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Good Sides and Bad Sides of Memes

Currently, the growth of technology will create more social media trends such as Telegram, fediverse (which represents the future of decentralized social media), photo dumps, and memes. One of the most popular trends is memes. People are sharing funny memes on social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, Twitter, or Instagram. Some famous memes that went viral on the internet when they were released such as “Star Wars Kid”, “Bad Luck Brian”, or “The Glasgow Willy Wonka Experience”. Some stories are behind these memes. As for other aspects, there will be a bright side and a dark side. I think that creating fun memes and meaningful memes is not a bad thing because it could give other people lessons, or sometimes just a fun laugh. However, if it violates personal rights, or creates a severe depression for the person on the memes then it should not be allowed. So, there should be laws about creating memes to help protect other people's rights. There is a good quote in the bible that I like, and it supports the idea of not making fun of people that are “do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another. Zechariah 7:100.”

What are memes? According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, a meme is “an amusing or interesting item (such as a captioned picture or video) or genre of items that is spread widely online, especially through social media (Merriam-Webster).” In another way that meme is a

funny, or meaningful picture or short video that could make people laugh and spread virally. People are creating memes every day and with the wide spread of the internet, just only need one share click then a lot of people can see it. According to the report from the Motherboard website, there are about “160 million memes (vice.com)” out there. Pretty much these memes will create some laughing, thinking, and sarcasm. There are two sides to memes. One is the negative side which could make people feel stress, depression, and even could lead to suicide. Another side is a positive side which could help you make money and be popular.

I think that even if there are laws about memes available, using other people’s pictures to create memes without their approval is never a good thing. What if those memes make everyone laugh and talk about that person in a bad, and negative way? It could lead to stress, lawsuits, and even suicide. Also, it could lead to cyberbullying. Remember this treat people the way that you want to be treated or “Do to others as you would have them do to you (Luke 6:31)” Before you share other people's information on the internet which will not be easy to take down when it becomes viral, you should think about how this meme will affect other people life, and how it make they feel. It could make you laugh for a little bit, but it would follow the person in the memes for the rest of their life.

I agree that there should be guidelines for meme creators such as having to watch the language they use because memes could be seen by kids. Memes should not be so violent or teach people bad things and should not violate any laws. Also, it will violate the IEEE Code of Ethics if someone uses memes to cyberbully others according to the IEEE code of ethics “to not engage in harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment or bullying behavior(ieee.org).”

To sum up, memes are becoming one of the most popular trends on the internet, specifically on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. There are always two sides to everything, the good side, and the bad side, negative and positive. However, if you decide to make fun of others by using their picture on memes then you should rethink that before you hit share on the internet. It could help you make money and laugh about that for a moment, but it will hurt other people's feelings, or it could even lead to their suicide cause of depression. I agree that there should be some guidelines or even laws for creating memes such as considering approval from others and based on age, violation, and language before sharing.

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