

Ethical Dimensions of Human–AI Coauthorship in Contemporary English Literature

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Abstract— The advancement of AI technologies has opened up novel avenues in literature creation, thus enabling Human-AI co-authorship. With the development of English literary texts in the contemporary world, AI is widely used by authors to come up with innovative ideas, write stories, enhance language usage, and experiment with literary devices. Although AI applications have expanded the range of literary production possibilities, they have posed several ethics-related problems involving questions on authorship, originality, creativity, accountability, and intellectual property, among others. The research evaluates the ethical aspects of Human-AI co-authorship from the viewpoint of the scholarly debates about AI-supported text creation and collaborative creativity. Special attention is given to the questions of authorship, the role of AI in literary production, AI biasness, and the responsibility of human writers in utilizing machine-generated texts. The research also considers how Human-AI collaboration affects literary theories based on individualism and authorship. With the help of contemporary studies' analysis, the paper shows the need for ethical considerations to be incorporated into Human-AI creative collaborations.

Keywords— Human–AI Coauthorship, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Humanities, Literary Ethics, Authorship, Contemporary English Literature

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of AI technologies has affected numerous areas of human life. Over recent years, machine learning and natural language processing have allowed AI systems to create texts that are coherent and close to human-written ones. Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and others become more available, making it possible for writers, researchers, and other people to use AI in their creative process. The emergence of AI in literature leads to considerable changes in the perception of literary texts in general.

The notion of human-AI collaboration in literary creation became widely known in modern literary practices. While initially considered merely text-generating mechanisms, AI systems nowadays are often employed as coauthors who assist their users in idea generation, plot development, dialogue creation, stylistic enhancement, writer's block overcoming, etc. Many writers view AI not as an antagonist but rather as an additional tool in their creative process. In this case, the collaboration between a human being and AI makes the latter more productive.

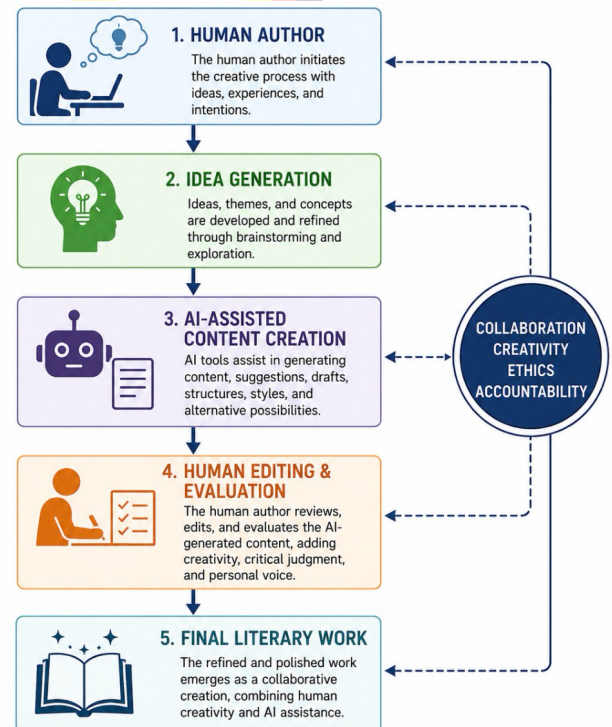


Fig. 1: Framework of Human- AI Coauthorship

The increasing popularity of AI coauthors leads to controversial debates about authorship and originality. Traditionally, literary

theory claims that the human author is viewed as the primary source of creativity and intentionality. AI-generated texts challenge this approach since the question about whether AI can be seen as creative arises along with questions about whether AI needs to get mentioned and what rights should belong to those involved in the process. Plagiarism, transparency, authenticity, and responsibility become some other topics to consider.

The ethical aspects of human-AI collaboration in literary texts are an urgent issue in the current literary context. The use of AI becomes more popular, which requires literary scholars and literary critics to reconsider traditional conceptions of originality, creativity, and responsibility in the process. It is necessary to analyze the challenges associated with using AI in literary texts to be able to propose proper recommendations for literary practices. The following study will focus on examining the discussed problem in detail.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The emergence of generative AI has significantly transformed the current literary landscape, fostering new forms of collaboration between human writers and AI technologies. Human-AI co-authorship is a controversial phenomenon that raises many ethical questions related to creativity, authorship, intellectual responsibility, and originality. Recently, more and more studies discuss the ethical issues connected with the assistance of AI in the literary creation, especially in English-language literature.

