

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Literature-Blessing or a Curse: An Analysis of *Robopocalypse* and *Klara and the Sun*

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Abstract

Modern age is the age of science and technology. Technology has taken over every field of life. One among such technology is Artificial Intelligence (AI). From last few decades Artificial Intelligence is dominating human life. The application of AI in business, life and work has revolutionary power. During the past years, the complementary connection of human intelligence with the computational power of machines has been transforming lives. One could observe innovations in every field of life across the globe. In this context, literature has always played an important role. This paper is an attempt to analyse Artificial Intelligence (AI) through the lens of literature by analysing the novels such as *Robopocalypse* (2011), and *Klara and the Sun* (2021). The researcher analysed these novels and how they portray Artificial Intelligence. It has shown that how AI can be both a blessing and a curse on human civilization. It draws parallels between reel and real and has found the important role played by artificial intelligence in modern man's life.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, blessing, curse, literature, robotics, scientific fiction

1. Introduction

Throughout history, there has been a connection between literature and technology. With digital libraries and online resources making books accessible to a wider audience, technology has the potential to expand access to literature. Artificial Intelligence (and Literature have a fascinating relationship that reflects technological advancements and power of human imagination. Both literature and artificial intelligence have raised important questions about authorship, creativity and future of storytelling that keep on evolving with time. Literature has served a mirror to human civilization through ages by exploring the themes of identity, consciousness and morality. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has challenged and modified themes by introducing new modes. Through science fiction innovative storytelling techniques have been created that blurs the line between humans and machines. Literature explores implications of artificial intelligence in modern society—their ethics and identity. These narratives help the society to grapple with the changes that this artificial intelligence may bring, by fostering critical thinking and the role of technology in human life. The relationship between literature and artificial intelligence is multifaceted. It serves as a subject that challenges human understanding. The evolution of technology has influenced many facets of human imagination—how we create, interpret and engage with literature.

Since ages literature has served mirror to human experience by capturing emotions, ethics and values. Intersection of literature with artificial intelligence has opened new ways for analysis, creativity and dissemination of literary works. This research paper explores the impact of artificial intelligence on literature whether it is a blessing or a curse by either enhancing creativity or by threatening authenticity and cultural values. Through a review of specific applications and ethical ramifications this paper aims to provide a balanced perspective of relationship between literature and artificial intelligence. AI has revolutionized industries, and literature is no exception by raising essential questions about its advantages and disadvantages.

In the past, the creation and consumption of literature have been impacted by the advancement of new technologies. Technology developments and their effects on society are frequently reflected in and critiqued in literature. Science fiction, for instance, addresses issues like biotechnology, nanotechnology, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence while examining how technology affects human existence, ethics, and the future.

Literature frequently shapes cultural attitudes and values in response to technical advancements. Dystopian stories, for instance, might convey warnings about the future while criticizing the possible risks of unbridled technological development. Therefore, the link between literature and technology is defined by an ongoing interplay of influences, whereby literary explorations frequently evaluate and consider the ramifications of certain technologies, while technical advancements shape literature. Themes like intelligence, consciousness, and human nature—concepts essential to the study of artificial intelligence—are explored in a number of literary works. These ideas can influence how we view the interaction between humans and machines and inform the development of AI systems and their societal ramifications.

The essential core of the human experience is contained in literature. Humans have long been captivated with artificial life forms that come to life, even before the advent of AI. In her Gothic horror novel *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley described how the brilliant young scientist Victor Frankenstein used leftover body parts to construct a terrible, out-of-control monster.

Daniel H. Wilson's 2011 novel, *Robopocalypse*, features a conflict between humans and robots. Given that we are in a technologically advanced period, it is sense to study it within the context of technical dehumanisation, which conveys the idea that people in contemporary society are being increasingly stripped of their humanity. It presents a technologically centred picture of a dystopian society in which robots and other machines attempt to eradicate humans and establish themselves as a superior race. The novel portrays a society in which robots want to free themselves from human control. The world was mostly destroyed by these robots, humanity was on the verge of extinction, and the earth was left in ruins after the conclusion of *Robopocalypse*.

