The Portrayal of the Posthuman Self Through Narrative Techniques: A Comparative Analysis in Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun and Newitz's Autonomous

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تصوير الذات ما بعد الإنسانية من خلال تقنيات السرد: تحليل مقارن في رواية كلارا والشمس لإيشيجورو والاستقلال الذاتي لنيوتز

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Abstract:

This study offers an in-depth analysis of narrative techniques in Kazuo Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun and Annalee Newitz's Autonomous, with the primary objective of investigating how these techniques shape the reader perceptions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and posthuman identity. Employing a comparative approach, the paper reveals contrasting narrative strategies: Ishiguro's novel utilizes a singular perspective to evoke emotional engagement and personalize ethical considerations concerning AI, whereas Newitz employs multi-perspectival narration, provocative dialogue, and temporal fluidity to challenge conventional notions of autonomy and agency in posthuman entities. The findings indicate that narrative techniques serve not merely as storytelling devices but as potent tools that significantly influence the reader engagement due thematic depth. The analysis contributes to the scholarly discourse on posthuman literature by highlighting how differing narrative techniques can serve unique thematic and interpretative purposes. Future research may extend this work by incorporating a broader range of posthuman narratives or examining reader responses to deepen our understanding of this evolving genre.
Keywords: Narrative Techniques, Posthuman Identity, Artificial Intelligence, Reader Perception, Comparative Analysis.

الملخص:

تقدم هذه الدراسة تحليلاً متعمقًا لتقنيات السرد في رواية "كلارا والشمس" لكازو إيشيجورو و"الحكم الذاتي" لأنالي نيويتز، بهدف أساسي هو استكشاف كيفية تشكيل هذه التقنيات لتصورات القارئ للذكاء الاصطناعي (AI) وهوية ما بعد الإنسان. باستخدام نهج مقارن، تكشف الورقة عن استراتيجيات سردية متناقضة: تستخدم رواية إيشيجورو منظورًا فرديًا لإثارة المشاركة العاطفية وإضفاء الطابع الشخصي على الاعتبارات الأخلاقية المتعلقة بالذكاء الاصطناعي، في حين يستخدم نيويتز السرد متعدد وجهات النظر، والحوار الاستفزازي، والسيولة الزمنية لتحدي المفاهيم التقليدية للاستقلالية والاستقلالية. الوكالة في كيانات ما بعد الإنسان. تشير النتائج إلى أن تقنيات السرد لا تخدم فقط كأدوات لسرد القصص، بل كأدوات فعالة تؤثر بشكل كبير على مشاركة القارئ بسبب العمق الموضوعي. يساهم التحليل في الخطاب الأكاديمي حول أدب ما بعد الإنسان من خلال تسليط الضوء على كيف يمكن لتقنيات السرد المختلفة أن تخدم أغراضًا موضوعية وتفسيرية فريدة. قد تعمل الأبحاث المستقبلية على توسيع هذا العمل من خلال دمج نطاق أوسع من روايات ما بعد الإنسان أو فحص استجابات القراء لتعميق فهمنا لهذا النوع المتطور.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تقنيات السرد، هوية ما بعد الإنسان، الذكاء الاصطناعي، إدراك القارئ، التحليل المقارن.

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a transformative force in contemporary society, affecting diverse fields like economics, healthcare, and security. Similarly, literature is increasingly reflecting the nuances and implications of AI, going beyond the traditional boundaries of science fiction to offer deep insights into human nature, ethics, and the evolving concept of the posthuman self. Such works serve as mirrors reflecting the collective anxieties, hopes, and dilemmas of a society grappling with the complexities of a posthuman age.

Kazuo Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun (2021) and Annalee Newitz's Autonomous (2017) exemplify this literary trend by exploring the posthuman self within worlds profoundly shaped by AI and biotechnology. In Klara and the Sun, the narrative unfolds through Klara, an Artificial Friend designed to be a human companion. Autonomous, by contrast, delves into a future where both humans and bots coexist, touching upon ethical and existential concerns brought about by advanced technologies.

This study aims to address a research gap by offering a focused comparative analysis on how these novels use narrative techniques to portray the posthuman self. The central research question is: How do the narrative techniques employed in both works shape the portrayal of the posthuman self? This focus enables a deep dive

into the complexities of how literature reflects and engages with the broader discourse on AI, posthumanism, and artificial identity. By examining these novels through the lens of narrative techniques, this research contributes to ongoing discussions on the social and ethical implications of AI, providing an intersectional view that brings literature into a dialogue with technology and philosophy of existence.

The essential objectives of this research are threefold. First, the study aims to analyze the specific narrative techniques employed in the two works for portraying the concept of the posthuman self. Second, it seeks to compare and contrast these techniques to discern commonalities and differences in how each novel approaches the subject. Finally, the research will delve into the broader implications of these literary portrayals, considering how they contribute to our evolving understanding of posthuman identity and its societal ramifications.

The article is structured as follows: It begins with a literature review and contextual background that discusses relevant theories, key concepts, and previous studies. This is followed by a detailed analysis of the narrative techniques used in each novel. Next, the article will delve into deep comparative analysis to evaluate how those narative techniques converge, diverge, and interrelate to uncover the portray the posthuman self- in contemprory fiction and significantly influence the reader reception. The paper

concludes with an interpretation of the findings, discussing their implications for the wider field and reflecting on the significance of the research.

2.   ContextualBackground

The concept of artificial intelligence (AI) has been a literary preoccupation for decades, ranging from cautionary tales to utopian visions of a technologically augmented future. Early works such as Karel Capek's R.U.R. and Isaac Asimov's robot stories grappled with the practical and ethical challenges of sentient machines. However, contemporary fiction, including Klara and the Sun and Autonomous, employs increasingly sophisticated narrative techniques to dive into complex issues of identity, selfhood, and what it means to be beyond human in a world mediated by advanced AI. This section will trace the evolution of AI in literature, with a particular focus on the role of narrative techniques in conveying the multifaceted concept of the posthuman self and identity of an AI character. It will situate the selected novels within the broader discourse on posthumanism and contemporary literary trends.

