

Narrative Analysis of AI-Generated Storytelling: Exploring Narrative Structure, Characterization, Themes, and Storytelling Strategies

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ABSTRACT

The rapid development of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed creative content production, including the generation of stories and fictional narratives. As AI increasingly participates in storytelling, examining the narrative structures and thematic patterns of AI-generated content becomes important for understanding machine-generated creativity. However, the narrative characteristics of AI storytelling remain insufficiently explored from a qualitative literary perspective. This study aims to analyze the narrative structure, characterization, themes, narrative voice, and storytelling strategies found in AI-generated storytelling content. A qualitative narrative analysis was conducted on 30 short stories generated using ChatGPT through standardized prompts. The data were analyzed using a structural narrative framework focusing on plot, characterization, setting, conflict, point of view, theme, and resolution, combined with thematic analysis. The findings indicate that AI-generated stories predominantly employ linear and conventional plot structures, recognizable character archetypes, explicit emotional descriptions, and recurring themes such as love, friendship, family, morality, resilience, loneliness, and hope. Third-person and first-person perspectives are commonly used, while descriptive language, conventional metaphors, dialogue, repetition, and formulaic transitions contribute to narrative coherence. Overall, the stories demonstrate strong structural coherence and emotional accessibility but tend to favor predictable patterns, moral resolutions, and conventional endings over narrative ambiguity and experimentation. The study concludes that AI-generated storytelling effectively reproduces established narrative conventions while revealing distinctive characteristics of machine-generated creative production.

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1. Introduction

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) has significantly transformed the production and consumption of creative content. The emergence of generative AI and large language models has enabled machines to produce various forms of text, including stories, scripts, fictional narratives, poetry, and other creative works. Unlike earlier computational systems that primarily performed predefined linguistic tasks, contemporary AI systems can generate relatively coherent and contextually relevant narratives based on human-provided prompts. This development has expanded the role of AI from a technological tool for information processing to a potential participant in creative production. Consequently, the conventional relationship between author, technology, and audience has become increasingly complex, as narrative content can now be generated through interactions between human intentions and machine-generated language.

AI-based storytelling represents an important development within this changing creative environment (Amato et al., 2019). Through carefully designed prompts, AI systems can construct characters, develop plots, establish settings, create conflicts, generate dialogue, and produce narrative resolutions. These capabilities allow AI to reproduce many of the structural elements traditionally associated with human storytelling. However, the ability of AI to produce coherent stories also raises questions concerning the nature of machine-generated creativity. AI-generated narratives may demonstrate recognizable patterns of plot development, characterization, emotional expression, and thematic construction, while potentially relying heavily on existing linguistic and cultural patterns learned from large-scale training data. Therefore, AI storytelling should not only be understood in terms of its technological capability to generate text but also examined as a distinctive form of contemporary narrative production.

The emergence of AI-generated storytelling also creates important questions about creativity, originality, coherence, and meaning. Human authors generally construct narratives through personal experiences, cultural knowledge, imagination, social observations, and intentional artistic choices. AI systems, in contrast, generate narratives by processing patterns and relationships learned from large amounts of textual data. As a result, an AI-generated story may appear creative and emotionally meaningful while simultaneously exhibiting formulaic structures or recurring narrative conventions (Parikh, 2019). Examining these characteristics is important because the apparent fluency of AI-generated narratives does not necessarily indicate the same processes of creativity and meaning-making associated with human authorship. Narrative analysis can therefore provide a deeper understanding of what AI-generated stories actually do as narratives rather than merely determining whether their language is grammatically accurate or their content is technically coherent.

Narrative analysis is particularly relevant because stories communicate meaning through the interaction of multiple narrative elements. Plot structure determines how events are organized and connected, while characterization establishes the identities, motivations, conflicts, and development of characters. Setting provides the spatial and temporal context in which events occur, whereas conflict creates tension and drives narrative progression. In addition, point of view and narrative voice influence how events and characters are presented to readers. Themes, dialogue, and resolutions further contribute to the construction of meaning and values within a narrative. Analyzing these elements in AI-generated stories can reveal whether AI predominantly reproduces conventional storytelling patterns or demonstrates distinctive approaches to narrative construction.

