

科技总能解决问题吗？ Is technology always the solution?

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English.

大家好，欢迎收听六分钟英语。

I'm Catherine.

我是凯瑟琳。

And hello, I'm Rob.

大家好，我是罗伯。

Today we have another technology topic.

今天我们又有一个科技话题。

Oh, good! I love technology.

哦，太好了。我喜欢科技。

It makes things easier, it's fast and means I can have gadgets.

它让事情变得更简单，它很快捷，并且意味着我可以拥有小设备。

Do you think that technology can actually do things better than humans?

你认为科技事实上做事情比人类要做得好吗？

For some things, yes.

对于某些事情来说，是的。

I think cars that drive themselves will be safer than humans but that will take away some of the pleasure of driving.

我认为能够自动驾驶的汽车会比人类驾驶的要安全，但是那样会剥夺驾驶的乐趣。

So I guess it depends on what you mean by better.

所以我认为这取决于你说更好的意思是什么。

Good point, Rob.

说得好，罗伯。

And that actually ties in very closely with today's topic which is technochauvinism.

事实上这跟今天的话题连接得非常紧密，那就是科技至上主义。

What's that?

那是什么？

We'll find out shortly, Rob, but before we do, today's quiz question.

我们很快就会弄明白的，罗伯，但是在那之前是今天的小问答。

Artificial Intelligence, or A.I., is an area of computer science that develops the ability of computers to learn to do things like solve problems or drive cars without crashing.

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人工智能，或者说AI，是计算机科学的一个领域，它开发计算机的学习做事的能力，例如解决问题或不出车祸地开车。

But in what decade was the term 'Artificial Intelligence' coined?

不过“人工智能”这个名词是在哪个十年里被命名的呢？

Was it a) the 1940s, b) the 1950s or c) the 1960s?

是 A. 20世纪40年代，B.20世纪50年代，还是 C. 20世纪60年代？

I think it's quite a new expression so I'll go for c) the 1960s.

我认为这是一个非常新的表达，所以我要选 C. 20世纪60年代。

Good luck with that, Rob, and we'll give you the answer later in the programme.

祝你好运，罗伯，我们会在稍后的节目中告诉你答案。

Now, let's get back to our topic of technochauvinism.

现在我们说回到科技至上主义的话题。

I know what a chauvinist is.

我知道什么是沙文主义者。

It's someone who thinks that their country or race or sex is better than others.

指的是认为他们的国家或种族或性别要优于其他人的人。

But how does this relate to technology?

不过这跟科技是怎么产生关联的呢？

We're about to find out.

我们马上就会弄清楚。

Meredith Broussard is Professor of Journalism at New York University and she's written a book called Artificial Unintelligence.

梅瑞迪斯·布鲁萨尔是纽约大学新闻学的教授，她写了一本叫做《人工不智能》的书。

She appeared on the BBC Radio 4 programme More or Less to talk about it.

她出席了BBC电台4频道的《More or Less》节目中来谈论这个问题。

Listen carefully and find out her definition of technochauvinism.

仔细听，然后找出她对科技至上主义的定义。

Technochauvinism is the idea that technology is always the highest and best solution.

科技至上主义指的是科技永远都是最高且最好的解决方案的想法。

So somehow over the past couple of decades we got into the habit of thinking that doing something with a computer is always the best and most objective way to do something and that's simply not true.

所以在过去的几十年中，我们不知怎么地养成了这样的习惯，认为跟计算机有关的东西总是做某事最好且最客观的方式，然而这是不对的。

Computers are not objective, they are proxies for the people who make them.

计算机并不客观，它们是制造它们的人的代理。

What is Meredith Broussard's definition of technochauvinism?

梅瑞迪斯·布鲁萨尔对科技至上主义的定义是什么？

It's this idea that using technology is better than not using technology.

它是认为使用科技比不使用科技要好的想法。

She says that we have this idea that a computer is objective.

她说我们有认为计算机是客观的想法。

Something that is objective is neutral, it doesn't have an opinion, it's fair and it's unbiased-so it's the opposite of being a chauvinist.

客观的东西是中立的，它没有观点，很公平，没有偏向性——所以它是沙文主义者的反面。

But Meredith Broussard says this is not true.

但是梅瑞迪斯·布鲁萨尔说这不是真的。

She argues that computers are not objective.

她认为计算机不是客观的。

They are proxies for the people that make them.

它们是制造它们的人的代理。

You might know the word proxy when you are using your computer in one country and want to look at something that is only available in a different country.

