AI Turn in Ethical Literary Criticism

Lyu Hongbo & Fang Wenkai

Abstract: Artificial intelligence (AI) tools, leveraging advanced language models, acquire and emulate human literary creation. These tools exhibit the ability to rapidly generate a substantial volume of diverse multimodal literary works, cater to individualized reader preferences, and engage in interactive exchanges with readers, thereby fostering a paradigm of collaborative creation between humans and AI. In the era of AI, the roles of authors, literary works, readers, and critics will undergo significant transformations. AI literature poses challenges to existing literary theories that define traditional concepts in literature, thereby necessitating the reconstruction and advancement of literary criticism. Ethical literary criticism (ELC) with its interdisciplinary attributes, is dedicated to using scientific theoretical methods to study the mechanisms of literary creation and its ethical implications. Building on its original theoretical framework, ELC actively addresses the issues and needs arising from AI literature research. Nie Zhenzhao's definitions of language and text facilitate the study of future literary types and their significance. The narrative, aesthetics, and educational aspects of AI literature will also become focal points and domains for further innovation and development in ELC. The scientific selection phase represents the AI era, and with the AI turn, ELC has undergone significant transformations.

Keywords: AI turn; ethical literary criticism; scientific selection; AI literature

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标题: 文学伦理学批评的人工智能转向

内容摘要: 人工智能工具通过大语言模型学习并模仿人类进行文学创作, 不仅能够快速生成大量多模态、多样式的文学作品, 还能满足读者的个性化需求并与读者产生互动, 开启人机协作的创作模式。人工智能时代的作者、作品、读者、批评者都将产生重要转变。人工智能文学突破了现有文学理论对

传统文学概念的界定，亟需文学批评的重构与发展。具有跨学科属性的文学伦理学批评致力于用科学的理论方法研究文学的生成机制和伦理内涵，在原有的理论架构和基础上积极关注人工智能文学研究的问题与需求。聂珍钊对语言和文本的定义有助于研究未来文学的类型和意义，而且人工智能文学的叙事、审美、教育都将成为文学伦理学批评进一步创新发展的支点和场域。科学选择阶段就是人工智能时代，文学伦理学批评随着人工智能转向迎来了重大变革。

关键词：人工智能转向；文学伦理学批评；科学选择；人工智能文学

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Introduction

After twenty years of development, ethical literary criticism (ELC) has welcomed a new turn, namely the Artificial Intelligence (AI) turn. This concept was formally introduced by Nie Zhenzhao, the father of ELC,[1] at the high-end Forum on Future Literature and ELC held at the School of Foreign Languages, Jiangnan University, on April 12, 2024. This marks a new stage in the development of ELC. The AI turn in ELC not only reflects the impact of technological advancement on literary research but also demonstrates the theoretical development trends of ELC in the context of the new era.

The AI turn in ELC highlights the necessity for ELC to innovate on its inherent interdisciplinary nature when addressing AI literature. This turn aims to explore ethical themes and moral judgments in the literature of the scientific selection[2] stage, providing new perspectives and tools for literary research, and leading the discussion of frontier issues. Specifically, the AI turn involves ethical examination of AI-generated content, analysis of the AI creation process, and innovation in the methods of critiquing AI literary works. Nie Zhenzhao points out that the advent of the AI era not only changes the way literature is created but also redefines the identities of authors and the needs of readers. AI literature is not only a new literary

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1   See Chen Lizhen, "Rejuvenation and Innovation: The Past, Present and Future of Ethical Literary Criticism," *Interdisciplinary Studies of Literature* 3 (2019): 389.

2   See Nie Zhenzhao, *Introduction to Ethical Literature Criticism*, Beijing: Peking UP, 2014, 251.

form but also an interdisciplinary research field that integrates literature, ethics, computer science, and other disciplines, providing ELC with rich research materials and broad development space.

