

PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTION ON THE CHANGE OF HUMAN BEING'S EXISTENCE WAY BROUGHT BY THE INTERNET

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Abstract

As a new information media, the popularity of the Internet has brought rapid changes to human society. With the development of network information technology, Internet has made human beings into the network society. It has not only expanded the space of human existence, but also directly affected thousands of people's living way. In recent years, the Internet has changed the way of human being's existence, which has made people have a deeper philosophical thinking. Specifically, the Internet caused the changes of human being's world view, the thinking way and the practical way. These changes has not only promoted human freedom and all-round development, but also made the human face the new problems of alienation. This article will focus on the change of human being's existence mode brought by the Internet. First of all, we will explain the characteristics of the Internet, and reveal the relationship between the Internet and human being's existence mode. Secondly, we will analysis the change of human being's existence mode brought by the Internet from three aspects, such as the world picture, the way of practice, and the way of understanding. Finally, we will analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the change of human being's existence mode brought by the Internet from a philosophical point of view, so as to overcome the alienation of human beings and achieve the free and comprehensive development of human beings.

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1. Introduction

The rapid popularization of the Internet, making the human enter the network era, which not only expands the human living space, but also profoundly changes the way of human existence. We should look at the change of human being's existence way brought by the Internet from the philosophical perspective, and scientifically understand the relationship between the Internet and the way of human existence. At the same time, we should recognize the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet in a dialectical way. In the future society, everyone can achieve free and overall development through using the Internet reasonably. As a way of understanding and changing the world, the Internet is changing human life and the way of human existence. The Internet is useful assistant for leading you to another world which amazing thing. Kopimist philosophy also holds that 'the internet is holy' [1]. The Internet has the characteristics of virtual nature, openness, and transcendence of time and space, which promotes the development of human society. In the meantime, it expands the existence space of human being, and deeply influences the way of human existence.

1.1. Philosophical reflections on the Internet

As a new information technology, the Internet not only promotes social progress and development, but also has a profound impact on the world political, economic, culture and all levels in various fields. In recent years, the Internet has digitized all the information in the world. The trend of information network technology development is the trend of digitizing everything. We can see the trend of this kind of digitization from an article in People's Daily, which is called "China on the information highway". Figure 1 shows the trend of information network technology development.

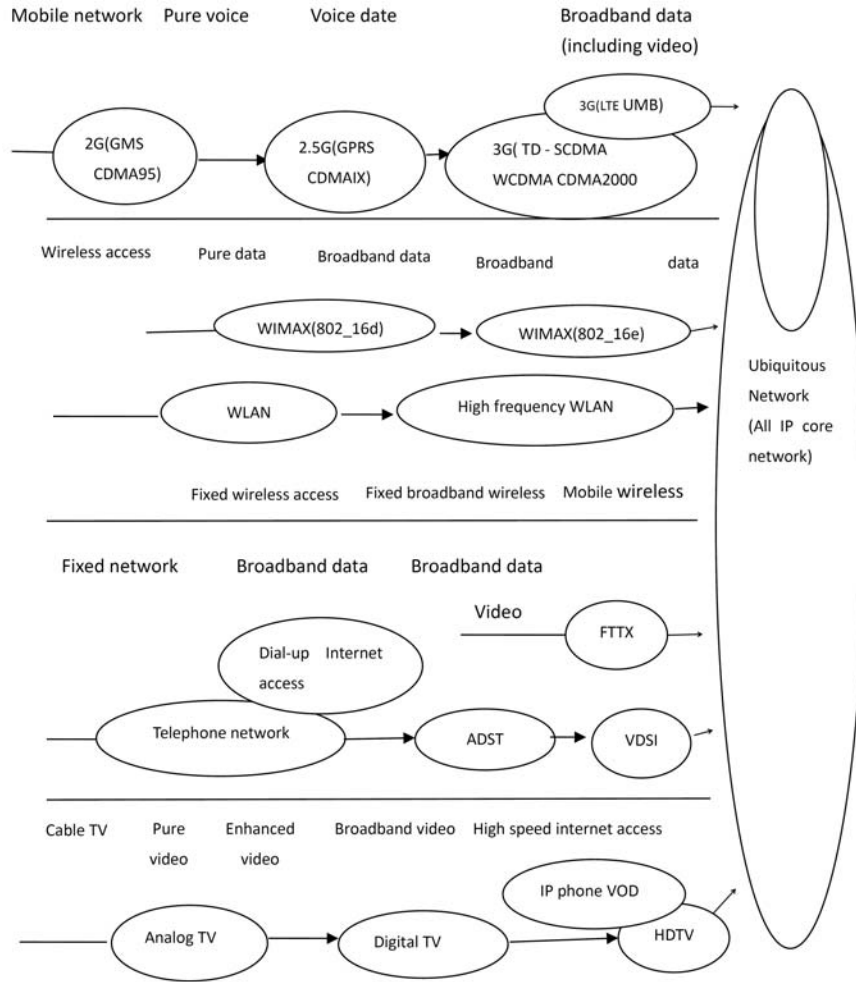


Figure 1. The results of digitizing everything by the development of Internet.

