Teaching English in Rural Africa through Conversational Robotic Agents

Maya Cakmak & Kimyen Truong | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

NEED – Speaking English means access to information, but many developing countries have limited qualified English teachers.

SOLUTION – We aim to bring English education through *social robots* that are becoming increasingly affordable (Fig.1) and have been proven more effective than on-screen tutors (Fig.2).

PROJECT – We are developing and evaluating a robotic English tutor that will be deployed in an elementary school in Morocco.

Fig. 1 – Kubi ($399) + Nexus Tablet ($229), Jibo ($599)

Other robots used in education in previous research (Leyzberg 2012, Kanda 2004, Movellan 2005, Yun 2013)