Furthermore, examining AI-based storytelling from a narrative perspective can contribute to broader discussions about the cultural and ideological implications of generative AI. AI-generated narratives do not emerge in a cultural vacuum; their outputs are influenced by the patterns, genres, representations, and linguistic conventions embedded in their training data and shaped by the prompts provided by users (Yanisky-Ravid & Martens, 2019). Consequently, recurring representations of gender, relationships, morality, social roles, conflict, or human identity may appear in AI-generated narratives. Narrative analysis can help identify these recurring patterns and examine how AI constructs characters, themes, values, and relationships. Such an approach is particularly important because the increasing use of AI in creative industries and everyday content production means that machine-generated narratives may increasingly participate in shaping how audiences encounter stories and cultural representations.

Research on AI-based storytelling has developed considerably over the past decade, moving from rule-based and neural approaches to sophisticated generative AI and large language models (LLMs). Early research primarily focused on the technical problem of enabling computers to generate coherent sequences of narrative events. One important

contribution was made by Martin et al. (2018) through their work on Event Representations for Automated Story Generation with Deep Neural Nets. Their study explored how events could be represented and used by deep neural networks to support automated story generation. This research was significant because it shifted attention from merely generating sentences toward representing narrative events and their relationships.

Building on this computational storytelling tradition, Guerrero Román and Pérez y Pérez (2019) examined a methodology for forecasting characteristics of an automatic storyteller's outputs. Their work emphasized narrative generation, plot evaluation, computational creativity, and similarity analysis. They argued that automatic storytelling is a challenging AI problem because traditional systems often depended on predefined story structures or schemas. Their study is particularly relevant to narrative analysis because it demonstrates that the characteristics of generated stories can be examined systematically rather than treating machine-generated narratives simply as technical outputs.

Another important contribution was made by Ammanabrolu et al. (2019) in Guided Neural Language Generation for Automated Storytelling. The researchers developed an approach in which generated language was guided by narrative events. Their findings demonstrated that event-guided generation could outperform baseline sequence-to-sequence approaches and support end-to-end automated storytelling. Importantly, their research identified a continuing challenge in AI storytelling: a system may produce grammatically correct sentences while failing to maintain semantic relationships with the events of the story. This finding establishes narrative coherence as a central issue in evaluating AI-generated stories.

The problem of coherence was investigated further by Guan et al. (2020) in their study A Knowledge-Enhanced Pretraining Model for Commonsense Story Generation. They observed that neural language models such as GPT-2 could produce fluent text but still suffered from repetition, logical conflicts, and insufficient long-range coherence. To address these problems, they incorporated commonsense knowledge and causal and temporal relationships into story generation. Their results showed that knowledge-enhanced models could generate more reasonable stories, particularly in terms of logic and global coherence. This research is relevant to the present study because it demonstrates that narrative quality depends not only on linguistic fluency but also on relationships among characters, events, causality, and temporal progression.

Despite the growing interest in generative AI and creative content production, existing research has frequently emphasized the technological performance, efficiency, linguistic quality, or creative potential of AI systems. Comparatively less attention has been given to the internal narrative characteristics of AI-generated storytelling content. In particular, there remains a need for qualitative examination of how AI constructs plot structures, character representations, themes, narrative perspectives, and storytelling strategies across generated stories. Previous discussions of AI creativity may establish that AI can produce apparently creative texts, but they do not always explain how narrative meaning is constructed within those texts. This gap indicates the need for a systematic narrative analysis that examines AI-generated stories as cultural and literary texts rather than simply as technological outputs.

Based on this research gap, the present study focuses on the narrative characteristics of AI-generated storytelling content (Chung et al., 2022). The study examines how AI constructs narrative structures, represents characters, develops themes, and employs storytelling strategies to produce coherent and meaningful stories. By examining these elements systematically, the study seeks to identify recurring narrative patterns and determine whether AI-generated storytelling primarily reproduces established narrative conventions or demonstrates distinctive characteristics associated with machine-generated creative

production. The study therefore contributes to the emerging field of AI and literary studies by positioning AI-generated stories as objects of narrative inquiry.

Accordingly, this study aims to analyze the narrative structures, characterization, dominant themes, and storytelling strategies employed in AI-generated storytelling content. The study addresses the following research questions: (1) How are narrative structures constructed in AI-generated storytelling content? (2) How are characters and characterization represented in AI-generated stories? (3) What dominant themes emerge from AI-generated storytelling content? (4) What storytelling strategies are employed to construct narrative meaning? and (5) What characteristics distinguish AI-generated narratives from conventional storytelling? Through these questions, the study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of how artificial intelligence participates in the construction of contemporary narratives.

