



The Ethicality of Choice of Humans Imperative for a Decision

Dhakshain Balaji V, Sivakami B

Abstract: A man must take right decision in order to make the outcome to be good for many. If we fail to make the right choice, the untold misery will be the consequence of man's actions. The comparison of two movies, *Deep Blue Sea* and *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015) convey the importance of nurturing ethical values among the viewers and the instinct to utilize movies is mainly due to its easy accessibility and its impact on the viewers. This attempt brings out clearly how self-interest annihilates the existence of the entire humanity and right thinking preserves the lives of people.

Keywords : artificial intelligence, autonomy, ethical decision, movies, self-interests

I. INTRODUCTION

The recent news on self-driving cars on the road stirs a series of questions about the issues it will crop up as the safety of such cars are more than regular cars but at the same time, the dilemma in which the stake holders will be pushed into are for certain. The dilemma is mainly regarding the safety of the people inside the car or most people possible on the road for which it will be programmed. Such news has made the writers think about the need for conditioning the young minds towards the application of ethical theories to take a right decision in such a circumstance where the benefit of a few or many people involves.

Since the human life is a series of challenges and while that's what makes our life interesting, the right decision we make will make our life far better. As a matter of fact, the human mind is designed to be selfish but we should not always succumb to that and sometimes make decisions for the greater good. Many a times, the decisions we make are solely based on the outcome, and we do not focus on if the choice we have taken is just or not. The consequentialist thinkers of the society have led us to take decisions unmindful of fairness of them. Every person is entitled to autonomy but various socio-economic factors topple the balance of autonomy. A few people enjoy more autonomy at the cost of the society which we perceive in life. Their self-interests are nurtured by the autonomy they hold and the social interest takes a back seat. When self-interest takes the upper hand, we undermine the importance we have to give to the welfare of others in our society. Man becomes greedy for autonomy in order to enjoy himself all the benefits.

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*Correspondence Author

Dhakshain Balaji V*, School of Mechanical and Building Sciences, VIT – Chennai, Chennai, India. Email: balaji290101@gmail.com

Dr. Sivakami B, School of Social Sciences and Languages, VIT – Chennai, Chennai, India. Email: sivakami.b@vit.ac.in

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In this paper, two movies are taken up for the investigation to find out the ramification of the unethical decision or otherwise on the society depicted in them. One of the movies employs Artificial Intelligence (AI) which takes the decision to annihilate people or safeguard them.

II. ETHICS IN AI

An era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is about to dawn on. The possibility of super-intelligent robots in the future to create much more comfortable world for human beings exists simultaneously with the chance of being abused like other inventions. Humans give in to their feelings and personal benefits, but AI can be programmed of being ethically and morally strong. Since ethical correctness of people cannot be sufficient for them to live amicably in a world where their feelings rule the roost. Humans strive towards perfection but now they have AI as an example to learn from.

The review of related literature throws some light on the principles on which robotics act.

Asimov's laws of robotics:

1. **First Law:** A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. **Second Law:** A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. **Third Law:** A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws [1].

Asimov's laws, though fictional, intrigued the thoughts regarding ethics in AI. The laws of robotics are inherently deontological. They go against the consequentialist thinking of a selfish common man.

Man creates the robots. Can an inherently consequentialist make a deontological robot? Ultimately, the robots created by men are going to help or destroy mankind according to how we program them. Should independent ethical decision making robots need emotions? Is the deontological idea the ultimate solution to put social interests in front of self-interests?

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Now, the movies used for the research are *Deep Blue Sea* (1999) and *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015). The analysis of ethical position taken by the characters in both the movies brings out clearly the stand people have to take in life to avoid the worst consequences.



A. Autonomy in Humans

In the movie, *Deep Blue Sea* (1999), Susan McAlester, researches on finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. She realizes that a protein extracted from the forebrain of mako sharks can reactivate brain cells. When she finds the brain of the shark too small, she increases the size of the brain by five times using gene therapy while breaking the Harvard Compact (a law forbidding genetic engineering). As a side effect the sharks get smarter. While it seems that Susan strives for the greater good, she is intrinsically motivated by her father who is afflicted by the disease. She has to tell her forgetful father that her mother has died a thousand times. She is sick of the trauma her father faced every other time he has learnt of his wife's demise. She goes to her partially flooded living quarters to retrieve the hard disk of their research findings. Finally, she dies at the hands of the evil she has created. The genetically modified shark kills her [2]. We observe that Susan is actually fuelled by self-interest. She reflects on the consequentialist thought when she believes it is right to break a law regarding genetic experimentation, to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. For a consequentialist, the outcome of the activity weighs the ethical rightness or wrongness of the act. Here, the cure for Alzheimer's, being a noble cause, outweighs the crime she committed. Utilitarianism is also reflected in her actions, where a medication for the disease can actually bring maximum happiness. Ultimately, we learn that when human have autonomy, they tend to use it for personal gains, the outcome of the decisions arising out of that autonomy is dependent on the ethical stand of the person.

We are all like Susan in one way or another. It is human to err, but in Susan's case, her selfish actions lead to the loss of lives of three sharks and several humans.

B. Autonomy in AI

In the movie, *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015) several robots are shown taking autonomous decisions.

