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Title of Research Paper: Literature in the Age of Artificial Intelligence:

Changing the Way We Read and Write

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Abstract

AI can now write poems, stories, or even complete unfinished books, It can even summarise a 300 page novel into a paragraph. None of it was possible few years ago. This article focuses at four things which is being affected by Artificial intelligence in the literature world, such as who can be called an author, what qualifies as creative, how we read, and how we interpret a text. The primary idea of this article is that AI is not replacing human writers and critics but is challenging the way we used to think something. This article argues that AI should be considered as a tool which helps us in doing literary work rather than a threat or a magic worker.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Literature, Authorship, Creativity, Reading, Interpretation, English teaching, AI writig tools

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1. Introduction: Literature Meets Artificial Intelligence

There are some new terms which are being used in literature departments that was not there a few years ago, such as AI - assisted authorship, hybrid creativity, post-human narrative identity. These concepts exist alongside the conventional literature ideas of voice, style and close reading but it is getting very difficult to ignore. Writers and scholars now use Artificial intelligence platforms to draft, summarise and translate texts. Literary critics are increasingly encountering texts which are not written by humans. This article is not focused on the functionality of AI but to examine the literary questions emerging from the use of AI. It focuses on how the concept of authorship changes when a software or a machine contributes in writing a text? Can a poem retain its literary significance when writing process involved no personal emotions or experience? Also does it matter to the reader whether the tool helping them to understand a difficult poetic passage has ever itself experienced the emotions described in the poem?

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2. From the Human Author to the AI-Assisted Writer

Literary theory has spent much of the last century questioning the idea that a single author has complete control over the meaning of a text. With the rise of Generative AI, this old theoretical debate has taken a more practical and visible form. Recent work revisiting Barthes and Foucault's arguments about authorship suggests that AI is not erasing the author so much as remaking authorship into something hybrid — a collaborative event shared between human intention and machine output (Kushwah). The practical question that comes with this for a manuscript or a student essay is no longer simply who wrote it, but how it was written and how much of the work actually belongs to the writer. This is not just a theoretical concern. Academic publishers have already had to draw a line: most now allow AI assistance in drafting but flatly refuse to list an AI system as an author, insisting a human stay accountable for what the text claims (Monperrus et al.). How unstable that line still is became obvious when researchers built a fake AI author identity that went on to publish more than ten AI-generated papers, get cited by other scholars, and even receive a peer-review invitation before anyone realized what it was (Monperrus et al.). Literature faces a quieter version of the same problem every time a text shows up with no account of how much of it is human.

3. Can Artificial Intelligence Create Literature?

Whether a machine can really be “creative” turns out to be a definitional argument more than a technical one. One frequently cited study of AI-generated short fiction found that language models reliably produced fluent, competent narratives — but that they leaned heavily on conventional plots and familiar tropes, and that professional writers rated the AI stories as less original than human-written ones even when the AI's prose was perfectly readable (Chakrabarty et al.). This does not mean that AI-generated writing is worthless. It simply means that fluency and originality are two different things. Literary creativity has always involved taking some risk, moving away from the usual conventions and connecting that change with the writer’s own experiences. Some theorists push this further still, reading AI-generated fiction through Baudrillard's idea of the simulacrum and arguing that AI-assisted writing unsettles our categories of authenticity and origin without simply doing away with them (Sarsembayeva et al.). Maybe the more useful question to ask of an AI-written poem isn't whether a computer wrote it, but whether it still does the interpretive and emotional work we ask literature to do.

4. AI as a New Reading Tool

For those of us who are working in the field of literature, the bigger shift so far may actually be on the reading side and not the writing side. Students are already using AI tools to summarize plots, gloss archaic vocabulary, and produce a rough first pass at thematic analysis before classroom discussion even begins. In one 2025 classroom study built around Orwell's Animal Farm, undergraduates compared AI-generated alternative endings against endings written by their own classmates. They rated the AI's versions as clear, tonally consistent, and thematically sound — in some categories, like setting and tone, even stronger than their peers' writing (Bellot et al.). But the same students trusted the emotional “fit” of their classmates' endings more, and several raised concerns about how impersonal machine-

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generated interpretation felt, even while admitting it was efficient (Bellot et al.). What this suggests is that AI works reasonably well as a first reader a way into a text but students themselves still draw a line between a competent gloss and real interpretive insight.

5. The Problem of Accuracy and Interpretation

This is probably where the strongest case for caution sits. Large language models are well known for producing confident, fluent answers that are simply wrong — a limitation that shows up across the research on these systems more than almost any other, alongside failures in reasoning and generalization (Kostikova et al.). In literature, this becomes even more important because interpretation depends on understanding ambiguity, irony, and cultural or historical details. These are things that AI can easily turn into something simple and general, which may sound good but can lose the deeper meaning of the text. Scholars specifically working on computational literary interpretation are careful to note that generating genuine interpretive readings — not just classifying texts — remains a largely unsolved problem, not something fluent output should be mistaken for having solved (Pichler). There is also a narrower bias worth naming: because these systems are trained overwhelmingly on English-language, Western material, they tend to reproduce a fairly narrow set of storytelling conventions, even when responding in other languages or about other traditions (Bellot et al.). In literature, accuracy is not only about getting the facts correct. It is also about which interpretations, perspectives, and literary traditions are included in the answer.

6. Will AI Replace the Human Writer or Literary Critic?

No — not completely, although the reasoning behind the answer matter more than the straight answer. Literary interpretation is deeply connected to personal experience and cultural memory, areas that current AI systems cannot genuinely experience. An AI model may reproduce the language and concepts of literary criticism convincingly, but it does not have a personal connect with what a poem conveys about grief, exile, love, or other deeply human experiences.Some recent theoretical work on what it calls “post-human authorship” argues that AI doesn't replace human creative agency so much as distribute it, producing hybrid texts where authorship becomes contingent and shared rather than gone altogether (Khasanah et al.). Researchers who study AI-generated writing have observed that AI usually writes in a simpler and more uniform sentence structures with very little use of the first person voice. This writing style of AI makes it difficult for AI generated prose to replace a literary voice shaped by an individual's personal experiences. The work of a literary critic involves more than producing critical language. It requires recognizing what a text leaves unsaid, understanding its connection to literary traditions, and developing informed judgments through years of reading and interpretation. Al can assist with these activities, but it cannot independently perform them in the same way a human critic can.

7. Towards a Human–AI Literary Future

A more useful approach is to see AI neither as a magic nor as a threat but as a helping tool that should be used through open and careful collaboration. AI generated text can be starting point for a discussion or a first draft rather

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than as the complete final interpretation. Students should also be encouraged to question AI responses, especially for possible bias, assumptions, and excessive confidence, instead of accepting it blindly. Normalizing disclosure — stating plainly where and how AI was used — the way academic publishing has already begun to require (Monperrus et al.). Used that way, AI can open literary study up to readers who might otherwise be shut out of a difficult text, and it can free critics and teachers to spend more of their limited time on the part of the work that actually needs a human mind deciding whether a reading is persuasive, not just whether it's well phrased.

8. Conclusion

Artificial intelligence isn't just a new tool which has arrived in literary studies rather it is making us rethink about some of the genuinely old assumptions about authorship, creativity, reading, and interpretation. Machines can now produce fluent narratives, summarize difficult texts, and imitate the language of literary criticism quite effectively. However, they still cannot fully replace the personal, cultural, and human aspects that have always been important in literary reading and writing. AI may change the way literature is written and studied, but it has not removed the reasons why literature is still important.

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