#### **IRSTI 02.15.51**

# METAPHORICAL HUMAN ORGANS PERCEPTION IN PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY

Stanislav Benčič <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>PhDr., doc., PhD

Paneuropean University,

Bratislava, Slovakia, e-mail: bencic7777@gmail.com

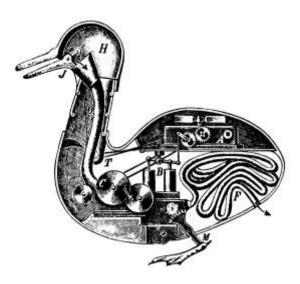
The paper deals with one aspect within traditional and modern philosophy of technology. It explains the role and influence of human body, more precisely alive organs in technological progress through last two centuries. The impact of traditional and modern philosophical streams of consciousness is confronted with the technological usage in modern art. The ethical mission of inventors, scientist and modern artists are emphasized in conclusive findings. The paper is based on interdisciplinary approaches, considering three disciplines: philosophy, technology and art.

**Key words**: philosophy, technology, Vaucanson's digestive duck, Cloaca Machine, art, interpretation, ethics, human body, organs

Introduction Philosophy of technology began to develop at the beginning of the 20th century, various aspects of the philosophy of technology related to human acts and thinking has already appeared in Marxism, transhumanismand in other ways of thinking. Marxism saw the future of mankindin material perception of the world, its atheistic ideology was promoted by technological achievements that explain divine mysteries. Transhumanism is a philosophical concept that deals with the future of humanity, which uses advanced technology. There is a view that on the one hand technology prolongs human age, improves development of human skills and on the other, it threatens the existence of the mankind. The main risks include biological and nuclear war, artificial intelligence, nanotechnological pollution. Transhumanism introduced the idea of the transition from the industrial to the information society that involves: biotechnology, genetic engineering, cloning, nanotechnology, virtual reality, cryonics, uploading/downloading - it is transferring human intelligence to a computer.

### Reflection of Technological progress in philosophy and vice versa

One of the basic concepts of philosophy of the technology is based on the projection of the human and animal bodies. Bodies of living creatures such as humans and animals can be stimuli and designs for the technical construction and inventions. The technological processes are often exploring new possibilities and prospective that imitates and multiplies power of living organisms. Technology is futurological object towards new and better standards of living. The human body and technology are in mutual intercourse. Human abilities penetrate to the Technologies and Technologies improve human capabilities. The basic idea of Ernst Kapp (1808 - 1896), who is supposed to be the first philosophy of technology founder, was connected with human organs designing - "Organprojektion" in German that understood technology as resembling products of living organs and bodies. Kapp comprehended telegraph as the nervous system and railways as human blood circulation. Mentioned philosophy of thinking starts from designing of an artificial "duck" with the digestive tract until nowadays when artificial prosthesis, hearts and intelligences are in use. In the 21st century, a man created technology, especially computers that are interacting with human beings and are so sophisticated that can destroy the planet. That is why the man has to answer a lot of philosophical questions. The crucial philosophical question is: Are people no better at being human than the machines they have created? Vaucanson's digestive duck and Voltaire Digérateur, or digestive duck or duck was an automaton in the shape of ducks constructed by Jacques de Vaucanson in 1739. This duck was able to eat any grains that passed through metabolic processes and ultimately be emptied. In fact, it was not a metabolic and defecating process as in one-container in the machine was stored grain and in the other were simultanuosly stored faeces, so duck soon after eating grain immediately emptied. Vaucanson believed that automaton would be developed into such a level that the digestive function would be identical to the process that is typical for living creatures. In the 18th century was Vaucanson's project of automaton so famous that even one of the greatest philosophers of this period, François-Marie Arouet known as Voltaire (1694 - 1778) said that: Without the .. duck, we would have nothing to remind us of the glory of France ("sans .. le canard de Vaucansonrien qui vousn'auriez fit ressouvenir de la gloire de la France.") this is a quote in English appeared in humorous pejorative terms: Without the shitting duck, we would have nothing to remind us of the glory of France."

