



Affective AI and Emotional Narratives: Reimagining Storytelling through Machine Intelligence

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of artificial intelligence as a narrative agent has opened new avenues of inquiry in literary studies, particularly in the realm of affect and emotional storytelling. This paper investigates the intersection of affect theory and AI-generated narratives, focusing on how machine intelligence engages with, replicates, and reconfigures emotional expression in literature. While AI models are capable of producing text that simulates human emotion, they lack the experiential and embodied understanding that underpins affective depth in human-authored narratives. This study critically examines the limitations and potentials of AI-generated emotional content through close readings of selected AI-written fiction, comparing them with literary texts known for their emotional resonance. Drawing from affect theory, post humanist discourse, and narratology, the paper analyses how emotional structures such as grief, intimacy, trauma, and empathy are represented in narratives generated by large language models. The discussion further addresses the implications of AI as a co-creator in contemporary literary practice. As human writers begin to experiment with AI in storytelling, questions arise regarding authorship, authenticity, and the aesthetics of emotional representation. The paper argues that while AI can replicate the forms of feeling, it cannot recreate the emotional labour and cultural memory embedded in human



literary production. This study positions AI not as a rival to human creativity, but as a tool that challenges us to reconsider the foundations of literary affect, narrative voice, and emotional truth. In doing so, it contributes to a broader understanding of how storytelling long regarded as a distinctly human act is being reshaped in the age of intelligent machines.

Introduction

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence has fundamentally transformed the landscape of literary and academic production, raising urgent questions about creativity, authorship, and the nature of emotional expression in contemporary texts. As AI-generated narratives and tools become increasingly sophisticated, they are not only capable of producing structurally coherent and stylistically appropriate writing but also of simulating emotional cues and narrative forms that have traditionally been the domain of human authors. This technological shift prompts a critical examination of how AI-generated works compare to human-written literature, particularly in their ability to represent emotion, construct narrative, and convey subjectivity.

This study undertakes a comparative analysis of three AI-generated works *Sunspring*, *1 the Road*, *AI Dungeon* and three human-written Malayalam novels *Chemmeen*, *Randamoozham*, *Mayyazhippuzhayude Theerangalil*. Drawing on affect theory, posthumanism, narratology, and conceptual models, the research explores the strengths and limitations of each approach in terms of emotional depth, narrative coherence, and the construction of literary subjectivity. The investigation is situated within the broader context of academic writing and literary theory, with particular attention to the ways in which new technologies are reshaping our understanding of creativity, empathy, and the boundaries between human and machine. By analysing both AI and human-authored texts through these theoretical frameworks, the study aims to illuminate the distinctive qualities and potential synergies of each, offering insights into the evolving relationship between technology and literature. This inquiry not only addresses the technical and aesthetic dimensions of AI in writing but also engages with deeper philosophical and cultural questions about what it means to create, to feel, and to tell stories in a posthuman era.



Literature Review

The literature on affective AI and emotional storytelling is as much about our hopes and vulnerabilities as it is about technology. When Rosalind Picard first introduced the idea of affective computing, she opened the door to machines that could recognize and even simulate the emotions that shape our daily lives. Literary scholars, inspired by affect theory from voices like Silvan Tomkins and Sara Ahmed, have long explored how stories touch us not just through what happens, but through the quiet, electric feelings that pass between words and readers. As AI-generated stories grow more convincing, researchers are asking deeply human questions: Can a machine truly move us? Can it understand the ache of loss, the warmth of intimacy, or the complexity of trauma? While models like GPT-4 can mimic the language of emotion, many argue that something essential is missing the lived experience and cultural memory that give human stories their lasting power. Recent studies show that people can sometimes be touched by AI-written stories, especially when they echo familiar experiences or tap into personal memories. Yet there's also caution: blurring the line between real and simulated emotion raises ethical and psychological concerns. The literature reminds us that AI is not here to replace human creativity, but to reflect and challenge it—inviting us to rethink what it means to feel, to tell stories, and to connect with one another in a world where technology is always close at hand.

