**Name: Muhammad Shahzain**

**ID: ms03977**

**Response to:**

**Technology and Lifeworld: From Garden to Life**

**(by Don Ihde)**

This response is towards the reading “Technology and Lifeworld: From Garden to Earth” by Don Ihde. As we were assigned with the first chapter and the Introduction, I will shed some light on the introduction and how the instructor connected the idea of phenomenology to the first chapter. The introduction brings us the discussion on how the human existence is reliant on technology. From a basic clothing attire, to a vehicle, everything is dominated by technological use. This part of the reading makes us think that if we can even survive without the use of technology.

The two ideas of social determinism and technological determinism arise again as encountered them in a previous reading. The idea of technological determinism says that technological artifact alone derives its uses, while the social deterministic view says that the society determines technology’s use. So, I think that both the views to determinism, apply to all certain technological artifacts but less to some and more to some. The reading indicates towards the opinion that humans tend to shape the use of technology in a certain culture unknowingly, corresponding to how they use technology.

In our class discussion, we learnt that phenomenology gives the idea that the things closest to you, are the hardest to see. Our presence is embedded in our own experiences and we can't see it because we are so close to it. It's like sometimes the things closest to you, need to be uncovered through a phenomenological analysis, because of the level of intimacy with the things we are close to, as per the fact that that the things we are intimate with, end up having the least of our attention. For example, a reaction to some general incident in our daily life, is embedded in our behavior. For example's sake we can say that a car accident would trigger a type of reaction which we subconsciously don't think of, before reacting. Don Ihde says that we are embedded in the sea of technology, we can only move around and navigate. Distancing ourselves from technology, will mean that we might take a lot of things for granted, as this is a phenomenological position that is, if we try to distance ourselves from something which is a part of life, we take a variety of factors within that thing for granted and end up not noticing it. We have so many technological artifacts in this world that we are embedded in.

The above paragraph connects to the first chapter of the reading, where we learn about the idea that how humans firstly resided in the Garden of Eden where technology was not present and were sent to Earth where they developed technology. We can't think of the world without technology nowadays, I wonder what people would want in heaven (Garden of Eden) when all we think about is technology, but I think it won't be present there. As discussed in the lecture, we can try to look at the world with a phenomenological view, where we can reshape how we connect to technology, bracketing away any a-prior knowledge or assumptions about how we use it.