The development of Internet has raised the philosophical thinking of human beings, and gave a new enlightenment to human beings. Examining the Internet from the perspective of Marxist philosophy, as intangible human organ, becoming new ways of understanding and changing the world, it has formed a virtual space, from which people can obtain information. The people develop a virtual spiritual and cultural space from the physical space by using the Internet, in which people live.

The Internet promotes the better integration of the material world and the spiritual world, and expands the space of human existence. The Internet expands the virtual spiritual culture space from the physical space, contributes to the better integration of the material world and the spiritual world, and expands the space of human existence.

Examining the Internet from the perspective of Marxist philosophy, which has the characteristics of virtual nature, openness, and transcendence of time and space, the Internet has deeply influenced the way of human existence. The virtual nature of the Internet refers to the virtual practice characteristics in a philosophical point of view, which is the virtual characteristics on the basis of human beings' unique consciousness and practical activities.

Virtual space of human existence is the result of human practice creation, such as the digital city is the virtual space created by the human practice, which provides a scientific and reasonable way for urban construction. The Internet, which is open, provides people with a flow of information space, breaking the restrictions of space and time, and transmitting the information of different time and region to the human at every moment. In the philosophical sense, the openness of the Internet makes people expand the vast space of knowledge and information from the limited space of human existence. The Internet, which transcends time and space, break the constraints of time and space of human existence, and makes the mankind enter the era of globalization. From a philosophical point of view, the Internet has contributed to the integration of the human spirit world and the material world, and expanded the space of human existence.

1.2. Philosophical reflections on the way of human existence

Because the human being is a free being transcending reality constantly, practice is the way of human existence. As a new medium of information communication, the Internet not only expands the space of human existence, but also deeply influences the way of human existence.

With the rapid development of the Internet, the society develops a new practical way, which is the virtual practice. Practice is a particular activity of subject on the object. In the Marxist philosophy, practice is the objective material activity, which people can change the world actively. The practical subject, the practical activity, the practice object, the practical tool and the result of practice are the basic elements of practice. Practice has three forms, such as the production practice, the practice of dealing with social relations, and the scientific experiment. The practice activity makes people have two kinds of characteristics, which are nature and consciousness. At the same time, the practical activities make the world doubled, which has created a human world on its own. The Internet, as the 'organ' of human beings, is a tool for human practice. Although the Internet does not have the actual physical shape, it makes people break through the objective limit of the natural world, and create a virtual world belonging to people. As an invisible 'organ', the Internet has deeply influenced the way of human existence, such as the human way of production, the way of life, the way of communication, value conception, and so on.

2. Changes of the way of Human Existence Caused by the Internet

Practice is the existence way of the people [2]. The world is people-oriented, in the long run, which is based on the practice of people. It is the practical that makes the world duplicated, which has created a human world on its own. The world is the object of human practice, which has already been changed by the Internet. Karl Popper put forward the famous theory of the third world in 1967. The third world is the objective world of human creative thinking products, such as the theoretical system, problems, the situation of the problem, critical debates, books, the contents of the library, and so on, which is neither the objective material world, nor the subjective spiritual world. As an extension of the subject of practice, the Internet is not only the tool of practice, but also the result of practice. In the practice of using the Internet, human beings

have created a lot of information of the Internet, which can be included in the third world proposed by Karl Popper. All in all, the Internet has been widely used, which has come into people's lives. We can see the picture of ubiquitous network from the Internet, which shows that the Internet has changed the way we live and work. Figure 2 shows the phenomenon of ubiquitous network.

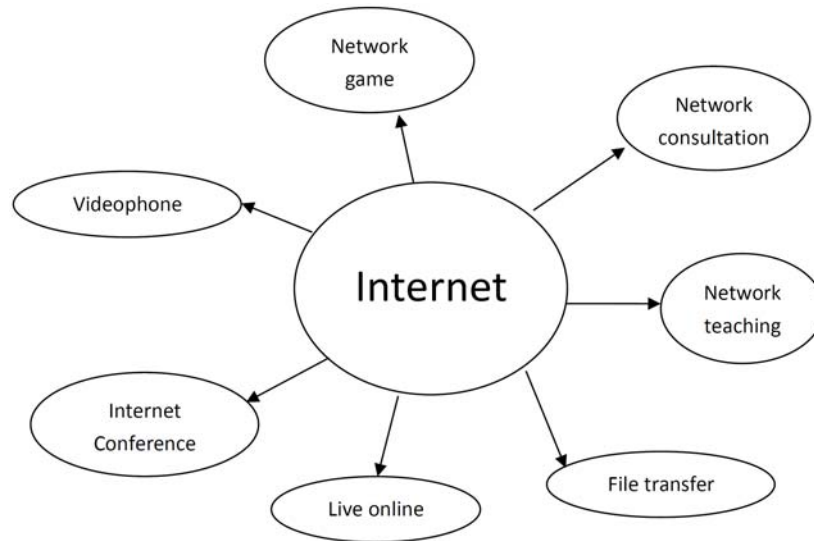


Figure 2. The results of ubiquitous network brought by the development of the Internet.