I. Necessity of AI Turn

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) technology has had a profound impact on various fields, including literary creation and criticism. AI creation tools are already capable of generating high-quality texts across various genres, from poetry to novels. These tools use deep learning techniques to train on vast amounts of textual data, simulating human writing styles to produce coherent and logical literary works. This technological breakthrough not only enhances creative efficiency but also transforms traditional literary creation processes. Additionally, AI can generate personalized literary content based on readers' interests and preferences, catering to diverse reader needs. As AI technology advances, literary creation is no longer confined to textual expression. AI can integrate images, audio, video, and other media to create multimodal works. The rise of AI creation has sparked discussions about author identity and creation ethics by scholars like Nie Zhenzhao and Yang Gexin. Traditional literary criticism centers on human authors, examining how their personal experiences and thoughts influence their works. However, AI-generated works lack individual experiences, prompting critics to rethink the concept of the creative subject. Assessing the literary value and ethical implications of AI creation has become a crucial task for ELC. AI creation brings numerous ethical and legal issues, such as copyright ownership, originality, and moral responsibility. ELC plays a vital role in this regard, offering theoretical support for policy-making and legal frameworks. Critics need to continually update and refine theoretical systems to adapt to new technological trends.

AI creation tools, such as Artificial Intelligence Generated Content (AIGC), can replace humans in completing literary creation. This not only alters the traditional role of authors but also triggers extensive ethical discussions about the identity of authors. In traditional literary creation, the author is the sole creator of the work. However, the emergence of AI creation tools disrupts this traditional concept, making the notion of "author" more complex and diverse. These tools can create based on preset themes and styles and can respond in real-time to user inputs, engaging in interactive creation. This capability transforms AI from a mere auxiliary tool into an independent creative entity. AI-generated works can match human authors in language expression, plot construction, and character development, and even surpass human creation in some aspects. For instance, AI can generate a

large volume of creative content in a short time, meeting market demand for new works, and can also adjust and optimize based on reader feedback. The widespread application of AI creation tools poses significant challenges to the traditional role of authors. In traditional literary creation, authors are not only the creators of works but also the soul of the works. Their personal experiences, emotional experiences, and viewpoints profoundly impact the content and form of the works, giving each work a unique personality and style. However, the advent of AI creation tools diminishes this uniqueness. AI-generated works raise disputes about originality and copyright ownership. Traditionally, copyright belongs to the creator, an individual or organization with independent creative intent and ability. However, as a tool, should AI-generated works receive the same copyright protection? Furthermore, human authors convey cultural values and social identities through their works, while AI creation tools, might produce works that lack cultural depth and social resonance. Whether AI-generated works can truly represent a particular culture or group is a question worth considering.

AI literature represents a new form of future literature, necessitating new critical theories for its interpretation and analysis. This new form is characterized by innovations in content and form, as well as significant transformations in the mechanisms of creation and modes of dissemination. AI literature introduces dynamic and adaptive narratives that can evolve based on reader interaction and feedback. This level of interactivity not only enhances reader engagement but also requires a new critical approach to analyze the fluid nature of these narratives. AI literature often employs multimodal and transmedia storytelling techniques, combining text with images, audio, video, and other media forms. This convergence of multiple media formats creates a richer and more immersive reading experience. Critically analyzing such works necessitates an understanding of how different media elements interact and contribute to the overall narrative and thematic expression. AI literature is often distributed through digital platforms that leverage AI for content recommendation and personalization. These platforms can analyze user data to suggest tailored reading experiences, thus transforming how literature is consumed. AI technology enables the rapid translation and adaptation of literary works, fostering greater cultural exchange and global reach. AI-generated literature can be instantly translated into multiple languages, broadening its accessibility and impact. Critical analysis should consider the implications of AI-facilitated translation on cultural specificity, literary nuance, and cross-cultural communication. New critical frameworks must be established to evaluate the aesthetic, ethical, and technical aspects of AI literature. While new theories are

essential, adapting traditional literary theories to address the nuances of AI literature is equally important. Concepts such as ethical identity, ethical choice, and ethical environment can be reinterpreted to accommodate the innovations introduced by AI. This adaptation ensures continuity and coherence in literary criticism. In conclusion, AI literature represents a transformative new form of future literature, necessitating the development of new critical theories and the adaptation of existing ones. By addressing the innovations in content, the transformations in creation mechanisms, the changes in dissemination methods, and the ethical considerations, ELC can effectively navigate the evolving landscape of AI literature. This approach ensures that literary criticism remains relevant and robust in the face of technological advancements, fostering a deeper understanding of the interplay between literature and AI.

