

Assignment A1: Theoretical Essay-Based Assessment

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Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence in Modern Society

Introduction

Artificial intelligence has become increasingly important in our daily lives. From smartphones to medical equipment, AI is everywhere and making important decisions. However, with this increased use comes serious ethical concerns that society needs to address. In this essay, I will discuss three major ethical concerns: bias in AI systems, privacy issues, and job displacement. Each of these areas presents unique challenges that require careful consideration and action.

Bias in AI Systems

One major problem with AI is that it can be biased. This happens because AI learns from data that humans create, and if that data has bias in it, the AI will learn that bias too. For example, there was a case where Amazon created a recruiting tool that was supposed to help them hire people, but it turned out to be biased against women. The AI had learned from past hiring data, which was mostly men, so it started preferring male candidates.

Another example is facial recognition technology. Studies have shown that these systems work much better on white faces than on darker skinned faces. This is really problematic when police use these systems because it means minorities are more likely to be wrongly identified. I read about a case where someone was arrested because facial recognition misidentified them.

The solution to this problem is to make sure AI systems are tested for bias before they're used. Companies should also hire diverse teams of people to develop AI so that different perspectives are included. There should also be laws that require companies to check their AI for bias, especially when it's being used for important things like hiring or law enforcement.

Privacy Concerns

AI systems collect and analyze huge amounts of personal data. This raises serious privacy concerns. Companies like Facebook and Google track everything we do online and use AI to build profiles about us. They know what we like, who our friends are, what we buy, and even what we might be interested in buying in the future.

China has a social credit system that uses AI to monitor citizens and give them scores based on their behavior. While this might sound like science fiction, it's actually real and it's happening right now. The government monitors everything from whether people pay their bills on time to what they post on social media. People with low scores can be prevented from traveling or getting certain jobs.

Even in democratic countries, there are privacy issues. The Cambridge Analytica scandal showed how data can be used to manipulate people. They collected data from millions of Facebook users and used it to influence elections.

To protect privacy, we need stronger laws. Europe has GDPR which is a good start, but more needs to be done. People should have control over their own data and should be able to see what data companies have about them. There should also be limits on how AI can use personal data.

Job Displacement

AI is getting better at doing jobs that humans used to do. Self-driving cars could replace truck drivers and taxi drivers. AI can write articles, analyze legal documents, and even diagnose diseases. This means a lot of people could lose their jobs to AI.

Some studies say that nearly half of all jobs could be automated in the next 20 years. This is a huge problem because if people don't have jobs, they can't earn money to support themselves and their families. It also affects people's sense of purpose because work is important for self-esteem and feeling like you're contributing to society.

The solution might be something like universal basic income, where everyone gets money from the government whether they work or not. Andrew Yang talked about this in his presidential campaign. But this is controversial because some people think it would make people lazy and not want to work.

Another solution is retraining programs to help people learn new skills for jobs that AI can't do. The government could also create jobs in areas that need human touch, like healthcare or education. Some people have suggested taxing companies that use AI instead of humans, and using that money to help workers who lose their jobs.

Conclusion

AI presents both opportunities and challenges for society. The three main ethical concerns I discussed - bias, privacy, and job displacement - are all serious issues that need to be addressed. We can't just let AI develop without thinking about the consequences.

To solve these problems, we need a combination of technical solutions, government regulation, and social policies. Companies that develop AI need to be responsible and think about ethics from the beginning. Governments need to

create laws that protect people from the negative effects of AI while still allowing innovation. And society as a whole needs to have conversations about what kind of future we want.

The most important thing is that we act now before these problems get worse. AI is developing very fast, and if we wait too long to address these ethical issues, it might be too late. By working together and being proactive, we can make sure that AI benefits everyone and doesn't just make existing problems worse.