

ChatGPT: A chatbot or just chatterbox?



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The advent of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot technology, has triggered global debates on its advantages and disadvantages. The Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer (ChatGPT) has taken the world aback, answering all questions of the final medical course exam and depriving thousands of coding software engineers of jobs. Arguments are put forward about this technology's uses. What exactly is the ground reality?

More than Google

Google where we key in our questions in search of answers is also a kind of software operated by artificial intelligence (AI). It uses

page rank algorithm called random search. When faced with a question, by way of answering it, Google goes in search of all data all over Internet, chooses them and presents them in a ranking order. While doing so, it functions in five ways. 1. First Google takes our inputs in their literal meaning and starts functioning. 2. It assesses the needs of the users posing questions. 3. It determines the nature of our search based on the pattern of our search history. 4. It presents the relevant data in the order of time and date, displaying the latest at the top. 5. The algorithm functions listing the data on the basis of words.

We complete our search with the data presented by Google, a search engine. If we are not satisfied with the data, we go again in search of the right data.

It is here that ChatGPT steps in, taking upon itself our work of further search and comes up with the clinching answer to our question.

In fact, ChatGPT is a vindication of what experts such as Michio Kaku have already predicted: The major initiative of the 21st century will be robot's takeover of human brain. Yet alarm bells are also rung about loss of jobs in several sectors as a corollary of ChatGPT.

Clarity of search

Like all, I too had a brush with ChatGPT recently. I posed the same question to both Google and ChatGPT: "How can I buy a mobile phone?"

Answering this question, Google poured out 1,64,760 pieces of data. But ChatGPT did not behave as Google did. "You are in India. Budget is going to be presented day after tomorrow. There will likely be variations in taxes and prices. So, it's better to put off the idea of buying a mobile phone. However, the following things can be considered." As four paragraphs about what I must do unfolded on the screen, I smiled in amusement.

ChatGPT took me surprise, disclosing the country I belong to. Of course, Google too knows it by virtue of GPS. But ChatGPT does one better than Google, showing its knowledge of the latest news (about budget). Quite a surprise!

Self-learning and upgrading

It was OpenAI which designed ChatGPT. The company established by Elon Musk and Sam Altman in 2015 designed the InstructGPT in 2020, whose advanced version is the ChatGPT. Musk walked out on company in 2018.

GPT is Generative Pre-trained Transformer which revolves around artificial intelligence. That is to say, it is a chat-type virtual robot which sifts through the piles of previously recorded data and finally comes up with a clinching conclusion.

The waves of reception, enthusiasm and shock that ChatGPT has generated are something of a recognition that not even Google got. There is a major reason for this phenomenon.

ChatGPT is a surprising mine in the matter of software coding. Like a highly skilled programmer, it fills up the remaining porting of coding even if given an incomplete one. This virtual robot using artificial intelligence is completely text-oriented. Searching its own repository of countlessly recorded lingo in the wink of an eye, it exhibits a keen understanding. It answers our questions using a new algorithm. In case we type in “the answer is wrong,” ChatGPT apologizes and asks us what the right answer is. Its uniqueness lies in this quality; it is a chatbot of self-learning and upgrading. It learns a lot from the questions of the users.

Challenges in waiting

Apart from English, the sentence structures that ChatGPT uses in other languages such as Tamil are defective. Yet, let us look at the ways in which ChatGPT is set to shock the community.

Given a right and logical hypothesis, it prepares a full-fledged thesis with some degree of clarity and so it will be of much help to the students pursuing PhD. This technology will be of immense use to the students writing assignments in schools and writing exams in the universities and colleges as well.

Now America and Canada have banned the use of ChatGPT in the education sector. Back in India, some educational institutions such as IIT-Madras seem to have woken up to this trend.

Curiously, a website has published an amusing article describing how the ChatGPT came up with an essay after it was asked how a Modi-baiter like Arundhati Roy would write about Modi.

Well and good! But on the flipside, what ChatGPT does is hardly an original writing worth its salt. Its actions boil down to plagiarism. This is where the difference between Google and ChatGPT lies.

Google does not stake claim to ownership of whatever it gives you. In fact, all sources of writing it presents belong to the creators concerned. The original creators don't lose their copyright. But ChatGPT comes across more as a plagiarist, pretending to own whatever it gives you. This is what has triggered controversies the world over.

Bill Gates has said that ChatGPT will change the world. On the contrary, Elon Musk has billed it as a dangerous technology.

Any new technology will become successful only when it sparks inevitable changes in the individual life.

Will ChatGPT make such a great impact?

Translated by V.Mariappan