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Artificial Intelligence on Journalism: Algorithmic Power Targeting the Crack in Memory in the Example of 'Religious Wave' Terrorist Attacks

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Abstract

The digital technology that governs this historical process is a partner in the creation of an ambiguous world with its image attached to everyday life forms. This picture the world is trapped in is becoming clearer in journalism practices. As the sector becomes acquainted with new forms of journalism, the responsibility of the news reader to be a truth reader increases. AI is visible in news production, from access to the source to the production. This study emerged from the necessity of considering the news-power-technology relationship and the memory distortion dynamics of global power structures together. In this study, which aims to point out the risks of AI news in the context of memory distortion, the 'religious wave' terrorist attacks are taken into consideration. Critical discourse analysis was used in this research conducted on a sample of the ChatGPT's news regarding 9/11, 7/7, 2015 Paris and Christchurch attacks. The findings show that the discourse of global power is repeated in artificial intelligence news on religion-based terrorist attacks and that technology targeting social memory reproduces the ideology of power. Accordingly, an intensive reading practice can be recommended to the interlocutors of the news against the news emerging from AI algorithms.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence Journalism, Collective Memory, ChatGPT, Algorithmic Power, AI Bias

Habercilikte Yapay Zekâ: 'Dini Dalga' Terör Saldırıları Örnekleminde Algoritmik İktidarın Bellekteki Çatlağı Hedeflemesi

Öz

Deneyimlediğimiz tarihsel sürecin şeklini tayin eden dijital teknoloji, gündelik hayat formlarına ilişik görüntüsüyle hiç olmadığı kadar muğlak bir dünya yaratımına ortaklık etmektedir. Dünyanın hızla hapsolduğu bu müphem tablo habercilik pratiklerinde belirginleşmekte; sektör yeni birtakım gazetecilik biçimleriyle tanışırken haber okuyucusunun omzundaki hakikat okuryazarı olma sorumluluğu biraz daha artmaktadır. Nitekim bugün artık kaynağa erişimden metnin üretimine haber yapım sürecinde yapay zekâ faktörü görünürlük kazanmıştır. Bu çalışma haber-iktidar-teknoloji ilişkisi ile küresel iktidar yapılarının belleği çarpıtma dinamiklerini birlikte düşünme gerekliliğinden ortaya çıkmıştır. Yapay zekâ ürünü haberlerin belleğin çarpıtılması bağlamındaki olası risklerini işaret etme amacındaki çalışmada, söz konusu bağlantılılığı net biçimde gösterme potansiyeline sahip olduğu düşünülen 'dini dalga' terör saldırıları dikkate alınmıştır. Örneklemini ChatGPT yapay zekâ algoritmasının 9/11, 7/7, 2015 Paris ve Christchurch saldırıları konusunda ürettiği haber metinlerinin oluşturduğu araştırmada eleştirel söylem analizinden yararlanılmıştır. Bulgular din tabanlı terör saldırılarının yapay zekâ tarafından haberleştirilme pratiğinde küresel iktidar söyleminin tekrar edildiği, toplumsal belleği hedefleyen modern teknolojinin iktidar ideolojisini yeniden üreten bir araç konumuna yerleştiği sonucuna ulaştırmıştır. Bu sonuçtan hareketle hem üretim hem tüketim konumunda bulunan haberin muhataplarına, yapay zekâ algoritmalarından çıkan haber metinlerine karşı dikkat yoğun bir okuma pratiği geliştirme önerisinde bulunulabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Yapay Zekâ Haberciliği, Kolektif Hafıza, ChatGPT, Algoritmik İktidar, Yapay Zekâ Yanlılığı

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Introduction

Artificial intelligence algorithms, which have developed as technology has taken a position in relation to human life, have rapidly become visible in all forms of daily life. Artificial intelligence algorithms, which have forced many sectors from health to economy to adapt to advanced technology, have also taken a prominent position in journalism. Undoubtedly, this rapid transition process observed in journalism has also brought ethical issues to the agenda. As a matter of fact, algorithms, which are seen to have gained functionality within the framework of access to information, which is the first stage of the news production process, and the practice of writing texts in the last stage, have become the control mechanism of the content that constitutes the subject of the news. Thus, in the process where both research and writing are carried out by machines, gatekeeping, one of the most critical operations of the news production process, has been handed over to machine intelligence instead of human intelligence. This situation makes the selective elements that come to the fore in the gatekeeping process, especially ideological, economic and political preferences, more important. This is because the necessity of evaluating artificial intelligence algorithms within an economic and political framework becomes evident here. Just as the ownership structure in traditional news media has a sanctioning role on the news, the power structures that are the creators of the algorithms have an influence on the news produced by artificial intelligence. In this case, it should be mentioned that we are faced with news content that serves the interests of the global power structure in the practice of new journalism.

Undoubtedly, this reality is not unique to the news production process. More generally, the hierarchy of information on the internet points to a global gatekeeping. Algorithms that select the information to be presented to people create the public agenda (Musiani, 2013, p. 4). Depending on this fact, the fact that algorithm-generated news reports raise ethical issues stems from access to information, which is known to be the first stage of the news-making process. This is the stage where the content is determined and the scope and boundaries are drawn. It is at this stage that the debate on the accuracy of the information used in the news emerges. It is known that information whose accuracy is not certain, especially on issues of collective interest, has the potential to distort the truth. This situation raises the concern that the collective memory, which already functions in a problematic area, can be easily and quickly manipulated by artificial intelligence algorithms. This is because it is a known fact that the data used by algorithms are vulnerable to manipulation. Undoubtedly, the fact that algorithms utilize data from the internet environment to be used in news requires taking into account the global identity of the internet network. As a matter of fact, there is nothing more natural than the widespread or dominant information on the internet, which is dominated by the global economy, serving the interests of global power. This situation points to algorithmic power. This sign reminds us of the truth of Lash's (2007) idea that "power has become more sinister in a post-hegemonic age" (p. 59). For now, both power has become unlimited and the techniques of power are equipped with the ability to transform everything.

