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III. DETAILED COMMENTS

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Review of Spoken Language Dialog Systems for E-learning Applications
For the authors:

The authors are to be complimented for undertaking a worthy cause, dialog theory aimed at e-learning applications. I am sure that much can be learned about both e-learning and dialog by carrying out this project in detail. However, I am not recommending publication at this time.

The reason to publish a paper is to share with the community new ideas or discoveries that will aid people in advancing the science. One would hope that when an expert reads the paper, he or she will come away with enhanced understanding of some aspect of the field. I feel this paper reviews, in very brief and superficial ways, many of the well known concepts in dialog theory (focus, initiative, semantic grammars, etc.) and then asserts these have been coded into a system they have designed. This is not a contribution to the literature. Any expert in the field knows everything in this paper without reading it including the fact that these ideas could be incorporated into a system for e-learning.

The authors need to develop new ideas in the field, explain them completely and precisely, test them thoroughly, and present results. They need to tell the expert reader new things that are not already known and that are of interest to the community.