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Throughout history, technological progress has caused major changes in human society. As this article from The Observer points out, the rapid growth of AI technology is set to have a profound impact on jobs.

This impact will create a major split between workers who lose their jobs to machines and those who can use the technology to enhance their productive capacities.

Indeed, many workers will find themselves replaced by machines. The workers at risk are the ones employed in simple and repetitive jobs.

However, AI technology is not yet advanced enough for robots to adapt to all work situations. Other workers won’t be so easily replaced by machines. They will be protected by the complexity of their jobs. This complexity may have to do with an ever-changing work environment, the necessity to relate to other humans, or the essentially creative quality of their tasks.

To survive economically, it would be good for the workers whose jobs will be taken by machines to change and improve their skills. However, history shows that most of the time, this doesn’t happen: unskilled workers whose jobs disappear because of changing technology usually take on other unskilled jobs, not ones which require more complex capabilities.

So the development of AI technology will require a vast reorganization of the economy and of society for everyone to profit from it.

The example of the impact of AI on the future workforce can lead us to ask whether technological progress is always a positive thing for society. Is technological progress automatically progress for society as a whole?

Usually, technological progress is seen as bringing about great blessings for humanity. Great scientists such as Einstein are revered by all. Governments spend huge amounts of money to develop existing or new technologies. People who oppose technological development are considered to be either lunatics or reactionaries. Societies which aren’t as technologically advanced as ours are often called “primitive” and thought to be inferior. Technology sparks the imagination : an immense number of books and movies have been produced around real or imaginary technological breakthroughs.

But technology can be deeply ambivalent: nuclear energy for example can provide massive amounts of energy but can also be used to create the most frightening weapons of mass destruction we have. Information technologies can help us communicate more quickly and easily, but they can also become invasive and/or addictive. The chemical industry has helped to make better pills and medicine, but also to produce pesticides which harm the environment. Space technology enables us to understand the universe, but also engulfs enormous amounts of money which could be used to improve life on Earth.

Many people think technological progress should be slowed down : most famously perhaps, Elon Musk recently said that all research on AI should be stopped until we have a deep discussion about the consequence it will have on how we live. Some people argue that technological progress gets in the way of human happiness by focusing our attention on things rather than on people. There is also a trend towards inventing low-tech objects, because depending on sophisticated technology for our everyday lives makes us dependant on the people and companies who can build these objects, and so gives them maybe too much power to decide how we should lead our lives.

To conclude, we can say that technology doesn’t use itself, and so that the benefits or dangers it brings essentially depend on how we, as human beings, decide to use it.

<p>Vocabulaire à apprendre pour le vendredi 15 septembre</p>

<p>increasingly predictable regardless whether likely such as settings beyond to remain </p>

<p>whose meaningful rather than to unfold to rise a threat whole to lack to thrive </p>

<p>Apprendre aussi la fiche sur "as"</p>

<p>(en pj) préparer un commentaire à partir de l'audio écouté au premier cours, soit en reprenant la problématique proposée à a fin du résumé ci-dessous, soit en partant d'une problématique propre. Je corrigerai sans les noter les commentaires que les élèves volontaires me rendront.</p>

<p>Throughout history, technological progress has caused major changes in human society. As this article from The Observer points out, the rapid growth of AI technology is set to have a profound impact on jobs. This impact will create a major split between workers who lose their jobs to machines and those who can use the technology to enhance their productive capacities. Indeed, many workers will find themselves replaced by machines. The workers at risk are the ones employed in simple and repetitive jobs. However, AI technology is not yet advanced enough for robots to adapt to all work situations. Other workers won’t be so easily replaced by machines. They will be protected by the complexity of their jobs. This complexity may have to do with an ever-changing work environment, the necessity to relate to other humans, or the essentially creative quality of their tasks. To survive economically, it would be good for the workers whose jobs will be taken by machines to change and improve their skills. However, history shows that most of the time, this doesn’t happen: unskilled workers whose jobs disappear because of changing technology usually take on other unskilled jobs, not ones which require more complex capabilities. So the development of AI technology will require a vast reorganization of the economy and of society for everyone to profit from it. The example of the impact of AI on the future workforce can lead us to ask whether technological progress is always a positive thing for society. Is technological progress automatically progress for society as a whole? </p>