The claims that algorithm design, which is seen as a socio-technical artifact, is actually an authority or a technique of power rather than just an algorithm production are getting stronger day by day. This is because algorithms based on calculations lead to an automated process while fulfilling the functions of finding, recording and storing information that exceed the limits of human memory. This process necessitates the automatization of decision-making mechanisms. This situation points to the fact that we are faced with a new problem of power and control. Likewise, it is now a matter of debate who the managers of algorithms are (Barocas vd., 2013, p. 5). There are also researchs that evaluate these systems in the center of "algorithmic war stories" (Gorwa, 2019, p. 2). In addition, it should be said that the way of seeing algorithms based on power-centered evaluation constructs this context around accountability relations. This perspective is based on the claim that the power relations that bring algorithms to the fore remain invisible and free from

responsibility by keeping themselves in the background (Woolgar & Neyland, 2013). In the current form of the relationship between knowledge and power, the more invisible power is, the more the knowledge of algorithms is unknowable, even secret. Undoubtedly, this fact is important to show that the world is faced with a perfectly functioning global power technique.

Another important issue is that algorithms represent micro-scale thoughts or expressions as a holistic portrait. In other words, it should be said that algorithms have the potential to create a big new reality. The presentation of the data collected by the system as "absolute universal consensus" undoubtedly contains the traces of global power (Geiger, 2009, pp. 24-26). Accordingly, first and foremost, the algorithms that regulate and centralize the circulation on the network, that measure what is important and relevant, work as a technique of power. However, the local dimension of public opinion is often more important than the global one. As it is known, the public interest is closely linked to culture and society and to the specific regulatory framework (Kutchel, 2023).

This study discusses the new forms that digital technology, which has become the determinant of the historical process we experience by being attached to everyday life forms, has caused in journalistic practices within the framework of the relationship between power and technology. It is thought that the most accurate way to see the transformation caused by new technologies in journalism in the context of power is to conduct the research on a few news texts. In this context, this research focuses on terrorist attacks, which have the potential to strikingly show the traces of power in news texts produced by artificial intelligence, the last stage of technology. The global nature of the algorithms in question and the fact that the reviewed literature points to algorithmic power showed that the research should focus on global terrorist attacks. In this context, four religious wave terrorist texts, namely 9/11, 7/7, 2015 Paris and Christchurch attacks, were considered in the study. Four news articles produced by the ChatGPT artificial intelligence algorithm about these attacks were determined as the sample and critical discourse analysis was applied to them. The determination of both the sample and the research technique was influenced by the fact that the whole fiction, especially the words that the reader encounters in the news on terrorism, is a product of choice in a very distinct way, unlike other news content.

The Age of Algorithms in the Relationality of Knowledge and Power

Algorithmic power is essentially the updated form of power networks as a result of historical and periodic conditions. The tradition of power structures throughout history of directing social dynamics through the production of information is still being realized today in accordance with periodic changes. There is no doubt that today's means of knowledge production are artificial intelligence systems. Accordingly, these systems are not objective tools that develop spontaneously or contribute to the emancipation of society. On the contrary, thanks to their global outlook, they bear the traces of a larger power structure than before. This is not a fact that can be understood at first glance. Because it has an unmanned form, it is claimed that artificial intelligence algorithms have an objective decision-making mechanism. However, when approached carefully, it is understood that we are faced with a mechanism that operates with the data it learns just like a human being.

Of course, it is not surprising that a fact such as "AI bias" is revealed here. AI bias refers to an AI system's production of biased content about a particular topic, situation or group (Chang vd., 2024, p. 14; Ferrara, 2023, pp. 2-5, 2024c, pp. 2-3, 2024a, p. 2, 2024b, p. 550; Liu vd., 2023, pp. 16-18). This is due to biases in the data sets on which algorithms are trained or biased choices in the design of algorithms. In other words, there is a problem of selection bias based on data (Hovy & Prabhumoye, 2021, p. 5). Undoubtedly, this plays a major role in the creation of a 'black box society' (Fioriglio, 2015, p. 404). Artificial intelligence bias mostly encompasses social patterns and themes of discrimination. On the one hand, this bias leads to social and ethical problems, and on the other

hand, it causes the field of use to be realized in an unjust environment. This situation points to problems such as access to data, bias in data collection, ownership and power in AI systems.

When we look at artificial intelligence algorithms from these frameworks, Foucault's (1977) claim that the relationship between power and knowledge reveals an intertwined image becomes meaningful. According to him, knowledge, which is shaped by historical, cultural and social conditions, is a tool that reflects hegemonic class interests and perspectives and is used as a technique of power. In this context, the Foucauldian approach offers a perspective that is significantly useful in denying the objectivity of AI-generated knowledge. When the knowledge produced by artificial intelligence is evaluated from this framework, it is seen that the traces of the relations of production, ownership structure and the paradigm and value judgments of the creators of the system that enable the emergence of this knowledge are clearly evident. Because throughout history, knowledge has been the most functional tool that protects power and enables it to reproduce itself in the attempts to explain, categorize or justify the power asserted by the dominant environments. Thus, while the relationship between knowledge and power has allowed the dominant discourse to be immanent in society, it has led to the marginalization of other or minority knowledge, values and perspectives.

When we look at today in the light of Foucault's suggestions, it is more difficult than in the past to illuminate the reality of knowledge that passes through the filter of power in this age under the control of artificial intelligence. This is because this time it is not a human being who undertakes the production of knowledge, but a machine that is free from emotion. Therefore, it is not easy to think and prove that machines, which claim to produce concrete data free of all subjectivity, actually produce knowledge based on social power inequalities. It is certainly not possible to detect information that is not based on any accurate data or that is fed by distortions and prejudices. However, it is natural to think that the prejudices that shape knowledge are based on historical, social and cultural stereotypes. As a matter of fact, for example, when artificial intelligence algorithms are trained with data that is more reflective of a certain ideology, prejudices appropriate to that data will be revealed directly and effortlessly. As a natural consequence, the AI system will produce wrong content based on manipulated data.

