Submission Summary

Conference Name

39th Canadian Artificial Intelligence Conference

Track Name

CanadianAI2026 - first round

Paper ID

40

Paper Title

Are You F*$king Kidding Me? Autistic Lack of Representation in Social Robotic Large Language Model Designs

Abstract

There is a need for diverse and inclusive speech datasets (Abbo et al., 2025; Ganguli et al., 2022; 2023). Recent calls from UNESCO regarding concerns for stereotypical identities (Dennler et al., 2025) match recent studies quests for diverse speech datasets (He et al., 2024). Large Language Models (LLMs) are used to encourage adaptability between robot and users. A review of human-robot interaction (HRI) studies (Rizvi et al., 2024) found that autistic individuals, were often excluded from participating in studies conducted with robots between 2016-2022 This paper addresses this need for a neurodivergent scale for interacting with robots. Additionally, the inclusion of neurodivergent speech patterns considerations for large language models and design for social robots. Research suggests the current representations of social robots to be deficient in autistic representation (Rizvi et al., 2024). Further, HRI research notes the centrality of a medical model in place of a society model of autism with social robots. New fields in applied critical disability studies and crip technoscience focus on ensuring access, interdependence and disability justice to their work (Rizvi et al., 2024). In particular, social-emotional-sensory designs are used to map more effective affective computing interfaces. While power imbalances continue to ensue and robots are relegated mentorship roles a focus on de-emphasizing stereotypical social norms acknowledges the necessity of designing for autistic users. Stereotypical cognitive-affective models currently used in the design of social robots may follow heteronormative (Topić, 2023) social behaviors and rules. Implied stereotypical ableism accounts can consequentially be noted when viewed through the lens of heteronormative large language models and in the neurotypical design of social robots. A proposed neurodivergent scale for interacting with robots is provided in Appendix A. Supplemental tables provided at end.

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Primary Subject Area

Large Language Models

Submission Files

CANAI 2026- SS.pdf (699.6 Kb, 2025-12-21, 7:28:54 PM)
Table 64 Frequency of Words Dec 22.pdf (368.6 Kb, 2025-12-22, 2:56:29 PM)
Table 3. Selected Articles Demographics Dec 23.pdf (899.5 Kb, 2025-12-22, 7:23:47 PM)

Submission Questions Response

1. Length

Are you submitting a long or a short paper?

Short paper (6 pages total, including references)

2. Position Paper?

Should this submission be reviewed as a position paper? Position papers should be of broad interest and on controversial topics.

Yes

3. Student Paper?

Was the work done mainly by a student, and is that student the first author?

Yes

4. Originality Requirement

Do you agree with the requirement that your paper must not be published, accepted, or under review for any other conference or journal while it is under consideration for CanAI2026?

Agreement accepted

5. Double-blind Requirement

Do you agree that your paper must have been prepared for double-blind reviewing and that it will be desk rejected if any author is disclosed in the paper?

Agreement accepted