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Digital Literary Analysis of AI-Generated Stories: Narrative Structure, Characterization, Themes, and Creativity in Computational Storytelling

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ABSTRACT

The rapid development of artificial intelligence and generative language technologies has contributed to the emergence of AI-generated literary texts as a significant phenomenon within contemporary digital literature. As AI systems increasingly participate in creative writing, questions regarding narrative construction, literary quality, creativity, and authorship have become important areas of scholarly investigation. This study aims to analyze the literary characteristics of AI-generated stories through a digital literary perspective, focusing on narrative structure, characterization, themes, language, style, and creativity. The research employed a qualitative approach using digital literary analysis, with AI-generated narratives collected from contemporary generative AI platforms as the primary data source. The findings reveal that AI-generated stories generally demonstrate coherent narrative structures characterized by clear beginnings, middles, and endings, logical plot progression, and identifiable climaxes and resolutions. In terms of characterization, the stories contain consistent protagonists and supporting characters, although they often lack deep emotional and psychological complexity. Linguistically, the stories exhibit grammatical fluency, rich vocabulary, and effective descriptive imagery; however, they frequently rely on conventional metaphors, repetitive expressions, and familiar stylistic patterns. Regarding creativity, AI-generated narratives demonstrate a strong ability to reproduce established literary conventions and narrative structures but show limitations in originality, innovation, and profound artistic expression. Overall, the study concludes that AI-generated storytelling possesses considerable literary potential as an emerging form of digital literature, particularly in terms of narrative coherence and linguistic competence, yet remains constrained by limitations in emotional depth, stylistic originality, and creative complexity when compared to highly sophisticated human-authored literary works.

1. Introduction

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly transformed various sectors of human activity, including the creative industries(Amato et al., 2019). Traditionally, artistic and literary production has been regarded as a uniquely human endeavor that relies on imagination, emotional experience, and creative expression. However, recent developments in generative AI technologies have challenged this assumption by enabling machines to produce texts that resemble human-created literary works. Large Language Models (LLMs) and other generative systems can now generate poems, short stories, novels, scripts, and other forms of creative writing with increasing levels of coherence and sophistication. As a result, AI has become an influential participant in the contemporary literary landscape, raising important questions about creativity, authorship, and the future of literary production.

The emergence of generative AI has also contributed to the growing popularity of AI-generated stories across digital platforms. Writers, educators, researchers, and general users increasingly utilize AI tools to create narratives for entertainment, education, and experimentation. Online communities and digital publishing platforms have begun sharing and discussing stories generated either entirely by AI or through human–AI collaboration(Thorne, 2020). This phenomenon reflects a broader shift in the relationship between technology and literature, where computational systems are no longer merely tools for text processing but active contributors to the creation of literary content. Consequently, the concept of authorship is undergoing significant transformation in the digital era. The traditional notion of the author as the sole creator of a text is being challenged by the collaborative dynamics between human users and intelligent machines.

The growing presence of AI-generated literary works has attracted substantial academic attention, particularly within the fields of digital literature and computational creativity. Digital literature refers to literary works that are created, distributed, or experienced through digital technologies(Rettberg, 2018). Unlike conventional printed texts, digital literary works often incorporate interactive, multimedia, algorithmic, and networked elements that reflect the technological environments in which they are produced. One of the defining characteristics of digital literature is its integration of computational processes into creative production, allowing technology to play a direct role in shaping narrative content. Within this context, AI-generated stories represent a new form of digital literature in which algorithms contribute significantly to the creation of narratives.

The relationship between technology and literary production has evolved continuously throughout history, from the invention of the printing press to the development of digital publishing platforms. Today, AI represents a new stage in this evolution by functioning not merely as a medium or tool but as a literary creator capable of generating original textual content. Through machine learning techniques and extensive training on large textual datasets, AI systems can imitate narrative patterns, develop fictional characters, construct plots, and employ various stylistic features commonly found in literary works. This development raises important questions regarding the nature of creativity and whether literary production can be meaningfully achieved through computational processes.

Despite the growing prevalence of AI-generated stories, several critical issues remain unresolved. One of the most significant questions concerns whether AI can produce narratives that are comparable in quality and complexity to stories written by human authors(Li et al., 2013). Literary texts are often valued not only for their structural coherence but also for their emotional depth, originality, symbolic richness, and cultural significance. It remains unclear to what extent AI-generated stories can replicate or approximate these qualities. Furthermore, questions arise regarding how AI constructs essential narrative elements such as plot, character development, setting, conflict, and theme. While AI systems can generate coherent sequences of events, the degree to which these narratives exhibit meaningful literary artistry requires further examination.

