Objective and Subjective Determinants of Human Estrangement in Digital Society

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Abstract: This paper thoroughly explores how the human estrangement issue gains progressively critical relevance within today's digitalized society. Analysis encompasses both objective and subjective determinants of estrangement processes that materialize through digital technology advancement and information infrastructure evolution. Moreover, this investigation examines transformations within information society's social architecture, virtual interaction patterns and their influence upon human personality in Uzbek society, alongside presenting resolution pathways.

Key words: digital society, estrangement, technological advancement, information infrastructure, objective determinants, subjective determinants, virtual interaction.

INTRODUCTION

During the early twenty-first century, human civilization encountered profound transformation within digitalization processes. Accelerated digital technology evolution, widespread internet network expansion, and virtual communication tools' deep penetration into our existence fundamentally restructured human social being formats. These transformations generated novel opportunities on one hand, while establishing foundations for classical estrangement concepts' manifestation in contemporary forms on the other.

The "alienation" notion defined by Georg Simmel formed within industrial society circumstances, yet today it acquires fresh content and form through information technology mediation. Contemporary estrangement observes itself not solely within labor activity boundaries but across daily life's entire spectrum—communication, education, leisure, and even intimate relationships.[1]

Human species essentially constitutes social beings, wherein mutual connections and influences among them establish society structure's foundation. However, today's accelerated technological progress rates, economic system complexification, and shifting social relationship dynamics result in people becoming unable to fully satisfy their natural social requirements. We can cite digitally saturated contemporary society's distinctive features as exemplifying this condition's primary cause. Within digitalized environments, preserving spiritual-moral stability and ensuring ideological firmness transforms into particularly urgent matters.[2]

Uzbekistan currently undergoes a novel stage of socio-economic reforms. Economy diversification, education and healthcare system modernization, and qualitative youth work renewal target reducing social instability and estrangement conditions. Simultaneously, necessary tasks include adapting to contemporary requirements while preserving national values, purposefully utilizing technological development, and ensuring social cohesion.

Contemporary era estrangement forms fundamentally differ from traditional manifestations. Whereas previous century alienation primarily connected with industrialization processes and urbanization lifestyles, the current century witnesses digital technology widespread adoption, global cultural processes, social networks, and worldwide transformations revealing estrangement's novel dimensions. Virtual realm achieving supremacy over actual existence, artificial consciousness displacing human activity, and remote work format popularization define this occurrence's contemporary character.[3]

Analyzing objective and subjective determinants of human estrangement within digitalized society holds significance not merely from theoretical perspectives but also practically. Because properly comprehending this occurrence creates possibilities for identifying mutual understanding, social stability, and unity pathways within society. Furthermore, estrangement problem resolution directly connects with state socio-economic policy, education system reform, cultural life participation, and each citizen's personal intellectual and moral advancement.

Presently, New Uzbekistan society has entered rapid and complex transformation phases. Comprehensive reforms conducted nationwide, economy sector division, education and healthcare sphere modernization, plus programs targeting comprehensive youth support function as principal initiatives serving to reduce objective and subjective determinants generating estrangement. Concurrently, ensuring harmony between national values and contemporary demands, rationally utilizing technological achievements, and preserving social cohesion stand designated as crucial responsibilities.[4]

As recognized, today's world has become a stage for sharp competition and interest conflicts. Globalization processes, alongside previously undelivered opportunities for humanity, also bring novel problems and threats. External pressure and dangers against national identity and spiritual heritage intensify. Ideas such as pursuing solely self-interest, casual attitudes toward labor and family values, and consumerist mentalities are being instilled into people's consciousness, especially youth, through various channels.

Considering reasons presented above, comprehensively studying objective and subjective determinants influencing human estrangement within digitalized society remains urgent.[5] Because through fully comprehending these occurrences, establishing pathways for eliminating objective and subjective determinants causing estrangement becomes achievable—including contemporary technology's impact upon human existence, information technology access opportunity inequality, national and cultural uniqueness loss, excessive virtual world inclination, self-realization difficulties, and actual communication avoidance.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

Theoretical investigation of the estrangement problem traces its origins to classical sociologists' works including Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber.

Karl Marx in his "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts" articulates estrangement theory formation primarily within labor activity domains and distinguishes four fundamental manifestations. These encompass worker estrangement from their labor products, from the labor process itself, from their human natural characteristics, and from fellow humans. Though this classical approach was created under industrial society circumstances, its core principles retain significance under information society conditions.

Emile Durkheim's anomie theory examines social norm disruption and individual-society relationship crisis matters. Durkheim in "The Division of Labor in Society" emphasizes how rapid societal changes generate anomie states through individual subconscious incompatibility with social norm systems. Within information society, this process observes itself in accelerated forms.