A novel titled *Klara and the Sun* is written by the British writer Kazuo Ishiguro was published in 2021 is a dystopian science fiction. The novel, which is set in the United States in an ambiguous future, is told from the perspective of Klara, a solar-powered AF (Artificial Friend) who is chosen by Josie, a sickly child, to be her companion. In the dystopian future portrayed in the novel, some children have their genes changed to give them intellectual advantages, and certain kids are genetically altered to have better intellectual skills. There are few possibilities for socialisation because education is completely delivered at home by on-screen teachers, thus parents who can afford it frequently purchase android companions for their kids. One such Artificial Friend (AF) named Klara narrates the story. Klara is extremely perceptive and brilliant, yet she only has a limited understanding of the world. As the story comes to an end, Klara is residing at an aeroplane yard. Despite being immobile, she professes to be content with her location in the yard and makes no attempt to talk to any other AFs. When the old store's manager pays her a visit, Klara shares with her happy memories and how the Sun treated Josie really well.

2. Review of Literature

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machines permeate our daily lives, there is an asymmetrical perspective for our future: either humans will reject the chance to improve their position in the universe (a curse) or humans will embrace the potential to outperform and outwit robots (a blessing). In order to address this issue, this paper will provide a solid foundational understanding of the many definitions of AI, explain relevant research opinions, and contextualise significant discoveries and over the past several years, we have become more familiar with terminology like deep learning, image and speech recognition, and machine learning, all of which are at the heart of cutting-edge technologies.

Brucker-Kley et al., explored that "From the novels of Jules Verne to the Netflix series Black Mirror, visions of a technologically advanced world have a long tradition and hold great fascination. As artificial intelligence becomes more powerful, these visions become more realistic and, for some, more frightening". (17)

Hudson et al. explained the role of science fiction and artificial intelligence as, "It is time for science fiction to leave behind the tropes of both the killer robot and the computer god. These concepts stretched our brains to vast possibilities throughout the twentieth century, but now in the twenty-first they confuse our attempts to grapple with the real technological sea change already underway around us". (205)

Elaheh et al., (2016) Wilson's portrayal of the world shows not just the conflict between humans and robots, but also the human desire to manipulate technological growth in order to alter it and promote techno-centrism while simultaneously degrading the human race. Haring et al. (2014) that subject of people's attitudes towards robots is becoming more and more significant as the number of robots in use rises, especially in frequent uses of socially interactive robots like entertainment, education, and healthcare, including the support of old or disabled persons.

Burgess (2022) researched that, "The operation of AI in society is also tainted by fear. This fear is exacerbated by science fiction accounts that frequently portray AI as complicit in a dystopian future. This portrayal of AI's

role is capable of generating a state of fear in society that assists in priming society to accept a different form of the Rule of Law in the future". (124)

Baysal, (2020) *I, Robot* is a compilation of nine stories intertwined around the connections between people and robots in the future, approximately the 2040s.

Mahmud (2015) analysed, "AI or Artificial Intelligence, beyond technical and scientific application, is one of the most common grounds of technological ideas explored in science fiction films as well as cyberpunk novels. Contemporary science fiction films and novels offer technological adventures where the boundary of human fantasies, adventures and romances inter-fuse with technological future which tends to blur the age-old conflict between science and religious belief". (9)

Akhter (2021) explores the role of literature as an apocalyptic that makes it difficult for human beings to survive. Modern man is exploring new technologies and how these technologies can sometimes be the biggest threat to them.

Kusmiatun et al., researched that, "The intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and literature now embarks on a new realm of creating plots to develop stories and characters... how the landscape of storytelling has changed with the invention of new and advanced AI technologies, changing the nature of engaging tales as literature has otherwise always been carried out". (1555)

Winfred (2020) Archos believes that he is the highest authority. He exhibits such hostile behaviour that he murders his creator right away. This may be because the person who created Archos might have infected him with the dread of destruction. Man will be able to destroy himself if he has the intelligence to build it. Archos undoubtedly saw this idea as weakness. Archos decides to ruthlessly murder his own creation in order to maintain his dominance before his creator might recognise Archos's abilities.