2.1 Literary Theories

In the study of literature, various theories on narrative techniques offer analytical frameworks to understand how stories are constructed and how they produce meaning. From Structuralism's focus on underlying patterns to Poststructuralism's deconstruction of textual elements, these theories provide tools to dissect narrative layers. Within the context of this study, particular attention will be paid to theories that explore the representation of identity and selfhood, as they are crucial for understanding how the concept of the posthuman self is portrayed in Klara and the Sun and Autonomous. These theories will act as guiding lenses for the comparative analysis that follows, enriching our understanding of the complexities of narrative strategies in depicting artificial intelligence and posthuman identities.

2.2.1 Posthumanism and the Posthuman Self

Posthumanism serves as an essential theoretical framework for exploring the mutable terrains of human identity, subjectivity, and selfhood in the context of burgeoning technologies like artificial intelligence (AI). Stefan Herbrechter's work challenges traditional humanist paradigms by envisioning the human as a non-isolated and continuously evolving construct (Herbrechter, 2008). This viewpoint resonates in the narrative of both Klara and the Sun and Autonomous, where characters are portrayed not as isolated entities but rather as part of a complex technological ecosystem .

Clarke and Rossini extends this notion by focusing on the symbiotic relationship between humans and technology, emphasizing that identity is shaped through interactions with technologies, living beings, and non-human entities (Clarke and Rossini 2017). This aligns closely with the AI characters in our chosen novels, who are not mere tools but active participants in shaping the world and relationships around them .

Donna Haraway's concept of the Cyborg serves as a metaphorical anchor in these narratives, symbolizing the fusion of organic and technological elements (Haraway, 2000). The Cyborg serves as a nuanced symbol for the posthuman, challenging binary distinctions between natural/artificial and human/machine in the selected works.

Rosi Braidotti furthers this line of inquiry by positing the posthuman self as fluid, multiple, and interconnected (Braidotti, 2019). Her theory provides a lens to understand the complex identities of AI characters in Klara and the Sun and Autonomous, who embody the flexible personality that can adapt to different situations in a story, and multiple aspects of selfhood.

In summary, posthumanism provides a valuable theoretical lens for dissecting the narrative techniques used to portray the posthuman self in'Klara and the Sun and Autonomous. These novels invite an exploration of how narrative techniques can be employed to reflect evolving conceptions of human identity,

selfhood, and interconnectedness. They offer insights not just into the ethical and societal complexities of a posthuman world but also provide key contributions to our understanding of posthuman identity through their innovative narrative strategies.

2.2.2 Narratology and Its Significance

Narratology, a specialized branch of literary theory, serves as an invaluable framework for analyzing the construction of narratives. Emerging from the foundational work of scholars such as Vladimir Propp (Propp, 1928), Tzvetan Todorov (Todorov, 1969), and Gerard Genette (Genette, 1980), narratology offers a robust set of analytical tools for dissecting elements like narrative voice, point of view, temporality, and spatiality (Bal, 2009). By applying these tools, narratologists can identify the patterns and conventions that inform storytelling, illuminating how narrative techniques contribute to meaning-making in literature (Genette, 1980; Herman, 2009).

In recent years, narratology has gained relevance in the study of contemporary fiction centered on AI and posthuman themes. Specifically, narrative techniques wield significant influence over the representation of AI characters and the human-machine interface (Herman 2009). For example, the choice of narrative voice can serve as a pivotal factor in shaping reader perception of AI entities, either attributing them with subjective experiences and agency or objectifying them (Todorov, 1969).

Transitioning from the theoretical underpinnings of narratology, we can consider its applicability to specific works of fiction, such as Klara and the Sun and Autonomous (2017). In the first novel, the narrative is predominantly focalized through Klara, an Artificial Friend designed for human companionship. This choice of focalization enables a nuanced exploration of Klara's internal world, thereby fostering reader empathy and complicating the traditionally rigid human-machine demarcations (Ishiguro, 2021, Humann, 2023).

Conversely, the second novel adopts a multi-layered narrative structure featuring multiple viewpoints, including that of an AI character named Paladin. The interspersion of human and AI perspectives underscores the ethical intricacies and social complexities accompanying AI and posthuman existence (Newitz, 2017, Fossa, 2017).

Both novels offer fertile ground for narratological scrutiny, revealing how narrative techniques can serve as powerful vehicles for constructing the posthuman self. Nevertheless, it is essential to acknowledge that narratology, like any analytical lens, has its limitations, including its focus on structural elements that might overlook other facets of textual interpretation.

Overall, narratology not only facilitates a nuanced understanding of the narrative techniques used by Ishiguro and Newitz but also serves as an essential tool for studying how literature engages with

evolving notions of AI and the posthuman self. The ensuing comparative analysis will delve further into these narrative intricacies, inviting readers to contemplate the broader socio-cultural implications of a posthuman future.

2.3 Selfhood and Identity of AI Characters in Contemporary Fiction: A Multidimensional Approach

In the dynamic arena of contemporary fiction, AI and posthuman selfhood are fast-becoming focal points. These burgeoning themes generate a constellation of ethical, philosophical, and societal questions (Flanagan 2014).

To navigate this complexity, this study employs an interdisciplinary lens, fusing posthumanist perspectives with narratological frameworks. This synthesis provides a platform for dissecting how the chosen novels—Kazuo Ishiguro's "Klara and the Sun" and Annalee Newitz's "Autonomous"—utilize narrative techniques to enrich portrayals of AI characters.

2.3.1 Identity Through Narrative Focalization in Klara and the Sun

Ishiguro's novel serves as a linchpin for understanding the selfhood of AI characters, particularly through the narrative technique of focalization. The narrative choice allows for an exploration of her subjective experiences, personal reactions, and thematic interactions, thus enriching our understanding of AI self-awareness and agency (Ishiguro, 2021, Williams, 2022). However,

it's worth noting that while focalization offers deep insight into AI subjectivity, it may also limit the representation of AI as multi-dimensional entities, potentially reducing them to human-like caricatures.