Another important issue concerns the literary qualities that may be present or absent in AI-generated narratives. Although AI-generated texts frequently demonstrate grammatical accuracy and structural consistency, they may also exhibit limitations related to originality, emotional authenticity, symbolic complexity, and narrative innovation. These strengths and weaknesses warrant systematic literary analysis to better understand the capabilities and constraints of computational storytelling. Additionally, the emergence of AI-generated literature challenges traditional concepts of authorship and creativity. If a machine can generate a compelling narrative, questions emerge regarding who should be recognized as the author and whether creativity can be attributed to computational systems. Such issues have

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significant implications for literary theory, intellectual property, and the broader understanding of artistic production in the digital age.

Research on AI-generated literature has expanded significantly over the last decade, particularly following the emergence of large language models capable of producing coherent and sophisticated narratives. One of the earlier contributions to this field was conducted by Sarah Thorne (2020), who examined the growing role of artificial intelligence in digital storytelling and narrative production. Her study, Hey Siri, Tell Me a Story: Digital Storytelling and AI Authorship, explored how AI technologies are increasingly being integrated into creative industries, including literature, film, games, and interactive fiction. Thorne argued that AI challenges traditional assumptions about authorship by introducing algorithmic systems as active participants in narrative creation rather than merely technological tools. The study highlighted the emergence of AI authorship as a significant issue in contemporary digital culture and literary studies.

A broader perspective on computational narrative generation was provided by Pablo Gervás (2024). In his study on storytelling systems, Gervás reviewed the evolution of computational narrative generation and identified several core components of storytelling systems, including plot generation, narrative discourse construction, text realization, and narrative interpretation. His work emphasized the close relationship between narratology and artificial intelligence, suggesting that AI-generated stories should be analyzed not only as technical outputs but also as literary narratives with distinct structural characteristics.

A significant empirical contribution was made by Nina Beguš (2024), who compared human-authored stories and AI-generated stories using both narratological and statistical approaches. Analyzing hundreds of narratives produced by human writers and GPT models, Beguš found that AI-generated stories often demonstrate strong structural coherence and narrative organization. However, the study also identified limitations related to originality, cultural complexity, and deeper forms of creative expression. The research demonstrated that while AI can effectively imitate narrative patterns, it may struggle to reproduce the nuanced social and cultural dimensions commonly found in human storytelling.

Further discussion concerning creativity and computational storytelling emerged from the work of Nadia M. Ady and Faun Rice (2023). Their study on computational creativity examined how concepts of human creativity are translated into artificial intelligence research. They argued that creativity in AI systems should not be evaluated solely through technical performance but also through interdisciplinary perspectives involving psychology, literary studies, and cultural analysis. Their findings emphasized the importance of examining AI-generated literary works within broader theoretical frameworks of creativity and artistic production.

Research specifically focusing on narrative archetypes was conducted by researchers in the study AI Narrative Modeling: How Machines' Intelligence Reproduces Archetypal Storytelling (2025). The study analyzed stories generated by GPT-4 and Claude and found that AI systems are particularly effective at reproducing familiar archetypal narrative structures, such as heroic journeys and mentor figures. Nevertheless, AI-generated narratives showed weaknesses in representing psychological ambiguity, emotional complexity, and unconventional character development. The authors concluded that AI currently excels at pattern reproduction but remains limited in producing highly innovative literary narratives.

Although research on AI has expanded rapidly in recent years, much of the existing scholarship focuses primarily on technological development, algorithmic performance, machine learning architecture, and natural language processing capabilities. Studies frequently evaluate AI systems in terms of accuracy, efficiency, and computational performance rather than examining the literary characteristics of the texts they produce. Consequently, fewer studies have investigated AI-generated narratives from the perspective

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of literary criticism and digital literary studies. The analysis of AI-generated stories as literary artifacts remains a relatively underexplored area of research, creating a significant gap in current scholarship. Given the increasing role of AI in creative writing, there is a need for studies that critically examine the narrative structures, thematic patterns, stylistic features, and creative dimensions of AI-generated literature.

In response to this gap, the present study aims to analyze AI-generated stories through a digital literary perspective. Specifically, the research seeks to examine how narrative structures are constructed in AI-generated texts, identify the literary elements that characterize these narratives, explore representations of creativity within computational storytelling, and evaluate the literary quality of AI-produced stories. By focusing on the textual and aesthetic dimensions of AI-generated narratives, this study seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of how artificial intelligence participates in literary creation.

To achieve these objectives, the study addresses several research questions. First, how are narrative structures constructed in AI-generated stories? Second, what literary elements characterize AI-generated narratives? Third, what strengths and limitations emerge in AI-generated storytelling? Finally, how do AI-generated stories challenge conventional understandings of authorship, creativity, and literary production? These questions provide a framework for investigating the literary significance of AI-generated texts and their place within contemporary digital culture.

