

Artificial intelligence (AI) in poetry: Faulting human emotions and creativity

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.66856/ijhssr.2026.12.3.12247>

Abstract

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in literary creation has transformed traditional perspective of poetry, authorship, and creativity. AI generated poetry challenges the long-standing belief that poetic expression is exclusively a human endeavour rooted in emotion, memory, imagination, and lived experience. While artificial intelligence systems demonstrate remarkable linguistic abilities, their creative outputs raise significant questions regarding authenticity, emotional depth, and artistic intention. This article examines the limitations of AI in poetry by exploring how machine generated verses often replicate patterns of human expression without possessing genuine consciousness or emotional experience. It argues that although AI can serve as an innovative poetic instrument it cannot fully supplant the complex psychological, cultural, and emotional dimensions that constitute human creativity. Through an analysis of creativity theories, computational linguistics, and literary criticism, this study investigates the tensions between technological advancement and human artistic identity.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, poetry, creativity, emotions, authorship, machine writing, human imagination

Introduction

Poetry has historically been regarded as one of the most profound expressions of human consciousness. From ancient oral traditions to contemporary digital literature, poetry has served as a medium through which individuals communicate emotions, memories, philosophical reflections, and social experiences. The poet transforms personal and collective realities into symbolic language, creating meanings that transcend ordinary communication. However, the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence has introduced a new possibility: poetry generated not by human imagination but by algorithms trained on vast collections of texts.

The increasing ability of AI models to produce poems that imitate human styles has created both fascination and anxiety within literary communities. These systems can compose structured verses, employ metaphors, and imitate renowned poetic voices. Yet, the central question remains: Can a machine truly create poetry with genuine emotions, or does it merely simulate creativity through statistical patterns?

AI challenges traditional definitions of authorship and originality. While machines can produce linguistically sophisticated poems, they lack subjective experience, emotional awareness, and personal consciousness. Human poetry emerges from complex interactions between memory, suffering, joy, imagination, culture, and individual identity. AI, by contrast generates texts through computational processes rather than emotional necessity. Therefore, examining the limitations of AI in poetry becomes essential for understanding the continuing significance of human creativity.

AI and the simulation of poetic creativity

Artificial intelligence operates through machine-learning algorithms that analyse enormous quantities of linguistic data to predict and generate text. Advanced language models identify relationships between words, phrases, and

structures, allowing them to produce coherent poetic compositions. However, this ability represents a form of simulation rather than authentic creativity.

Human creativity involves originality, intention, and self-reflection. A poet does not simply arrange words; the poet transforms personal experiences into artistic expression. The sorrow of loss, the beauty of nature, political struggles, and existential questions often become the foundation of poetic creation. AI may reproduce descriptions of sadness or love, but it does not experience these emotions.

According to philosopher John Searle, computational systems can manipulate symbols without necessarily understanding their meaning. His famous experiment "Chinese Room" argument suggests that the ability to process language does not automatically indicate genuine comprehension. Similarly, AI-generated poetry may appear meaningful while lacking an internal awareness of the meanings it produces.

The absence of genuine human emotions In AI poetry

Emotion is one of the defining characteristics of poetry. Great poems are often remembered because they reveal authentic emotional experiences. The poet's personal relationship with grief, love, identity, and society gives poetry its depth and resonance. AI can generate emotional vocabulary but cannot possess emotional consciousness. For example, an AI system can write about heartbreak, but it has never experienced separation or emotional pain. It can describe loneliness without ever feeling isolation. Therefore, AI poetry often represents an external imitation of emotion rather than an internal expression of feeling.

Human emotions are connected with embodiment. Biological experiences, cultural environments, relationships, and personal histories influence how humans perceive and express emotions. The human poet writes from a position of existence, whereas AI writes from patterns found in existing texts. This distinction creates a fundamental difference between emotional expression and emotional representation.

AI and the question of originality

Originality remains a central element of artistic creativity. A poet's originality emerges from unique perspectives, individual imagination, and the ability to reinterpret reality. AI systems, however, depend on previously existing information. They generate new combinations of linguistic patterns derived from training data.

Although AI can produce unexpected and creative looking results, its creativity is fundamentally dependent on human created materials. It does not possess personal experiences from which genuinely new artistic visions emerge. The machine rearranges accumulated knowledge, while human artists create meaning through conscious engagement with the world.

This distinction does not imply that AI has no value in poetry. Instead, AI can be understood as a collaborative tool that assists writers by generating ideas, experimenting with language, and exploring alternative forms of expression. The poet remains the source of emotional intention and artistic purpose.

The transformation of authorship in the digital age

AI generated poetry has complicated traditional ideas of authorship. It creates uncertainty because the machine contributes to the production of text without human intention or ethical responsibility. Historically, the author has been considered the originator of a literary work, responsible for its meaning and artistic vision but in the digital age, human authorship is on the verge of transformation.

In his book, "The Death of the Author" literary theorist Roland Barthes argued that meaning does not exist solely within the writer's intention but develops through interaction between text and reader. However, AI generated poetry expands this debate by questioning whether a non-human entity can occupy the position of a creator. The future of poetry may not involve a conflict between humans and machines but rather a redefinition of creative collaboration. AI may become an extension of human imagination rather than a replacement for it.

Human creativity beyond Artificial Intelligence

Despite technological developments, human creativity remains distinct because it combines imagination with consciousness and emotional experience. Poetry is not merely a linguistic arrangement; it is an exploration of human existence. The poet communicates not only information but also vulnerability, identity, and philosophical reflection. Human poets possess the ability to transform suffering into beauty, personal memories into universal experiences, and ordinary moments into profound insights. These qualities emerge from lived experience, something AI does not possess. Therefore, while AI may produce technically impressive poetry, human creativity remains irreplaceable. The value of poetry lies not only in the final arrangement of words but also in the emotional and existential journey behind those words.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence has introduced a revolutionary dimension to poetry by demonstrating that machines can generate sophisticated linguistic compositions. However, AI-generated poetry exposes important limitations concerning emotional authenticity, originality, and creative

consciousness. Machines can imitate poetic forms and reproduce emotional language, but they cannot experience emotions or create from personal existence. The relationship between AI and poetry should therefore be viewed as a collaboration rather than a competition. AI may expand the possibilities of poetic experimentation, but human beings remain the primary source of emotional depth, imagination, and artistic meaning. Poetry ultimately represents the human desire to understand life, and this desire continues to distinguish human creativity from artificial simulation.

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