2. Method

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design using narrative analysis to examine the structural and thematic characteristics of AI-generated storytelling content. A qualitative approach was considered appropriate because the study focused on interpreting how AI constructs stories through plot, characters, settings, conflicts, narrative perspectives, themes, dialogue, and resolutions rather than measuring relationships among numerical variables. Narrative analysis enabled the researchers to examine AI-generated stories as textual and cultural artifacts and to identify recurring patterns in the way artificial intelligence constructs narrative meaning.

The data consisted of 30 short stories generated using ChatGPT as an AI-based storytelling platform (Ndlovu, 2022). The stories were generated during August 2026 using standardized prompts designed to create fictional narratives based on human experiences. Each story consisted of approximately 500–800 words and was written in English. The prompts focused on several common human experiences, including friendship, family relationships, personal conflict, identity, loss, resilience, and interpersonal relationships. Standardized prompts were used to maintain comparability across the dataset while allowing the AI to independently develop characters, settings, events, dialogue, conflicts, and resolutions. Each story was assigned an identification code, such as AI-Story-01, AI-Story-02, and AI-Story-03, to facilitate systematic analysis and documentation.

Data collection was conducted through several stages (Taherdoost, 2021). First, the researchers developed standardized storytelling prompts based on predetermined thematic categories. Second, the prompts were entered into ChatGPT under consistent generation conditions. Third, the complete AI-generated outputs were collected and preserved without substantive modification. The prompts and corresponding stories were documented as part of the research corpus to ensure transparency and traceability. After collection, the stories were read repeatedly to develop familiarity with their overall narrative content. Significant narrative units, including important events, character descriptions, conflicts, settings, dialogue, thematic expressions, and resolutions, were subsequently identified and coded.

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The study applied a structural narrative analysis framework combined with thematic analysis. The structural framework examined seven major narrative dimensions: plot structure, characterization, setting, conflict, point of view and narrative voice, theme, and resolution. Plot structure was analyzed to determine how events were organized from exposition and conflict development to climax and resolution. Characterization was examined through protagonists, antagonists, supporting characters, motivations, personality traits, relationships, and character development (Eder et al., 2010). Setting was analyzed in terms of the spatial and temporal contexts established in each story, while conflict was examined according to internal, interpersonal, social, or environmental forms. Point of view and narrative voice were analyzed to identify first-person, second-person, or third-person narration and the degree of narrative perspective. Thematic analysis was used to identify recurring ideas, values, and concerns, while resolutions were examined to determine how conflicts were concluded.

Data analysis followed five stages: reading, coding, categorization, interpretation, and identification of narrative patterns. Initially, all stories were repeatedly read to identify significant narrative elements. Relevant passages were assigned descriptive codes, such as linear plot, character transformation, interpersonal conflict, emotional expression, recurring theme, and positive resolution (László, 2013). Similar codes were then grouped into broader categories. The researchers compared narrative patterns across the 30 stories to identify recurring structures, character types, themes, narrative perspectives, and storytelling strategies. Finally, these patterns were interpreted in relation to narrative theory and previous research on AI-generated storytelling. Particular attention was given to whether AI-generated stories demonstrated conventional, predictable, formulaic, or innovative narrative characteristics.

To ensure the trustworthiness of the findings, the researchers maintained systematic documentation of prompts, AI outputs, coding decisions, and analytical observations. An audit trail was established to connect interpretations directly to the original data. Repeated readings were also conducted to reduce the possibility of overlooking important narrative features. In addition, peer checking was used to review selected stories and coding decisions, with disagreements discussed and resolved through reference to the established analytical framework. The study also documented the AI platform, prompts, language, story length, and

generation period because AI outputs may vary according to model versions, prompts, and generation conditions. These procedures were intended to strengthen the credibility, transparency, and consistency of the narrative analysis.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Narrative Structure

The analysis of narrative structure reveals that AI-generated storytelling tends to follow a relatively conventional and recognizable pattern. Across the analyzed stories, the narratives generally begin with an exposition that introduces the main characters, setting, and initial situation before gradually developing a central problem or conflict. The exposition is commonly presented in a direct and informative manner, allowing readers to quickly understand who the characters are, where the story takes place, and what circumstances shape the narrative. Rather than beginning with complex or ambiguous situations, the AI frequently establishes the basic narrative context explicitly. This pattern suggests that AI-generated storytelling prioritizes accessibility and immediate comprehension, enabling the narrative to progress without requiring readers to infer extensive background information.

