William Jones

CS 404 Ethics and Computers in Society

10/10/17

Example from real life. (Denial of Injury).

I knew of many people in high school that would pirate software consisting of movies, music and video games. Most people would justify this action by claiming that it isn't hurting the companies that make these games because they wouldn't have bought these things anyways. They also would claim that since they aren't stealing a physical copy of these things that they aren't making those companies lose money as well. These justifications use denial of injury as these people claim that they aren't harming the company by pirating its property. They would even say that they are helping the company rather than harming it because they claim they are helping the company gain free publicity for using its intellectual property. However, millions of dollars are lost every year due to piracy so they are indeed harming the company with lost potential revenue.

Example from real life (Denial of Victim).

I remember this one person from high school that everyone would pick on all the time because this person was social quirky. This person would often say or do strange things in public which quickly caused a lot of resentment by other students. This would then lead to bullying being done by some of these students. They would justify their actions by saying that "he had this

coming to him" or "he deserves some pay back". This would definitely be an example of denial of victim neutralization. Unfortunately, these actions were harmful and caused this student to transfer elsewhere to avoid the abuse.

Example from Film/Literature. (Denial of Injury).

I remember a scene in a movie called The Thief that was an example of denial of injury. This movie is about a guy who professionally robs banks and general stores not necessarily for the money but for the thrill of the experience. In this specific scene, someone confronts him about his actions and how he can justify doing all these robberies. He claims that these rich companies and banks have plenty of money as it is and that he isn't really doing harm by taking more money from them as they have plenty enough as it is. This definitely satisfies the definition of a denial of injury as he claims he isn't harming these businesses/banks but in actuality he really is. He even causes one of them to go out of business.

Example from Film/Literature. (Denial of Victim).

An example of denial of victim would be Anakin Skywalker's slaughter of the Jedi at the Jedi temple. He was convinced that the Jedi order was corrupt and had started the clone wars through their incompetence. He also thought that he was deserving of a place on the Jedi council and that their rules were getting in the way of his marriage to Padme. So he justified his actions of killing the Jedi and ransacking the Jedi temple as a form of retribution because they deserved it. This would be an example of denial of victim as Anakin definitely thinks that the

Jedi deserved this to happen to them and has no problems killing them all. This same logic and reasoning could also be applied to him killing the sand people as well.

Example of Morally Justified Case (Denial of Injury).

The example of robin hood (in the Disney adaptation) would be an example of a morally justified case of denial of injury. The greedy king prince john was taking most of everything that the poor peasants had to support his rich lifestyle to the cause of great hardship of the peasant folk. While robin hood did cause harm to the king by stealing that money back, he was justified because he returned that money to the poor to survive off of and wasn't doing it for his own personal gain. King John didn't real need it anyways and was in the wrong for taking it in the first place.

Example of Morally Justified Case (Denial of Victim).

An interesting case of denial of victim would be Nephi's killing of Laban in the book of Mormon. Laban had tried to kill Nephi and his brothers before and proved to be quite the obstacle preventing them from gaining the plates they needed before traveling the promised land. One could argue that Laban deserved to be killed because of these actions. That would definitely appear to be the case of justification by denial of victim. However, that ultimately wasn't the reason why Laban was killed but the reason given was so that it was better that Laban die rather than Nephi's prosperity dwindle in unbelief due to not obtaining the plates which contained the scriptures on them. Thus, Nephi was justified in killing Laban to accomplish this task.