

Article Review

Name:

Institution:

Article Review

Introduction

Over the years, Google Translate has become a service adored and hated by many people. It allows people to translate words, sentences, and texts from foreign languages without resorting to the help of qualified translators. At the same time, Google Translate is prone to transform the translated text to such an extent that it is difficult to understand its initial meaning. Nevertheless, the service is in constant development and, currently, can provide a full and meaningful translation. Gideon Lewis-Kraus has devoted his article “The Great A.I. Awakening” to explore how machine intelligence has changed and what efforts have been invested in it to provide humankind with significant help from Google Translate.

Summary of the Article

The article consists of a prologue, two parts, and epilogue. The prologue covers the discovery that Google Translate can make such a good translation that it is difficult to distinguish it from a translation made by a human. This result has been achieved through the implementation of artificial intelligence. The first part of the article is devoted to Google Translate itself and the explanation of how artificial neural networks are developed. The second part is about Google Brain and all the failures that have happened during its development. The epilogue closes the article with the explanation that artificial intelligence has been created to help people and not to replace them.

Article Criticism

Gideon Lewis-Kraus has done considerable work to explain to his audience what artificial intelligence is in its essence and how much effort people in charge have to invest in it.

The author thoroughly approaches the issue connected with the fear that artificial intelligence will conquer humanity. He mentions enough details to understand that the fear would become a reality only if people decide to program such a target. Nevertheless, most of the article is devoted to the progress occurred within the field of artificial intelligence. It is interesting to know how the machine has passed from the stage of “Our symbolic A.I. gets to (ears=pointy) and shakes its head solemnly, “Not cat.”” (Lewis-Kraus, 2016, para. 52) to a practically grammatically accurate translation of a sentence from another language. The author provides a thorough history of each step that has been made to achieve this progress. In addition to that, Gideon Lewis-Kraus provides links to related research studies; hence, everyone who wants to read more in-depth information can do so. The article also allows understanding that the process of development is similar to the teaching process of a child who has started to explore the world. Gideon Lewis-Kraus writes “You cannot just repeat your initial instructions, because the child does not know at which point he went wrong” (2016, para. 48). Hence, the audience has a clear understanding that the development of artificial intelligence is not an easy process. Experts carefully think through every change they make to facilitate a multitude of tasks in the future, and the improvement of Google Translate refers to this.

Conclusion

The large size of the article is compensated by the value of the information provided. It will be equally interesting for both experts and ordinary people who want to know how Google Translate has gotten to the stage of almost full and meaningful translation. In addition to that, the article might reduce the level of fear connected with possible “Rise of Machines” scenarios and the complete replacement of human intelligence. It is also important to note that the article serves

as an understanding that people do not know enough about artificial intelligence; moreover, it encourages us not to be ordinary observers.

Reference

Lewis-Kraus, G. (2016, December 14). The Great A.I. Awakening. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/14/magazine/the-great-ai-awakening.html>. Accessed September 29, 2017