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Alienation Of Intelligence: Marx Theory Of Alienation In The Age Of A.I.

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Abstract

"I think therefore I am" is a famous notion given by Rene Descartes which simply means that we exist because we think. Our thinking creates our existence. But today in the age of Artificial Intelligence our existence is threatened by lack of thinking and depending on intelligence which is artificial. This article makes a comparative study of Marx alienation theory in the age of A.I. which is substituting our real intelligence with an artificial one and some other detrimental effects of technology.

Keywords – *Alienation, Technology, Humanity, Brain, Environment*

Introduction

Karl Marx, a German philosopher and economist introduced the alienation theory in his seminal work- "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844." As use of Artificial Intelligence is increasing day by day in our life, there is a growing concern of alienation. Marx defined alienation as the process by which the workers become alienated from the labor, their fellow workers and from nature and humanity.

Under the exploitative regime of Capitalism he is reduced to mere objects or commodities and forced to sell its labor to survive. Marx concept of alienation describes the disconnection of individuals from their nature and humanity is taking on new aspect in the age of A.I. and modern technology.

1. Four Types of Alienation Redefined:

Marx defined alienation as four types i.e. alienation from one's product, the act of production, from one's human nature and from other workers and society. In the age modern technology and artificial intelligence these types of alienation are manifested in new ways:-

1.1. **Alienation from one's product-** As more and more task is being given to A.I. humans are feeling disconnected from the creative process and losing their creative capabilities and the satisfaction of creating something useful and meaningful to the society.

1.2. **Alienation from the act of production-** The increasing usage of technology and automation in workplaces is reducing human dependency in the workplaces which is leading to unemployment and individuals are feeling a sense of disconnection from the process of production or creation.

1.3. **Alienation from one's human nature-** The excessive use of virtual assistants, social media and use of various online games with great financial risk creates addiction to these technology which is contributing to alienation of human emotions, empathy and relationships are becoming devoid of values, ideals, morals and cultures. Man is becoming more and more emotionless and unsocial creature due to which he is alienated from its human nation which is social.

1.4. **Alienation from fellow workers and humanity-** Work from home and increased reliance on modern communication tools are degrading social relations and face to face interactions and it increase the feeling of isolation which leads to depression and other psychological abnormalities.

2. Technology and Brain:

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The debate around technology giving access to inner workings of the brain and the need for laws to regulate this. Lawyer and A.I. ethicist Nita A. Farahany, a Synapse Speaker also known for her TED talk on the right to mental privacy in the age of

A.I. has often talked about how we are quickly moving into a world where what one is thinking and feeling is just as transparent and can be just as easily be decoded using A.I. and neurotechnology.

If I buy earphones from Apple, Apple has a patent already registered where they can read your mind through your earphones. Then what is the ethical use of that? Who is preventing a commercial company from maximizing their benefit by using your brainwave data and selling it to a consumer?

As thing stands outside the European Union regulations there are more regulations on household appliances than there is of A.I.

3. Debate around Mental Health:-

In the context of technology dependence, research shows that excessive use of online technology can replace daily offline interactions with others which have a very negative impact on mental health. There is a risk that individuals may become overly reliant on A.I. for mental health support, potentially neglecting the value of human interaction and professional guidance.

4. Others concerns related to A.I.:

- **CO2 Emissions and Global warming-** The computational power required to train generative A.I. models that often have billions parameters such as OPEN A.I. GPT-4 can demand a staggering amount of electricity, which leads to increase CO2 emissions resulting in the rise global temperature leading to warming of the earth surface also increased pressure on the electric grid.

- **Water Demands-** Beyond demands of electricity a great deal of water is needed to cool the hardware used for training , deploying, and fine-tuning generative A.I. models, which can strain municipal water supplies and disrupt local ecosystems.

- **Demanding Data Centers-** Demands for data centers to run A.I. cannot be met in a sustainable way. The electricity to power the data centers must come from the non- renewal sources of energy like fossil fuels based power plants.

In a research paper scientists from Google and the University of California at Berkeley estimated the training process of A.I. alone consumed 1287 megawatt of electricity generating about 552 tons of carbon dioxide.

Once the generative A.I. model is trained, the demand for energy won't disappear. Each time a model is used, perhaps by an individual asking Chat-GPT to summarize an email, the computing hardware that performs those operations consumes energy. Researches have estimated that a Chat-GPT query consumes about five times more electricity than a simple web search. Chilled water is used to cool a data center by absorbing heat from computing equipment. For each kilowatt of energy a data center consumes it would need two liters of water for cooling.

5. Ways Forward to reduce the negative impact of A.I.-

i.Improve regulation and governance-

- Risk based laws like EU A.I. Act to ensure high risk A.I. systems are managed and regulated through careful supervision and control to ensure things are done according to rules.
- Developer should be made accountable for the misuse of A.I.

ii.Ensuring ethical A.I. Standard-

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- Principle of Fairness, transparency and accountability should be strictly followed during the course of development of A.I. ex- UNESCO A.I. ETHICS

iii.Promote Human A.I. Collaboration-

- A.I. is designed to assist not to replace real intelligence with an artificial one. Human-A.I. collaboration is needed like the use of A.I. in medical diagnostics etc.

iv.Promote Public Interaction-

- Public should be educated on risks related to A.I. like for ex. Distorted media images to reduce the harmful effects of A.I. on society.

v.Prevent its Misuse-

- Misinformation, deep fake images are to be tackled through the development of tools to detect and resolve the malpractices.

vi.Green A.I.-

- During the development of A.I. carbon emissions should be stricted to minimum by enacting laws for the sustainable development of A.I. without harming the nature.

Conclusion:

As A.I. is taking control of our world it is essential that we acknowledge the threats posed by it in the form of alienation and take measures to mitigate its negative impacts before it is very late. By supporting human centered approach and A.I.-human collaboration and through encouraging face to face human interactions and community building initiatives we can create a future that does not alienate real intelligence with an artificial one and to avoid its negative impacts by using it in a sustainable way for building a better future. As cautioned by Marcuse in his work "One- Dimensional Man", technology is converting the multi-dimensional man into one–dimensional man.

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