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The Role of Nature in Modern Fiction: An Eco-Critical Perspective

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Introduction

Over the past few years, integrating environmental concerns with the study of literature has evolved into a notable field known as eco-criticism, which stimulates a reader's imagination towards the ecological relationship humans have in contemporary fiction. It looks at more than just the canonical stories which are nearly void of any ecological concern. It also seeks to elevate nature in equilibria terms as a central phenomenon that greatly affects humans and their social issues. The modern representation of nature's landscapes, flora, and fauna serve es as a representation of the characters' psychological struggles and, above all, highlight the alarming reality of the world's destruction. In this light, modern fiction is increasingly becoming a potent criticism of anthropocentrism as well as a call for a constructive relationship with nature. Nature is not just a setting for the ecological themes crafted by contemporary writers. Instead, it emerges as a powerful arbiter of culture's environmental anxiety and expectations.

Keywords: Eco-Criticism, Nature in Fiction, Environmental Literature, Modern Storytelling, Literary Ecology

Definition of eco-criticism and its relevance to modern fiction

Eco-criticism is particularly pertinent in contemporary fiction because it offers useful insights on how books will approach the environment. This perspective examines the ways in which stories are framed and their impact on societal beliefs about the



environment and man's place within it. Through eco-critical storytelling, readers are encouraged to uncover deeper environmental themes and challenge anthropocentric perspectives that dominate most of literature. When examining collections of short stories, scholars pose critical issues relating to the past, which are relevant to global ecological problems today (Santi et al.). So do writers like Mark Z. Danielewski, who attempt to escape the confines of traditional narrative structure through metafiction and use it as a means of provoking thought about the environmental context of the worlds they create (Barton et al.). Eco-criticism in this light assists with how we appreciate literature and reignites debates on the role of humans within the ecosystem.

The complex relationship between stories and nature in modern literature shows a rising awareness of environmental issues and how humans relate to the natural world. Writers looking at topics related to the environment often use their stories to reflect on how people interact with their surroundings. The rise of climate fiction, for example, allows for a new look at old literary ideas, pushing back against the common view of nature as just a setting for human conflict. This type of writing stresses the need to tackle climate change and environmental harm and shows how stories can shape how society views and acts on environmental challenges (Abraham et al.). By including different voices, such as those from the Environmental Humanities, literature not only explains the deep meanings behind human-nature interactions but also promotes a better understanding of ecological fairness and morals. This highlights why literature is important for critical discussion and social action.

Nature as a Character

The complex connection between people and the environment is often shown by giving nature human traits, making it a character that affects the story and the characters. In today's fiction, nature acts as both a refuge and a source of tension, mirroring feelings and changes in society. For example, different landscapes can bring about feelings of loneliness or strength, as characters deal with their journeys in relation to nature. The saying, "Nature is not a place to visit. It is home," highlights the deep bond between



people and their environment, showing how nature influences personal identities and community relationships. Additionally, recent studies on literature, like those in (Rohman et al.) and (Poloczek et al.), show that examining ecological themes is crucial, linking human experiences to the complicated nature of environmental connections and urging readers to rethink how nature plays an active role in stories.

Exploration of nature's anthropomorphism in modern narratives

In modern stories, making nature seem human-like serves two main goals: it makes the environment more relatable while encouraging people to connect ethically with the natural world. In the play *Fire* by Scott Alderdice, animal characters strongly show their feelings and experiences, pushing viewers to see that non-human beings have their own awareness. The conversations give these animals a voice that shows their social ties and close relationships with where they live, stressing their struggles with climate change and natural disasters (Scollen et al.). This portrayal connects with ecocriticism, which has grown to include many different viewpoints, sparking talks about ecological ethics and cultural stories about non-human beings. By creating dialogues between species, today's fiction helps build empathy and promotes accountability, ultimately changing how we view the environment and stressing its essential worth in human life.

The impact of natural settings on character development and plot progression

The complex link between nature and storytelling in current fiction greatly affects how characters develop and how plots move forward. In many stories, settings are not just backgrounds; they help shape the characters' feelings and paths. For example, a character's depth often shows through their experiences with certain places, where nature reflects their inner struggles or goals. This relationship creates a story environment that shows the conflict between outside events and inside battles, as seen in key modernist fiction. The detailed depiction of places gives more than just a location; it shows the emotional and mental forces that push characters to make choices and change. This relationship leads to a story structure that not only moves the plot along but also promotes



a better understanding of human experiences in relation to nature (Luo et al.)(Murphy et al.).

Environmental Themes and Issues

The close connection between literature and environmental topics is important for grasping the complexities of ecological challenges. Contemporary fiction, especially within the new genre called climate fiction, reveals urgent environmental problems, pushing readers to face the realities of climate change as it relates to daily life. Buell's claim that cli-fi may offer "potentially [having] crucial contributions to make toward full understanding of the multiple, accelerating environmental challenges facing the world today" highlights its role in shaping how the public perceives and discusses environmental issues. By exploring stories that show humanity's often harmful relationship with nature, literature serves as both a mirror and a driver for change. This supports the idea that "the environmental crisis is a crisis of the imagination" "The environmental crisis is a crisis of the imagination. It is a crisis of our ability to see the world in a new way, to see our place in the world in a new way." (Bill McKibben), indicating the need to rethink how we interact with the natural world to encourage ecological awareness and responsibility.

Representation of climate change and ecological crises in fiction

In modern writing, a clear narrative trend appears, dealing with the urgent issues of climate change and environmental problems. This shift, often called climate fiction or cli-fi, is an important way for writers to express the complex environmental challenges our society faces today. Works in this genre challenge old ideas, pushing for a new look at climate change as a cultural matter, not just a scientific one, as pointed out by Jordans regarding views of nature and culture (Abraham et al.). Such literature raises awareness and encourages important discussions about how humans relate to the environment, often criticizing the usual stories of control over nature. The influence of this genre goes into academic discussions, shown in critiques like those found in *Eco-Joyce*, which look at how writers have dealt with environmental topics (Taylor et al.). This detailed connection



between storytelling and ecological awareness shows fiction's strong ability to shape public views and understanding of environmental issues.

Novels have come to regard nature as not just a backdrop but as a key component that can be viewed through the lens of society and politics, allowing for an interconnected perspective to ecocriticism. This blended approach facilitates the examination of the relationships between human beings and the world, focusing on critical matters like ecological justice and cultural identities fashioned by nature. The description of nature in books serves more complex purposes whereby it becomes an active participant in the plot, challenging capitalistic and patriarchal ideas as well as constructions of gender. *The Day of the Triffids* and *The Little Shop of Horrors* capture the fear of hypermasculinity and consumerism as well as the intricate connections between humans and nature (Fitzpatrick et al.). Thus, the function of nature in literature is not only to reflect but also to shape the socio-political context of the audience's world, giving them further reasons to contemplate the extent with which human destiny is intertwined with the nature in the world.

Nature and Human Identity

In modern stories, the complex link between who humans are and nature provides deep understanding of what it means to be human. Writers now show nature not just as a background but as an active element that shapes characters and impacts society. This view questions the old idea of nature versus society, showing that our sense of self is closely connected to the natural environment. In literature, nature or environment has often been explained through a separation from human systems. This is clear in the contrast between nature and society or more obviously in the clash between wilderness and civilization. These thoughts are important in eco-criticism, as they reveal how human ethics and cultural habits change in light of environmental awareness (Ania et al.) (Uhlenbruch F et al.). Therefore, examining nature in literature is a key way to rethink both identity and responsibility in our fast-changing world.



Character arcs show strong links between characters' identities and their environments, where nature acts as both a reflection and a trigger for self-discovery. The setting a character faces during their struggles and changes represents their emotional state, making the natural world key to their growth. For example, a character's journey through a barren landscape may stand for inner emptiness, while a connection with lively plants can indicate personal improvement and revival. This interaction offers insight into the human experience and identity linked to the ecological setting, implying that understanding oneself is significantly influenced by one's relationship with nature. This analysis goes beyond a simple background, as seen in the study of genres that create entirely new stories, improving the reader's understanding of both personal and shared identities within the natural world (Society TM)(Johnson-Smith et al.).

In modern stories, the portrayal of nature often goes beyond just being a background, becoming an important source for healing and change. The interactions between characters and their surroundings often show larger environmental issues and personal experiences. For example, Ted Hughes's *The Iron Woman* not only points out environmental problems but also shows the possibility of renewal through the connection between people and nature. In this story, characters like Lucy and the Iron Woman represent hope and action, implying that their ties to the natural world can lead to important social change (Kerslake et al.). This idea appears in many types of stories, where nature often acts as a healing influence, reflecting views found in prophetic literature and science fiction that urge people to reconnect with the environment (Uhlenbruch F et al.). Overall, these stories highlight nature's ability to inspire change and motivate important actions in response to environmental challenges.

