THE THREAT OF SCIENCE: “BRAVE NEW WORLD” VERSES TODAY

Mr. Himamshukumar P Parmar
PhD Scholar, Post Graduate Department of English, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat, India

ABSTRACT

Several technologies in the negative utopian novel Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, may look incredible, even in the radiance of the technical rise our society has made since the novel was written, though, some of the technologies just might seem common. Much of visualization of Huxley is by now harsh realism today. Human kind has already witnessed the growth of the basic principles apparent in the novel with themes like consumerism, cloning, government control, and drugs to make them contented. At the present, when a scientific revolution is discovered, people would turn to coming closer to the Brave New World. We are, nowadays, more cognizant of changes that technology brings upon us and try to identify its possible intimidation. It is the reason why there are always contrasting groups of some improvements, aiming to observe not only the positive sides but the negative sides of new technology.

Keyword: Technology, Dystopia, Innovation, Cloning, Consumerism

1. INTRODUCTION

Written by the great author Aldous Huxley, Brave New World was published in 1932. It is a renowned novel of utopian genre. The novel is most celebrated and one of the first Dystopian fictions in history. The novel presents a nightmarish visualization of a future society, which is the world of present time. It often compared to 1984 by George Orwell. Critical reviews were varied when Brave New World was published. Some reviewers praised it as most outstanding and accomplished whereas other thought it should be banned for apparently being anti-family and anti-religion.

In comparison with the publication year 1932, the novel Brave New World is more relevant today. It is the time of misinformation, restriction, social conditioning, conformity, genetic engineering, and senseless entertainment. These were the things which Huxley could see in our present life. Brave New World is nothing but a warning to the human race.

It is attempt of Aldous Huxley in Brave New World, to express the opinion that every progress or enhancement for the “betterment” of human race is merely a device for his eventual devastation. According to Huxley, “We are on the horns of an ethical dilemma and to find the middle way will require all out intelligence and all out good will.” It can be related to all the fields of life, medical, technical, social, and many more. Not only in the book, but also in present time, one can witness that this conviction is obviously factual.

2. SCIENCE: “BRAVE NEW WORLD” VERSES TODAY

The sole goal of Brave New World by Huxley is: technological progress. The societal ethics and ambitions are not those of our society today, for instance relations, love, and achievements, but instead are focused around industry, financial system, and technological growth and development. The people are not involved with themselves as persons; they are conditioned to observe the world as a communal and scientifically oriented. What can be seen about Brave New World and its remarks on scientific and technological development as well as their effects on humanity, when we scrutinize it from the perception of today’s modern world? Throughout these intellectual perceptions it can be seen that the novel is a perilously precise prediction of capability of technology to govern the society, and how this command is shifting the aims, ethics, and principles of our culture silently.

To begin with, scientific development of which Huxley cautions us concerning biological expertise. The enormous manufacturing of human is accomplished through Bokanovsky process. The
director said, “But a bokanovskified egg will bud, will proliferate, and will divide every embryo into a full-sized adult.” (Huxley 3-4). Humans are being genetically customized and engineered in the experimental laboratories rather naturally. In the actual world situation, it is observed that cloning is a massive scientific progress that has been made and is still being developed, but is believed immoral when alive things are brought into the matter of especially human cloning. Concerning to the modern world it can be seen that embryonic stem cell research is actually done, where an egg cell is fertilized by a sperm to generate a human embryo basically creates life. Keeping in mind this procedure, it can be seen immoral by some people having different principles and thinking. Just like the Bokanovsky process, this process also messing with an embryo and altering god’s work.

Science of Today is proficient of modifying DNA of person but not able to completely develop human being by its own. However, cloning of animals has been done in our world. For instance Dolly, the sheep is a cloned animal who lived a usual life which offered anticipation to scientists to utilize cloned cells in medication also. It was seen that cloned animals’ mature faster than ordinary brood. However, the first cloning done by man was a gigantic step towards the future and biological progression. By creating a world where human beings are extremely created biologically, Brave New World demonstrates those innovations in the field of biology, which exhibit it being dangerous in spite of the wellbeing and betterment of the human race.

Other most common subject matters in the novel are moving around the industrial and economic systems, and how technology has brought the development of these subject matters to achievement. The state of mind of the society is that growth through innovation is the significant objective of humankind. In Huxley’s negative utopia consumerism and productivization are the rationale of life. The industrial principles of the society can be captured by one of the hypnopaedic maxims demonstrated in this quotation from the novel: ‘‘But old clothes are beastly,’ continued the untiring whisper. ‘We always throw away old clothes. Ending is better than mending, ending is better than mending, ending is better than mending.’’ (Huxley 54). The people of the World State are trained since birth to maintain that buying new is good and mending is morally wrong. They are trained to conform to the consumer-oriented attitude of the society.

Consumerism is a noteworthy factor in all main economies nowadays. While it makes sense that a company would have an inducement to carry us on purchasing things to stay money-making, Huxley’s point is that consumerism can also be used to keep us uselessly hunting after stuffs that we think we require to be contented as interruption from exploring other pursuits.

Evidence that Huxley’s claim is true is also apparent in today’s society. The general use, misuse, and abuse of tools such as the internet is one such piece of evidence. The huge quantity of knowledge and information to be found there is rendered all but useless as the majority of people use the internet as those in Brave New World would have, for simple present pleasure. Pornography, violence and other such things pollute the good that the internet can bring us. The overuse of the internet as a communicative tool can be somewhat harmful to us. Yes, it is a wonderful thing that anyone from anyplace can meet someone for some other place at the click of a button, but the internet has taken away much of the personal contact that makes talking and other forms of communication so fulfilling.

In the modern society, most people genuinely cannot go even a few minutes without checking their smart-phones. We have, just as Huxley predicted, made it possible to abolish boredom and time for spare thoughts no matter where we are. This is already having measurable effects on our mental health and our brain structure.

One more noteworthy equivalent which can be seen is the similarities between the "production line mentality" of world education system, and the biologically mass-produced citizens of the World State in Brave New World. The students in our schools go through this procedure of classes organized by age group. However age does not essentially state aptitude or discipline of a student with a certain subjects. This resembles the caste system in the novel and how everybody is conditioned from pre-birth to maturity to only be clever enough for the jobs of their cast.

3. CONCLUSION:

The democracy of personal development and individual spirituality is eradicated in Huxley’s Brave New World. By examining the novel from
the perception of the contemporary world, it becomes obvious that Huxley’s work is a forecast for the future that hits all-too close to the bone. The evolution from the Technologies of today, to the Technology in Brave New World is one that appears to be rising closer, impressively. When do our advances in technology begin to do more harm than help? No one can envisage when kind purposes can bring about ill-fated ends, yet Huxley offers a thoughtful presumption. How long before the ever-sharpening claws of technology latch around our own society, and grip us away from the ethics we hold to be precious? Should we fear this warning? Or embrace its benefits? “Progress is lovely, isn’t it?” (Huxley 98).

REFERENCES