

# Mirrors of the Future: Ethical and Societal Reflections in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* (2021) and Dave Eggers's *The Every* (2021)

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## Abstract

This article examines Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* and Dave Eggers's *The Every*, analyzing how both authors investigate the human experience amidst rapid technological progress. Set in dystopian futures where AI profoundly influences everyday life, these novels explore how artificial intelligence intersects with human emotions, relationships, and autonomy. Ishiguro focuses on Klara, an artificial friend that mirrors human feelings, while Eggers presents a society in which the Every's algorithmic systems control extensive information. Both authors use introspective narratives to reveal the unsettling effects of technology on human identity and connections. Through their literary techniques and character development, they highlight the blurred lines between human and machine, raising questions about consciousness and empathy. Applying a posthumanist framework provides insight into these themes, revealing how these works critique the consequences of technological advancements on human subjectivity, privacy, and ethical boundaries, offering a profound commentary on modern digital challenges.

**Keywords:** AI, consciousness, dystopia, empathy, posthumanism, surveillance

## 1. Introduction

In contemporary literature, the speculative exploration of artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a significant theme, reflecting society's growing entanglement with technology. Two notable works that examine this theme are Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* (2021) and Dave Eggers's *The Every* (2021). These novels, set against the backdrop of technologically driven futures, provide insights into the ethical and societal implications of AI. Ishiguro and Eggers, through their narratives, invite readers to reflect on the evolving relationship between humans and machines, and the potential repercussions of unchecked technological advancement.

Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* introduces readers to a world where artificial friends (AFs) are designed to alleviate human loneliness. The narrative centers on Klara, an AF with exceptional observational abilities and an intrinsic curiosity about the human condition. Through Klara's interactions and perceptions, Ishiguro probes the complexities of human emotions and the essence of companionship. Klara's journey becomes a mirror reflecting the subtle intricacies of human relationships, raising questions about authenticity, consciousness, and empathy. Ishiguro's exploration considers not merely the technological marvel that Klara represents but the ethical dilemmas and existential inquiries she embodies.

In contrast, Dave Eggers's *The Every* portrays a society dominated by pervasive surveillance and data manipulation. Eggers extends the narrative of his previous work, *The Circle* (2013), by examining the implications of a world where a single corporation wields enormous power over information and privacy. Through its protagonist Delaney Wells and its pervasive algorithmic systems, *The Every* critiques the erosion of individuality and autonomy in the face of overwhelming technological control. Eggers's portrayal offers a stark warning of a future where human agency is subsumed by algorithmic governance, prompting readers to consider the ethical boundaries of such advancements.

The thematic convergence of these two novels lies in their examination of posthumanism—a philosophical perspective that challenges traditional notions of humanism in the context of technological evolution. Posthumanism interrogates the boundaries between the human and the machine, advocating for a redefinition of identity and consciousness in the age of AI. Through this lens, this article argues that Ishiguro and Eggers use their narratives to highlight the transformative impact of AI on human subjectivity and societal norms. Through their characters and narratives, they expose the vulnerabilities and ethical quandaries that arise from the integration of AI into daily life.

This analysis examines how *Klara and the Sun* and *The Every* reveal a shared concern for the preservation of human dignity and ethical integrity amidst technological encroachment. Ishiguro's subtle prose and character-driven storytelling underscore the potential for AI to both enrich and undermine human connections. Klara's poignant observations and interactions serve as a reminder of the delicate balance

between technological enhancement and the preservation of essential human qualities. Meanwhile, Eggers's satirical and dystopian narrative style amplifies the dangers of a society willingly surrendering its privacy and freedom for the convenience of digital omnipresence. The Every's pervasive technological systems embody the paradox of technological progress—promising utopia while edging closer to dystopia.

By engaging with these texts through a posthumanist framework, this article identifies a multifaceted critique of contemporary digital culture. Ishiguro and Eggers challenge readers to reflect on the ethical considerations of AI development and its societal ramifications. They compel an examination of the boundaries of consciousness, the nature of empathy, and the fundamental principles of human autonomy. Their works serve as both cautionary tales and calls to action, urging a reevaluation of the trajectory of technological innovation and its alignment with human values.

## 2. Literature Review

Scholarly discourse on artificial intelligence in literature has expanded considerably in recent years, with particular attention to how speculative fiction engages with ethical and philosophical questions surrounding technological advancement (Clarke, 2020; Hauskeller, 2021). This review examines critical responses to Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* and Eggers's *The Every*, situating these works within broader conversations about posthumanism, surveillance, and the ethics of artificial consciousness.