Conclusion

The study of nature in today's fiction shows a strong link between awareness of the environment and how stories are structured, focusing on the complicated ways humans interact with nature. As authors more frequently explore eco-critical topics, they draw attention to the detailed connections between people and their surroundings. They also



push readers to rethink their own responsibilities in ecological matters. This involvement can spark change, motivating a collective thought on personal responsibility and the critical need for sustainable habits. The clear images of landscapes, ecosystems, and the effects of ignoring the environment in stories offer a strong viewpoint for readers to explore current ecological challenges. In the end, modern fiction acts as an important tool for increasing awareness, building empathy, and encouraging action, thus confirming nature's key role in shaping both stories and human identity in a world that feels more disconnected.

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Social Media and Its Impact on Human Relationships: A Sociological Analysis

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Introduction

Social media platforms like Facebook or Instagram are vastly popular, humans are changing how they interact with each other. This phenomenon raises questions about previously established social norms and emotional attachments within families and couples. While it is understood that virtual interactions are more convenient, survey results suggest that people feel more connected and communicate more through social media than in actual face-to-face settings. These changes, however, bring issues of their own, such as users' jealousy and insecurity towards each other, which is very common among teenagers.

Keywords: Social Media, Human Relationships, Digital Communication, Sociological Analysis, Online Interaction

During this epoch of rapid technological expansion, it is apparent that social media has increasingly become crucial in shaping human interactions. Platforms like Facebook and Instagram help users talk in real-time and share content, making it easier to create and keep relationships even if they are far apart. The number of active users shows this; many parents use Facebook to improve family communication, indicating a change in how people usually interact. This setting has led to complicated interactions that shape social connections and identity in today's world. Recent studies show that these platforms have both good and bad effects on relationships, emphasizing the need to



grasp the social and cultural effects of this media environment (V A Belkina). Looking at these issues gives understanding into how human relationships are evolving in the digital world (Cindy S Hughey).

As social media changes how people connect, understanding this shift is very important. The different ways social media can help or hurt relationships are shown in many studies, which point to both good and bad effects on how users interact. For example, studies show that using social media can actually strengthen family ties, suggesting that digital tools are changing how families relate to each other today. This topic is especially important because communication is changing quickly now, as seen in data that shows people prefer talking online rather than in person (Kabiru J et al.). Also, the different impacts of old media versus the internet on how the public feels about well-being highlight the complicated issues involved, making it essential to carry out focused research to understand how social media affects human relationships (G Ivakhnenko). Such findings are vital for creating better social settings that promote real connections.

The Positive Effects of Social Media on Relationships

Today's relationships are often shaped by social media interactions, which help people keep in touch even when they are far apart. Many people use platforms like Facebook and Instagram more and say it makes them feel closer to family and friends, helping them understand each other's lives better. For example, a survey about Facebook's use among families showed that 89% of those surveyed feel they communicate more via the platform compared to face-to-face, showing how social media helps build connections. Additionally, social media provides important ways for people to get support; as one study mentions, social media can improve relationships by allowing people to connect, share experiences, and stay in touch over distances "Social media has the potential to enhance relationships by providing a platform for people to connect, share experiences, and maintain relationships over distance." (Sherry Turkle). This connection creates a sense of community, which improves personal relationships and gives individuals more emotional support (Abello MR et al.), (Md T. Akhund NU et al.).



The change in communication due to social media has greatly changed how people connect and communicate. Platforms like Facebook and Instagram help people talk in real time, and many say these platforms improve emotional closeness and create shared moments, leading to a new sense of community. A study from the Pew Research Centre shows that many teenagers believe social media helps them keep emotional bonds with their partners, highlighting its part in helping close relationships. The idea of the metaverse also appears as a key new area, allowing users to take part in engaging settings that mix physical and digital interactions easily, a change that shows traditional communication lines are becoming less clear (Yogesh K Dwivedi et al., p. 750-776). This change is important because it alters our view of social connections, how communities form, and group identity in a more digital age.

The growth of communication technology has created new ways to create and keep long-distance relationships, which is something we see more today. Social media sites allow people who are far apart to keep emotional links, share life moments, and talk in real-time, helping to build closeness even if they are not physically together. According to recent surveys, Facebook and similar sites help families communicate better with each other. However, 89% of users report spending more time interacting online as opposed to in person, indicating that online connections are effective for bridging distances (). Nevertheless, these relationships are much more intricate than simple connectivity; they encompass a plethora of emotions from joy to envy, all moderated by one's impression of social interactions online (). This multi-layered phenomenon suggests that people must exercise care in social navigation, making sure that the emotional attachments that transcend space remain, which is crucial for relationship comprehension in contemporary society.

The Negative Effects of Social Media on Relationships

The interplay of people's interactions these days are increasingly disturbed due to the integration of technology into their communications. While social media seeks to bring people together often seems to incite jealousy and distrust. A study by Pew Research



reveals that 27% of adolescents report feeling jealous or anxious about their relationships because of social media—a worrying statistic that suggests online behaviour fosters conflict and insecurity among partners. The absence of face-to-face interaction may result in unfulfilled emotional needs, strengthening the chances of discontentment and dissatisfaction within the relationship. This brings up worries about how social media affects perceptions of closeness and presence in relationships. Research on selective exposure points out that “there's a social component of it” where online actions shape how relationships are handled. there's a lot of different factors happening.” (Leya Breanna Baltaxe-Admony). These changes in relationship dynamics threaten the authenticity and depth needed for genuine connections, prompting a review of social media's role in intimate partnerships.

As digital platforms grow, more people take part in relationships that are shallower instead of deep, leading to fewer in-person interactions. The way relationships are treated as products, as Bauman notes in his look at internet dating, shows a change towards thinking of connections as temporary and focused on instant pleasure rather than meaningful ties (Hobbs M et al., p. 271-284). This exchange-centered approach to interactions often shows up in everyday conversations, where detailed emotional discussions are replaced by short, polished online messages. In addition, research suggests that social media use can reduce real communication, creating situations of comparison and worry that push people further apart. The increasing popularity of social media platforms has diminished the necessity for authentic, in-person interactions which has led to a void that superficial interactions cannot seem to fulfil. Hence, it becomes vital to comprehend this shift in social media usage to understand its broader implications in social interactions and psychological wellbeing.

The wide presence of social media today has changed how people interact and affects mental health. For young people, platforms like Facebook are said to boost communication with family and friends, with 89% of users saying they talk more through social media rather than in person. However, this change also brings major problems; seeing idealized online images can cause harmful comparisons, increasing



feelings of inadequacy and anxiety. Young people go through emotional ups and downs, where positive interactions are mixed with the dangers of cyberbullying and relationship issues that come from using social media (Demanet et al.). This contrast shows that we need to understand how these online interactions can both improve and harm relationships, creating complex effects on mental health (Alexander B et al.). In the end, social media acts as both a link and an obstacle in personal connections, making it important to carefully consider its impact on human relationships.

Social Media's Role in Shaping Social Norms and Expectations

In today's world, social media greatly changes how people interact and what society expects. These platforms allow people to communicate instantly, making many feel like they need to shape their identities, which often results in more social comparison. This shift in social standards can be seen in how teenagers view their self-worth and satisfaction in their relationships. As "Social media has become a key site for the performance and negotiation of identity, and it plays a significant role in shaping social norms and expectations around identity, relationships, and community." (danah boyd and Kate Crawford) notes, social media has turned into an important place for showing and negotiating one's identity, significantly influencing social standards and expectations related to identity, relationships, and community. There is a lot more than just communicating; it emphasizes a shift in how individuals perceive their positions in society and their anticipations regarding friendships. The research shows how family ties can be enhanced through social media use while also noting the ambivalent feelings of sharing versus jealousy that accompany such use. This phenomenon brings together the impact of social media on the one hand and the continuing transformations of social norms on the other.

The adoption of social media has introduced novel methods of interaction between people and has modified interpersonal social norms. People face complex issues regarding self-presentation and interactions with peers, which ultimately affects how social relationships' boundaries are maintained and negotiated. For instance, in one



study, 89% of the participants stated that Facebook positively impacted family communication, indicating a form of digital proximity despite physical distance. Users of this platform can create and reconstruct their identities, and self-comparison can promote both community connectedness and insecurities, which ultimately impacts self-worth and relational satisfaction. The cultural tightness-looseness framework provides insight on how societal expectations are upheld or disregarded in the online context, which ultimately shapes relational interaction perception (Gelfand et al.). These factors concern the multidimensional relationship between social media, interaction processes, and evolving societal norms, and raise critical questions regarding their consequences for society in the long term.

