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Journal for Educators, Teachers and Trainers, Vol.14(6)

https://jett.labosfor.com/

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Abstract
Hope lies in expectations and happenings. For ages, Artificial Intelligence had been hovering around with hopes of both goodness and unscrupulous notions. What the human race never understands is that it can also cause extreme issues. The balance between the features of science and humanity keeps blurring in the modern age. Alterity of other objects is looked over as a boon and bloom. Karen Osborne is a speculative fiction writer and visual storyteller living in Baltimore. She is the author of Architects of Memory. Her short fiction appears in Uncanny, Fireside, and Escape which talks about various themes of science fiction. The short story Cratered talks about ideas that scientists struggle with. The researcher has attempted to bring out the concept of uneasiness that humans face with the rebellions of AI under the title, Hope: A Rebellious Race in Karen Osborne's "Cratered".

Keywords: Rebellion, Alterity, Struggles, Future and Other

Introduction

The genre of science fiction emphasizes more on the futuristic ideas mixed with imagination. It relates to the themes of time travel and other universes. These technological concepts are produced as an awareness about the aftermath of human created issues. Science fiction studies began during the twentieth century which engrossed on politics, culture and science. The dystopian and utopian works have increased the interest of the social group. Its features include paranormal abilities, space travel, future predictions, and biology. Few of its subgenres are biopunk, cyberpunk, solarpunk, steampunk, and dying earth.

American science fiction started in 1926 when Hugo Gernsback published *Amazing Stories*. It is a science fiction magazine. The most prestigious Hugo Award was named after Hugo Grensback. The 1920s and the 1930s are often called as the Golden Age of science fiction as there were a lot of linear narratives and technological-adventure stories rising up. Science fiction generates a sense of spectacle and curiosity. It relies on the potential scientific outbreaks. They criticize the kind of society that humans live in. there is often a reflection of social, political and economic crises.

Karen Osborne is an American author of science fiction and fantasy. Before starting her career as a full-time author, she worked as a press release writer, bookseller and English teacher. Her works have appeared in numerous podcasts, periodicals and webzines. Karen Osborne lives in Baltimore. Her famous works include *Architect of Memory* (2020)*, Engines of Oblivion* (2021)*, Gazer* (2016)*, The Dead in Their Uncontrollable Power* (2019). She has been nominated for various awards namely Nebula Award for Best Short Story, Sturgeon Award for Best Short Science Fiction and Hugo Award for Best Short Story.

The short story *Cratered* was published in 2019. It talks about the story of few astronauts who have gone to the moon in search of the living conditions. The main theme of the short story is to let go of the past no matter how difficult it is. Kate and Arjun are the major characters in the story. They are geologists, people who study the features of the Earth and its processes. The story line portrays how the need of technological improvement in the lives of humans have taken over their freedom of self. The explanation of the mystery includes the idea of how hidden technologies process to take over everything.

Alterity and Artificial Intelligence have a common feature of belonging to the concept of Other. Even though Otherness started from the postcolonial era, the term has now been used for representing everything that is looked as a different self. The feature of otherness is not based on the difference between machines and human beings rather it is faced as a model of self-alienation. The narratives of speculative fiction are most often centered on the interrogations of alterity and differences. There is always a question on the human and artificial module. The present age centers on the fact that humans can produce machines that can either be useful or destructive depending upon the usage.

The plot of Karen Osborne's *Cratered* enquires the principle of proficiency and the self-alienating law of functioning in a dehumanized civilization. The short story begins with the incident of a fire in the regions of the moon which resembles the past of Kate and Arjun. Kate sees the fireplace as a similar accident that destroyed her house in Pasadena, whereas Arjun takes it as a resemblance of a childhood memory. Osborne depicts the pity state of astronauts living in the moon. "It was amazing how a mission I thought I would love would end up as such s boring mess- just rock, more rocks". (524). It shows the struggles of how passion turns into something boring as time travels fast.

Kate and Arjun lament on the lack of an AR as it is difficult for them to identify the moons features. AR is Augmented Reality, a three-dimensional model that is used for exploring the sites of the moon. Also called as Astro Reality, the lunar models are so precise and educational. When Kate's mother Harper explains the struggles of no having an AR, the trouble of astronauts without the use of artificial intelligence is portrayed. "I know we have to live without AR here, and that stinks too"(526). Artificial Intelligence is seen as a prospect to advance human life. They are also used as a device for disentangling ecological complications.