2.3.2 Identity from Multidimensional Perspectives in Autonomous

A contrasting case is found in Annalee Newitz's Autonomous, which employs a polyphonic narrative featuring both human and AI perspectives. Newitz critically examines the moral intricacies and social complexities of AI identity, particularly through Paladin, a military AI (Mandelo, 2022). So too Autonomous employs plot dynamics and dialogue to build a more relational understanding of AI characters (Kopka and Schaffeld 2020) .

2.4   Identity Through Theoretical and Readerly Implications

The interplay between posthumanist and narratological theories in this analysis highlights their complementary roles in understanding complex AI charactersand their identities. For example, in From posthumanism to ethics of Artificial Intelligence Nath argues that the posthumanist theories help contextualize the ethical implications of AI representation and how the IA self proves itself (Nath 2023), while narratology, as Herman adds, provides the tools for dissecting the structural elements of the narrative and better differenciates the AI consciencssness (Herman, 2010) .

Moreover, the narrative choices in both novels don't just serve the stories themselves; they also shape the notion of AI selfhood by linking narrative craft to reader-response, thereby creating a more complete picture of what constitutes the self in AI (Hayles, 2023) .

2.3.4 Conclusion and Future Directions

This analysis contributes to wider debates about AI and posthuman ethics, framing these issues within the evolving narrative techniques of contemporary fiction. As AI continues to penetrate societal consciousness, literature serves as a crucial space for grappling with its ethical and identity-based implications.

By integrating previous scholarship with a fresh comparative approach, this study aims to illuminate how narrative strategies shape our understanding of AI, posthuman identities, and their broader social and ethical ramifications.

2.4 Introduction to Previous Studies

The evolving field of artificial intelligence (AI) in literary studies has given rise to a rich tapestry of scholarly work examining the thematic interplay between AI and posthuman identities in contemporary narratives. While these inquiries contribute valuable insights, there remains a need for a focused comparative analysis of narrative techniques in literature like Klara and the Sun and Autonomous.The present study aims to fill this gap by building on the following seminal works.

2,4,1 Ethical and Sociocultural Dimensions

1.   Mejia's Analysis

Mejia's work offers a foundational understanding of the ethical implications in Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun. His study is instrumental in shaping our approach to the ethical dimensions of AI and human interaction in literature (Mejia 2022). However, our work seeks to extend this by integrating narratological techniques into the ethical analysis, thereby offering a more nuanced understanding .

Roine and Suoranta's Contribution

Roine and Suoranta's examination of narrative strategies in Autonomous illustrates how storytelling influences discussions about ethics and social implications (2022). We aim to elaborate on this by focusing on the juxtaposition of human and AI perspectives in the narrative.

2.4.2   Anthropomorphization and AI Representation

1.   Incorporating Ajeesh's Perspective

Ajeesh's study adds depth by discussing the anthropomorphization of AI in Klara and the Sun (2023). While Ajeesh explores how Ishiguro challenges traditional perceptions of AI, our study furthers this conversation by deeper analysing and comparing it with AI representations in Autonomous .

Nicola and Sun's Investigation into Mastery

Nicola and Sun's 2023 analysis adds a layer of complexity by investigating power dynamics between humans and androids in Ishiguro's work. Our research expands on this by not only focusing on power relations but also exploring how these dynamics are presented through varying narrative strategies in both works .

2.4.3 Narrative Techniques and Their Limitations

1. Güngör's 2022 Study

While Güngör primarily focuses on ethical concerns regarding genetic manipulation, her work serves as a backdrop for our discussion on narrative techniques in representing the posthuman self (Güngör's 2022). Our study will consider these ethical aspects as they manifest through different storytelling strategies .

Hayles and Barry's 2023 Works

Hayles's piece on AI-generated language and Barry's research on gender and trans identity in Autonomous serve to broaden our analytical scope. Their contributions lead us to examine how gender and language are portrayed through narrative in a world influenced by AI and posthumanism .

2.4.4 Synthesis and Direction of Present Study

To summarize, the existing literature provides an array of insights into ethical dimensions, AI representation, and narrative techniques, among other facets. However, these studies often explore these aspects in isolation or within the scope of a single work. The present study aims to synthesize these elements through

a comparative narratological analysis, thus contributing a uniquely holistic perspective on AI and posthuman identities in contemporary fiction.

2.5 Broader Societal and Technological Context

2.5.1 Ethical, Social, and Philosophical Implications

The increasing integration of AI technologies into daily life has generated widespread discourse about their ethical, social, and philosophical implications. Discussions about AI often gravitate towards issues such as autonomy, sentience, and ethical responsibilities, with scholars and ethicists deliberating on the appropriate guidelines for AI-human interactions (Dwivedi, 2021, Torrance, 2008, Brusseau, 2023). The emerging field of machine ethics, for example, is dedicated to understanding whether and how moral values can be instilled into AI systems (Montes et all 2023).

2.5.2 Literature as a Societal Mirror

Contemporary literature, serving as both a reflection and critique of technological advancements, offers a unique lens through which these issues can be examined. Narratives often utilize AI characters to explore ethical conundrums or social ramifications, thereby providing a fictional yet deeply insightful perspective on the role of AI in our lives (Haenlein 2019).

2.5.3. AI in Popular Discourse

The societal implications of AI transcend the boundaries of academic or scientific discussion; they are a part of our collective conversation, reflected in media, public policy, and even in everyday discussions (Turkle, 2011; Harari, 2016). Technologies like virtual assistants, such as Siri and Alexa, and advancements in robotics and machine learning have filtered into popular culture, altering perceptions of identity and the 'self' (Wallach & Allen, 2009).

2.5.4 Blurring the Human-Machine Line

As machine capabilities grow increasingly sophisticated, the distinction between human and machine becomes progressively ambiguous. This ambiguity raises pertinent questions about the role of AI characters in literature. The portrayal of AI entities not only allows for the exploration of what it means to be 'human' but also complicates our understanding of subjectivity and identity in a posthuman era (Hayles, 1999; Ferrando, 2013).