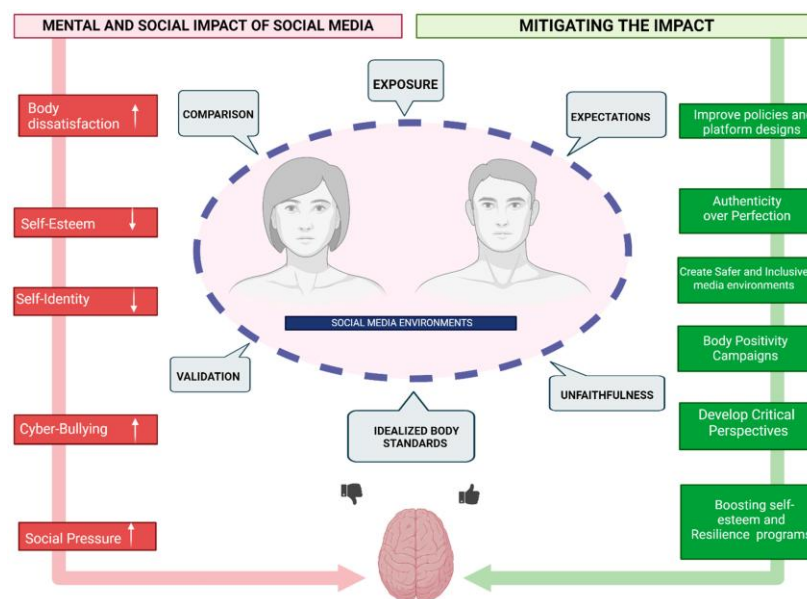


Image1. The impacts of social media on mental health and strategies for mitigation.

The effect of online personas on self-esteem and interpersonal relationships

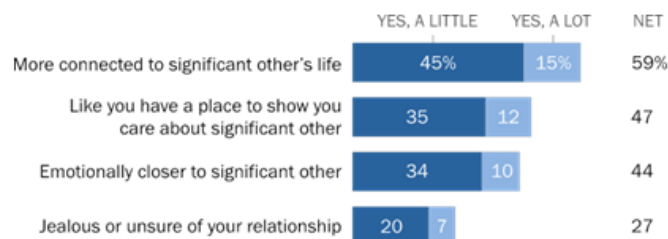
The emergence of online personas has profoundly impacted self-image and interpersonal relationships. Such identities can also be viewed as problematic in that they serve a social as well as a formative purpose; social comparison. Research indicates that people tend to take an idealized version of themselves on social networks which



makes them feel inferior in comparison to others, demoting their self-worth (Hinna Rustam et al., 2020). Additionally, the emotional side of these relationships is very sensitive to the impact of these interactions since closeness and jealousy can be stimulated by social networks such as Facebook (). Therefore, disconnects between digital portrayals and real-life interactions impede authentic engagement and ultimately reshape the structure of human relations in the sphere of the interconnectivity dominated environment.

Social Media Can Increase Emotional and Logistical Connections in Teen Relationships, but Most Teens Feel This Impact Is Relatively Modest

% of teens who use social media and have dating experience who say social media makes them feel ...



Source: Pew Research Center Teens Relationships Survey, Sept. 25-Oct. 9, 2014, and Feb. 10-March 16, 2015 (n=317 teens ages 13 to 17 who use social media and have any dating experience).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Image2. Impact of Social Media on Teen Relationships: Survey Findings

Conclusion

The evolution of human interactions and their relations, particularly as affected by social media, has its pros and cons. For instance, platforms like Facebook enhance communication and articulation among family members – which survey data corroborates as related to improved interaction – but casts doubts on the depth of these engagements. Relationships formed over the internet are multifaceted a phenomenon that can mask real bonds and give rise to feelings of envy, worry, and reduced confidence. While it is accepted that Social Media fosters a sense of belongingness



among people, particularly adolescents, it simultaneously results in severe psychological problems stemming from social comparisons and the highly curated online personas people put up. Hence it is crucial to understand the link between online engagement and emotional health, as people manoeuvre through their social lives as it is critical for averting adverse outcomes in the digital world.

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Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work: Its Impacts on Employment and Education

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Introduction

The fast change of technologies has led to big changes in many areas, making us rethink how work and education fit together. As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes a part of everyday tasks, it brings up important questions about its effect on job chances and the skills needed for future workers. Recent numbers show clear differences in job exposure to AI, highlighting the need for workers who can handle these technologies. Specifically, it shows that factors like gender and education level greatly affect the chances of people having jobs that involve AI. This situation highlights the need for schools to change their programs to give students the right skills, preparing them for a constantly changing job market. Understanding these trends will be important for policymakers, educators, and businesses who want to build a strong workforce during the AI change.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Future of Work, Employment, Education, Workforce Automation

Definition of Artificial Intelligence

As technology advances in different areas, knowing about artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming more important. AI means systems that can do tasks usually needing human intelligence, like thinking, learning, and solving problems. Its importance touches both the workplace and schools, changing how businesses work. In companies, using AI can make operations faster and better, especially in managing human resources, as shown in



a study that points out how digital technologies are key in HR practices (Chytiri et al., 2019). Concurrently, educational frameworks have to adapt to the evolving employment landscape. This is an issue that is being resolved increasingly through data analytics approaches that align skill training with employer demand (Altstadt D, 2011). These transformations are evidence of how traditional professions can be modified by AI, marking the innovations in the world of work and education. A graphic which illustrates the relationship of educational attainment and business performance results also emphasizes this point, showing the paradoxical relationship of AI, employment, and education preparedness.

Relationship between AI, employment, and education

The rapidly evolving nature of artificial intelligence (AI) provokes significant discussions regarding its impact in the realm of work and learning. As AI assumes responsibilities that were once performed by humans, it places the relevance of higher education within a particular job market in question. For instance, research disseminated by the Pew Research Centre reveals that 19% of American workers are in occupations which are most likely to be impacted by AI, highlighting the urgency for educational institutions to revise their offerings in order to prepare students for these developments (N/A, 2014). Education must provide much more than pure technical knowledge; it must also foster creative problem solving and flexibility, which is essential in an AI world (Sandford et al., 2009). The presented visual information has the potential to spark additional discussions on the relationship between education and perceived value of employees by firms, which illustrates the intersection and interplay of education, employment, and advancing technologies.

The Impact of AI on Employment

As industries use artificial intelligence more in their work, the job situation is changing, bringing both problems and chances for workers. The use of AI technologies might cause job loss, especially in jobs that involve basic or repeated activities, which are easier to automate. For example, a recent study shows that 19% of U.S. workers hold jobs that are



very exposed to AI, with specific groups, like women and those with higher education, being more at risk (). Furthermore, we must consider the possible ethical issues. As mentioned, without proper protections, AI could create new risks to our rights, lifestyles, privacy, work methods, and national security ("Unless safeguards are in place, AI could spawn new threats to our rights, our way of life, to our privacy, how we work, and how we protect our nation." (Joe Biden). It is necessary to find a balance between new ideas and ethical control to make sure AI helps human work instead of taking away from it.

As jobs change due to technology, it is important to look closely at how jobs disappear. Automation, especially from artificial intelligence, mainly affects lower-skilled jobs, especially in areas like manufacturing and retail, where machines are taking over tasks. Studies show that jobs needing higher education are less at risk of being automated, indicating an increasing gap between people with advanced skills and those without (Balasubramanian et al., 2023). This shift modifies the reality of work as well as highlights good strategies which are needed to facilitate workers. An illuminating study that examines the impacts of automation on varying segments of the labour market establishes the connection between schooling and job market risk. Such conclusions highlight the fundamental need for the development of specific education programs that enable employees to appropriately adjust to the evolving labour market.

Creation of new job opportunities

The shift in the job market is quite notable, largely in part because of the development in artificial intelligence (AI). This shift encompasses far more than just job losses and there is a considerable aspect of job creation as well. Now that artificial intelligence has been employed, there will be a shift in focus to human creativity and critical thinking encompassing fields such as AI ethics and oversight. A report cites the case of interior architecture students contemplating the usage of AI in their profession as an emerging educational paradigm that incorporates technological advancement with innovation (Arshard et al., 2023). At the same time, an increasing number of people-centric, non-technical positions that are IT-related, ensuring that AI is a supplement rather than a



replacement are being created across all sectors. In essence, the changing nature of work has resulted in a combination of human and AI interaction that has opened up new possibilities.

