


Chapter 5

Interpreting Literature Through an AI Lens: Cross-Cultural Dynamics and Insights

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ABSTRACT

This chapter reviews how artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed literary interpretation, promoting cross-cultural understanding and multidisciplinary methods. Researchers may analyze large literary collections, uncover patterns, and study national emotional and thematic frameworks using AI technologies like natural language processing, sentiment analysis, and machine learning. AI-driven analysis enhances and recontextualizes literary ideas including formalism, structuralism, post-structuralism, and reader-response. Global literature, folklore, translation, and genre evolution case studies show AI's ability to find universal themes and cultural differences. Authorship, bias, and data equity are addressed in the chapter to promote inclusive and responsible AI use in literary studies. This multimodal approach makes AI a powerful tool for understanding literary human expression and cultural narratives.

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1. INTRODUCTION TO AI IN LITERARY ANALYSIS

1.1 The Evolution of Literary Criticism

Literary criticism has undergone substantial evolution over the centuries, influenced by cultural, philosophical, and technical transformations (Bearman et al., 2023). In its early versions, literary criticism concentrated primarily on the moral and aesthetic merits of writings, frequently relying on classical frameworks created by intellectuals like as Aristotle and Horace. These frameworks underscored the significance of form, organization, and authorial intent, establishing a foundation for later critical approaches.

The 20th century was a crucial turning point in literary criticism with the rise of diverse theoretical frameworks, such as formalism, structuralism, and post-structuralism (McMahon 2023). Formalism emphasized the text, promoting an examination that focused solely on literary devices and structures, disregarding external influences. Structuralism aimed to reveal the foundational systems of meaning that dictate narratives, whereas post-structuralism contested the concept of fixed meanings, highlighting the variability of interpretation.

As the century advanced, the emergence of digital technologies significantly impacted literary studies. The advent of digital humanities in the late 20th and early 21st centuries provided novel approaches for literary analysis. Researchers commenced utilizing computational instruments to analyze extensive text corpora, facilitating quantitative studies that were once inconceivable (Wang, 2022). This transition not only democratized access to literature but also enabled cross-cultural comparisons by allowing researchers to evaluate texts from various linguistic and cultural contexts.

Digital humanities have facilitated multidisciplinary collaboration, integrating literature, computer science, and cultural studies. This intersection has resulted in creative methodologies like text mining, wherein algorithms are utilized to discern patterns and trends inside literary texts (Oberbichler et al. 2022). These methodologies have revolutionized scholarly engagement with texts, transitioning from conventional close reading to a broader perspective on literary interpretation.

The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) is catalyzing a further evolution in the realm of literary criticism. Artificial intelligence technologies, especially natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning, are currently being incorporated into literary studies, providing novel instruments for interpretation and analysis (Wagner et al. 2022). These breakthroughs provide profound insights into themes, sentiments, and cultural settings, hence enhancing our comprehension of literature across diverse civilizations.

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