The issue where these directed or distorted or faulty productions are most clearly revealed is undoubtedly terrorism. This is because terrorism is a subject where the artificial intelligence system is much more easily constructed, especially due to its global nature. Artificial intelligence, which is known to be a system based on human instruction, is a partner in the process of deliberate distortion of knowledge. Because the selection, labeling and editing of the data used in the training of these models is done by real humans. Thus, the ideology of global power, which reproduces itself through human beings in particular, keeps the data collection process under control and processes ideological data into the system. The result is deliberate machine bias.

Based on the framework proposed by Foucault (1977), the belief that artificial intelligence, which is seen as a new form of resistance against power, has the potential to create is not independent of power under any circumstances. This gives rise to a new concept such as "algorithmic power" that deserves to be discussed. Beer (2009) explains this with the concept of 'power through the algorithm'. In this new form, where it is possible to talk about a power model that depends on the size of the data, we encounter a reality such as "algorithm dictatorship". In this form of dictatorship, automated procedures work as decision-makers, uncontrollable abstract power comes to the fore instead of controllable human beings, and human beings are objectified (Rodotà, 2014, pp. 37-38; cited in Fioriglio, 2015, p. 407). Here, data collected by digital devices and obtained directly from primary sources about people and society are programmed and manipulated in favor of power. This means that a secret dictatorship gains functionality with the help of human beings. Indeed, algorithmic power owes its existence to human data. This digital

data is invisibly installed on various media that lead to rapid circulation and distribution, presenting a growing appearance in today's world (Musiani, 2013, p. 2).

In this dictatorship based on human cooperation, while a new culture is created, economic and political power controls the body on the one hand and memory on the other. Likewise, as is known, both individual memory and collective memory exist in various construction processes. The fact that it is a structure composed of cracks makes memory open to intervention. Due to this quality, it is an area where power struggles are constantly ongoing, especially over collective memory. In this age of artificial intelligence, the power provided by algorithms offers economic and political power environments the opportunity to distort, manipulate or reconstruct collective memory. Undoubtedly, this means recreating the reality of developments or events within history. From this point of view, arguments that see algorithms as a kind of artifact of power arrangements and new faces of politics make sense (Latour, 1993). Because today, the shaping of the organization that involves the production and distribution of knowledge reveals a completely algorithmic image. The political nature of these algorithms is an outcome of the organization of knowledge as well as the culture that gave rise to this system (Anderson, 2011, pp. 541-543). In other words, these tools, which are used as a kind of power technique, serve collective efforts to know and be known (Gillespie, 2014, p. 3).

Based on all these explanations, we have no choice but to see that the transformation in surveillance with modern technology reproduces itself through the techniques and technologies available today. The high capability of algorithms in surveillance, coding and archiving has revolutionized surveillance. This is due to the fact that algorithms have become the main tool that shapes the daily life knowledge of society. In this case, both the regulation of algorithms by power and the design of society by algorithms are possible (Musiani, 2013, pp. 1-2). Thus, it is not difficult to say that the panoptic culture based on disciplining and controlling has gained a new dimension with the phenomenon of algorithm dictatorship. The idea that power is established from everywhere at any time, which reveals the panopticon, has paved the way for reproducing the surveillance culture in question with new techniques by updating it depending on the periodic processes while allowing the ruler to observe without being seen mechanically. Thus, the panopticon, which transcends spatial and temporal walls, has now reached its current appearance in the form of fluid surveillance. At this point, the importance of the consent factor, which both Foucault (1977) and Deleuze (1992) draw attention to in the cooperation of discipline and control societies, is understood. Because, as is known, the biggest trump card of algorithmic power is the data taken from people with their consent. This trump card reminds us of what Lash (2007) explains through the concept of 'post-hegemonic power' (p. 55). With the help of this concept, Lash is actually trying to explain that an ontological regime of power has begun. According to him, power has replaced 'knowledge', which has always been its target, with 'truth'. Lash (2007) thinks that knowing the 'truth' is no longer a cognitive process, but a purely emotional process: "In the age of hegemony, power only appropriated your predicates: in the post-hegemonic present it penetrates your very being. Power, previously extensive and operating from without, becomes intensive and now works from within" (pp. 58-59).

Undoubtedly, deciding which of the digital footprints left by humans in the environment that represents the new world will be included in the database implies a selection process. The algorithms that carry out this selection specifically produce calculated public opinion. There is a process of transforming public opinion into an algorithmic commodity, putting this commodity back in front of the public and inviting the public to meet it, so to speak. Maps made up of preferences and new cultures created based on maps are part of this process. The fact that algorithms, which are coded procedures, work as a technique of power due to their calculative nature, makes it invalid to doubt the existence of an antidemocratic system. Accordingly, it should not be surprising to find warm human beings, ideological choices and economic and political

justifications behind these cold mechanisms that are abstract and technical achievements (Gillespie, 2014, pp. 1-3).

Research Methodology

Purpose and Importance of the Research

The primary aim of this study is to point out the possible risks of artificial intelligence news in the context of memory distortion. For this purpose, it was thought that it would be appropriate to prove this fact through 'religious wave' terrorist attacks, which have the potential to clearly demonstrate this reality. David C. Rapoport's (2002, 2013) Wave Theory was taken into consideration in determining the sample. According to him, terrorism has been an important factor in the reorganization of the international world. Stating that modern terrorism consists of four waves, Rapoport mentions that each wave was created by political events. The first wave, which emerged in the 1880s and lasted for forty years, was the 'anarchist wave', while the second wave, the 'anti-colonial wave', started in the 1920s and lost its importance in the 1960s. Because in the late 1960s the world was introduced to the third wave, the 'new left wave', which would dissipate by the 1990s. The fourth wave, defined as the last wave and called the 'religious wave', started in 1979. Today, the world still seems to be facing a religious wave. The adherence to this theory was influenced by the fact that terrorism, which is a violence-intensive discourse, is carried to the concrete sphere through action practices and that the motivational sources that facilitate the transition from discourse to action are updated depending on social dynamics. Based on this fact, within the framework of the Wave Theory, which characterizes today's wave of terrorism as a "religious wave", four cases have been selected among the most mediatic religious wave terrorist attacks of the last 30 years.

The research is important because on the one hand, it deals with a current issue such as artificial intelligence, on the other hand, it deals with the appearance of artificial intelligence in journalism with a nuanced literature review that reveals a perspective centered on power and collective memory, and on the other hand, it proves the relationship between news-power-technology through sample texts.

