



Autonomy of Language and Literature in the Artificial Intelligence Era: A Study

¹ Prakash Waghmare* and ² Shraddha Lamture

¹ PhD Scholar, Department of English, S.R.T.M. University, Nanded (MH)

² PhD Scholar, Department of English, S.R.T.M. University, Nanded (MH)

Abstract:

The increase of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has begun an influential ontological shift in the creation and consumption of written composition. The present paper explores the concept of linguistic and literary autonomy in an era where Large Language Models (LLMs) can adopt distinctive narratives and recreate sophisticated stylistic nuances. The primary objective of this study is to determine whether autonomy of language and literature remains an independent human expression or is transitioning into a predictive, algorithmic commodity. Drawing upon a combination of literary theory and computational linguistics, the research evaluates the distinction between simulated creativity and intentional authorship. It argues that while AI demonstrates high levels of functional autonomy, the ability to generate a text without direct human intervention. It lacks the existential autonomy rooted in subjective experience and historical context. The paper will examine the risk of stylistic homogenization, wherein the recursive nature of AI training loops may lead to a stagnation of literary evolution.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Autonomy, Language, Literature, Globalization & technology, etc.

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***Corresponding Author:**

Prakash Waghmare

Email: w.prakash11@gmail.com

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionised the world in every sector of society. Earlier, the industrialisation in the mid-18th century shifted the manual workforce-based production to machine-based production. This revolution has increased the production of commodities, enabling them to meet the needs of an increasingly large population. This revolution spread across the borders through globalisation and liberalisation. The second revolution, after industrialisation, in the history of human beings, is the invention of Artificial Intelligence. Artificial Intelligence is a drastic development in computer systems that aims to alter human intelligence and perform tasks that require human intervention, such as learning and problem-solving. The concept of Artificial Intelligence rooted in the conference held in 1956 in Dartmouth College in the United States. Machine learning was applied in the early 2000s to solve

the problems related to industry and academia. The various AI-based software were developed to handle the tasks which required human intervention.

Generative Artificial Intelligence is a subpart of Artificial Intelligence that deals with the creation of new content, images, music, and texts. There are different platforms of generative artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Grok, Deppseek, copilot etc. These platform of generative artificial intelligence aims to generate content, writings, poetry, papers, music, images and videos based on the data available on world wide web. There is a rumour that generative artificial intelligence may replace authors to write original texts, to create art, images, and videography. Generative artificial intelligence sped up in COVID-19 period and occupied most of the social sphere. The discussion and debate over whether Artificial Intelligence may minimise the human resources has been burning up. Most of the corporate

sectors are affected due to the rise of artificial intelligence. Many of the employees had to lose their job due to AI.

The most debated question in the field of language, literature and artificial intelligence is whether artificial intelligence affects linguistics and the literary world? This question has been debated in many national and international conferences, seminars and workshops. Artificial intelligence may write content, poetry, novels or any kind of piece of writing based on a mono-standard language style. But literature is something more than just an arrangement of paragraphs based on the given context. It not only mirrors the social reality but also provides suggestions for the betterment of human beings. Literature talks of universal humanity, values, morals and ethos. When a poet composes a poem based on a certain subject, she/he expresses their deep thoughts which directly come from the bottom of their heart. The language an individual author uses is totally based on the present situation in which she or he is writing. When an author writes, the use of diction, poetic meters, and rhythms, rhymes, figures of speech, arrangement of dialogues and incidents, proper unity and coherence is unique. This may lack in the writing of generative artificial intelligence. Noam Chomsky, American linguist and intellectual, expressed his view on artificial intelligence in the following words.

The human mind is not, like ChatGPT and its ilk, a lumbering statistical engine for pattern matching, gorging on hundreds of terabytes of data and extrapolating the most likely conversational response or most probable answer to a scientific question. On the contrary, the human mind is a surprisingly efficient and even elegant system that operates with small amounts of information; it seeks not to infer brute correlations among data points but to create explanations....In short, ChatGPT and its brethren are constitutionally unable to balance creativity with constraint. They either overgenerate (producing both truths and falsehoods, endorsing ethical and unethical decisions alike) or undergenerate (exhibiting noncommitment to any decisions and indifference to consequences). Given the amorality, faux science and linguistic incompetence of these systems, we can only laugh or cry at their popularity (Chomsky, The New York Times).

Artificial intelligence and its related tools and platform works on the data available on the World Wide Web. The grammar tool of the artificial intelligence corrects syntax and grammar based on the linguistic norms. It is mostly a monotonic style of linguistic composition. There is no space for new creativity of ideas, sentences, and syntax, which is the beauty of literature and language. The most important thing is that artificial intelligence does not consider poetic license which is the most important point of literary writing. When a poet writes a poem, he or she has the right of poetic license. A writer can break the rules of linguistic norms in order to create a new literary piece. Therefore, Noam Chomsky criticised artificial intelligence and the related tools which only function in the presence of thousands of terabyte digital data in a certain algorithmic way. Sometimes, AI may overgenerate and other times undergenerate contents.

In contrast human mind is sensitive and auto-functional, which could function sometimes with a small piece of data and information. The human mind is capable of creating and recreating writings, poetry, novels, and stories with sensitivity. The mind works with feelings, emotions, morality, and universal humanity, which is an independent quality of the human mind, whereas artificial intelligence is useless without data. The important quality of the human mind is the ability to learn new things and acquire skills, which can help create new linguistic styles and literary genres. For Noam Chomsky human mind has an innate capacity to acquire language and the universal principles set, which are common to all languages, and for this he termed Universal Grammar. When a child learns a language, he does not learn mechanically, he creates new sentences which may not have existed earlier. This capacity of linguistic quality is innate and existed in the mind of human beings. In contrast, artificial intelligence produces linguistic content and writing based on mechanical linguistic norms, which is often monotonous in style.

“Consider the following explanation offered by Ian Bogost (2022) for an op-ed in The Atlantic: ‘ChatGPT lacks the ability to truly understand the complexity of human language and conversation. It is simply trained to generate words based on a given input, but it does not have the ability to truly comprehend the meaning behind those words’ (Slocombe, page 28)”

ChatGPT is a AI based platform that does not comprehend the complexity of human languages and the conversations among them. Slocombe argued that this platform is basically engineered to perform tasks based on inputs which he consumes from the data of a larger structure. Whereas the human mind is an autonomous which perform task on its own in different situations and given subjects. If the creation of literary work relies on artificial intelligence, in consequence, it may wipe out and destroy the literary creation of the human mind forever.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the human mind is an autonomous entity which functions on itself; therefore, language and literature are autonomous and may not be affected by the revolution of artificial intelligence. The rise of Artificial Intelligence and the humanities highlight a important moment in the evolution of human expression. The present research paper has discussed the tension between the computational efficiency and reliability of AI and the inherent autonomy of language and literature. Large Language Models (LLMs) denote an unprecedented ability to copy stylistic conventions and synthesise vast amounts of data. It remains fundamentally distinct from the human will to create. AI should be viewed not as a replacement for the author and linguist, but as a transformative tool that challenges us to double down on what makes human expression unique. The autonomy of language and literature ultimately rests in the hands of the reader and the writer, whose capacity for empathy, critical judgment, and original thought remains beyond the reach of silicon and code. As we move forward, the challenge lies in ensuring that the convenience of automation does not lead to the homogenization of the human spirit.

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