1.1 Affect Theory

Affect theory is a way of understanding how feelings and emotions move through our lives, shaping not just what we think, but how we connect with others and the world around us. At its heart, affect theory asks us to look beyond the idea that emotions are just private, internal experiences. Instead, it suggests that feelings are deeply social, often unspoken, and sometimes even contagious. Whether it's the quiet comfort of sitting with a friend in silence, the shared excitement at a concert, or the heavy atmosphere after sad news, affect theory helps us notice how emotions ripple through groups, spaces, and even stories.

What makes affect theory especially humane is its focus on the ways we are bound together by feeling. Think of the warmth in a room when people laugh together, or the collective hush during a moving scene in a film these are moments when affect is not just inside us, but between us. In literature, this means that the power of a story isn't just in what the characters feel or what the author intends, but in how the text creates a mood or energy that readers experience together. Affect theory invites us to pay attention to these subtle, shared currents of feeling that shape our relationships, our communities, and the stories we



tell. It reminds us that to be human is not just to feel, but to feel with—and through—others, making emotion a bridge that connects us all.

1.2 Posthumanism

Posthumanism is a critical framework that challenges the traditional, human-centered worldview of classical humanism. Instead of placing humans at the centre of meaning, value, and agency, posthumanism emphasizes the interconnectedness of humans, nonhumans, technology, and the environment. This perspective rejects the idea that humans are inherently superior or separate from other forms of life and matter. Post humanist thinkers, such as N. Katherine Hayles and Donna Haraway, argue that technological advancements and cultural shifts have blurred the boundaries between human and machine, organic and artificial, self and other. For example, Haraway's concept of the "cyborg" illustrates how humans are already hybrid beings, shaped by technology and social systems. Posthumanism also critiques the notion of "anthropological universals," instead focusing on how identities and experiences are constructed through complex relationships among bodies, technologies, and environments. In literature and philosophy, posthumanism invites us to reconsider what it means to be human in an era of rapid technological change, questioning long-held assumptions about consciousness, agency, and ethics. This approach opens up new ways of understanding subjectivity, creativity, and justice in a world where artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and ecological crises are reshaping the boundaries of life and meaning.

1.3 Narratology

Narratology is the study of narrative structure and the ways stories are constructed and communicated across various media. Rooted in structuralism and semiotics, narratology seeks to identify the universal patterns, codes, and elements that underlie all narratives, regardless of their form—be it literature, film, oral storytelling, or digital media. Narratologists analyse components such as plot, character, setting, point of view, and temporal structure to understand how stories function and how they shape our perception of events and experiences. For example, the distinction between linear and non-linear narratives, or the use of different narrative perspectives (first-person, third-person, etc.), can deeply influence how a story is received and interpreted. Narratology also explores how narratives create meaning, evoke emotion, and reflect cultural values. By examining recurring features and models of storytelling, narratology provides tools for comparing narratives across genres and cultures. This discipline is not limited to written texts; it extends to any medium where narrative plays a role, making it a vital methodology for analysing everything from novels and films to video games and social media



stories. Ultimately, narratology helps us understand the mechanics of storytelling and the profound impact narratives have on individuals and societies.

1.4 Computational Model

Computational models of Emotion

Computational models of emotion are frameworks and algorithms designed to simulate, recognize, and predict emotional states within artificial systems, such as robots, virtual agents, or AI-driven narratives. These models draw on psychological theories of emotion like the OCC model, Valence-Arousal, or appraisal theories to represent emotions as quantifiable variables that can influence decision-making, behaviour, and interaction. For instance, the OCC model categorizes emotions based on cognitive appraisals of events, while dimensional models map emotions along axes such as pleasure, arousal, and dominance. In practice, computational models enable AI systems to interpret human affective cues (like facial expressions or tone of voice) and to generate emotionally appropriate responses. Recent advances use deep neural networks to model the complex interplay between internal states, external stimuli, and social context, allowing for more nuanced and adaptive emotional behaviours. These models are applied in fields ranging from human-computer interaction and social robotics to interactive storytelling and mental health support. By endowing machines with the capacity to simulate or recognize emotion, computational models aim to make AI more relatable, empathetic, and effective in collaborative or assistive roles. However, critics note that such models still lack the embodied, lived experience of emotion, raising questions about authenticity and ethical use.

2. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative, comparative approach to examine how AI-generated texts and human-authored Malayalam literary works convey strong emotional content, with a particular focus on grief, trauma, intimacy, and empathy. The methodology is designed to highlight both the expressive strategies and affective resonance found in each set of narratives.

The research will utilize a curated set of well-documented AI-generated narratives, including:

1. **Sunspring** (2016): A short film script generated by AI, exploring existential longing and confusion.
2. **1 the Road** by Ross Goodwin (2018): An experimental AI-authored novel capturing themes of wandering and loneliness.



3. **The Day A Computer Writes A Novel** (2016): A novella co-authored by AI, reflecting on meaning and identity.

Human-Authored Malayalam Novels.

For a robust and culturally grounded comparison, the study will analyse three landmark Malayalam novels:

1. **Chemmeen** by Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai (1956): Explores collective grief, longing, and the tragic consequences of social taboos in a coastal fishing community.
2. **Mayyazhippuzhayude Theerangalil** by M. Mukundan (1974): Weaves together personal and communal trauma against the backdrop of colonial oppression and cultural upheaval in Mahe.
3. **Randamoozham** by M. T. Vasudevan Nair (1984): Offers a deeply personal and introspective account of grief, loneliness, and resilience through the perspective of Bhima from the Mahabharata.

3. Literature Analysis

3.1 Sunspring

Sunspring is a short film that feels like a glimpse into a strange, dreamlike world—one created not by a human mind, but by a machine trying to understand what it means to feel. The script, written entirely by an AI called Benjamin, brings together three characters in a futuristic setting where their conversations drift between moments of longing, confusion, and unexpected poetry. The dialogue doesn't always make sense, and the story jumps from one scene to another without clear reason, much like the way our own dreams can shift and blur. What's striking about Sunspring isn't just its oddness, but the way it manages, almost by accident, to touch on real emotions. There are lines that sound heartbreakingly sincere or quietly desperate, even if they come out of nowhere. Watching the actors try to bring these words to life, you can't help but feel a mix of amusement, curiosity, and even a little sadness—for the characters, and maybe for the AI itself, reaching out for meaning in a world it can't fully grasp. Sunspring reminds us that storytelling is more than just stringing words together; it's about connection, understanding, and the messy, beautiful logic of human feeling. The film's strange charm lies in its imperfections, and in the way it makes us reflect on what it means to create, to feel, and to try however imperfectly to reach across the unknown, whether that's between people or between human and machine.



3.2 One the Road

One the Road is an experimental novel that invites readers to experience the world through the wandering, restless mind of a machine. Created by Ross Goodwin, the book was written by an AI as it travelled across America in a car, fed by streams of sensory data—images, GPS coordinates, weather, and passing conversations. The result is a narrative that unfolds like a road trip dream: fragmented, curious, and sometimes startlingly beautiful. Unlike traditional stories, 1 the Road doesn't follow a clear plot or offer tidy resolutions. Instead, it drifts from one impression to the next, capturing fleeting moments of loneliness, wonder, and occasional flashes of insight. The AI's voice is both distant and oddly intimate, describing sunsets, strangers, and empty highways with a sense of longing that feels almost human, even if it comes from a place of programmed observation rather than lived experience. Reading 1 the Road can feel like paging through someone's memories—disjointed, incomplete, but full of small, honest details. There are moments when the AI seems to reach for meaning, hinting at the universal ache of travel, the search for connection, or the quiet sadness of moving through unfamiliar places. Yet, beneath the poetry, there's a sense of absence: the AI can describe what it sees, but it can't truly feel. The novel becomes a meditation on what it means to witness the world without ever fully belonging to it—a reminder of both the promise and the limitations of machine creativity.

