

Chapter 13

Exercise 1

The following passage is taken from the Discussion section of an article that examines “whether infants expect people to talk to humanoid robots.” Analyze this passage for words or phrases that limit the speakers’ claims for the knowledge they will produce.

PASSAGE 1

The most interesting result of the present study is that infants in the interactive robot condition expected the robot to be talked to by a person. Infants seem to regard interactive robots as communicative agents when they have previously viewed human–robot interactions.

Our findings suggest that infants interpret only the interactive humanoid robot as a communicative agent, and that infants characterize non-interactive humanoid robots as objects. It is necessary for human and robot to interact for infants to attribute a mentality to the robots. The previous studies that used a box-shaped robot or a stuffed toy (Movellan et al., 1987; Johnson et al., 1999) indicated that infants follow the gaze of non-human objects when such objects are interactive with humans. Our findings are in agreement with these findings; however, the present study suggests the possibility that non-human objects may be characterized as social agents if infants can perceive such interactive humanoid robots as capable of communicating with people.

Akiko Arita, Kazuo Hiraki, Takayuki Kanda, and Hiroshi Ishiguro 2005 “Can we talk to Robots? Ten-month-old infants expected interactive humanoid robots to be talked to by persons.” *Cognition* 95 (3): B49-57, 56.