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Part 1:

Lecture name : Past & Future of Technology

Topic :The Past Maybe Much More Fascinating Than The Future

When I was young, my parents always suggested that I use my imagination to predict the future through drawing, because it can practice my hands-on ability. After drawing many peculiar paintings (such as flying cars) and being inspired by fantastic sci-fi movies, I can't help to wait for the coming future and hope it will be as I imagined it.And I was confident in my prediction.

However, as time passed, I found that the world did not develop according to my ideas. Doubts started to grow in my mind and I finally became certain when I participated in the "Technology Past and Future" speech. I firmly believe that it is so difficult to predict the future correctly, especially despite the current knowledge.

To my surprise, I noticed that I am not the only one who predicted that humans will start to use flying cars to transport objects and they are even far older than me when I joined the "Past and Future" technical speech. Based on the history I learned, a French artist had drawn an image to show the future delivery years ago. He described other projects in the future too, including future education, where all the students can absorb knowledge by putting some textbooks into a machine and transmitting information to the brain through wires, which is still impossible to achieve now.

Although there were so many writers and creators who did their best to use their imagination to have a glimpse of the future, I still have to admit that the percentage of accurately predicted changes is very low. One good example is the smart phones we use every day. I used to believe that the main function of the phone and its only function was to establish communication with people a hundred miles away from us, and to transmit information with a few taps, instead of using Morse code. What shocked me was that the development of mobile phones was very fast these days ( I still couldn't believe it when I successfully entered the game software through a small Nokia mobile phone). With the great contributions made by Apple, more and more electronic technology companies have begun to design smart phones, and now we have small "computers" that can be carried in our pockets.

I find it fascinating to watch the world grow without any indication about what will happen next. It is exciting to spend time predicting the future indeed, but I am more willing to wait for the change itself to come out. Comparing the current product with the old one, and then looking back to find the value we may have overlooked in the past, it may bring more happiness for me.

Unlike the enhanced arms and artificial eyes predicted in science fiction movies (such as "Minority Report"), today's technology is more focused on external covering devices. Apple Watch is that kind of device with even more features than our past imagination, including testing the user's heartbeat and detecting blood oxygen levels. It may not look like what it was predicted in the past, but that excellent machine has fulfilled all the functions it should have.

Technology has never stopped developing. Recently, I learned from the Internet that Musk is planning to conduct research on brain-computer interfaces, which will become the most popular topic on whether humans should abandon their bodies, upload their thoughts on the Internet and become eternal. ( a more Cyberpunk way). In my opinion, I am happy to know the solution to the biggest problem that plagues mankind. After changing my mind and no longer paying attention to future development, I am now more fascinated to review the reason why humans want to live longer no matter what cost humans will make.

The development of medical technology may be the most important achievement that mankind has achieved over the years. And there is also a famous saying that: "Everyone is willing to make progress in medical technology, but no one wants to be a victim of medical technology progress." That “selfish” desire promotes technological progress.

In short, after listening to this class, I learned a lot. The future may look colorful, and people are always willing to pursue it. However, it may be more interesting if you look back at the past and discover the only bright spots that everyone ignored. The desire of mankind was pure many years ago. We will try to find a way to fly in the sky because we do not have wings to do so. All the innovations that exist today are based on what we previously wanted. If we lose our original intention, humanity will not grow into today’s achievement. Perhaps this is the reason why George.R.R.Martin used an old DOS machine to write all of his set of novels "Game of Thrones."(the old machine was carrying a lot of unique memory in the last generation)

I will continue to look for the beauty of the past, and maybe then I will find the unique motivation to move on in the future.

Part 2:

Lecture name :Technological Neutrality & Trans-humanism

Topic: Technology is not neutral and an appropriate Trans-humanism have its own advantage

I once had a long period of time considering that technology itself is neutral as it doesn't have any emotion as we do. What the high-tech devices have inside are only lines of codes and algorithms, but what about the idea inside those codes because all the codes are made by mankind. Any mankind has his own thoughts, what if the programmer brought all his opinion into the codes he wrote? It will generate a huge and terrible consequence in the end. I didn't discover this dimension of cogitation until I saw the example video in the lecture Technological Neutrality & Trans-humanism.

Inside the example video, a guy tried to search the item “three black people” in Google Chrome searching engine and got the result about criminals of black people in the police station. However, when changing the word “black” into “white”, they got a surprising result which is three white young students standing together and showing a bright smile to the camera. It makes me think more about technological racism again and I found it quite disappointing. The algorithm that inside the Google searching engine chose to let people see the black people’s dark side but then highly praise white people and change the society’s thought imperceptibly. Who is the culprit then? I’d like to say the technology isn’t neutral because there is a human behind it and transfer his idea through debugging.

Later I found the main problem that caused technology to have its own "thought" and "preference"(not neutral) is because someone wants to do so. We design and invent technology to meet people's needs. There used to be a saying: "Humans want to be lazy, so they created cars. Humans want to be lazy, so they created washing machines. Humans want to be lazy, so they created computers." It seems that humans have produced so much Innovation is all because of our self-needs. Therefore, when looking back to consider why a search machine produces racial discrimination, we can easily conclude that it is precisely because people are willing to see the darkness of blacks and the lightness of whites in the subconscious. As a result, only by eliminating racist ideas can technology become neutral and truly become a useful tool for all mankind.

This is why I now prefer to join trans-humanism, even though some parts of my original body will be replaced by some kind of stronger material. As a loyal fan of Call of Duty, I have experienced the outstanding features that future soldiers will have through video games. They can even surpass human limits, becoming faster and stronger. If we want to seek more opportunities for future development, this is definitely a better future for mankind. For example, it is very interesting to have reinforced wings that can take people to the sky without taking a plane. Although people have different views of me today, machines replaced by machines in some of our body structures will no longer be defined as humans. However, as I said before, if everyone can unite, technology will have no emotion and standpoint at all. Therefore, replacing part of the body does not mean that this person will not live in the same dimension as we do.

 If we continue to develop this technology, people are worried that it will become cyberpunk style in the future. A good conclusion about cyberpunk is "high-tech, low-life", so what we have to do is not only focus on improving and innovative research, but also the main social contradictions to ensure that society and science can develop simultaneously.

All in all, I learned from the speech that technology is actually not neutral, because its designer-human beings themselves are to blame. The problem can only be solved if we can discover the potential harm and try to solve it. If someone’s body part was replaced by another special material(or some kind of enhanced structure) due to some unknown reason, especially a disabled person, there should be no discrimination. If we can embrace the benefits of technology and recognize its advantages, the limits of mankind will be unlimited. In the future, I will continue to share my thoughts with others, and hope that the community will become wiser and have a better understanding of trans-humanism (we still cannot witness it because the public opinion and moral concepts are difficult to change ).