Topic | Topic sentence | Main idea | supporting sentence | example | Writing Style | purpose | summary

Paragraph 3

The theory of the uncanny valley was developed by a Japanese engineer, Masahiro Mori, in 1970. The theory goes as follows: Robots that look a little bit like a human are acceptable - think of cute robot toys. But there comes a point when a robot that looks almost as if it were human becomes very creepy. People feel as though it is completely unemotional at best and hostile at worst. When a robot gives people this sort of reaction, this is what Mori called the uncanny valley.

The Theory of the Uncanny Valley

The theory explains why robots that look nearly human can cause people to feel worried.

The theory proposes that there is a gap between the appearance of a cute and non-human-like robot and a nearly human-like robot.

The theory states that the appearance of a cute and non-human-like robot is acceptable, but when a robot looks almost as if it were human, it becomes uncomfortable.

Informative, factual

A medical robot doll from Japan, which makes people feel anxious or uneasy.

To explain the concept of the uncanny valley and why it occurs.

The theory of the uncanny valley by Masahiro Mori in 1970 helps us understand the reaction people have to robots that appear almost human.

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Paragraph 4

Scientists have been examining this theory for some time. Psychologists at the University of California did an experiment where they showed people pictures of different kinds of robot. These included a simple robot hand and a full-sized robot that appeared exactly as though it were a living, walking human girl. People were asked to say first how mechanical or human the robots looked, then how much they would enjoy interacting with the robot every day. The researchers found that when the robots looked too much like humans, people's friendliness towards them dropped quickly.

Examining the Uncanny Valley

Scientists are studying the theory of the uncanny valley, exploring how robots that resemble humans can cause unease.

The researchers found that people's friendliness towards robots decreased as the robots looked more like humans.

People have a decreased friendliness towards robots that look too much like humans.

Informative and objective

The University of California psychologists conducted an experiment.

To explain the results of the experiment that support the theory of the uncanny valley.

The results of the experiment demonstrate the reason for the theory of the uncanny valley, where robots that resemble humans too closely can cause discomfort and decreased friendliness.

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