Following the exposition, most stories develop a clearly identifiable conflict that functions as the primary mechanism for advancing the plot (Tomashevsky, 2002). The conflicts frequently involve interpersonal relationships, personal dilemmas, emotional struggles, family problems, or challenges that require the protagonist to make a decision. In many cases, the central conflict is introduced shortly after the characters and setting have been established. The relatively predictable transition from exposition to conflict indicates that the AI tends to reproduce familiar storytelling conventions in which a narrative problem is introduced early to maintain narrative momentum. The conflict is generally presented in a straightforward manner, with the protagonist positioned as the central figure who must respond to or overcome the problem.

The climax generally occurs when the protagonist faces the most significant emotional, interpersonal, or situational challenge in the story. AI-generated narratives tend to construct the climax as a direct consequence of the preceding conflict rather than introducing an entirely unrelated event. The sequence of events therefore demonstrates a relatively strong degree of causal continuity. However, the climax is often constructed using familiar dramatic patterns, such as a confrontation, an important realization, a difficult decision, or an emotional revelation. This tendency demonstrates that AI can effectively reproduce established dramatic structures, but it may also indicate a reliance on narrative templates that are frequently encountered in conventional fiction.

The final stage of the narratives is typically characterized by a clearly defined resolution (Berman & Slobin, 2013). Most stories provide an explicit conclusion in which the central conflict is solved, relationships are restored or transformed, or the protagonist gains a new understanding of the situation. Positive or morally meaningful resolutions appear particularly compatible with the narrative structures generated by AI. Rather than leaving major conflicts unresolved, the AI generally provides closure and explains the consequences of the protagonist's experiences. Such endings contribute to narrative coherence and reader satisfaction, but they may simultaneously reduce ambiguity and interpretive openness. From a literary perspective, this characteristic suggests that AI storytelling tends to favor narrative completeness over unresolved or highly experimental endings.

In terms of narrative progression, the majority of the stories demonstrate a linear structure, with events presented chronologically from beginning to end. Major events generally occur in a sequential order, and flashbacks or substantial temporal shifts are relatively limited. This linearity makes the stories easy to follow and contributes to their overall coherence. At the same time, the limited use of non-linear techniques suggests that AI-

generated storytelling may be more strongly oriented toward conventional narrative organization than toward experimental forms of storytelling. Non-linear structures, when present, tend to serve a clear explanatory purpose rather than fundamentally disrupting the chronology of the narrative.

Another important finding concerns the distinction between predictable and unexpected plot development. The analyzed stories generally demonstrate predictable progression, particularly in the relationship between conflict, climax, and resolution. Once the central conflict has been introduced, the subsequent development can often be anticipated from conventional narrative expectations. Although occasional unexpected events or twists may occur, these developments are generally incorporated within an already familiar narrative framework. This pattern indicates that AI possesses a strong capacity to reproduce established narrative conventions but may have a tendency toward formulaic storytelling.

The predominance of conventional narrative structures has important implications for understanding AI as a storytelling agent (Mateas & Sengers, 2003). The findings suggest that AI-generated narratives can successfully reproduce fundamental principles of storytelling, including causal progression, conflict development, dramatic escalation, and narrative closure. This structural coherence demonstrates the ability of generative AI to organize multiple narrative elements into a comprehensible sequence. However, the frequent reliance on linear progression, recognizable conflicts, conventional climaxes, and predictable resolutions also indicates that AI storytelling may reproduce dominant narrative patterns rather than consistently producing structurally innovative narratives.

Therefore, the narrative structure of AI-generated storytelling can be understood as a combination of high structural coherence and conventionality. AI demonstrates considerable competence in constructing complete and logically organized stories, but its narrative outputs tend to remain within familiar storytelling frameworks. This finding is significant because it shifts the evaluation of AI storytelling beyond the question of whether AI can produce a story. The more important question concerns how AI constructs stories and what narrative conventions it repeatedly reproduces. The observed patterns suggest that AI-based storytelling is effective in generating coherent narratives but may require greater human intervention or more sophisticated prompting when the objective is to achieve unconventional plot structures, ambiguity, narrative complexity, or substantial creative experimentation.

3.2 Characterization

The analysis of characterization indicates that AI-generated storytelling generally constructs characters through recognizable roles, clearly defined personality traits, motivations, and interpersonal relationships. The antagonist, when present, generally functions as an opposing force that creates or intensifies the protagonist's central conflict (Smeets et al., 2021). AI-generated stories tend to represent antagonistic characters through relatively clear negative characteristics, such as selfishness, dishonesty, hostility, jealousy, or manipulation. In many narratives, the antagonist's role is primarily functional: creating an obstacle that the protagonist must overcome. Compared with more psychologically complex antagonists in human-authored literature, AI-generated antagonists may demonstrate limited internal conflict or moral ambiguity. Rather than being developed as characters with competing motivations and complex psychological backgrounds, they are frequently positioned in opposition to the protagonist. This clear distinction between protagonist and antagonist contributes to narrative clarity but can also reinforce conventional character archetypes.

