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Ihde's Encounter with "Technological Determinism" in Technology and the Lifeworld

From one aspect, I suppose Ihde's project is an intellectual challenge with elements of hard technological determinism. Apart from different accounts of hard technological determinism in the literature of philosophy of technology, it can be regarded as a view that focuses on determination of a certain direction by using given technological artifacts regardless of other forces and contexts (Ihde, 1979, p. 42). At the cultural level, it means a single, massive trajectory happens by the rise of high-technological culture and its attainment as a world culture (Ihde, 1990, p. 123). I believe that Ihde's project cannot be fully understood unless one thinks about its challenge while keeping in mind this meaning of technological determinism. This is what this paper aims to pursue. Even though I argue that one can read the project by emphasizing other topics such as instrumental realism, science-technology interactions, bodies in technologies, technoscience and so on, I will prove that without focusing on Ihde's dialogue about technological determinism, the other dialogues may not be understood properly. This is what I want to do in this paper, namely, the description and evaluation of his challenge with technological determinism. My point is that the indeterministic characteristics of Ihde's philosophy not only starts by his postphenomenological approach, but continues by his dialogue with technological determinism. The final position is a synthesis between these two different theses.