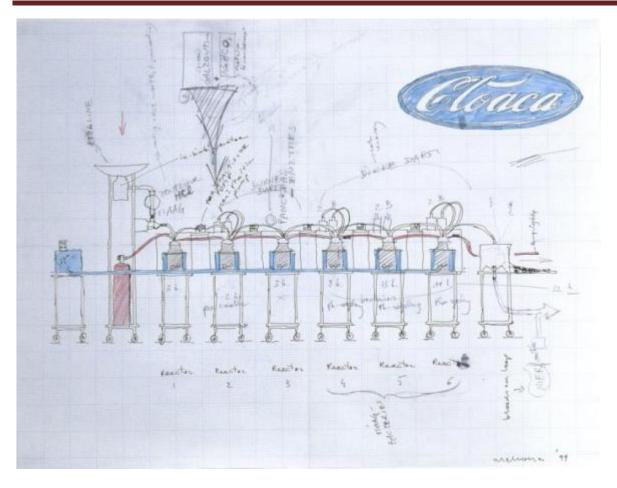


Source: http://urbanseagull.blogspot.sk/2008/08/sansle-canard-devaucanson-vous-nauriez.html

In any case, the most significant fact is that the food of digestive duck was collected in one inner container, and the pre-stored faeces was "produced" from a second one, so that no actual digestion took place.

#### The actual structure of digestive functions

The actual construction of real the digestive process took place in 2006. Wim Delvoye, a Belgian conceptual artist, focused on human body functions. The first in the world, he introduced his "Cloaca Machine". Cloaca (from Latin meaning "deferent") is the organ of vertebrates except lampreys, most bony fish, reptiles and placental mammals - widened section of the rectum into which leads digestive, excretory and often reproductive system. Delvoye's Cloaca mechanical work of contemporary art after eight years of consultation with experts in fields ranging from plumbing to gastroenterology imitated the metabolism of food digestion compressive force, changing food intake. He fulfils Vaucanse wish that the machine also had a real digestive system. Cloaca-brandedexcreta produced by the device are sold to visitors, collectors and dealers in vacuum sealed bags. Cloaca is a device designed by usage of the modern technology, chemistry and other scientific disciplines. It is complex machine that is able to produce pancreatic juice, enzymes, acids and bacteria that are necessary for human digestion. For its production appropriate tubes, pipes, cylinders, pumps were used as well as devices for maintaining a certain level of humidity and temperature, which had to be the same as the temperature of the human body. Cloaca is produced from suitable selected materials. It measures 12 meters in length, it is 2 metres high, and 2.8 wide. The whole digestive process takes 27 hours. The food is stuffed into the cloaca after the museum opening hours.