当你在某个国家使用计算机，却想看只在另一个国家有的东西的时候，你可能会知道这个词。

You can use a piece of software called a proxy to do that.

你可以使用一种叫做代理的软件来做到这一点。

But a proxy is also a person or a thing that carries out your wishes and your instructions for you.

但是代理也可以是为你执行你的愿望和指示的人或物。

So computers are only as smart or as objective as the people that programme them.

所以计算机聪明或客观的程度受到给它们编程的人的控制。

Computers are proxies for their programmers.

计算机是它们的程序员的代理。

Broussard says that believing too much in Artificial Intelligence can make the world worse.

布鲁萨尔说过于信任人工智能可能会让世界变得更糟糕。

Let's hear a bit more.

我们再来听听更多内容。

This time find out what serious problems in society does she think may be reflected in AI.

这一次请找出她认为能够在AI中反映出来的严重的社会问题。

It's a nuanced problem.

这是个很微妙的问题。

What we have is data on the world as it is and we have serious problems with racism, sexism, classism, ageism, in the world right now so there is no such thing as perfect data.

我们拥有的是世界本来的样子的数据，而我们的世界现在在种族主义，性别主义，阶级主义、年龄主义方面都存在问题，所以并不存在那么完美的数据。

We also have a problem inside the tech world where the creators of algorithms do not have sufficient awareness of social issues such that they can't make good technology that gets us closer to a world as it should be.

我们在科技世界里也有问题，在这里算法的创造者对社会问题的认识不够充分，以至于他们无法创造出让我们本应该地更接近世界的科技。

She said that society has problems with racism, sexism, classism and ageism.

她说社会有种族、性别、阶级和年龄问题。

And she says it's a nuanced problem.

并且她说这是一个微妙的问题。

A nuanced problem is not simple, but it does have small and important areas which may be hard to spot, but they need to be considered.

一个微妙的问题并不简单，但是它确实有很难发现的很小且很重要的地方，但是它们需要被考虑到。

And she also talked about algorithms used to program these technological systems.

她还谈到了被用来编写这些科技系统的算法。

An algorithm is a set of instructions that computers use to perform their tasks.

算法指的是计算机用来执行任务的一系列指示。

Essentially it's the rules that they use to come up with their answers and Broussard believes that technology will reflect the views of those who create the algorithms.

本质上它是它们用来想出答案的规则，而布鲁萨尔认为科技将会反映出创造出那些算法的人的观点。

Next time you're using a piece of software or your favourite app, you might find yourself wondering if it's a useful tool or does it contain these little nuances that reflect the views of the developer.

下一次你使用某个软件或你最喜欢的应用程序时，你可能会发现你在思考它是否是一个有用的工具，或者它是否包含这些反映了开发者观点的细微的差别。

Right, Catherine.

是的，凯瑟琳。

How about the answer to this week's question then?

那么说说今天问题的答案怎么样？

I asked in which decade was the term 'Artificial Intelligence' coined.

我问的是在哪个十年里“人工智能”这个名词被命名。

Was it the 40s, the 50s or the 60s?

是在40年代，50年代还是60年代？

And I said the 60s.

我说的是60年代。

But it was actually the 1950s.

但是其实是20世纪50年代。

Never mind, Rob.

别在意，罗伯。

Let's review today's vocabulary.

我们来回顾今天的词汇吧。

Well, we had a chauvinist-that's someone who believes their country, race or sex is better than any others.

好的，我们说到了沙文主义者——指的是认为他们的国家、种族或性别优于其他任何人的人。

And this gives us technochauvinism, the belief that a technological solution is always a better solution to a problem.

这让我们说到了科技至上主义，认为科技的解决方案总是解决问题的更好方案的想法。

Next, someone or something that is objective is neutral, fair and balanced.

接下来是客观的人或事，指的是中立的，公平的，平衡点。

A proxy is a piece of software but also someone who does something for you, on your behalf.

代理指的是一种软件，还指代表你为你做事的人。

A nuanced problem is a subtle one, it's not a simple case of right or wrong, in a nuanced problem there are small but important things that you need to consider.

一个微妙的问题是不明显的，它不是简单的对或错，一个微妙的问题中存在着需要你去考虑的很小但是很重要的问题。

And an algorithm is a set of software instructions for a computer system.

算法指的是计算机系统的一套软件指示。

Well, that's all we have time for today.

好的，这就是今天的所有内容。

Goodbye for now.

再见。

Bye bye!

再见！