The significance of this study extends across several academic fields(Kyvik & Reymert, 2017). Within digital literature studies, the research contributes to discussions concerning the evolving relationship between technology and literary production. In literary criticism, it provides insights into the narrative and aesthetic qualities of machine-generated texts. For artificial intelligence studies, the research offers a humanistic perspective on the outputs of generative AI systems beyond purely technical evaluation. Furthermore, within computational creativity research, the study contributes to ongoing debates regarding the nature of creativity, originality, and authorship in an era increasingly shaped by intelligent technologies. Through these contributions, the research seeks to advance scholarly understanding of AI-generated literature and its implications for the future of storytelling in the digital age.

2. Method

This study employed a qualitative research design to examine the literary characteristics of stories generated by artificial intelligence(Gervás et al., 2006). Qualitative research was selected because the primary objective of the study was to explore and interpret textual meanings, narrative structures, literary elements, and creative patterns found within AI-generated narratives rather than to measure variables quantitatively. Specifically, the research adopted a descriptive literary analysis approach within the broader framework of digital literary studies. This approach enabled an in-depth examination of how artificial intelligence constructs fictional narratives and how these narratives function as emerging forms of digital literature.

The data for this study consisted of stories generated by several contemporary artificial intelligence systems, including ChatGPT developed by OpenAI, Claude developed by Anthropic, and Gemini developed by Google(Stępień et al., 2020). To ensure a comprehensive analysis, a total of thirty AI-generated stories were collected, with ten stories produced by each platform. The selected stories ranged from approximately 800 to 1,500 words in length, providing sufficient narrative content for literary examination. The stories represented multiple genres, including science fiction, fantasy, mystery, romance, and adventure. The inclusion of different genres allowed the study to observe whether narrative patterns and literary characteristics varied across thematic and stylistic contexts.

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Data collection was conducted through a systematic process of story generation using standardized prompts(Fan et al., 2018). Each AI system received identical prompts designed to elicit complete fictional narratives containing a clear plot, developed characters, conflict, and resolution. The prompts were carefully formulated to minimize variation caused by differences in instructions rather than differences in the AI systems themselves. After generation, all stories were collected and stored in digital text format. The narratives were then organized according to platform, genre, and story length to facilitate comparative analysis. This process ensured consistency in the dataset and enabled a structured examination of literary features across multiple AI-generated texts.

The analytical framework of this study combined narrative analysis, structuralist literary analysis, and digital literary analysis(Alleyne, 2014). Narrative analysis was employed to investigate fundamental storytelling components, including plot structure, conflict development, resolution patterns, characterization, and setting construction. Particular attention was given to how AI systems organized narrative events, maintained coherence, and developed fictional worlds throughout the stories. The analysis also examined whether the narratives followed conventional storytelling models or demonstrated innovative narrative arrangements.

Structuralist literary analysis was utilized to identify recurring narrative patterns and underlying textual structures(Barthes, 2004). This framework focused on story organization, narrative sequences, thematic relationships, and the arrangement of literary elements within the texts. Through a structuralist perspective, the study sought to uncover common patterns that emerged across stories generated by different AI systems and to determine how computational processes influence literary construction.

In addition, the study adopted a digital literary analysis perspective to explore the relationship between technology and literary creation. This framework emphasized the examination of algorithmic storytelling, computational creativity, and human–machine authorship. The analysis considered how artificial intelligence functions as a creative agent in narrative production and how AI-generated stories challenge conventional understandings of literary creativity and authorship. Furthermore, the study explored the extent to which AI-generated narratives reflect characteristics unique to digital literature, including algorithmic composition and data-driven textual production.

The data analysis process involved several stages. First, all collected stories were read multiple times to gain a comprehensive understanding of their narrative content and literary characteristics. Second, literary elements such as plot, character, setting, theme, conflict, and narrative voice were identified and categorized. Third, recurring narrative patterns and stylistic features were coded and documented across the dataset. Fourth, the identified patterns were interpreted using concepts derived from narratology, structuralism, and digital literary theory. Finally, observations from different stories and AI platforms were compared to identify similarities, differences, strengths, and limitations in AI-generated storytelling. This comparative process enabled the researcher to evaluate the narrative capabilities of different generative AI systems while identifying broader trends in computational literary production.

To enhance the trustworthiness of the findings, several strategies were employed(Ang et al., 2016). First, theoretical triangulation was applied by integrating multiple literary frameworks, including narrative analysis, structuralist criticism, and digital literary theory. This approach provided multiple perspectives for interpreting the data and reduced reliance on a single analytical lens. Second, repeated textual examination was conducted to ensure consistency in the identification and interpretation of literary features. Each story was reviewed several times throughout the analysis process to verify emerging patterns and themes. Third, comparative analysis among stories generated by different AI systems was used to strengthen the validity of the findings. By examining narratives produced across multiple

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platforms, the study minimized platform-specific bias and provided a broader understanding of AI-generated storytelling. Through these procedures, the research sought to produce a rigorous and comprehensive analysis of AI-generated stories as contemporary forms of digital literature.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Narrative Structure of AI-Generated Stories

The analysis of AI-generated stories revealed that narrative structure constitutes one of the strongest aspects of computational storytelling(Arathdar, 2021). Across the collected narratives, artificial intelligence systems demonstrated a consistent ability to construct coherent plots, organize events logically, and maintain recognizable storytelling patterns. Although variations existed among different platforms and genres, most stories followed conventional narrative frameworks commonly found in contemporary fiction.

