

Exercises in_ternet

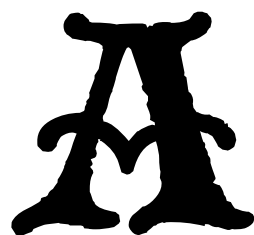
(407 words)

In his book *Exercises in Style*, Raymon Queneau rewrites one incident in multiple tones, structures and concepts to evoke a different atmosphere each time. With every iteration, the incident remains more or less the same but the reader's perspective is altered.

With this, I decided to rewrite the first passage of the introductory section from *The Internet Does Not Exist* (Aranda et al., 2015) in two different styles - a straightforward, matter-of-fact one and the other, as a dramatic tale.

1. The internet is unclear in definition. In the past, it could be called an information network. Now, it is a combination of cloud storage, social media, redirected websites and error messages. It is an abstract entity which has no form. People use social media and put their information online, in an effort to document their lives. However, it is a contradiction as they are trying to inhabit something that is not visible. The internet is considered to be an objective source of information but it is similar to any other impenetrable information network. In the words of Bruno Latour, "Networks are all edges." They are not openings but rather, reflections. The virtual world of the internet is very engaging and is often overwhelming to its users. People are so engrossed by what is happening online that the virtual reality has become one with the physical world. The internet stores all the information about our planet and controls our minds. It shapes our opinions, absorbs our attention spans, takes up our time, exhausts our responses, and manipulates our emotions.

2.



n invisible monster preys on our minds. It feeds off of our sight and our soul. It does not stop there. The monster wants to hypnotize us and through us, drain this world of its abundant consciousness. It does not have a form, nor features. It has a name but the name tells us nothing. Yet everything. Long have humans tried to tame this elusive beast! They have tried to pierce its skin, to understand what it says, to imitate it, to climb it, be a part of it, conquer it. But how can they conquer that which is not real? It is said that the monster lives in a house that has sharp edges and reflects like mirrors. None can enter it, none can find it.

The monster is omnipresent. As a mist, a dark sky, an enemy, a deflection, like death itself, or God. The monster does not exist.

References

Aranda, J., Wood, B., Vidokle, A. (2015) 'The Internet Does Not Exist', *e-flux journal*, p. 5

Queneau, R.(1998) *Exercises in Style*. Translated from the French by B. Wright. London: John Calder Publishers