Source: Ann Jones: Art and Writing, https://imageobjecttext.com/tag/cloaca/

### Social and philosophical interpretation of Delvoye's technological art

Delvoye as an artist did not have the ambition to speed up technological progress, but to present a work of art and philosophical concepts of beauty and ugliness of life through symbolism, where often "gold" is transformed into mud. Delvoye was in his perception of the world influenced by films such as Planet of the Apes, Chaplin's Modern Times where the fascination of technology becomes cruel recognition, worthless or ridiculous phenomenon. Technological progress and its products became in the human consciousness like religious symbol. People became addicted to those product, they could worship and scarify their time and money. Technical material becomes transcendent e.g. exceeding the sensory and intellectual understanding, virtual and more than real. However, the inability to construct and produce all human organs is a religious issue for decades that certifies religious Pantocrator (Ruler of All) mysteries. A human eye is the frequent topic for justifying human inability to be divine creator for all human organs. Chris Bell wrote about that topic in the article: Does the human eye prove that God exists? When Santiago Ramón y Cajal (1852-1934), the Spanish physician and scientist, awarded by Nobel Prize (1906) created the first anatomical diagrams of neurons and the retina in 1900, he gave biologists hope to unlock the secrets of the eye. Secret of eye is still not fully revealed and ocular prosthesis did not achieve functional level of Vaucanson's digestive ducks. The eye prosthesis has only visual effect. The human eye inspires biologists to further research. Generally, research is not always focused on strengthening the message of goodness, prosperity and peace. The examples connected with human organs enrich philosophy, science and art. It reveals the purpose of human activities and their links to properexploitation of material and human resources. As in philosophy ugliness contrasted with the beauty, in technological researchand its application, theresults are contrasting between the vanity and prudence, and prudence and wasteful, conceit arrogance modesty and moderation, idolatry and diligence. The use of scientific and technological progress and philosophical perception of the world through living organisms and the existence of our body teaches us to distinguish between the destruction and generosity. The European human beings are able to find sufficient financial means to implement and expose Delvoye's cloak butEuropeans do not have the means to build wells where people need water and to give somebody bread to save his or her human life and body. The question is whether those rich people who were buying cloak faeces understand the cynical messagewhen thetechnological development and achievements dishonour and ignore basic moral and human values.

#### References

- 1 Christian Brian: The Most Human: Artificial Intelligence Teaches Us About Being Alive, London: Penguin UK, 2011.
- 2 Cajal Santiago Ramón: Recollections of My Life, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1989.
- 3 Dinwiddie, Keith: Basic Robotics, Boston: Cengage&Learning
- 4 Delvoye Wim: Studies for Cloaca (1997-2006) Recta publishers, 2007 the University of California

#### ВОСПРИЯТИЕ МЕТАФОРИЧЕСКИХ ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКИХ ОРГАНОВ В ФИЛОСОФИИ

## *Станислав Бенчич* <sup>1</sup> PhD

<sup>1</sup> Paneuropean University, г.Братислава, Словацкая Республика, e-mail: bencic7777@gmail.com

В статье рассматривается один из аспектов традиционной и современной философии технологии. Это объясняет роль и влияние человеческого тела, а точнее живых органов в технологическом прогрессе за последние два столетия. Влияние традиционных и современных философских потоков сознания сталкивается с технологическим использованием в современном искусстве. Этика миссии изобретателей, ученых и современных художников подчеркивается в окончательных выводах. Статья придерживается междисциплинарных подходов, учитывая три дисциплины: философия, технология и искусство.

**Ключевые слова**: философия, технология, механическая утка Вокансона, машина Cloaca, искусство, интерпретация, этика, тело человека, органы

## ФИЛОСОФИЯДАҒЫ МЕТАФОРИЯЛЫҚ ҚАЛЫПТАСУДЫҢ АДАМДАРДАҒЫ КӨРІНІСІ

Станислав Бенчич 1

<sup>1</sup> PhDr., doc., PhD.

Paneuropean University,

Братислава қ, Словак Республикасы, e-mail: bencic7777@gmail.com

Мақалада дәстүрлі және қазіргі заманғы технологиялар философиясының аспектілерінің бірі қарастырылады. Бұл адам ағзасының рөлін, әсіресе соңғы екі ғасырда технологиялық прогрестің тірі органдарын түсіндіреді. Қазіргі заманғы өнердегі дәстүрлі және заманауи философиялық ағымдардың технологиялық қолданылуымен соқтығысады. Қорытынды шешімдерде өнертапқыштардың, ғалымдардың және қазіргі заманғы суретшілердің миссиясының этикасы баса назар аударылады. Құжат үш пәнді: философия, техника және өнер ескере отырып, пәнаралық тәсілдерге негізделген.

**Түйін сөздер**: философия, технология, Вокансонның механикалық уйрегі, клока машинасы, өнер, интерпретация, этика, адам ағзасы, органдар