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CSCI 330

Mar. 10, 2020

Memes Memes Are No Fun, Memes Memes They Hurt Someone

Memes have a culture connected to them. They are so popular and available in today’s society, that even people that are not technologically inclined still know what memes are. Most people can agree that memes are a funny way to express something they feel. However, we need to discuss the people who are not included in that “most”. The people who are embarrassed by those memes or the ones who are bullied because of them.

Memes have done nothing but grow in popularity since the first idea of a meme came out. People are not just using memes for making jokes anymore they are using them as a sort of coping mechanism. This is explained by Jennifer Fink, at the New York Times, when she writes, “The image and caption ‘Me, preparing for the coronavirus’ are a bit subversive: While public health officials worldwide are scrambling to determine how to best treat and contain the virus that has killed hundreds, the meme plays on the name of the beer brand Corona, and suggests there’s no real need to worry.” (Fink) This can be seen by the growing number of World War Three memes and the Coronavirus memes. Most people today are using memes as more of a coping mechanism in a comedic fashion.

While memes are a part of everyday life, not all memes are used for coping with reality or making jokes. Some memes are used to bully others. One of the first cases of someone being bullied through memes was a 15-year old kid named Ghyslain Raza, or better known as the “Star Wars Kid”. He was the victim of school bullies that found his tape of Raza pretending to reenact a scene from Star Wars. They uploaded the video to the internet and it quickly went viral. According to Will Wei, an editor at the Business Insider, “Ghyslain Raza dropped out of school, was diagnosed with depression, and finished the year at a psychiatric ward for children.” (Wei) Raza may have been playing around and having fun, but he was embarrassed for other people to see it. These people bullied him so bad he had to go to a psychiatric ward and receive help. Raza would have never shared his video with the internet and is embarrassed it was ever released.

Some Christians have the view that memes that target someone or harass them are against the teaching in the bible. The bible can be interpreted into today’s language in relation to memes. If you look at Deuteronomy, it says “When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof.” (Deuteronomy 22:8) This can be applied to the situation where victims were institutionalized or harmed themselves. The person who made the memes and the ones who spread them should have to either ask beforehand which would simulate the “parapet” or deal with the consequences of their actions in court, “the guilt of bloodshed”, just like in the case with “the Star Wars Kid”. Christians might also argue that the people who made the embarrassing and hurtful memes would not want someone to do it to them. This goes hand in hand with Luke when he writes “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31) This simply means that if the creators would not want their embarrassing or private information made into a meme, then they should not do it to others.

Memes can be good and in some cases, people may disagree, but the fix can be fairly simple. Everyone can be more careful about what they post online. With permission and answering the simple question, “would I want this posted if that were me?”, people could cut down on the cases of bullying and leave memes to do what they are good at.

Work Cited

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