



## THE RUDIMENTARY OF MODERN POSTHUMANISM THEORY WITH REFERENCE TO WILLIAM GIBSON'S *NEUROMANCER*

### Arts

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### ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence is an intelligence established by machines, in contrast to the natural intelligence exposed by humans and other animals which is sometimes called as Machine intelligence. Posthumanism emerges from a recognition that "Man" is not the honoured and protected centre which gives importance to animals, birds, "inhuman" objects and machines in the study of 21<sup>st</sup> century literary study. William Gibson, the pioneer of *Cyberpunk*, the sub-genre in science fiction whose debut novel *Neuromancer* (1984) describes how technology will be used as tool for crime in futuristic aspect. The research article bended two wide genres Posthumanism and Cyberpunk with the fundamental key called Artificial Intelligence (AI). The novel describes the cyber city in a dystopian context where a hunk of mortality lives within enormous urban slumps. In the futuristic aspect, the Artificial Intelligence decentres the humanism thought of "Man" as the centre. It challenges and even changes the notion of humanity for fellow human beings and the shift from mortal to immortal via cybernetics.

### KEYWORDS

Machine Intelligence, Cyberpunk, Dystopia, Decentre, Mortal To Immortal

#### INTRODUCTION:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) highlights creation of intelligent machines which work and reacts like human. In colloquial term, it is pragmatic when a machine mimics "cognitive" functions that humans associate with other human minds, such as "learning" and "problem solving". This is possible for the machines when they learn profuse information about the existing world and their multiple interconnections. The general or tradition goals of AI include reasoning, knowledge learning, language procession, perception, ability to transfer and manipulate objects. Through AI invention is to help General Intelligence, in the modern context it became a complex challenge to Human Intelligence.

#### Review of Literature:

Posthumanism investigates the rethinking of the dominant humanist (or anthropocentric) account of who "we" are not who "we" once believed ourselves to be. The human being is considered as the very centre of the universe which discriminate machines, animals and other inhuman beings. The existence of the human creates the origin of meaning and the subject of the history but they are the profound problematic signifier who is the hegemonic measure of all thing.

Posthumanism sometimes called as Anti-humanism emerges from a concept of study (opposite to traditional humanism) which defines that the "Man" is not the privilege and protected centre. The reason for such argument is that human race is the products of historical and cultural transformations that nullify any demand to a collective, trans-historical human essence which established as subjects by a linguistic system that pre-exists and transcends them. It is unable to pay way for the course of world history towards a sole human goalmouth.

#### Theoretical Framework:

Many science fictions like Bruce Sterling's *Crystal Express* (1989), Richard Power's *Galatea 2.2* (1995), China Mieville's *Perdido Street Station* (2000) and films *Blade Runner*, *Iron Man* and *Existenz* portrayed humans and machines interconnect each other which results in the revolution of new, complex, sometimes more pleasurable and many time highly dystopian in nature. Though it all matters the illusion between fact and fiction, there is shifting from human intelligences are replacing by artificial intelligences. The researcher's chosen novel is *Nacromancer*, which is written by William Gibson, the pioneer of the science fiction sun-genre Cyberpunk.

Case, the antihero of the novel who was once a talented hacker, lived in the dystopian city Chiba. Case was punished with Mycotoxin for stealing from his employer, which made central nervous damage exit him from inclusive computer system called Matrix in cyberspace. He was used by Armitage, an American ex-military officer to remove the Turing Locks in an Artificial Intelligence called Wintermute which was created by Tesser – Ashpool's family. The Turing Locks stopped Wintermute to join with its shibling Neuromancer. That connection was prohibited in Chiba City which made Wintermute as Super-intelligence (SI). Case's physical and psychological problems were rectified by Armitage, when he hacked the turning locks.

The researcher's writer William Gibson, portrayed the human life became void in the near future, Technology Era where the humanity was replaced by machinery. Though the novel had the background of science fiction, it depicted the 21<sup>st</sup> century filled with technology and internet matrixes. In the modern posthumanism study, the internet server occupied a chaos space in the world where the privacy life is ruined by technology. In the researcher's chosen *Neuromancer* represented protagonist Case is predisposed with hacking technological advancement and no longer unable to connect with other human being.

The Sprawl was a long strange way over the Pacific now, and he was no console man, no cyberspace cowboy. Just another hustler, trying to make it through.

- *Neuromancer*. 1.17

Case found it difficult to contact with others and he created others language as code for understanding. Armitage did not want to help Case but they only needed Case to get what they want from him. Many hackers in the novel were drug addict whom were comfortable to live in hallucination state. In one way or another, every character wanted to hide their existence to the world. The reason behind this was the anxiety of the present and past wrong life would ruin their future, Characters shrank themselves in the state of despair "Case fell into the prison of his own flesh (Pg. No. 29)."

Case is the ruined human character, but the main plot of the story revolved around the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Winterburn whose aim is to become Super-intelligence (SI). The Ashpool family wanted to conquer the world with the help of AIs' and Sis'. The future war would be with science, machines and technologies. The human characters created or helped AIs' to solve their problems but they would not worry about other human beings existence in the world. In the end of the novel, with the huge money from Ashpool family Case rectified his problems. He got new internal organs which would resistant to the drug use and enjoyed the tinkle again.

Winterburn and Neuromancer with the help of their superpower began to create new consciousness and delete the old memories for Case, Linda and others to live them in peaceful state. Case went back to the life of hacker with new consciousness and new internal organ but on the other side, both Winterburn and Neuromancer began to connect with other AI programs in the world wide web and their communication would be deep in space originating from 1970's. The other human characters did not aware of AI's took the copy of their "souls" (old and new consciousness) in the net which made them to trap the characters easily. In the end, Case logged in to the Matrixes of the internet which made him shock that the copy of their consciousness living in the matrixes.

He'd operated on an almost permanent adrenaline high, a byproduct of youth and proficiency, jacking into a custom cyberspace deck that projected his disembodied consciousness into the consensual hallucination that was the matrix.

- *Neuromancer*. 1.24

The beginning of Posthumanism study focused on the other existence of animals and other inhuman objects in the world. It wanted to decentre the centre of the universe is not "Man". In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Posthumanism had the intensive look on science and technology replacing the centre of the universe. Though the story was fictionous, they are many things were happening in the modern world. This would produce a kind of creative cultural osmosis which might destroy the heritage of human race.

**Summation:**

The creation of AIs' could be dangerous to the society which would replace the man power with machine power. It also gave way to mass unemployment. Then the centre of man and man power might shift to artificial intelligence. The research article did not want to avoid technology in wider sense nevertheless it should not swap the human existence. In the beginning of posthumanism study, the theorist did not reject the presence of humanist thoughts but it gave importance to other living and non-living beings. The modern posthumanist study was giving importance to the AI's which might replace the human intelligence soon.

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