AI and Human Emotions

This article describes how artificial intelligence (AI) is getting better and better at identifying emotional reactions in humans. The author also states that the robots simply being able to *read* human emotions does not mean that they are necessarily able to understand them. I completely agree with him, as I have first experience with this. The robots of OmniCorp know how to find, analyze, and determine the emotions of humans, and they know how to do it well. However, they don’t know what it feels like to experience love, fear, anxiety, sadness. This also forces them to be unable to relate and empathize with the human they are scanning; they don’t care at all, and only do what their programming tells them to. This is why Sellars forced Doctor Norton to rewire my brain: when I acted as a human, I hesitated as I felt what my opponents and their hostages were feeling. But, as a robot, my body and mind were free to kill, arrest, kill, arrest, without any remorse.

As shown in the reading, AI can also distinguish criminals from non criminals, just from looking at their facial expressions, with a 90% accuracy. The same goes for a person’s voice, with 80% accuracy. This does sound like a great tool for crime fighters: after all, just upload an image to a computer, and it’ll give a definitive answer to whether he’s a hardened criminal. I would be extremely careful with this technology. It could lead to it being used in courts, just as OmniCorp AI was used in the streets of Middle Eastern countries. Many will have the public believe this type of technology could be more impartial and efficient than humans. I cannot stress enough, that this is not true. It doesn’t matter how advanced it is, a piece of hardware can never replace a human in this type of field, because robots don’t know what it feels like to be human, or have bonafide emotions. Without the ability to choose or feel, a robot cannot ever hope to replicate what a human has.

The bottom line is, people are creating technology that is progressively more and more human-like, machines with the ability to sense and even replicate emotions. Learning and debating about this kind of technology is a very slippery slope. While the technology can be very useful in improving our quality of life, and pulling good men out of harm’s way, they may do more damage than good. In this I give you my advice: always be cautious. Humanity does not want an OmniCorp situation on its hands. Even as my zombified self was able to greatly decrease the crime in Detroit, efficiency can never be an excuse for putting machines where humans belong. That’s why most of America did not support repealing the Dreyfus Act until after a human *very close* (but not quite) to a machine was introduced. I know that the human race will prevail against the machines, just like I overrode my programming and killed Sellars, as long as we are all careful to avoid technology taking control of us, even as we think we are using it to better ourselves.