II. Feasibility of AI Turn

Since 2004, ELC has undergone twenty years of development, continuously keeping pace with the times, innovating and refining itself. In recent years, numerous conferences centered on technology themes have been held, reflecting a strong awareness of contemporary issues and a spirit of innovation. At the 9th Convention of the International Association for Ethical Literary Criticism held in Hangzhou in 2019, it was clearly stated that AI represents the future direction of literary development and is also a turn in ELC. The theme of the conference explicitly highlighted AI literature and pointed out that the focus on AI will remain a central topic for a considerable time. ELC is at the forefront of literary research, whether in foreign or Chinese literature, and has clearly identified AI as a key direction from the association's perspective. At the opening ceremony, Nie Zhenzhao emphasized that gene technology, artificial intelligence, and fifth-generation mobile communication technology (5G) are the driving forces propelling us into the stage of scientific selection. At the 10th Convention in Beijing in 2020, he reiterated that research on cognitive neuroscience, artificial intelligence, microchips, and information technologies will result in rapid transformations in literary research, paving new paths for scientific research in the humanities. At the 11th Convention in Guangzhou in 2022, he stressed once again that the integration of AI literature and AI as literature is a characteristic of scientific reality and an ethical choice we must make. This represents the ethical-scientific-turn we will undergo. At the 12th Convention in Wuhan in 2023, he again discussed AI and literature in his speech at the opening ceremony. In the field of ELC, future development lies in the alliance between digitalization and artificial intelligence research. Future Humanities Lab

has been established at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. This lab aims to integrate the humanities within scientific technology, develop application tools for intelligent humanities research, explore interdisciplinary development between AI learning and humanities disciplines, and seek scientific methods and approaches for reconstructing literary theory. While continuously absorbing and learning from the latest technological advancements, ELC also consistently reflects upon and adjusts its theoretical framework to meet the needs of contemporary literary research. Through integration with technology, ELC has demonstrated its strong vitality and adaptability, laying a solid foundation for future development.

ELC emphasizes the objectivity, scientific nature, and timeliness of its theory, applying it broadly across Eastern and Western literature, traditional and modern literature, and various genres such as poetry, drama, and novels. By integrating scientific research methods, ELC can more accurately and deeply analyze ethical issues in literary works, uncovering the moral significance behind them. At the same time, the scientific and objective nature of the theory allows ELC to better adapt to the characteristics and needs of AI literature, providing theoretical support for its development. To solve problems and meet needs, ELC has constructed a systematic theory. This theory is proposed based on specific national conditions and practical circumstances, aiming to address issues arising in society. Its necessity and urgency lie in the fundamental function of literature to reflect and explore ethical and moral issues. This theory focuses on the development of literature itself and, based on foundational works like the *Introduction to Ethical Literary Criticism* (2014) and *A Study on the Theory of Ethical Literary Criticism* (2020), has established a unique set of critical terminology and discourse system, becoming a useful tool for literary criticism. These theoretical tools enable researchers to better understand and analyze ethical issues in literary works. The "scientific selection" in the three-stage civilization theory is forward-looking, showing a vision of development. It is essential to view human ethical issues and ELC with a historical and developmental perspective.[1] Each era has its specific ethics; what is regarded as true ethics in one era may be considered erroneous in another. Therefore, ethical issues should not be approached with a rigid attitude but must evolve with changing times. ELC can not only address ethical issues in reality but also adapt to emerging AI literature, providing robust theoretical support.