The possibility of seeing AI as Other is prominent in life. Robots, drones and other machines are seen just as machines. Humans get self-alienated with the production of more machines and technologies. As Nicole Brandstetter in his article *Representations of Otherness: How Literature Reflects Implications of Digitalization an Artificial Intelligence on Humaneness and Societies, "*AI technology serves as a mirror for ourselves showing the human abyss potentially dangerous paths to the loss of humaneness but also human uniqueness… Instead of futuristic warnings against possible dangers of technological advancements, the narrations explore with the help of technological Other, what makes us human" (46).

The characters in the short story just hope about the betterment of a future. They are all stuck in the moon and trying to save their lives. Kate wants to save the Earth from the drastic environmental issues that is happening. Arjun wants to let the parts of the world know that most of the ecological sites are getting damaged due to the environmental imbalance. Yet, they stumble upon the fact of being seen as an Other along with the machines. As Harper says, " Even if we wanted to do something more, even if we did, what do you think would happen? We're very small cogs, in a very large machine, with very big tires" (532). They have been given a particular work for which they have to produce the results.

Sometimes humans themselves think to be the Other. They believe there is someone above to rule and they are unable to come out of the past. Kate has lost her husband Riley but her feelings are so strong that she is unable to forget the moments with him. As Kauzo Ishiguro in his novel *Klare and the Sun* cites, "Our generation still carry the old feelings. A part of us refuses to let go. The part that wants to keep believing there's something unreachable inside

each of us. Something that's unique and wont transfer. But there's nothing like that" (280). Letting go has been one of the most difficult parts.

David J. Gunkel in his article in the *Rethinking Ethics Face of the Machine* states, "We are in danger of substituting the technological interface for the face-to-face encounters we used to have with other human beings" (197). It is easier for humans to encounter technologies than humans for they always seem less exciting. With the rise of pandemic, most platforms have become over technologies. Online classes and work-from-home have taken over the anxiety have humans face in real life. Even when the pandemic got settled, most people still prefer having work and studies over online.

The company Lunatech gave Kate the best survey post to go on the moon and find resources about the rare-earth minerals because of her abilities. She was not really happy on going to moon but it was her husband Riley who convinced her to do so. Kate was given the opportunity to save the earth. But she was not ready to work for it. "And there had been the save-the-world aspect to Lunatech's offer, too, even if when I thought of the world I thought only of Riley. But that had been Michigan and this was the Moon, and in between, terrorists had nucked California" (527). Perhaps, artificial intelligence was produced for people like Kate who never wanted to leave their loved ones but still work for their passion.

It is all about the hope humans carry in finding new technologies. A hope for better future and a hope for humanity to recover itself from the inhumanness it has created. For ages, nature has been destroyed and devastated due to the developments that were made. Some disasters were mended by humans but most of them were left unnoticed and unrecovered. For instance, the landslides and floods are the reason for the vast deforestation humans had made in the name of emerging natural living. As Harper states, "Have you ever thought about how the environment down there is collapsing and they haven't changed one word of their business plan?... Lunatech could be saving people. On Earth" (532).

There is so much concern for the human body but has there been any concern for the machines? Most of the times, they are taken as just machines that has no moral or life. Machines never have their own morals rather they have ideologies that is created by the humans which can be broken. As David J. Gunkel in his article *Rethinking Ethics Face of the Machine* states, "Unlike the car, the house, or the toothbrush, these Others have moral status and can be benefited or harmed by our decisions and actions" (213). When Arjun finds an AR router in the middle of the moon that was launched by their company, he is thrilled.

Only later Arjun understands that the AR router has no power to give it source. When humans took pains to create an artificial machine for the purpose of good, they are not able to maintain it. Due to this lack of prototypes, there is a lot of danger that the human life has to encounter. The own creation can itself become a bare rather than a boon. There can be a lot of savings in money and time if the resources on these machines are used productively. In the name of technology and new findings, there is a lot of corruption taking place. The twenty-first century has witnessed the peak and fall of these artificial intelligences.

Technology has both its own flaws and blessings; it depends on the human race to use it in a way that does not create any harm to the environment or the future generation. There are various instances of how artificial intelligence has been used as a form of productiveness by developing the earth. In the hands of others, artificial intelligence is used for degrading and destroying others. The fact of alterity here is that it depends on the perspective of the beholder. Kate and Arjun's fate in going to the moon without an artificial intelligent machine shows how much they have suffered without an AR.

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