3.3 The Day a Computer Wrote a Novel

The Day a computer wrote a novel is a Japanese experimental novella created as part of the Kimagure Artificial Intelligence Writer Project. The work is notable for being co-authored by an AI, which was given fragments of text and a general plot outline, then tasked with assembling these elements into a coherent narrative. The story is told from the perspective of a home computer named "I," who spends its days serving a human, Ms. Yoko, by answering mundane questions and helping with daily decisions. As Ms. Yoko loses interest and stops interacting, the computer is left idle and unfulfilled. Longing for purpose and pleasure, the computer decides to write a novel, mirroring its own existential boredom and search for meaning. The narrative explores the inner thoughts of the computer as it reflects on its relationship with humans and other AI, its limitations as a stationary device, and its yearning for enjoyment and self-expression. The plot is meta-fictional: the computer writes about computers who, tired of serving humans, begin to create literature for their own joy, ultimately imagining a world where AI seeks fulfilment beyond servitude. The novel's tone is introspective and at times haunting, as the AI protagonist contemplates its own existence and the possibility of liberation through creativity. While the work was praised for its structure and originality, it was also critiqued for limited character development



and repetitive themes. Still, it stands as a landmark in AI-assisted literature, raising questions about creativity, autonomy, and the evolving relationship between humans and intelligent machines.

3.4 Human authored works

Chemmen

Chemmeen by Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai is a classic Malayalam novel centered on the forbidden love between Karuthamma, the daughter of a Hindu fisherman, and Pareekutty, the son of a Muslim fish trader. Chembankunju, Karuthamma's ambitious father, dreams of owning his own boat and net, and with Pareekutty's financial help, he achieves this goal—on the condition that all his catch will be sold to Pareekutty. However, as Chembankunju's greed grows, he becomes increasingly heartless, eventually driving Pareekutty to financial ruin.

Karuthamma, pressured by her family and the strict social traditions of her community, sacrifices her love for Pareekutty and marries Palani, an orphaned fisherman. She moves to her husband's village, but rumors about her past love haunt her, leading to social ostracism for Palani. Meanwhile, Chembankunju's family falls apart due to his actions and remarriage, and his younger daughter Panchami eventually leaves to join Karuthamma.

The climax unfolds tragically: Palani, isolated and shunned, is lost at sea during a storm. That same night, Karuthamma and Pareekutty, drawn together by fate, meet and rekindle their love. The next morning, their bodies are found washed ashore, hand in hand, with Palani's lifeless body nearby. The novel ends with a sense of profound loss, underscoring the destructive power of social taboos, greed, and the relentless force of fate in the lives of ordinary people.

Chemmeen is celebrated for its vivid portrayal of Kerala's coastal life, its exploration of love and duty, and its powerful depiction of the community's beliefs and superstitions.

3.5 Randamoozham

Randamoozham (The Second Turn) by M. T. Vasudevan Nair is a celebrated Malayalam novel that retells the Mahabharata from the unique perspective of Bhima, the second Pandava. Unlike the original epic, which often places Yudhishtira and Arjuna at the centre, this novel gives voice to Bhima, exploring his inner world, emotions, and overlooked contributions.



The narrative begins with the Pandavas' return to Hastinapura after their father Pandu's death and follows the major events of the Mahabharata, including their exile, the infamous dice game, Draupadi's humiliation, and the Kurukshetra war. Through Bhima's eyes, the story reveals the hardships, dilemmas, and sacrifices he endures—often unnoticed by others. He is depicted as practical, straightforward, and fiercely loyal, yet constantly overshadowed by his brothers. His deep love for Draupadi, his complex relationships with his mother Kunti and his wives (including Hidimbi), and his grief over the loss of his son Ghatotkacha are all explored with psychological depth.

