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British Literature B

12 May 2017

Self-Driving Cars

As the times go on, everything in the world will end up being more simple, including automobiles. Self-driving cars are the future of transportation. The invention of self-driving cars could end up having major benefits towards humans, but could also have some negative effects. The positives of this technology seem to greatly outweigh the negatives. The idea of self-driving cars would be a world changing piece of technology and would be a multi-million dollar or even multi-billion dollar company. It would help most people including senior citizens. The only thing people have to do is get over the fear that it may go wrong. There is evidence supporting the fact that these cars will be fine, and are smarter than human beings. If everyone or at least most of the population afraid of this innovation could get over that fear, this business will begin booming because these people will realize how good of an idea the self-driving car really is.

Self-driving cars would help people who are disabled driving-wise drive. As a matter of fact, they can lead them to where they must go, and they can prevent them from driving too slow or possibly too fast. Many senior citizens have stated themselves that this technology would be a blessing for them to actually use. In the article “For the Aged, Self-Driving Cars Could Bridge a Mobility Gap,” they interviewed some senior citizens about their opinions on self-driving cars and sixty-eight-year-old Steven Gold talked very highly of them. The article said, “Single, childless and 68, Steven Gold has begun to think about future mobility and independence. Although in good health, he can foresee a time when he won't be a confident driver, if he can drive at all. While he hopes to continue to live in his suburban Detroit home, he wonders how he will be able to get to places like his doctor's office and the supermarket if his driving becomes impaired. For Mr. Gold and other older adults, self-driving cars might be a solution.”(Chapman). That is just one of the many seniors that believe autonomous vehicles could be very beneficial. Now, there are still seniors who do not believe this could actually work and are against it, but the ones that have actually researched the pros of these vehicles are usually on board.   
 If the autonomous automobile industry became popular, the auto industry would boom in a big way. In all honestly, it could easily become the biggest business in history. So many people would buy into this idea and it would become as mainstream as any other automobile ever has. As a matter of fact, the upstart car company Tesla just recently for the first time became more valuable than the major company Ford due to advances in technology. In the article “Tesla Is Worth More Than Ford for First Time,” the authors Bill Vlasic and Neal E. Boudette said, “Tesla reached a market capitalization of $48.7 billion compared with Ford’s $45.6 billion…”(Vlasic and Boudette). It is unheard of for a company for a company like Tesla to be worth more than an auto giant like Ford, but it is true. The reason Tesla is doing better than Ford is because they are beginning to use of new technology, and in particular, autonomous cars. These cars are going to be the huge for Tesla, and people are starting to buy into what Tesla believes will be the future. As time goes on, more and more companies will notice Tesla’s rise and will follow in their footsteps.  
 One of the more major worries the people who do not believe in the technology the autonomous vehicles require is that they do not believe they will be safe on the roads. However, that fear should not hold someone back from purchasing one of these cars. The companies putting these cars on the market take every precaution necessary to ensure safety for the people in the car during the self-driving of it. In the article “The 15-Point Checklist for Self-Driving Cars,” author Cecilia Kang stated, “Federal regulators announced their first safety checklist ever for self-driving and driverless cars this week. In the guidelines, the United States Department of Transportation urged automakers and tech companies to prove that their semiautonomous and autonomous vehicles could meet a 15-point list of safety expectations before the autos hit the road.”(Kang). These cars go through rigorous testing before the public is available to purchase/drive them. One of the main focuses of self-driving is to make the roads safer, so these companies will make sure that their product is as close to perfectly safe as possible. These checklist are not just basic checks of the car; they will be very detail oriented inspections of each car to make sure it runs properly, and if the technology is correct. Certainly, there will always be mistakes, that is just the human nature of things, but by checking these points for each car, mistakes will be limited.

Also, these cars have the ability to raise speed limits because they are programmed to drive the exact speed limit, and it could move the flow of traffic better. Instead of mile roads being in 35-45 mile per hour range, they could possibly be raised into the 50s, or highways could be raised from 70 to who knows what. There are highways in other countries that barely have any regulations on speed, like the Autobahn in Germany. Imagine how nice it would be for everything to be moving as fast as possible. Everything would be more smooth with autonomous vehicles driving everywhere because of the technology of the car.  
 At this point, it is inevitable for autonomous cars to become mainstream or the new thing today. It is not if they become big, it is when. No one is exactly sure when they will be all over the place, but it most likely will be pretty soon. Even so, these vehicles are still in existence and they are not hard to find at this point. In the article “More Self-Driving Cars Take to the Streets,” the author Jim Kerstetter says “It's hard to say for sure when autonomous vehicles will become mainstream, but one thing is certain: In some cities, spotting one is no longer a novelty.”(Kerstetter). In most major cities, there are at least a couple of the autonomous vehicles, either designed by actual car companies or even some other types of companies, like Google, Apple, or Uber. Uber is a company that is designed like a taxi company, so them putting self-driving vehicles on the street is a massive leap of faith, but they obviously see the benefits of this technology. Considering companies like these are beginning to use these cars, more and more companies will follow suit. Once it becomes less and less rare to actual see these cars, they will start being able to be purchased by the general public. There is no way around the fact that autonomous vehicles are coming, and they are coming in a big way.

The technology of autonomous vehicles is going to change the world, and people who are not on board better hop on soon, or they will be left behind. Sooner or later, everyone and their mother will have a self-driving car. Most people probably will not purchase these cars as soon as they are released to the public, but as time goes on and the prices go down, they will be very common to see out there on the road. Still, some of these vehicles are on the road as of right now, so people who are terrified of this technology need to let go of that fear as soon as possible. These cars are full of positive capabilities that limit accidents and make everything safer on the roads. Although it is not a person driving, these computers are unbelievably smart, smarter than the human species, actually. The computers built into the cars are programmed to be know everything that is going on on the roads, like traffic and delays, or road closures, etc. Of course these things are not perfect and mistakes will happen, that is inevitable, but this is a new way of life, and technology is taking over the world.

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