



**UTILIZATION OF AI IN LA TEENAGER'S LIFE: POSTHUMANISM
READING IN NICOLAS JOHNSON'S MOVIE *MISSING***

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Abstract

AI technology has spread to all social lines, especially those used by teenagers. In this research, the researcher analyzes the use of AI by June, the main character in the movie *Missing*. In this theory, the researcher focuses on transhumanism and singularity. The researcher used qualitative methods in words, phrases, and sentences. The result showed that the sophistication of AI technology is utilized in a Los Angeles teenager's life, such as digital assistants, on-demand transportation, and products and services. In addition, this research also shows that the social relationships of teenagers are affected by technology, triggering etiquette changes and negative assumptions from society.

Keywords: Posthumanism, AI (Artificial Intelligence), transhumanism, singularity

I. INTRODUCTION

Technology in the 21st century has always been integral to teenage life, especially for Los Angeles teenagers in 2023. Technology provides teens access to vast amounts of information at their fingertips. Recently, Artificial Intelligence has played an important role in technology. In general, AI systems operate using several accurate data quantities that have been input into the computer system and then analyzed with some data. With the advancement of technology, AI is becoming more and more relevant to people's daily lives and determining the era of posthumanism. Ivan Callus (2013, p.144) argues that Posthumanism is marked by a bold futurism that embraces the temporary nature of humans, suggesting an inevitable and continuous progression toward a more advanced and enhanced form of humanity. It suggests an inevitable progression toward a more advanced and improved human existence. In this research, the researchers analyze a movie, *Missing*, about the journey of a Los Angeles teenager, June (Storm Reid), who is losing her mother and looking for her using an AI-based application. The researcher examines the main character's use of artificial

intelligence to locate her mother and its subsequent impact on her life through the lens of Posthumanism, incorporating theories of transhumanism and singularity. Transhumanism explores the application of artificial intelligence in the lives of adolescents, while singularity addresses the implications of technological advancements on teenagers' social relationships.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The researchers did not identify any existing studies that analyze the movie *Missing*. Therefore, some previous researchers have discussed the complexity of life in the posthumanism era. Quinn (2021), in her article *A Humanist University in a Posthuman World: Relations, Responsibilities, and Rights* criticized the complex relationship between humanism and Posthumanism in the context of Western European universities, with a particular focus on their implications for the protection of marginalized populations such as immigrants. Manna and Nath (2021), *From Posthumanism to Artificial Intelligence Ethics*, discussed posthumanism, which marks a deconstruction of our fundamental

concept of "human" and further shifts our social value system into new dimensions. Lamola (2020), *The Future of Artificial Intelligence, Posthumanism and The Infection of Pixley Isaka Seme's African Humanism*, talked about how innovations in AI technology are increasingly leading to a shift in how we think about human existence in a way that aligns with the ideas of Posthumanism. Another research by Wolfe (2009), *What is Posthumanism?*, highlighted the interconnectedness of non-human entities like animals, machines, and ecosystems with human society and culture. It emphasizes moving beyond human-centric perspectives to acknowledge the diverse experiences of various life forms.

The studies above support that posthumanism significantly influences individuals' lives and social relationships. Using the concept of transhumanism and singularity further, Callus gives an understanding that transhumanism advocates for enhancing human abilities and traits through advanced technologies, and singularity represents a future point where rapid and revolutionary technological progress leads to

profound and unpredictable changes in human society.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

This research employed a descriptive method to examine the posthumanism era in the Los Angeles teenager's life, which used sophisticated technology in the movie *Missing*. The analysis was supported by a social approach, addressing critiques toward the impact of technology, AI, on teenager's social life. Data collection was conducted through textual or content analysis, identified as a technique for investigating the experiences and perspectives of a group or individual (Paradis et al., 2016). The researchers utilized research articles and referenced books to gather relevant data, descriptions, and explanations.

Qualitative data analysis was applied to interpret the data. The researchers read and interpreted data from related journals and books to analyze how AI transforms someone's life. The data analysis process involved three steps: initially, the researchers watched the movie to identify related problems. Next, the problems were interpreted, and research questions were formulated. Finally, the concepts applied to

analyzing the data were transhumanism and singularity.

IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

At its core, artificial intelligence is a technology designed to assist individuals in problem-solving, as illustrated by the experiences of teenagers in Los Angeles depicted in the film *Missing*. As of 2023, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become increasingly widespread across various fields. In line with the movie, this research finds the elegance of AI in helping June, a Los Angeles teenager, find her mother. The elegance of AI is the ability to influence human intelligence and perform complex tasks with amazing efficiency and accuracy. Using natural language processing and machine learning algorithms, the digital assistant can perform tasks such as answering questions, setting reminders, managing calendars, playing music, and other tasks.

