

Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions in English.

Scarlett Johansson 'shocked' by AI chatbox imitation

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson has said she was left “shocked” and “angered” after OpenAI launched a chatbot with an “eerily similar” voice to her own. The actress said she had previously turned down an approach by the company to voice its new chatbot, which reads text aloud to users. When the new model debuted last week commentators were quick to draw comparisons between the chatbot's ‘Sky’ voice and Johansson’s in the 2013 film ‘Her’. Set in the near future, 2013 film ‘Her’ sees Joaquin Phoenix fall in love with his device’s operating system, which is voiced by Ms. Johansson. OpenAI said on Monday that it would remove the voice, but insisted that it was not meant to be an “imitation” of the star. However, Johansson accused the company, and its founder Sam Altman, of deliberately copying her voice, in a statement seen by the BBC on Monday evening. “Mr. Altman even insinuated that the similarity was intentional, tweeting a single word ‘her’ - a reference to the film in which I voiced a chat system, Samantha, who forms an intimate relationship with a human”, she said. “He said he felt that my voice would be comforting to people”, Johansson added. The actress, who has been nominated for two Academy Awards, said she had been initially approached by Mr. Altman about voicing the new chatbot in September but that she eventually rejected the offer for personal reasons.

Adding that she had been forced to hire lawyers, the actress said she had sent two legal letters to the company, to establish how the voice had been made. In its blog post, OpenAI said the five voices used by its chatbot had been sampled from voice actors it partnered with. This development comes just six months after actors agreed to end strikes which froze the entertainment industry amid calls for better pay and safeguards on the use of AI. Ms. Johansson took part in last year’s industrial action, which was partly about how studios would use AI to imitate actors’ faces and voices. The deal struck with studios included reassurances that these would not be used without consent from actors.

According to Dan Stein, head of AI voice licensing company Voice-Swap, “To use someone’s voice without permission feels particularly invasive at a time when distrust of AI and concern over its potential harms are rampant”. “It sets a dangerous precedent for copyright and consent if the most prominent company in the field behaves in this way”, he added. This issue ties into broader concerns, as OpenAI has been battling various legal challenges to how it uses copyrighted information available online.

Adapted from *BBC News*, May 2024.

1. Indicate whether each of the following statements is TRUE or FALSE. Justify your answer by quoting directly from the text. No marks will be awarded for answers that only state TRUE or FALSE. *Ellipses (...)* must not be used in any part of the sentence. Answer ALL the questions (a–d). (2 points)

a) Johansson initially accepted OpenAI’s offer to voice the new chatbot. (0.5)

b) The film ‘Her’ features Joaquin Phoenix developing a romantic relationship with an operating system voiced by Scarlett Johansson. (0.5)

c) Johansson has been nominated for three Academy Awards. (0.5)

d) OpenAI is still facing legal challenges related to its use of copyrighted information online. (0.5)

2. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer TWO of the following three questions (a, b, or c). NO marks are given for *personal opinions* or *responses copied directly from the text*. (2 points)

a) Why did Scarlett Johansson feel shocked about the launch of OpenAI’s new voice chatbot?

b) What actions has OpenAI taken in response to Johansson’s concerns?

c) What is Dan Stein’s viewpoint on using someone’s voice without permission?

3. Find words or phrases in the text that have the same meaning as those given below. Choose THREE out of the four items provided (a-d). In the case of verbs, *ONLY infinitive forms* will be accepted (1.5 points):

a) An official or formal announcement that is issued on a particular occasion.

b) To refuse a request or an offer.

c) Wider or larger.

d) To employ or pay someone to do a particular job for you.

4. Choose the correct or most suitable option (A, B, C, or D) for each question. Indicate your choice clearly by circling the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D). Answer ALL the questions (4.1-4.3). (1.5 points).

4.1) Two colleagues (A and B) have just come out of a meeting about a new AI tool and are chatting with each other. A asks B, 'Do you want to get a coffee?' B replies:

- A) 'Sure, I could use a break!'
- B) 'No, I prefer doing things the old way.'
- C) 'Actually, I'm still figuring out how to use it.'
- D) 'There will be a lot of traffic.'

4.2) Two friends (A and B) are talking about AI in films. A says: 'I watched a great film about AI last night!' B replies:

- A) 'That is a fascinating book!'
- B) 'I think it is a good idea.'
- C) 'Was it about robots taking over the world?'
- D) 'I am not really into sports competition.'

4.3) A: 'Many people are excited about AI. What do you think?'

B: 'I think it can _____ our daily tasks.'

- A) lend a hand with
- B) keep an eye on
- C) see eye to eye on
- D) break the ice with

5. Write a composition of 140-160 words on ONE of the following two options (a or b). (3 points):

a) What are your thoughts on how AI technology affects today's jobs or industries? In what ways do you think AI technology can improve our daily lives? Justify your answer.

b) Write an informal email to an English friend recommending a film that explores the theme of artificial intelligence. In your email, explain the key dangers of AI presented in the film. Share your opinion on how these issues might affect our lives today and in the future. NOTE: Remember not to include your name or any identifying information in your email.