I find the article “The Racist Legacy of Computer-Generated Humans” by Theodore Kim controversial but very true, more in the times that we live in right now, where most of the world is trying to fight against racism, but our roots keep fighting back. As for myself, I never thought that technological advancements would be racist. But coming from a past where racism was so pronounced, I think it was inevitable that this kind of discrimination could occur in a new industry.

Firstly, we have to talk about the cinematic industry as it is known for being racist, although currently, it is not as strong as it was in the past. But this certainly influenced the path that was taken when researching and developing computer-generated humans, as it was targeted mostly to the visual creations in the cinematic industry. It is so incredible to see how a single industry can affect others and even a whole society.

It is said that what is around us is what shapes us, and it’s sad, but nowadays racism is very common in a lot of countries and the problem is the difficulty to change our surroundings. We are working against all odds and in my opinion, there’s a long path before racism is over. For example, I didn’t notice that most of the computer-generated humans were white and I don’t consider myself racist, but this surely shows what I was stating before.

The reading gave me a whole new perspective regarding racism because there are many things that in the shoes of a person seem normal but when it is seen from another point of view can be disrespectful or even hurtful. I’m sure that the approach taken by this technology is not done to hurt or harm anybody, it was influenced by another industry and this other industry was impacted by another. In the end, is a domino effect that hopefully, one day will end.

References

Kim, T. (2020, August 18). The Racist Legacy of Computer-Generated Humans. Retrieved August 26, 2020, from the Scientific American website: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-racist-legacy-of-computer-generated-humans/>

Estoy de acuerdo que en los últimos años se ha intentado mitigar el racismo, un ejemplo muy reciente fue el caso de George Floyd en el que muchas personas salieron a protestar y crearon el movimiento Black Lives Matter donde se oponían a la muerte de inocentes por racismo. Es cierto que el racismo es un gran problema en muchas partes del mundo, pero comparado con el pasado si ha mejorado considerablemente.