ELC's integration with science and technology, including fields such as the

1   See Nie Zhenzhao, "Ethical Literary Criticism: A Basic Theory," *Forum for World Literature Studies* 2 (2021): 189.

human brain, language, consciousness,[1] and texts, exemplifies its interdisciplinary and integrative nature. The study of AI literature necessitates the application of knowledge from multiple disciplines, including computer science, cognitive science, linguistics, and more. In this regard, ELC holds a unique advantage. Integrating insights from brain text and cognitive science allows ELC to delve into the neurological and cognitive processes involved in reading and creating literature. By understanding how the brain processes narrative structures, metaphors, and ethical dilemmas presented in texts, researchers can develop more nuanced interpretations of literary works. This interdisciplinary approach helps in exploring how AI-generated texts are perceived by human readers and the cognitive impact they may have. Language is at the core of both literature and AI-generated content. Understanding the nuances of language helps in assessing the stylistic and rhetorical strategies employed in AI-generated literature. Yang Gexin believes that Nie Zhenzhao's redefinition of language[2] precisely confirms that both language and AI share the same instantaneity in their generation processes. Meanwhile, the study of consciousness and philosophical inquiries into the nature of creativity and authorship are crucial in ELC of AI literature. Philosophical perspectives can help address questions about the nature of AI consciousness (if any), the ethical implications of machine creativity, and the redefinition of authorship in the age of AI. This interdisciplinary dialogue enriches the theoretical underpinnings of literary criticism and provides a deeper understanding of the ethical dimensions involved. Interdisciplinary collaboration enables ELC to provide multidimensional support for AI literary studies. By embracing collaboration across fields such as cognitive science, linguistics, computer science, and philosophy, ELC can expand its research horizons and propose comprehensive theoretical frameworks.

While maintaining its distinctive Chinese characteristics, ELC has also achieved broad international influence, demonstrating its vibrant developmental prospects. By integrating traditional Chinese cultural elements with modern scientific and technological advancements, ELC has constructed a uniquely Chinese theoretical framework. This framework not only addresses practical issues in domestic literary research but also exerts a positive impact on the international literary research community. This integration allows for a nuanced critique that respects traditional values while embracing modern analytical techniques,

1   See Nie Zhenzhao, "On Human Cognition and Consciousness," *Zhejiang Social Sciences* 10 (2020): 94.

2   See Nie Zhenzhao, "On Language and Text," *Journal of Hangzhou Normal University (Humanities and Social Sciences)* 5 (2023): 47.

making the theory both culturally grounded and forward-looking. ELC has gained significant traction internationally, with scholars from various countries adopting and adapting its principles. Its methodological rigor and ethical focus resonate with global academic audiences, leading to its inclusion in international conferences, journals, and scholarly discussions. This widespread acceptance underscores the theory's versatility and relevance across different cultural and academic settings. Through active participation in international academic exchanges and collaborative projects, ELC continuously absorbs and incorporates the latest research findings. These interactions foster mutual understanding and knowledge sharing, enhancing the theoretical robustness and applicability of ELC. International conferences and workshops serve as platforms for Chinese scholars to present their research, engage with global peers, and refine their theoretical approaches based on diverse feedback. The principles of ELC have been influential in shaping global literary studies, particularly in areas concerning ethics and literature. By providing a framework that emphasizes moral considerations in literary analysis, it has inspired scholars worldwide to revisit and re-evaluate the ethical dimensions of literary works. This influence is evident in the increasing number of international publications that incorporate ELC. ELC remains dynamic, continually adapting to new literary forms and technological advancements. By incorporating the latest developments in AI, digital humanities, and interdisciplinary studies, it stays relevant and responsive to the evolving landscape of literary research. This adaptability ensures that ELC can address contemporary issues effectively while maintaining its core ethical focus. The ongoing exchange with international scholars and the integration of cutting-edge research foster continuous theoretical innovation within ELC. This process leads to the development of new analytical tools, methodologies, and theoretical perspectives that enhance its analytical precision and depth. As a result, ELC evolves into a more comprehensive and sophisticated critical framework.

III. Development Trends of the AI Turn

Nie Zhenzhao's definition of future literature involves the concept of multimodality, which indicates that new concepts and terms will continually emerge. Multimodal literature integrates text with visual and auditory elements, creating a richer and more immersive storytelling experience. For example, a multimodal novel might combine written chapters with illustrations, audio recordings of character dialogues, and video segments that enhance the narrative. This fusion of different media forms allows for a more dynamic and engaging way to tell stories, capturing the reader's attention through multiple sensory channels. The incorporation of various