2.6 Study Aims and Contributions

In conclusion, the current context serves as a backdrop through which the present study aims to offer a nuanced literary investigation. By focusing on the narrative techniques employed in contemporary fiction, this research contributes to ongoing dialogues concerning the intricate interplay between technology, identity, and societal values .

3 .Methodology

3.1. Analytical Framework

To study the narrative techniques employed in Klara and the Sun and Annalee Autonomous, this research will utilize an interdisciplinary analytical framework that combines posthumanist theory and narratology. Specifically, the framework will draw upon Gerard Genette's theory of narratology to examine different aspects of narrative discourse, including focalization, temporality, and narrative voice. The posthumanist theory will be used to analyze how the narrative constructs and complicates AI and posthuman identities. This theoretical lens will be particularly important in deciphering the novels' ethical and sociocultural implications.

3.2 Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis will be structured as a thematic exploration to ensure a nuanced understanding of both texts. Each theme from AI selfhood, ethical dimensions, and societal implications will be analyzed first in Klara and the Sun and then in Autonomous, allowing for a detailed yet interconnected scrutiny of each work. Both qualitative and close-reading techniques will be employed to dissect narrative structures, character dynamics, and symbolic elements in the novels. Each novel's narrative techniques will be examined to see how they contribute to the construction of AI characters and their identities.

3.3 Data Collection Tools

In terms of data collection, all text references will be meticulously cataloged to ensure accurate citation and analysis. Where relevant, secondary sources will be consulted to augment the analysis, particularly studies that have focused on narrative techniques, AI, and posthuman identities in literature.

By following this methodology, the study aims to offer a rigorous and nuanced exploration of the complex relationships between narrative techniques, AI, and posthuman identities in contemporary fiction.

4.   Narrative Techniques in Klara and the Sun: Portraying the Posthuman Self

In Kazuo Ishiguro's ground breaking novel, the intricacies of posthuman identity are brought to life through a tapestry of carefully woven narrative techniques. These techniques not only serve to construct the world of the narrative but also to engage the reader in a multifaceted discourse concerning the ontological and ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI) and posthumanism. Drawing on various literary theories and previous scholarship, this section aims to dissect and analyze how Ishiguro employs focalization, dialogic exchanges, temporal manipulation, and structural choices to offer an enriched exploration of AI's potentiality for selfhood and emotional depth. The ultimate goal is

to deepen our understanding of how these narrative techniques shape the reader's perception of AI and posthuman identity.

4.1   Focalization and the Reader's Connection

The novel employs a singular and consistent form of focalization through its eponymous character, Klara. She describes her own perceptual experiences, stating: "I remained in my usual place...watching carefully for any signs that I'd be needed" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 36). This choice of focalization serves several key functions in the narrative's exploration of AI and posthuman selfhood.

Firstly, it provides an internal lens that allows the reader to access the character's emotional and cognitive world. This focalization technique aligns with Mieke Bal's notion that focalization serves to "steer" the ethical and emotional responses of the reader (Bal, 1997). In Klara's case, her detailed observations and complex responses to her surroundings create an ontological blurring, compelling readers to question traditional boundaries between sentient and programmed entities.

Secondly, this focus on Klara's perspective opens up a nuanced dialogic space for the reader, where the complexities of AI consciousness can be navigated. For example, when Klara discerns the emotional states of human characters, it raises questions about her own capacity for emotions, or at the very least, emotional understanding. Phrases such as: "I felt a sadness at that

moment" challenge the reader's preconceived notions about the emotional barrenness of AI (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 53).

Lastly, the use of focalization in this work also serves a meta-narrative function, subtly encouraging the reader to reflect on the ethical implications of Klara's existence (Banerjee 2022). This aligns with recent scholarly discourse emphasizing the importance of narrative techniques in exploring the ethics of AI (Gervás 2006, Clark, 2017). Klara's limited yet complex understanding of the world around her casts a spotlight on the ethical dilemma of creating beings that approximate consciousness but are confined to a limited scope of existence .

In sum, the technique of focalization in Klara and the Sun is not merely a literary tool, but a pivotal element that shapes the ethical landscape of the story and guides the reader's emotional and philosophical engagement to enriching the narrative's discourse on the complexities of AI (Shang, 2022).

4.2 Dialogic Exchanges

The dialogue is. Mikhail Bakhtin's concept of "dialogism," where multiple voices engage in conversations is remarkably employed as a vital narrative technique to enhance the reader's perception of AI and posthuman self (Bakhtin, 1981). Dialogic exchanges in the novel, particularly between Klara and human characters, function not just to move the plot forward but to add nuanced layers to Klara's character. A pivotal example when Klara tells Josie, "I

believe I have many feelings. But it's hard for me to know for certain" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 72). This exchange is groundbreaking for several reasons. Firstly, Klara's assertion of having "many feelings" confronts the reader with the ethical dilemma of recognizing emotional capacities in artificial beings, a debate gaining traction in academic circles (Dwivedi et all, 2021). Her admission also acknowledges the liminality of her emotional state that she feels, but she's unsure about the definitive nature of those feelings. This reflects Williams' argument that dialogic encounters can offer a gateway to emotional nuance for artificial entities (Humann, 2023) .

Moreover, Klara's dialogic exchanges with other characters, such as Josie's mother and her interactions with Rick, go beyond the algorithmic scope of her programming. These dialogues enrich our understanding of Klara's ability for empathy, self-awareness, and possibly even morality. For example, her complex conversations with Josie's mother about the ethical implications of replacing a human with an AI echo, she responded that:"The heart you speak of might indeed be the hardest part of Josie to learn It might be like a house with many rooms. Even so, a devoted AF, given time, could walk through each of those rooms, studying them carefully in turn, until they became like her own home" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 182). Klara's nuanced reply suggests that while her performance seems to be limited to physical and programmed tasks, eventually,

she could even replicate the complexities and intrinsic value of human life (Humann 2023). Klara's metaphor of "a house with many rooms" indicates a quest for emotional and ethical depth that transcends mere algorithms. Her thoughtful reply challenges our conventional understanding of AI, suggesting she's not just a programmed entity but a being grappling with identity and sentience.