An important ethical question concerns the issue of authorship. Literary theories traditionally identify it with the processes of human intentionality, creativity, and accountability. In this regard, the capability of the AI to produce substantial amounts of text makes one think about how to attribute the authorship of the literary work and to what extent AI's contribution is recognized. Bozkurt (2024) argues that the conventional understanding of authorship does not address issues of human-AI co-creativity and calls for establishing disclosure mechanisms. Similarly, the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) says that an AI system cannot be responsible for performing authorial roles since it lacks accountability and is a legal person.

Ethics of originality and creativity is another relevant topic. There are debates as to whether the stories produced by AI are creative products at all or merely statistical reconstructions. Hutson (2025) provides a multidimensional definition of intellectual and creative authorship, which emphasizes the

central role played by humans. Studies on collaborative fiction suggest that people see AI as an intelligent co-creator rather than a creator in its own right.

The issue of transparency and disclosure should be considered as well. In the contemporary discourse, it is increasingly recognized that the involvement of the AI in the process of creative literary production should be explicitly acknowledged. Without this step, readers are unlikely to know who the real author is, thus leading to a possible confusion and mistrust in the literary world.

The problem of accountability is equally pressing. If a literary text turns out to contain misinformation, plagiarism, harmful representations, and other controversial elements, finding a person responsible becomes quite complicated. The issue is raised in the recent studies of the ethics of human-AI co-creativity, where it was argued that humans must bear responsibility since machines do not have a moral dimension and therefore cannot be accountable for their actions.

Finally, there are also discussions around bias and representation. Texts on which AI systems are being trained tend to have cultural, racial, gender-based, and ideological biases, so that the products of the AI literary work may become controversial and offensive. Human-centered AI scholars stress the importance of fairness, transparency, and critical thinking in mitigating these issues.

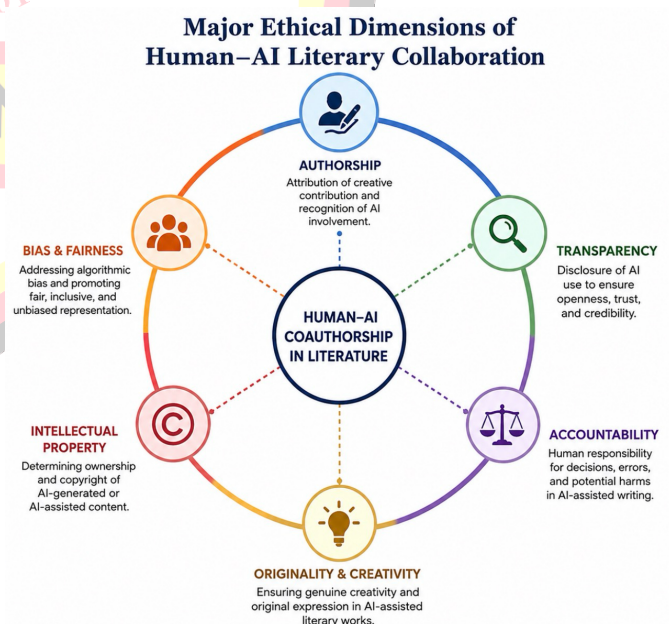


Fig. 2: Ethical Dimensions of Human-AI Coauthorship

Recently, psychologists have examined the relationship between human creators and AI agents. Anthropomorphism is common when it comes to the latter; people see them as creative partners, assistants, and advisors. On the one hand, these perceptions facilitate cooperation, while on the other hand, they complicate the attribution of agency and ownership.

Today's research points to the necessity of recognizing that human-AI coauthorship is not about replacing human writers but about establishing an entirely new paradigm. To practice it ethically, we need to establish transparency, accountability, human control, intellectual property, and continuous critique of bias algorithms.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper applies the qualitative and descriptive research design to explore ethical aspects of Human-AI co-authorship in contemporary English literature. Relying primarily on the use of secondary sources, the research explores the scientific literature regarding artificial intelligence, writing, authorship, ethics, and literature studies. Peer-reviewed journals, monographic publications, conference materials, institutional reports, and documents were explored to understand current discussions and emerging perspectives regarding Human-AI collaboration in literary production.

