Literary Analysis ‘The Flight from Conversation – Sherry Turkle’

The article “The Flight from Conversation” by Sherry Turkle, published in The New York Times on April 21, 2010, deals with the fact the internet involves the society more and more badly. Sherry Turkle writes about how society expires in bad habits, texting the whole time even though they are sitting at home during dinner. But the questions is if non-verbal conversations are real and could the internet maintain a decent relationship? Using the internet to maintain friendships is for sure a good way but it is true that real human relationships are not able to hold through the internet.

In the article, the reader can record some important facts about the society daily lives. Sherry Turkle writes about the conversations through messages, internet and phone in which the real time conversations getting lost more and more. Nowadays, everyone lives in his own bubble and is unable to start a good and useful conversation with eye-contact. That means the good society dies more and more. However, even the kids do not learn to communicate with each other in real time. Their parents do not teach them how to start a good conversation because they are all involved in their own non-verbal conversations through internet. The way of having good relationships and friendships got lost over the past few years because humans lose real social contact increasingly. But why are people involved in the internet that much? Because everyone is feared of being alone and an individual got the necessary understanding that someone wants to achieve. Society is scared of being alone and no one is listening to someone. Adapting in the internet can mean sharing someone’s thoughts, beliefs, everything
and it is for sure people getting an answer from someone. Non-verbal conversations are for sure not real. There are some good conversations through the internet but a few important things are getting lost in those conversations. For example one important thing during a conversation is to have eye-contact to see how your conversation partner reacts on several things. Sometimes there are a lot of misunderstandings in non-verbal conversations and it is getting trouble because of things which have another understanding for one because the expression is lost. However, according to the article by Sherry Turkle, she writes about all the negative facts the internet bring with it. She by herself is against the internet too and she strengths her aspects with experiences she went through during her researches. The author ends her critical article with an open statement “So I say, look up, look at one another, and let’s start the conversation.” (Turkle, par. 26). Conversation in this context can be seen as the typical original way of conversation. Turkle wants to say that everyone has to start conversations like they have been a long time ago. Not the conversations through the internet, more the conversations in person. It can also be seen as a call for our non-communicating society to wake up and change the current behaviors.

Turkle mostly discusses the decay of society if non-conversations are real, there are a few positive and a few negative aspects. For example, a negative aspect is that everyone is texting while doing something else. And even families who sit together at home are “texting and reading e-mail” (Turkle, par. 2) during they are having dinner. That is a frightening but true aspect. No one of the modern society is able to have a good conversation with eye-contact because no one is learning it. Even teenager who should rather learn it from their parents can hold conversations only through message or internet. According to this, Sherry Turkle writes in her article, a 16-year-old boy, she interviewed him, was telling her that he is unable to have a good conversation, because he does not know how it work. He tells her “Someday, someday, but certainly not now, I’d like to learn how to have a conversation” (Turkle, par. 7).
However, there is also a positive aspect for conversation through internet. We can stay in contact with old friends. Even if they are 20 miles or 2000 miles away. Having friends is an important fact in every one’s life and “human relationships are rich” (Turkle, par. 11) for everyone to feel satisfied. However, dealing with this fact the internet is real positive and then it is true. If someone share thoughts and feelings with a friend via Facebook and Twitter, people will not be alone, so humans “use technology to define ourselves” (Turkle, par. 23) and it is for sure that at least one is listening and commenting on the post. If someone is connected to the internet and have friends through internet even though it is superficial, no one has to be scared of being alone.

Another negative aspect, which is against the instant use of internet, is that everyone is living in its own bubble because “people who have grown up fearing conversation” (Turkle, par. 8) are looking on their phone, texting and listening to music with big earphones while walking around. In everyone’s thought is only the one statement: Do not look up and start a conversation. But everybody is even afraid of being alone. People cannot communicate with others but everyone is afraid of being alone. So humans are using the internet to communicate easily. A lot of people mentioned the wish that the little computer “Siri” on the iPhone is getting updated more and more. All people wish that “Siri” is getting a friend with who everyone can talk when the feeling of loneliness. It is terrifying because it destroys the society so rapidly. Even if everyone is living together, being around each other no one is caring for another in real life. Every part of life is acting with the non-verbal conversations through internet.

In conclusion, technology has changed the way to communicate and within the way of relationship. However it is fact that even people can maintain a long distance relationship with the internet, relationships through internet are not real and therefore the non-verbal conversation is not real as well. The internet can help to keep up a relationship because it is a long distance relationship now but it is only for a short term. Even if people have friends on
facebook who answer on posts no one can can be sure if it is superficial or true. There are a few more things which are useful for a good relationship than writing through the internet. However, the internet is good for staying in contact with each other for a several time but it cannot be used for maintaining a decent relationship. All these facts can be seen in the article by Sherry Turkle, she increases all her facts with self-experiences like the buy of a robot which does all the household and even can be a friend because the robot is listening to oneself like there are standing human beings and talking the holder. All in all, the article “Flight from Conversation” by Sherry Turkle is a good article to start thinking about the decay of the communicating society and it can be seen as a wake-up-call which everybody seriously has to think about.
Work Cited


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