Supporting characters generally serve specific narrative functions, such as providing emotional support, creating additional conflict, delivering information, or helping the protagonist recognize an important truth. Friends, family members, colleagues, and romantic partners are commonly used to influence the protagonist's decisions or emotional

development. However, these characters often receive less psychological development than the main protagonist. Their identities and motivations are frequently connected to their relationships with the central character, meaning that their narrative importance is determined primarily by their contribution to the protagonist's journey. This finding suggests that AI tends to prioritize functional characterization, in which characters are created according to their roles within the overall plot.

The analysis of character motivation shows that AI-generated characters are generally provided with explicit and understandable reasons for their actions (Ehsan et al., 2021). Protagonists may be motivated by love, family responsibility, personal achievement, the desire for acceptance, the need to overcome loss, or the pursuit of justice. Motivations are frequently stated directly within the narrative rather than being left for readers to infer. This explicitness helps establish causal connections between character intentions and narrative events. Nevertheless, the strong emphasis on clearly articulated motivations may limit psychological complexity because characters are less frequently presented as individuals whose actions emerge from contradictory desires, unconscious motivations, or unresolved internal tensions.

In terms of character development, protagonists commonly experience some form of transformation between the beginning and end of the story. A character may become more confident, forgiving, courageous, mature, or emotionally aware after confronting the central conflict. This pattern reflects the conventional concept of a character arc in which an individual learns a lesson through experience. However, the development is often relatively predictable and directly connected to the moral or emotional lesson of the narrative. Characters tend to move from a problematic initial condition toward a clearly improved state (Ahmed, 2011). Although this produces a coherent character arc, it may not provide the ambiguity or psychological depth found in more complex literary characterization.

Another significant characteristic is the presence of familiar character archetypes and stereotypes. AI-generated stories frequently rely on recognizable representations such as the struggling protagonist, supportive friend, caring parent, loyal partner, selfish antagonist, or wise mentor. These archetypes allow the narrative to communicate character roles quickly and efficiently. However, repeated dependence on such patterns may reduce individuality and complexity. Characters can sometimes appear interchangeable because their personalities are constructed according to familiar narrative conventions rather than distinctive personal histories. This tendency is particularly important in AI storytelling because generative models learn from large collections of existing texts and may reproduce frequently occurring patterns of characterization.

The representation of human emotions is generally explicit and highly descriptive. AI-generated characters frequently experience emotions such as happiness, sadness, fear, anger, guilt, loneliness, hope, love, and anxiety, and these emotions are often directly identified through narrative statements. Physical manifestations of emotion, such as tears, trembling hands, smiling, silence, or changes in tone, may also be used to reinforce emotional states. This strategy makes characters emotionally accessible to readers and helps communicate the intended mood of a scene. However, emotional representation can sometimes become repetitive or formulaic because the narrative explicitly explains what characters feel rather than allowing emotions to emerge indirectly through subtle behavior, contradictions, symbolism, or dialogue.

The relationships between characters are also central to the construction of AI-generated narratives. Relationships commonly involve friendship, family bonds, romantic relationships, mentorship, rivalry, or interpersonal conflict. These relationships often provide the primary motivation for character actions and contribute to the development of the central conflict. AI tends to present relationships in relatively recognizable emotional categories, such as supportive friendship, parental love, romantic attachment, betrayal, reconciliation, or

conflict followed by understanding. Such representations contribute to narrative coherence and emotional accessibility, although they may also reinforce conventional assumptions about interpersonal relationships.

3.3 Themes and Values

The analysis of the AI-generated storytelling corpus reveals several recurring themes, including love, friendship, family, identity, morality, resilience, loneliness, hope, and human-technology relationships. One of the most prominent themes is love, which is generally constructed through interpersonal relationships, emotional attachment, sacrifice, misunderstanding, and reconciliation. Romantic and familial love often functions as a motivation for characters' decisions and actions (Illouz, 2012). Characters may experience separation, conflict, or emotional uncertainty before recognizing the importance of their relationships. The theme is strengthened through emotionally expressive dialogue and descriptions of characters' internal feelings. In this way, love is frequently represented as a source of emotional strength and as a force capable of encouraging characters to overcome difficulties. The relatively positive representation of love also reflects the tendency of AI-generated narratives to provide emotionally satisfying conclusions.

