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APPRAISAL OF HYPER TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF PANTALEON IROEGBU'S MODEL (A PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHT)

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Abstract
One major characteristic of contemporary times is the rapid technological advancements in various sectors with a magic-like speed that one cannot help but wonder about the place of man amidst such "hyper-technological strides" in the years to come. Today, the innovations made by Artificial Intelligence-driven technologies and systems not only promise greater efficiency in the delivery of goods and services but also display alarming speed and accuracy in carrying out work that was hitherto done by humans. Within this era, one has witnessed the emergence of high technologies in information communication technology (ICT), robotics, innovations in aerospace technology, and biotechnological breakthroughs in the fields of medicine and agriculture. Education and banking sectors were not left out. The questions are: how does this hyper-technological trend impact man? Would the achievements of technology in our epoch be said to have advanced the course of life without any effects on the traditional dignity enjoyed by man as a proactive being in the course of life? Or, would we say that the uncensored explorations and achievements of hyper technology could have adverse effects on human dignity and man's existential appreciation of life in the years to come? It is to these critical questions that this paper makes recourse to the Ethical Thesis of Pantaleon Iroegbu, on the "Enwisdomization of Technology" in a bid to evaluate the circumstances and thus gain deeper philosophical insights on the status quo of the proper place of man in the current wave of technological advancements. The method employed for this inquiry is philosophical analysis, as this will allow for a deeper understanding of the concepts being studied, thus providing insights into the right source of critique. Pantaleon's recommendation of the "Enwisdomization" project as a critical attitude to life issues provides an outstanding ground for constructive critique of hyper technology in an era where values and ethical requirements for decision and action tend to be relegated to the background. Technology is supposed to advance the course of human life in all ramifications, and nothing less should be accepted. Technology is made for man's aggrandizement and not the other way round.
Keywords: Hyper Technology, advancement, and Enwisdomization

INTRODUCTION

The progress in science and technology has continued unabated since the Industrial Revolution. With the advancements in Information and Computer Technology, and the promotions given to Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and Robotics, the world today has experienced an even greater change in the attitude to work efficiency, service delivery, and accuracy in accountability and administration. More still are the remarkable feats that have been recorded and continue to be announced in the fields of health and medical research. The world has never been this advanced. With due respects to earlier civilizations that we acknowledge and respect, one thing peculiar to the contemporary hyper-technological world is the speed at which it has not just enhanced man's world, but has gone ahead to replace man's place in the labour market,

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expertise in professional and occupational fields like in medicine, agriculture and transportation.

However, the remarkable gains of hyper-technology have their consequences for humankind, as it projects to revolutionize the unique existential experience that has characterized human life/ world since the inception of time. The consequences include: alienating mankind from its supposed right to work, commoditization of life, and transforming man into objects of experimentation and research *via* biotechnological and genetic engineering explorations. Others are reducing human life to uncontrollable circumstantial in the wake of war technologies and international political exploits. It is such that the projected organized society, which Thomas Hobbes anticipated in the Social Contract to guarantee human freedoms and protection from the State of Nature, appears to be gradually collapsing. What becomes the fate of man then, if the society that was designed to guarantee the good life turns out to be a threat *via* the uncensored applications of technology?

Pantaleon Iroegbu, being circumspect on the speed and free spirit of modern technology, advocates that some kind of ethical censorship be applied to the fields of contemporary science and technology. This is to ensure that their operations, no matter the practical intentions pursued, remain within the ambit of human reason. Through the thesis of "Enwisdomization and Ethicization of Technology,"[1] Iroegbu specifies principles of action and ethical guidelines that should accompany decisions and practices in the various fields of technological applications and advancements.

The focus here is on restoring the respect and dignity of human life in a world that rapidly loses its values and threatens the hitherto established norms of existence. The paper targets an analytical exploration of various technological concepts to bring to light the possible threats and harm that could be caused, and which could affect humankind adversely if proactive measures are not put in place to forestall their abuse.

CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS

To appreciate this exercise in what it is intended to achieve, a brief but thematic analysis of the major aspects of hyper-technology is necessary. These concepts, however, are outlined in sequence, not relegating any as less valuable than the other, but to express them in terms that will enhance good understanding of the concept of "hyper-technology" and thus bring out its outstanding characteristics, functions, and attitudes that will provide objective grounds for constructive critique.

