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Does the mind need a body? Literary responses to a question in cognitive science

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Quotations:

- (1) “if, nevertheless, a machine can be constructed to play the imitation game satisfactorily, we need not be troubled by this objection” that a machine might “carry out something which ought to be described as thinking but which is very different from what a man does” (Turing 1950: 435).
- (2) It “draw[s] a fairly sharp line between the physical and the intellectual capacities of a man” (Turing 1950: 434).
- (3) “[N]oetic devices act on their environment by selectional means and by categorization on value.” (Edelman 1992: 192)
- (4) “To what extent, and in what ways, are consciousness and cognitive (noetic or mental) processes, which include experiences related to perception, memory, imagination, belief, judgment, and so forth, shaped or structured *prenoetically* by the fact that they are embodied?” (Gallagher 2005: 2)
- (5) “[N]o program by itself is sufficient for thinking [i.e. cognition].” (Searle 1980: 417)
- (6) “He felt it all around. It opened and was close. He felt it was himself, but felt it was more.” (3)
- (7) “Imp Plus remembered having prepared to remember. And the word *vegetable*. And a green thing like an idea. Imp Plus remembered words that he did not know.” (McElroy 1976: 4)
- (8) “IMP PLUS TO GROUND, IMP PLUS TO GROUND. WHAT HAPPENS TO BRAIN’S THREE-DIMENSIONAL MAP OF RETINA WHEN NO RETINA IS LEFT TO PLUG INTO? WHAT HAPPENS TO FLAMING GLAND BELOW DISCOLORED OPTIC CROSSING WHEN BRAIN DISPERSES? HAVE SEEN AND BEEN BUT DO NOT KNOW.” (McElroy 1976: 208; upper case in original)

- (9) “But Imp E’s matrix isn’t human. Human knowledge is social. More than stimulus-response. Knowing entails testing knowledge against others. Bumping up against them.” (Powers 1995: 148)
- (10) The simulation of mother love was “nothing but a glorified computer game, really. [...] Anything further removed from the emotional experience of motherhood would be difficult to imagine.” (Lodge 2001: 85)
- (11) Rather than navigating space on its own, however, the robot “bangs rather violently into the [corridor] wall” (Lodge 2001 49).
- (12) “So is a novelist like Richard Powers doing science in a new, informal, ‘artistic’ way, or is he ‘just’ writing fiction? Bad question. Forget about classification and recognize that in the right hands, the novel is an excellent genre for pushing the scientific imagination into new places. [...] I know that many people in the field have read *Galatea 2.2* and enjoyed it as much as I did, and since that is so, there is bound to be a subtle contributing effect. [...] Since I am not tuned to detect Powers-influence, I can only surmise that it is there in abundance, and most likely in my own work, but others may pick it up more reliably and inform us both.” (Dennett 2008: 160-161)

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