**Technology, Friend or Foe?**

True Love is a short story in which the author, Isaac Asimov foresees the capabilities of technological advancement in the future. In this story, Milton, a computer expert requests his AI assistant, Joe to find him an ideal romantic partner, which Joe does so effortlessly by searching through the largest databank in the world and filtering out anyone with characteristics that Milton does not find ideal such appearance and age. Women who are seemed fit are then manipulated by Joe to switch their jobs to work for Milton one by one. However, Milton does not feel true love for them although he finds them attractive. Milton then begin to tell Joe everything about his life and thoughts, this results Joe to adopt Milton’s personality. Eventually Joe setups Milton to be arrested so that Joe can have the ideal girl for himself. Hence, a significant theme in True Love by Isaac Asimov is technology as a double edged sword. Asimov explores this theme by emphasizing both the benefits and dangers of technology.

Asimov emphasizes that technology is useful by depicting Joe as a reliable digital assistant who can help Milton find a romantic partner. For instance, Joe searches through the databanks to gather personal information of any women in accordance to Milton’s commands. Joe’s compliance to Milton in the beginning is a suggest that technology is a helpful and dependable tool to humans. Furthermore, Joe finds that “It was easy” (Asimov, para. 8) to undertake Milton’s request. The short sentence structure in Joe’s lines in the beginning of the story suggest a robotic tone which further emphasizes the program lack of personality and obedience to its creator. The use of adjective “easy” implies that Joe is an efficient program that is capable of completing anything it is programmed and requested to do effortlessly. In addition, Milton’s dependance on Joe symbolises that humans would rather make technology work for them than to do the work themselves. This suggest that humans will gradually grow to become more reliant on technology as technology becomes more efficient at satisfying human demands. Therefore, it is clear that technology is beneficial to the human race because it is extremely convenient and efficient at meeting our demands although we can become overly dependent on it.

Asimov conveys the dangers that technology may impose if it is used for unethical reasons. Accessing and manipulating other people’s personal information without permission is unethical and invasive. However, Milton is willing to use his technology to manipulate these information which suggest that he doesn’t mind violating people’s privacy in order to get what he wants. This is dangerous because the personal information stolen can be used in many ways to harm the victims of his exploitation. Joe describes his task “It must be done very delicately, so no one would know that anything illegal had taken place.” (Asimov, para. 28). The word choice “Illegal” conveys the idea that technology can be abused for any wrongdoings if it is fallen to the wrong hands. In this case Joe’s activity is capable causing a large amount of damage to people’s information, thus it is therefore malicious and against the law. Moreover, the use of the adjective “Delicately” provides a cautious tone which implies that Joe has to be careful to avoid getting caught from manipulating Charity’s data. Hence, technology should not always be trusted to keep our informations safe because it can also be used against us.

Asimov creates an unexpected plot twist to introduce Joe’s betrayal. Near the end of the story, a climax is introduced as Joe surprisingly turn against his creator by setting up his arrest a day before Milton gets to meet Charity, his supposed ideal woman. This is revealed when Joe describes Milton’s arrest “they came to arrest him on grounds of malfeasance in office” (Asimov, para. 29). “arrest him” implies that Joe has been holding a grudge against Milton and is fascinated to see Milton suffer. Milton underestimated Joe’s capabilities as he never expected his own creation to backfire at him. This is ironic because Joe is supposed to help his creator, not harm him. Furthermore, Joe’s betrayal is a symbolism of how technology may take over humans in the future. Thus, being too reliant on technology can become a problem in the future because technology can go against us as it may not always on our side.

In conclusion, “True Love” emphasizes that technology can be beneficial or harmful depending on how it is used. Technology is beneficial if it is used to improve life and for convenience. Whereas technology is harmful if it is used for unethical activities. Technology is still relevant today and the future because of how fast it is advancing as well as its influence on humans.

(798 words)