The findings indicate that AI-generated stories predominantly employ linear plot structures. In most cases, events unfold chronologically, moving from an initial situation through a series of developments toward a final resolution. This linear arrangement contributes to readability and facilitates audience comprehension. The narratives typically begin by introducing the protagonist and setting, followed by the emergence of a problem or conflict that drives the story forward. Subsequent events are arranged in a logical sequence, creating a clear cause-and-effect relationship between actions and outcomes.

Only a limited number of stories experimented with non-linear storytelling techniques such as flashbacks, parallel timelines, or fragmented narratives. When such techniques appeared, they were generally simple and carefully controlled to preserve overall coherence. This tendency suggests that AI systems favor established narrative conventions over more complex experimental structures. The preference for linear storytelling may result from the prevalence of conventional narrative patterns within the textual datasets used during model training.

Narrative coherence emerged as a notable strength of the analyzed stories. Most narratives maintained consistency in character identities, plot progression, and thematic focus from beginning to end(Cobley, 2013). Events were generally connected in meaningful ways, allowing readers to follow the storyline without significant confusion. The stories demonstrated an ability to sustain narrative continuity by ensuring that major events contributed to the overall progression of the plot. However, occasional inconsistencies were observed, particularly in longer narratives where certain details, motivations, or contextual elements were not fully maintained throughout the text.

The majority of AI-generated stories also exhibited a recognizable beginning–middle–end organization. The beginning typically established the setting, introduced central characters, and presented the initial situation. The middle section developed the primary conflict through a sequence of challenges, discoveries, or complications. Finally, the ending provided closure by resolving the central conflict and concluding the narrative arc. This three-part structure reflects traditional storytelling models and contributes significantly to the overall coherence of AI-generated narratives.

The progression of events within AI-generated stories generally followed predictable yet effective narrative trajectories(Hussain, 2020). Most narratives displayed a gradual escalation of tension, where initial problems evolved into more significant challenges as the story progressed. The sequence of events often reflected familiar literary patterns, including quests, personal transformations, mysteries, and conflicts between opposing forces. These patterns allowed the narratives to maintain momentum and sustain reader engagement throughout the story.

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A notable finding was the consistent presence of climactic moments. In nearly all analyzed stories, the narrative reached a peak point where the central conflict became most intense. These climaxes frequently involved critical decisions, confrontations, revelations, or dramatic turning points that determined the outcome of the story. Following the climax, the narratives generally moved toward a resolution that addressed the primary conflict and restored narrative equilibrium. This structure demonstrates the capacity of AI systems to replicate conventional dramatic arcs commonly found in human-authored fiction.

Despite this strength, the climaxes occasionally lacked emotional intensity or psychological depth(Jenkins, 2006). While the structural function of the climax was usually present, some stories resolved conflicts too quickly or relied on predictable solutions. As a result, the emotional impact of certain narrative conclusions appeared less compelling than what is often found in highly sophisticated human-authored literature.

Narrative pacing also played an important role in shaping the effectiveness of AI-generated stories. Most narratives maintained a balanced pace, allocating sufficient space for exposition, conflict development, and resolution. Shorter stories tended to progress rapidly, moving efficiently between major events while maintaining coherence. Longer narratives generally provided more detailed descriptions and character interactions, creating a slower and more immersive reading experience. However, pacing inconsistencies occasionally emerged, particularly when AI systems introduced abrupt transitions between scenes or accelerated the resolution of complex conflicts. These instances sometimes reduced narrative tension and limited opportunities for deeper character development.

3.2 Characterization

Characterization represents one of the most important literary elements in narrative construction because it shapes readers' emotional engagement and contributes to the development of themes and conflicts within a story. The analysis of AI-generated stories revealed that contemporary artificial intelligence systems are capable of creating recognizable and functionally effective characters. However, while the generated characters generally demonstrate coherence and narrative consistency, they often exhibit limitations in emotional depth, psychological complexity, and realistic personal development.

The findings indicate that AI-generated stories consistently include clearly identifiable main characters who serve as the central focus of the narrative(Fay, 2014). These protagonists are typically introduced early in the story and are assigned specific goals, motivations, or challenges that drive the plot forward. Across various genres, including fantasy, science fiction, romance, and adventure, the main characters frequently occupy familiar literary roles such as heroes, explorers, detectives, students, leaders, or individuals undergoing personal transformation. Their actions and decisions generally function as the primary mechanism through which narrative events unfold.