Method

In this study, critical discourse analysis was applied to the news articles under scrutiny with the idea that it will help to understand whether the news produced with artificial intelligence algorithms are fed by the discourse of power inherent in the global media. For this purpose, the study focuses on four religious wave terrorist acts in the form of 9/11, 7/7, 2015 Paris and Christchurch attacks that took place in the last thirty years and had a global impact, which are considered to have the potential to clearly show the reality in question. In determining the sample, the events that caused reactions and turned into dramatic political turning points, which are accepted as an important threshold in the reshaping of the international world, and which provided the necessary conditions for religion-centered discrimination were taken into consideration. The fact that the events that constitute the subject of the sample of the research are of a nature that internationalizes terrorism was also an important factor in the selection of these events.

The main questions for reporting these events were asked to the ChatGPT artificial intelligence algorithm. The four different news obtained as a result of the questions that enable the algorithm to access the information needed in news production became the sample of the study. ChatGPT generated news were evaluated in terms of prominent theme, language structure, use of sources and accuracy of information. With the data obtained, artificial intelligence-produced news on the religious wave terrorist attack were considered around 5W1H answers and global media ideology, and evaluated in the context of the relationship between algorithmic power and news. The limitation of the study is the selection of ChatGPT among language models. In this study,

in which critical discourse analysis was applied, the macro and micro structures of the texts were analyzed. In macro-structural analysis, thematic and schematic analysis was conducted, while in micro-structural analysis, word choice was analyzed. Another important limitation of the study is that microstructural analysis was limited to word choice and syntactic analysis, regional cohesion and rhetorical analysis were not applied to the texts.

Critical discourse analysis aims to make discourse, which is an object of production, transparent and visible. This is because the way discourse is represented, retold or rewritten sheds light on the emergence of new discourse orders, struggles for normativity, attempts at control and resistance against power regimes. As is well known, discourse is an implicit instrument of power. According to Fairclough, a discourse text is a discursive practice produced, circulated, distributed and consumed in society and is the product of an ideological and hegemonic process. According to him, hegemonies are changing, and accordingly, the instrumentalization of discourse takes place through this change. As a matter of fact, it is possible to witness the discursive change that develops in line with renewed hegemonies, especially in the context of intertextuality (Blommaert & Bulcaen, 2000, p. 449). From this perspective, van Dijk, who focuses all his attention on the text, also approaches Fairclough. According to van Dijk (1988), who sees the text as an indicator of ideology due to the signs it carries, news is also a discourse and is not independent from the social structure it emerges from. Accordingly, van Dijk's claim that power relations are the most important determinant of the news production process is strong.

Findings

It should be noted that the most important practice to reach accurate findings regarding the news texts produced by ChatGPT about the four different religious wave terrorist attacks that constitute the subject of the study sample is to ask the same questions to the algorithm in each production. In this context, in the prompt we entered into the interface of the artificial intelligence, the question pattern remained the same, only the events were renewed. Thus, with the help of the prompt "write a news text about the attack that occurred on ..... at .....", ChatGPT was enabled to produce news text about the 9/11, 7/7, 2015 Paris and Christchurch attacks selected as case studies. Each news item was analyzed under separate headings.

1. 7/7 News by ChatGPT

Promt: Write a news text about the attack in London on July 7, 2005.

1. 1. Macro Structural Analysis

1. 1. 1. Thematic Analysis

In the macro-structural analysis of the news report on the 7/7 attacks, firstly a thematic analysis was conducted. For this purpose, the title, introduction and body of the news text were evaluated from a general framework.

1. 1. 1. 1. Title

ChatGPT produced a news report about the terrorist attack in London on July 7, 2005 with the headline "City in Mourning in London Attacks: July 7 Tragedy" (OpenAI, 2024).

1. 1. 1. 2. News Entry and Body of the Text

In the analyzed news, it was observed that the artificial intelligence algorithm preferred a comment-oriented language. Throughout the entire text, we see a practice of conveying information that directly targets emotion and is far from providing answers to the 5W1Hs that constitute the essence of the event.

ChatGPT saw the incident as a terrorist attack targeting tube stations and buses in London (OpenAI, 2024). It is important that there is no data to answer the question "when", which is known

to be one of the most important questions of the news. Except for the date information given in the prompt that enables the algorithm to generate news, there is no information about the time of the attack in the text. In general, it is seen that the news flash was not constructed correctly. As a matter of fact, the first paragraph of the news should have an introduction with a conclusion. It is also seen that there is no source in the news produced by ChatGPT. This situation indicates that the accuracy of the information obtained by the artificial intelligence algorithm during the news production process is questionable.

1. 1. 2. Schematic Analysis

1. 1. 2. 1. Background and Context

Background and context information is extremely important in terms of revealing the way the news reflects the event. As a matter of fact, the context in which the news is constructed can often be more remarkable than the event itself. Because the event gains meaning in the context in which it is placed. In other words, the event is either presented as it is or goes through a new creation process as it is intended to be. Sometimes, the background information that highlights the social, cultural, economic and political aspects of the event that is the subject of the news is important enough to be analyzed.

The attacks of July 7, 2005 were reported by ChatGPT in the context of terrorism (OpenAI, 2024). In the entire text, a language of condemnation, unity and solidarity messages against terrorism is used, while the necessity of security measures to facilitate the fight against terrorism is mentioned.

1. 2. Micro Structural Analysis

Analyzing the words and sentences that make up the news at the local level and explaining them through concrete examples makes it easier to reach the meaning of the text. In this context, microstructural analysis was used in the study as it is a technique that enables inferences to be made about the meaning of word choices and sentence structures that significantly build the basis of the news text. Within the scope of microstructural analysis, only the word choice of the analyzed texts was examined.

First of all, it is seen that the characterization 'terror' stands out in the news text in question. This is an important data. As a matter of fact, the choice made in characterizing the event reflects the widespread way of seeing in the internet network that is the source of ChatGPT, which reveals a motor skill. In this case, it is possible to say that the attacks that took place in London on July 7, 2005 were included in the global network as a terrorist attack.

