

Corrupted Communication?

League of Nightly Philosophers

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10 - April - 2022

Background

With every great revolution, there has always been change to communication standards. In the past, we relied on nonverbal signals and objects to convey ideas, and later we used art and written scripts to preserve these ideas. As societies progressed, spoken language became prevalent and art was used to create music as a form of entertainment and a means of preserving cultural traditions. For most of human existence, these forms were all we had to communicate.

Pre-Industrial Conversation Standards

For daily affairs, or the most serious of affairs, face to face language was the best response. To convey small subtle responses, or secret communication, nonverbal responses prevailed. Long distance communication was made for carriable written scripts, with language alterations helping with discrete messaging. Art, and its alternative forms in music, theatre, and dramas, because of a sense of entertainment, while passing down messages from generation to generation. Scripts preserved messages, but art preserved the emotions and culture behind our ancestors.

Industrial Change

As humanity became more innovative and sought to expand its influence, communication also needed to evolve to keep pace. The growth of empires and kingdoms required more efficient long-distance communication, leading to the development of telegrams, gramophones, and eventually the first telephones. This revolution in communication has had a lasting impact, enabling people from all over the world to communicate with one another without ever meeting in person. The widespread adoption of phones has even become a prerequisite for face-to-face communication in many cases. While phones allowed for long-distance communication using human voices, the next step in the evolution of communication did not necessarily lead to improvements.

Texting Turmoil

Texting can be considered a form of written communication that allows for faster communication over long distances. In practice this is an extremely useful medium as it allows for quick responses without much consideration of thought. Despite its merits, texting falls short when it is heavily used. When forming meaningful conversations, or discussing important matters it is always best practice to communicate through vocal language because it leaves the least amount of room for different interpretations. This boundary has unfortunately been breached as texting has become the premiere medium of any conversation, demoting phone calls for important matters and face to face communication for only the most important or semi-casual of conversations. This completely flips the script of communication as a medium as phone calls should be the intermediate medium and also the most used medium. They allow for the most expressiveness without the need to show up in person, and texts should be reserved for the most casual of conversation due to their high chance for mis-interpretation. With a text conversation, a chain of discussion can often be derailed due to the high speed of a conversation. While this can happen in other mediums, it occurs due to the flow of the discussion rather than random chance or imposing stimuli. In this newer generation, though, it seems that greater human communication is not valuable enough to keep over the great speeds of

texting, a problem I hope will soon be fixed

Future

As we move forward we have far more innovations: Facetimes to supplement the facial recognition in phone calling, Snapchat to provide texting an additional flare, and Tiktok to provide long standing communications to a broader audience in short video clips. Pondering further to the future as any academic does, I see the Meta-Verse as reigning supreme by recreating physical communication with the speed and accessibility of texting(Minus the VR Headset). But will the Meta-Verse and other Virtual Reality Simulations create uninterrupted neural links which incorporate the best of speed and clear communication, or fail to understand the brain's complex emotional responses. Only the future to tell, but until then I remain hopeful that conversations become more emotional, and interpersonal.