Skills and Education in the Age of AI

As society deals with the challenges brought by artificial intelligence, it is crucial to change education and skills to suit new technologies. Workers need to be trained not only to do tasks that AI can't do but also to take on jobs that rely on human creativity and emotional intelligence. A clear change in job opportunities can be seen in how companies view the importance of advanced education—evident in the strong data shown in . The statement, “robots don’t just eliminate jobs—they also create new ones,” emphasizes the growth potential in fields like robotics programming and data analysis, which need higher education and specific training "However, it’s important to note that robots don’t just eliminate jobs—they also create new ones. For example, as automation takes over menial tasks, there’s a growing demand for workers in fields like robotics programming, AI development, and data analysis. These roles require a higher level of skill and education, which means there will be opportunities for workers who are willing to reskill or upskill to meet the demands of the new job market." (Ankit Singh). It is vital to tackle the ethical and governance problems related to AI use, as pointed out in (Government et al., 2016), to make the most of this new time while ensuring fair access to educational resources.

Various industries are integrating AI changes at different paces, meaning the effort to rescale and upskill has become a necessity. Employees encounter an ever-evolving employment landscape where previously acquired competencies become obsolete within the blink of an eye. Organizations need to rethink the recently defined competencies associated with AI usage and provide adequate training for employees to be prepared for the future. Active skills development is an important determinant for maintaining competitiveness in a technologically advanced economy (Giusino D et al., 2023). To develop the necessary competencies, it is suggested to focus on initiatives aimed at leadership development and intrapreneurial training (Trifan et al., 2023). The integration



of AI poses these challenges, meaning a new workforce needs to be ready for retraining, and there has to be a willingness for life-long learning. Examining gaps in AI skills for different demographics, one identifying gap is a lack of targeted focus on skills development for different demographics.

Changes in educational curricula to prepare future generations

The transformation and emergence of new technologies have fundamentally altered the employment landscape, which has made the case for the reworking of school programs. With the pervasive adoption of artificial intelligence in particular, school programs alone are no longer sufficient as students must be taught skills that go beyond standardized academic disciplines. New school programs should be able to incorporate educational elements such as digital literacy, self-management, and critical-thinking-required adaptability skills in regards to the challenges associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) (Ramnund-Mansingh et al., 2021). This guarantees that graduates are equipped with not only the relevant technical competencies in a data driven economy, but also the critical judgement needed to navigate ethical dilemmas engendered by artificial intelligence. In fact, as pointed out by , how companies perceive the value attached to postgraduate education differs significantly, suggesting that the integration of these underscored paradigms in education will, with a reasonable degree, alter employment opportunities in AI-dominated environments. Such changes are essential for ensuring that the upcoming generations are sufficiently prepared for success in a highly automated world.

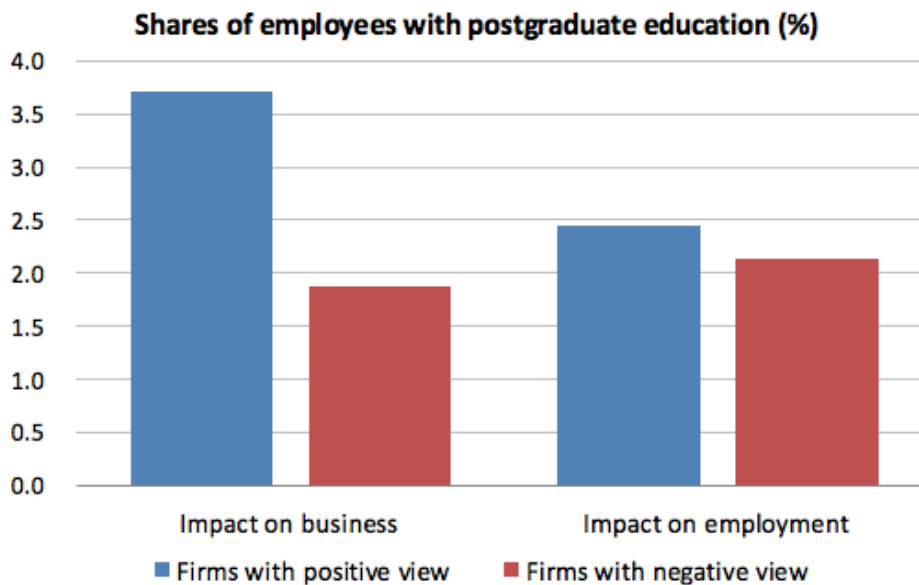


Image1. Bar graph depicting shares of employees with postgraduate education by firms' views.

Ethical Considerations and Challenges

The incorporation of Artificial Intelligence within the workplace leads to balance issues within the ethics of AI aided work environments. Concerns about increasing economic disparities grow as companies use technology for more than just productivity purposes, particularly as machines replace human employment. “As robots replace human workers, there’s a risk that the divide between skilled and unskilled workers will grow wider, exacerbating economic inequality. Additionally, the more businesses rely on robots, the more vulnerable they become to system failures, cyber-attacks, and technological disruptions” (Ankit Singh). Not only does this shift endanger employment, but it also raises issues of liability and data security with the inclusion of AI in the decision-making process (Government et al., 2016). There is no alternative but to formulate ethical regulation and policies in order to resolve these issues because fairness and transparency in employment practices is needed. Relating that to workforce distribution, the impact of AI on individuals does differ based on one’s educational background and sex. Therefore, everything suggests that there is a legitimate concern on how such changes can be



approached so that people will not be discriminated against when it's time to engage into work.

The introduction of artificial intelligence in a workplace yields both positive and negative results, as this newly integrated technology can bring bias toward programs designed to be fair. With the ongoing use AI biases and fairness issues become more complex and even more important. On a positive note, AI can enhance recruitment processes, increase productivity, as well as assist in completing tasks. Many researchers assert that well diverse educational background provides variety and innovation in an organization and better decisions can be made, however the opposite might be true in the case of AI. AI can foster achievements in recruitment that are already well represented and further foster inequalities in the surrounding society. Because of this, there should be steps taken by organizations to create a culture of fairness while using AI. This relates to the literature on organizational trust and respect. The rest of the information outlines that, in many cases, employees who are treated fairly, feel respect, and are retained (Harmon et al., 2024). Different perspectives need to be introduced in the AI and organizational policies in order to solve the issues that arose, such as fairness and equity in the workplace (N/A, 2024).

Data privacy and surveillance in AI systems

The changing landscapes brought forth by AI technologies call for deeper understanding regarding privacy and surveillance. Businesses are increasingly adopting AI technologies to promote efficiency and make informed decisions thereby infringing on personal privacy. Efforts to protect people have been made in the form of regulations like GDPR that advocate for transparency and restricted data collection (HALILAJ et al., 2023). All these considerations lead to a new kind of discrimination where biased identity management systems and surveillance inevitably harm marginalized groups (Hu et al., 2017). These impose restrictions on civil liberty which is quite alarming, especially when it comes to the workplace where monitoring employees' activities could dangerously undermine trust and freedom. We need to make sure that AI application is ethical and



respects people's privacy, and thus we need to solve these problems. This discussion would greatly benefit from a conceptual diagram illustrating the relationship of AI-related issues to privacy matters.

Conclusion

As new jobs and educational opportunities emerge under the influence of artificial intelligence (AI), its relationship to human labour needs to be approached with care to avoid adverse consequences. The replacement of human labour with AI systems creates new concerns regarding job sustainability and workforce restructuring. For instance, there is evidence that various demographic groups are experiencing AI differently, which suggests the emergence of inequalities in how different groups are affected by technological progress. Furthermore, as one expert points out, "The future of work will likely be a blend of human and robotic functions, with the human role relying on creativity and emotional intelligence, which robots will not be able to replicate." This illustrates the importance of school and policy attention towards reskilling initiatives that prepare the workforce for coexisting with AI. Such initiatives are essential to ensure equity devising a competitive and advanced economy in an AI dominated world.

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Reimagining Identity and Selfhood in Contemporary English Literature

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Introduction

An increasingly popular theme emerging in contemporary English literature is the exploration of identity, which directly relates to the struggles of contemporary selfhood that emerge from societal, cultural, and technological dimensions. In a period of constant flux and uncertainty, writers have started to employ fragmented plots and unconventional narratives more frequently to depict the multifaceted nature of identity. Such an approach helps readers understand the lives of people caught between self-actualization and societal expectations, confronting the complexity of identity politics. The nexus between personal narratives and broader history is critical because the authors challenge the notion of set identities with all their fluidity. In this sense, the rethinking of identity acts more than a literary device; it serves as a commentary on modern life that encourages deeper self-actualization in a rapidly evolving world.

