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MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AND PHILOSOPHY: THE TRANSFORMATION OF HUMAN EXISTENCE AND ETHICAL VALUES

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Abstract

This article analyzes the impact of modern technologies on the system of philosophical sciences, specifically focusing on epistemology (theory of knowledge) and ontology. Within the framework of IMRAD requirements, the study highlights how technological phenomena such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, and Virtual Reality (VR) are reshaping human consciousness and the methods of perceiving reality. The article uncovers the crisis-driven and transformational aspects of the modern cognitive process through concepts such as "post-truth," "filter bubbles," and "algorithmic epistemology." The research findings serve to philosophically address the preservation of the human subject and the challenges of digital ethics amidst rapid technological progress.

Keywords: Philosophy of technology, epistemology, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, post-truth, virtual reality, cognitive processes, ontology, digital ethics, algorithmic governance.

Introduction

The rapid development of technological progress in the 21st century—particularly the widespread expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI), biotechnology, virtual reality, and neural networks—has presented humanity with entirely new challenges. These technologies are no longer merely tools that simplify daily life; they are forcing a fundamental reassessment of philosophical concepts regarding human nature, consciousness, free will, and ethical norms.

For centuries, traditional philosophy sought answers to questions such as "What is man?", "What is truth?", and "How should one live?". Today, these questions emerge through a technological lens (e.g., "Can a machine think?", "Who is responsible for actions in a virtual

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world?"). The primary objective of this work is to analyze the influence of modern technologies on the ontological, epistemological, and ethical layers of philosophy and to highlight the pressing problems of "techno-philosophy."

Methods

This study is based on a qualitative analysis design, utilizing the following philosophical research methods:

- **Conceptual Analysis:** The essence and significance of modern concepts such as "Transhumanism," "Post-truth," and "Digital Ethics" were examined.
- **Phenomenological Approach:** The changing human experience and methods of perceiving the world through technology were observed.
- **Literature Review:** The works and perspectives of philosophers such as N. Bostrom, L. Floridi, and M. Heidegger regarding the philosophy of technology and information were studied comparatively.

Results

Analysis indicates that modern technologies are causing fundamental shifts (paradigm changes) in three main areas of philosophy:

A. Ontological Changes (Theory of Being)

- **Disappearance of Boundaries:** The lines between human and machine, biological and artificial, and real and virtual are blurring. The enhancement of the human body through cyber-implants and biotechnology is turning the idea of "Posthumanism" (the post-human era) into a reality.
- **Virtual Existence:** Metaverses and virtual reality provide humans with a "second existence," reviving the ancient question: "What is a true entity?"

B. Epistemological Changes (Philosophy of Knowledge)

In the era of modern technology, epistemology is undergoing a radical transformation. While classic philosophy viewed the process of knowing as a relationship between the **subject** (human) and the **object** (external world), today, a **digital mediator** (algorithms, AI) has entered the center of this relationship.

- **Transformation of the Subject: "Collective Intelligence":** Knowledge no longer relies solely on individual consciousness. The subject of knowledge has become a **"Human + Machine"** system.
  - *Cognitive Prosthetics:* Humans have "delegated" memory and calculation to gadgets, shifting focus from remembering information to knowing where to find it (**search-based knowledge**).
  - *Dispersal of Knowledge:* Knowledge is no longer in a single brain but distributed across global servers, decreasing self-reliance and increasing technological dependency.
- **The "Post-truth" Era and the Devaluation of Truth:**
  - *Emotional Truth:* In the post-truth phenomenon, objective facts have less influence on public opinion than personal emotions and beliefs.
  - *Deepfakes and Simulations:* AI-generated visual data makes it nearly impossible for the human mind to distinguish between "real" and "artificial," placing the problem of **verification** at the forefront.
- **Algorithmic Epistemology: "Filter Bubbles":**
  - *Epistemic Bubbles:* Social media algorithms present only information that aligns with our views, causing a loss of cognitive flexibility.
  - *Algorithmic Selection:* Search engines prioritize algorithmic utility over objective relevance, leading to a loss of objectivity in understanding the world.

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- **The Power of Data (Dataism) and the Crisis of Intuition:**
  - *Replacing Intuition:* Algorithms now provide more accurate diagnoses or market predictions than the experience or "gut feeling" of professionals.
  - *The "Black Box" of Knowledge:* The process by which neural networks reach a conclusion is often incomprehensible to the human mind, creating a gap between "knowing" and "understanding."
- **Perceiving Virtual Reality (Onto-epistemology):**
  - *Quasi-experience:* Virtual experiences are nearly equivalent to real-world experiences for the brain, questioning the definition of "true experience."
  - *Multilayered Existence:* Knowledge is no longer limited to the physical world; humans can live and gather knowledge in multiple digital realms simultaneously.

C. Axiological and Ethical Dilemmas (Philosophy of Values)

- **Algorithmic Ethics:** Responsibility for errors made by autonomous vehicles or AI diagnostic programs remains morally and legally ambiguous.
- **Digital Panopticon:** Mass surveillance and social networks threaten personal freedom and privacy, creating a foundation for new forms of authoritarian governance.

Discussion and Conclusion

The results show that technology is not merely a passive "tool"; it is an active force that reshapes human worldviews, social structures, and ethical compasses. As Martin Heidegger noted, the essence of technology is not something technological—it is a way of revealing being itself.

Today, technological progress has significantly outpaced philosophical and ethical reflection. We have learned to create technologies, but we have not yet fully grasped their consequences. To bridge this gap, concepts such as **"Digital Ethics"** and **"Ethics by Design"** must be integrated into education, law, and engineering.

Conclusion: Modern epistemology views the human not just as a knowing subject, but as part of a data-processing system. The greatest philosophical challenge of this era is to preserve "personal opinion" and **"objective truth"** within an endless flow of information. Philosophy must transition from a science that merely analyzes the past to a practical field that develops a "guidebook for remaining human" in the coming era of AI and bio-engineering.

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