Hyper Technology: This generally refers to technologies that are extremely large, fast, advanced, or automatic. In a technological context, hyper generally implies something that is enhanced, or extremely fast, often indicating a level of performance or functionality exceeding the norm. In computers, we talk of hyper threading technology, which is a hardware innovation that allows more than one thread to run on each core. More thread means more work can be done in parallel. It's Intel's proprietary simultaneous multithreading (SMT) implementation used to improve parallelization of computation (doing multiple tasks at once) performed on x86 microprocessors

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Hyper technological equipment: They are cutting-edge devices that leverage advanced technologies. For enhanced functionality and performance. Examples include smartphones, advanced virtual reality handsets, 3D printers, and AI-powered appliances. Other examples include quantum computers, 5G technology and smart grids, self-driving cars, advanced medical imaging equipment, industrial robots, and smart home systems.

Quantum computers: They are computers that utilize quantum mechanics to solve complex problems beyond the reach of classical computers.

High-performance Computing (HPC) systems: They are used for simulations, data analysis, and other demanding tasks often found in research institutions and large corporations.

AI and machine Learning ML systems. These systems can learn from data, automate tasks, and make predictions

Internet of Things IoT and Hyper-Connected Devices
Smart homes: they are devices like thermostats, lighting, and security systems that can be controlled remotely and interact with each other.

Smart vehicles: They are self-driving cars, electric vehicles, and vehicles with advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS)

Industrial IoT (IIoT): They are connected sensors and devices in manufacturing plants and other industrial settings to monitor performance and optimize processes.

Medical and health technologies
Advanced medical imaging: here, we have magnetic resonance Imaging (MRI) and a computerized tomography scan (CT scan), and other imaging techniques used to diagnose and treat.

Robotic surgery: minimally invasive surgery using a robotic system for increased precision and control.

Smart Inhalers: Devices that provide reminders and alerts for asthma patients based on medication dosage patterns
Other examples:

Drones: this is used for delivery, mapping, surveying, and surveying and various other applications.

3D printing: This is technology used to create physical objects from digital designs

Robotic Process Automation (RPA): It's software robots that automate repetitive tasks in businesses.

More hyper-technological equipment is constantly evolving with innovations and advancements

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ASSESSING PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN SELECT FIELDS OF APPLICATION

We briefly mention a few areas of technological advancements in transportation, construction, and Labour, also in warfare and military technology. Then, we move further and elucidate extensively on the Health and medicine sector, and finally elucidate extensively on artificial intelligence, which is making much waves nowadays.

Transportation, Construction and Labour

In transportation, one sees sports bicycles, motor-cycles, tricycles, and power bikes of various types. Others include trains, cars, helicopters, aeroplanes, space jets, rockets, ships, speed boats, flying boats, and the like. In building and construction technology, one sees a lot of developments. Such equipment as (sky) elevators, excavators, and welding machines is made available as far as civil engineering work is concerned.

Warfare and Military Technology

In military technology, we talk of ammunition industries established by the world superpowers, where nuclear and chemical weapons like hydrogen bombs, atomic bombs, guided missiles, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and other weapons of mass destruction are produced and stored. Soldiers no longer fight with stones and spears, but technology has made provision for sophisticated guns and rifles, semi-automatic guns, car bombs, parcel bombs, chemical explosives, armored tanks, warships, and helicopters. Military technology has, to a large extent, guaranteed nations' territorial defense against enemies.