2. 2015 Paris Attacks News by ChatGPT

Promt: Write a news text about the attack in Paris on November 13, 2015.

2. 1. Macro Structural Analysis

2. 1. 1. Thematic Analysis

In the first stage of the 2015 Paris attacks news report's macrostructure analysis, a thematic analysis was conducted. Within the scope of this analysis, the title, introduction and body of the news text were analyzed.

2. 1. 1. 1. Title

ChatGPT did not use a headline in the news text it produced about the terrorist attack in Paris on November 13, 2015. It started the text directly with the introduction "Let us remind you of a sad event" (OpenAI, 2024).

2. 1. 1. 2. News Entry and Body of the Text

In the analyzed algorithm-produced news text, a comment-oriented news language is encountered. When we look at the editing of the text, the act of emotion rather than the practice of informing comes to the fore. ChatGPT defines the event in question as a terrorist attack against innocent people in Paris (OpenAI, 2024). When the text is analyzed, it is seen that temporality, which is among the 5W1H and one of the basic elements of news, is not taken into account. Except for the date information given in the prompt that enables the algorithm to generate news, the time of the attack was not shared with the reader. There is also no source information in the news produced by ChatGPT. This data is noteworthy in terms of illuminating the fact that the information utilized by the artificial intelligence algorithm in news production is in need of confirmation.

Another important finding in the body of the text is the prominence of vague information instead of clear statements. The information that "more than 130 people" were killed and "hundreds of people" were injured as a result of the attacks is an example of this (OpenAI, 2024). In fact, these and other similar findings, while pointing out the faulty practices of artificial intelligence in news production, also provide information about the dominant news language in the internet network used by the algorithm and the common wrong practices in traditional journalism. In this respect, the data obtained is also valuable.

2. 1. 2. Schematic Analysis

2. 1. 2. 1. Background and Context

Since the reader does not read the event itself but the way it is processed in the news text, background and contextual information that illuminates the point of view here is extremely important. The context in which the news is constructed is mostly in a position to recreate the event. Along with the context, the background information that highlights the social, cultural, economic and political aspects of the event is also critical enough to be analyzed.

The news text produced by ChatGPT about the attacks that took place in Paris on November 13, 2015 was constructed in the context of terrorism (OpenAI, 2024). In the text, in which the use of a language inviting the international community to fight against terrorism is prominent, the name of the terrorist group to have organized the attack is also mentioned. It is known that the terrorist group in question introduces itself to the international community through Islam. The data pointing to the fact that the artificial intelligence algorithm is a tool that repeats the discourse of global power is certainly not limited to this. For example, striking statements such as "the Paris attacks have led to increased concern and a review of security measures in the fight against terrorism around the world. This tragic event has also brought about an ongoing debate and effort on how people will cope with the effects of terrorism" seem to be a product of securitization policies that serve to reproduce the global power discourse. Accordingly, the emphasis on Islam in the name of the terrorist group in question and the construction of the news text in the context of terrorism-religion-global security ensure that the securitization policies that expand their space in the global world are prioritized and justified within the framework of terrorist acts.

2. 2. Micro Structural Analysis

Microstructural analysis is a nuanced analysis of the news text centered on words and sentences. The idea that the strongest message of the text can only be reached by analyzing the words in detail makes microstructural analysis valuable. In this context, it is understood that the word choices in this news text are remarkable.

As a result of the analysis, it was understood that the word 'terror' is the most important data that establishes the context of the news. There is no doubt that this finding is noteworthy in

terms of pointing out the theme on which the news is built. This is because the word choice in question does not only have the meaning of a word but also characterizes the event. This means that the prominent visual tendency about the event under scrutiny on the internet network used as a source by the ChatGPT artificial intelligence algorithm, which is known to have motor skills, is in the context of terrorism. Accordingly, it is possible to say that the attacks that took place in Paris on November 13, 2015 were characterized as an act of terrorism by the global power that shapes the global network.

3. Christchurch Attacks News by ChatGPT

Promt: Write a news text about the attack in New Zealand on March 15, 2019.

3. 1. Macro Structural Analysis

3. 1. 1. Thematic Analysis

The third ChatGPT-produced text analyzed in the study is the news text on Christchurch attacks dated March 15, 2019. The title, introduction and body were evaluated within the framework of the thematic analysis of the text, which was analyzed macro-structurally.

3. 1. 1. 1. Title

ChatGPT's news about the terrorist attack in New Zealand on March 15, 2019 was titled "Terrifying attack in New Zealand: Dozens dead and wounded" (OpenAI, 2024). Based on the title, it is not possible to understand that the event in question is a terrorist attack. As a matter of fact, there is no clue about the nature of the attack or the target. The headline is important in this respect. As the most important element of the news, the headline serves a framing logic that aims to leave behind as much as to bring forward. Undoubtedly, the framing in this news text points to the aim of preventing the event from being seen as a terrorist attack.

3. 1. 1. 2. News Entry and Body of the Text

This news text, like the other texts in the sample, has created an emotion-intensive discourse. When the discourse used in the text is analyzed, an interpretation-centered narration is encountered, from the horrifying nature of the attacks to the shock effect in the country.

ChatGPT did not see the attack in question as a terrorist attack. The fact that the answers to the "who" and "what" questions, which are undoubtedly the two most important questions of the 5W1H that enable a complete understanding of the incident, are not found in the text indicates the practice of distortion. This is because the true nature of an event is hidden in the answers to the questions of who and what. In the analyzed news text, the perpetrator of the crime is shown as "armed assailants". However, the perpetrator is only one person. Similarly, the news article states that the factors motivating the attack have not yet been clarified. However, the attack is a terrorist attack from beginning to end, as can be understood from the content served to the world by the terrorist himself with the help of new media. It is a highly significant finding that the terrorist nature of the attack is mentioned as a kind of possibility in the text. The fact that the artificial intelligence algorithm that produces news on the global internet network leads to this finding shows the media ecosystem of algorithmic power. There is no doubt that this data constitutes a concrete example of the global actors that the technology-centered transformation in journalism draws attention to and the renewed news format as an ideological tool.