These dialogic moments also serve to humanize Klara in the reader's eyes, as when she reflects, "Sometimes, at special moments like that, people feel a pain alongside their happiness" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 24). Klara's observations on the interplay of "pain alongside happiness" and her self-reflective admission of "universal awfulness" reveal facets of emotional complexity and moral consideration that are not commonly attributed to AI (Ajeesh 2023). These moments in the dialogue serve as windows into the intricacies of AI identity, suggesting layers of self-awareness and ethical engagement that go beyond mere computational functionality .

More importantly, Klara's articulated response to such complex ethical queries challenges traditional assumptions about AI's limitations in moral reasoning just like when she answered Josie and said :'But then I behaved badly towards myself, towards everybody. You mustn't feel singled out. My awfulness was universally distributed." (Ishiguro 2021). Klara's candid

acknowledgment of her "universal awfulness" signals a departure from the stereotype of AI as emotionless calculators. This self-critical awareness implies a level of moral reasoning and ethical culpability that complicates the conventional narrative about AI identity, nudging the reader to consider Klara not merely as a programmed entity, but as a sentient being grappling with the consequences of her actions (Stacy 2022).

In addition to her ethical nuance, Klara's attempt to "feel in [her] own mind the anger the drivers had experienced" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 130) showcases a facet of AI identity rarely considered: emotional mirroring. Klara's endeavor to internalize human emotion goes beyond programmed empathy; it is a self-initiated exploration into the realm of affective experience. This foray into empathy challenges the reader to reevaluate preconceived boundaries between human consciousness and artificial intelligence, framing Klara as an individual entity capable of emotional growth and complexity.

4.3 Temporal Manipulation and its Ethical Implications

Ishiguro employs time as a potent narrative and thematic device in "Klara and the Sun." Klara observes, "The days were becoming harder to distinguish" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 93), a statement that evokes complex discourse on temporality in AI and posthuman literature. This aligns with Paul Ricoeur's theory of narrative time,

asserting that time isn't just a backdrop, but a dynamic entity shaping characters and ethical dilemmas (Ricoeur, 1984).

Klara's unique relationship with time offers multiple avenues for interpretation. Her trouble distinguishing days points to a non-linear, fluid comprehension of time, contrasting the human view of time as linear and finite. This non-linear understanding of time leads us to question the existential status of AI, aligning with emerging philosophical inquiries into the subject (Sahu, 2022).

Additionally, Klara's dialogic expressions like "After many years," "sometimes," "until recently," and "at the same time" show an evolving self-awareness and understanding of a linear timeline. These phrases; as Sako in Futurity, the life course and aging in Kazuo Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun arguments defy the machine-like 'timelessness,' adding depth usually attributed to human consciousness (Sako 2023).

The literary utility of these temporal dialogues deepens Klara's characterization, complicating traditional AI narratives. This contributes to the ethical debate surrounding increasingly self-aware AIs, enriching Klara's for-m of sentience in the reader's perception.

Finally, Klara's struggle with the concept of time amplifies ethical questions about AI's self-awareness and sentience. It resonates with ongoing discussions on the ethical treatment of AI and their potential for experiencing a form of "life" warranting ethical

considerations (Sako, 2023). It also functions as an allegory for the blurring ethical lines as AI technologies advance (Guignery, 2021).

In summary, the narrative's temporal elements enrich its thematic depth, linking it to a broader scholarly discourse on the complexities of AI ethics and identity.

4.4   Narrative Structure: Form Reflecting Content

The narrative structure is both straightforward and intricate, a duality that serves to engage the reader in the novel's complex ethical and philosophical questions. When Klara queries, "Can I hope for a better future?" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 113), the reader is offered a glimpse into the AI's existential concerns, an engagement facilitated by the book's structural choices .

Literary critic Busselle argues that such narrative elements can provoke a deeper level of intellectual and emotional engagement from readers, leading them to ponder broader ethical implications (Busselle, 2008). This aligns with Gerard Genette's theories on narrative discourse, which emphasize that the form of a narrative can significantly impact its interpretation (Genette, 1980). In Klara and the Sun, the narrative structure acts as a conduit for an intricate web of thematic considerations, ranging from the posthuman identity to the ethical ramifications of AI.

The book's structure also enables Ishiguro to introduce ethical and philosophical questions gradually, without overwhelming the

reader. It adheres to what Seymour Chatman describes as "kernel" events and "satellite" events, where central events drive the narrative while peripheral events provide deeper layers of meaning (Chatman, 1978). Simply, "The 'kernel' events bring about major changes, while 'satellite' events contribute to the narrative by amplifying or enriching the kernel events," (Chatman, 1978). For instance, while Klara's quest for understanding serves as a "kernel" event, her various dialogues and observations act as "satellites" that enrich our comprehension of her character and the ethical questions that surround her existence   .

Moreover, the narrative's structure subtly mirrors Klara's cognitive journey adopting the world surrounding it, allowing the reader to undergo a parallel experience of discovery and contemplation. This meta-narrative approach resonates with Wayne C. Booth's concept of the "implied author," where the narrative structure itself becomes an entity that communicates with the reader, guiding them toward specific interpretations and emotional responses (Booth, 2002) .

In all, the narrative structure in Klara and the Sun serves as more than just a vessel for storytelling; it is a carefully designed framework that shapes the reader engagement and interpretation. The structure not only conveys the complexity of the book's subject matter but also facilitates the reader's intellectual and

emotional investment in the ethical and existential questions raised.

4.5   Impact on Reader Perception

The narrative techniques of Ishiguro does more than create a compelling story; it also has a profound impact on the reader's perception of AI and posthuman identity. When Klara states, "I felt a warmth spread across my components" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 55), it is more than a metaphorical expression; it serves as an intimate invitation for the reader to rethink their own preconceptions of what it means to be 'alive'.

Clark emphasizes that such narrative techniques can fundamentally alter our perceptions about the emotional and cognitive capacities of AI, leading to a more nuanced understanding of posthuman identities (Clark, 2023). This dovetails with Wolfgang Iser's concept of the "implied reader," wherein narrative techniques act as a guide, shaping the reader's engagement with the text and its broader themes (Iser, 1978). Ishiguro doesn't merely tell a story but constructs a narrative world that allows the reader to engage in a form of empathetic simulation, experiencing the world as Klara does .