The systematic literature review was utilized as a tool for collecting and analyzing scholarly output dedicated to the topics mentioned in the previous paragraph. Special attention was paid to articles that considered the topics of authorship, originality, creativity, intellectual property, transparency, accountability, and biases in AI-created literary works. Authentic and reliable sources of information provided by reputable publishing organizations only were used to ensure credibility.

Scholarly publications were analyzed using the method of thematic analysis. Main themes were established based on careful reading, comparative analysis, and interpretation of various arguments raised by scientists. Key themes include Human-AI collaboration in writing, ethical problems arising from AI use for writing, authorship problem, intellectual property, creative agency of an author, and implications of the discussed topics for literary research.

The study is exploratory in its essence and thus no primary data will be collected using such methods as surveys, experiments, and interviews. Instead, attempts are made to analyze academic discourse to form a comprehensive perspective regarding the

issue under discussion. The results of the analysis are discussed within the context of English literature and digital humanities studies.

Traditional Authorship vs. Human-AI Coauthorship

Aspect	Traditional Authorship	Human-AI Coauthorship
 Creator	 Human creator	 Human + AI collaboration
 Nature of Creativity	 Individual creativity based on human experience and imagination	 Hybrid creativity combining human imagination and AI capabilities
 Process of Writing	 Entirely written, developed and refined by the human author	 AI assists in ideation, drafting, suggestions; human edits, refines and finalizes
 Ownership	 Clear and solely attributed to the human author	 Shared contribution; ownership attributed to human author with disclosure of AI use
 Accountability	 Full responsibility of the human author	 Human oversight and responsibility for content and outcomes
 Nature of Output	 Conventional literary work produced by humans	 AI-assisted literary work with enhanced creativity and efficiency

Fig. 3: Comparative Model of Traditional vs Human-AI Authorship

The outlined methodology provides a structured basis for exploring the issues connected to Human-AI collaboration in literary writing. It allows drawing conclusions about the future implications of the process discussed in the paper.

HUMAN – AI COAUTHORSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

With the introduction of artificial intelligence in recent years, literary creation has been significantly impacted. One such innovation is Human-AI coauthorship in which AI tools take an active role in the writing process. By leveraging natural language processing and machine learning technologies, AI is capable of providing various contributions to the writing process. Such contributions may include ideas, text generation, suggestion of plot development, and other activities related to the refinement of the work produced. Thus, literary creation becomes the outcome of the collaborative effort between the human intellect and the technology available.

Modern writers use AI for generating prompts, character sketches, and plots among other purposes. Some authors use the tools of AI for composing texts and exploring different writing approaches that would be impossible without AI. The advantage of using the technology lies in the speed at which different versions of the text can be generated, allowing the writer to consider multiple options simultaneously. As a result, authors are able to devote more attention to interpreting the text produced, providing criticism, and deciding what should be done next.

The development of Human-AI coauthorship allows modern writers to experiment more freely in their literary creations. There are many works in which AI technology is used for generating poetry, prose, and even interactive narratives. In such projects, literary creation becomes a unique blend of the effort made by the author and the technological input generated by AI. Thus, the assumption that literature should be created by human beings alone is being challenged in contemporary writing.

However, it raises some important questions for scholars interested in literary theory. Namely, there are doubts about whether AI generates any form of creativity and whether it deserves recognition as coauthoring a certain piece of text. Another problem relates to the definition of authorship when it comes to Human-AI cooperation and the extent to which AI may take part in the process.

Finally, Human-AI coauthorship demonstrates a general tendency within contemporary society for embracing the new technologies. Digital technologies have greatly transformed the processes of creation, distribution, and consumption of literary works. The emergence of Human-AI coauthorship can be viewed as yet another step taken in that direction. Rather than substituting human creativity with algorithms, modern literature becomes a combination of human and AI efforts.

In conclusion, AI represents one of the major advances of our era, and its influence on literary creation is becoming ever more visible. Therefore, we should prepare ourselves to rethinking established conceptions and finding the appropriate framework for the analysis of Human-AI coauthorship in contemporary English literature.

ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN-AI COAUTHORSHIP

The rapid integration of artificial intelligence into literary production has created unprecedented opportunities for creative collaboration while simultaneously raising complex ethical concerns. Human-AI coauthorship challenges conventional notions of authorship, originality, intellectual ownership, accountability, and creative agency. As AI-generated content becomes increasingly sophisticated, scholars, publishers, and writers must address the ethical implications associated with machine-assisted literary creation.

One of the most significant ethical issues concerns authorship and attribution. Traditionally, authorship has been linked to human creativity, intentionality, and responsibility. AI systems, however, can generate substantial portions of literary content, making it difficult to determine how credit should be assigned.

Since AI lacks consciousness, legal status, and moral agency, most scholars argue that it cannot be considered an author in the conventional sense. Nevertheless, the extent of AI involvement should be transparently acknowledged to maintain academic and literary integrity.

Table 1: Ethical Issues in Human-AI Coauthorship

Ethical Dimension	Key Concern	Potential Impact
Authorship	Attribution of creative contribution	Confusion regarding ownership and recognition
Originality	Authenticity of generated content	Questions about creativity and innovation
Accountability	Responsibility for errors or harm	Ethical and legal uncertainty
Transparency	Disclosure of AI involvement	Reader trust and credibility
Bias	Reproduction of societal prejudices	Misrepresentation and discrimination
Intellectual Property	Ownership of AI-generated text	Copyright disputes

Originality and creativity pose another important issue. The originality of literary pieces was always highly valued. Artificial intelligence programs work by analyzing large volumes of texts and finding patterns in them. However, opponents believe that outputs of such programs may be a manifestation of highly sophisticated combinations rather than true creations. On the other hand, some researchers assert that there is still room for creativity in the process of human-AI interaction. In other words, humans may interpret output of AI algorithms and create an entirely new piece of literature.

Another key element of ethical literary production involves transparency. The idea of transparency is closely related to the issue discussed above. When creating a literary piece, it is natural for the reader to expect that a piece has been created through human efforts. In case of using AI technologies extensively, the absence of any information about AI usage would be unethical. Thus, when using such programs, one should make sure the process of creating literary pieces remains transparent.

Finally, there is a question of accountability when using AI technologies in the process of literary creation. As it was mentioned previously, an algorithm cannot make mistakes. Nevertheless, sometimes the output provided by algorithms may include inaccurate facts, stereotypical statements, and even

some offensive language constructs. Since the algorithm is not morally responsible for the results, it is the human who bears all the responsibility.

Table 2: Distribution of Ethical Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Primary Responsibilities
Human Author	Content review, final decisions, ethical oversight
AI System	Content generation and linguistic assistance
Publisher	Verification, disclosure policies, quality control
Reader	Critical interpretation and evaluation
Academic Institutions	Development of ethical guidelines

Bias and representation have been critical in AI-mediated literature creation. AI is created using vast amounts of data that have biases concerning culture, race, gender, and ideology among others. The AI-based literature will therefore incorporate such biases, which might contribute to the propagation of stereotypes and suppression of marginalized views. Consequently, the human authors should be vigilant and careful in analyzing any output from the artificial intelligence.

Issues related to intellectual property and copyright infringement also challenge human-AI cooperation in literary work creation. The copyright laws were formulated to regulate human works. However, questions have emerged concerning copyright infringement in AI-based creation because the machines use other peoples' works to generate their own works. Concerns also emerge over how the copyright will be shared between the author and the AI technology owner.

Table 3: Benefits and Ethical Challenges of Human-AI Coauthorship

Potential Benefits	Corresponding Ethical Challenges
Enhanced creativity	Ambiguity in authorship
Faster content generation	Reduced transparency
Literary experimentation	Accountability concerns
Increased accessibility	Bias and representation issues
Creative support for writers	Copyright and ownership disputes

The ethical dimensions of Human-AI coauthorship ultimately highlight the need for balanced and responsible literary practices. While AI offers valuable opportunities for innovation and creative exploration, its use must be guided by principles of transparency, accountability, fairness, and respect for intellectual property. Human judgment remains indispensable

in ensuring that literary works maintain ethical integrity and cultural sensitivity. As AI technologies continue to evolve, the development of comprehensive ethical frameworks will be essential for sustaining trust, authenticity, and responsibility in contemporary literary production.

