

Presence in Language Learning Models

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This essay makes an argument for human learning alongside large language models, which have become ubiquitous almost overnight. This way of learning is on the model of data exchange, a kind of reciprocity with data systems that is also a kind of reciprocity amongst us humans. The emergence of large language models has produced a kind of regressive defensiveness regarding the "human" while this essay argues for renewing the project of literary and cultural theory by rethinking the human. We can't "prompt" machine learning systems to imitate human behavior more effectively, or for that matter, distinguish human from machine learning more rigorously, without simultaneously reconfiguring human behavior anew.