

## **Should humanoid robots be given rights similar to humans?**

**290COM Coursework Submission by**

**Venelin Danielov Dimirov: SID – 6297262**

**Erik Evgeniev Tonev: SID – 6401618**

**Joshua Pitcher: SID - 6384779**

As talking about humanoids we may refer to them as something that has close appearance or intelligence to humans. For now the only ones which are close to that description are only characters from movies and books but technology is improving at such high rates that you never know what we could see in the next 10 years or so. Recent discoveries and engineering have shown interesting results like robots climbing 90 degree walls, extreme balance, and intelligent conversations and climbing stairs and doing multitasking jobs. All of them sound like a silly task that any remotely capable human can easily do. If you look backwards of where we started with robotics at first it all looked like a big joke and it was mostly for entertainment purposes but people have found out that they can help us with everyday tasks like making our omelette breakfast , driving us to work or school or just doing the job for us.

Eventually machines will get to the point where they may mirror or even surpass human intellect. At such point it would be comprehensible that machines or electronic thought may use the means to act in self-interest, and work for its right to continue its existence. If humans were to stop any self-preserving entity, that entity would most likely act in such a way to defend itself. The downside of the whole story is that is possible that the Nano-bots will be able to replicate themselves and even at some time being able to control the person from within.

"Technology is not a utopia. It's a double-edged sword and always has been since we first had fire." - Ray Kurzweil

Recently science has adopted medical mechanics, nanotech and robotic arms or legs which more or less make humans into half machines. With some speculations saying that they will make us immortal. We'll have microscopic machines traveling through our bodies, repairing damaged cells and organs, effectively wiping out diseases and etc. Eventually humans can still have fatal experience like hit by a bus, pre dose of substance or hit by a lightning though most of the wounds will be repairable.

Isaac Asimov in his novel "I, Robot" that stated in the future robots may follow his "three laws of robotics". They will eventually try to be more connected to humans, working and living closely with them and even trying to be more humanoid looking like. They will most probably not look like a real human but rather more like a machine at first however eventually overtime they will try to adapt in possibly human culture. By means of changing appearance, mimicking common etiquette or simulating emotions and expressions through some script written in his processing unit.

1. "A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws."

– Isaac Asimov

At such a point where a robot can understand and comprehend its own being and what it means to exist. Then it may receive rights similar to other living beings, such as human beings. As well why other beings have the right to coexist and live freely. Such as why humans need resources to survive and live peacefully.

- Understanding life – why any form of life has a right to exist.
- Food – why humans must by necessity kill other animals for food and resource.
- Human Emotion – understanding of how humans may express themselves in different situations and how it can affect and influence others around them.
- Violence – understanding the consequences of actions, and has empathy about others.
- Feeling supreme – understanding by its design it may far surpass biological life and what affects it such as bacteria, radiation, life time, and food requirement.
- Purpose – understand life may or may not have a purpose and life's ambiguity as a whole.

Anything capable of being harmed has rights, and the more integrated into our group they are the more rights they get. If a machine intelligence was self-aware and as such able to feel harm, it should get rights on par with humans. Rights aren't simply there to protect the individual, they're to protect the group. Take away the rights of a subgroup and you risk war.

Even if a droid to start with did not have these rights, then it should be the case that they would receive basic levels of mutual respect from humans. In the event that a self-aware robot is denied the rights a human would receive, it would be comprehend to expect its own ambition to seek these rights and may do so in a violent or malicious way.

Counterarguments:

The biggest problem relying on the people not accepting mechanical units as part of their society is probably because they are so different than we are.

- Robots are created intentionally and purposefully by other sentient, physical beings
- Their free will is created by a conscious being, which is us. Meaning, it isn't free at all.
- Robots' processing units are intentionally and deliberately designed.
- Robots do not evolve from or share relation to any other life form.

"We should consider not creating true AI because I don't think we can be trusted to treat it humanely." -

If we were able to create some being that could experience the world with the same degree of fulfillment and self-awareness or even more than we do. Then we sort of owe it the same rights and freedoms. Otherwise we would just be horrible beings that create somewhat of life-forms to torture or imprison them

"The owner should be responsible for the robots action" –

If a robot was to gain the rights of a human being by definition it could not have an owner as such, if it was self-aware and understood its action and repercussions, on its own will. Else if it did not and was acting only with the single directive of that action with no understanding of its acts, then could it have an owner and by extension, the owner takes responsibility.

"Why should robots have rights" -

It is more than resalable that a self-aware being would want some level of respect and rights, such as how black people in America were treated and 2<sup>nd</sup> class people in their home country which lead to protest against others how denied their basic rights and retaliation from the oppressors. Leading to

conflict, hate, violence and upset in both community's as a whole. By giving them full rights to begin with this whole problem could have been avoided.

"A robot can abuse his rights" –

So can humans, and robots are somewhat less likely to abuse them or others for personal gain.

"Why we shouldn't give rights to robots." –

Robots are just machines, built by us to probably do a certain task. Why would it need the same rights as a human being? We are much more sophisticated while a robot is programmed to work in a predictable manner.

At the end it doesn't matter if we dislike or like the idea of giving rights to automatons which are looking like human or not because eventually they would have a higher number count than humans and also a much longer life span. For some time after if they feel ignored and underestimated by us they can easily just find an isolated place, build their own community or a city and try to make an individual economics and politics on their own as they have the right to live on this planet as much as every other object and life form. Obviously will not need any of the rewards and appreciations as they mean nothing to them. You can pay them with paper or digital money but at the end there is nothing they are going to be able to do with it other than some small upgrades, parts or consumptives. The robotic rights will not give them any special powers or higher ranks in our society but rather just feel safer, respected and accepted by its owners and others.

## References

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