Keywords: Identity, Selfhood, Contemporary English Literature, Postmodernism, Representation

Identity and selfhood in literature

The development of self and identity in contemporary literature suggests a complex intertwining of personal experiences and sociological attributes. As narratives develop to encompass multiple viewpoints, characters are subjected to the realities of rapid cultural and technological transformations. In this context, the emerging genre of selfies, as some



recent scholars have described, illustrates the performance of self-identity in terms of how people perceivably communicate and share their identities with others (Zhao S et al., p. 1735–1754). In parallel, the transformation of communication systems more fundamentally urges the examination of culture as an identity and its representation in different societies. This dialogue is accentuated by the debate on ethnocentrism in cyberspace, which examines the impact of one’s cultural background on his or her perception of selfhood . Taken together these elements provide a case analysis of a complex identity within a non-static period of evolving literature and polymorphic definitions of selfhood.

Contemporary perspectives

The study of identity and self in modern English literature is greatly enhanced by noticing different views, especially those influenced by experiences across countries and cultural exchanges. Writers who explore themes of belonging and not fitting in often push back against old ideas of identity by using a diasporic viewpoint. This method helps provide a clearer picture of characters who deal with complicated cultural ties, as seen in early twentieth-century travel writings by New Zealand women. Their stories show how experiences in new places change views of home and identity, highlighting the mixed feelings that come with these moments. One analysis points out that the issue of haunting is closely linked to questions of identity and self, as characters face experiences related to possession. This blend of culture and personal experience emphasizes the value of modern views in redefining identity in literature, thereby deepening our understanding of self in a worldwide setting (Wilson et al.)(Wilson et al.).

The Impact of Technology on Identity

In modern literature, the effects of technology on personal identity stand out as important topics. As people live more through digital means, the complexities of who they are become closely linked with the online world. Characters frequently deal with the conflict between their online identities and their true selves, prompting a deep look into feelings of isolation and connection. The strong impact of technology results in a contradiction;



technology has become a kind of faith, an obsession. We idolize our screens and devices, staying constantly connected to the digital realm. This relationship changes ideas of belonging, as people often reshape their identities in a global context, feeling both attached and detached from physical items. This dynamic is explained by the idea of “liquid” relationships to possessions, where meaning changes based on shifting situations (Morgan G, p. 403-404)(Bardhi F et al., p. 510-529). As a result, the changing stories in literature showcase these conflicts, emphasizing the ongoing search for genuine self-representation in the face of growing technology.

Digital personas and the fragmentation of self

In today's world, digital platforms have changed how people form and see identities. Individuals often create different online personas that show various parts of their lives, which may not match who they are offline. This separation can lead to a conflict that makes understanding self-identity harder, causing a feeling of disconnection as people switch between real and online identities. This issue is especially noticeable among women, who may face more judgment about their online images. Recent feminist research points out that the fight for visibility is often mixed up with societal pressures, creating a situation where stories of empowerment can hide true independence (Cardenas MH). In these online spaces, reclaiming one's identity reflects past struggles, as authors have always tried to reshape their stories under patriarchal limits (Fertig et al.). These situations highlight the difficulties in redefining identity in the digital era.

Social media's role in shaping modern identity

In a time when digital connection is important, the complicated concept of identity is constantly formed through interactions on social media. These platforms allow people to create how they present themselves, often creating a tough balance between being true to oneself and meeting societal demands. Unlike older ways of expressing oneself, social media allows for quick sharing of thoughts, creating a setting where cultural stories can clash and change. This situation matches what recent studies show, which reveal a big difference between students' understanding of local knowledge and their ability to find it,



impacting their creative output (Herminingrum et al.). Similarly, the Mold Riots of 1869 demonstrate how local news shaped Welsh identity, showing how media influences public discussions (Roberts et al.). In the end, social media serves as both a reflection and a shape of today's identity, making the individual's understanding of self more complicated.

Intersectionality and Identity

The understanding of identity in today's literature is seen as complex and influenced by overlapping social categories, including race, gender, and class. This awareness challenges simple ideas of identity and encourages discussions that showcase the distinct experiences of people who hold multiple and often contradictory identities. Writers are looking into how social systems maintain privilege and exclusion, focusing on the subtle interactions of power and oppression. As stated in recent academic work, there is no such thing as a struggle that only involves one issue because people's lives are not one-dimensional "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives." (Audre Lorde). These observations highlight the significance of intersectionality in grasping how different forms of identity come together to form personal stories in literature. By critically exploring these themes in their writing, authors are rethinking concepts of self, thereby creating stronger links between identity and larger social issues (Rudolph et al.).

To discern the self involves understanding how different identities affect experiences in society. Modern literature demonstrates that marginalized voices remind us how race, gender, and sexuality profoundly affect an individual's self-identity. These narratives often counter prevailing constructs and portray the challenges of identity formation. For example, the lived experience of Dalit women in India epitomizes how deeply oppressive systems dictate their freedom and selfhood. This group of women simultaneously grapples with their multiple identities and resist male domination over their lives, thus forging a distinct identity (Rao et al.). Similarly, the narratives of Asian Canadian women call for the inclusion of counter stories that challenge misrepresentation and provide more authentic accounts of identity constructed in the context of diaspora (Barriesses et al.).



Together, these literary works assist in the comprehension that identity is nuanced and dynamic.

Contemporary literature increasingly incorporates narratives which redefine the notions of identity by providing granular details about a person. These narratives frequently analyse intersections of race, gender, and power particularly in the literature that centres around the experiences of marginalized groups. For instance, speculative fiction can serve as powerful devices for identity rethinking particularly from the viewpoint of black women who have been sidelined for a long time. They use well-known images such as cyborg and magic to critique existing notions and offer novel perspectives on power and weakness in challenging situations (Barlow et al.). While addressing the issues of environmental degradation and the consequences of diaspora, writers also open up spaces in which identity is seen to transcend borders and cultures. Ultimately, these narratives challenge the audience to reconsider the contemporary connotations of identity and proffer new ways and futures for people to identify themselves (Rico et al.).

Memory and Trauma in Self-Formation

The integration of trauma with memory is critical in contemporary narratives concerning identity since it allows authors to explore genuine rips in the self. These disorganized structures often stem from traumatic memories, which impede a healthy sense of self. This disorganized structure is usually remedied by authors crafting personal narratives out of the memories they are dealing with, forcing readers to reflect on the scars left behind by their experiences. Literature reveals that memory can feel like a property that one possesses, which provides for an overly sentimental and dangerously myopic view of history.

In these ideas, remembering can be both healing and troubling, helping characters to reshape their identities while facing their past issues. This interaction not only shows how strong the self can be but also highlights the ongoing fight against social and cultural stories that try to erase or oversimplify complex identities, which is evident in the works of the authors being studied (Laursen et al.)(Yoo et al.).



In modern writing, the relationship between personal and shared memory is an important way to build identity. Writers often look at how personal memories mix with common histories, which affect how characters see themselves and relate to larger cultural stories. The importance of this relationship can be seen in works that examine the difficulties of heritage and belonging, highlighting that identity is not just an individual process but a fabric made from personal stories and group memories. For example, remembering is shown as a way to regain control and understand one's position in historical situations. As noted by literary figures, interacting with memory is not only a connection to the past but also a base for imagining future identities, showing that being connected to the Earth is crucial for real identity development (Gikandi S)(Morgan G, p. 403-404).

The recent development of literature and its observation has placed a greater emphasis on the link between trauma and identity, thus allowing people to confront their narratives and reconstruct their identity. In the case of new female authors like Claudette Okwiri Oduor and Jacqueline Ndinda Kioko, storytelling offers an effective strategy for containing individual and communal recollections. Their works demonstrate how narrative fiction enables readers and characters to cope with overwhelming loss and simultaneously reconstruct identity under challenging circumstances (Awour et al.). This phenomenon corresponds to the broader patterns that exist across genres producing the literature which responds to loss and disruption (Rae et al.). By addressing personal and societal trauma, literature empowers individuals to transform their identities through the reshaping of painful recollections into a collective discourse that fosters resilience and unity in multifaceted cultural contexts.