In the movie, June uses AI-based applications, such as Siri, on-demand transportation, the Chase website, and Google Maps. Siri is a digital assistant that June uses to escape her mother. Siri uses natural language processing and machine learning technologies to understand spoken commands or written queries from users and provide

relevant responses or perform tasks accordingly. Google Maps, the powerful and intricate navigation tool, can operate through a sophisticated blend of technologies and data sources. June applied to Google Maps to get information and digital traces about her mother, as it can be seen from the data below:

[Frequently Visited]
[Kevin's Google Maps history]
[Unknown Location]
Jimmy: And you got this number how?
June: I'm calling about Kevin Lin. He visited your house like two weeks ago.
Jimmy: Wait, slow down. Kevin? (35:29-36:19)

Google Maps has a digital trace feature that shows how often the users visit the location. The quotation above, "And you got this number, " reflects how easy it is to obtain personal information through Google Maps. It also supports from this quotation like "I'm calling about Kevin Lin, He visited your house like two weeks ago.", this quotation proves that digital traces can leave evidence of someone's account and some information. Teenagers have become crucial components in the dynamics of technical knowledge in today's quickly expanding digital environment.

According to Callus (2023, p. 145), posthumanism is evolving toward complexity, highlighting an increasing focus on complex systems that track and capture intensified activities. This trend encompasses monitoring data related to human interactions with technology, the growth of AI, and the rise of virtual reality, particularly concerning teenagers. It suggests that posthumanism is increasingly concerned with the complex relationships between adolescents and technology. For instance, the history feature on Google allows June to easily access information about her mother's online activity, aiding her search when her mother goes missing.

However, as technology develops, teenagers and other parts of the world can experience its effects. AI technology improves people's openness, self-confidence, and overall sense of ease and comfort while engaging with others. The positive effect is that AI helps June find the newest social media information and finally finds her mother. In contrast, teenagers' use of AI has been demonstrated to have several detrimental effects on politeness and rudeness.

The negative impact of artificial intelligence on June's social relationships is evident in how technology has catalyzed significant changes in social etiquette among teenagers, as can be seen from the data below:

Javier: But interesting story. La señora que limpia, how do you say, the cleaning señora, she went to school with my son. And we got to talking...

June: No, Javi, no time for stories.

Javier: Hold on. So I explain to her what I'm looking for, and she says she sees two American tourists leave on Friday.

June: Wait, so she saw them leave.

Javier: Now you have time for the story, huh?

(29:37-30:01)

The quotation above proves that there is impoliteness from June towards Javier. June also has trouble with miscommunication. When nonverbal cues and tones are absent, resulting in friction and stress in her relationship with Javier as someone who wants to help June's problem. It occurred because June inquired further about the location of her mother, who had stayed at the Colombia hotel. The sentence "But interesting story, La senora que limpia ... And we go to talking..." draws how Javier, as a parent, wants to tell from the initial details of June as a

teenager under his age. The quotation, "No, Javi, no time for stories, " symbolizes that June, as a teenager, wants to provide information quickly and to the point. It involves the outcome of using instant and fast technology to solve one's concerns. June replies eagerly to Javier's words because there is essential information about her mother. June's response reflects that Los Angeles teenagers' politeness has weakened due to the excessive impact of technology in front of the screen.

Another drawback of using AI is that it fosters negative assumptions within society. In this film, June also has an effect that makes the news of her mother's kidnapping seem unwelcome. It is identifiable from this quotation below:

Guest Tiktok Live: She hired Lin and the driver, stages the kidnapping, hides in the trunk, drives off, starts a new life somewhere.

Host Tiktok Live: Which we know she's done once before. I mean, zero known family members, other than the daughter? That's hella sus.

June: I cannot take this anymore!

Javier [Video call with June]: It's just the Internet, June.

June: No, no, it's not just the Internet. It's the police too.

(1:00:01-1:00:11)

The quotation shows how technology triggers negative assumptions from society on the internet, one of which is TikTok Live. It can be seen from the quotation, "She hired Lin and the driver, stages the kidnapping, hides in the trunk, drives off, starts a new life somewhere" and "... That's hella sus", which represents how some people on the internet assume June's mother could simply conceal specific facts about her for her selfish reasons. June's response is also crucial in supporting this analysis. It can be seen from this quotation, "I cannot take this anymore!", which reflects that June has to face the virality of her mother's case on social media and in some news, which invites negative assumptions. It also proves that when June said, "No, no, it's not just the internet. It's the police too.", she has been impacted by the power of technologies that made her mother's case famous and viral. As a result, June, as a teenager, had not expected the quickness of the story of her missing mother to spread, which became a hot issue and resulted in dissatisfied assumptions.

Related to the negative assumption from society, Callus (2013, p. 148) notes that technology has become a paradoxical weapon in

posthumanism, showcasing both its beneficial and harmful aspects. It underscores how the internet, as part of technology, acts as a double-edged sword, offering significant advantages while highlighting its potential for harm. The film illustrates that negative assumptions can arise in person and through technology, as seen in the aggressive assumptions surrounding June's mother's case.

V. CONCLUSION

Technology has become an essential element of teenage life, especially in Los Angeles, in 2023, allowing teens to stay connected and access information like never before. Artificial intelligence (AI) is a significant technical innovation that offers both potential and challenges in the context of posthumanism. Posthumanism challenges traditional views of humanity, emphasizing the potential for transcending biological limitations through technology and enhancing cognitive abilities. Teenagers become highly proficient in using technology, having grown up with it as an integral part of their lives. They adeptly navigate the latest apps and social media platforms, sometimes surpassing their elders' technological prowess. This situation challenges the

development of teenagers' social relationships, diminishing their sense of politeness and potentially fostering negative societal assumptions about their lives.

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