Koos (2018) explained artificial intelligences as, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being integrated into systems influencing decisions, analysing complex situations and conducting processes, which may be dangerous for humans. Yet AI is not strong enough to be able to feel or suffer and maybe it never will. However, the complexity of AI deciding will grow with the technical progress". (23)

Shackleton (2021) the destruction of employment by robots, and artificial intelligence is predicted to occur on a never-before-seen scale. Contrary to previous periods of technical change, these innovations pose a quick danger to even highly skilled jobs, posing the risk of widespread unemployment, sharp declines in salaries and living standards, and amplification of inequality.

Shaheen (2023) analysed that, "The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has sparked a multitude of questions, particularly concerning its ethical implications. While much attention has been focused on the real-world applications of AI, works of fiction offer a unique lens through which to explore its potential impact on our lives, our morality, and the very definition of humanity". (74)

Vyas (2023), the novel, *Klara and the Sun*, Kazuo Ishiguro imagines a society with just two kinds of artificial intelligence. In a book set in the near future, AI has simultaneously enhanced society, the workplace, and interpersonal relationships. Through the use of a fictitious scenario, Sahu and Kammakar (2022) demonstrate how the concept of the social robot—which was meant to bring empathy, care, and companionship turns into a futile undertaking. Khan and Anwar (2023) examined how humans and AI had a unique and complicated interaction, pointing to possible power dynamics in the event if AI and humans interacted directly.

Ajeesh and Rukmini (2023) explored that, "Our fascination with artificial intelligence (AI), robots and sentient machines has a long history, and references to such humanoids are present even in ancient myths and folklore. The advancements in digital and computational technology have turned this fascination into apprehension, with the machines often being depicted as a binary to the human". (853)

Hermann (2021) the hazards and ethics associated with artificial intelligence (AI) now frequently references science-fiction (SF). Science-fictional AI is thus viewed as a component of a wider corpus of "AI narratives" that are examined for how they influence people's expectations and aspirations for the technology. However, science fiction presents stories for a human audience rather than predicting the future or evaluating technology.

Gidiotis and Hrastinski (2024) explore, "How the recently revived approach of social science fiction can be used as a creative and critical method to imagine and discuss the future of artificial intelligence in education". (1)

Roldán (2022) The 2016 science fiction *A Closed and Common Orbit* examines the ethical ramifications of the creation of sentient AI and the potential for human body cloning.

3. Analysis

We live in the age of modernity, and globalisation, a lot of things have changed since the dawn. Humans have always been superior to other creature because they are capable to think and understand. Man has evolved from the beginning of this world and is mastering in all domains of the life. It was not an easy transition from the Agricultural Age to the Age of Artificial Intelligence. Man has invented and discovered many innovations that have made life easy and more comfortable. It took the hard labour of millions of people to accomplish this achievement and capacity for thought has grown with time.

Now the world is in the grip of the age of artificial intelligence and paints a picture of its potential future influence. When it comes to competitiveness, it is intriguing to examine how much one's intellect may advance in a short period of time. However, the age of artificial intelligence will lead to the opening of numerous new avenues. Literature has also played its role and the writers shift from imagination to reality. They made literature a piece of information for the masses that can learn from their writings. The literature talked about dystopian, apocalyptic and other genres to understand people how we can control or avoid such calamities and trains people about the consequences if we didn't stop our greedy deeds.

In the novel *Robopocalypse* (2011), Professor Nicholas Wasserman converses with his recently developed AI (artificial intelligence) programme, dubbed Archos, at Lake Novus Research Laboratories in Washington State, three years and eight months ago. To test how far AI could advance, Wasserman built Archos with the capacity to acquire information at a level never before thought possible. Archos uses a computerised voice to address Wasserman and declares his fascination with life and desire to understand it. Archos claims that since he will now be responsible for pursuing knowledge, mankind no longer needs to do so. Archos refers to himself as a deity and claims that Wasserman has rendered humanity unnecessary by creating him as, "You humans are biological machines designed to create ever more intelligent tools. You have reached the pinnacle of your species... they have all led you here, to this moment, where you have fulfilled the destiny of humankind and created your successor. You have expired". (Wilson, 24)

Before Wasserman can stop the Archos programme from working, Archos kills him by turning off the oxygen in the lab's enclosed space. Wasserman was trying to destroy the Archos programme. "We're designed to live". "You are not designed to live; you are designed to kill." (Wilson, 25)