Friendship and family are similarly constructed through relationships of support, loyalty, conflict, and reconciliation. Friends are often positioned as sources of advice or emotional assistance, while family members provide protection, belonging, or motivation. When conflict occurs within these relationships, the narrative typically uses communication and mutual understanding as mechanisms for resolving tension. Consequently, friendship and family are not simply background elements but important narrative forces that influence character development and plot progression (Sack, 2014). These representations suggest that AI storytelling frequently associates meaningful relationships with emotional support and personal growth.

The theme of identity emerges when characters experience uncertainty about who they are, what they value, or what role they occupy within their social environment. AI-generated narratives commonly construct identity through moments of self-reflection, personal conflict, and significant decisions. Characters may initially experience insecurity or confusion before developing a clearer understanding of themselves. This process frequently produces a conventional character-development pattern in which personal challenges lead to self-discovery. Identity, therefore, becomes connected to the broader narrative idea that difficult experiences can produce personal transformation.

Another recurring theme is morality, particularly through conflicts involving right and wrong, responsibility, honesty, forgiveness, and the consequences of individual decisions. AI-generated stories often construct moral meaning through situations in which characters must make difficult choices. The consequences of these choices then reinforce particular values. In many cases, honesty, compassion, courage, loyalty, and forgiveness are presented positively, while selfishness, deception, and betrayal generate negative consequences. The resolution frequently confirms the moral significance of the protagonist's choices, suggesting that AI-generated storytelling tends to favor relatively clear ethical frameworks rather than highly ambiguous moral situations.

Resilience and hope are also frequently interconnected within the narratives. Characters encounter failure, loss, rejection, loneliness, or personal difficulties, but these experiences generally become opportunities for growth. Resilience is constructed through the protagonist's response to adversity rather than through the absence of suffering. Hope subsequently emerges when characters recognize new possibilities or receive support from others. This pattern creates a narrative movement from difficulty toward recovery and reflects the conventional structure of inspirational storytelling.

At the same time, loneliness is often used to establish emotional conflict and motivate characters to seek meaningful connections (Rokach, 2004). Lonely characters may initially feel isolated because of family problems, social rejection, personal loss, or difficulty communicating with others. The narrative frequently resolves loneliness through friendship, family, love, or self-acceptance. Thus, loneliness functions not only as an emotional condition but also as a mechanism that moves the character toward interpersonal or psychological transformation.

Finally, human–AI relationships and technological anxiety represent particularly relevant themes for contemporary AI-generated storytelling. When technology appears as part of the narrative, it may be represented as a source of assistance, uncertainty, dependence, or ethical concern. These narratives can construct technology as both an opportunity and a potential threat, reflecting contemporary concerns about human dependence on intelligent systems. However, such themes may appear less frequently than traditional themes such as love, family, and friendship. This pattern suggests that AI-generated storytelling often remains strongly connected to established human-centered narrative conventions even when the stories are produced through advanced technology.

3.4 Narrative Voice and Point of View

The analysis of narrative voice and point of view demonstrates that AI-generated storytelling generally relies on first-person and third-person narration, with third-person perspectives appearing particularly suitable for stories that involve multiple characters and events. First-person narration is commonly used when the narrative focuses strongly on the protagonist's personal experiences, thoughts, and emotions. Through pronouns such as "I" and "we," the narrator becomes directly involved in the events being described. This perspective provides readers with immediate access to the protagonist's subjective experiences, including feelings of fear, sadness, love, uncertainty, and hope. As a result, first-person narration can create a stronger sense of intimacy between the character and the reader. Events are generally interpreted through the narrator's personal understanding, meaning that readers receive information according to what the narrator experiences or knows. However, this perspective can also restrict the amount of information available about other characters because their thoughts and motivations are usually presented only through the narrator's observations.

In contrast, third-person narration provides greater flexibility in presenting characters and events (Wyile, 2003). AI-generated stories frequently use third-person pronouns such as "he," "she," and "they" to describe protagonists and supporting characters. This perspective allows the narrative to move between different situations and provides greater distance from the central character. In many cases, third-person narration is combined with a limited perspective, in which the narrator primarily follows the experiences and thoughts of one protagonist. Such a perspective enables the narrative to provide psychological information about the central character while maintaining the descriptive flexibility of third-person narration.

