



The Rediscovery of Genre Fiction in the Age of AI Writing

Li REN

University International College, Macau University of Science and Technology

Abstract

Current scholarship on genre fiction concentrates on critical theory, while studies of its compositional rules remain scarce. AI writing systems rely on explicit compositional rules and structured prompts to generate narratives. AI-generated texts ultimately reach readers whose cognitive schemata shape their reception. To evoke emotional resonance, AI-generated novels must activate readers' cognitive schemata. A novel created by AI software is taken as an example to illustrate the significance of writing rules and cognitive schemata to AI writing, which calls on literary researchers to pay attention to the writing rules of genre novels and readers' cognitive schemata.

Introduction

Most genre fiction studies center on literary criticism, with insufficient attention to writing rules. As AI writing emerges, clear rules are essential for AI text generation, and cognitive schemata matter for reader engagement. This paper emphasizes their interaction and calls for in-depth exploration.



Methods

This study adopts an interdisciplinary theoretical framework that integrates cognitive psychology, AI principles, and narratology, and employs the 'Six W' s' heuristic to demonstrate how rule-based prompts guide AI storytelling.

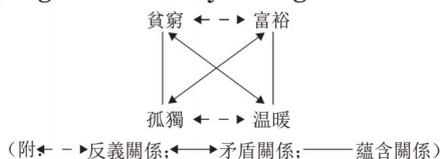


Fig1. The semantic matrix of AI-generated novels

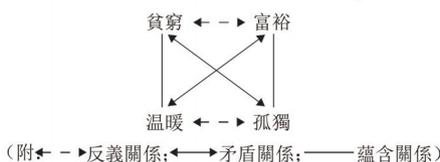


Fig2. A critical semantic matrix of novels

Analysis

1. AI Writing & Cognitive Schemata: AI generates text via deep learning and rule-based models, lacking human non-linear creativity. Cognitive psychology underpins AI's mimicry of human cognition, but cognitive schemata input is needed to align with readers' understanding.
2. Value of Genre Writing Rules: Genre fiction (e.g., detective, historical novels) has mature structures, providing clear frameworks to enhance AI's narrative coherence and reader alignment.
3. Cognitive Schemata & Reader Engagement: As mental frameworks for interpreting texts, cognitive schemata activate emotional resonance. AI-generated fiction must fit these schemata to connect with readers.

Conclusion

AI writing should incorporate both the compositional conventions of genre fiction and the cognitive schemata of readers so as to produce more engaging narratives. While AI can generate rule-based texts, it lacks human creative and emotional depth.

Contact

Li REN, Doctor of Philosophy in Creative Writing
E-mail: renran526@163.com
Supervisor: Assistant Professor Si Leong U
E-mail: sl@must.edu.mo