Summary of watched video

(Topic of speech: “Machine intelligence makes human morals more important”. Author: Zeynep Tufekci)

Zeynep Tufekci began her talk with a funny incident that happened to her in her first job as a programmer. Then she was in her first year of college. I will only tell you the essence of the incident. Someone from the managers asked her "Can a computer understand that a person is lying?" Then she jokingly replied, "Of course, yes, the computer understands your lies." But now this is no longer a joke. Now there are computing systems that can detect your emotional state and even lie by processing human expressions. Advertisers and governments are very interested in such systems.

The speaker then says that ethical issues have always been important to her. So when she chose programming. But now it has become clear that ethical issues are everywhere. For example, programs are developing weapons that will kill people in war. She also notes that artificial intelligence is already here. People have been using computers for a long time, but earlier machines performed only tasks clearly set by a person. Now there is machine learning, programs have become much more complex, computers are capable of learning something on their own. And that's great from a developmental and perspective perspective, but it's scary from the point of view that people don't know one hundred percent of what a computer system can learn.

Later in her speech, Zeynep explores ethical issues for computer systems using the example of the recruitment algorithm. This system will be trained on the data of previous employees and will hire the most effective employees, similar to those who are currently working in the company. Great idea. After all, such a system will get rid of the bias that is inherent in people. There are many stories when you are suitable for a position in terms of knowledge and skills, but do not fit in terms of age, gender, clothing. The speaker also had a similar story in her life. But what about the algorithm? Everything is much more complicated here. Now systems can learn everything about us: sexual orientation, character traits, political preferences, predisposition to depression. Zeynep warns us that even if we do not disclose some information about ourselves, the system will be able to make an assumption based on our social networks and search queries. But the question is, will a computer give work to a person with the possibility of depression? Here again we run into discrimination and bias. These are the problems of ethics.

The next problem, which the speaker highlighted in her speech, is that computer systems learn from data collected from people. It turns out that machines learn human behavior. And we must not be fooled that computers remain objective. Further in the speech, there were many examples of systems confirming the bias. But I will focus on the brightest and most detailed story by Zeynep. This story is about an algorithm for determining the risk for criminals. This algorithm considered a dark-skinned girl more dangerous than a white man. Although the man already at that time had more serious crimes. And as a result, he became a recidivist and now he is in prison for his later crime, while the girl has never committed crimes again. But because of this assessment, she could not find a job for a long time. This is an example of proof that we need to better monitor the performance of such algorithms. Such systems should stop being "black boxes".

In the next part of her speech, the speaker talked about the algorithms of news feeds. Social networks and search results have been shaping our reality for a long time. It is they who now determine what we learn and what will remain a mystery to us. Here Zeynep gave an example from her life. She talked about how Facebook hid the news from the city of Ferguson from her. At the same time, Twitter, which did not have such an algorithm, was overwhelmed with this news.

Then Zeynep also reminded us with examples that computer systems can also make mistakes. Sometimes these mistakes are ridiculous because a person would never have thought of such a mistake. But these mistakes often lead to huge problems.

In conclusion, Zeynep says very wise words. We cannot avoid difficult questions. We cannot shift our responsibilities to machines. But we shouldn't give up computers. They are great and they really help us a lot. Artificial intelligence is already here. This means that we must further adhere to human values and ethics. Here are some important things to keep in mind. We are human and we are great. So let's stay human, become better together and make the world around us a better place.