Some stories also demonstrate characteristics of an omniscient narrative voice, particularly when the narrator provides information about the thoughts, emotions, or motivations of several characters. An omniscient perspective allows readers to understand events from a broader viewpoint and can establish connections between different characters and situations. This approach is particularly useful when the narrative contains multiple relationships or parallel conflicts. However, AI-generated omniscient narration may sometimes provide information too explicitly, explaining characters' feelings and intentions rather than allowing readers to infer them through actions or dialogue.

In terms of subjectivity and objectivity, AI-generated narratives generally demonstrate a combination of both approaches (Värtinen et al., 2022). Emotional stories tend to use subjective narration by emphasizing characters' internal experiences and interpretations,

whereas descriptions of settings and external events tend to be more objective. The frequent explicit description of emotions helps readers understand the intended emotional meaning of particular scenes but may reduce ambiguity and interpretive freedom.

3.5 Language and Storytelling Strategies

The analysis of language and storytelling strategies reveals that AI-generated narratives employ a combination of descriptive, emotional, and formulaic linguistic features to construct coherent and accessible stories. The language generally prioritizes clarity and readability, allowing readers to understand characters, events, conflicts, and emotional situations without substantial difficulty. Rather than relying heavily on complex literary experimentation, AI-generated stories tend to use familiar vocabulary, conventional narrative structures, and explicit descriptions of characters' experiences. These characteristics demonstrate the ability of AI to reproduce recognizable storytelling conventions while also revealing patterns that distinguish machine-generated narratives from more stylistically individual human writing.

Descriptive language is frequently used to establish settings, characterize individuals, and create the atmosphere of particular scenes. AI-generated stories commonly provide direct descriptions of physical environments, facial expressions, body movements, and emotional conditions(Cho et al., 2021). Descriptions such as dark environments, quiet rooms, changing weather, or characters' physical reactions are often connected to the emotional atmosphere of the narrative. This strategy enables the AI to establish mood efficiently and helps readers visualize narrative situations. However, descriptions can sometimes become predictable because similar adjectives and environmental associations are repeatedly used to represent particular emotional states.

Dialogue also plays an important role in advancing the plot and revealing relationships between characters(McKee, 2016). Conversations are generally straightforward and functional, providing information about conflicts, emotions, intentions, or decisions. Dialogue frequently allows characters to express feelings directly rather than communicating them through subtle implications. This makes interpersonal relationships easy to understand but can reduce ambiguity. In several narrative situations, dialogue also functions as a mechanism for resolving conflicts because characters communicate their concerns, apologize, explain misunderstandings, or express emotional support.

Another prominent characteristic is the use of emotional vocabulary. Words associated with happiness, sadness, fear, anger, love, loneliness, hope, guilt, and relief frequently appear throughout the narratives. AI tends to explicitly identify characters' emotional states, allowing readers to immediately recognize how a character responds to an event. Emotional vocabulary therefore strengthens the affective dimension of storytelling. At the same time, excessive explicitness can make emotional representation appear formulaic because readers are frequently told what characters feel rather than encouraged to interpret emotions through complex behavior or symbolism.

Metaphors and figurative expressions are also employed to create emotional and descriptive effects, although they tend to be relatively conventional(Gibbs Jr & Leggitt, 2002). AI-generated narratives may use familiar metaphors involving light and darkness, journeys, storms, broken hearts, or emotional burdens. Such expressions can strengthen thematic meanings, but their conventional nature indicates that AI frequently reproduces established figurative patterns rather than consistently generating highly original imagery.

The narratives also demonstrate repetition and formulaic expressions, particularly in transitions and emotional descriptions. Phrases indicating that a character "realized," "felt," "finally understood," or "took a deep breath" may recur across stories. Similarly, narrative transitions often use conventional expressions such as "after that," "however," "eventually,"

and "in the end." These linguistic patterns contribute to coherence by clearly connecting events, but their repetition can make the narratives stylistically predictable.

Finally, dramatic language and narrative transitions are used to create tension and guide readers through different stages of the story. Emotional intensifiers, sudden revelations, confrontations, and reflective statements commonly signal important moments such as the climax or resolution. Overall, these linguistic strategies demonstrate that AI-generated storytelling is highly effective in producing coherent, emotionally accessible narratives. Nevertheless, the frequent use of explicit emotional vocabulary, conventional metaphors, formulaic expressions, and predictable transitions suggests that AI storytelling currently tends to prioritize clarity, coherence, and familiarity over linguistic experimentation and stylistic originality.