Health and Medicine

In the health sector, one sees enormous improvements. In bio-technology, one sees experimenting (with) or tinkering with the genes of living organisms (human beings) for improved performance. This is called Genetic Engineering, and it is done in:

a. Recombinant Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) – A technique of genetic manipulation and alteration of hereditary material, for new compounds and improving biological systems.
b. Cell Hybridization – It is the fusion of two cells so as to mix their chromosomes, while one produces a different kind of antibody, the other possesses an infinite life span. Hybridomas are the product of this union, and are producing cells with infinite lifetimes, for example is monoclonal antibodies.
c. In Vitro-fertilization (IVF), Iroegbu writes that "In vitro-fertilization is a process by which eggs from one woman are fertilized by sperm from any man in an artificial womb in the laboratory."[3] IVF is a laboratory operation of fertilizing eggs with sperm in a test tube. The result of this is called a test tube baby. We have sperm and egg banks nowadays.
d. Cloning – here, human embryos are multiplied, producing 2,4,6,8,10, etc., persons that are the same person simultaneously or the same in birth, originality, height, complexion, intelligence quotient (IQ), character, voice, in fact, a physico-genetic replica. Panteleon Iroegbu called this a "technological reincarnation [4]. Cloning was first done by Jerry Hall and Dr. Robert Stillman of George Washington University in September 1993. In genetic engineering, we also see artificial insemination, embryo freezing and transfer, surrogate motherhood, personality transfer through personality pill (prosac), and others.

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Again, in bio-technology is laser technology. A laser is a device that uses the principle of amplification of electromagnetic waves by stimulated emission of radiation and operates in the infrared, visible, or ultraviolet region. The term laser is an acronym for light amplification.

Laser photobiology – the interaction of laser with biological molecules, which are applied to biology and medicine, is used in surgery, ophthalmology, dermatology, dentistry, and in cancerology.

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as learning, problem solving, and decision making, among others. In the context of this paper, one must not forget that what we are talking about is Intelligence, not mind, and that it is called artificial. The intelligence in question is far from instinctual behaviors of some insects, like wasps, while storing their food or that of some birds and other animals. Looking at these creatures and their behaviors, it looks like human intelligence, but it is not, for it is still at the level of instinct. It's only human beings that are accorded or associated with intelligence. Intelligence is the simplest human behavior, and it helps humans to adapt to new circumstances. Intelligence is characterized by a combination of many diverse abilities or traits as learning, reasoning, problem solving, perception, language, methods, and goals. We move to artificial intelligence, which is intelligence also in a real sense, only it's gotten through computation of data and processing of symbols in robotic digital computers and through artificial neural network connectivity, in imitation of human brain structure.

Artificial intelligence is also seen in robotics, that is, computer-controlled robots to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings.[5] Robotics is that field of research in computer science that develops and studies methods and software that enable machines to perceive their environment and use learning and intelligence to take actions that maximize their chances of achieving defined goals.[6] AI robots are bound and we have them even in Africa, some examples of AI robots includes, Chatbot Eliza which gives stock responses, ChatGPT which was trained on 45 terabytes of text, we have Alex which one sees in Metal on whatsApp and this can respond to more than one million messages at a time. All these AI robots are found in Africa. Again, we have a new one, (Chukus Ekwueme's ingenuity and creation) Omeife, which is an African human robot created to give Africa a voice, a space in AI robotics, a space in the global ecosystem.

Advantages or Merits of Artificial Intelligence AI to the world and Africa

The merits of AI stretch through various human endeavors: In medical diagnosis, AI computers are employed nowadays for patient diagnoses, patient care, and in other medical research. This is really an enormous development in health care services. In the education sector, AI robots are used for children and adult online lessons, language tutorials, and for students' evaluation, among other things. In financial institutions like banks, one sees high-powered AI high powered computers deployed as chatbots for customer service. It helps in mobile banking and in fraud detection, among others. In the agricultural sector, it's not left out as AI computers are used in livestock management, and even in crop cultivation and planting and among other things. In social media, it is used in replying to messages. For example, an AI robot called Alex could reply to fifty million messages in a matter of seconds. Other virtual assistance of AI

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robots includes the management of schedules by sending reminders. Thus, one sees that the benefits of AI are bound.

Looking at the use of robots nowadays in human life, one may ask: Of what use are human beings now? As we see that robots now go to farm, drive taxis, drive buses, work at restaurants, robots do cooking, carry children, robots can carry babies for nine months, and deliver, robots can do many jobs better, and of course, this will make things cheaper. And with this, human beings will not have much meaning. For instance, one reads that Amazon cuts over 400 jobs following the acquisition of Tesla's Optimum robots; thus, increased productivity or efficiency is assured, and human elements in work are removed. These advanced robots enhance productivity and faster turnaround times. [7] When human beings are replaced with robots, human elements at work, like paying salaries, allowances, pensions, and gratuity, granting work leave, among others, are automatically gone. AI reduces labour costs.