Max Weber's "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" rationalisation theory analyzes rational-instrumental approach dominance and traditional value system disappearance within contemporary society. This theory holds substantial importance for understanding information technology penetration processes into human existence.

Among contemporary theoretical approaches' founders, Herbert Marcuse's "One-Dimensional Man" concept examines human critical thinking capacity and creative potential limitation within technogenic

society. This idea acquires particular urgency within information society contexts of media manipulation and mass culture influence.

Jürgen Habermas in his "Theory of Communicative Action" communicative reason theory analyzes genuine dialogue and mutual understanding-based communication possibility limitations within contemporary society. Information technologies, while expanding communication capabilities on one hand, restrict qualitative interaction forms on the other, according to the theory he advances.

Among CIS scholars, S.V. Grinchenko's article "Problems of Human Alienation in Information Society" provides socio-philosophical analysis of information society, discussing ontological and existential estrangement forms emerging through technological progress.

Bestuzhev-Lada's "Humanity and Information in the XXI Century" illuminates information stress, social marginalization, trust deficit, and personal identification problems arising through information flow excessive intensification. These conditions are interpreted as contemporary forms of subjective estrangement.

In Uzbekistan, among researchers addressing above problems, Abdullayev A.N.'s "Contemporary Information Society and Cultural Transformations" discusses how information technology rapid development generates profound cultural transformations within society and these transformations' influence upon traditional values, social consciousness, moral principles, and social relationships.

National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek researcher Soqiyev X.V.'s article "Social-Cultural Development Criteria of Information Society" investigates information society's socio-cultural aspects, global cultural balance, and national identity health preservation matters. His article analyzes necessity for developing individuals freely and comprehensively through information civilization's positive factors, while simultaneously preserving national identity, cultural traditions, and social solidarity.

This investigation employed following methodological approaches. Structural-functional analysis examined society's systemic transformations and their human activity impacts.[6] This approach enabled analyzing information society's institutional structure and functional transformations. Critical theory evaluated technologies' ideological and political dimensions. This approach assisted revealing dominance relationships and manipulation mechanisms within information society. Systems approach viewed estrangement processes as integral systems, studying interconnections among various elements.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When analyzing objective and subjective determinants of human estrangement within digitalized society, the following emerge as objective causes playing fundamental roles in information society formation.

Digital infrastructure widespread adoption represents one of today's contemporary society's principal characteristics.[7] Technologies including internet, mobile communication, and social networks fundamentally transformed human daily life routines and social relationship organization methods. This process, while facilitating information exchange and connection establishment on one hand, led to traditional social institution weakening on the other.

Gig-economy (economic activity form organized based on temporary, project-based or short-term work) and freelancing (independent work form wherein individuals offer their services to various clients on temporary basis without working as permanent company employees) expansion constitutes contemporary labor market's fundamental characteristics. This tendency, while making work forms flexible, deprives laborers of traditional workplace social protection and collective activity experience. [8]Freelancers and gig-workers often lack professional community and long-term cooperation connections, remaining limited to individual labor activity.

Automation and artificial intelligence threaten eliminating numerous traditional professions and workplaces. This process generates not only economic security issues but also intensifies professional identity and social position loss sensations. Human "unnecessity" fear before technologies manifests as novel estrangement type sources.[9]

Value creation process transformation within digital economy disrupts traditional labor concepts. In activity types such as virtual services, digital product creation, and data work, labor results often possess immaterial character, making worker-labor product connections abstract.

Under such circumstances, worker-labor product connections progressively abstract themselves. For instance, programmer-created code may integrate into numerous other systems, or content creator products may undergo algorithmic reprocessing. This leads workers losing ownership sensations over their labor products, meaning they neither directly observe nor fully control what they create.

Karl Marx's previously advanced labor product estrangement idea regains urgency precisely within this digital economic context. Digital labor forms weaken direct, human connections between worker labor and its results. This generates not only economic but also psychological and social negative consequences. Workers perceive themselves not as their work's authors and owners but as process anonymous executors.[10]

Among estrangement's objective determinants emerging through information manipulation and control, algorithmic filters and "echo chamber" effect's substantial role in shaping social network users' worldviews and opinions merits particular attention. Personalized content delivery, while conveying information matching user needs on one hand, narrows their intellectual horizons and restricts critical thinking capabilities on the other.

Big data volume and individual-related information utilization intensifies external interference into people's private lives and decision-making processes. Individual data collection and analysis by corporations progressively restricts individual autonomy and free choice possibilities.