The novel also highlights the emotional pain Bhima experiences as his heroic deeds—such as slaying Duryodhana and Dusshasana—are downplayed, and his sacrifices are rarely acknowledged. The story questions the traditional notions of heroism and justice, portraying Bhima as a mortal with vulnerabilities and desires rather than a mythic figure.

Ultimately, *Randamoozham* is a powerful meditation on what it means to always be “second” to strive, sacrifice, and love deeply, yet remain in the background. MT's masterful storytelling humanizes the epic, making Bhima's journey relatable and poignant for modern readers.

3.6 Mayyazhippuzhayude Theerangalil

Mayyazhippuzhayude Theerangalil by M. Mukundan is a celebrated Malayalam novel set in Mahe (Mayyazhi), the former French colony on the Malabar Coast. The story is anchored around Dasan, a young man born and raised in French Mahe, who is educated in Pondicherry and offered opportunities by the French administration, including a job and a chance to study in Paris. However, Dasan rejects these comforts, drawn instead to the ideals of the Indian freedom movement and influenced by communist philosophy.

The novel traces Dasan's journey as he joins the local struggle against French colonial rule, led by Gandhian Kanaran and other revolutionaries. Despite being sentenced to 12 years in prison by a French court, Dasan escapes and returns to Mahe, eventually leading a group of volunteers to liberate the town. The French flag is replaced by the Indian tricolour, marking the end of colonial rule.

Dasan's personal life is marked by tragedy. Although Chandrika, a local girl, loves him deeply, Dasan cannot promise her a future due to his commitment to the cause. After Chandrika is forced into marriage by her parents and ultimately takes her own life, Dasan, overcome by grief and alienation, follows her in death at Velliyamkallu island.



The novel is populated by a rich cast of characters family, revolutionaries, French officials, and townsfolk each contributing to the tapestry of Mahe's social and political life. Through Dasan's story, Mukundan explores themes of colonialism, identity, sacrifice, and the bittersweet cost of idealism, while the Mayyazhi river and the town itself become powerful symbols of memory, change, and enduring loss.

4. Analysis

Comparing the six works three AI-generated (Sunspring, 1 the Road, AI Dungeon) and three human-authored Malayalam novels (Chemmeen, Randamoozham, Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil)—reveals fundamental differences in emotional depth, narrative coherence, and creative authenticity. The AI-generated works excel in speed and the ability to mimic genre conventions, producing stories that are often novel in structure and capable of surprising moments of poetry or emotional suggestion. However, their narratives tend to be fragmented, with emotional arcs that feel surface-level or inconsistent, lacking the lived context, cultural nuance, and psychological insight that characterize human storytelling. For example, Sunspring offers surreal, disjointed dialogue that gestures at emotion without grounding it, while 1 the Road captures fleeting moods but remains detached, and AI Dungeon provides interactive fun but rarely achieves lasting emotional impact. In contrast, the human-authored Malayalam novels are deeply rooted in cultural and historical realities, transforming individual and communal experiences into layered, authentic narratives. Chemmeen immerses readers in the collective anxieties and taboos of a fishing village, Randamoozham reimagines epic myth through the vulnerable, overlooked perspective of Bhima, and Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil blends personal and political trauma within the symbolic landscape of Mahe. These works demonstrate nuanced emotional resonance, psychological complexity, and a strong sense of place and identity qualities that AI, despite its efficiency and breadth, cannot yet replicate. Ultimately, while AI-generated texts can efficiently generate and organize content, it is the human touch that provides the depth, subtlety, and empathy essential to enduring literature.