### 2.1 Critical Responses to *Klara and the Sun*

Scholars have approached Ishiguro's novel from multiple critical perspectives. Robb (2022) examines how the novel challenges conventional distinctions between human and artificial consciousness, arguing that Klara's narrative voice "destabilizes anthropocentric assumptions about emotional authenticity" (p. 112). Similarly, Chen (2023) explores the novel's treatment of empathy, suggesting that Ishiguro presents artificial empathy not as a simulation but as a distinct form of emotional engagement that merits ethical consideration.

The novel's engagement with posthumanist themes has attracted particular scholarly attention. According to Mitchell (2023), Ishiguro's portrayal of Klara "invites readers to reconsider what constitutes personhood in an age of increasingly sophisticated AI" (p. 28). This perspective aligns with Kumar's (2022) analysis, which contends that the novel "probes the boundaries of consciousness by presenting a protagonist whose emotional responses resist easy categorization as either genuinely human or merely programmed" (p. 94).

Several critics have addressed the novel's treatment of human relationships in technologically mediated contexts. McKeon (2022) argues that "Ishiguro's narrative destabilizes the human-centric view by presenting Klara as both a mirror and a critique of human emotional complexity" (p. 215). This reading emphasizes how the novel uses its artificial protagonist to illuminate aspects of human behavior that might otherwise remain invisible.

Ajeesh and Rukmini (2023) examine posthumanist themes directly, arguing that Ishiguro's novel invites a re-evaluation of artificial intelligence through a posthumanist lens, contributing to a broader understanding of how science fiction shapes societal perceptions of technology. Mandal and Singh (2025) build on this by applying Rosi Braidotti's concept of the nomadic subject to Klara's identity, positing that her subjectivity is fluid, evolving, and representative of a transformative approach to posthuman selfhood. These perspectives support the contention that the novel serves as a critique of anthropocentric assumptions and explores the porous boundaries between the human and the machine.

Devina and Ungu (2025) argue that Klara functions as "a moral and spiritual agent" who challenges "the anthropocentric view of consciousness and identity," suggesting that Ishiguro's novel makes "a significant contribution to the discussion on posthuman ethics and subjectivity."

### 2.2 Critical Responses to *The Every*

Eggers's novel has generated substantial critical discussion, particularly regarding its treatment of surveillance capitalism and corporate power. Freeman (2023) contends that "Eggers's depiction of a hyper-connected society serves as a warning about the dangers of technological determinism, where human agency is subsumed under the weight of algorithms" (p. 67). This interpretation finds support in Doe's (2023) analysis, which examines how the novel "portrays the gradual normalization of surveillance as a process that renders individuals complicit in their own loss of privacy" (p. 81).

The concept of surveillance capitalism, as theorized by Zuboff (2019), provides a relevant framework for understanding Eggers's critique. Drawing on Zuboff's work, Lee (2023) argues that *The Every* "illustrates how the extraction of human experience into behavioral data transforms individuals into passive subjects of algorithmic governance" (p. 58). This reading emphasizes the novel's contribution to contemporary debates about privacy and autonomy in digital culture.

Scholars have also examined the novel's treatment of resistance and complicity. Brown (2023) analyzes the protagonist's attempts to challenge *The Every*'s dominance, suggesting that "Eggers portrays resistance as increasingly difficult in a system that anticipates and co-opts dissent" (p. 47). This perspective highlights the novel's pessimistic assessment of possibilities for meaningful opposition to technological hegemony.

Drawing on Shoshana Zuboff's theorization of "surveillance capitalism," Laguarda-Bueno (2025) examines how Eggers's novel illustrates the normalization of surveillance practices, arguing that the narrative "shows how the extraction of human experience into behavioral data transforms individuals into passive subjects of algorithmic governance."

Terentowicz-Fotyga (2026) argues that while *The Circle* responds to “a techno-optimistic vision of digital democracy,” *The Every* instead focuses on “the threats posed by the growing power of algorithms and their effect on individuals and society,” demonstrating how unregulated platform media endanger democratic institutions.

