



Epic Technology to stop the corruption in Chile: an alternative inspired from the literature

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Abstract. Regarding the growing corruption uncovered during the last two years in Chile and as an alternative to the traditional recommendations to stop this evil, it is proposed a new way to alter the environment whose features has a simile with the epic genre of literature. It is about the actions of a citizen who, faced with adversity, he performs a heroic action in search of an achievement valued by the nation. This non-traditional way of dealing with corruption plenty of both huge courage and singular intelligence, was conceived initially only for fun in the hope that in the near future it could inspire efficient solutions.

Keywords: epic, corruption, technology, simile, literature, courage, intelligence.

1.- Problem

Corruption is one of the great problems in different nations and many international organizations concerned with this evil have proposed solutions that insist on transparency, meritocracy, punishment and other actions to combat it.

However, these actions to achieve a space-time impact need just a low-level of corruption, an unlikely situation in countries as Chile.

On the other hand, accepting as a definition of technology the way in which human beings change the environment with a certain purpose using scientific knowledge; traditional technologies have not delivered satisfactory results.

2.- Objective

The purpose of this essay is to present the characteristics of a new type of technology that unlike others, takes advantage of art, particularly from the literature.

Indeed, regarding the failure of technologies that rely on economics, politics, sociology and other social sciences in the fight against corruption; the present work turns to the literature.



3.- State of the Art

About Technology

There are many definitions of technology, without a consensus. However, Val Dusek [1] offers three definitions or characterizations of technology: (a) technology as hardware; (b) technology as rules; and (c) technology as system. Given such dispersion, it is preferable to assume that definition given by the economist John Kenneth Galbraith (1908–2004) who defined technology as “the systematic application of scientific or other knowledge to practical tasks”.

According to this last definition, the technology will not be able to impact beyond where the scientific advances allow it. Therefore the technology depends on science and if it does not progress, neither will the technology advance.

This limitation is an incentive to move forward using other human manifestations such as the art.

About Corruption

Many organizations as Transparency International give key advises to stop corruption: end impunity, reform public administration, promote transparency, access to information, empower citizens and lose international loopholes.

The World Bank has as ultimate goal “the strategy to help countries address corruption is not to eliminate corruption completely, which is an unrealistic aim, but to help those countries move from systemic corruption to an environment of well-performing government that minimizes corruption's negative effect on development”. In this context the bank remarks that is important to

understand the kinds of corruption to develop smart responses, to create pathways that give citizens relevant tools to engage and participate in their governments, to bring together formal and informal processes for changing behavior and monitor progress, to align anti-corruption measures with market, to punish corruption, to identify ways to leverage international resources to support and sustain good governance and to be continually monitored and evaluated the measures.

The United Nations establishes “Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish” [1].

The problem with these anti-corruption measures is that their effectiveness depends on the previous level of corruption in which they run: the less corruption, the greater the success. Therefore, the more advanced corruption is, the more difficult to stop it.

About Epic

When people do not find a way to reach a national goal like the death of corruption, the epic genre offers a response. In fact, when the national feeling is downcast, frustrated, hopeful but anxious to tackle the evil that overwhelms it, the epic appears.

Of course, in literature an epic is a long narrative poem, sometimes developed orally that celebrates the deeds of a heroic figure [2]. Obviously, it is so a hero who faces a corrupt environment, a kind of very hostile surroundings where the opponents have extreme power.

Most of the studies divide the epic into two categories where the heroes face opponents



of extreme power: Folk Epics and Literary Epics. Thus, in the Folk Epics it is found: Beowulf (Anglo-Saxon), Gilgamesh (Sumerian), Mahabharata (Indian), Sundiata (West African). Some examples of Literary Epics are: Iliad by Homer, Aeneid by Virgil, Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri and Paradise Lost by John Milton.

4.- Method

In order to identify the simile, the present essay examines mainly three types of bibliographical sources each one corresponding respectively to these three subjects: technology, corruption and epic.

5.- Results

As previously stated, an epic is a long narrative poem that recounts the adventures of a hero (a citizen in this case) in pursuit of a goal of national interest (the death of corruption in this case).

Protagonist = citizen

The protagonist is the hero, the main character in the story who pits his huge courage and singular intelligence against the evil forces.

Quest = death of corruption

Is the very dangerous mission undertaken by the hero. Sometimes this quest is the main opportunity to prove his heroism and win honor being respected by his detractors.

Deeds = facing, harangue, sneak attack

These unique actions performed by the hero change the course of the story toward favorable outcomes.

Intervention = unexpected help

Sometimes the hero receives the help from unexpected people such as a repentant or an ex-enemy.

Risks = threats to family or friends

Another characteristic of the hero is that to fulfill his mission, not only he risks his life but also the well-being of his loved ones, exposing to threats to his family and friends.

Not only has the literature dealt with the epic; but also the motion pictures with the classic topic of the 80's when a young boy arrives at a town and realizes that there are vampires. He denounces the situation to the sheriff who is not only a vampire, but also the chief of all vampires. There is also an analogy with corruption because, like that young boy in the film, a citizen no longer has confidence in the police, persecutors, judges and other authorities. Therefore, he assumes the task of eliminating those corrupts and for this goal the hero uses his courage and surprising intelligence.

6.- General Conclusions

When corruption is installed in a country, the people that seek to eliminate it feel that society is in a kind of blind alley and therefore resort to any alternative, even if this one is inspired by art.

Thus an epic gesture characterized by courage and intelligence as generally absent attributes can be considered as a legitimate but unlikely departure.

In literature, film and possibly other artistic expressions linked to the epic genre,



highlight the courage and intelligence as two necessary virtues to transform a situation that overwhelms a country.

Certainly, when advanced corruption is the evil, the confidence rests on citizens who assume the role of heroes.

Finally, in this article Epic Technology can be understood as one that, applying the scientific knowledge, seeks to achieve the great goals of the Nation-State by who are willing to take big risks towards themselves, family or friends; facing such threats with enormous courage and surprising intelligence.

Referencias

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