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Plugged into Possibility: Technology, Disability, and the Prosthetic Imagination

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Abstract

Technological determinists debate technology's role in social evolution, often arguing that its autonomous nature alienates humans from their essence. However, understanding the complexities of our non-egalitarian society requires a more nuanced perspective. The research paper will outline how technology addresses the biological discrimination, economic dependence, psychological trauma, and socio-cultural exclusion faced by persons with disabilities in the twentyfirst century. Historically, persons with disabilities were stigmatized for their bodily differences, often seen as "markers of exceptionality." Contemporary biotechnological innovations, such as artificial limbs and prosthetics, have bridged these differences, reducing marginalization. Additionally, the Internet has fostered a global "Online Community," providing vital support and idea exchange for individuals navigating disability. While technology can catalyze societal change, its potential to create an egalitarian society relies on inclusive practices, equitable access, and proactive policy interventions. This paper argues that techno-biology is not merely a tool but a transformative force within the disability rights movement. By challenging traditional notions of disability and normalcy, technology can promote a more inclusive society, redefining what it means to be "human" in the twenty-first century, even amid existing social inequalities.

Keywords: Bionics; Disability Studies; Prosthetics; Social Constructivism; Technological Determinism