Conclusion

The exploration of oneself and identity in contemporary English literature exemplifies the interrelation between a person's lived experiences and societal interaction, thus challenging the classical conception of self. Author's stories are more elaborate as they depict how characters face issues of fragmentation, cultural alienation, and multi-national identities in the modern world. This transformation in literature not only reflects the



complex nature of individual lives but also serves to inspire the readers towards reconceptualizing their relationship with identity in a rapidly changing world. By tackling concepts such as belonging and alienation along with the quest for self, these narratives express ideas that selfhood should not be understood in static terms, meaning, that selfhood is a fluid concept subjected to personal and external influences. Subsequently, modern literature gives impetus to the need to rethink self, in the context, facilitating a better understanding of the complex human experience.

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The Effectiveness of AI Tools in Enhancing Student Learning

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Introduction

Technology has changed many domains at a fast pace and its impact on education is especially significant. Thanks to Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, teachers can now utilize sophisticated technologies that enhance the way students learn and increase engagement. These tools add new value to traditional teaching approaches by enabling precise instruction that caters to the students' needs in terms of learning style and pace. The impact of AI in education consists of more than just automation; it also entails enhancing pedagogical assessment, as well as access to learning materials. In effort to understand these factors better, displays the multitude of ways AI can be adapted in the educational field, outlining its merits and the accompanying challenges. As students increasingly use these tools, it becomes indispensable to investigate how AI tools not only provide support but also transform the education system enabling deeper learning and improved educational outcomes.

Keywords: AI tools, student learning, educational technology, personalized learning, academic performance

With the help of AI, education can be enabled more actively on the web. For example, relatively popular systems such as Intelligent Tutoring Systems and chatbots assist teachers in crafting tailored lessons. These arise self-directed learning as students have greater opportunity to participate in activities independently. For instance, education AI



research suggests that ChatGPT can contribute to the establishment of sustainable learning environments that help engross students by rapidly adjusting the feedback and the content of instruction ‘on the fly’ (Alshahrani A). However, it is still important to consider problems like data privacy and the morality of automated essay scoring (Hieu et al.). The visual shown in underscores the complex role of AI in education, showcasing its uses, advantages, and challenges. Together, these points highlight the importance of greater deliberation AI tools and their implication on student learning outcomes.

A significant aspect of AI tools in education is determining their level of functionality. Schools can examine the effectiveness of the tools in question, which in turn can influence the methodology of teaching and learning that transpires. AI tools are able to foster engagement by personalizing learning to various student (Collis et al.). On the other hand, as much as the tools have the potential to be effective, it is important to analyse the ethical problems as AI introduces risks to academic integrity, and originality of student's work (PAN et al.). People concerned about these tools can devise ways to improve education with the creation of policies to monitor and motivate the use of technology in responsible ways.

Types of AI Tools Used in Education

Similar to other sectors, AI is being used within education with the vision of making teaching and learning effective. For instance, Intelligent Tutoring Systems provide personalized communication and assistance that is adjusted to the pace of the student’s learning process which helps them understand the material more deeply. Automated grading tools also aid in instruction by streamlining the grading work which allows teachers more time with students rather than being bogged down by administrative work. These not only enhance efficiency but also enable teachers to monitor students’ progress and modify lessons to address specific difficulties. A recent study states that “AI isn’t here to replace teachers - it’s here to help teachers. By taking over the administrative burden, customizing classes, and preparing students for the world, AI can change education AI isn’t here to replace teachers - it’s here to help teachers. By taking



over the administrative burden, customizing classes, and preparing students for the world, AI can change education. But its success depends on us.

Intelligent Tutoring Systems and Individualized Instruction

The advancement of Intelligent Tutoring Systems (ITS) represents a notable progression towards enhancing a student's learning experience. These systems utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) to modify the educational content presented to a student based on their level of performance, learning preferences, and emotions. For example, a recent study under consideration note that the implementation of new AI technologies has enabled an ITS to provide feedback and instructional modification incrementally, resulting in enhanced student engagement. "...the system dynamically adjusts educational content in response to the learners progress and feedback" (Chen et al.) This innovative feature encourages, in addition to powering motivation, teachers as well as students because it gives them insights into what learners struggle with and what they succeed in, which makes the entire teaching process more efficient. A broader and different glimpse of technology in education are given in the visual sources, enabling advancement towards effective learning and increased engagement by utilizing more advanced personalized teaching interfaces.

With the introduction of AI- powered tools, students and teachers have started receiving immediate and customized evaluations and feedback. These tools are able to simplify the evaluation process which will effectively ensure fast and tailored feedback for different learning styles, ultimately improving levels of motivation and engagement. For instance, an AI feedback tool showed that a portion of students reported being capable because their feedback was provided in a specific manner that aligned with their learning objectives (Byers et al.). In addition, the use of conversational AI and natural language technologies can significantly transform the data and the assessment data to improve decisions by the teachers regarding their teaching (Hutson et al.). In changing the methods of assessment, AI has revealed its significance for modern education and in improving student learning outcomes.

Impact on the Engagement and Motivation of the Students



The use of AI tools alongside teaching has proved to greatly enhance student engagement and motivation in the classroom. AI personalization, for instance, enables students take control of their education by custom tailoring the learning systems to their needs. Richard Hake's comprehensive techniques exemplify better student understanding and preservation of information due to remembrance techniques much better than traditional methods, hinting at better motivation for learners (Hake R). Teachers can use AI personalized learning techniques to accommodate different speeds and styles of learning which makes lessons much more interesting and relevant to the students. When students feel they are more active participants in their learning, the motivation, as Hake pointed out, tends to improve. This also supports the fact that students who practice the use of some helpful educational technologies not only participate more in class, but also tend to have better academic performance, which emphasizes the importance of AI in improving students' learning experiences (Lawson et al.).

Using Games and Other Tools for Engagement in Learning Activities

What students put into their learning greatly impacts their educational outcomes, and it is more even more important with the advancement of technology today. Gamification, which incorporates elements of video games into education, helps to foster the interactivity of learning which is necessary for modern students. With gamification, teachers using points, leader boards, and challenges can maximize motivation and participation, addressing the issue of lower engagement from students, as stated by (Filipe et al.). A successful instance is the DERSİGO app, which showed a positive outcome in creating a stimulating environment for mathematics, resulting in increased interest and participation in lessons (Karabıyık et al.). This combination of AI tools with gamification enhances educational processes while equipping students with the skills needed to aid the current problems in education, which improves their learning experience. This analysis of the concept can be presented by , which provides a framework for the efficient application of AI in education.

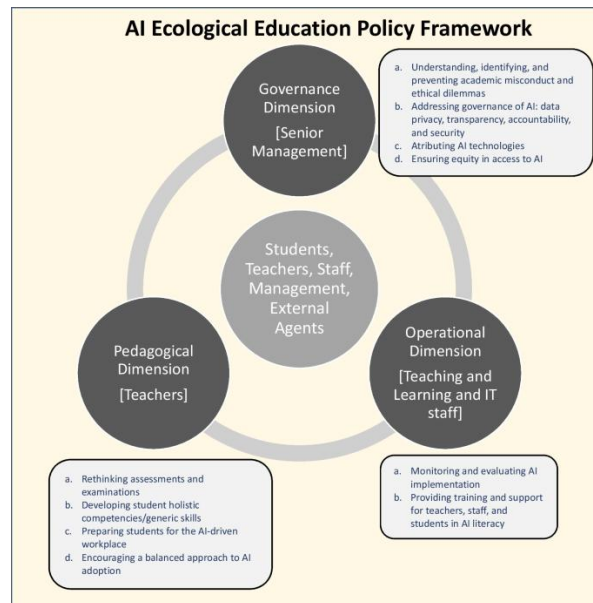


Image1. AI Ecological Education Policy Framework Overview

Tailored Learning Paths and Student Autonomy

Personalized learning strategies where students create their own learning pathways enables them to be in control of the learning process as they can engage with content that resonates with their interests and levels. The introduction of AI technology makes these changes easier because learners can now select modalities and speeds that are appropriate to them. For instance, AI can analyse individual student's performance data and recommend personalized suggestions to improve underperforming areas while also challenging the student in their areas of strength. This approach significantly increases the level of motivation to learn by enhancing feelings of autonomy and self-driven education amongst students (Chang et al.). In such free environments, teachers transform from being merely instructors to mentors and guides, an important shift for self-directing learning. The multiple applications of AI in education are one of the possibilities for providing more flexible and personalized learning opportunities for students.



Image2. Components of Educational Technology and AI in Learning

Shortcomings and Challenges Associated with AI Tools

With school adopting more AI-augmented learning tools, there are some challenges and limits that arise that are noteworthy. Their potential to aggravate educational inequalities pose great concern because the technology may not cater to all learning needs and contextual background differentially. This concern is aligned with the evidence that has shown, both, the 'sides' of AI which do good as well as those that do harm. For instance, while AI tools can improve engagement, they may lower the autonomy of teachers and foster excessive reliance on technology, which renders learning overly simplistic. Additionally, there are ethical implications of privacy infringement and AI algorithmic bias that educators need to be cautious about. The image illustrating challenges to educational using AI depicts such problems, paying attention to the tremendous caution that must accompany the application of AI education tools. These aspects need to be addressed first so that students can fully benefit from the AI tools.



