

GABARITO: AD2 semestre 2/2011 Inglês Instrumental

The net isn't as important as we think



Ha-Joon Chang, born in South Korea in 1963, is an economist based at Cambridge University specialising in development. He is the author of several books, including *Kicking Away the Ladder* (2002) and *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism* (2008). In his new book, *23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism* (Allen Lane) Chang debunks many myths about the free market. In one chapter, he says: "The washing machine changed the world more than the internet."

Is it really true that the washing machine has changed the world more than the internet?

When we assess the impact of technological changes, we tend to downplay things that happened a while ago. Of course, the internet is great - I can google and find the exact location of a restaurant in London or New York. But when you look at the impact of this on the economy, it's mainly in the area of leisure.

The internet may have significantly changed the working patterns of people like you and me, but we are in a small minority. For most people, its effect is more about keeping in touch with friends and looking up things here and there. Economists have found very little evidence that since the internet revolution productivity has grown.

And the washing machine was more transformative?

By liberating women from household work and helping to abolish professions such as domestic service, the washing machine and other household goods completely revolutionised the structure of society. As women have become active in the labour market they have acquired a different status at home - they can threaten their partners that if they don't treat **them** well they will leave **them** and make an independent living. And this had enormous economic consequences. Rather than spend their time washing clothes, women could go out and do more productive things. Basically, it has doubled the workforce.

The washing machine is just one element here. Other factors have contributed to the liberation of women : feminism, the pill and so on.

Yes, but feminism couldn't have been implemented unless there was this technological basis for a society where women went out and worked. Of course it's not only the washing machine, it's piped water, electricity, and so on.

Do we tend to overestimate the importance of communications revolutions?

Not always. The invention of the printing press was one of the most important events in human history. But we overestimate the internet and ignore its downsides. There's now so much information out there that you don't actually have time to digest it.

SPEED

But what about the sheer speed at which it allows us to do things?

That is exaggerated too. Before the invention of the telegraph in the late 19th century, it took two to three weeks to carry a message across the Atlantic. The telegraph reduced it to 20 or 30 minutes - an increase of 2,000-3,000 times. The internet has reduced the time of sending three or four pages of text from the 30 seconds you needed with a fax machine to maybe two seconds - a reduction by a factor of 15. But is it really so important that we send a message in two seconds than in a few minutes?

Although the washing machine can be considered a most revolutionary device in the XX century, we cannot forget that the internet came to open up new possibilities to communities all over the world. And thanks to the washing machine we can certainly devote more hours to working, playing or interacting in the web.

(adapted from SPEAK UP, ano XXIII, n. 285)

Glossary

to change: transformar

debunks many myths: desmistifica, derruba vários mitos

when we assess: quando avaliamos

to downplay: subestimar

leisure: lazer, entretenimento

working patterns: modo de trabalhar

looking up things: pesquisar coisas

household work: trabalho doméstico

they can threaten : podem ameaçar

workforce: força de trabalho

pipéd water: água encanada

printing press: máquina de impressão

downsides: desvantagens

the sheer speed: a incrível velocidade

rather than: ao invés de

LEIA O TEXTO E RESPONDA ÀS PERGUNTAS 1, 2, 3, 4 e 5 EM PORTUGUÊS.

Comprehension

1. Para Ha-Joon Chang, em que área se observa o grande impacto da internet? (1 pt)

RESPOSTA: Na área do lazer/entretenimento.

2. De acordo com o autor, nós subestimamos as coisas antigas e superestimamos o valor da internet. Cite uma desvantagem da internet, segundo o autor. (1 pt)

RESPOSTA: Há atualmente muita informação que nós não temos tempo de digerir.

3. De que maneira a *washing machine* revolucionou a estrutura da sociedade moderna? (1 pt)

RESPOSTA: Liberando a mulher do trabalho doméstico e ajudando a abolir profissões tais como o serviço doméstico, a máquina de lavar e outros utensílios domésticos revolucionaram totalmente a estrutura da sociedade.

4. Segundo o texto, o feminismo e a pílula contribuíram para a independência e liberdade da mulher. Quais outros elementos o texto cita como fatores que também contribuíram nesse sentido? (1 pt)

RESPOSTA: água encanada, eletricidade , etc.

5. Qual é a invenção que é considerada um dos mais significativos acontecimentos da história da humanidade? (1 pt)

RESPOSTA: A invenção da imprensa.

6. Marque as afirmativas que completam adequadamente as frases. (1 pt)

RESPOSTA:

Na época da invenção da *washing machine*,

() as mulheres eram totalmente independentes.

(X) as mulheres não eram uma parte significativa da força de trabalho.

A discussão do autor a respeito da velocidade nos meios de comunicação estabelece

(X) que a diferença de velocidade entre o telégrafo e a internet no envio de mensagens não é significativa.

() que a velocidade da internet reduz significativamente o tempo de envio de uma mensagem.

Language Focus

7. Marque a alternativa correta. (1 pt)

Observe as frases que foram retiradas do texto:

*As women **have become** active in the labour market [...]*

*The internet **has reduced** the time of sending [...]*

RESPOSTA:

Nestas frases, o uso do *Present Perfect* (Aula 10) indica que

() a ação não é muito importante;

() a ação ainda não aconteceu;

(**X**) a ação já aconteceu.

8. Há 2 pronomes **them** na mesma linha (line 20) no texto. (1 pt)

A que/quem cada um deles está se referindo? (use as palavras que aparecem no texto - **em inglês**)

RESPOSTA:

them (primeiro caso) - **women**

them (segundo caso) - **partners**

9. Procure no texto 2 palavras terminadas em **-ing**: (1 pt)

(copie as palavras em inglês.)

RESPOSTA:

a) uma palavra que seja um substantivo: **living**

b) uma palavra que seja verbo: **keeping (in touch); looking up (things); liberating;**

washing (clothes); (of) sending; working, playing or interacting (in the web).

Food for thought

10. A opinião do autor deste texto é certamente polêmica. Em breves palavras, diga o que você pensa sobre a posição dele sobre este assunto. (1 pt)

RESPOSTA:

A resposta é de caráter pessoal e subjetivo, mas deve mostrar coerência e levar em consideração o texto para desenvolver a argumentação.