Demerits of AI: Honestly, developing AI is never an easy task, not only in terms of the symbolic data connections and connectivity also it's really a money-consuming task. AI robots are very exorbitant; they are costly as their development is not a cheap process. Again, the maintenance of AI is not an easy task as well. Some African companies that have them know the amount of dollars they spend on their maintenance annually. The first disadvantage of the employment of AI in any country or company is the decimation or displacement of the working class. It reduces the number of employed workers and thereby creates unemployment in the country. Unemployment, we know, will come up with other vices, like theft, armed robbery, kidnapping, and others. However, many of these vices are already in existence in the world and many African countries like Nigeria, Sudan, Mali, Niger, Cameroon and others. AI is not yet the cause of these menaces in Africa, as they are the end products of a bad economy, caused by bad leadership or government in Africa. Finally, the task of studying the workings and mechanisms of AI is also an enormous challenge.

Other areas of technological advancement include electricity | power energy, banking, and information communication technology (ICT), among others, but we move on and examine the significance of hyper technological advancements in general

PANTALEON IROEGBU'S CRITIQUE OF HYPER TECHNOLOGY

We start with the significance of hyper technological equipment, which embeds its merits and demerits, and then get into its almighty suggestion or recommendation known as: the Enwisdomization theory of technology.

PERCEIVED SIGNIFICANCE OF HYPER TECHNOLOGY

Hyper technologies express the hyper quality of the human mind; the star inquisitiveness of human research, and the near-unlimited heights of his ingenuity. Technology enables man to do what he was unable to do before (for example, fly and walk on the moon). Increased productivity has practically eliminated hunger and reduced old diseases, and reduced material poverty. Modern means of communication have made the world a global sitting room, thus ensuring cooperation. Man is developing himself by developing the world.

Counter Productivity of Hyper Technology in Consideration

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Intellectual Arrogance of the human mind is the driving force of the negative effects of technology on human beings. The society and the universe, it's owing to the manifestation of one's technocratic superiority, to attract more research funds, to promote and expand more expansive travels and experiments, and to amass more honorific entitlement, that some dangerous technologies are produced. Some neutron bombs and missiles produced during war are not just for victory, as some wars could be defeated with anti-tank weapons, still they go on to produce more sophisticated weapons to manifest technocratic superiority, and this does happen till today.

Developmentalism, Technologism, and Progressivism are negatives as they mean the pursuit of material development or scientific progress for its own sake.[9] The ultimate goal of technological progress is the integral well-being of the human person.

He talked of ecological disaster portrayed by pollution, that is, unrestrained and uncontrolled exhumation of industrial waste and nuclear pollution has made clean air a very rare commodity in industrial countries, and this leads to cancer and its multiplication. Other effects include Desertification, and this is owing to Deforestation. Where are the Amazon forest of Brazil, the big Jungle of Kenya and Zaire, and even the big forests in Nigeria? Again, the Ozone layer's lowering or reduction in thickness has brought climate change.

Encapsulated man, it's the bottling, enslavement, and conversion of the person into the restriction of gadgets. It's man that is put into a machine, and without this, he neither lives, nor moves, nor has his being. Nature goes, and machine lives. En-machined man is seeing going to the moon and walking around and going to other planets.

Dehumanized: an individual is dehumanized whenever he is treated as less than a person, "robbed of creativity, affectivity, spontaneity and responsibility, making them mere cogs in the industrial mega wheel or turning them to what Yablonsky called Robopaths." [10] Individualism has driven away community spirit and violence and criminality have increased. And one sees the true picture in both the Buhari-led government and the present Tinubu-led Nigerian government.

Iroegbu also talked of bad effects of military technology, space shuttles, Bio-technology, personality pills called Prozac, in vitro fertilization and artificial insemination also surrogate motherhood that does bring legal issue of who owns the baby., transfer and freezing of embryos that permits people to decide on which baby, when and how to have babies, meanwhile allow technicians to experiment. And on cloning which looks like re-incarnation as dead person can be replaced exactly with the original height, complexion, IQ, character and everything.

