



The Human Imagination in the Age of Intelligent Machines: AI in Literature and Education -Boon or Bane?

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Abstract:

From the beginning of time, human beings have created tools to make life easier and to express themselves. Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the newest and most powerful of these tools. It is now entering the world of literature, where it can write poems, stories, and essays, and even assist in teaching and research. AI makes writing faster, helps students learn better, and gives new meaning to creativity. However, it also raises important questions. Can a machine truly create art without human emotion? Does AI strengthen imagination or weaken originality? This paper explores both sides of the debate—showing AI as a boon that inspires creativity and as a bane that may reduce human depth. The study concludes that AI can support imagination but can never replace it. Literature will continue to live through the warmth, feeling, and wisdom of the human heart.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Literature, Creativity, Authorship, Human Imagination, Education, Boon, Bane.

Introduction:

Humans have a tendency to work very hard from the beginning of the civilization. By the passing of time humans have invented many tools and technologies to make life easier. It helped them to share their thoughts and emotions too. The invention of language helped civilizations to communicate effectively. Emotions, thoughts, Feelings were shared orally at the beginning, later on introduction of various writing forms, printing press and Internet changed the whole scenario. Literature is one of humanity's oldest and most powerful tool of communication. It is the mirror of human thoughts and emotions.

In modern age, technology has reached a new level with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Machines now have a capacity to read, write and even think in a way that once seemed impossible. Printing press has made it possible to read and write for everyone. It gave freedom to writers

and readers. Then Internet opened the doors for world literatures ensuring the accessibility and availability of the same to common readers. And now the emergence of AI just changed the ways of creating and writing literatures.

AI programs like ChatGPT, Sudo write, and Jasper can write poems, stories and essays that sounds more human. They help writers to find ideas, and assist teachers and students with understanding complex texts. These developments invite complex questions: Can machines possess creativity? Is AI merely imitating or genuinely creating art? And how should teachers and scholars respond to this change?

Rather than seeing AI as a threat, it may be more fruitful to view it as a catalyst- one that pushes writers, educators, and readers to rethink what creativity means in a digital world. Many people have seen AI as a Boon, a tool that

supports creativity and makes learning easier. While others consider it as a bane, weakening originality and human imagination. The present paper explores both the sides the concern debate.

Artificial Intelligence has become a double-edged tool in the world of literature. On one hand, it inspires creativity, accelerates research, and democratizes access to learning. On the other, it raises questions about authenticity, ethics, and the emotional depth of art.

Why Artificial Intelligence in Literature and Education is a Boon?

1. Helping Writers Think Creatively:

AI has become a helpful friend for writers and students who want new ideas. Tools like ChatGPT and Sudowrite help people when they get stuck or can't think of what to write next. They can suggest characters, topics, or dialogues and even show how a story might sound in a funny, sad, or romantic way. Many young writers use these tools to make their writing more interesting and to try out new styles. Even poets use AI to play with words and create new kinds of rhythm and imagery. AI has written many texts, books, poems, novels etc. "The Aum Golly" Series- Poems on Humanity is written by AI in 2021 and 2023 using Jukka Aalho, GPT-3 and ChatGPT. Other prominent examples include- "1 the Road" (2017), "The Serious: A proven Divorce" (2019), "The Day A Computer Writes A Novel" (2015) etc. Though Machine produces texts or literatures it can never match the aura of human emotions. thus, it is said that AI doesn't take away a person's creativity—it gives them more ways to explore it.

2. Saving Time and Making Work Easier:

AI can do many time-consuming tasks in just a few seconds. It can check grammar, correct spelling, and suggest better words through tools like Grammarly and Quill Bot. Researchers and teachers can also use AI to quickly find

information or summarize long articles. This helps writers, teachers, and students save time so they can focus on the real work—thinking, creating, and learning.

3. Making Learning Personal and Inclusive:

AI can adjust lessons according to each student's needs. For example, Duolingo and other learning apps change their difficulty levels based on how well the learner performs. In literature classes, AI can explain difficult words, summarize stories, or translate texts into simpler language. Students who struggle with English or come from different backgrounds can understand lessons better. In this way, AI helps make education fair and inclusive for everyone. For example, an Indian student reading "A Farewell to Arms" can ask an AI tool to translate difficult lines into simpler English or even Marathi. This inclusion ensures that every learner regardless of linguistic or social background—can participate in literary education.

4. Protecting Old Books and Cultural Heritage:

AI is now being used to save and restore old books and manuscripts. It can read faded writing, repair damaged pages, and even translate ancient languages. Projects like Google Arts & Culture are using AI to make old literary works available online, so anyone can read them. This helps keep our culture, history, and language alive for future generations. For instance, many ancient Indian Sanskrit manuscripts and medieval European texts are being digitally preserved using AI-based image restoration. Such efforts ensure that the literary heritage of humanity remains accessible for future generations.

5. Helping in Research and Analysis:

AI can study large amounts of text very quickly and help readers find patterns or meanings that might be hard to notice. For example, a student can use AI to compare how nature is described in "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen

and in “The Old Man and the Sea” by Ernest Hemingway. The AI can highlight common ideas of courage, survival, and human struggle. Teachers and researchers also use AI to summarize long articles, collect important quotes, and organize information. This makes research faster and helps learners focus on understanding ideas rather than only searching for data.