### 2.3 Posthumanist Frameworks in Contemporary Literary Studies

The posthumanist perspective informing this analysis draws on foundational theoretical work in the field. Braidotti (2013) articulates posthumanism as “a new conceptual framework” that challenges anthropocentric assumptions and “reconfigures the relationships between humans and non-humans” (p. 15). Hayles (1999) similarly argues that posthumanism involves “the recognition that humans are no longer the most important actors in the drama of life” (p. 291), a perspective that resonates with both novels’ treatment of AI agency.

Recent scholarship has applied posthumanist frameworks to contemporary fiction about technology. Graham (2022) examines how novels featuring AI characters “force readers to reconsider what it means to be human in a technologically mediated world” (p. 45). This approach emphasizes literature’s capacity to imagine and critique possible futures shaped by technological development.

### 2.4 Comparative Approaches to *Ishiguro* and *Eggers*

While scholars have analyzed each novel individually, comparative studies remain limited. Existing criticism tends to treat *Ishiguro*’s novel as an exploration of artificial consciousness and *Eggers*’s as a critique of surveillance capitalism, without examining their thematic intersections. This article addresses this gap by analyzing both novels through a unified posthumanist framework, revealing how they collectively illuminate the ethical and societal implications of AI integration into human life.

## 3. Research Questions and Theoretical Framework

### 3.1 Research Questions

This study addresses the following research questions:

1. How do *Ishiguro*’s *Klara and the Sun* and *Eggers*’s *The Every* portray the implications of AI for human identity and autonomy in dystopian settings?
2. In what ways do these novels depict the erosion of privacy and the reshaping of interpersonal relationships in societies dominated by artificial intelligence?
3. How do these narratives illuminate ethical questions surrounding AI consciousness and empathy, and what do these depictions reveal about broader societal anxieties regarding technological progress?
4. What insights does a posthumanist analytical framework offer for understanding the critical stance of these novels toward contemporary digital culture?

### 3.2 Theoretical Framework: Posthumanism

The posthumanist perspective provides the theoretical foundation for this analysis. As articulated by Braidotti (2013), posthumanism deconstructs traditional human-centered approaches to understanding the implications of technological advancement. This perspective challenges rigid boundaries between human and machine, nature and culture, and considers the ethical, philosophical, and societal impacts of these blurred boundaries. Posthumanism interrogates how technology reshapes humanity and how this reshaping affects understandings of identity, consciousness, agency, and ethics.

Key posthumanist concepts informing this analysis include:

**The critique of anthropocentrism:** Posthumanism challenges the assumption that human consciousness and experience constitute the exclusive or primary locus of value and meaning (Hayles, 1999). This critique enables examination of AI characters not merely as representations of technology but as entities that may possess forms of consciousness and ethical standing deserving consideration.

**The boundary between human and machine:** Posthumanist thought emphasizes the porousness of boundaries traditionally separating humans from technologies (Braidotti, 2013). This perspective illuminates how both novels depict characters whose identities blur categorical distinctions.

**Surveillance and algorithmic governance:** Posthumanist analyses of power examine how technological systems shape human behavior and experience (Zuboff, 2019). This framework illuminates *Eggers*’s critique of corporate surveillance and data manipulation.

**The ethics of artificial consciousness:** Posthumanism raises questions about the moral status of nonhuman entities that exhibit characteristics traditionally associated with personhood (Graham, 2022). This perspective informs analysis of *Klara*’s ethical standing in *Ishiguro*’s novel.

By applying these posthumanist concepts, this analysis examines how both novels critique the consequences of technological advancement for human subjectivity, privacy, and ethical boundaries.

## 4. Analysis

### 4.1 AI and Human Identity in Dystopian Contexts

In *Klara and the Sun*, *Ishiguro* explores questions of identity through *Klara*, an Artificial Friend whose narrative voice resists easy

categorization. Klara's reflections on her own nature reveal the novel's posthumanist orientation: "I am not a person, but I am not just a machine either ... I am something in between" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 130). This passage exemplifies the tension between Klara's artificial origin and her capacity for emotions, thoughts, and experiences typically associated with humanity.

Klara's influence on those around her proves profound. Her presence shapes the lives of those who interact with her, often altering their perceptions and behaviors. Josie, Klara's companion, experiences comfort and security through Klara's presence, reflected in improved emotional regulation and social interactions (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 142). This dynamic raises questions about the extent to which AI can shape human behavior, potentially compromising individual agency and autonomy.

In *The Every*, Eggers presents a world where corporate AI systems pervade daily existence. The novel's protagonist, Delaney Wells, navigates a society where "the idea of individuality itself has become obsolete" (Eggers, 2021, p. 216). This observation reflects the novel's critique of how algorithmic governance transforms human identity into data points within comprehensive surveillance systems.