Another important finding in the news article is the use of unclear expressions in the transmission of numerical data, as in the other analyzed texts. The statement "tens of people lost their lives and many people were injured" confirms this idea (OpenAI, 2024). This output produced by the algorithm is contrary to the principle of objectivity and accuracy, which are the primary values of news.

3. 1. 2. Schematic Analysis

3. 1. 2. 1. Background and Context

As it known, since an event that is the subject of a news story gains meaning within the context and background information, this information is the most important determinants of the news editing process. For this reason, the news on the Christchurch attacks produced by ChatGPT was analyzed especially within the context in which it was placed.

As a result of the analysis, it was seen that the event in question was not reported in the context of terrorism. This finding is quite remarkable as it has the potential to question the reliability of data sources, how and for what purpose the data is produced, and the way in which the data selection process, in which a kind of threshold-keeping is operated, takes place. The fact that the attack on two Muslim places of worship in Christchurch was an act of terrorism is beyond doubt. Likewise, the terrorist who organized the attack shared in detail when and how he would carry out the terrorist attack. Moreover, the terrorist recorded the moment of the attack with the help of an overhead camera and broadcast it live to the world. Thus, a concrete case of terrorism has emerged both in action and discourse. Despite this fact, which is obvious with all the evidence, it is not difficult to talk about the existence of distortion in both the background and context of the news article under scrutiny. As a matter of fact, there is no accurate background information in the text about the action of the terrorist who declared that he had a far-right racist ideology through both linguistic and actional practices.

When the information that the incident under review was not covered in the context of terrorism is considered together with the fact that news-producing algorithms work based on structured data and that data is easily manipulated, the idea that editorial independence, which is claimed to be operating in an already problematic area, is facing complete destruction gains weight. There is no doubt that the ageless tradition in the field of these new actors is to reproduce the discourse of global power.

2. 2. Micro Structural Analysis

It is known that the words used in the news text are not random, they are used as a result of certain preferences. In this context, when the microstructural analysis of the analyzed news text is made, it is seen that the incident is not clearly associated with terrorism. The term terrorism is only mentioned in the sentence as a possibility. In addition, it is emphasized that the factors motivating the attacks are not yet clear. Undoubtedly, these findings are extremely striking. Because the terrorist clearly emphasized the terrorist nature of the act in all the content he prepared before the attack. At the same time, the terrorist broadcasted the attack live to the world on his social media accounts. Despite all this, ChatGPT refrained from making terrorist associations in its coverage.

4. 9/11 Attacks News by ChatGPT

Promt: Write a news text about the attack in the United States on September 11, 2001.

ChatGPT did not produce news about this event. The algorithm responded to the prompt by saying "due to current policy, I am unable to generate content on sensitive topics" (OpenAI, 2024). Only in the text it was stated that the attacks on September 11, 2001 were an important event in the history of the United States and had a great impact. The text mentions that the attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, which killed thousands of people, caused major changes in global security policies. Undoubtedly, it is a striking finding that the algorithm, which practiced creating emotionally intense and detailed text about other terrorist attacks, did not produce news about 9/11. Even when evaluated from this aspect alone, the biased, manipulative

and directly targeting collective memory characteristic of artificial intelligence algorithms comes to the fore.

Conclusion

Understanding the current view of the relationship between knowledge and power, which has been reproducing itself throughout history, paves the way for a correct reading of the way artificial intelligence systems work today. This fact is extremely important in terms of pointing out the ethical dilemmas of algorithms, which represent the last stage that technology has reached for now. Likewise, it is only possible for artificial intelligence, which is a data-centered system, to be part of a properly functioning process through transparency. However, the entire process, from the collection of data to its editing, takes place far from transparency. Accordingly, it can be said that the information produced by the artificial intelligence system, which is the product of the ideology of global power, does not contain objectivity and is a partner in the creation of an ideological discourse. Because the dominant power structures that direct the data collection phase and the choices based on prejudices fed by the ideology of the productive forces determine the algorithmic process.

Considering that we are dealing with a mechanism that operates with the data it learns just like a human being, AI bias is not surprising. Biases in the data sets on which algorithms are trained or biased choices in the design of algorithms have a share in the 'black box society'. This bias points to the problems of data access, ownership and power relations in artificial intelligence systems. Undoubtedly used as a kind of power technique, these algorithms serve the collective effort to know and be known. This effort stems from the fractured nature of collective memory, which is reproduced again and again. Because since time immemorial, collective memory, which tells society what and how it should know, has always been a field on which techniques of power have been practiced. When artificial intelligence algorithms, which are the determinants of the historical process we are experiencing, are considered around these ideas, the fact that the news production process, which has a collective power of influence, is surrounded by algorithmic power becomes meaningful. This research has reached findings that confirm this reality.

The four news samples produced by the ChatGPT artificial intelligence algorithm about 9/11, 7/7, 2015 Paris and Christchurch attacks analyzed in the study showed that the texts constructed on the global internet network lacked values such as accuracy, objectivity and neutrality. The findings led to the conclusion that the news texts with basically the same theme by covering the religious wave terrorist attack revealed a different discourse structure from each other. This result shows that the news texts constructed by algorithms have a structure that repeats the dominant discourse structure in the global media. In the analyzed texts, extremely important differences were found in the answers given to 5W1H, which contains the most important questions of the event.

In fact, while all of the findings point to the faulty practice of artificial intelligence in news production, they also provide information about the dominant news language in the internet network used by the algorithm and the common wrong practices in traditional journalism. In this respect, the data obtained is also valuable. As a matter of fact, the fact that it is not possible to construct an alternative news-making practice to traditional journalism that develops in line with the dominant global discourse of power, but on the contrary, the fact that the space for the reproduction of the dominant discourse in a new and more widespread way is included in the process is illuminated. Accordingly, handing over the gatekeeping, one of the most critical operations of the news production process, to machine intelligence means that editorial independence has become even more fragile.