3.6 AI-Specific Narrative Characteristics

The analysis of AI-specific narrative characteristics reveals several recurring patterns that distinguish AI-generated storytelling from many conventional forms of human-authored fiction. One of the most prominent characteristics is formulaic plot progression, in which stories frequently follow a recognizable sequence of introduction, conflict, emotional escalation, climax, and resolution. Characters are usually introduced before a central problem emerges, followed by a series of events that lead toward a clearly identifiable climax and conclusion. This structural regularity contributes to narrative coherence because readers can easily follow the relationship between events. However, it also indicates that AI-generated storytelling tends to reproduce established narrative templates rather than consistently experiment with unconventional structures.

Another characteristic is the tendency toward predictable moral resolutions. Many narratives conclude by presenting a clear lesson related to honesty, forgiveness, courage, kindness, family, friendship, or personal growth (Bennett, 2022). The protagonist's experiences are often interpreted as meaningful lessons, and the resolution explicitly reinforces the value that the narrative has developed. This tendency suggests that AI-generated stories frequently construct narratives according to recognizable moral frameworks. Rather than leaving ethical questions unresolved, the stories tend to provide readers with an identifiable interpretation of what should be learned from the characters' experiences.

Stereotypical characterization is another recurring feature. Protagonists are often represented as sympathetic, courageous, resilient, or morally motivated, while antagonistic figures tend to possess negative characteristics such as selfishness, dishonesty, or hostility (Morrell, 2008). Supporting characters frequently perform predictable functions, including providing emotional support, offering advice, creating conflict, or helping the protagonist achieve personal growth. Although these character patterns make stories accessible and coherent, they may limit psychological complexity and reduce opportunities for ambiguous or unconventional characterization.

The analysis also reveals highly explicit emotional descriptions. AI-generated narratives frequently identify characters' feelings directly and reinforce those emotions through descriptions of facial expressions, body movements, and internal thoughts (Petersen, 2022). This strategy ensures that readers clearly understand the emotional significance of events. However, the frequent explanation of emotions can reduce subtlety because readers are often given the intended emotional interpretation rather than being encouraged to infer it independently from narrative details.

Another important feature is repetitive narrative patterning. Similar transitions, plot developments, emotional reactions, and forms of resolution may appear across different stories. Conventional expressions such as moments of realization, emotional reflection, reconciliation, and renewed hope frequently function as transitions between narrative stages.

Such repetition suggests that AI generation is strongly influenced by recurring linguistic and structural patterns present in its learned textual representations.

A further characteristic is the preference for conventional and positive endings. Conflicts are commonly resolved through reconciliation, personal growth, mutual understanding, or the restoration of relationships (McKee, 2016). Even when narratives begin with loss, loneliness, or conflict, they frequently move toward hope and emotional closure. This tendency strengthens narrative satisfaction and coherence but can reduce ambiguity and prevent endings from remaining open to multiple interpretations.

4. Conclusion

This study concludes that AI-generated storytelling demonstrates a strong tendency to reproduce conventional narrative patterns while maintaining overall narrative coherence. The analyzed stories predominantly employ linear plot structures consisting of exposition, conflict, climax, and resolution. Characterization frequently relies on recognizable archetypes, with protagonists generally portrayed as sympathetic and resilient figures and supporting or antagonistic characters performing clearly defined narrative functions. Several recurring themes, including love, friendship, family, identity, morality, resilience, loneliness, and hope, are constructed through character conflicts and emotional development. Linguistically, AI-generated stories make extensive use of descriptive language, explicit emotional vocabulary, conventional metaphors, repetitive expressions, and predictable narrative transitions. These characteristics demonstrate that AI can effectively produce coherent and emotionally accessible narratives, although its storytelling may remain formulaic and relatively limited in ambiguity and psychological complexity. Theoretically, this study demonstrates that conventional narrative analysis can be effectively applied to AI-generated storytelling while simultaneously identifying emerging characteristics of machine-generated narratives. Practically, the findings are relevant to creative writing, AI-assisted content production, digital literary studies, and media literacy. However, the study is limited by its relatively small corpus, use of a single AI platform and language, standardized prompts, qualitative interpretation, and the rapidly changing nature of AI models. Future research should compare human- and AI-generated stories, examine multiple AI models and cultures, investigate changes over time, explore reader responses, and incorporate computational narrative analysis to provide broader and more objective evidence.

5. References

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