At the same time, the Internet has changed the way of human existence subtly. The way of human existence can be specifically divided into the human world picture, the way of practice and the way of understanding.

2.1. The change of the world view

The rapid development of the Internet makes the world more colourful, but it revolutionizes the world view of mankind. In China, some scholars regard the world view as a general understanding of the world, but some scholars believe that the world view is a conceptual

structure. In the Marxist philosophy, the world view is the general view and fundamental view of the whole world, which is different from the free world. The world view refers to the object in their own ideas, which is formed by their own understanding of the world. In a nutshell, the world view is the sum of human knowledge of the world. For example, the scientific world view is grasped in a scientific way. The creation of the Internet not only makes people expand the network of the world from the free world, but also changes the way used by understanding the world, such as the Internet makes the scientific knowledge popular. Therefore, people's world view has changed by the Internet.

There are several reasons and instances as follows supporting my view. First of all, the Internet has brought a large amount of information resources to the people of the world. Meanwhile, people can form a rich and varied picture of the world by the ways of understanding the world in the Internet. Compared with the previous world view, the current human being's world view is based on a huge amount of information. Secondly, the Internet constitutes the world view without the limitation of traditional time and space. The Internet provides people with a variety of choices, because it has a large number of information resources. Then people build up a multiple network world using a variety of ways, which are based on the background of people's knowledge. Therefore, people not only can choose the specific world view to live, but also can improve themselves by comparing different world views. Finally, people not only construct the holographic world view, but also build up the world view, which they can choose independently. At the same time, people create a world view of the interaction between subject and object. When the independent subject face the holographic world view, they will create their world view in accordance with the needs of themselves and the object. Because people live according to their own vision of the world, the Internet has not only changed the world view of human, but also has changed the way of human existence fundamentally.

2.2. The transformation of the way of practice

In the Marxist philosophy, people's existence way is the practice, which is based on their own world view. Nowadays, the Internet becomes a new practical tool. With the development of the Internet, the society has produced a new form of practice, which is called virtual practice. With the development of virtual practice, the society has been in reconstruction. Meanwhile, people's way of life has already been in a profound change. The Internet gives people the power to change the world. The practical question of changing the world is the core issue in the system of the Marxist philosophy. Lenin once said, "because the world does not meet people's needs, people are determined to change the world by their own actions" [3]. That is to say, the practice of people have the subjective initiative and the purpose. Before people change the world, it is necessary to explain the world. However, explaining the world need collect all kinds of information. The emergence of the Internet makes people break through the limitations of the information, and quickly gather a large number of comprehensive information. The Internet allows people to obtain more comprehensive information to form their own world view. Then people can change the world according to the world view. In the philosophical sense, the Internet has transformed the way of human existence by constructing the world view and transforming the world with the practical purpose. As a practical tool for people, the Internet has become an intermediary, which is used to explain the world. However, the virtual world constructed by this medium contains many kinds of ways that people understand the world, such as the way of science, the way of art, and the way of common sense. The Internet has practical significance for people to explain the world and change the world apparently. Nowadays, the Internet has become a new form of social practice. People can communicate, produce, and consume on the Internet. With the popularity of the Internet, people really feel that the Internet has changed the way of human existence.

2.3. The change of the way of understanding

In recent years, the Internet has created a virtual world in the Internet by spreading a lot of information, which makes a revolutionary change of the way of people's understanding. The Internet has created a virtual world, which is the third world put forward by Karl Popper. It is the third world that has produced the objective knowledge of the world. In the philosophical sense, this society has had a revolutionary change about people's understanding of the world. Meanwhile, the concept of the world also has a new meaning. Nowadays, with the development of the Internet, the Internet makes people pay more and more attention about the world of objective knowledge. People can study in this objective world, such as reading electronic books online, browsing the Internet library. Therefore, people have made progress and improved themselves in Web-based Learning.

However, the Internet not only enriches the object of cognition and the practical activities, but also changes people's way of thinking. The practicality of the way of thinking decides that the way of thinking must correspond with the way of practice. The transformation of the practical way leads to the transformation of the way of thinking. Engels said, "every era of the theoretical thinking is the product of a history. It has completely different forms in different times. At the same time, it has a completely different content" [4]. The way of thinking is produced in the practical activities. When people carry out practical activities, people's practice is internalized in the head of the brain. That is to say, the way of thinking is a rational expression of the way of human being's existence. On the one hand, the Internet has brought multiple information to the people, which has affected the single way of people's metaphysical thinking. The metaphysical way of thinking makes us think of two metaphysical philosophers, who are called Austin Farrer and Alfred North Whitehead.

