

Progymnasma 7: ChatGpt's Revolution

Technologies in the modern era are not just an addition to make our lives easier, for most people, it has become something that completely consumes them. From working on computers to teaching through online classes to global internships to worldwide communication through social media, everything we know today is, directly or indirectly, a technology. One such technology that is on the rise is ChatGpt, the most commonly used artificial intelligence tool that has completely altered not just the working power of humans but also the amount of importance one used to give to the giant internet web.

When analysing this technology using McLuhan's tetrad, we are able to understand much more about the effects it has on humanity's future:

ENH (Enhancement):

ChatGpt greatly enhances **the speed and accuracy of problem-solving**. Where before people had to go through multiple sources to find particular answers, now a single prompt to this AI tool can give them the precise answer they need within seconds.

For example, if I am writing a research paper on introduction to computer science, and I need a lot of information regarding the history, the current applications and the future potential of the field, instead of going over a large number of research papers, I can simply tell chatgpt to analyse data around the web and give me a detailed research on the subjects I require. This reduces the time I need for research and helps me focus more on how I can creatively and compellingly structure my paper by compiling the knowledge given by chatgpt.

RET (Retrieval):

Chatgpt retrieves **the interactive experience of gaining information**. Where before people had to go through large standard texts or papers on the internet, which may or may not match the information they exactly need, inputting questions into chatgpt as if it were simply building on a conversation makes it possible for the user to get the specific answers they need.

For example, if I ask chatgpt ‘where can I find white bears?’, it would give me a very standard answer like in zoos or forests but if I ask it ‘In which exact places can I find white bears in the world?’, it would give me a precise answer like Canada, Russia, USA and specific states too in which they could be found. This shows how interactive chatgpt can be if one chooses to ask it the right prompts, just like talking to a human who can respond to questions in detail if they understand the scope needed for their answers.

OBS (Obsolescence):

Chatgpt, with its fast and personalized answers based on the prompts by users, **replaces the need for people to search on the World Wide Web and go through other sources like blogs or websites for information.**

For example, if I need to know the fastest way I can make book sales as an author, instead of looking for marketing tips on the internet, I can just ask chatgpt, ‘give me a detailed marketing plan for creating an author brand and a book sales campaign if <this> is my genre of writing and my book contains themes of <this> and <this>.’

REV (Reversal):

However vast the benefits, Chatgpt still comes with a high price. Although it does automate repetitive and research based tasks and makes it easier for the user to focus more on their creativity instead of analyzing and finding data, it can have the effect of completely stifling the creativity of a human by making every task fast and easier. This may prompt people to use it for everything, even those tasks which require their personal thoughts and opinions, leading to laziness and limits on the thinking of their mind.

For example, business owners may use chatgpt to map out the core values of their brand and students may use chatgpt for short personal opinion based assignments, which are things that should be inherently based on human intuition.

However, this, I believe, is not a problem caused by the progress of technology but rather by the human race in its blind adoption of this technology. Chatgpt is a groundbreaking helpful tool that has the potential to take people to great heights of success but this can only be possible by striking a balance between human’s creativity and the large data analysis capabilities of chatgpt and AI in general.