

2. Opinion about the TED Talk: Connected, but also alone?

When I watch this talk, I feel super touched and have the same feeling. It matches the topic recently I studied in my topic studio class as well: why it's so difficult to start a conversation in the coffee shop.

As we all known, coffee shop, teahouse, and bar are the public places for social. But nowadays in the coffee shop, what you can see is people work on their laptop, stare at their phone. I found a research did by two men, they also wonder what people do on their laptop and phone, and they got up their courage to ask people. Surprisingly they found almost people don't do something in urgency, they just feel uncomfortable and awkward to sit alone there, and they are willing to talk with others. These two men and people they talk with all feel great to talk with others who are the background before. Therefore, I want to come up with some idea to solve this problem, and I throw myself into this situation one day morning. I sat in the Starbucks over three hours to observe people's behaviors. But in fact, I cannot move my eyes from my phone and my notebook to other people; especially I'm afraid of having eye contact with them!

I finally realized that, as Sherry said in her talk, we get used to letting our devices companion with us, and cannot stand lonely even one second. We are losing the ability to start a conversation with real people in real life. Though we want to make new friends, it's easier and lower risk to just click a button on the screen to make a friend, compared to a have face-to-face conversation.

Another horrible fact is that it has been six months until I have one of my roommates' phone number in my contact (I only have two roommates)! Before that, we only use the WeChat, a popular social software in China and is similar to the Snapchat, contact each other. Until one day, I have something emergent and want to contact her. She didn't response me in the WeChat, at that moment, I wanted to make a call with her and found out I don't have her phone number... What a tragedy and how ashamed I asked for her phone number after we live over six months under one roof.

3. Possible linguistic ambiguities

- if I want to ask that date of Chinese lunar calendar, I cannot set the “Chinese” calendar as the key word, since in Chinese calendar, there still are two calendars: lunar calendar and solar calendar. So I must set “lunar” or “solar” calendar as the key word.