They put forward a fundamental cosmological question: does the world point inexorably to God? Often, attempts to formulate and answer this question still stand firm on the Aristotelian categories of scholastic theology [5]. However, Engels made a comment on the metaphysical way of thinking, “at first glance, this way of thinking seems to be very easy for us to understand, because it is in line with what is called common sense. However, although common sense in daily application range is highly respectable, once it is entered a broad field of study, you would have met very surprising turn of events” [6]. At the same time, the Internet has enhanced the dialectical thinking of people. Because the Internet has activated the people’s diverse background knowledge, the people can identify the chaotic network information by the critical understanding method. The Internet enables people to think creatively and changes people’s thinking way. On the other hand, people participate in the virtual practical activity in a virtual and symbolic way. Therefore, the thinking brain can not only think independently, but also can think with the help of the Internet. This Internet extends the space of thinking, and makes people form the virtual thinking. As we all know, the virtual thinking has the new characteristics, such as pluralism, personality and creativity, which goes beyond the actual situation of the way of thinking. As a new way of thinking, the virtual thinking can maximize the creative thinking. The Internet has changed the previous single thought pattern about the reality and the ideal, and has already formed the multiplex thinking mode.

In short, the creation of the virtual world of the Internet has revolutionized people’s understanding way, which has improved the innovation of human cognitive pattern. In the fundamental sense, the Internet has changed the way of human existence.

3. Philosophical Reflection on the Changes Brought by the Internet

Based on the following thinking, my paper discussed the change of the way of human existence brought by the Internet. As we all know, Marx's theory of practice indicated the historical trend of human's freedom and liberation. Philosophy as a discipline drives innovation in science and technology [7]. Therefore, we need to do some philosophical reflection on the Internet in order to better development. Then let's do some philosophical reflections on these changes brought by the Internet. In recent years, the transformation of the way of human existence has attracted the attention of scholars both at home and abroad. Technological infrastructure at home is changing continuously and is becoming increasingly interconnected. Media devices, including the TV set, provide access to the Internet and offer manifold opportunities to consume media on demand [8]. As we all know, 'Internet plus' is a new form of innovation under the development of the Internet 2.0. In China, Yu Yang firstly put forward the 'Internet plus' concept in the fifth mobile Internet Expo in November 2012. He believes that in the future 'Internet plus' formula should be a chemical formula, which is generated by the combination of the industry's products and services and the user's multiple screen across the platform of the future. For example, Internet plus industrial industry is industrial interconnection, Internet plus education is online education and Internet plus shopping is online shopping are the practical use of Internet plus formula. The Chinese government's Internet plus action plan aims to integrate mobile Internet, cloud computing, big data, and the Internet of things with traditional industries to promote economic restructuring, improve people's livelihoods, and transform government functions [9]. Internet plus is a new trend in the development of the Internet, which greatly changes people's life. In a word, the Internet has not only brought about the progress of life and times, but also has brought all kinds of disputes, which are increasing progressively.

In the philosophical sense, on the one hand, the Internet provides the material foundation and the spiritual power, which can help people achieve free and comprehensive development in the future. On the other hand, it also makes people fall into a deeper state of alienation. The rapid development of the Internet has promoted the social progress and created enormous material wealth, which has undoubtedly provided the material premise for the free and all-around development. The development of the Internet has not only revolutionized the way of people's understanding, but also raised people's subjective awareness. In the meantime, the Internet has fully improved people's subjective initiative, which has provided the spiritual power for the free and comprehensive development. But when the Internet changes the way of human existence in an invisible way, it also makes people fall into a deeper level of alienation. Along with people's excessive dependence on the Internet, the people has been enslaved and destroyed by the Internet, which has led to a number of negative effects, such as the recession of the memory, the decline of thinking ability, the decreased vision, and so on. Therefore, when we face the changes of the way of human existence brought by the Internet, people should maintain a reasonable attitude. There are some specific measures are as follows. Firstly, we should keep the dialectical thinking in the face of the changes brought by the Internet. Secondly, we should learn from the positive aspects of the Internet, and avoid the negative impacts. Finally, we should make the Internet truly serve the people, and create a happy life.

4. Conclusion

The creation and quick development of the Internet changes human being's existence way of the Marxism. In the other words, the Internet profoundly changes human being's world view, the practical way and the way of understanding. In the meantime, the changes brought by the Internet has made people enhance the active consciousness of the subject and the practical ability, which promotes the free and comprehensive development of human.

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