6. Supporting Teachers and Students:

AI can be a great helper in the classroom. Teachers can use it to prepare notes, quizzes, and activities. It can also check assignments and give feedback. Students can ask questions, practice writing, or discuss books with AI chatbots. For example, many teachers now use ChatGPT to prepare reading comprehension exercises or short summaries of novels like “The Old Man and the Sea” or “The Merchant of Venice”. This allows them to focus more on explaining meanings and emotions instead of spending hours on routine tasks. This makes learning more interactive and saves teachers time, allowing them to focus more on guiding and inspiring students.

AI can be a valuable tool for writers and learners, providing new ideas, personalized learning experiences, and supporting teachers in their work. Rather than replacing human effort, AI can supplement it, fostering creativity and productivity.

Is Artificial Intelligence a Bane in Literature and Education?

1. Losing the Human Touch and Real Feelings:

AI can write poems, stories, and essays that look perfect on the surface, but they often lack real emotion. A machine can describe love, pain, or joy, but it cannot feel them. For example, an AI may write a sad poem about loss, but it will never truly understand grief like a human does. Literature is not just about correct words—it is about feelings, experience, and empathy. That is something only people can express. For example,

when asked to ChatGPT to write a poem about love, it used beautiful words, rhyme and rhythm but the poem felt like a mechanical one. On contrary we read poems of John Donne about the love, we feel warmth, pain, emotions that come straight from the human heart.

2. Confusion About Authorship and Originality:

When AI creates a story or poem, it becomes hard to know who is the real author- the person who used it, the programmer who made it, or the machine itself. For instance, when a Japanese AI-written story titled “The Day a Computer Writes a Novel” entered a literary contest, judges were surprised that it sounded human. But this also raised a question: who should get credit for the work? If we cannot define authorship clearly, originality and honesty in literature may suffer.

3. Too Much Dependence on Technology:

Because AI can give instant answers, many students and writers rely on it too much. Some may use AI to summarize books or even write essays instead of thinking for themselves. This habit can weaken imagination and critical thinking. For example, if a student uses AI to write a review of “The Old Man and the Sea” without reading the text, they may miss its deeper meanings. Now a days students are using ChatGPT to solve exercises, assignments, making PPTs etc. Thus, AI should be a helper, not a substitute for human effort.

4. Cultural and Language Bias:

Most AI systems are trained on English or Western data. This means they may not understand the cultural beauty of Indian, African, or Asian literature. For instance, AI might fail to explain the spiritual meaning in Tagore’s poem “Where the Mind is Without Fear”, it gave simple summary about freedom and knowledge but it missed the deeper spiritual message of courage, dignity, and moral awakening that

Tagore expressed. As a result, local voices and regional languages can be ignored or misinterpreted. AI must be trained to respect all cultures and languages to avoid this imbalance.

5. Fewer Jobs and Less Human Creativity:

If AI keeps improving, some jobs—like editing, translation, or basic writing—might need fewer people. Some publishing companies already use AI to write simple stories or news articles. For instance, AI- Written books on platforms like Amazon Kindle, where people publish machine generated novels and poetry under their own names. However, while AI can produce text, it cannot think creatively or morally like humans. The emotional imagination that gives literature its beauty can never come from a machine.

6. Risk of False Information and Misuse:

Sometimes AI can give wrong or made-up answers, known as “AI hallucination.” For example, it might invent a quote from a novel that does not exist or misinterpret a literary theme. If students or researchers use such information without checking, it can lead to serious mistakes. For instance, Indian social media often shares AI created quotes wrongly attributed to famous people like Swami Vivekananda, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, created by AI image tools. Also, if people use AI to write papers or stories without crediting it, it becomes unethical and dishonest.

AI is powerful, but it has limits. It can create words but not emotions. It can collect knowledge but not wisdom.

Conclusion:

Human civilization has always evolved with the help of new tools—from stone and fire to the pen, the printing press, and the internet. Each invention changed how people thought, communicated, and created. Now, Artificial Intelligence stands as the newest and most influential tool in this journey. In the field of

literature, AI has opened new doors of creativity. It can write poems, suggest ideas, translate texts, and help teachers and students learn in new ways. It makes writing faster, research easier, and learning more personal. In this sense, AI is a boon—a friend of imagination and progress.

Yet, the same technology can also become a bane when used without care. Machine-written texts lack true emotion and experience. They can spread false information, weaken originality, and blur the idea of authorship. When writers or students depend too much on AI, they risk losing the human qualities—feeling, empathy, and moral judgment—that give literature its soul. The challenge, therefore, is not to reject AI, but to use it wisely. It should remain a tool, not a master. Technology can help express ideas, but imagination must still belong to humans. The beauty of literature lies not in perfect grammar or data, but in the warmth of emotion, the depth of thought, and the truth of human experience.

In the end, AI will shape the future of writing and education, but the heart of literature will always remain human. Machines may assist in creating words, but only humans can give those words life and meaning.

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