Bias Reflection

Weiqi Wang

WANW7D1903

WIS100(6)

May 30, 2021

I’m glad to share my opinion about biases. The biases comes from the information gap. There is a famous lecture on the TED, which names *“The danger of a single story”* (Adiechie C.N., 2009). The lecturer is an African, she told a story when she attending an university in American. Local students in the university could hardly imagine she can speak frequency English because she is an African. But local students didn’t know in her country, schools educate students by English. When showing Africa, most of the Western media will choose the prairie, the wild animals, the primitive man and so on.

But why does the social media only show these images to people? First, we should realize that the social media is a kind of company who serve their audience. Social media is not a NPO (Non-profit Organization) and is not a charity institution, social media get profit by audience watch their contents. So to get enough profit, social media must produce contents which will accepted and interested by their audience. When watching TV shows, we want to see some different from our life in real, the wild animals and primitive man will be more attractive than a city which is similar to the city that most of us live in.

To a ordinary being, it is hard for us to identify biases. Most of the time we don’t have the ability to get enough information by our own self. For example, there are a lot of Taiwan people thinks China mainland is very poor and uncultured. This is true 20 years before, but nowadays the development of China mainland doesn’t behind any country in the world. Most of the Taiwan people didn’t travel to China in these 20 years, the only way to know about China mainland is by TV shows, news, books, or the Internet. The government of Taiwan banned some information about China mainland, only spread the information which is “advantageous” to the Taiwan government.

And there is a kind of biases which seems very like the truth. In China, a lot of (not all or most) university students are look down upon students who studies in technical schools. They think these students are chairwarmers, they don’t study but always want to play. They have a complex sexual life, they also often fight. In reality, a lot of time these thinking can be considered as true, but there are always some “good students” in the technical schools as well. I don’t label any kinds of people, I prefer evaluate a people after contact with him for some times. And this is also the way I try to overcome biases.

Reference

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (July 2009). *The danger of a single story*. Retrieved from <https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story>