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## **SUMMARY**

### **Humanoid robot as a subject of social life. Philosophical and social aspects**

This PhD dissertation attempts at understanding whether the humanoid robot is a subject of social life on the grounds of philosophy of robotics. The topic is grounded in the socio-cultural context of human life as a technological artefact. The artefact, already on the level of its design and further stages of construction, is supposed to be characterised by a high rate of similarity to a human being. The high scale of similarity raises multiple challenges, both in the sphere of the robot's physical structure and functioning.

The objective of the dissertation is to determine key characteristics of social subjectivity of humanoid robots, which appear directly in the context of discussions over that which is classically understood as 'subjectivity'. Another objective is to determine the scope and form of these characteristics in the context of social robotics in relation to their social subjectivity. Finally, we aim to develop essential theoretical tools and to analyse selected issues supporting the argumentation for social subjectivity of humanoid robots. Consequently, the following research questions were formulated: Should humanoid robots, be granted the status of subjects of social life? If yes, to what extent? What characteristics are essential to social subjectivity of humanoid robots? How should we define them?

The dissertation offers an analysis of ideas belonging to various fields of expertise, hence it is of an interdisciplinary character, with substantive conclusions. In order to address the question in the title, we went through two major research stages. The first was to analyze the literature encompassing issues related to robotics, viewed from a philosophical-social and technological perspective. Its aim was to develop essential theoretical tools and point out the characteristic elements of social subjectivity relating to humanoid robots. The analysis of available literature helped to distinguish four major characteristics of the robots: embodiment, communication, autonomy, and cognitive functions based on these. The other stage involved an analysis of the abovementioned characteristics, treated as diagnostic criteria. On the basis of these criteria, a hypothesis was formed claiming that the scope of their application determines whether a robot is granted the status of a subject of social life.

The objectives set in the dissertation were accomplished. We determined the characteristics treated as the starting criteria for an analysis of social subjectivity of humanoid robots and we put together the previously loose threads of one of the fundamental issues of

social robotics. We introduced a distinction between subjectivity in its weak and strong form. We concluded that only the former can be applied to the analysis of the social status of humanoid robots. Such a category embraces certain notions that were already used in anthropocentric discussions and were applied in the area of social robotics. The application of these notions is performed in a form that is technologically limited, and the category of the weak-form subject refers more to social relations rather than factual actions and decisions taken by an intentional subject.

The development of theoretical tools helps to draw attention to certain characteristics of robots, leading to a wider philosophical discussion. The notion of the social subject embraces an ontological, epistemological, axiological and social perspective, and reveals a network of interrelated categories such as embodiment, moral character, emotions, rationality, self-knowledge, consciousness, identity, free will, agency, liability. We attempted to demonstrate that these categories are vital in the context of social robotics, drawing attention to further studies and discussions on robots and their subjectivity, grounding them in philosophy, social sciences, and technology-based sciences. The hypothesis was confirmed, i.e. the scope of the application of basic characteristics of a human subject to humanoid robots determines their status of subjects of social life.