

The Terminator

Introduction

The director of “The Terminator” is James Cameron he is a Canadian filmmaker, and as a major figure in the post-New Hollywood era, he is considered one of the industry's most innovative filmmakers. Arnold Schwarzenegger is the actor who plays the role of The Terminator, in the film 1984 the terminator comes from the Cyberdyne system according to the film, a disposal of an artificially intelligent computer to then rebelled and used to wipe out the remains of humanity. In the film, The Terminator was sent from a human soldier from 2029 to 1984 to stop an almost indestructible cyborg killing machine as sent from the same year, as to the terminator robotic assassin and soldier his goal of exterminating the human resistance. In the film the enemy of The Terminator was Skynet and his enemy was created by the franchise’s main antagonist, he is a robotic creation against the human resistance in all-out war. The concept of the film “The Terminator” is based on the technology of how someone was sent from the year 2029 to back to 1984 in order to save the human resistance, as to explore how people fear robots and the dangers that could come from artificial intelligence and advance technology.

Methods

Summary: The film “The Terminator” shows an apocalypse world in the future in 2029 in which machines take control over the world and show us the cruel part in which these machines exterminate many people, and their goal is to exterminate all humans. For this reason, they send a cyborg (a robot with an artificial intelligence system) from the future to kill Sarah Connors in 1984, she is targeted because her unborn son will lead the fight against robots in the future. But humans sent Kyle to 1984 to save Sarah Connors.

Would it be possible in the real world?

Current technology in our world (2023) is more advanced than in 1984, in the 80s artificial intelligence was more limited than now. People’s 80s expectations about sophisticated systems in the future were unrealistic because people in the 80s loved to imagine how the world would be after 40 or 50 years. From the point in time 2023, with 6 years until the possible future described in the film, we may conclude that this could happen, but not so rapidly; it could take much longer.

Currently, computer capacities and the highest investments are becoming increasingly common in society. This is why I believe the scenario presented in the film, in which machines take control of the world, can occur, but I think it won’t be as violent as in the film. According to the article “Responsibility in Hybrid Societies” written on 27 June 2022, by AI and Ethics, says “With increased digitalization and new technologies, societies are expected to no longer only include human actors, but artificial actors as well—actors of a different kind will live together in so-called Hybrid Societies.” According to this article fragment, artificial intelligence will continue to advance to the point where we will have to live with AI as if they were humans. Knowing this, it is possible that what is described in the film will occur in the future.

For example, “chat GPT” currently is the most advanced AI, it is because Chat GPT can answer complex questions like a human and each answer is different, making it impossible to be detected. Students took advantage of Chat GPT making this AI do their homework, this is amazing even professors and teachers are afraid because it is impossible to recognize an answer written by this AI. This problem grew up until the government banned it at schools.

AI and ethics. (2021). Springer. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43681-022-00184-2>

Results

In terms of accuracy, The Terminator presents a mix of fictional and real-world technologies. The concept of a time-traveling robot is purely fictional, but some technologies shown in the film have real-world counterparts. For example, the movie features surveillance equipment, like hidden cameras and microphones, that were becoming more commonplace in the 1980s. Additionally, the film shows many different firearms, explosives, and vehicles that were already widely used during that time.

One of the most incredible technological features in the film is the "learning computer" that the Terminator is able to use to adapt to his environment from what he sees, this is a prediction of machine learning which a new and bright field in computer science. While machine learning was not new in 1984, the technology to make such a device did not exist at that time. However, the concept of artificial intelligence was already being explored, and the film's portrayal of a learning computer can be seen as a warning about the dangers of developing AI from machine learning without proper safeguards.

Another aspect of the film's accuracy is its depiction of the future, specifically the year 2029. While the idea of a post-apocalyptic future caused by nuclear war was a common trope in science fiction, the film's portrayal of a world controlled by machines was unique. Interestingly, the idea of machines taking over the world was already being explored in the early days of computing, with computer scientist Joseph Weizenbaum famously writing a book in 1976 warning of the dangers of computers becoming too powerful.

Overall, while The Terminator takes liberties with some of its technologies, it accurately portrays some of the concerns and possibilities of the time period in which it was made. Its use of fictional technology to explore real-world issues makes it a thought-provoking and engaging film that still resonates with audiences today.

Discussion

The Terminator, the first movie, was during a time when the idea of advanced robotics and artificial intelligence was becoming more popular in society during the 80's. The film explores the idea of what would happen if humans created intelligent machines that had the ability to become a threat to humanity.

The film's central message is that technology can be both a tool for good and evil, and that we must be careful with how we develop and use it. The film uses science fiction to capture this theme, the movie takes the audience on a journey to a world that is both familiar and yet completely foreign, making it easier for viewers to imagine the dangers of uncontrolled technological advances that could happen in our time.

The film's director, James Cameron, made deliberate choices to convey this message. For instance, the villainous Terminator, is shown as a relentless killing machine, which reflects the fear and lack of empathy robots may exhibit, these were the concerns that many people had at the time about the dangers of advanced robotics.

During the 1980s, most people feared that robots could eventually become very advanced and that they would be capable of taking over the world and subjugating humans to their will. This fear is seen in the world it takes place, robots have not only become highly advanced, but also highly malevolent, killing anything in their path to success. The movie explores the idea of whether or not humans can truly control the technology they create, and whether it's possible we may become slaves to our own creations.

The movie serves as a warning to society that we must be careful when it comes to developing new technologies, and that we must always be vigilant and aware of the possible dangers that may arise. The film's message is just as relevant today as it was in the 1980s, and it serves as a reminder that we must always be mindful of the potential dangers of the technologies we create.

