes are made?

This is a great question and suggestion. There is no list serve now through AutoTutor. But we will seriously explore this for the future.

01:06:44 Sandra Gillam: My question is specifically, can I take my oral language samples and analyze them with Coh Metrix; or is it only appropriate for texts.

01:08:25 Benedict du Boulay: What scope is there for making the conversational patterns adaptive?

Hello, Ben. For now, the fanout of the finite state network is limited for the selection of texts and the conversation to handle a question or assessment episode. Imagine 2-4 alternatives to a question, 2 cycles of responses to their choices that depend on whether they selected the right answer, and 2 options as to whether the peer agent is first asked or the adult learner. The number of alternative trajectories is about 12-20. But that doesn't count the random selection from instances in bags of dialogue moves in a specific category (i.e., the many ways of giving neutral feedback, such uh-huh, I see, okay, etc.). In the future, we want the selection of dialogue moves to be more nuanced, depending on their engagement and various learner categories. We need more data to figure that out.

00:59:46 Timothy Chang: is autotutor free to use?

Yes indeed. However, the system is undergoing improvement so some modules are not perfect now.

01:02:45 Timothy Chang: is autotutor aligned with outcomes/competencies?

Yes, each lesson is aligned to standards very similar to the Common Core for Language Arts.

01:04:38 Timothy Chang: so, to clarify, autotutor is adaptive, is that correct? in other words, the responses from the AI agents become more (or less) challenging based on the student's responses, is that correct?

Yes. Let me reiterate an answer to another person who asked this excellent question. For now, the fanout of the finite state network is limited for the selection of texts and the conversation to handle a question or assessment episode. Imagine 2-4 alternatives to a question, 2 cycles of responses to their choices that depend on whether they selected the right answer, and 2 options as to whether the peer agent is first asked or the adult learner. The number of alternative trajectories is about 12-20. But that doesn't count the random selection from instances in bags of dialogue moves in a specific category (i.e., the many ways of giving neutral feedback, such uh-huh, I see, okay, etc.). In the future, we want the selection of dialogue moves to be more nuanced, depending on their engagement and various learner categories. We need more data to figure that out.

01:05:45 Timothy Chang: how is cohmetrix related/connected to Lexile levels?

Yes indeed. The correlation is about .72 between formality and Lexiles.

Graesser, A.C., McNamara, D.S., Cai, Z., Conley, M., Li, H., & Pennebaker, J. (2014). Coh-Metrix measures text characteristics at multiple levels of language and discourse. *Elementary School Journal, 115*, 210-229.

01:07:47 Timothy Chang: Oh! So when the student watches/listens to the two agents' conversation, the student is helped (or provided helpful modeling?)

Yes indeed.