Soft-Morality and Artificiality

Thesis submitted for the degree of Ph.D. in Cognitive Science

Under the School of Cognitive Science

Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, Law and Management

Jadavpur University

Kolkata

India

by

Ritaprava Bandyopadhyay

November 2022

Abstract

The dissertation *Soft-morality and Artificiality* has six chapters. In the first chapter, i.e, the introduction, I attempted to situate our problem within the larger contexts of ethics, artificial intelligence, and lifeworld, which serves as the 'foundation' for all shared human experience. I have shown that the ethical issues relating to the deployment of artificially intelligent agents got a special mention in UNESCO and EU 's reports. The relationship between Robotics, employment and labour got a special mention in UNESCO's report. It is said that artificially intelligent agents like Robots are linked to the increase in global productivity. It has been observed that an increase in production through the deployment of artificially intelligent agents involves a drastic reduction in labour costs. Is it really so? Here, I have answered this question. In the second chapter, I discussed how artificially intelligent machines failed in certain situations, leaving us in moral quandaries of various sources. The following chapter is primarily a review of the literature. In Chapter four, I stated that a few decades ago in Sociology, we saw a familiar turn that we have observed in ethics. I discussed Bruno Latour's Actor-Network Theory (ANT) and how the concept of ANT has since been expanded to include AI agents. The incorporation of AI in actor networks raises some legitimate concerns about its ethical implications, such as the replacement of human labour in certain situations. I have explained these using Marxist ethics of value as a case study. With an equation I have shown that as the relative investment of a company increases, the rate of profit tends to fall as machines like artificially intelligent agents do not generate value, they only transfer it. Humans generate value. In Chapter five, I discussed in order to generate value one has to participate in the 'lifeworld'. In the conclusion, I have stated that AI agents as labourers can't replace human labourers as their relationship is of interdependence.