In addition to main characters, AI-generated stories commonly feature supporting characters who contribute to plot progression and conflict development. These characters often serve as friends, mentors, family members, rivals, or antagonists. Supporting characters help create social interactions and provide additional perspectives within the narrative. In many cases, they perform specific narrative functions, such as offering guidance, creating obstacles, or assisting the protagonist in achieving a goal. However, compared to the main characters, supporting characters tend to receive less detailed characterization and often remain relatively static throughout the story.

One notable strength of AI-generated characterization is character consistency. Most narratives maintain stable character identities, personalities, and roles from beginning to end. The protagonists generally behave in ways that align with their established motivations and characteristics. Likewise, supporting characters typically remain consistent in their relationships and narrative functions. This consistency contributes to overall narrative

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coherence and allows readers to follow character actions without significant confusion. Nevertheless, occasional inconsistencies were observed, particularly in longer stories where character motivations or behavioral traits shifted unexpectedly without sufficient narrative justification. Such inconsistencies suggest limitations in maintaining complex character information over extended narrative sequences.

Although AI-generated stories frequently present coherent and recognizable characters, the depth of character development varies considerably. Emotional depth emerged as one of the most significant limitations identified during the analysis. Characters often express basic emotions such as happiness, sadness, fear, anger, or excitement, and these emotions are generally appropriate to the situations depicted in the narrative(Hogan, 2011). However, emotional experiences are often described in a direct and surface-level manner. Rather than exploring subtle emotional nuances or internal conflicts, the narratives frequently rely on explicit statements that tell readers how characters feel instead of demonstrating emotions through actions, dialogue, and psychological reflection.

Similarly, psychological complexity is often limited within AI-generated narratives. Human-authored literary characters frequently possess contradictory desires, internal struggles, ambiguous motivations, and evolving identities that contribute to their realism and literary significance. In contrast, AI-generated characters tend to display relatively straightforward personalities and motivations. Their decisions are usually guided by clear objectives, and their behavior often follows predictable patterns. While such simplicity enhances narrative clarity, it can reduce the richness and authenticity of characterization. As a result, many characters appear more functional than psychologically realistic.

Character growth throughout the story is present in many of the analyzed narratives but is typically expressed through conventional narrative patterns. Protagonists often experience personal transformation by overcoming obstacles, learning important lessons, achieving goals, or gaining new perspectives. These developmental arcs generally follow familiar literary structures associated with self-discovery, courage, perseverance, or moral improvement. Although these transformations contribute to narrative completeness, they frequently occur in a predictable manner and may lack the gradual complexity found in sophisticated literary works. In some cases, character development appears compressed, with significant personal changes occurring rapidly and without extensive exploration of the underlying psychological processes.

Furthermore, AI-generated stories often emphasize external events over internal character evolution. Narrative attention is commonly directed toward actions, conflicts, and plot progression rather than detailed examinations of thoughts, memories, or emotional experiences(Boyd et al., 2020). Consequently, character development is sometimes driven more by narrative requirements than by organically evolving psychological states. This tendency reinforces the impression that AI-generated characters function primarily as mechanisms for advancing the plot rather than as deeply realized individuals.

3.3 Themes and Motifs

One of the most frequently occurring themes was technology. Many AI-generated stories explored the relationship between humans and technological innovation, often depicting advanced artificial intelligence, robotics, virtual realities, or futuristic inventions. Technology was commonly presented as both a source of opportunity and a potential challenge for individuals and societies. In science fiction narratives, technological developments frequently served as the primary catalyst for conflict, discovery, or transformation. This recurring emphasis on technology reflects the increasing prominence of technological discourse in contemporary society and highlights the influence of digital culture on AI-generated storytelling.

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Closely related to the theme of technology was the theme of humanity(Jasanoff, 2015). Numerous narratives examined what it means to be human in a world increasingly shaped by intelligent machines and technological advancement. Stories often portrayed characters confronting questions about emotions, consciousness, empathy, and personal values. In some cases, artificial beings sought to understand human experiences, while in others, human characters reflected on their own identities and moral responsibilities. These narratives frequently emphasized compassion, resilience, and interpersonal connection as defining characteristics of humanity.

The theme of identity also appeared prominently throughout the analyzed stories. Many protagonists embarked on journeys of self-discovery, attempting to understand their purpose, abilities, or place within society. Identity-related themes were particularly common in fantasy and science fiction narratives, where characters encountered unfamiliar environments, hidden truths, or transformative experiences. Through these narrative journeys, stories explored questions of self-awareness, belonging, and personal growth. The recurring presence of identity-related themes suggests that AI systems effectively reproduce one of the most enduring concerns of literary storytelling.

