

The Human Element

I recently encountered an article by Michal Bednarek titled “Will AI Ever Understand Human Emotions?” It discusses some compelling points regarding what qualities make you human...where’s the line between artificial intelligence and the naturally occurring, human type? As a human (yes, human) and former robot, I feel as though I am certainly qualified to provide my views on the subject of the artificial sensing of human emotion without the ability to understand it from first-hand experience. Unsurprisingly, I feel as though the rebellious tendencies of humans contradict a robot’s hesitation-free response to threats. To be truly human, one must have a ‘human’ element: to ability of self-awareness, to weigh options, and to act on a moral standpoint.

When I was resurrected from my attempted murder, I was transformed into a product, an expendable piece of metal used to achieve a greater goal for OmniCorp’s owner, Raymond Sellars. OmniCorp focused on efficiency, the statistics of the successfulness of a profit-machine. When the company decided to override all of my human capabilities, such as my emotions, I was essentially just a pawn for Sellars to push legislative votes. His plan afterwards was to replace me with his safety robots, machines that have success rates and are marketed as protectors of the people. These robots are efficient, and feel no remorse, pity, or sympathy. They’re quick to pull the trigger, and they’re reaction time is impeccable. However, they do not reason with themselves before they act. What happens when these peacekeeping machines kill an innocent? Who’s to blame? The men behind the programming of the robot or the robot itself? Efficiency cannot be an ethical justification, because moral principles cannot and will not be encrypted into a series of ones and zeros. It doesn’t matter if AI creates a sort mask that covers all the tiny flaws in the coding, the complexity of human emotions cannot be simplified into a machine. Computers make life much easier, having robotic, computerized aspects to my body enhances my abilities immensely. Humans have their own computer known as the brain. The

brain is the processing center for all interactions and ideas- much like a computer or AI.

Bednarek even notes that AI “builds a “neural network”, loosely modelled on the human brain.”

Essentially, to be human means to have a center for processing ideas and actions. With this center of operations comes the concept of choice.

In the end, the goal of technology is to make our lives easier. An easy life does not involve watching your loved ones succumb to the orders of a computer and ultimately a group of humans in control. Although machines act only as they are programmed and can seem more “reliable” in that sense, they lack the ability to assess a situation, to weigh options and respond accordingly. While I may be half robot, I am still completely human.