

# 2×6

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**NICK MONTFORT, SERGE BOUCHARDON, ANDREW CAMPANA,  
NATALIA FEDOROVA, CARLOS LEÓN, ALEKSANDRA MAŁECKA,  
AND PIOTR MARECKI**

*“Gender is the chief generative obstacle here—making more than two times six—distributed across the natural grammars of these micro-dramas, with their psychosocial, vocational, and hierarchical narrative vectors.”*

—John Cayley

2×6 consists of short “stanzories”—stanzas that are also stories, each one relating an encounter between two people. Appearing in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Japanese, and Polish, the stanzories are generated by a similar underlying process, even as they do not correspond to one another the way a translation typically does to a source text. These sixfold verses are generated by six short computer programs, the code of which is also presented in full. These simple programs can endlessly churn out combinatorial lines that challenge to reader to determine to whom “she” and “he,” and “him” and “her,” refer, as well as which is the more powerful one, which the underdog. Generating 2×6 is a simple process, and readers are invited to study the programs and even modify them to make new sorts of text generators. Reading the output can be much more difficult, as the text that is produced crosses syntax with power relations and gender stereotypes, multiplying those complexities across six languages.

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Carlos León, an assistant professor at the Complutense University of Madrid, is interested in narrative and the intersection between artificial intelligence, cognitive systems, and computational creativity.

Natalia Fedorova is a mediapoet, translator, and a curator of the 101.Mediapoetry Festival. She teaches digital art and creative writing with new media at St. Petersburg State University.

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