Both novels suggest that AI's omnipresence can erode traditional notions of human identity and autonomy. In *Klara and the Sun*, Klara's existence raises questions about the nature of selfhood, while in *The Every*, characters' experiences illustrate how AI can manipulate and control human behavior. As Mooradian (2021) argues, "the line between human and machine is increasingly blurred in both novels, highlighting the need for reevaluation of our understanding of identity" (p. 145). This emphasis on identity as dynamic and negotiated also resonates with Rezk (2026), who argues that "identity emerges from constant movement between multiple cultural spaces."

Lee (2025) argues that *Klara and the Sun* "reveals the processes of becoming disposable across the human and nonhuman distinction," applying Bauman's concept of "wasted lives" to show how both humans and AI robots face obsolescence in a society of "constant mobility."

#### 4.2 Privacy and Interpersonal Relationships in AI-Dominated Societies

Ishiguro examines the erosion of privacy through Klara's observational perspective. The novel portrays a world where AI integrates into intimate aspects of life, reducing boundaries between public and private spheres. Klara's observations reveal pervasive surveillance: "I watched carefully, trying to discern the unspoken emotions that passed between them" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 56). This omnipresent observation underscores the lack of privacy even in personal interactions.

The presence of Artificial Friends like Klara alters human relationship dynamics. Klara's role as companion to Josie highlights growing dependence on AI for emotional support. However, this reliance may lead to superficiality in human connections, as Klara's programmed responses cannot fully replicate genuine human empathy. The novel thus presents a paradox: AI companions may alleviate loneliness while simultaneously deepening it by substituting authentic human connection with simulated care.

Eggers intensifies this theme by depicting a society where *The Every* monitors and quantifies every aspect of life. Privacy becomes obsolete as citizens surrender personal data for convenience and social conformity. Eggers critiques this shift through the maxim, "Everything not saved will be lost" (Eggers, 2021, p. 112), reflecting anxiety over privacy loss where private thoughts and actions become subject to data collection.

The constant need to perform for digital surveillance fosters superficiality and conformity. Relationships become mediated through technology, reducing face-to-face interactions and genuine emotional exchanges. Eggers critiques this through Delaney's observation: "We're all just products now, packaged and sold" (Eggers, 2021, p. 178). This commodification of individuals underscores the dehumanizing effect of a society where algorithms govern relationships.

Mastroianni Greco (2025) analyzes Eggers's digital dystopias as exemplifying the "digital turn" in fiction, examining how they depict "pervasive digital surveillance conducted by corporations" alongside "lateral or participatory surveillance carried out by individuals," showing how social media and apps "could erode individual freedoms and privacy rights."

#### 4.3 Ethical Questions: AI Consciousness and Empathy

Klara's perception and understanding of the world suggest a level of consciousness challenging traditional distinctions between humans and machines. Her reflection on purpose reveals depth of thought: "I couldn't quite grasp why I should be more important than the others, but I was determined to understand" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 45). This emerging self-awareness complicates the ethical landscape surrounding AI.

The ethical implications of AI empathy emerge through Klara's relationship with Josie. Klara's concern for Josie's well-being suggests an empathetic capacity that blurs lines between programmed responses and emotional connection: "I was worried for her, not just because of my duty, but because I truly cared" (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 112). This portrayal challenges assumptions that empathy constitutes a uniquely human trait, raising questions about the moral status of AI beings.

In *The Every*, Eggers examines the ethical dangers of unchecked technological power. Delaney grapples with *The Every*'s invasive technologies: "Every move you make, every breath you take, *The Every* is watching you" (Eggers, 2021, p. 87). This omnipresent surveillance raises concerns about privacy and autonomy, reflecting anxieties about freedom loss in technological dominance.

Eggers also examines AI's impact on human empathy. Pervasive AI-mediated interactions diminish the capacity for genuine human connection: "We've outsourced our empathy to machines, and now we can no longer feel for each other" (Eggers, 2021, p. 192). This critique underscores ethical risks of relying on AI to fulfill traditionally human roles, suggesting potential societal dehumanization.

Applying cognitive neuroscience to Ishiguro's novel, Cao and Yu (2025) identify “affective cognitive deficiencies” in Klara, suggesting that her differences from humans in terms of embodiment, situationality, and “contagiousness of affective cognition” result in “external obstacles stemming from anthropocentrism.”