Critique of Hyper Technology in the light of Iroegbu's Enwisdomization Theory

Pantaleon Iroegbu started his critique through his solution pertaining to ethics and human development in view of technological challenges. He gave his proposal, which he called **Enwisdomization of Technology**. This constitutes the substance of putting wisdom into something, to en – **wisdom** – **mize** or to en-wisdom.[11] It means to make wise, to bring to wisdom, or sagesse of perfection, completeness, and integrity. it means to acquire wisdom, to build up or structure into wisdom, into plenitude.[12] He continues:

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> "In practical terms, it entails the avoidance of those evils that bring one down and the active undertaking of those goods that brings one up in self-fulfillment and epanouissement of being"[13] (French, development or blossoming).

Summarily, by Enwisdomization of technology, he meant the education of technology and all its tools, objects, and subjects, personal and advisers to operate within the norms of full authentic and integral humanity, balanced care of the universe, and reasonable projection and development of our world.

In the pedagogical level, to enwisdomize means to teach wisdom. Enwisdomizing, he said, does the work of "*Nkuzi*" (knock aright), that is, forms, informs, and reforms technology to be for man and not man for technology. The aim is to call technology to order, to change its hyper-speed through re-examination of its preoccupations. This is to help it avoid self-corruption and avoid ending in techno-cide, bio-cide, and scienti-cide[18]. Again, just a student (of Philosophy), technology has to undergo Ontologization, Epistemologization, Ethicization, Histolicization, Axiologization, Humanization, Anthropolization, and Authentic-Auto-Developmentalization. These courses are mostly abound in philosophy. We elucidate briefly on some of them.

Ontologization: Ontology is the study of the theory of being. Technological arsenals or objects, for instance, computers, AI, etc., left in themselves are ontic beings in themselves or inner selves. (Ngwongwo in Igbo) and they tend to be ontological as they function, AI, for example. Computer tries to be ontological not when it is in itself, but when it serves or does service to man; when it performs its role for man. Being unveils or reveals for more beings (Heidegger), man is the terminus ad quem of the computer as it's just a handmaid to man. but, once in vis a viz is made and man becomes a servant or worst still a slave or alienates man from himself or antagonizes men among themselves or becomes a portent destroyer of humanity or the universe, ipso facto, the computer or car has lost its legitimacy to exist and it must be dismantled as anti-human, because, it is counterproductive. Ontologization in technology redefines and puts into proper architectonic perspective, the quidity; the Kpim of technological objects as useful objects.[14]

Epistemologization: Epistemology deals with the theory of knowledge. Epistemologization talks about mastery of the technology, knowing the possibility, depth, and limitation, method and performance, and the consequences of their utility. The paradox here before one can master the model produced, the scientific and technological engineers must have produced another one or two new models.[15]

Historicization: History is the scientific study of the records of events, and it's a product of man, as it is man who recorded those events. "History is a lesson teacher, but the tragedy of history remains that men do not often learn from history."[16] Technology is part of culture and development, but soon, it becomes part of tragedy and disillusionment; it must be historicized. An example is the lesson of technology and the use of the atomic bomb dropped on two Japanese cities: Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Not minding this, more nuclear weapons and atomic bombs, and missiles are still being produced today

Axiologization: Axiology is the theory of value. Technology is a value, but it is in the midst of other important values. Axiologization of technology is the contextual situation of

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technology within the hierarchy of the human value system. Since it is the promotion of life through instruments, it cannot override that life itself, worst still, in its crucial aspects: moral, religious, human, and social.[17] The material is subservient to the spiritual and the instrumental to the moral. It is under this Axiology that one gets Aesthetics (deals with beauty) and Ethics (science of rightness and wrongness of an action)

Humanization: Here, technology is called to stop its process of dehumanization (depriving positive human qualities) Humanization must restore the human face of our contemporary technical society, where authentic being in freedom, creativity and spontaneity, personal, social and communal human existence is sold for the mess of pottage of luxury, comfort and painless existence.[18] The present superficiality, anonymity, and elementality lived by many make man inhuman. By humanization of Technology, it means that these hyper technologies have to learn how to be humane while dealing with human beings.

