

AI and Man: A Philosophical Analysis on Two Noninterchangeable Ontologies

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Artificial intelligence (AI) can be defined, in simple terms, as processes performed by machines that aim to simulate human intelligence, for example, natural language processing (NLP), speech recognition, machine vision, and deep learning. If AI, simulating the human brain, can think like human beings and imitate the thinking process, the key philosophical question to be addressed is what is meant by “thinking”? Consciousness or understanding, intentionality, and self-awareness are some concerns that arise here and they will have to be dealt with in existential and phenomenological philosophy, at the outset. AI continues to advance and makes many advanced pieces of technology akin to human thinking. Human consciousness is far different from AI, not having a plan, in its very nature can be understood as an activity that is very intentional and phenomenologically reduced. Hermeneutics was used as the methodology of this study. Interpretation of existing literature to come up with a new theory and understanding of the ontologies of humans and machines was done. Ages-old philosophical ideas about “thinking” were tested with the logic behind AI systems, questioning fundamental aspects of existence. Uncovering the underlying structures of the ontology of humans and machines was investigated as an interpretative endeavor. The autonomy of AI systems is questionable with the non-origin-heterogeneous ontology of it and it acts as automata with a plan. The human experience is “out of joint” in the Derridean sense. Such anachronism would be possible with human beings, not with machines.

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