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How Technology Shaped My Life And The World

The relationship between orality, literacy, and technology is one that is intertwined with one another. The change from having strong oral traditions to transitioning towards literacy and eventually moving towards the rise of digital technology has had a massive impact on both me and my family. Throughout these transitions there were social changes that not only affected me, but the world as a whole due to the effects of technological change.

Technologies have always played a massive role in shaping society. Technology has made a massive impact on modern society so much so that now it is almost impossible to imagine a world in which we didn't have technology. Technology and especially digital technology has played a big role shaping my own life and has fundamentally changed the way that I view and interact with the world around me.

Humans were once a people who only practiced oral traditions. who only communicated using their voices and were illiterate. People would memorize stories told to them and would use pictures and other artwork to tell a story or preserve history. Within my family oral tradition was and perhaps still is important. My great grandfather and all of my forefathers in the past were illiterate pastoralists from Albania and through memorization kept in mind who their ancestors were and certain events dating back to the late seventeenth to early eighteenth century. Anything before that is hazy with only rumors and myths of who our ancestors were although there is some

merit, it is largely unproven. There is a certain sense of community and belonging when learning about my family's history and oral traditions and directly participating, including songs both with instruments and without them. However, there are disadvantages to sticking strictly to oral traditions. One such disadvantage is that information given depends on the person on the memory of the person giving it. Another is that oral traditions can't give information that happened in the very distant past. The further one goes back in history using oral tradition the more complex it is to gain a strong understanding as to what happened in the past. All of this is due to one's memory ability to retain information using oral traditions.

Writing in comparison to oral tradition is different, the reason being with writing there is a solidified testaments as to what is true and what isn't. Writing is more reliable in understanding the past, written records preserving dates and events is one effect of literacy. My grandfather and grandmother learned to read and write due to education becoming mandatory in Albania. As did my parents, and also me. It is interesting to note how becoming literate also changed the way people interacted with people and even changed their way of thinking. Due to being able to read and write my grandfather decided to leave his hometown/village to pursue work in another city with the government specifically in the army. There was no need to stay in a community when one can make a living elsewhere. Becoming literate opened many opportunities and many more people from my grandfather's town also decided to leave for the city. Oral tradition started to become less important, these communities of people living together practicing a culture of using oral traditions, also became less important due to the rise of literacy. People became more interested in themselves, people didn't need other people to tell them things like what certain documents were about. People could now read for themselves and educate themselves. Although oral tradition still exists within many families like mine, its importance is not as stressed and the

culture of it not as popular as it once was. Like writing, digital technology and further technological progress also changed the way people interacted with one another, as well as shaping my own life.

Some of my earliest memories are of me messing around with TVs, computers, and phones. Most of the technologies I used in my childhood were analog technologies such as landline phones, VCRs, and radios. Television was especially prevalent in my life due to it being more or less the main source of entertainment within my household. The relationship between me and technology growing up was a unique one. It was me tinkering with these technologies yet also being separate from them. There was a time to use them (technology) and a time to go outside and play, when I was outside or physically away from technology is when I built proper relationships with other people and evolved as a person. One didn't need a digital device on them all the time as we see in the present day.

Just as the transition from oral traditions to literacy changed people's attitudes and interactions with others, so did also the increase and availability of digital technology like smartphones and computers. This separation between doing things "without" technology and using technology started to fade as I entered my teenage years. Digital phones like the iphone and android phones became very prevalent in not just my life, but within the lives of almost all humans. As previously mentioned, growing up there was no need to have phones on you all the time when hanging out with friends. My friends and I had a plethora of different things to do without technology and came up with different ideas of what to do when we were together. In a way with the advancement of technology, specifically digital technology, it allowed people to always carry their iphones with them. The digital smartphone became the centerpiece of our relationships and changed the dynamic between us as people. If we wanted to hang out,

smartphones were needed. If we wanted to see what we were doing we would use smartphones to log into online social media. It seemed that everything that we did either directly or indirectly used a smartphone. Both work and school started to use digital technologies to get things done.

The relationship between language,literacy, and technology is one that evolves due to humans. From the humble beginnings of oral traditions to the information age we see how changes in technology and language can change the way people think and act and the consequences of transitioning from oral traditions to literacy. The relationship between language, literacy, and technology is ever changing and evolving, and will keep evolving so long as humans exist.