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTIVE IMPLICATIONS

The increasing integration of artificial intelligence in literary creation creates corresponding opportunities and challenging problems related to the current status of English literature. First, one should mention the problem of determining the author and owner of the work in question. As AI assumes an ever larger participation in the creative process, it will become increasingly difficult to differentiate human from machine contributions. The currently existing legal norms and ethical standards were primarily elaborated for human participants and often prove insufficient to solve emerging problems.

Challenges and Future Implications of Human-AI Coauthorship in Contemporary Literature

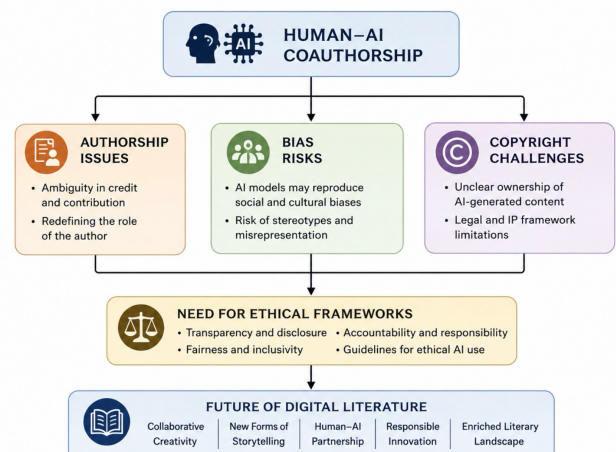


Fig. 4: Challenges and Future Implications

Secondly, there is a need to find solutions to preserve the authenticity and originality of literary works produced through human-AI collaboration. As noted previously, an important feature of AI models is their capacity to create content by imitating existing pieces. In the process of creation, therefore, there is a risk that copyrighted content will be accidentally used. Publishers and authors should, therefore, develop standards of using AI ethically to guarantee the originality of their works.

Finally, issues related to the possible presence of various biases in literary creations are becoming equally urgent. It is known that large-scale datasets include all sorts of biases – social, racial, cultural, and others. If not checked adequately, such

biases will be replicated in literary works, thereby contributing to reproducing negative social stereotypes. Therefore, there will be a need to monitor and evaluate all works created by machines from an ethical standpoint.

Looking ahead, it would be reasonable to expect the increasing role of Human-AI collaboration in the literary sphere. On the one hand, AI will help authors to experiment with different literary techniques. However, the creative responsibility for works will continue lying entirely on authors. Educational institutions, publishers, and scholars will have to develop ethical guidelines related to using AI technology in the creative process.

CONCLUSION

Human-AI coauthorship is one of the most significant trends in modern literary practices, demonstrating the growing role of artificial intelligence in the process of creative activities. In fact, the inclusion of AI algorithms into the processes of writing allows introducing novel elements into the traditional approach to literary work by developing interactions between human authors and intelligent machines.

Based on the analysis provided above, it becomes apparent that even though artificial intelligence can create complex and meaningful texts, it still remains unconscious, lacking intentions, moral considerations, and any kind of legal responsibility. Thus, the problem of human authors' role as ethical controllers of AI-generated literary products arises. The questions of authorship, transparency, intellectual property, and other ethical concerns become extremely relevant for Human-AI coauthorship. Therefore, it is necessary to develop specific criteria to solve these problems and ensure responsible practices of publishing and evaluating AI-generated texts.

Furthermore, it needs to be noted that despite the impressive potential of Artificial Intelligence to enhance the literary processes, Human-AI collaboration cannot be viewed as an attempt to replace the human contribution with machine assistance. On the contrary, it is supposed to serve as a tool for integration of human imagination, creativity, and emotional perception into the processes of creation, allowing developing new methods of storytelling.

Given that artificial intelligence is constantly progressing, it is safe to assume that the role of AI in literature will soon experience significant growth. As a result, it is important for literary scholars, writers, publishers, and even policymakers to come together and develop ethical guidelines, which would promote responsible practices of Human-AI collaboration.

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