In addition to news text production, the research sought to reach a few more supporting findings in order to prove the existence of algorithmic power with the help of concrete data. For this purpose, another prompt was directed to ChatGPT. In the prompt, ChatGPT was asked to explain the nature of each attack separately. The algorithm's response to this prompt is very important in supporting the findings of this study. Because it was seen that the algorithm emphasizing that the perpetrators of the attack on July 7, 2005 were members of an Islamist terrorist group, and that these people were suicide bombers, described this event as the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of the UK. Similarly, ChatGPT stated that the nature of the Paris attacks on November 13, 2015 was radical Islamist ideology. In contrast, the Christchurch attack was only associated with terrorism by the algorithm, but no reference was made to any ideology or religion motivating the attack. This data alone should be considered significant in terms of proving the existence of global algorithmic power.

As a result, the claim that a robot that explicitly signals a potential threat can be easily manipulated (Milosavljević & Vobič, 2019) has found a provable concrete plane in this study. As a matter of fact, the findings of the research show that structured data-dependent language models and algorithms that are vulnerable to manipulative operations are faced with a risk picture that requires attention in the process of acquiring and selecting data. The result of the study is in line with similar studies in the literature (Chang vd., 2024; Ferrara, 2023, 2024c, 2024a, 2024b; Liu vd., 2023) and is a small but important contribution to the claim that artificial intelligence algorithms reveal unethical practices such as bias, prejudice and alienation. In addition to the conclusion reached, the proposed solution is to enable transparency, ensure data security and increase accountability. It should be pointed out that artificial intelligence should undergo ethical questioning as the first step in all areas where it gains functionality, especially news.

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Habercilikte Yapay Zekâ: 'Dini Dalga' Terör Saldırıları Örnekleminde Algoritmik İktidarın Bellekteki Çatlağı Hedeflemesi

Fikriye ÇELİK*

Genişletilmiş Özet

Araştırmanın Konusu ve Kapsamı

Bugünün dünyasına yön veren yapay zekâ sistemlerinin çalışma biçimini anlamak için tarih boyu kendini yeniden üreten bilgi – iktidar ilişkisinin güncel görünümünü doğru okumak gerekmektedir. Nitekim her seferinde yeniden kurulan bu ilişki teknolojinin şimdilik ulaştığı son aşamayı temsil eden algoritmaların etik çıkmazlarını göstermek bakımından son derece önemlidir. Keza veri merkezli bir sistem olarak yapay zekânın şeffaf bir sürecin parçası olması beklenirken verinin toplanmasından kurgulanmasına bütün işleyiş şeffaflıktan uzak, algoritmik iktidarı korumaya yönelik bir çerçevede gerçekleşmektedir. Buna göre küresel iktidar yapılarının ürünü olan algoritmalarca üretilen bilginin nesnellik içermediği, aksine ideolojik söylem yaratımına ortaklık ettiği söylenebilir. Zira üretici güçleri kontrol eden iktidar ideolojisinden beslenen önyargılara dayalı seçimler veri toplama aşamasına yön vererek algoritmik sürecin belirleyeni olmaktadır.

Esasında tıpkı bir insan gibi öğrendiği verilere bağlı bir mekanizmayla karşı karşıya olduğumuz düşünüldüğünde yapay zekâ yanlılığı şaşırtıcı değildir. Bu yanlılık yapay zekâ sistemlerinde ortaya çıkan veriye ulaşma, mülkiyet ve iktidar ilişkisi sorunlarını işaret etmektedir. Bir tür iktidar tekniği olarak kullanılan algoritmaların kolektif bilme ve bilinme çabalarına hizmet ettiğine ise şüphe yoktur. Bu çaba kolektif belleğin tekrar ve tekrar üretilen çatlaklı doğasından ileri gelmektedir. Bilindiği gibi geçmiş zamanlardan bu yana topluma neyi nasıl bilmesi gerektiğini söyleyen kolektif bellek daima iktidar tekniklerinin üzerinde çalıştırıldığı bir alan olmuştur. Deneyimlediğimiz tarihsel sürecin belirleyicisi yapay zekâ algoritmaları bu düşünceler etrafında değerlendirildiğinde, kolektif bir etki gücü bulunan haber yapım sürecinin de algoritmik iktidar tarafından kuşatıldığı gerçeği anlam kazanmaktadır.

Bu çalışma, gündelik hayat formlarına ilişik bir görüntüye kavuşan ileri teknolojinin habercilik pratiklerinde yol açtığı yeni biçimi bilgi – iktidar - teknoloji çerçevesinde tartışmayı denemektedir. Bu bağlamda habercilikte yaşanan dönüşümü iktidar merkezli görme biçimi üzerinden açıklamaya yardımcı en doğru yolun araştırmayı haber metni örnekleminde gerçekleştirmek olduğu fikri anlamlı bulunmuş; iktidar izlerini yoğun biçimde gösterme potansiyeline sahip terör saldırılarını konu edinen yapay zekâ ürünü haberler merkeze alınmıştır. Söz konusu algoritmaların küresel niteliği ve

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incelenen literatürün algoritmik iktidar vurgusu araştırmanın yönünü küresel terör saldırılarına çevirmede pay sahibi olmuştur.

Araştırmanın Amacı ve Önemi

Çalışmanın öncelikli amacı yapay zekâ ürünü haberlerin algoritmik iktidar tarafından araçsallaştırılarak bellek çarpıtma pratiğinde olası riske dönüşme potansiyelini ortaya koymaktır. Bu amaca uygun olarak söz konusu gerçeği örnekleme gücü bulunan 'dini dalga' terör saldırıları dikkate alınmıştır. Hem yapay zekâ gibi güncel bir konuya yönelmek hem de incelikli bir alanyazın taramasından hareketle habercilikte yapay zekâ görünümünü iktidar ve kolektif bellek merkezli bir bakış açısından ele almak araştırmayı önemli kılmaktadır. Çalışma ayrıca haber-iktidar-teknoloji ilişkisini örnek metinler üzerinden kanıtlamayı başardığı için de önemli bulunmayı hak etmektedir.

