**Panel 1: Democratizing the Digital Economy – Keynote Evgeny Morozov at the Univention Summit 2019**

Name of the student: **Juan Pablo Royo Sales**

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| Reference of the paper (author/s, tittle and publication): |
| **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Efd14ZC7u4U** |

1. Summarize in a few lines (10 - 12) the scope and focus of the paper, and its main contributions.

*In this keynote Evgeny has describe the underlying goals of big tech companies like Facebook, Google and others and the big issues that these kind of imperatives brings.*

*Throughout all the speech he shows with examples the 3 big issues that are hidden from the surface:*

* *Rhetorical: Usually Big tech companies claim one thing and do other. Basically they claim be secure platforms and take care of our data but in fact they spy on their users.*
* *Huge Imperatives: Business imperatives that push them to fall in unethical behavior*
* *Consolidation of man’s social and political power on the hands of these companies, which is not regulated by any formal framework.*

*The author claims that this issues jeopardize democracy because the control is in few hands and the users naively give out their data in exchange of some rhetorical promises like “frictionless”, “cheaper services”, etc.*

*He also claims that this “almost free” service is something that we are going to pay sooner or later either with a high social cost (like Trump, Brexit, fake news, etc) or at some point with the monetization of these platforms that are monopolies.*

1. Identify the two or three aspects/concepts of the paper that you consider the most relevant to be discussed in the panel session.

*I think the more relevant aspects of this talk are:*

* *How unaware of the real business goals of big tech companies the majority of users are and how deeply the false rhetoric of the amount of benefits that these techs bring has been introduced in the population in order to hide the real manipulation of our data and our privacy for gaining money and monopolizing the market.*
* *How unaware, in a conscious manner or not, the Governments and State Agencies are of tackling down these real issues and provide us with tools and mechanisms to protect our privacy and data and at the same time allows new techs still breakthrough for improving our everyday lives.*

1. What parts of the paper did you find questionable? E.g., omissions, unclear paragraphs, wrong statements, bad organized sections, etc.)

*The most questionable parts of the paper in my opinion are the last part where the speaker purpose some kind of solutions for these issues. Although I agree with him that US and EU Governments solutions that implies turning these services from advertise based models to subscriptions based models, it is not the solution for the problem, I don’t think that the solution for the problem is the one that is purpose by the Evgeny.*

*Basically he is purposing that the data should be owned by some kind of Government Agency in some kind of open way and when the big techs needs to consume that data to do their AI processes they are going to pay for the use of that data. On the second hand he also purpose that small startups could pay less and that could democratize the market.*

*The reason I am not sure this is the solution is because I think that data should be owned by the user itself and not by any Government or any other entity public or private. This is one of the weakest or questionable part of his argument I think.*

1. List (max 3) future/missing, research related ideas that came to your mind when/after reading the paper.

* *The relationship between this big tech corporations and Politicians*
* *Also the relationship between VCs (Venture Capitals) and Politicians*
* *How the Power is also concentrated in terms of regions. It is not casual that the companies that have our data for free are from dominant Countries. At the end it would be great to explore if this relationship is not because this is something that is being pushed from inside the Governments itself.*

1. Any further comments from your own.

I think the talk is really inspirational and profound in terms of all the topics it touches, which is not other than the distribution of power in the world and how the most powerful companies and people are not seemed to be regulated at all.