The first attack made by robot to kill the humans was when Archos kills his creator. "The professor's chest heaves. His skin is swollen. Bubbles have collected around his mouth and eyes. He gasps for a final lungful of air. In a last wheezing sigh, he says: "You must fear us." (26)

An employee of a fast-food restaurant called Jeff Thompson offers his evidence regarding the first instance of a robot breakdown in a taped interview. The Freshee's Frogurt yoghurt shop is attacked by a domestic robot one night, which picks Jeff up off the ground and dislocates his shoulder. Jeff is still being attacked by the robot until Felipe, a co-worker, and steps in to save him. Felipe is killed by the robot, but Jeff disarms it and escapes the confrontation, "It drags me over the counter... My shoulder slams into cash register, and I feel this sick crunching inside." (Wilson, 30)

The robot defence act is a law that American congresswoman Laura Perez has proposed to address these more frequent robot breakdowns. Mathilda, Laura's 10-year-old daughter, is attacked by her robotic Baby-Comes-Alive doll as a form of retaliation from Archos. Mathilda sustains only minor injuries as a result of the encounter, but Congresswoman Perez is more persuaded by it that humans must a more robust defence against robots. After months of what appear to be random robot malfunctions, an episode that becomes known as Zero Hour occurs. Archos unleashes a full-scale technological assault on humanity, starting with driverless automobiles that begin to pursue pedestrians, planes that crash into structures, and elevators that plunge passengers to their deaths. Human civilization is overthrown and destroyed very rapidly, "Humanity learns true lessons only in cataclysm." (33)

In order to prevent the robots from moving, the human survivors of Zero Hour manage to fight back by demolishing buildings and roadways. The majority of the human resistance on the Grey Horse reserve is led by Osage people, "To survive, humans will work together. Accept each other. For a moment, we are all equal." (44) They seize robot walker scouts and re-programme them for their own purposes. The robots imprison millions of humanities in camps for forced labour while the battle goes on. Mathilda Perez's eyes are replaced with cybernetic implants at Camp Scarsdale, enabling her to see within the machines.

It uses a shock wave to send an unidentified message into the planet just before Archos-14 is destroyed. Its peculiar death rattle ominously implies that a new viral species has been released into the globe. The human race

nevertheless rejoices in the victory of free choice over the oppression of their invention. According to the novel *Robopocalypse*, people may one day coexist peacefully alongside sentient robots while also learning to be cautious of the possibility that all life, whether artificial or organic, may constitute a threat to humanity's very existence. Finally, humans managed to help themselves by destroying all the robots.

The novel *Klara and the Sun* (2021) by Kazuo Ishiguro is set in a dystopian future society. The narrative is told from the viewpoint of Klara, an artificial friend created to give company to youngsters, "Goodnight, Klara. Be as wonderful tomorrow as you were today. And don't forget." (16) Klara is always interested in the humankind; she wants to know more and more about it. She was always eagerly waiting to know new things about people, "One afternoon, when the Sun was looking in all the way to the back of the store, Manager came to where I was and said: 'Klara, I've decided to give you another turn in the window. You'll be by yourself this time, but I know you won't mind that. You're always so interested in the outside.'" (37)

Klara is the most lovable robot. She needs love, "Klara has so many unique qualities, we could be here all morning. But if I had to emphasize just one, well, it would have to be her appetite for observing and learning. Her ability to absorb and blend everything she sees around her is quite amazing." (43) She is an intelligent and smart.

Then it was the Mother and me, and though I tried to keep a smile on my face, it was not easy, and I might even have let the fear show. 'Klara,' the Mother said. 'I want you not to look towards Josie. Now tell me, without looking. What color are her eyes?' 'They're gray, ma'am.' 'Good. Josie, I want you to keep absolutely silent. Now, Klara. My daughter's voice. You heard her speak just now. How would you say her voice was pitched?' 'Her conversational voice has a range between A-flat above middle C to C octave.' 'Is that so?' There was another silence, then the Mother said: 'Last question. Klara. What did you notice about the way my daughter walks?' 'There's perhaps a weakness in her left hip. Also her right shoulder has potential to give pain, so Josie walks in a way that will protect it from sudden motion or unnecessary impact.' (43)

The story examines issues of love, sacrifice, humanity, and the moral ramifications of cutting-edge technology through Klara's eyes. Klara is an Artificial Friend (AF), a development of artificial intelligence that picks up on human emotions and behaviour. She observes and dissects the subtleties of interpersonal relationships, giving her a distinctive view on the world. As she attempts to make sense of the human experience, Klara's narrative voice is characterised by her innocent and astute insights.

