

The Artistic Uniqueness of the Robot Image in the Works of Isaac Asimov and Ian McEwan

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Abstract

This paper explores the artistic uniqueness of the robot image in the works of Isaac Asimov and Ian McEwan. The study examines how both authors represent robots, addressing themes of humanization, ethical dilemmas, and the philosophical implications of artificial intelligence. Asimov's foundational works, particularly *I, Robot*, introduce the famous "Three Laws of Robotics," which govern robot behavior and their interactions with humans. McEwan's *Machines Like Me*, in contrast, presents robots as autonomous beings, focusing on the ethical and emotional complexities they generate. This paper compares their approaches to the portrayal of robots, emphasizing the ethical concerns they raise about the future of human-robot relations.

Keywords: Isaac Asimov, Ian McEwan, robots, artificial intelligence, ethics, humanization, posthumanism

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada Isaac Asimov va Ian McEwan ijodida robot obrazining badiiy o'ziga xosligi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot mualliflarning robotlarni qanday tasvirlashlarini o'rganib, ularning insoniylashuvi, axloqiy muammolar va sun'iy intellektning falsafiy oqibatlari kabi mavzularni qanday yoritganini ko'rib chiqadi. Asimovning *I, Robot* asarida mashhur "Robototexnikaning uch qonuni" tasvirlanib, robotlarning insonlar bilan o'zaro munosabatlarini boshqaruvchi tamoyillar ko'rsatib beriladi. McEwanning *Machines Like Me* asari esa robotlarni avtonom mavjudot sifatida tasvirlab, ularning axloqiy va emotsional murakkabliklarini o'rganadi. Ushbu maqolada Asimov va McEwanning robot obrazini aks ettirish yondashuvlari solishtirilib, inson va robot o'rtasidagi munosabatlarning kelajagiga ta'sir etuvchi axloqiy jihatlar tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit soʻzlar: Isaac Asimov, Ian McEwan, robotlar, sunʼiy intellekt, axloq, insoniylashuv, postgumanizm.

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается художественная уникальность образа робота в произведениях Айзека Азимова и Иэна Макьюэна. Исследование анализирует, как оба автора изображают роботов, затрагивая темы очеловечивания, этических дилемм и философских последствий искусственного интеллекта. В фундаментальных работах Азимова, особенно в «Я, робот», вводятся знаменитые «Три закона робототехники», регулирующие поведение роботов и их взаимодействие с людьми. В отличие от этого, в романе Макьюэна «Машины, как я», роботы представлены как автономные существа, что подчеркивает их сложность с этической и эмоциональной точки зрения. В данной статье сравниваются подходы Азимова и Макьюэна к изображению роботов, подчеркиваются поднятые ими этические вопросы и их влияние на будущее взаимоотношений между людьми и роботами.

Ключевые слова: Айзек Азимов, Иэн Макьюэн, роботы, искусственный интеллект, этика, очеловечивание, постгуманизм.

The portrayal of robots in literature has long been a central theme in science fiction, offering insights into human fears, desires, and ethical dilemmas surrounding technological advancement. Isaac Asimov and Ian McEwan, two prolific authors, have significantly contributed to this genre, each presenting distinct visions of robots and their role in human society. Asimov's robots are defined by the "Three Laws of Robotics," which govern their behavior and interactions with humans, emphasizing ethical dilemmas. On the other hand, McEwan's robots, particularly in *Machines Like Me*, are portrayed with emotional complexity, raising questions about autonomy and the rights of artificial beings. This paper explores the artistic and philosophical uniqueness of the robot image in their works, focusing on the humanization of robots, ethical implications, and the artistic representation of artificial intelligence.

	Isaac Asimov I, Robot (1950)	Ian McEwan Machines Like Me
The Robot Image	Isaac Asimov, widely regarded as one of the founding figures of modern science fiction, has profoundly shaped the literary depiction of robots. In his seminal work <i>I, Robot</i> (1950), Asimov introduces the "Three Laws of Robotics," which dictate that robots must not harm humans, must obey human orders, and must protect their own existence as long as it does not conflict with human safety. These laws create a framework for Asimov's exploration of the ethical and moral dilemmas surrounding the use of artificial intelligence. In stories such as "Runaround" and "Reason," Asimov explores the unintended consequences of these laws, revealing how even well-intentioned algorithms can result in unforeseen ethical issues. His portrayal of robots often centers on their humanization, as they are depicted as beings capable of complex decision-making and moral reasoning.	In contrast to Asimov's more rigidly controlled robots, Ian McEwan's <i>Machines Like Me</i> (2019) presents a world where robots are emotionally complex and capable of independent thought. The protagonist, Adam, is an artificially intelligent robot designed to be indistinguishable from humans in terms of appearance and behavior. However, unlike Asimov's robots, McEwan's machines possess the ability to question their existence, their purpose, and their relationships with humans. Through Adam and his counterpart, Miranda, McEwan explores the ethical complexities of artificial beings forming emotional bonds, making choices, and navigating the complexities of human society.

Ethical Dilemmas and Humanization	The concept of robot humanization in Asimov's works is not just about robots resembling humans but about their capacity for moral reasoning and ethical behavior. In <i>The Bicentennial Man</i> (1976), Asimov's robot protagonist, Andrew, seeks to become human, confronting questions of identity, humanity, and rights. Asimov's portrayal of robots highlights the complexity of human-robot relationships and the potential for robots to exhibit human-like qualities, particularly in terms of emotional and ethical understanding.	McEwan's portrayal of robots in <i>Machines Like Me</i> challenges the traditional boundaries between human and machine, raising profound ethical questions. Adam's autonomy and emotional capacity force both the characters in the novel and the readers to confront the implications of creating sentient machines. McEwan's exploration of the rights and responsibilities of creating such beings reflects broader concerns about artificial intelligence and the future of human-robot relations. The ethical dilemma of whether robots, despite their artificial nature, should be granted rights or treated as equals to humans is central to the novel.
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Comparison of Asimov and McEwan's Approaches; Both Asimov and McEwan depict robots as moral agents, but their approaches differ significantly in terms of how these robots are presented. Asimov's robots are governed by clear, defined laws, and their humanization is presented within a structured ethical framework. In contrast, McEwan's robots are portrayed as individuals with emotional depth, questioning their own existence and morality. While Asimov's robots are largely

confined to logical constraints, McEwan's robots explore the emotional and ethical complexities of free will and autonomy.

Humanization and Ethical Concerns; The humanization of robots in Asimov's and McEwan's works also differs in the manner in which robots interact with humans. Asimov's robots are often portrayed as obedient, with their primary function being the service of humanity. In McEwan's work, however, robots like Adam challenge the notion of servitude and demand recognition as autonomous beings with rights. This shift in portrayal reflects broader societal concerns about artificial intelligence, ethics, and the future of human-robot relationships.

The robot image in the works of Isaac Asimov and Ian McEwan offers distinct but complementary perspectives on the humanization and ethical implications of artificial intelligence. Asimov's robots, governed by the rigid constraints of the Three Laws, present a vision of robots as moral agents but within the confines of human control. McEwan's robots, in contrast, offer a more complex and emotionally nuanced portrayal, raising questions about autonomy, ethics, and the rights of artificial beings. Together, these works provide a rich tapestry for exploring the philosophical and ethical challenges of creating artificial intelligence and its potential impact on human society.

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