

Intricacies of Human Emotions and the Ethical Implications of AI in *Klara and the Sun*

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Abstract: AI has completely changed the planet and impacted practically every facet of human existence. John McCarthy and Alan Mathison Turing's groundbreaking research was the beginning of artificial intelligence. Kazuo Ishiguro (1954–), a 2017 Nobel laureate, novelist, composer, screenwriter, and author of short stories, explores the weighty subject of human emotions in his novel *Klara and the Sun*. Ishiguro writes in a variety of genres, including historical fiction, science fiction, and fantasy. Ishiguro uses posthumanistic settings to tell the tale of humanity in *Klara and the Sun*. The novel emphasises how technology disrupts human lives and emotions before proposing more technology as a solution. Posthumanism dehumanises the human being as the embodiment of creation and the foundation of all ontological study. Transhumanism, which erases the boundaries between humans and non-humans, was born out of the belief that we must go beyond humanism. The story of how technology is used to fight teen loneliness by generating artificial friends is told in this novel. The technology itself has caused these kids to become estranged from their families and society. The main purpose of Ishiguro's writing is to explore human relationships and love from AF's unique perspective as an outsider with unique logic and assumptions. Ishiguro via Klara portrays the virtues of love, kindness, self-sacrifice, humility and fellow concern. The novel is a human tale told by non-human robot, instigating all humans to question their own humanity. The novel asks the rhetorical question, what does it mean to be human?

Keywords: AF, AI, dystopia posthumanism, lifting transhumanism.

According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, artificial intelligence (AI) is the ability of a computer or robot to perform a range of tasks that are normally performed by intelligent organisms. In the middle of the 20th century, British logician and computer pioneer Alan Mathison Turing carried out the first substantial study on artificial intelligence. John McCarthy, a renowned computer and cognitive scientist, is regarded as the father of artificial intelligence (AI) because of his outstanding contributions to the disciplines of computer science and AI. McCarthy is the creator of LISP, a popular programming language used in robotics, science, and a variety of internet-based enterprises.

AI has drastically changed many facets of life and business, such as self-driving cars, healthcare, banking, industry, and voice assistants that offer tailored recommendations. AI has come a long way.

Kazuo Ishiguro (1954–) a Japanese-British novelist, musician, screenwriter, and short story writer whose works were praised by the Swedish Academy as "novels of great emotional force have uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world." Ishiguro won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature. Ishiguro writes in a variety of genres, including fantasy, science fiction, and historical fiction. Ishiguro uses a posthumanistic setting to tell a story about humanity in his eighth novel, *Klara and the Sun*. He stated; "My story is what AI does to human relationships, particularly in a family... story about a little girl AI robot who is been commercially created to stop teenagers from becoming lonely"(Ishiguro), is how he concisely explains the theme of his novel. The main plot of the novel emphasises how technology is seriously interfering with life and then offers more technology in an attempt to address the effects of this interference. Technology as a replacement for technology's demise.

Posthumanism dehumanises the human being as the embodiment of creation and the foundation of all ontological study. According to this perspective, humans are the highest social, logical, and political beings and the only ones who can comprehend the cosmos and behave appropriately. The idea that we need to go beyond humanism is further strengthened by posthumanist theory. A subset of posthumanism is transhumanism, which advocates for the erasure of the differences between human and nonhuman bodies. The epistemic viability of human subjectivity and agency is called into question by technologies such as genetic engineering, robots, and cloning. Ihab Hassan states, "We need to realize that humanism—which we must helplessly refer to as posthumanism—may be coming to an end after five hundred years of existence" (Ihab 843).

The posthuman movement's philosophy and theory insist that all ontological investigation must shift away from the human person.

Posthumanism challenges the idea that humans are logical creatures while attempting to offer a nuanced picture of what it means to be human. According to Pepperell (1995/2003), posthumanism is a type of anti-humanism. He states:

For a very long time, humans have believed that our capacity to create and manipulate technology is one of the characteristics that make us special and sets us apart from other animals. Ironically, the very technologies we are currently working to develop are challenging this sense of superiority and uniqueness, and it appears the balance of domination between human and machine is slowly shifting. (3)

Artificial friends are created in *Klara and the Sun* to help teens who are isolated from their families and society due to technology. The purpose of AFs is to combat isolation. We are made to see the changing global landscape of human relationships and family dynamics from the viewpoint of an AI only waiting to be selected by a teenager. Ishiguro likes to play around with his plot, exposing more and more details about the world over time. Ishiguro once declared in an interview, "I don't write message novels. I don't even write novels about dystopia. I write novels to help people to surf emotions." Ishiguro's primary goal in writing this novel is to examine love and human relationships from AF's unusual viewpoint as an outsider with distinct logic and assumptions. We observe human behavior from an outsider's perspective, trying to make sense of human behavior. The novel is about hope.

After being dumped at the scrap yard, the robot Klara narrates the story in retrospect. The artificial companion, Klara, is shown in a store in a city in the near future of the United States at the beginning of the story. Since all AFs run on solar power, Klara has always had a closer bond with the sun since she firmly thinks that it has the potential to both nurture and heal. Alex Preston in his *Guardian* review of *Klara and the Sun* writes, "A novel expands on his theme of what it means to be not-quite-human exploring love and loyalty through the eyes of an android."