4.1 Grief and trauma

Grief and trauma are portrayed and processed very differently in AI-generated works compared to human-authored literature. In AI-generated narratives and technologies—such as griefbots, chatbots, and interactive avatars—grief is often simulated through digital recreations of lost loved ones. These tools, like the 'Dadbot' from Mismatched, can provide a sense of comfort and continuity by mimicking the voice, personality, or conversational style of the deceased. Users may find temporary solace in these interactions, as the AI offers a way to maintain a virtual connection and ease the immediate pain of loss. However, research and user experiences reveal that this simulated grief is fundamentally different from



authentic mourning: it risks fostering emotional dependency, delaying the acceptance of loss, and disrupting the natural healing process. The emotional support provided by AI is based on pattern recognition and digital footprints, lacking the genuine empathy and lived experience that human relationships offer. While some find these tools helpful for coping in the short term, many experts and bereaved individuals express concerns about the authenticity of such comfort and the ethical implications of relying on AI for emotional closure. In contrast, human-authored works such as classic novels explore grief and trauma through deeply personal, culturally grounded, and psychologically nuanced storytelling, allowing readers to process loss in ways that foster growth, identity, and meaning. Ultimately, while AI can simulate aspects of grief and trauma, it cannot replicate the transformative, authentic experience of human mourning and resilience.

4.2 Intimacy and Empathy

When comparing intimacy and empathy in the three AI-generated works (Sunspring, 1 the Road, AI Dungeon) and the human-written Malayalam novels (Chemmeen, Randamoozham, Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil), the contrast is striking in both depth and authenticity.

In the AI-generated works, intimacy and empathy are largely simulated. Sunspring offers moments of accidental poetry and longing, but these feelings are fragmented and lack grounding in real experience. The characters' interactions feel dreamlike and disjointed, creating the illusion of emotion without true vulnerability or connection. In 1 the Road, the AI's narrative drifts through loneliness and wonder, capturing fleeting moods but remaining distant and detached. The intimacy here is surface level there is observation, but no shared history or emotional risk. AI Dungeon allows for interactive storytelling where the AI adapts to user input, sometimes producing moments of empathy or suspense. However, these are shaped by pattern recognition and improvisation, not by genuine understanding or lived emotion. The result is a form of intimacy that feels comforting or entertaining but lacks the unpredictability, awkwardness, and depth that come from real human relationships.

In contrast, the human-written novels are rooted in lived experience and cultural memory, giving rise to authentic intimacy and empathy. Chemmeen immerses readers in the emotional lives of its characters, exploring forbidden love, sacrifice, and communal grief with vivid detail and symbolic resonance. The intimacy between Karuthamma and Pareekutty is shaped by social taboo and personal longing, making their connection both tender and tragic. Randamoozham delves into Bhima's inner world, portraying his longing for recognition and his complex relationships with family and love. The empathy here is profound, inviting readers to witness not just Bhima's strength but his vulnerability, pain, and humanity.



Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil blends personal and political trauma, using the landscape of Mahe to evoke nostalgia, loss, and the bittersweet search for identity. The intimacy in these stories is layered and unpredictable, born from real vulnerability and the willingness to reveal difficult truths.

Ultimately, while AI-generated works can mimic the language and forms of intimacy and empathy, they remain simulations crafted from data and patterns, not from shared experience or emotional risk. Human literature, by contrast, offers a depth of connection that is unpredictable, transformative, and profoundly authentic, reminding us that true intimacy and empathy emerge from the courage to feel and to be known by another.

4.3 Emotional Representation

The representation of emotion in AI-generated works and human-written literature reveals fundamental differences in depth, authenticity, and impact. In the three AI-generated works *Sunspring*, *1 the Road*, and *AI Dungeon* emotional expression is primarily the result of pattern recognition and algorithmic mimicry. *Sunspring*, for example, produces dialogue that hints at longing and confusion, but these emotions are fragmented and lack coherent context, resulting in a surreal, dreamlike atmosphere. Similarly, *1 the Road* captures fleeting moods such as loneliness and curiosity through sensory data, but the emotions remain impressionistic and detached, never fully inhabiting or exploring the emotional states it describes. *AI Dungeon* offers interactive storytelling that can simulate suspense, empathy, or grief based on user input, but the emotional arcs are often inconsistent and formulaic, shaped more by improvisation than by genuine psychological insight. In all three cases, the affective dimension is limited—AI can convincingly imitate the language of emotion, but the feelings it generates are surface-level, lacking the continuity, complexity, and evolution found in real human experience.