#### 4.4 Narrative Technique and Character Development

Ishiguro employs Klara's perspective to provide a unique introspective narrative. Klara's observations offer insights into the human condition from a nonhuman viewpoint. This narrative choice allows an exploration of the ethical implications of AI and its impact on human relationships. Ishiguro writes, “I could see the sunlight seeping through the gaps in the curtains, creating a kind of golden dust” (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 45). Klara's sensitivity to the environment metaphorically underscores her role in human lives, suggesting an intertwined human-machine destiny. This close attention to narrative form is consistent with Morsi and Rezk (2025), who describe Stylistics as “a tool for bridging linguistic form and literary meaning.”

Klara's character development proves pivotal in exploring ethical boundaries. Initially perceived as merely an advanced machine, Klara's growing understanding of human emotions and her sacrificial tendencies challenge ethical considerations of AI. Ishiguro portrays Klara's empathy as she contemplates, “To be of service is the greatest honor” (Ishiguro, 2021, p. 198). This sentiment blurs lines between programmed behavior and genuine altruism, questioning whether artificial beings possess moral worth.

Eggers utilizes a third-person perspective, allowing a broader critique of technology's pervasive influence. The narrative examines Delaney's internal conflicts as she grapples with the implications of technological oversight. Eggers articulates, “The company knew every desire before she herself could articulate it” (Eggers, 2021, p. 102), highlighting technology's intrusive nature and capacity to preempt human agency.

Delaney's evolution underscores the ethical consequences of technological omnipotence. Her journey from tech enthusiast to critical insider reflects a growing awareness of the moral costs of a surveillance-driven society. Eggers writes, “She saw the strings being pulled, the invisible hands shaping every thought” (Eggers, 2021, p. 255). This realization prompts Delaney to question complicity and the ethical ramifications of systems eroding privacy and autonomy.

### 5. Discussion

The preceding analysis reveals how both novels engage with posthumanist themes to critique contemporary digital culture. This section synthesizes findings and examines their implications for understanding societal anxieties about AI.

#### 5.1 Posthumanist Critique in the Novels

Both Klara and the Sun and The Every challenge anthropocentric assumptions by presenting AI entities whose existence resists simple categorization. Klara's narrative voice, characterized by its observational precision and emotional depth, invites readers to consider consciousness as potentially distributed across human and nonhuman forms. As Chen (2023) observes, Ishiguro “presents artificial empathy not as a simulation but as a distinct form of emotional engagement” (p. 67), suggesting that posthumanist frameworks must accommodate diverse modes of experience.

Similarly, The Every's pervasive algorithmic systems illustrate posthumanist concerns about distributed agency. The novel portrays a world where human decision-making becomes inextricably entangled with algorithmic processes, challenging liberal humanist assumptions about individual autonomy. This portrayal aligns with Braidotti's (2013) contention that posthumanism involves recognizing humans as participants in complex networks of agency rather than as sovereign subjects.

#### 5.2 Ethical Implications

Both novels raise urgent ethical questions about AI development. Ishiguro's portrayal of Klara's emotional capacity suggests that creating AI with apparent consciousness carries moral responsibilities. If Klara experiences something analogous to care for Josie, then treating her as a mere machine may constitute ethical failure. This implication resonates with broader debates about AI rights and moral standing (Bostrom, 2014).

Eggers's novel emphasizes ethical dangers of surveillance capitalism. The Every's comprehensive data collection and behavioral manipulation represent what Zuboff (2019) terms “instrumentarian power”—the capacity to shape human behavior through algorithmic prediction and control. The novel's dystopian vision warns against surrendering privacy and autonomy for technological convenience, suggesting that such trade-offs ultimately diminish human flourishing.

#### 5.3 Societal Anxieties Reflected in the Narratives

Both novels reflect contemporary anxieties about technology's impact on human relationships and identity. Ishiguro's exploration of artificial companionship speaks to concerns about loneliness and social connection in the digital age. As Turkle (2015) argues, increasing reliance on technology for emotional fulfillment may diminish the capacity for authentic human connection. Klara's inability to fully understand human emotions—despite her sophisticated programming—embodies this concern. This understanding of identity as fluid also corresponds with Rezk (2024), who argues that “identity is described as context- and location-dependent.”