media forms gives rise to new genres and subgenres within literature. These might include interactive digital novels, graphic novels with integrated soundtracks, or virtual reality experiences that allow readers to explore narrative worlds in three dimensions. Each of these new genres presents unique opportunities for creative expression and expands the boundaries of what literature can be. By engaging multiple senses, multimodal literature can create deeper emotional and cognitive connections with readers. For instance, the combination of text and music can evoke specific moods and atmospheres, while visual elements can provide context and clarity to complex narrative structures. This heightened level of engagement can lead to a more memorable and impactful reading experience. Future literary criticism must develop cross-media analytical skills to understand and interpret the interactions and synergies between different modes of expression. Critics need to be adept at analyzing not just the written word but also visual aesthetics, sound design, and multimedia integration. This requires a broadening of traditional literary analytical frameworks to include theories and methodologies from art criticism, musicology, film studies, and digital media studies. One of the key challenges in multimodal literary criticism is interpreting how different modes interact and influence each other within a single work. For example, how does an accompanying soundtrack shape the reader's perception of a written scene? How do visual elements complement or contrast with the textual narrative? Understanding these interactions is crucial for grasping the full meaning and value of multimodal works. Establishing criteria for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of multimodal literature is another important task. Traditional literary criticism often relies on established metrics for assessing textual coherence, thematic depth, and stylistic innovation. In contrast, multimodal literature requires new evaluative criteria that consider the integration and harmony of different media forms, the effectiveness of sensory engagement, and the innovation in blending multiple modes of expression. Addressing the challenges of multimodal literature requires interdisciplinary collaboration. Literary critics, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and digital technologists must work together to develop comprehensive analytical frameworks and methodologies. This collaboration can lead to a richer understanding of multimodal works and foster innovation in both literary creation and criticism.

Future research in literary studies will not merely engage in theoretical discourse but will be firmly rooted in the study of literary texts themselves. ELC has always placed great importance on textual analysis. Nie Zhenzhao's classification of texts into brain texts, material texts, and electronic texts provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the different dimensions of literary works. Brain texts

involve the cognitive processes and brain activities that occur when engaging with literature. Material texts refer to the physical manifestations of literature, such as printed books. Electronic texts encompass digital and online literary forms. This tripartite classification is particularly relevant in the context of AI literature, which often blurs the boundaries between these categories. The advent of AI literature brings with it a plethora of new literary forms and text types. These include interactive narratives, procedurally generated stories, and hybrid texts that combine elements of traditional and digital literature. Each of these forms presents unique challenges and opportunities for literary criticism. By focusing on the text itself, critics can explore how AI-generated works innovate within and transcend traditional literary boundaries. Text-based research is crucial for uncovering the unique artistic value of AI-generated literature. By closely examining the text, critics can identify the innovative narrative techniques, stylistic devices, and thematic explorations that characterize AI literature. This detailed analysis helps to appreciate the creativity and originality embedded in AI-generated works, highlighting their contributions to the literary canon. In addition to artistic value, textual analysis can reveal the ethical implications of AI-generated literature. By scrutinizing the themes and messages conveyed in these works, critics can assess their alignment with ethical principles and societal values. This is particularly important given the autonomous nature of AI creators, whose output may reflect biases or ethical considerations inherent in their training data. ELC thus plays a vital role in evaluating the moral dimensions of AI literature. The future of literary research lies in a return to the text, emphasizing rigorous and detailed textual analysis. ELC, with its long-standing focus on textual studies, is well-positioned to lead this endeavor. By utilizing advanced AI tools such as natural language processing and algorithmic analysis, critics can enhance the scientific rigor and precision of their work. This approach not only reveals the unique artistic and ethical significance of AI-generated literature but also ensures that literary criticism remains relevant and robust in the age of AI.

Robot literature and laboratory research will highlight the diversity and potential of AI literature. Robot literature is not only an application of AI technology in literary creation but also an important exploration of new models of literary creation. Su Hui's classification of robot literature provides a systematic framework for understanding the different types and functions of AI-generated literary works. This classification will include genres such as interactive narratives, procedurally generated stories, and AI-assisted creative writing. Each type showcases the unique capabilities of AI in generating diverse and innovative literary forms, highlighting the expansive potential of AI in literature. Robot literature represents