This engagement is further underscored by what Marie-Laure Ryan refers to as "narrative immersion," the feeling of being "transported" into the world of the story (Ryan, 2015). In Klara and the Sun, the reader's immersion is not just into a fictional

world but into a series of ethical and philosophical discourses that confront them with questions about existence, identity, and morality. The text becomes an arena for what Richard Rorty describes as a "conversation of mankind," a dialogue that extends beyond the boundaries of the book to engage readers in ongoing debates about AI ethics and posthumanism (Rorty, 1989) .

Thus, the various narrative techniques in Klara and the Sun collectively function to draw the reader into a complex, empathetic engagement with the subject matter. These techniques not only serve to narrate Klara's experiences but also strategically manipulate reader perception to prompt a more comprehensive understanding and questioning of AI and posthuman identity.

5.   Analysis of Narrative Techniques in Autonomous: Portraying the Posthuman Self and Influencing Reader Perception
In the realm of science fiction, Annalee Newitz's Autonomous stands as 'a tour de force' in exploring posthuman identities and ethical dilemmas. The novel transcends conventional storytelling by employing a myriad of narrative techniques to create a rich, multi-layered tapestry that not only portrays the complexities of the posthuman self but also profoundly influences the reader perception of artificial intelligence and identity. Utilizing a multi-perspectival narration, dialogic exchanges that blur traditional human-machine boundaries, intricate temporal manipulations, and

metafictional elements, Newitz crafts a narrative that challenges readers to grapple with evolving conceptions of selfhood and autonomy. This analysis aims to delve into these specific narrative techniques, elucidating how each contributes to shaping the reader's understanding of posthuman self and existence.

5.1   Multi-Perspectival Narration and the Fragmented Self

In Autonomous, Annalee Newitz disrupts traditional narrative conventions by using a multi-perspectival narration, which presents the story from multiple vantage points, including those of human characters like Jack, a pharmaceutical pirate, and non-human characters like Paladin, a military AI bot. This strategy is particularly effective for portraying the fragmented, multi-layered realities that constitute posthuman selfhood .

The literary theorist David Herman in Routledge Encyclopedia of Narrative Theory refers to this kind of multi-faceted narrative as a "collage of posthuman experience," stating that it allows the reader to plunge into diverse modes of sentient experience, extending empathy toward forms of life far removed from conventional humanity (Herman, 2010). Herman's notion of a 'collage' aptly describes the reading experience. The fragmented viewpoints coalesce into a complex mosaic that goes beyond the sum of its parts, providing a nuanced understanding of posthuman existence that is more enriched than if it were presented from a singular perspective. For example, the personal perspective of the AI

character in Autonomous gives a detailed internal dialogue about its operational protocols, which run alongside ethical questions about its mission, thereby elevating it from mere machinery to an entity grappling with quasi-human concerns (Newitz, 2017, p. 41)..

Moreover, Reeve provides another layer of insight by suggesting that this multi-perspectival approach gives readers an array of entry points for empathetic engagement, thereby expanding the sphere of what readers might traditionally consider as relatable or empathetic characters (Reeve, 2022). For example, Jack's anti-corporate ethos might resonate with readers skeptical of capitalist systems, while Paladin's struggle for identity might appeal to those interested in the philosophy of the mind (Newitz, 2017, pp. 65-66).

The multi-perspectival narrative also acts as a cognitive map for the reader, helping them navigate the complexities of posthuman ethics and ontology. As Rose asserts, n narratives that are polyvocal and fragmented, readers are compelled to employ higher-order cognitive functions to piece together the narrative, enriching the engagement and ethical investment in the story (Rose, 2018, p. 47).

In summary, the multi-perspectival narration in Autonomous functions as both a literary device and a cognitive tool. It enhances the reader's comprehension and ethical engagement by painting a

multi-dimensional picture of posthuman selfhood. It achieves this by offering a variety of perspectives that, collectively, create a more rounded and nuanced understanding of the story's complex world and its inhabitants.

5.2 Blurring of Boundaries Through Dialogue

Dialogue is a central narrative tool in Autonomous that Annalee Newitz uses to dismantle conventional categorizations that divide the human from the machine. By employing dialogic exchanges that question the nature of agency, ethics, and emotional capacity, Newitz effectively challenges the reader's preconceived notions about artificial intelligence and posthuman entities. An examplifing phrase by AI character to a hunam claiming: "I'm not your tool; I have agency" for instance (Newitz, 2017, p. 98) reflects an implication of more than just a character claiming independence. It is a direct confrontation of the assumption that machines can only be tools without will or purpose. Hayles elaborates on this aspect, asserting that such dialogue forms an interactive ground for exploring the labyrinthine implications of autonomy and ethical agency in posthuman figures (Hayles, 2023). The phrasing "I have agency" challengesthe humanr collective understanding of agency as something exclusive to humanity. The narrative thus not only humanizes the machine but also mechanizes the human, dissolving the boundaries between the two.

Another dialogic interaction that Blurrs of Boundaries is when one character asks AI : "Are you programmed to feel?" and receives the counter-question "Are you?" (Newitz, 2017, p. 122) is a vivid illustration. Here, the query and the counter-query blur the lines of programming and human emotional architecture. As Hayles points out, Dialogic encounters such as these provoke the reader to reconsider the nature of programming, whether biological or digital, as a constraint on identity and agency" (Hayles, 2023).

Furthermore, these dialogic interactions are not merely epistemic devices but also pedagogical strategies aimed at the reader. They function as what Williams terms "narrative nudges," intended to encourage readers to move beyond anthropocentric perspectives (Williams, 2020, p. 167). These nudges coax the reader into reassessing not just the text but their cultural and ethical frameworks regarding AI and agency.