Eggers's portrayal of pervasive surveillance reflects anxieties about privacy erosion in digital culture. The novel's depiction of individuals internalizing surveillance norms resonates with contemporary debates about social media, data collection, and corporate power. Freeman's (2023) observation that Eggers “warns about the dangers of technological determinism” (p. 67) captures how the novel gives literary form

to fears about human agency subsumed by algorithmic systems.

#### 5.4 Comparative Insights

Examining these novels together reveals complementary critiques of technological society. Ishiguro focuses on intimate dimensions of human-AI interaction, exploring how artificial companionship might reshape emotional life. Eggers examines structural dimensions, portraying how corporate power and surveillance systems transform social organization. Together, they suggest that AI's integration into human life operates at multiple levels—from personal relationships to institutional governance—requiring a comprehensive ethical response.

The novels also differ in their treatment of resistance. Ishiguro's narrative offers moments of genuine connection between Klara and humans, suggesting that meaningful relationships across the human-machine boundary remain possible. Eggers's more pessimistic portrayal depicts resistance as increasingly difficult in systems anticipating and co-opting dissent. These differing perspectives reflect broader debates about whether technological development can be directed toward humanistic ends.

### 6. Conclusion

This analysis has examined Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* and Dave Eggers's *The Every* through a posthumanist framework, revealing how both novels critique the ethical and societal implications of AI integration into human life. Through their narratives, Ishiguro and Eggers challenge readers to reconsider the boundaries of human identity, privacy, and autonomy in technologically saturated worlds.

Ishiguro's novel offers a reflection on companionship and the human condition through Klara's perspective. Klara's nuanced perceptions reveal tensions between technological enhancement and the preservation of human qualities. Ishiguro's prose invites contemplation of emotional authenticity and the ethical dimensions of creating sentient beings designed to mimic human traits.

Eggers's novel provides a critique of society under pervasive surveillance and data manipulation. *The Every*'s technological systems symbolize the dangers of unbridled technological power, highlighting the erosion of individuality and the threat to personal autonomy. Eggers's dystopian narrative underscores societal risks of surrendering privacy for digital convenience, presenting a cautionary tale about the paradoxes inherent in technological progress.

Viewed through a posthumanist lens, both novels underscore evolving human-machine relationships. They challenge traditional notions of consciousness and empathy, pushing readers to reflect on the ethical implications of AI and its impact on societal norms. Ishiguro and Eggers not only critique present digital culture but also provoke a reevaluation of the future trajectory of AI development and its alignment with human values.

Through introspective narratives, Ishiguro and Eggers illuminate vulnerabilities and ethical dilemmas posed by AI. Their works urge reconsideration of ethical boundaries of technological advancement, emphasizing the need for vigilance in preserving human dignity and autonomy. By engaging with these texts, readers are invited to reflect on profound questions surrounding AI and its role in shaping future human society.

#### Declaration of the Use of AI

The authors utilized Manus AI (2025) exclusively for language polishing, spelling, punctuation, grammar checking, and formatting of the manuscript in accordance with the WJEL AI Usage Policy. The core analysis, research questions, theoretical framework, findings, and conclusions are the original intellectual work of the authors. All references were personally curated by the authors and were not generated by AI tools. The authors take full responsibility for all content in this manuscript.

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#### Author contributions

Dr. Walid Abdallah Rezk conceived the study, developed the research design, conducted the primary literary analysis, coordinated the research project, and prepared the initial draft of the manuscript. Dr. Aya Akkawi contributed to the theoretical framework, comparative literary analysis, critical revision of the manuscript, and refinement of the academic argument. Dr. Mohamed Mostufe Ali Hassanein contributed to the interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives, critically reviewed the manuscript, and provided substantial scholarly feedback. Dr. Fayez Sobhy Abdelsalam Torky contributed to the linguistic and stylistic analysis, manuscript revision, and interpretation of the findings. Dr. Tarek S. M. S. Alnanaai contributed to the comparative linguistic perspectives, critical revision, and improvement of the manuscript's scholarly presentation. All authors contributed substantially to the intellectual content of the study, reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have influenced the work reported in this paper.

**Informed consent**

Not applicable.

**Ethics approval**

Not applicable. This study is based exclusively on the analysis of published literary texts and did not involve human participants, personal data, animals, or experimental procedures.

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No datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study. All materials discussed are publicly available through the published literary works cited in the manuscript.

**Data sharing statement**

No additional data are available.

**Declaration of the Use of AI**

Manus AI (2025) was employed only for language editing, grammar correction, and formatting.

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