a significant shift in how literary works are created. Unlike traditional literature, which relies solely on human creativity, robot literature involves AI as a co-creator. This collaborative approach allows for the exploration of new narrative structures and styles that might not be achievable by humans alone. For instance, AI can generate complex branching storylines that adapt to reader choices, offering a more personalized and interactive reading experience. Through laboratory research, critics can gain a deep understanding of the principles and processes of AI creation, revealing the technical mechanisms and ethical issues behind it, thus providing scientific evidence and theoretical support for AI literary criticism. Liu Maosheng's laboratory research delves into the underlying principles of AI literary creation. By studying the algorithms and data models used by AI to generate text, researchers can uncover the methods by which AI mimics human creativity. This understanding is crucial for developing more advanced AI systems that can produce even more sophisticated and nuanced literary works. Laboratory research also sheds light on the technical mechanisms of AI creation. This includes the training processes for AI models, the types of data used, and the computational methods employed. By analyzing these aspects, researchers can identify the strengths and limitations of current AI technologies and work towards improving their capabilities. For example, understanding how AI models handle narrative coherence and character development can lead to enhancements in these areas, resulting in more compelling AI-generated stories. One of the significant contributions of laboratory research is its focus on the ethical implications of AI literary creation. This includes issues such as the originality of AI-generated content, intellectual property rights, and the potential biases present in AI algorithms. By addressing these ethical concerns, researchers can ensure that AI literature is created and distributed in a manner that is fair and just. For instance, examining the sources of data used to train AI models can help identify and mitigate biases, promoting the creation of more inclusive and representative literary works. Laboratory research provides empirical studies that form the basis for theoretical advancements in AI literary criticism. These studies offer quantifiable data on the performance and outputs of AI literary systems, which can be used to evaluate the artistic and ethical merits of AI-generated literature. For example, statistical analyses of narrative complexity and thematic diversity in AI-generated texts can provide insights into the creative potential of AI. The insights gained from laboratory research contribute to the development of robust theoretical frameworks for AI literary criticism. These frameworks incorporate findings from empirical studies to offer a comprehensive understanding of AI literature. They address key questions such as how AI-generated texts should be evaluated, what

constitutes originality in AI literature, and how to integrate AI literary works into the broader literary canon. These theoretical frameworks are essential for guiding future research and practice in the field of AI literature.

The rise of AI literature poses significant challenges to traditional narratology. AI-generated literary works exhibit unique characteristics in narrative structure, character development, and thematic expression, demanding a re-evaluation and adjustment of traditional narratological theories. AI-generated narratives often differ significantly from those crafted by human authors. As Shang Biwu stated, in the past, our ethical positions included the protagonists of the works and the creative subjects, all of which were human-centered. However, in AI narratives, the roles of the author, narrator, and character are all facing a new wave of reconstruction. AI systems can create complex, multi-layered plots with non-linear timelines and interactive elements. This dynamic approach to storytelling challenges traditional narratological frameworks, which typically analyze more linear and static narrative forms. In AI literature, characters may be generated and developed using algorithms that draw from vast datasets. This can result in characters that are unique and diverse but may also lack the depth and consistency found in human-created characters. AI-generated characters might exhibit unexpected behaviors or evolve in unconventional ways, requiring new methods of character analysis and interpretation. Critics must consider how these algorithmically developed characters fit into existing theories of character construction and development. Understanding the algorithmic processes behind AI-generated literature is crucial for modern narratology. This involves studying how algorithms create and manipulate narrative elements, and how these processes influence the final text. Integrating computational analysis with traditional narrative theory can provide deeper insights into the mechanics of AI storytelling. Meanwhile, Shang Biwu proposed that in the context of the nonhuman turn, AI literature, including narratives produced by nonhumans, should be reexamined. This allows us to effectively discuss issues related to the implied author, reliable narration, narrative communication, and ethics.

AI literature raises questions about aesthetic subjectivity, prompting critics to explore the role of AI as a creator and its ethical implications. One of the most profound questions posed by AI literature is the role of AI as an aesthetic subject. Unlike human authors, AI lacks personal experiences, emotions, and consciousness. Critics must consider what it means for an entity without subjective experiences to create art. Wang Songlin uses the example of Microsoft Xiaoice writing poetry to introduce the question of whether future artificial intelligence can possess its own emotional experiences and aesthetic sensibilities. He believes that to address

the issue of AI's aesthetic capabilities, scientific selection and brain text theory in ELC may offer a forward-looking solution for the ethical choices of future artificial intelligence. This involves examining the aesthetic value of AI-generated works and how they are perceived by human audiences. The ethical implications of AI as a creator are vast. This includes questions about authorship, originality, and the moral responsibilities of AI developers. Critics need to explore whether AI-generated works can be considered original and how intellectual property laws apply to these creations. Additionally, the potential biases in AI algorithms and their impact on literary production must be scrutinized to ensure ethical integrity in AI literature. The collaboration between human authors and AI systems introduces a new dimension to aesthetic subjectivity. This partnership can lead to innovative artistic expressions but also raises questions about the division of creative labor and the recognition of contributions. Critics must examine how these collaborative efforts influence the final artistic product and what it means for the concept of authorship.