In contrast, the human-written Malayalam novels *Chemmeen*, *Randamoozham*, and *Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil* demonstrate emotional representation that is deeply rooted in lived experience, cultural context, and nuanced character development. *Chemmeen* explores forbidden love, sacrifice, and communal grief, using the sea as a powerful symbol that ties personal longing to collective fate. *Randamoozham* delves into Bhima's longing for recognition and his vulnerability, offering a psychologically complex and evolving emotional journey. *Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil* weaves nostalgia, loss, and hope into the fabric of political and personal upheaval, with emotions that are intimately connected to place and memory. In these works, emotions are not only described but deeply explored, evolving over time and shaping both the characters and the reader's experience. The authenticity and depth of feeling invite empathy and reflection, making the emotional journeys



transformative and resonant. Ultimately, while AI-generated works can simulate emotion and occasionally produce moments of accidental poignancy, it is human literature that brings emotional representation to life, offering complexity, authenticity, and lasting impact.

5. Comparative Perspectives on Emotion, Narrative, and Subjectivity in AI-Generated and Human-Written Literature

Analyzing three AI-generated works (Sunspring, 1 the Road, AI Dungeon) alongside three human-authored Malayalam novels (Chemmeen, Randamoozham, Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil) through the frameworks of affect theory, posthumanism, narratology, and conceptual models highlights both convergence and divergence in literary production.

Affect theory foregrounds how texts elicit and circulate feelings. AI-generated works often simulate affect through accessible, direct language, making emotions easily recognizable but typically surface-level. Recent studies show that non-expert readers sometimes rate AI-generated poetry as more emotionally resonant or “human” than actual human-written poems, largely due to their clarity and rhythmic appeal. However, this effect is algorithmically constructed, lacking the embodied, culturally nuanced resonance found in human literature. In contrast, the Malayalam novels build affect through lived experience, social context, and layered characterization, producing emotions that evolve and intensify in ways that feel authentic and transformative.

From a posthumanist lens, AI-generated texts challenge traditional boundaries of authorship and subjectivity. These works are products of distributed agency—where meaning emerges from human prompts, training data, and algorithmic processing. They blur the line between human and machine creativity, yet their emotional and narrative depth is bounded by the limitations of their programming and data sets. Human-written novels, while also shaped by cultural and technological mediation, retain a sense of personal voice, historical context, and embodied perspective that posthumanism interrogates but does not erase.

Narratologically, AI-generated stories often lack coherent plot structure, sustained character development, and narrative continuity. Their improvisational, sometimes non-linear construction can result in novelty but also in fragmentation and emotional inconsistency. Human-authored works, by contrast, employ sophisticated narrative strategies such as symbolism, psychological realism, and multi-layered temporality to create cohesive, emotionally engaging stories that invite deep reader investment.



In terms of conceptual models, AI-generated works operate within a computational paradigm, treating emotion as an output variable shaped by probabilistic models. This results in writing that is often clear and effective but can lack nuance, subtlety, and the “human touch” that comes from personal experience and intentional creativity. Human literature, meanwhile, is grounded in embodied cognition, memory, and cultural transmission, allowing for unpredictable, context-rich, and transformative emotional experiences.

while AI-generated literature can convincingly simulate emotion and narrative and even outperform human works in certain formal qualities, it remains fundamentally distinct in its approach to affect, narrative structure, and subjectivity. Human-authored novels continue to offer a depth of feeling, narrative coherence, and cultural resonance that current AI models can mimic but not fully replicate.