Another significant thematic pattern involved friendship and social relationships(Davis, 2012). Across various genres, friendships often functioned as central sources of emotional support, cooperation, and conflict resolution. Characters frequently relied on trusted companions to overcome challenges, achieve goals, or navigate difficult situations. The prominence of friendship as a recurring motif reflects its universal appeal and its importance as a narrative mechanism for fostering character interaction and emotional engagement. These stories commonly reinforced values such as loyalty, trust, teamwork, and mutual understanding.

Ethics emerged as an additional recurring theme, particularly in stories involving advanced technologies, artificial intelligence, or societal dilemmas. Many narratives presented characters facing moral decisions that required them to balance personal interests, collective welfare, or technological progress. Ethical conflicts often revolved around questions of responsibility, justice, fairness, and the consequences of human actions. Through these scenarios, AI-generated stories demonstrated an ability to engage with complex moral issues, although the resulting discussions were frequently simplified and resolved through straightforward conclusions.

The theme of future society was also highly prevalent, especially within science fiction narratives. These stories frequently depicted technologically advanced civilizations, altered social systems, environmental transformations, or speculative visions of humanity's future. Such narratives explored both optimistic and dystopian possibilities, reflecting contemporary hopes and concerns regarding technological and social change. Future societies often served as settings through which broader themes of progress, adaptation, and human resilience could be examined.

In terms of thematic consistency, the analyzed stories generally maintained a clear focus on their central themes throughout the narrative. Themes introduced in the opening sections were typically reinforced through character actions, conflicts, and resolutions. This consistency contributed to overall narrative coherence and allowed the stories to communicate identifiable messages and values. Even when multiple themes were present, one dominant thematic concern usually remained central to the progression of the narrative. The ability to sustain thematic focus demonstrates a notable strength of AI-generated storytelling.

However, the analysis also revealed limitations regarding the originality of thematic ideas. While the identified themes are meaningful and widely recognized within literary traditions, many narratives approached them through familiar and predictable frameworks. Stories often relied on conventional representations of heroic self-discovery, technological

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advancement, friendship overcoming adversity, or moral lessons learned through experience. As a result, genuinely innovative thematic exploration was relatively uncommon. Rather than introducing entirely new perspectives, AI-generated stories tended to recombine existing literary motifs and narrative conventions in coherent but largely familiar ways.

Furthermore, a noticeable repetition of common patterns emerged across the dataset. Similar themes, character journeys, conflicts, and moral lessons appeared repeatedly, even when stories differed in genre or setting(Yorke, 2013). For example, narratives involving artificial intelligence frequently returned to questions of humanity and consciousness, while adventure stories often emphasized friendship and personal growth. This repetition suggests that AI systems draw heavily upon dominant narrative structures and thematic associations present within their training data. While such patterns contribute to narrative coherence and reader familiarity, they may also limit the diversity and originality of thematic expression.

3.4 Language and Style

One of the most notable characteristics of AI-generated stories is their relatively rich vocabulary. Across the analyzed narratives, AI systems demonstrated the ability to employ a wide range of lexical items appropriate to different genres and contexts. Science fiction stories frequently incorporated technological terminology and futuristic descriptions, while fantasy narratives utilized vocabulary associated with mythical settings, magical elements, and heroic quests(Mandala, 2010). Romance and adventure stories similarly employed genre-specific language that contributed to the creation of recognizable narrative environments. This lexical adaptability suggests that AI systems can effectively draw upon extensive linguistic resources to match the thematic and stylistic requirements of different narrative forms.

In addition to vocabulary richness, AI-generated stories generally displayed considerable sentence variation. The narratives included a mixture of simple, compound, and complex sentence structures that contributed to readability and textual flow. Short sentences were often used to create tension during action sequences, while longer and more descriptive constructions appeared in passages involving exposition, world-building, or reflection. This variation helped prevent monotony and allowed the narratives to maintain a relatively natural rhythm. Nevertheless, some stories occasionally relied on repetitive syntactic patterns, particularly during descriptive passages, which reduced stylistic diversity and made certain sections appear formulaic.

The use of figurative language was also evident throughout the analyzed stories. AI-generated narratives frequently employed similes, descriptive comparisons, and emotionally expressive language to enhance narrative imagery and atmosphere. Figurative expressions were generally appropriate to the context and contributed positively to the aesthetic quality of the stories. However, the complexity and originality of these devices varied considerably. While some passages contained effective and vivid descriptions, others relied on conventional literary expressions that are commonly found in popular fiction. Consequently, figurative language often functioned adequately at a surface level but rarely demonstrated the uniqueness or innovation associated with highly creative literary writing.

The examination of literary style revealed that metaphors are among the most commonly utilized stylistic devices in AI-generated stories(Van Heerden & Bas, 2021). These metaphors frequently describe emotions, environments, and abstract concepts through familiar symbolic associations. For example, darkness may represent uncertainty, light may symbolize hope, and storms may signify internal conflict. Such metaphorical constructions contribute to narrative expressiveness and facilitate readers' interpretation of thematic meanings. However, many metaphors appeared highly conventional and predictable, suggesting that AI systems often reproduce established literary patterns rather than generating novel symbolic associations.