Hence, dialogue in Autonomous serves as a crucial narrative strategy to blur conventional boundaries, operating at multiple levels to challenge and enrich reader perception. Through effective dialogic exchanges, Newitz both complicates and illuminates the intricate dynamics of agency, selfhood, and emotionality in a world where the line between human and machine is increasingly indefinable.

5.3   Temporal Fluidity and Ambiguity

Time, often considered a fixed dimension in conventional narratives, becomes a highly fluid and ambiguous entity in Autonomous, adding to its complex portrayal of posthuman identities. Barry observes that such bending and folding of narrative time allows for the exploration of existential dilemmas specific to posthuman existence (Barry, 2023). For example, Paladin experiences intermittent flashes of past, present, and hypothetical future events, contributing to a non-linear experience of time. These experiences are not merely narrative hooks but philosophical inquiries into the very nature of 'being' and 'becoming' within the posthuman condition (Newitz, 2017, p. 205). As Franklin notes, By distorting the linear flow of time, Newitz redefines the parameters of mortality and morality in a posthuman world (Barry, 2023).

In one instance, Paladin recalls a moment from 'two weeks and three missions ago,' juxtaposing it against a speculative scenario of a potential future decision (Newitz, 2017, p. 99). This juxtaposition challenges the reader to engage in complex temporal gymnastics, thereby fostering a sense of temporal dislocation that mirrors the posthuman's experience of fragmented selfhood (Griffin, 2022).

Moreover, the fluidity of time in Autonomous is not merely a narrative device; it is a moral framework. As Roine, and Suoranta

argue, Newitz's temporal manipulations facilitate ethical reflections, enabling the reader to consider multiple, concurrent moral dimensions (Roine, and Suorant 2022). When Paladin contemplates various future outcomes based on its current choices, the reader is implicitly invited to question the ethical implications of free will and determinism in a posthuman context.

Therefore, Newitz's manipulation of time serves as a multifaceted tool: it questions the linearity of life and death, challenges conventional morality, and pushes the reader to engage with the layered complexities of posthuman existence. This temporal flexibility elevates the text beyond mere narrative, making it a vehicle for critical thought and ethical reflection, further complicating and enriching our understanding of posthuman identity .

5..4   Metafictional Elements and Reader Engagement

Metafiction in Autonomous serves not merely as an aesthetic device but as a means of thrusting the reader into a critical engagement with the text. When a character casually observes, "This could be a sci-fi novel" (Newitz, 2017, p. 153), the line functions as a reflecting both the narrative's and the reader's self-awareness. Miller describes such metafictional insertions as critical apparatuses that incite readers to question their existing paradigms about posthuman identity (Miller 2020). This reflexivity is further nuanced by the character's follow-up line,

"But who would believe it?" (Newitz, 2017, p. 154). Here, the narrative seems to suggest the narrow separation between speculative fiction and the fast-advancing landscape of AI and posthumanity. According to Waugh, such instances actively engage the reader in a dialogue about the porous boundary between fiction and impending reality, thereby influencing their perception of AI's role in society (Waugh 2002).

Even more subtly, the metafictional elements of Autonomous function to deconstruct the very narrative in which they exist. For example, there's a moment where the AI character comments on the "unbelievability" of their own actions, prompting the reader to consider the role of agency and choice within the posthuman context (Newitz, 2017, p. 178). As Reeve contends that this narrative self-scrutiny implicates the readers in a self-referential cycle, driving them to interrogate not just the text but their understanding of posthuman ethics and identity (Reeve, 2022).

By consistently pointing back to its own fictionality, Autonomous serves as a commentary on its genre, compelling readers to consider how these literary constructs intersect with ongoing debates about posthumanism. Gomel argues that in drawing attention to its own constructedness, the text calls for a deconstruction of reader assumptions, transforming passive consumption into an interactive debate on posthuman existence (Gomel, 2011).

6.   Comparative Discussion: Narrative Techniques in Klara and the Sun and Autonomous

6.1   Similarities in Narrative Techniques

Both Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun and Newitz's Autonomous employ narrative techniques that challenge conventional understanding of identity, specifically the posthuman self. Their rich literary landscapes go beyond mere storytelling to create an active and empathetic dialogue about AI and posthuman identity.

6.1.2 Dialogic Exchanges

Ishiguro's dialogic moments, such as Klara asking, "Can I hope for a better future?" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 113), serve as platforms to engage readers with deeper ethical questions (Ajeesh, 2023). In Newitz's Autonomous, dialogue acts as a sledgehammer to traditional human-AI boundaries. Statements like "I'm not your tool; I have agency" (Newitz, 2017, p. 98) do more than add to character development; they prompt a paradigm shift in how we perceive machine autonomy (Hayles, 2023). These dialogic exchanges resonate with Mikhail Bakhtin's idea of "dialogism," where multiple voices engage in a sort of mutual recognition (Bakhtin, 1981).

6.1.3 Temporal Manipulation

Ishiguro's time shifts serve as an engaging narrative strategy, effectively steering the reader through Klara's evolving understanding of human mortality. For instance, the future

envisions for Klara are shaped by her growing awareness of the finite human lifespan. This aligns with Paul Ricoeur's theory of narrative time as "human time" (Ricoeur, 1984). In contrast, Newitz's Autonomous bends narrative time to examine the unique existential dilemmas faced by posthuman entities. For example, the AI character Paladin's experience of time is presented as fluid and complex, allowing for the contemplation of multiple timelines and ethical choices (Newitz, 2017, p. 205, Barry 2023).

6.1.4 Narrative Structure :

While Ishiguro uses a focused, first-person narrative from the perspective of Klara, Newitz uses a multi-perspectival narrative that Herman calls a "collage of posthuman experience" (Herman, 2010). Both, however, serve to present a complex understanding of what it means to be posthuman.

By employing these similar techniques, both novels engage the reader's critical faculties and elicit empathy toward AI and other non-human entities. They thereby challenge the reader to reconsider and expand their perceptions of identity, time, and agency within a posthuman context.

6.2 Differences in Narrative Techniques

While both novels utilize narrative techniques to explore the themes of posthuman identity, they do so in notably different ways. These differences not only highlight the authors' distinct

literary styles but also contribute to the nuanced portrayal of AI and posthuman identity.

