

Twitter

Twitter texts revive a thousand of events through the construction of collectively developed consciousness. Regardless of race, gender, and economic status, millions of Twitter users, both producers and/or consumers of information, to some extent participate in “The Twitter phenomenon”. While there is a high possibility that the inscriptions remain forever, the world continues sending you 140-character updates everyday. Week 7’s readings on Twitter, one of the most influential mediums, have exposed me to the seemingly surreal realities of Twitter: understanding the social media as a means for political communication and organization (Keller, 2010), for a literary genre (Goldhill, 2015), as well as a place of public protest (Hayes, 2017). In “Why We Tweet”, Johnson (2010) not only placed an emphasis on the synchronism that the three basic mechanics of the social media tool, such as social networks, real-time searching and link-sharing, share, but he also brought out the notion of “end-user innovations” of the tool itself.

I was greatly driven by Johnsons’ (2010) reading as the scholar expanded the possibility of the use of Twitter to the extent that as he himself indicated, “its creators never dreamed of” (p. 39). There may be a limit to the extent that social creativity can be stretched, but, as I read the article, I became confident that his optimism over the social creativity of Twitter was not merely given, because the endless attempt to use the tool in the most wise way possible continues in progress. In this sense, current debates on the impact of the social media on social movements (Keller, 2010), in particular whether Twitter serves as an organizational tool or not, depends on how we use the tool.

In “Evaluating Iran’s Twitter Revolution”, Keller noted the influential power that 140-character on Twitter can evoke. While it is a truth universally acknowledged, that Twitter cannot “stop the bullet”, it is worth the effort to repeat here that the amount of the real-time information enables international community and its observers to mobilize and the international reactions to make local movements visible to the eyes and ears of the world.

Another aspect that should be highlighted with respect to the limitless influence of Twitter is the transformation of the media into a literary genre. The rise of Twitter fiction as one of the literary genres literally struck me in ways not anticipated, not only because the conventional definition now fell apart, but because it opened the door to further discussions of where the limit lies between the producer (writers) and consumers (readers). These avant-garde creators broke the conventions and new rules and social creativity flourish, but I found myself wondering if there is a limit in terms of social media tools, and this question calls for the need to discuss what we can and should be equipped with in order to make the most advantage of the spontaneous interactions, that is the real-time conversational tweets.

At this point, I was faced with two apparently contradictory perspectives on what the social media can bring out of its creativity and powerful influence: the optimistic perspective on Twitter as seen by resilience (adaptability) of Twitter and the pessimistic perspective as seen by resistance to the new literary medium. The usage of President Donald Trump may shed light on light and shadow of the social media, or more precisely the significance of how we, the users, adapt the tool to our needs. President Trump has used his Twitter account to promote announcements and proposals, but he seems to prefer

to call it as a “modern day presidential” use of social media. It certainly seems critical for us Twitter users to celebrate how far we have come so far and benefited from the media, but at the same time we may need to be less optimistic on how we can react to the social creativity and public communications. Despite the confusing status of issues on Twitter, What I can be certain about the social mediums is that the traditional definition may not characterize what these mediums, including Twitter, Facebook, and Linkedlin, continue to perform and change our everyday life.