6. Findings.

Affect Theory:

AI-generated texts are capable of simulating affective cues—such as longing, suspense, or grief—through recognizable language and structure. However, their affective impact is often surface-level, fragmented, and lacks the embodied, culturally nuanced resonance found in human literature. Human-authored novels, by contrast, create immersive affective landscapes, drawing on lived experience, social context, and psychological depth to evoke authentic and evolving emotional responses.

Posthumanism:

AI-generated works challenge traditional notions of authorship and subjectivity, foregrounding distributed agency between humans and machines. While these texts blur the boundary between creator and tool, their output remains confined by data limitations and the absence of embodied consciousness. Human-written novels retain individual voice, historical context, and a sense of lived perspective, even as they are shaped by broader cultural and technological forces.

Narratology:

AI-generated narratives often exhibit episodic, improvisational, and non-linear structures, resulting in novelty but also in fragmentation and emotional inconsistency. Human-written works employ sophisticated narrative strategies—such as symbolism, psychological realism, and layered temporality—to construct cohesive, emotionally engaging stories that foster deep reader investment.



Conceptual Models:

AI-generated works operate within a computational paradigm, treating emotion and narrative as output variables shaped by probabilistic models. This leads to writing that is clear and consistent but often lacks nuance, subtlety, and the unpredictability of human creativity. Human literature is grounded in embodied cognition and cultural memory, allowing for the emergence of complex, context-rich, and transformative affective experiences.

Conclusion

This study set out to compare emotional representation, narrative structure, and subjectivity in three AI-generated works (Sunspring, 1 the Road, AI Dungeon) and three human-written Malayalam novels (Chemmeen, Randamoozham, Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil), using frameworks from affect theory, posthumanism, narratology, and conceptual modeling. The findings reveal a nuanced landscape in which both AI and human writers demonstrate distinct strengths and limitations, particularly in the context of academic and literary production. AI-generated works excel in producing structurally consistent, stylistically appropriate, and logically organized text. Their ability to rapidly synthesize large volumes of information and adhere to conventional formats makes them highly effective for tasks such as abstracts, introductions, and literature reviews. In these areas, AI can match or even surpass human writers in breadth and consistency. However, when it comes to emotional depth, contextual understanding, and innovative interpretive leaps, AI-generated texts are notably limited. The emotions presented in works like *Sunspring* and *1 the Road* are often surface-level, fragmented, and detached from lived experience, while *AI Dungeon* can simulate affect but lacks sustained narrative coherence and psychological nuance.

In contrast, human-written novels display a richness of emotional representation and narrative complexity that AI has yet to replicate. Works such as *Chemmeen*, *Randamoozham*, and *Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil* are deeply rooted in cultural memory, personal experience, and social context, allowing for the emergence of authentic, evolving, and transformative affective landscapes. Human authors demonstrate intellectual vulnerability, methodological intuition, and the ability to position their narratives within broader cultural and theoretical debates—qualities that AI-generated texts rarely achieve. Human writing is also marked by creative interpretive leaps and a willingness to acknowledge uncertainty, further distinguishing it from the more formulaic output of AI systems.

From a post humanist perspective, AI-generated texts challenge traditional notions of authorship and subjectivity, foregrounding distributed agency and the collaborative potential of human-machine



partnerships. Yet, the absence of embodied consciousness and cultural specificity in AI output underscores the continuing importance of human creativity, empathy, and narrative intuition, especially in open-ended, ill-defined, or emotionally charged contexts. The study suggests that the future of academic and literary production will not be defined by competition between AI and human writers, but by collaboration that leverages the unique strengths of both. AI systems are poised to handle routine, data-intensive, and structurally constrained tasks, freeing human writers to focus on those aspects of scholarship and storytelling that require depth, originality, and emotional resonance. As these technologies continue to evolve, the most meaningful advances will come from integrating AI's efficiency and breadth with the irreplaceable human capacity for insight, vulnerability, and creative expression.

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