The novel's narrator is Klara, a sophisticated robot with remarkable perceptual and cognitive abilities. The Manager of the shop states about Klara:

"Klara has so many unique qualities, we could be here all morning. But if I had to emphasize just one, well, it would have to be her appetite for observing and learning. Her ability to absorb and blend everything she sees around her is quite amazing. As a result, she now has the most sophisticated understanding of any AF's in this store." (42)

Klara is waiting to be picked up by a teenager. From the shop's front alcove, she keeps a close eye on everything in the hopes of learning everything. She keeps a close eye on everything from the shop's front alcove, anxious to learn anything that will help her fight the teen's loneliness. She witnesses people going about their daily lives, such as a beggar and his dog being left dead, a taxi driver bickering, an elderly couple getting back together, etc. Judith Shulevitz, American journalist, editor and culture critic in her article, "The Radiant Inner Life of a Robot" in *The Atlantic* states:

"Klara is Alexa, super-enhanced. She's the product that roboticists in a field called affective computing (also known as artificial emotional intelligence) have spent the past two decades trying to invent. Engineers have written software that can detect fine shades of feeling in human voices and faces, but so far they have failed to contrive machines that can simulate emotions convincingly."

Finally, fourteen-and-a-half-year-old Josie decides to make Klara as her artificial friend. The only people living in Josie's remote home are her mother, Mrs. Arthur Josie, and their housekeeper, Melania. Mrs. Arthur is a high-status employee who doesn't spend spending a lot of time with Klara, whereas Melania has consistently kept her distance. Josie keeps Klara in her room because she is so glad to have her around. In order to increase a child's intelligence and future readiness, a procedure called "lifting," which involves genetic alterations, has been performed on Josie. Josie's chronic illness results from the genetic "lifting" and has possibly lethal side effects. Genetic "lifting" didn't work for Mrs. Arthur's oldest daughter, Sal, who had also undergone lifting but was unable to survive. Rick is a fifteen-year-old "unlifted" boy who was Josie's childhood sweetheart and neighbour. Josie introduces Rick as her best friend, Klara says, "No. But... it's now my duty to be Josie's best friend". You're my AF. That's different. But Rick, well, we're going to spend our lives together" (Ishiguro 55).

The raised children are very influenced by their peers; they chastise Josie for selecting the B2 model for an artificial friend instead of the B3 type. At a party, they disrespectfully toss Klara into the air to test her ability to land by herself. Society is now split into two classes as a result of the "lifting" of children: those who are valued for their lifting and those who are valued for their constants. Ishiguro provides Klara with a set of boxes that resemble pixels so she can see the outside world. Through the character of Klara, Ishiguro exemplifies the values of love, kindness, selflessness, humility, and concern for others.



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We saw an excellent depiction of how love, humanity, and technology interact. It is a story narrated by a non-human robot. Ishiguro illustrates the virtues of love, kindness, selflessness, humility, and care for others through the character of Klara. We witnessed the exquisite portrayal of the interaction between love, humanity, and technology. The story, which is narrated by a non-human robot, touches our emotions, makes us consider our own humanity, and leaves us feeling I wonder. Through AF's eyes, the reader was able to witness the deepest sacrifices made by the human heart. What does it mean to be human? is the novel's rhetorical question. When asked if she believed she had accomplished her purpose towards the end of the novel, Klara says, "Yes, I believe I did a good job and kept Josie from being lonely" (Ishiguro 112).

Anita Felicelli in her article, "Bomb Under the Table: On Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun*" in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* states:

Klara and the Sun, however, is elegant and haunting and taut. It is best read as a keen, suspenseful inquiry into the uniqueness of the human heart. Is there a soul, something, anything that's beyond the reach of technology as it marches toward a destruction of everything we know? Through the novel's drama, Ishiguro offers us an answer. It's a profound one.

The novel ends on Rick and Josie going separate ways, Josie left for college. Josie thanked Klara for her services saying, "I guess you may not be here when I get back. You've been just great, Klara. You really have" (301). Klara is taken to junk yard where other AF's are, but she preferred to be on her own with her memories. Anupama Hosuri in her article, "*Klara and the Sun*: A Fable of Humanity in a Posthuman World" states:

Klara and the Sun preaches that the qualities like kindness, self-less love, self-sacrificing attitude, humility, belief and hope are not the sole domain of the human beings. These great qualities are to be found in the nature of our environment, animals, birds and also the appliances or machines that we use in our day-to-day life. The moral of the story is to be mindful, grateful and kind in our behavior towards all the human and non-human factors that surrounds us.

Among the qualities that the novel promote that are not unique to the populace are kindness, selflessness, humility, belief, and hope. The wildlife, birds, and surroundings all exhibit these excellent qualities. The moral of the story is to practise mindfulness and gratitude. We must act with awareness and consideration for all living and non-living things in our immediate environment. If we live with consideration for "others," life can be more beautiful and valuable. People from different racial and cultural backgrounds, our neighbours, our pets, machines, and the environment might all be considered "others" in today's world. Be kind in a world where we could be anything.

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