Chapter 1
AI as Digital Pharmakon: The Critical AI Literacy With the Perspectives of Epistemology and Meta-Knowledge

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine AI as a "digital pharmakon," emphasizing its dual role as both a remedy and a poison in the context of epistemology and AI. Artificial intelligence can enhance human cognition and offer epistemic advantages via neural networks and social media. However, it poses serious threats to cognitive integrity, autonomy, and attention. The study proposes "critical AI literacy" as a solution to mitigate the potential harm that AI systems may cause. The study highlights the ethical and epistemological conundrums raised by the development of AI, particularly in relation to manipulation, spying, and the erosion of individual autonomy. It uses theoretical concepts from Derrida, Heidegger, Stiegler, and Vervaeke to do this. The study suggests a holistic approach to AI regulation by combining epistemology.

INTRODUCTION

AI-based digital culture invaded human cognition and existence as game-changing technologies; yet, due to their dual nature, it is necessary to evaluate their qualities by concentrating on whether they are harmful or beneficial to human life. While millions of digital materials have been developed on various social media platforms and neural networks, there is still a need for rigorous investigation into the interplay

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between the human brain, which is considered to be the source of true intelligence (human intelligence), and generative artificial intelligence. On one side, we have large language models and digital platforms that are referred to as wisdom and knowledge technology (Falk quoted in Kurbalija, 2024b).

On the other hand, these technical tools provide information and knowledge that human users can benefit from. This interaction poses significant challenges and carries inherent risks. The first obstacle is the delusion that has been generated by the mantras of the AI-based culture, which assert that having a high level of technology would result in the development of a society that is very clever. Marianna Wolf (2016) criticizes digital media, as this surface thinking and quick culture cause us to lose deep thinking and reading processes. To worsen it, "multiple screen addiction," "brain rot," and "cognitive impatience" are some of the terms that are used to describe the effects of algorithmic culture on human cognitive capacities. This is due to algorithmic culture's tendency to obstruct and deplete attention span over time. In light of these issues, it is necessary for us to rethink digital culture as an algorithmic culture and conduct an in-depth analysis of the effects that modern technologies have had on human existence.

The emphasis of this chapter is on the topic of the flawed nature of genuine human intelligence and its interaction with the Large Language Model as a higher kind of intelligence. These cognitive and intellectual challenges direct the focus of this chapter toward the concerns discussed within it. Using metaknowledge skills, artificial intelligence, and procedural epistemology as components of critical AI literacy, this chapter will try to discover a solution to this dilemma. We can see that large language models make use of the whole human intelligence legacy, as shown by Hive Mind and Big Data. To develop a good relationship, it is necessary to exert a great deal of focus, to take some time, and to choose convenient techniques.

To properly understand the epistemological approaches to digital material and large language models, it is necessary to investigate the many kinds of knowledge and the nature of the understanding of various digital media forms. If we are to follow Stiegler's conceptualizations of technology via the lens of the "pharmakon" and the paradoxical implications of digital technology, then we need to broaden the scope of the discussion by including Derrida's (1976) ideas on pharmakon, which are drawn from his reading of Plato. The objective of the research is to apply these points of view to the technology platforms that are available today, notably large language models, which have the potential to serve as both a remedy and a poison. This chapter centers on the balance between remedy and poison, attempting to provide metaknowledge, epistemology, and critical AI literacy. This chapter aims to counteract negative aspects, which include overconfidence, ignorance, and undesirable side effects like MSA, brain rot, and cognitive impatience. This approach aims to counteract negative aspects, which include overconfidence, ignorance, and