Equity and Access Issues in Diverse Learning Environments

Difficulties in the utilization of educational resources and support systems emerge within complex settings. Students of different social economic backgrounds often struggle with achievement due to unequal access to advanced technology. The emergence of AI educational tools, in contrast, could help bridge these gaps as they seek to provide learning experiences that are specific to each student's needs. As previously mentioned, it is critical to note that the mere use of technology does not guarantee good learning outcomes, but effective teaching should also accompany it. Recent studies indicate that cultural and K-12 education quality factors are central in determining how AI-ready students are (Barnes et al.). There are some remaining evergreen issues such as the digital divide and low levels of digital literacy among teachers that provide strong justification for comprehensive approaches focused on constant modification and enhancement of teaching methods (Chang et al.). Taking these factors into consideration is necessary to aid in eliminating barriers to equitable educational access. The figure presents a clearly defined policy that emphasizes governance and teaching issues that are needed for equity concerns and AI utilization in education.

Conclusion

The implementation of AI tools has purportedly transformed the manner in which students learn and collaborate with teachers. Research indicates how these technologies assist in personalizing education and enhancing outcomes, thus embedding inclusivity and efficacy in teaching. For instance, the data included in illustrate various applications of AI in education and some of the ways they foster learning as well as improve the efficiency of evaluation processes. Ultimately, harnessing the potential of AI tools in education calls for collaboration among the teachers, policy makers, and technology developers to address ethical concerns and inequalities. This concept is critical to ensure AI technology is harnessed fully to enhance student achievement.



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Gender Representation in Popular Culture: A Literary and Sociological Analysis

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The Introduction

Looking at popular culture as it exists today, one cannot ignore the overarching perception regarding gender roles as influenced by the stories that are constantly told. It is vital to understand whether these cultural artifacts merely reproduce existing societal constructs or actively counter them. This understanding is central to examining the relationship between culture and society, especially through sociological and literary lenses. For instance, visual representations, such as, have the ability to expose the intricacies that show the relationships between sex, gender, and sexuality. These images perform the function of labelling and at the same time serve as a means of addressing the relationship between society and the self. This also helps to understand the consequences these portrayals have on the construction of identity. This analysis presents an avenue through which one is able to turn the focus of representation and the scope of popular culture onto gender.

Keywords: Gender representation, popular culture, literary analysis, sociological perspective, media studies

The concept of gender representation includes what and how different genders are presented, which in most instances, is a reproduction of an existing stereotype. Gender representation in popular culture through different media formats is used to construct or make sense of gendered identities. Characters in media stories are often pigeonholed into



specific ‘types’ and expected to perform certain gendered traits within the sociocultural framework such as masculinity being associated with power and heroism, whereas femininity is with subservience and nurturing. These representations shape public consciousness and self-perception, something that has been noted sociologically when there are shifts in complex female representations, increased prominence of LGBTQ+ characters and themes in popular culture (Pelletier et al., 2009). Images like the one feature supra that has interlocked gender symbols visually showcases intertwined dynamics in worshipped cultures. The juxtaposition of these two features portrays how cultural representation and acceptance is a continuum and highlights the fight for proper representation. Tackling these questions sheds light on the wider social implications of how gender in popular culture is constructed.

The ways in which gender is articulated in literature and other media deeply affects social structures and the ways individuals understand themselves. Examining such representations sheds light on how narratives within cultures sustain or contest customary gender roles. For example, the portrayal of women on sex and the city neatly articulates a post-feminist ethos that seeks to promote women’s empowerment while at the same time, profiting from the commodification of feminism. This dichotomy showcases evolution of identity in relation to media consumption, affecting the aspirations and self-image of the audience, as seen in research on telenovelas, which demonstrates how these stories emotionally engage and aspire diaspora girls, reshaping their notions of class, and social mobility (Adriaens et al, 2014)(Adriaens et al, 2010). Illustrative quotes such as Gender is not something that we are born with, and not something that we have, but something we do provide a glimpse of the essence of performativity of gender as reflected in media and serve to emphasize the need for critical analysis of media. This statement serves as an important reminder that contemporary culture requires a greater burden of responsibility than already is placed on it, as gender relations is made evident.

Representation of Gender in History

From early on, the representation of gender in art shows the interplay between society's cultural norms, politics, and socio-economic context. The portrayal of gender in art and



media reveals public sentiment, which public sentiment towards women and men have evolved over time. A historical pattern shows that gender representation has always been a reflection of the existing power structures, where women had frequently been shown as submissive or as a sex symbol. Such representations stem from the objectification of the female form in early art, which celebrated it while simultaneously limiting women's agency. Currently, the discussion is very different, particularly in the conversations around different identities in the Asian American community, who seek to dismantle the rigid race and gender categorizations, as described in (Chiu et al., 2015) Mitra & Pico, 2017. It shows how gender representation in media in the modern day, juxtaposed with the traditional imagery, has been a change that came to be through social critique. Through the lens of social science, this change can be analysed deeply by the frameworks that depict gender norms and relations, social structures, and gendered action, .

What comes to mind when thinking of Vampire from Gothic narratives? The lesbian vampire for example, is portrayed as an inverted type and is illustrative of the social concerns concerning sexuality and appetite that pervades a multitude of works such as *Carmilla* and Newer versions like Schwab's *First Kill* (Rodr Ríguez et al., 2024). Schwab is more recent than *Carmilla* so understanding the implications of gender within a Caroline context is critical for schizophrenia understanding.

So, schizophrenia understanding is defined through a multi stratified set of ideas which Schwab provides over succumbing to a single narrative . In the sociology of gender, it is essential to see representation such as that depicted in , spell where these shifts in literature are as a result of changes in culture over time. All in all, Venezuela serves as an important basis through which gender roles can easily be redefined.

Popular media has continuously evolved, which in turn reflects changes in the society's views towards gender representation. This change can be seen in the way people now portray characters in stories, as they start to move away from basic stereotypes and start embracing complex identities. Women, especially, are now beginning to be accepted in sports and leadership which is a positive shift in how narratives are created and who



controls that aspect. These stories are powerful, but not only in the way they are narrated. They seek to change outdated notions and stereotypes developed in the past.

Esteemed reader, allow me to clarify. We are not copying a masculine dominated construct that is prevalent in the sports marketing industry. We are making sure to actively reshape the notion behind the term “masculinity”, which in turn, helps provide more opportunities for females. And I think what I have always tried to do and my female leadership team at Fuse always tried to do is, is one, making sure that we are not trying to copy... you know... what we should be doing as men, but also making sure that we are opening up the pathways to the more females to get into sports marketing industry. (Louise Johnson) This paradigm shift demonstrates the photography by Castañeda which reveals the internal conflicts that arise from systemic domination, thus depicting an environment that is growing in inclusivity.

Gender Representation Literary Analysis

A study of multiple stories sheds light on often unnoticed intricacies and helps in better understanding the nuances of gender representation in popular culture. The expectations and behaviours of a particular society largely define how people perceive both masculinity and femininity, and indeed, many characters. For instance, a character like Sarah OConnor represents a convergence of professional and sociocultural legal identity, thus demonstrating the effect of immigration on gender identity. This multi layered characterization acts as a form of defiance to the normalized roles (Jiménez, 2015) and encourages the audience to reexamine what gender identity means. Just as the literary analysis offered in Jiménez, 2015 shows, these works, like most works, showcase the elements of cultural hegemony where the dominant identities tend to suppress other identities. Such inquiries are important in sociology because they show how media reinforce stereotypes or promote new forms of understanding (Biltreyst et al., 2016). By engaging in representational analysis of power structures, scholars can push for less constrained representations, which augment culture and reflect a wider range of human realities (N/A, 2002).

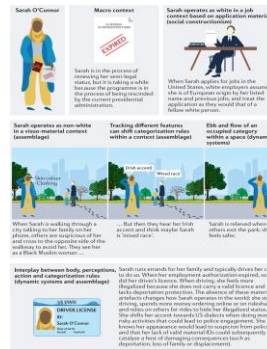


Image1. Sarah O'Connor's Experience with Identity and Legal Status in the U.S.