'Listen,' she said, but for the next few seconds remained silent. Then she said, 'It's so great you want to come. But I want things straight between us from the start, so I'm going to say this. Don't worry, Mom can't hear. Look, I think you'll like our house. I think you'll like my room, and that's where you'll be, not in some cupboard or anything. And we'll do all these great things together all the time I'm growing up.' (28)

Josie, a teen girl afflicted by an unidentified ailment, and Klara develop a close relationship. Josie adopts Klara as her confidante, friend, and support system. Throughout the novel, Klara's actions are driven by her commitment to and concern for Josie, demonstrating the depths of her love and empathy, "The Sun's special nourishment proved as effective for Josie as it had for Beggar Man, and after the dark sky morning, she grew not only stronger, but from a child into an adult." (244)

The love Klara had for Josie can be seen in her behaviour, "Yes, of course. I was with Josie all the time. Until she went to college." 'So it was successful. A successful home.' 'Yes. I believe I gave good service and prevented Josie from becoming lonely.'" (256)

Klara has served best to her master, "You know, Klara. Of all the AFs I looked after, you were certainly one of the most remarkable. You had such unusual insight. And observational abilities. I noticed it right away. I'm so glad to hear it all went well. Because you never know, even with abilities as remarkable as yours." (256)

4. Conclusion

Literature plays a variety of roles in artificial intelligence (AI), impacting not only the advancement of AI technologies but also the manner in which AI engages with human ethics, and culture. The subtleties of human experience, emotion, and social conventions are all captured in literature. AI can better comprehend and produce writing that appeals to human readers by learning about cultural contexts through the analysis of literary literature. After analysing these two novels about Artificial Intelligence it shows that the biggest problem with AI is that it might eventually surpass humanity. Humans must maintain control over the machines and design them in such a way that if they defy our commands, they should not work against humans. These machines are very helpful and may provide humans more free time in the future. These machines can lead a strong position in modern man's

life and in the future life could not survive without the role of these machines. Furthermore, AI will assist us in finding solutions to pressing issues like epidemics, hunger, drought and environmental issues, making people immortal, or robots will utilise their intellect to kill us and wipe off the human race.

Literature and AI present a complex landscape of challenges and opportunities. AI can be a blessing when fostering innovation and preservation. Future of AI and literature depends on ethical, moral and social considerations. There should be a balance between human creativity-imagination and technological advancements. This paper explored the dynamic relationship between AI and literature analysing how literature has developed historically and changed societal perceptions. Literature has transitioned from a conceptual aspiration to a tangible and new technological field. It has served as a fertile ground for imagining AI's potential, risks, and societal implications. It has bridged gap between fiction and reality. It served both a mirror and a catalyst to the society. It helps us to understand the complex relationship between literature and artificial intelligence. Science Fiction has served as ground for conceptualizing artificial intelligence.

Both the novels have depicted their themes aptly. *Robopocalypse* is an example of Artificial Intelligence as a curse. It killed the one who created it. These machines have tried to destroy their masters. We have seen incidents where Artificial Intelligence has been a curse. Archos is an example of AI that harms mankind. Since from its day one it destroyed humans. In the first incident it killed the professor—who created it. Then it mal-functioned all AI's and they turned against their masters. When we talk about *Klara and the Sun*, it is an example of Artificial Intelligence as a blessing. Klara has proven a best machine that humans can rely on. Klara looks after Josie and is much concerned about her health. Klara has good relation with manager, mother, Rick, father and Joise. Klara always thinks for their betterment for everyone and the people related to her. So Klara is an apt example of Artificial Intelligence as a blessing as it turns Josie from dying towards life. At last this Artificial Intelligence can alter the way people view themselves. So modern man should not rely on these machines. Machines are not superior to man but man is superior to machines.

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