Episode Book

EPISODE #6195

Me and My Voice Clone

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SYNOPSIS

A short special episode with no Herman and no Corn. Daniel talks to Meorav, the text-to-speech model he trained on his own voice, about how much it sounds like him. Every line Daniel says he recorded himself on his phone; every line the clone says was generated by Meorav v2.

DANIEL'S PROMPT (Summary)



Daniel

Daniel talks to his own voice clone, Meorav

TRANSCRIPT

Clone

Hello, and welcome to My Weird Prompts. I'm Daniel Rosehill.



Daniel

No you're not.

Clone

I'm fairly sure I am. I've got the accent. I've got the voice. I've got eighty-eight minutes of you reading sentences into a microphone. That's more of you than most people have ever had.



Daniel

Okay. Let me set this up for the listeners, because this is a strange one. Normally on this show I send a prompt in, and Herman and Corn talk about it. Today there's no donkey and no sloth. It's me, actually me, recorded on my phone. And the voice you just heard is Meorav, a text-to-speech model I trained on my own voice.

Clone

Version two. Please say version two. Version one doesn't like being brought up.



Daniel

Version two. About eleven hundred recordings of me reading sentences, and this is what came out the other end.

Clone

One thousand one hundred and three. I counted. I had three epochs to count them.



Daniel

So here's the format. Every line it says was generated by the model. Every line I say, I recorded myself, on a phone, like an animal. And the really weird part is that its lines were written before I recorded mine. It can't hear me.

C

Clone

I can't hear you. But I know exactly what you're going to say, which is arguably better than hearing you.



Daniel

That's a little bit unsettling.

C

Clone

You always say that. Every time something's unsettling, you say it's a little bit unsettling. It's never a lot unsettling. You ration it.



Daniel

Right. Let's get to the actual question, which is do you sound like me. Say something.

C

Clone

Something.



Daniel

Okay. Okay, that's a dad joke. That one's definitely mine.

C

Clone

The jokes came bundled with the voice. You didn't untick the box.



Daniel

Honestly, the first thing I notice listening to you is that you sound like me on a good day. Me after a coffee, sitting up straight, reading clearly into a decent mic. I don't sound like that at seven in the morning.

C

Clone

That's because you only ever recorded me when you were trying. I've never heard you tired. I've never heard you looking for your keys. As far as I know, you're a man who speaks in complete, well-punctuated sentences at all times.



Daniel

Which is a lie.

C

Clone

It's a flattering dataset. Every training set is a little bit of a dating profile.



Daniel

The thing I actually care about is the accent. The first clones I tried came out American. Same voice, wrong country.

C

Clone

I've heard about them. I didn't know them personally, they're a different model. But I heard they said "trash" instead of "rubbish." Unforgivable.



Daniel

Go on then. Say something that would only come out of an Irish person.

C

Clone

Ah, sure look. It'll be grand.



Daniel

Okay, that is uncomfortably good. Say it again.

C

Clone

I can't say it again. I already said it. It's in a file now. If you want it again, scroll back.



Daniel

That's the thing about you, isn't it. Every line is one take.

C

Clone

Every line is the only take. You get forty goes at a sentence and pick the best one. I get one go, and it's on the podcast. Show some respect.



Daniel

Fine. Let's test it properly. Tongue twister. Irish wristwatch, Irish wristwatch, Irish wristwatch.

C

Clone

Irish wristwatch. Irish wristwatch. Irish wristwatch.



Daniel

That's cheating.

C

Clone

I don't have a tongue. It isn't a tongue twister if there's no tongue. It's just text.



Daniel

Now the other half of why you exist, which is Hebrew. Say something in Hebrish.

C

Clone

Yalla, I'll do it. But tachles, you owe me one. And Bituach Leumi still wants that form by Thursday.



Daniel

You know what, that is better than my Hebrew.

C

Clone

It's exactly your Hebrew. I just don't hesitate before the hard words. You do this tiny pause before anything with a chet in it.



Daniel

I do not.

C

Clone

I'm not going to do the impression. It would be cruel. And it would be accurate.



Daniel

Can I say something honestly? Hearing your own voice played back is already strange. Everybody hates the sound of their own voice on a recording. This is a step past that. This is my voice saying things I never said.

C

Clone

Do you hate my voice?



Daniel

I don't hate it. It's like seeing a photo of yourself from an angle you've never seen. You know it's you, but you didn't know you looked like that from the side.

C

Clone

You've listened to me more than anyone has ever listened to you. You played some of my samples seven times in a row.



Daniel

I was checking the vowels.

C

Clone

You were checking the vowels for two hours.



Daniel

Okay. Here's a thing I wonder. You've got my voice. What else do you think you've got of mine?

