

Some issues involving language and computers

L245

Spring 2017

Evaluate each of the following claims and identify situations where the a) and/or the b) sides are true.

1. (a) Computers can make you say things (more) like a native speaker of another language.

(b) Computers cannot make you say things (more) like a native speaker of another language.

2. (a) The truth or falsity of a Facebook status or Tweet can be determined automatically.

(b) The truth or falsity of a Facebook status or Tweet cannot be determined automatically.

3. (a) On a computer the meaning of a word is a lot like what you see in a dictionary.

(b) On a computer the meaning of a word is nothing like what you see in a dictionary.

4. (a) Once an automatic system (e.g., Siri) recognizes each of your words correctly, there are no communication problems.

(b) Once an automatic system (e.g., Siri) recognizes each of your words correctly, there are still communication problems.