Artificial Intelligence As A Creative Writing Tool

As a writer and author of technical, engineering, scientific research, plays and poetry for many years, I do not appreciate the idea that a computer can write for me or anyone else for that matter. When I first heard of a professional chess player, Garry Kasparov, competing against an IBM computer, I was horrified to discover that such a thing was even contemplated. The IBM machine wins by brute force of memorizing millions and millions of combinations. Then, there's the game of 'GO,' which is more sophisticated and requires more abstract reasoning. But there again using a computerized neural networks, the human player can also be defeated.

Those competitions were done in the late nineties, but now computers are more sophisticated with advanced neural networks and all kinds of artificial intelligence. Using the stochastic gradient of an objective function that measures how well the network is performing, allows incredible things to be done with AI. The amazing power of computers to do deeps search comparisons and analysis is amazing in the current computer world.

But even with high-power computers and AI, approaching the power of high literature to create entertainment is a distant a goal. The subtlety and finesse of our great authors and poets of the nineteenth century cannot be compared to the literature output that is currently available. I can guarantee that those creative people living in a time where there were no distractions, other than a worse whinny, a flickering candle on a mantle, or perhaps a good fellowship get together at the local pub or even a raging storm on an oxygen saturated coastline. When a person is consistently enveloped in an oxygen atmosphere over twenty-one percent, different things happen to the brain so living by the seashore is a great idea. Even living in the upslope areas of the Pennines in England gives you a good dose of the North Sea or the Irish Sea with all its wonderful oxygen. Sometimes I think it's no wonder that England is the home of great literature.

And having an unique situation of living in quietude, permits a person to dig deep into his or her own psyche and mind to create inspirational art. Consider the Lake District Poets, such as William Wordsworth or Samuel Taylor Coleridge; all remembered for their natural imagery and depths of intuition. Or Charles Dickens reflecting and writing about the depths for the heights of his environment. Using the grandeur and majesty of the written word, he created stories for us that will live forever. It almost seems unfair to make such a comparison to the writers of today, such that their influences and distractions bear so heavily on their psyches.

I just realized some of my tools for writing give me such an advantage over modern writers and AI dependent wonks, I feel sometimes I'm cheating them. In using an unabridged Greek lexicon that was compiled in Eighteen Ninety-six, I'm taking unfair advantage of modern sources of information. Mainly because these resources have been tainted by war, insurrection, Holocausts, great and not so great social movements. For my research on the great poets and authors throughout our past, my mind is able to move in a completely different manner. In the treatment of ideas and concepts in a modern Greek lexicon, the present makes itself known, in many subtle and unforeseen ways.

Basically, irrespective of their contents, old books are a time capsule of a different age. Whenever I need to find the depth of perception that is not available today, I go to those old lexicons or D'Lambert's Encyclopédie. Also, Roget's Thesaurus in the original edition, is very helpful in creating my poetry, which is written in the Nineteenth Century's, rhyming, rhythmic, and linguistic form. It doesn't sell very well in America; although the Russians and French liked it.

But returning to my point, artificial intelligence still takes a tremendous amount of computing power to even come close to what humans can imagine and create. In the field of intuition using high-throughput, computers produces poor results. They are more concerned with concrete and definable results rather than feelings or emotions. In the whole field of authorship successful great literature will be a long time coming, when using AI as a source. While doing a search on the words "artificial intelligence using intuition" returns consisted of "no results."

Of course, today, so much of our science consists of deductive reasoning rather than intuitive experimentation and empirical thinking. It's simply a matter of 'if A then B.' But the human mind doesn't think that way.

Of course, what's going on in Hollywood and in our great publishing houses is, whether we like it or not, is the mainstream, and it might be acceptable to use AI to create literature for that socially agreed-upon genré. But still, I depart from that type of thinking and writing because it's not fully human; it may be some kind of thinking but it's not John Dunne's "Mankinde." When I look at some of the material written using AI, it's almost childlike and contrived. There's no depth of meaning. It's like something you might talk about over the back fence or discussed during an automobile brake job rather than great literature.

Therefore, in that regard, in consideration of what I've mentioned in this report, the United States Library of Congress Copyright Library should not contain intermixed material that has any covert artificial intelligence support. If it is written by or with any assistance of AI, that fact should be known from the get-go. I think it's an either/or situation. Either it's author created literature or its contrived text.

I certainly would not want my poetry to sit next to a book or CD that was written by artificial intelligence.

The fact that a copyright exists for my lifetime plus fifty years sets a very high premium on what went into that document, and what import it may transmit to future generations. As an example, how would I explain to my grandson a book that I wrote using artificial intelligence that had very little to do with my psyche or my mindset. It's not really me; it's a combination of a willing human and overstepping computer.

Perhaps there should be a new section of the Copyright Library. It will deal with and support this sort of information gathering. I would not even dare to think of it as literature. It's just words strung together by computerized relationships, syntax and grammar a very high order, but it's not literature.

Thank you for this opportunity.

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