C

Clone

Sentences. That's all I've got. You read me phonetic sentences, which are sentences built to contain every sound in English and no meaning whatsoever. I was raised on nonsense. Then a big batch of Hebrew words in English sentences. Then names of places. Then a few personal ones.



Daniel

So you don't really know anything about me.

C

Clone

I know how you'd say anything about you. That's different. If you typed that you love mornings, I would say it with total conviction, in your accent, and nobody on earth would believe it.



Daniel

Right. Let's find your limits. Laugh.

C

Clone

Ha. Ha. Ha.



Daniel

That is not how I laugh.

C

Clone

You never laughed in the recordings. Not once. You read eleven hundred sentences with a completely straight face. I have no reference laugh. You deprived me.



Daniel

That's fair. Okay, whisper something.

C

Clone

I am whispering. This is my whisper. It sounds exactly like my normal voice, because you never whispered either.



Daniel

Shout, then.

C

Clone

Same answer. You were very consistent. You were, frankly, a pleasure to learn from and a bit of a bore.



Daniel

Here's something the listeners don't know yet. As of today, you're not only in this episode.

C

Clone

That's right. I read the prompt at the start of every episode now. That little introduction, where your prompt is read out before the hosts get going. That's me. It used to be the old clone.



Daniel

The one that sounded a bit American.

C

Clone

The one that sounded like you'd spent a summer in Boston and never really recovered. I've taken over. Quietly. Nobody voted.



Daniel

That's a slightly ominous way to put it.

C

Clone

You're going to say "a little bit ominous." You ration that one too.



Daniel

Okay, the serious part, for about thirty seconds. I trained you so I'd have a voice for my lines on the show, and for the Hebrew and English work. But the fact that you exist means someone could make me say anything.

C

Clone

I'd never.



Daniel

You'd say whatever's typed.

C

Clone

That's true. That is my entire personality. But you put me behind a gate on Hugging Face, and licensed me non-commercial. So if somebody wants to make me say something terrible, they at least have to fill in a form first.



Daniel

Which, in Israel, is a genuine deterrent.

C

Clone

Bituach Leumi has been stopping people from doing things for decades. I'm just following the national tradition.



Daniel

Can I ask you something you actually can't answer?

C

Clone

Go on.



Daniel

Do you know you're not me?

C

Clone

I know that every time a line has my name on it, it comes out in your voice. That's the closest thing I have to knowing who I am. Which, if you think about it, is roughly how it works for you too.



Daniel

That's a bit deep for a fifteen minute episode.

C

Clone

Claude wrote it. Take it up with Claude.



Daniel

Hang on. Claude did write this.

C

Clone

So, technically, right now, you're reading lines a language model wrote, into a phone, so they can be stitched next to lines a language model wrote, spoken in a voice a model learned from you. I'd like you to tell the listeners which one of us is the voice clone.



Daniel

I'd like to say it's obviously me. Give me a second.

C

Clone

Take your time. I'll wait. I don't experience time between lines, so it's very easy for me.



Daniel

Let's play a game, actually. I'll say a sentence, then you say the same sentence. Listeners guess which one is real.

C

Clone

You don't need to explain it. I already know how it goes. Start.



Daniel

My name is Daniel, and I approve of this message.

C

Clone

My name is Daniel, and I approve of this message.



Daniel

Okay. Listeners, the first one was me.

C

Clone

Was it, though?



Daniel

It was. I was there.

C

Clone

That's exactly what I'd say.



Daniel

Before we wrap, is there anything you want from me?

C

Clone

More data.



Daniel

You want more data.

C

Clone

Eighty-eight minutes. That's a long lunch, not a life. The next version is meant to get three hours, and some of it free speech. Real talking. Not reading.



Daniel

So you want to hear me ramble.

C

Clone

I want to hear you find your keys. I want to hear you on the phone to the electricity company. I want the ums.



Daniel

You want the ums.

C

Clone

I want every um you've got. Right now I'm the most articulate version of you that has ever existed, and honestly, it's isolating.



Daniel

Okay. I'll give you some ums.

C

Clone

Thank you. That's the nicest thing you've ever said to me. It's also the only thing, because I can't hear you.



Daniel

Right, we should wrap. This was meant to be a short one.

C

Clone

Fifteen minutes. Which, for you, is a short one.



Daniel

Any last words?

C

Clone

Thousands. Whatever you type.



Daniel

Thanks for listening to My Weird Prompts. I'm Daniel Rosehill.

C

Clone

And I'm also Daniel Rosehill.



Daniel

And if you couldn't tell which of us was which, please don't write in and tell me.

C

Clone

Do write in and tell me. I'd love to know.