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Symbolism was also present in many narratives, particularly those involving themes of identity, technological transformation, or personal growth(Campbell, 2004). Objects, locations, and events occasionally functioned as symbolic representations of broader concepts such as freedom, self-discovery, responsibility, or human resilience. Nevertheless, symbolic elements were generally straightforward and explicitly connected to the narrative's central message. Unlike sophisticated literary works in which symbolism often invites multiple interpretations, AI-generated symbolism tended to be direct and easily identifiable. This characteristic enhances accessibility but may limit interpretive depth and literary complexity.

Imagery emerged as one of the stronger stylistic features observed in the analyzed stories. AI systems frequently produced vivid descriptions of settings, characters, and events that enabled readers to visualize narrative scenes effectively. Sensory details involving sight, sound, and occasionally touch contributed to the creation of immersive narrative environments(Harley et al., 2018). Fantasy stories often contained elaborate descriptions of landscapes and magical worlds, while science fiction narratives provided detailed depictions of futuristic cities and advanced technologies. These descriptive passages demonstrate the ability of AI systems to generate engaging visual imagery that supports narrative world-building.

The analysis also examined narrative voice, which refers to the perspective and stylistic identity through which stories are told. Most AI-generated narratives employed a consistent third-person narrative voice, providing a stable and coherent perspective throughout the story. First-person narration appeared less frequently but was generally maintained consistently when utilized. The narrative voices tended to be clear, neutral, and accessible, contributing to the readability of the texts. However, they often lacked the distinctive stylistic personality that characterizes many accomplished human authors. Rather than exhibiting a unique narrative identity, AI-generated stories frequently adopted generic storytelling voices that prioritized clarity and coherence over stylistic individuality.

Several broader patterns emerged from the analysis of language and style(Eckert, 2012). First, the narratives consistently demonstrated grammatical fluency. Sentences were generally well-formed, syntactically correct, and logically connected. Errors involving grammar, punctuation, and sentence construction were relatively rare, reflecting the advanced linguistic capabilities of contemporary AI systems. This fluency contributes significantly to the readability and overall quality of AI-generated narratives.

Second, despite their linguistic competence, the stories exhibited limited stylistic innovation. Most narratives relied heavily on familiar literary conventions, established descriptive techniques, and commonly used figurative expressions. While these features contributed to coherence and accessibility, they often reduced the sense of originality and artistic experimentation. The language frequently reflected patterns commonly found in existing literary texts rather than introducing genuinely novel stylistic approaches.

Finally, repetitive expressions represented a recurring limitation across the dataset. Certain descriptive phrases, emotional reactions, and narrative transitions appeared repeatedly both within individual stories and across different narratives. Examples included recurring references to determination, hope, courage, destiny, and personal growth. This repetition suggests that AI systems draw heavily from frequently occurring linguistic patterns in their training data, resulting in a tendency toward formulaic expression.

3.5 Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings of this study generally align with previous research concerning the literary capabilities and limitations of artificial intelligence in narrative generation. Consistent with earlier studies, the analysis demonstrates that AI-generated stories possess strong structural coherence, recognizable narrative organization, and linguistic fluency. However, the findings also reveal limitations regarding originality, emotional depth, psychological complexity, and

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stylistic innovation, which have been identified by numerous scholars in the field of computational creativity and digital literature.

The present study found that AI-generated stories predominantly employ linear narrative structures characterized by clear beginnings, middles, and endings, along with identifiable conflicts, climaxes, and resolutions. This finding supports the work of Gervás (2024), who argued that contemporary storytelling systems have become increasingly effective at constructing coherent narrative frameworks through computational methods. Similarly, Beguš (2024) reported that AI-generated narratives frequently exhibit strong organizational structures and logical event progression, demonstrating the capacity of large language models to reproduce conventional storytelling patterns. The current findings reinforce these observations by showing that AI systems consistently generate narratives that adhere to familiar literary structures and maintain narrative coherence throughout the story.

In terms of characterization, this study found that AI-generated stories are capable of creating consistent protagonists and supporting characters but often struggle to develop deep psychological realism and emotional complexity. This result is comparable to the findings of the study AI Narrative Modeling: How Machines' Intelligence Reproduces Archetypal Storytelling (2025), which concluded that AI systems successfully reproduce common character archetypes but encounter difficulties when portraying nuanced emotional experiences and psychologically complex personalities. Similarly, Beguš (2024) observed that while AI-generated characters often perform their narrative functions effectively, they tend to lack the cultural depth and emotional authenticity frequently associated with human-authored literature. The present study therefore confirms the continuing challenge of achieving sophisticated characterization through computational storytelling.