Media algorithm psychological influence, based upon attention economy principles, targets maximally increasing user online environment residence duration. This process disrupts dopamine production natural cycles, leading human consciousness becoming dependent upon virtual stimuli.[11]

Information flow excessive abundance overwhelms contemporary human cognitive capabilities. Daily encountered information quantities prove disproportionate to human psyche's natural capacity, consequently causing selective attention, deep analysis, and critical thinking ability declines.

Social institution transformation can be cited as another objective estrangement determinant. Here, digitalization processes alter traditional social institution functions and structures. Namely, education system digitalization replaces direct pedagogical teacher-student communication with virtual interaction, weakening education's socializing function. Despite online education effectiveness, social skill development and group activity experience may undergo limitation.

Family institution transformation also occurs today under information technology influence. Family member communication frequently executes through digital means, leading traditional family values and intergenerational experience transmission mechanism disruption.

When addressing subjective determinant analysis, human estrangement subjective aspects within digitalized society depend more upon individual inner world and psychological states. Particularly, personal identification crisis—meaning human self-comprehension and self-determination problems—acquires progressively urgent character within contemporary information environments. Information flow excessive abundance, artificial comparisons and competition emerging on social networks, plus social evaluation criteria forming based upon external appearance and image rather than personal virtues disrupts human self-relationship. Consequently, humans begin feeling estranged from themselves,

relying upon external stimuli rather than internal motivation when managing their lives and activities. This disturbs their psychological balance, intensifying estrangement conditions. Thus, subjective determinants, specifically personal identification crisis, forming within human consciousness deep layers, transforms into one of estrangement's important sources within digitalized society.[12]

Virtual identity and actual "Self" separation constitutes one of contemporary human's fundamental problems. Social network created profiles often mismatch actual personality, generating self-realization and genuine existence issues. This duality disrupts individual psychological unity, intensifying internal contradictions.[13]

As one of estrangement's subjective determinants, intergenerational differences and cultural ruptures merit particular attention. Specifically, digital divide occurrence limits itself not merely to technology access capabilities but also expresses differences in worldviews, values, and communication styles formed among various generations. Traditional knowledge and experience transmission mechanism disruption, psychological pressures emerging through intense information flow and its adaptation necessity deepen estrangement processes. Particularly, profound cultural differences and mutual misunderstandings develop between generations defined as "digital natives" and "digital immigrants."

Traditional knowledge transmission mechanism disruption observes itself within family and education institutions. Youth demonstrate greater trust in information obtained from internet and social networks compared to traditional knowledge and experience transmitted by elders. This condition leads weakened intergenerational connections and cultural ruptures.

Rapid change and adaptation stresses generate individual psyche burdens through constant renewal and learning necessity. Technology novelty "falling behind" fear and continuous updating demands disrupt personal stability and internal tranquility.[14]

Virtual relationship emotional-psychological influences generate one-sided emotional attachments with non-real persons (bloggers, influencers, virtual characters) that displace genuine social connections. This condition, especially widespread among youth, generates virtual "teachers" and "models" connections instead of actual friendship and love relationships.[15]

This investigation necessitates reconsidering estrangement theory based upon novel theoretical foundations under contemporary digitalized society circumstances. Traditional industrial society-characteristic estrangement concepts inadequately explain today's digital environments. Therefore, classical approaches require enrichment and renewal through digital estrangement concepts. This demands developing deeper and more adaptive theoretical approaches for analyzing novel social realities.

CONCLUSION

Human estrangement within digitalized society manifests as one of the twenty-first century's most urgent and complex problems. Objective and subjective determinants examined throughout this investigation demonstrate how digital transformation processes unprecedentedly alter individual and social existence fundamental principles throughout humanity's history.

Human estrangement problems within digitalized society represent not merely academic interest objects but decisive matters for humanity's future. Successfully resolving this problem demands collective efforts from all society members—individuals, social groups, institutions, and states.

Though digital revolution constitutes an unstoppable process, its direction and consequences depend upon human choice and activity. Therefore, today's decisions and actions directly impact world character created for future generations.

For resolving this problem, conducting humanistic technological policy, forming digital ethics, and strengthening personal consciousness through philosophical and pedagogical approaches constitute one of our society's important and urgent responsibilities.

Technology itself proves neither good nor evil—it merely represents a tool. The fundamental question lies in how we learn utilizing this tool along human values and society benefit paths. Answering this question constitutes each individual's responsibility.

Under digitalized society circumstances, human self-realization, internal consciousness strengthening, and active subject formation within social life represent one of the urgent and priority tasks facing contemporary philosophy and sociology. Within progressively expanding technological progress and digital environment circumstances, humans not losing their essence, avoiding estrangement within information flow, and selecting conscious lifestyle requires theoretical grounding precisely through these disciplines' approaches. This process, above all, bases itself upon interpreting humans not as objects but as subjects capable of comprehending their own existence and consciously managing it.

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