The portrayal of female characters in modern literature tends to focus on dualism: between empowerment and imprisonment, demonstrating the changes in the current society. These characters represent the paradox of agency versus societal expectation as sentiments where even the emancipated female is collusively posed in her situation. As one scholar notes, ‘The new female subject is, in fact, when free, asked to be silent, complicit, and as responsible for her own success or failure.’” (‘The new female subject is, in fact free, but asked to be silent and complicit.’ Angela McRobbie). The construction of women’s identity embedded in culture is highlighted in texts of women who are critical consumers or of body politics (Adriaens et al. 2014). The depiction of gender relations aids and guides reader’s understanding as shown in xx, the silencing of female agency opens a gap which the general public can simply collude and assume without necessarily understanding the complexities that surround female characters in the representation of popular culture.

In contemporary society, the depiction of more radical versions of masculinity, idealized heroes and problematic caricatures is very common so as to fit with the reader’s worldview. Such depictions are critical in forming individual identities and even attitudes towards gender within the society as a whole. For example, the depiction of violent masculinity in Maxim magazine embodies the aggression and commodification of woman subjugation, which, even if within contemporary culture, mirrors and perpetuates patriarchal values (Nettleton et al., 2018). On the other hand, literary critiques provided in the writings of Nigerian authors highlight the nuanced interrelations between masculinity, politics, and culture, manifesting the both endpoints of the identities – the weak and the strong (Batra



K, 2017). These varied portrayals in all these stories make a case for the transformation of rigid masculine stereotypes which shapes the pluralistic nature of gender in society as exemplified in , which captures the essence of gender relations.

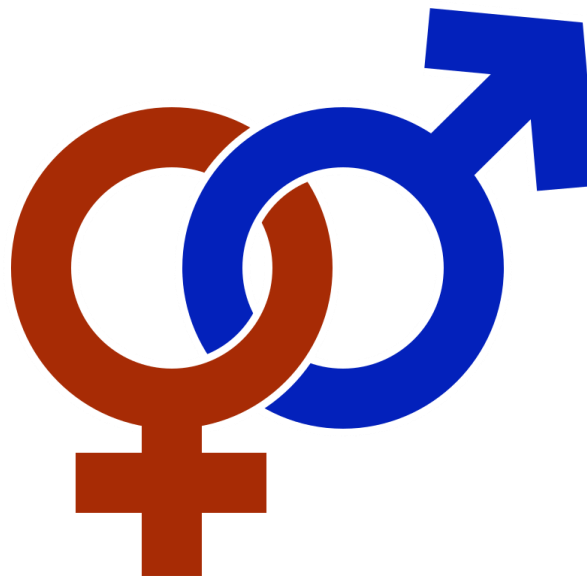


Image2. Interconnected Gender Symbols Representing Gender Dynamics

Sociological Perspectives on Gender in Media

Consequently, a closer examination of the mitigation of ethos within a documentary reveals the scope of impact such portrayals have in shaping societal norms and expectations. Sociological approaches highlight how society's traditional gender divisions are constructed and reproduced, met with stereotypes that are overly simplistic and restrict the range of an individual's self. The framing of characters from the media, more so in action sport genres, tends to rely on hyper masculinity, thereby, women and other forms of gender expression are rendered peripherals (Thorpe et al., 2013). This phenomenon can distort an understanding of gender, as it tends to be both beneficial and harmful, A juxtaposed portrayal of media can aid in fostering inclusiveness and dismantling harmful stereotypes. The same trend has been reported in a number of sociological journals, where a certain set of persistent tropes that stereotype women are accompanied with emerging



discourses that attempt to refute that stereotype and its amazing portrayal (Bishop R et al., 2014). The gendered dimensions within artistic realms are deftly captured by the accompanying image and highlight the nature of how these representations affect audience reception and cultural constructions.

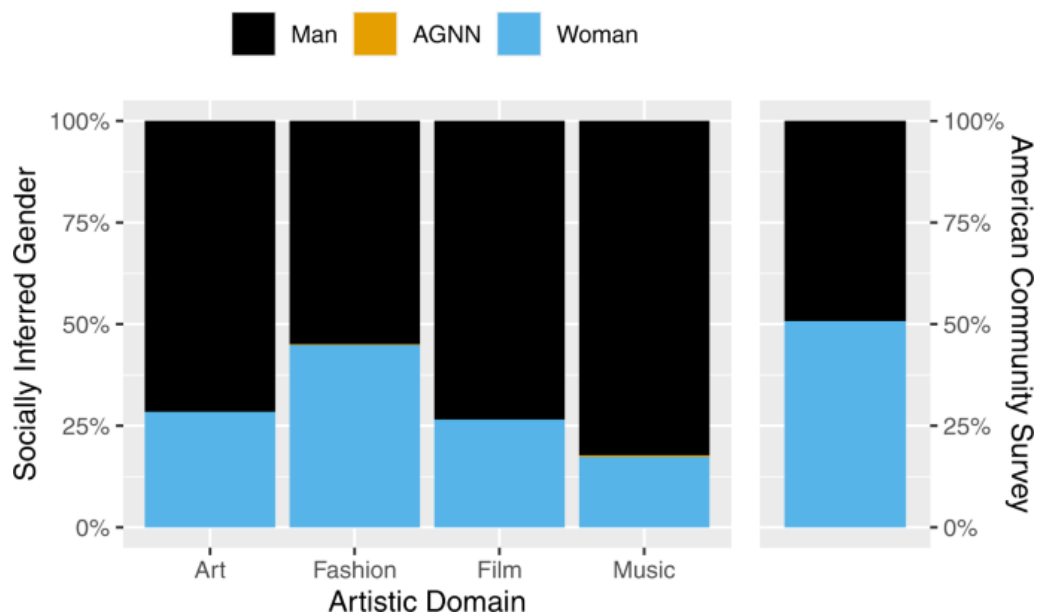


Image3. Socially Inferred Gender Distribution in Artistic Domains

The effect of media representations on social attitudes concerning gender roles Perceptions and gender roles are taken deeper because of media portrayals and its dissection of pop culture as an institution. For example, the female representation in the drama Borgen depicts women as multi-faceted leaders instead of mere subjects, which counters the traditional narrative. Such re-presentation of the characters is meant to make the audience rethink their already constructed ideas on gender as well as leadership. As noted in research, “Media portrayals can significantly influence public perceptions of gender roles by reinforcing or challenging exiting stereotypes”. For instance, the portrayal of female athletes in media will have a bearing on how society conceives women and sports in general. (Louise Johnson)” There is no question that this representation aids in the



understanding of gender in men and women which further leads to expectations and heightened aspirations in different social contexts. Visual aids like which delineates the distinctions of sex, gender, and sexuality serve to accompany the above discussion of transgender topics, showing deeper revelations in society which need deeper explanation in respect to how gender is put in popular culture.

Johnson states that media portrayal as overused stereotypes ought to be viewed through a more holistic and complex lens. Unquestionably, the development and construction of such representations requires more in-depth reasoning. Nevertheless, it is of utmost interest how such narratives of gender are utilized and reused in modern day to advance the narrative of empowerment and equality of women.



Image4. Overview of Sex, Gender, and Sexuality Concepts in Sociology

The study of contemporary gender representations is intersectional in nature because it seeks to capture the perspectives of those at the margins. This approach demonstrates how race, class, and sexuality as social categories intersect and shape individuals' identities and experiences in the popular culture. For example, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's work deeply illustrates this issue by showing how women from Nigeria construct their identities in a world built upon varying historical and cultural context (Abiona et al., 2016). In addition, the intersectional depiction of these characters is often the basis for visual representation. An image showing the intersections of race and gender in representation



serves to highlight the inequality in representation and shape public opinion. In this way, scholars and ordinary people can grasp the necessity of inclusivity in representation and understand its broader effects on gender depiction within social and cultural contexts. (Marco D et al., 2016)

Conclusion

The investigation of gender representation in popular culture reveals significant gaps that need to be addressed and discussed further. Media representation comes with several stereotypes, including how society expects men and women to behave.

Portrayals within media are powerful enough to meld an individual's identity. However, these portrayals simultaneously nurture broader cultural beliefs that help reinforce existing inequalities. The intricate intersection of gender, race, and class is particularly salient because it compels the audience to become active participants of the content they consume. For example, the exploitation of social structures in underscore how social conventions shape the perception of gender such that identity goes beyond the scope of binary classification. It is one thing to perceive these influences, but putting modernizations towards cultural reforms is another daunting task which broadly allows the celebration of an inclusive society with empowered representations. Instead, there has to be an active shift from being mere consumers of the narrative towards participants to incite dialogue with can bear the brunt of harmful narratives and produce on point representation.

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Encourage Open Discourse
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