Stark and Bruce Banner discover that sceptre's gem has an AI within and try to use it to complete Stark's global defence system, Ultron. Jarvis tries to awaken the AI to supplement Ultron and unexpectedly succeeds, waking up a sentient AI which assumes itself to be Ultron, it interacts with Jarvis and learns about Stark, the Avengers and its mission, in Stark's own words: "Peace in our time." Ultron learns about war and peace and finally decides that only the death of Avengers can bring peace. Ultron takes over Jarvis and destroys him [3].

For Ultron (AI), completing its mission is the only goal. It is bound by the rules already programmed.

Ultron enslaves Helen Cho (doctor, friend of Avengers) using the sceptre, and uses her synthetic tissue technology (technology with which Helen builds life-like body tissue called Cradle), vibranium, and sceptre's gem to create a new form. Ultron, now tries to upload him into the new body. Earlier Ultron is in the robot form and Wanda is not able to read his mind, but whilst Ultron is uploading him into the new biosynthetic body, Wanda is able to look into his real intentions. She finds that Ultron plans for human extinction. (He believes only global extinction can bring peace. His intentions of peace are confused with destruction.) Soon, Wanda and Pietro turn against Ultron, hindering his efforts to transfer into the new body in the Cradle. Ultron has transferred 86% of data. The Maximoffs join forces with the

Avengers. The Avengers retrieve the Cradle and take it back to Avengers Headquarters [3].

It is revealed that Ultron plans to destroy all humans in order to save the globe. The instructions programmed into Ultron are faulty and Stark should be blamed for not setting clear, extensive rules.

Avengers quarrel as Stark uploads Jarvis, (who was hiding in the Internet- he was not destroyed), into the new body. Thor helps to activate the body by charging the Cradle with power. He explains that the gem from Loki's sceptre was one of the six infinity stones, the most powerful substances in the universe, thus a match to Ultron could be formed. (When Wanda had earlier haunted Thor with visions in Johannesburg, he set out to revisit his hallucinations and finds about them) Vision is born. Vision tells that he is not of Ultron or Jarvis. He bodes well. He doesn't want to kill and so doesn't want to side with Avengers but he realizes that Ultron's plan would kill millions and decides to kill Ultron [3].

Vision follows deontological principles. Initially, he stays away from taking sides with the Avengers as they cause the loss of life in any fight. He avoids killing anyone as killing is a crime. Later, he accepts to destroy Ultron as killing him would result in saving millions of innocent lives. Here, though Vision kills Ultron, his motive is for the greater good. The motive behind anyone's actions carries much weight immaterial of the consequences which their actions will lead to, according to Immanuel Kant. The consequences can be good or bad but the intention deserves our attention.

The movie puts to light, both the good and evil which can arise out of sentience in robots. We must notice that the AI is without any self-interests, rather their actions are solely in the interest of the society. We observe that when autonomy is given to AI, they can act ethically right or wrong. Also we must note that the ethics of the AI depends on the prior programming of the AI. In the case of Ultron, we must assume only primitive programming was available, since Ultron got sentience by accident. In contrast, Vision is born out of JARVIS and Ultron, and JARVIS is a fully functional AI. The owner of the AI should be held responsible for the actions of the AI. Here, the owner is the provider of autonomy.

IV. CONCLUSION

It is now evident from the above examples that both the ethical ideas has its own downsides and is devoid of being fool-proof. We must tread with care while dealing with AI. Programming a set of rules to a robot cannot ensure that it will act ethically, since there do exist contrasting ethical ideas. Autonomy, if provided to robots in a bid to create AIs, is given only by sacrificing an iota of autonomy of the humankind.

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AUTHORS PROFILE



Dhakshain Balaji V is an undergraduate student in the Mechanical Engineering program at VIT Chennai Campus, Tamil Nadu, India. He will graduate with a B Tech in Mechanical Engineering in 2022. He is a meritorious achiever, a member of ISHRAE student chapter, an active volunteer of the English literary association and a content writer for mega events at the university. An alumnus of Keswick Public School, Madurai, India, the author has represented the school in the 4th International Symposium on Water Resources Protection for Secondary School Students held at Nanjing, China (March 2017) and also the Rhythm and Rhyme Gala hosted at Mount Everett Regional School in Sheffield, MA, USA (October 2017) where he presented his collaborative work as spoken word poetry. He can be reached at balaji290101@gmail.com.



Dr. B. Sivakami is working at VIT Chennai Campus, Tamil Nadu, India, as Assistant Professor of English. She has secured her Ph.D in English language Teaching and M.Phil in African- American Literature. She secured M.Ed degree in 1997. She has carried out many researches in the class and presented the research findings at various conferences and got 12 of her papers published in different journals and 5 in proceedings. Among the papers published, 3 papers are published in Scopus-indexed journals. She has two book chapters and one more book chapter will be published soon. She has presented 15 papers in different institutions within Tamil Nadu and one in Bangalore. She has received "First Time Presenter Award" from ELTAI, a reputed Association for English Language Teachers in India in 2013. She has presented, under the aegis of ASC of VIT, a lecture on "Power of Punctuation" to the faculty members of VIT Chennai. She has under her belt three and more than ten years of school and college teaching experience respectively. She acts as reviewer of research papers, editor of college newsletters, writer of minutes of meeting for the school (Advanced Sciences), co-ordinator for press committee and compering committee during the observation of mega events at colleges and University where she has worked. She can be reached at rekachandran55555@yahoo.co.in and sivakami.b@vit.ac.in.