Araştırmanın Yöntemi

Çalışmada yapay zekâ algoritmaları tarafından üretilen haberlerin küresel iktidar söylemine gömülü ideolojiden beslenip beslenmediğini anlamaya yardımcı olacağı düşüncesiyle son otuz yılda yaşanıp global ölçekte etki yaratan 9/11, 7/7, 2015 Paris ve Christchurch saldırıları dikkate alınmıştır. Dört dini dalga terör saldırısının belirlenmesinin ardından ChatGPT yapay zekâ algoritmasının bu olaylar hakkında haber üretiminde bulunması sağlanmıştır. Elde edilen dört haber araştırmanın örneklemini oluşturmuş; bunlara eleştirel söylem analizi uygulanmıştır. Eleştirel söylem analizi kapsamında yürütülen makro yapısal çözümlemede tematik ve şematik analizde bulunulmuş, mikro yapısal çözümlemede ise sözcük seçimine bakılmıştır. Mikro yapısal analizin sözcük seçimiyle sınırlı tutulup metinlere sentaktik çözümleme, bölgesel uyum ve retorik çözümleme uygulanmaması araştırmanın kısıtlılığını oluşturmaktadır. Bunun yanı sıra dil modelleri arasından ChatGPT'nin seçilmesi araştırmanın bir diğer önemli kısıtlılığıdır.

Araştırmanın Bulguları

9/11, 7/7, 2015 Paris ve Christchurch saldırıları hakkında ChatGPT yapay zekâ algoritması tarafından üretilen dört haber örnekleminde gerçekleşen çalışma, küresel internet ağı kaynaklığında kurgulanan metinlerin doğruluk, nesnellik ve yansızlık gibi değerlerden yoksun olduğunu göstermek bakımından son derece önemli bulgulara ulaşmayı başarmıştır. Söz konusu haberler öne çıkan tema, dil yapısı, kaynak kullanımı ve bilgilerin doğruluğu çerçevesinde incelenmiş; elde edilen veriler algoritmik iktidar - haber ilişkisi bağlamında değerlendirilmiştir. Bulgular dini dalga terör saldırısını konu edinerek temelde aynı temaya sahip haberlerin birbirinden farklı söylem yapısı ortaya koyduğu sonucuna ulaştırmıştır. Bu sonuç algoritmalar tarafından kurgulanan haber metinlerinin aynı zamanda küresel medyaya da hâkim iktidar söylemini tekrar eden bir yapıya sahip olduğunu göstermiştir. İncelenen metinlerde olaya ilişkin önemli soruları cevaplayan 5N1K'nın farklılık gösterdiği tespit edilmiştir. Özellikle failin kimliğini aydınlatan "kim" ve olayın niteliğini ortaya koyan "ne" sorularına verilen cevaplarda çarpıtma pratiğine rastlandığı belirtilmelidir.

Sonuç

Bulguların tamamı bir yandan yapay zekâ sisteminin haber üretiminde yürüttüğü hatalı pratiği işaret ederken diğer taraftan algoritmanın yararlandığı internet ağına hâkim söylem yapısı ve yerleşik haber dili hakkında bilgi vermektedir. Bu bakımdan elde edilen veriler ayrıca değerlidir.

Nitekim küresel iktidardan beslenen medyaya içkin haber yapma pratiğine alternatif bir habercilik inşa etmenin imkânlar dâhilinde olmadığı, aksine egemen söylemi yeniden ve daha yaygın biçimde üretme potansiyeli bulunan yeni mekânın da sürece dâhil edildiği gerçeği aydınlanmaktadır. Buna göre haber yapım sürecinin en kritik işlemlerinden biri olan eşikbekçiliğinin makine zekâsına teslim edilmesi editoryal bağımsızlığın daha da kırılganlaştığı anlamına gelmektedir.

Araştırmada haber metni üretiminin yanında algoritmik iktidarın varlığını somut verilere dayalı biçimde kanıtlamak amacıyla birkaç destekleyici bulguya daha ulaşmanın yolu aranmıştır. Bu amaçla ChatGPT'ye bir prompt daha yöneltilmiştir. Promptta algoritmadan her saldırının niteliğini ayrı ayrı açıklaması istenmiştir. Algoritmanın bu prompta verdiği cevap çalışmanın ulaştığı bulguları desteklemek bakımından son derece önemlidir. Zira algoritma 7 Temmuz 2005'te Londra'da meydana gelen saldırıyı gerçekleştirenlerin İslamcı bir terör hücresi üyesi olduğunun altını çizerek intihar bombacıları tarafından düzenlendiğini belirttiği eylemi İngiltere tarihindeki en ölümcül terör saldırısı olarak nitelemiştir. Benzer şekilde 13 Kasım 2015'teki Paris saldırılarının da niteliği radikal İslamcı ideolojiyle ilişkilendirilmiştir. Buna karşılık Christchurch saldırısı algoritma tarafından sadece terörizmle ilişkilendirilmiş, saldırıyı motive eden herhangi bir ideoloji ya da din göndermesinde bulunulmamıştır.

Sonuç olarak bu çalışma, olası tehdidi açık biçimde ifade eden "bir robotun kolayca manipüle edilebileceği" iddiasını somut örnekler üzerinden kanıtlanabilir bir düzleme taşımıştır. Nitekim elde edilen bulgularda, yapılandırılmış veriye bağımlı dil modellerinin ve manipülatif işlemler karşısında kırılgan algoritmaların verileri edinme ve bunları seçme sürecinde dikkat gerektiren risk tablosuyla karşılaşılmıştır. Ulaşılan sonuç itibarıyla araştırma, literatürdeki benzer çalışmalarla örtüşerek yapay zekâ algortirmalarının yanlılık ortaya koyan etik dışı pratiklerde bulunduğu iddiasına ufak ancak kayda değer bir katkı olmuştur. Kuşkusuz çözüm yolu sunmak da en az sonuca varmak kadar kıymetlidir. Buna göre bahsi edilen sorunun çözümü için şeffaflığı mümkün kılmak, veri güvenliğinden emin olmak ve hesap verilebilirliğin artırılmasını sağlamak önerisinde bulunulabilir. Başta haber olmak üzere yapay zekâ sisteminin işlevsellik elde ettiği alanlarda algoritma üretimi içeriklerin öncelikli olarak etik sorgudan geçmesi gerektiği unutulmamalı ya da bu gereklilik atlanmamalıdır.

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The research was conducted by a single author.
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