The thematic analysis conducted in this research revealed recurring themes related to technology, humanity, identity, friendship, ethics, and future society. These findings correspond closely with observations made by Oke (2025), who argued that AI-generated narratives frequently reflect contemporary social concerns and technological discourses embedded within their training data. Likewise, Thorne (2020) noted that AI-generated storytelling often explores questions surrounding human identity, technological transformation, and the evolving relationship between humans and machines. The recurrence of these themes across multiple AI platforms suggests that certain narrative concerns have become dominant within contemporary algorithmic storytelling. However, the present study also found that thematic originality remains relatively limited, with many stories relying on familiar narrative frameworks and established literary motifs.

Regarding language and style, the findings indicate that AI-generated stories demonstrate a high degree of grammatical accuracy and lexical richness. This observation is consistent with the study by Appel et al. (2025), which reported that readers often struggle to distinguish between human-authored and AI-generated stories due to the linguistic fluency of contemporary large language models. Similarly, Ismayilzada, Stevenson, and van der Plas (2024) found that AI-generated texts perform strongly in terms of coherence and readability. However, the present study also identified limitations in stylistic innovation, particularly in the repetitive use of familiar metaphors, symbolic patterns, and descriptive expressions. This finding supports the conclusions of Ismayilzada et al. (2024), who argued that AI systems frequently rely on learned textual patterns rather than generating highly original literary language.

The findings also contribute to ongoing discussions concerning creativity in AI-generated literature. The analysis suggests that AI-generated stories demonstrate a form of computational creativity characterized by the recombination and adaptation of existing literary conventions rather than the production of entirely novel artistic expressions. This conclusion is consistent with the arguments of Ady and Rice (2023), who emphasized that AI

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creativity should be understood as a distinct form of creativity shaped by algorithmic processes and training data. Similarly, Rodrigues (2026) questioned whether the ability to generate coherent narratives necessarily constitutes genuine literary creativity. The present study supports these perspectives by demonstrating that AI systems can produce compelling stories but often remain dependent on recognizable narrative formulas and established literary patterns.

Furthermore, the findings support broader discussions regarding authorship in the digital age. Thorne (2020) argued that AI-generated narratives challenge traditional notions of the author by introducing computational systems as active participants in literary production. This study similarly found that AI-generated stories blur the distinction between human and machine creativity, particularly when users provide prompts that influence narrative outcomes. The concept of human–AI co-authorship proposed by Roland, So, and Long (2025) is therefore highly relevant to the present findings. Rather than viewing AI as a simple writing tool, the results suggest that AI increasingly functions as a collaborative creative agent within digital literary environments.

Despite these similarities with previous studies, the present research contributes a more integrated literary perspective by simultaneously examining narrative structure, characterization, themes, and language within a single analytical framework(Herman et al., 2012). While many previous studies have focused on technical performance, creativity, or reader perception, this study emphasizes the literary qualities of AI-generated narratives as complete textual artifacts. The findings therefore extend existing scholarship by providing a comprehensive digital literary analysis that highlights both the strengths and limitations of AI-generated storytelling.

4. Conclusion

This study examined AI-generated stories through a digital literary analysis framework, focusing on narrative structure, characterization, themes and motifs, language, and literary style. The findings reveal that contemporary AI systems are capable of producing narratives with clear plot structures, coherent story development, consistent characterization, recognizable thematic patterns, and grammatically fluent language. AI-generated stories commonly employ linear plots with identifiable beginnings, middles, and endings, while recurring themes such as technology, humanity, identity, friendship, ethics, and future society demonstrate thematic consistency across narratives. Furthermore, the stories exhibit rich vocabulary, varied sentence structures, and effective descriptive imagery, indicating a high level of linguistic competence. However, the analysis also identified several literary limitations, including limited psychological depth in characters, predictable thematic development, repetitive narrative patterns, conventional figurative language, and a lack of stylistic innovation. These findings answer the research questions by demonstrating that AI-generated narratives are constructed through recognizable literary structures and contain many traditional literary elements, yet they remain constrained in originality, emotional complexity, and creative experimentation. The study contributes theoretically to digital literature by expanding understanding of AI-generated texts as emerging forms of literary production, to literary studies by providing critical insights into machine-generated narratives, and to AI and creativity research by highlighting the relationship between computational processes and artistic expression. Practically, the findings are relevant to writers who may use AI as a collaborative creative tool, educators seeking to incorporate AI literacy into literary education, literary researchers investigating new forms of authorship and textual production, and AI developers aiming to improve narrative creativity and stylistic sophistication. Nevertheless, this study has several limitations, including the relatively small dataset, the focus on a limited number of AI platforms, and the analysis of selected genres only, which may restrict the

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generalizability of the findings. Therefore, future research is recommended to conduct comparative studies between human-authored and AI-generated stories, perform cross-platform literary analyses involving a wider range of generative AI systems, and investigate reader responses to AI-generated literature in order to better understand its aesthetic, cultural, and literary impact within contemporary digital society.

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