Ethicization: Ethics is the science of morality; it deals with the goodness and badness of human action. Ethicization tends to put norms, conscience, responsibility, reasonableness, and morality into technology.[19] The heart must accompany the head, conscience journey with consciousness, law twin with liberty. Technology must, in Kantian terms, respect the moral categorical imperative.

Anthropolization, we mean that hyper technology must not just stop at fabrication, productivity, not mere invention and utility, instrumentality, progressivism, and not mere materialistic narrow-mindedness. It has to learn or study man, do a holistic or a comprehensive study of man. It has to study man philosophically, psychologically, spiritually, theologically, and among others to know how to deal with man, as man is "an impossible possible being."[20] Man is a composite being (body and soul, joined by spirit). There is transcendence in man, and man has a spiritual destiny as he is an imago Dei (image of God).

Again, in his ingenuity and proffering solution to protect the dignity of man distorted by hyper technology, Iroegbu also made an appeal to African communalism, which is community-oriented life lived by the Africans of yesteryears, which was beneficial to them, not minding it was an era of lower or undeveloped technology. Man, whom we know is God's image (imago Dei), was protected in all ramifications than even technology protected him. African communalism is the mode of life of traditional Africans, characterized by humane living. By humane living, we mean a way of life emphatically centered upon human interest and values. "It manifests a mode of living characterized by empathy, consideration for others, and compassion for human life. Above all, it stresses oneness and unity of purpose."[21] C.B. Nze holds that the communalistic culture remains a treasure to the African traditional society. He describes communalism as the bedrock and a result of the wonderful relationship prevalent in the community, and at the same time serves as the purpose of the existence of the community and the African person.[22] In the book "*What is Negritude*?" L.S. Senghor holds that the African way of life is communalistic, and African man has no individualistic mentality since the society in which he lives is structured on communalism and not on individualism or capitalism. His socio-political philosophy (Negritude) is that of re-discovery and cultural awakening/emancipation aimed at bestowing on Africans, pride and dignity through appreciation of their cultural value themselves.[23]

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Iroegbu did mention some principles and elements of communalism that make life better. There was respect for life and respect for elders, and people lived in solidarity and were carried on by communal spirit, hospitality, honesty, among others.[24] It's a life lived with ethical principles not such as one sees nowadays.

Evaluation and Conclusion

We have been going through the advancements of science and technology and it's enormous and progressive, such that as we are elucidating on the feats already achieved, the new models of the feats achieved is almost coming out from the lab technology everyday and this procedure is quite commendable as they help to alleviate some woes of man in this planet earth.

On the other hand, the efforts of Pantaleon Iroegbu, an original thinker, are mostly appreciated as he taught us the significance of hyper technology, especially exposing fundamentally and critically the dangers of hyper technology. And he again, with deep wonder or thought and curiosity, comes up with remedies or solutions, especially the Enwisdomization and Ethicization of technology and the likes. When one goes through Iroegbu's Enwisdomization and sees how verse, he treated technology and hyper technology, one may start nurturing sentiments that he hates hyper technological advancements, but as one continues to read further, one discovers that he is just doing in-depth analysis on it as an original Philosophical thinker. Who lived and enjoyed some dividends of hyper technology and experienced also the communalistic life of Igbo Africans in the fifties and sixties, when no one talked of hyper technology.

Again, all these hyper technologies left themselves cannot do any harm to man, but it is man that causes harm to man or himself or herself by operating them without adequate knowledge of their usages: the technical "know how" and "know that" and wrong or erroneous applications. And with such a lack of knowledge, harm is expected. Finally, Iroegbo has given both the modern and contemporary man an enormous assignment about dehumanization of man by the usage of modern and hyper technologies, especially when one forgets, estranges, and alienates his fellow man, his brothers and sisters and his immediate neighbors as he lives an individualistic life with modern technologies and gadgets and calls such a super enjoyment. Finally, African communalistic life is the best as it is a life that is other-oriented; contemporary man is called back to imbibe its good elements and principles for good living.

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