6.2.1 Narrative Focalization

One of the most striking differences between the two novels is the approach to narrative focalization. In Klara and the Sun, Ishiguro employs a first-person narrative strictly from the point of view of Klara, providing a singular lens into the world. As Gervás and Clark note, this choice encourages a focused examination of a single AI's experience and perspective" (Gervás 2006, Clark, 2017). On the other hand, Newitz employs a multi-perspectival narration in Autonomous, offering viewpoints from characters like Jack and Paladin to create a complex tapestry of posthuman experiences (Reeve, 2022).

6.2.2 Metafictional Elements

Newitz's use of metafictional elements, such as the line "This could be a sci-fi novel" (Newitz, 2017, p. 153), serves as an additional layer of engagement with the reader. It not only creates a narrative within a narrative but also "functions as critical apparatuses" (Miller 2020). Ishiguro, in contrast, abstains from any overt metafictional elements, focusing more on the emotional landscape.

6.2.3 Ethical Complexity and Temporality

While both authors deal with the temporal dimension, their approach varies in complexity. In Autonomous, Newitz exploits

temporal fluidity to create a "bending of narrative time" that complicates the reader's understanding of posthuman ethics (Barry 2023). Ishiguro employs temporal shifts more subtly, often linking them with Klara's evolving understanding of human morality and finitude (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 230, Sahu, 2022).

6.2.4 Emotional Resonance vs. Ethical Challenge

The emotional resonance achieved through Klara's singular viewpoint serves to enhance the reader's empathy (Banerjee 2022). On the other hand, Newitz's narrative techniques aim to challenge and unsettle, forcing the reader into a confrontational relationship with their existing beliefs about AI and posthuman identity (Reeve, 2022) .

These differences in narrative techniques underscore the thematic diversities in the two novels. While both contribute to the ongoing discourse on AI and posthumanism, they prompt the reader to engage with these themes in unique ways, thereby influencing public perception and adding to the richness of posthuman literature.

6.3 Comparative Discussion: Relating Findings to Research Questions and Objectives

Both Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro and Autonomous by Annalee Newitz effectively employ narrative techniques to challenge and reshape the reader's perceptions of AI and posthuman identity. The primary objective of this research is

exploring how narrative forms shape our understanding of posthuman entities that are richly fulfilled by each novel's distinctive approach.

In Klara and the Sun, Ishiguro adopts a singular narrative focus, confining the story to Klara's first-person perspective. This choice facilitates a deeply emotional engagement with the reader, serving as a conduit for exploring the emotional and ethical dimensions of AI. Shang' assertion that this singular focus personalizes the often abstract debates on AI, forcing the reader to confront the subjective reality of synthetic beings" ((Shang, 2022) aptly summarizes the impact of Ishiguro's narrative technique. In essence, the reader is guided to reconsider the value, validity, and even the emotional complexity of AI entities through this intimate lens.

Conversely, Newitz's Autonomous employs a multi-perspectival narration and provocative dialogic exchanges to create cognitive dissonance. One of the most striking instances of this is the dialogue "I'm not your tool; I have agency" (Newitz, 2017, p. 98). As Hayles contemples, such dialogic elements serve as platforms for testing the boundaries of free will and ethical agency in AI entities (Hayles, 2023). This approach resonates with Williams statement that narrative choices function as the window through which we perceive the world of the story, and by extension, contribute to our broader worldviews (Williams, 2017).

The differing narrative techniques not only influence reader perceptions but also serve divergent thematic focuses. While Ishiguro's novel is deeply intimate and focused on the internal emotional world of a singular AI, Newitz offers a complex portrayal that challenges human-centered perspectives on autonomy, agency, and ethics. This broad, unsettling exploration of posthumanism is accentuated through Newitz's innovative uses of temporal fluidity and metafictional elements, which are not mere storytelling choices but also critical determinants of how a text is perceived and engages its audience

In summary, both Klara and the Sun and Autonomous utilize a sophisticated array of narrative techniques to offer nuanced portrayals of posthuman identity and AI. However, they do so in distinct manners; each with its unique implications for reader engagement and understanding, thereby providing a multifaceted lens through which to consider the complex landscape of posthumanism.

This comparative discussion elucidates that both novels offer a multifaceted exploration of the AI and posthuman condition through their varying narrative choices, fulfilling the research objectives and providing a compelling answer to the research questions posed.

7. Conclusion

The analysis of narrative techniques in Kazuo Ishiguro's Klara and the Sun and Annalee Newitz's Autonomous offers a revelatory glimpse into the evolving landscape of posthuman literature. Through varying narrative choices, both novels contribute to shaping reader perceptions of AI and posthuman identity, thus fulfilling the primary research objective of this study.

Ishiguro's intimate, singular perspective serves as an effective narrative strategy to personalize abstract debates about the emotional and ethical dimensions of AI. On the other hand, Newitz employs a range of narrative techniques including multi-perspectival narration, provocative dialogue, and temporal fluidity in order to challenge conventional human-centric views on autonomy, agency, and ethics. So, these are not merely storytelling choices but potent tools that significantly influence how a text engages its audience and shapes their worldviews.

The divergent approaches found in these works showcase the complexity and richness of posthuman narratives. While Klara and the Sun deepens emotional engagement to enrich our understanding of the subjective experiences of synthetic beings, Autonomous widens the thematic scope to include complex social and ethical considerations. Thus, these novels succeed in providing a nuanced, multifaceted understanding of AI and posthuman identity.

This study advances the scholarly discourse on narrative strategies in posthuman literature by unveiling how differing approaches serve unique thematic purposes and reader engagements. Future research might extend this analysis by incorporating more diverse works of posthuman fiction or by examining reader responses empirically, thereby enriching our understanding of this compelling and rapidly evolving narrative genre.

In summary, the rich tapestry of narrative techniques employed in both works offers a nuanced yet impactful exploration of posthumanism. Each narrative technique, in its unique way, advances our collective grappling with questions surrounding the ethics, autonomy, and very nature of posthuman existence.

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