The development of AI literature necessitates innovation in literary education and teacher competence. In advancing research and practice in literary education, Wang Zhuo discovered that science fiction possesses a unique dual attribute of humanistic and scientific literacy, a dual value not found in other literary genres. In the AI era, using linguistic arts to learn science has become increasingly important. Literature influences values, attitudes, behaviors, and social norms, and plays a crucial role in instruction and guidance, which is a fundamental viewpoint of ELC. To adapt literary education to the AI era, teacher training systems must also keep pace with the times. Zhang Xin believes that in the future of literary education and the cultivation of teachers' digital literacy, literature teachers may face many challenges. Educational institutions should provide continuous professional development opportunities for teachers, helping them update their knowledge, master the latest technological tools, and flexibly apply them in teaching. Through systematic training and practice, teachers can effectively fulfill their roles as educators and guides in the context of AI literature. Furthermore, teachers need to possess interdisciplinary knowledge and skills to organically combine science and literature, guiding students to appreciate literature while understanding scientific principles. AI-generated content provides rich material for teaching, but it also requires teachers to have critical thinking skills to guide students in properly viewing and analyzing this content. Teachers also need to have a high level of ethical literacy. In the context of AI literature, discussing the ethical and moral issues of works becomes more complex and important. Teachers must be able to guide students to consider the ethical issues behind AI-generated works, such as

author identity, copyright ownership, and moral responsibility, cultivating students' ethical awareness and social responsibility. By integrating the innovations of ELC, teachers can not only impart knowledge but also guide students in deep thinking, nurturing them to become well-rounded individuals with scientific literacy and humanistic spirit.

Conclusion

Nie Zhenzhao believes that artificial intelligence is no longer just in its early stages; it has already achieved significant practical results.[1] Therefore, we need to have a sense of urgency and recognize the profound impact that AI technology has already had on literary creation. As early as the 1990s, Marjorie Perloff wrote *Radical Artifice: Writing Poetry in the Age of Media* (translated by Nie Zhenzhao, 2013). The pioneering and leading thoughts in this book provided Nie Zhenzhao with considerable inspiration during the translation process. The discussions in the book on literary modernity and the multimodal representation and expression of literature are essential components of modern literary research. This experience not only demonstrates Nie Zhenzhao and his team's leading position in thought and practice but also provided valuable insights and inspiration through the translation. After twenty years of development, ELC has embraced the AI turn, which is not just a technological and theoretical innovation but also a significant breakthrough in the field of literary research. By exploring the ethical themes and moral judgments in AI literature, ELC offers new perspectives and tools for literary studies, promoting its continuous development in the new era. AI literary criticism not only meets the current and future needs of literary research but also has a profound impact globally. Through theoretical innovation and practical application, ELC will continue to play an important role in international literary research, advancing human literature's continuous progress and development. This turn signifies the need to continuously update and refine theoretical frameworks to keep pace with the rapid development of AI technology. As Nie Zhenzhao pointed out, ELC emerged from the crisis of the perceived uselessness of literary theory; it is a product of the struggle for the survival of literary theory. Looking back, ELC was not constructed on the foundation of literary aesthetic frameworks but was guided by scientific principles. It approaches literature with a scientific attitude, perspectives, theories, and methods. By exploring the scientific principles underlying the mechanisms of literary creation, it is dedicated to the reconstruction of interdisciplinary research

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1   See Nie Zhenzhao, "On the Neutral Network Machine Translation in the Age of Science," *Journal of Tianjin Foreign Studies University* 6 (2023): 1.

in literary theory. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and research, ELC will remain at the forefront of literary studies, addressing real-world ethical issues and providing scientifically and practically grounded theoretical support, thereby ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of literary criticism in the new era.

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