Fred Morrison
CSC-366

Top 10 Salient Sentence Strings for Preface 4

1.) "This type of illusion is generally known as the "Eliza effect", which could be defined as the susceptibility of people to read far more understanding than is warranted into strings of symbols - especially words - strung together by computers." (pg. 157)

2.) "The most superficial of syntactic tricks convinced some people who interacted with ELIZA that the program actually understood everything that they were saying, sympathized with them, even *empathized* with them." (pg. 158)

3.) "Please understand that what I am saying is not meant as a criticism of the developers of SME, or even of Waldrop. It is meant much more as a critique of the whole mentality swirling around the complex intellectual endeavor called "AI" - a surprisingly unguarded mentality in which anthropomorphic characterizations of what computers do is are accepted far too easily, both outside and within the field." (pg. 158)

4.) "However, in truth, no program in the world understands even *once concept* at the same level of complexity as an ordinary person does. This does not mean that computers do not excel at certain tasks, such as spell-checking and chess-playing, where manipulation of genuine concepts is not required." (pg. 160)

5.) "The mind of even the trashiest of human authors is filled to the brim with life experiences adding up to the most unanalyzable depths of mental complexity and subtlety. The difference between Vikram Seth, say, and Jacqueline Susann is microscopic in comparison with the difference between the mind of Jacqueline Susann and the micromind of any computer program in existence today." (pg. 160-161)

6.) "Because the two situations are deeply similar - or, perhaps, because the sets of expressions chosen to encode them are totally isomorphic - ACME would manage to ferret out the compelling literary analogy between Socrates and Sluggo, thereby demonstrating in yet another way its prowess in understanding our complex world." (pg. 165)

7.) "But when Holyoak and Thagard's situations are stripped bare of the English words and phrases that make them seems so pregnant with meaning, mapping "(A (B))" onto "(a (b))" hardly seems like the kind of deep and intellectually impressive leap as is conjured up by a grand term like "cross-domain analogy-making." (pg. 166)

8.) "The program has been informed of nothing - it has merely been handed a string of letters and punctuation marks. As a result of this, no ideas will be created, no knowledge will be consulted, no imagery will be formed. Yet simply because highly evocative English words are embedded in the string, it is hard to resist this easy slide down a very slippery epistemological slope." (pg. 166)

9.) "Ah, but there's the rub. People, even sophisticates like Boden and Waldrop, make misunderstandings of this sort all the time. Do even Holyoak and Thagard themselves understand exactly how empty their symbols are? Let us assume they do. But in that case, what I don't understand at all is how they could feel comfortable in claiming that ACME carries out "cross-domain analogy-making", when in fact ACME deals with no domains at all - just strings." (pg. 167)

10.)   "Our projects in microdomains come across, at least on the surface, as the equivalent of the little kid doing a somersault. Even the name "Copycat" was deliberately chosen to downplay the program's level of expertise - to emphasize its childlikeness." (pg. 168)