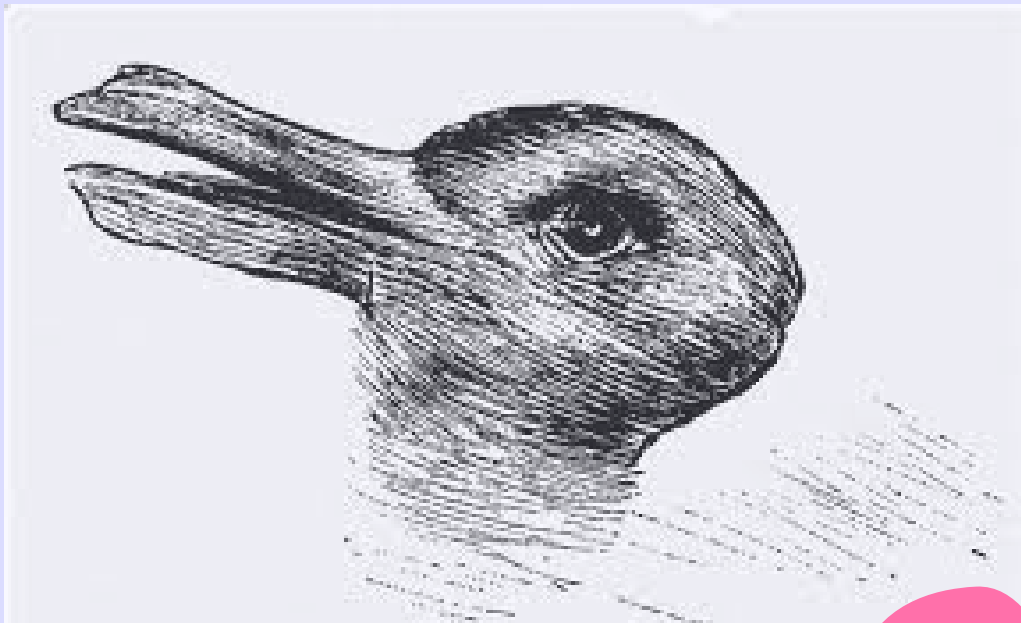


NOVUS

BIS Hanoi student magazine



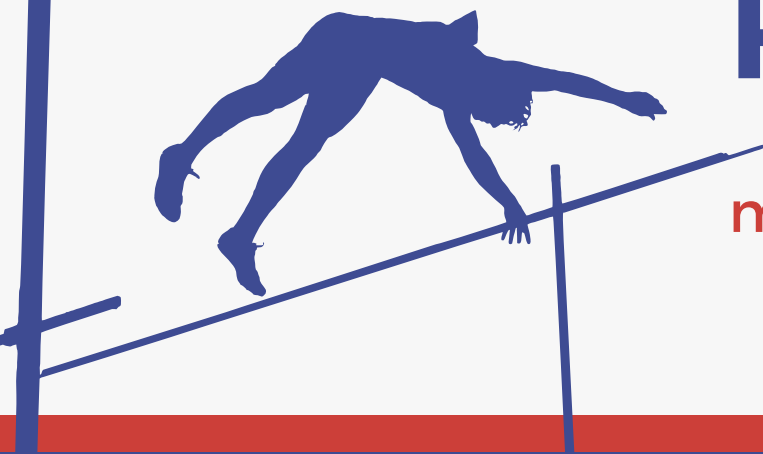
Editorial

Sometimes, a subtle tweak in our points of view can make an immense change. One time, I was having a hard time focusing and was struggling to finish an assignment. My mind, stimulated by my indolence, directed me to think 'do I have to write even more?'. Of course, it made me feel more frustrated. But then, this change in perspective that I 'only' have to write a bit more, not 'even more' came to me. The mere difference between the phrasing surprisingly changed the whole atmosphere, and it gave me the energy to persevere through. It would be similar when viewing challenges – if we perceive those as an opportunity to obtain new values, they can become more valuable. *High Jump, and What it Taught me about Perspectives* [page 3] explores a personal transformation adapting to a new perspective, which you may empathise with.

Everyone has a different perspective – this is what we start to understand when we see differences between one and another. These arise from the accumulation of the following factors: childhood upbringing, education, self-concept, culture, faith etc. Knowledge acquisition thus becomes a different process for each individual, which leads to a variety of mental outlooks. This diversity nourishes society in a variety of sectors. If you are a cinephile who is interested in authorial purposes, read *Knives Out - Using Perspectives to Powerfully Piece a Puzzling Murder Mystery* [page 5]. Another area that perspectives play a significant role is literature – find out how different perspectives impacted literature trends [page 40].

Without realisation, we lean towards thinking in a certain way that our unconscious minds design. Understanding other perspectives are therefore crucial, to break the walls that limit ourselves. I hope this issue of Novus will help you to adopt new lenses to discover the world.

Best wishes,
Seon Ju Moon



HIGH JUMP,

and What it Taught
me about Perspectives

Bui Gia Han Pham, Y12

**“Look to the trees,
and see where they will guide you.”**

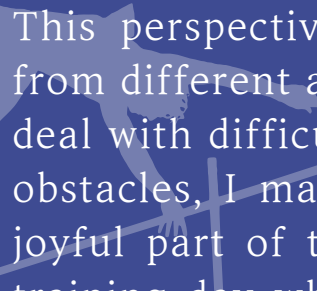
I took a few deep breaths and began speeding up with those words from my coach still stuck in my head. As I threw myself to the air, body bent and back arched, the world turned upside down for a split second. The last thing I could feel was the soft, dusty cushion that embraced my tumble. I made it. I landed perfectly on the other side. As I lay there hearing the indistinguishable sounds of applause with the bright sun rays striking the corners of my eyes, the uneven blue sky in that sizzling hot afternoon had never seemed so pretty.

After several months of training, my teammates and I finally flew to Thailand for the competition. In my warm-up, I replayed the ‘perfect formula’ for high jump several times: 5 lead-up steps, a little less than 90° body angle near the bar, and then a take off with my left foot and both hands swung to the back.

I began my lead up, paying attention to every step perfectly to the formula, but the more I delved into the what-ifs of me messing up the steps somewhere, the harder overcoming the bar became. My knees were half-bent, half-raised; a surging sense of physical incapacity consumed me.

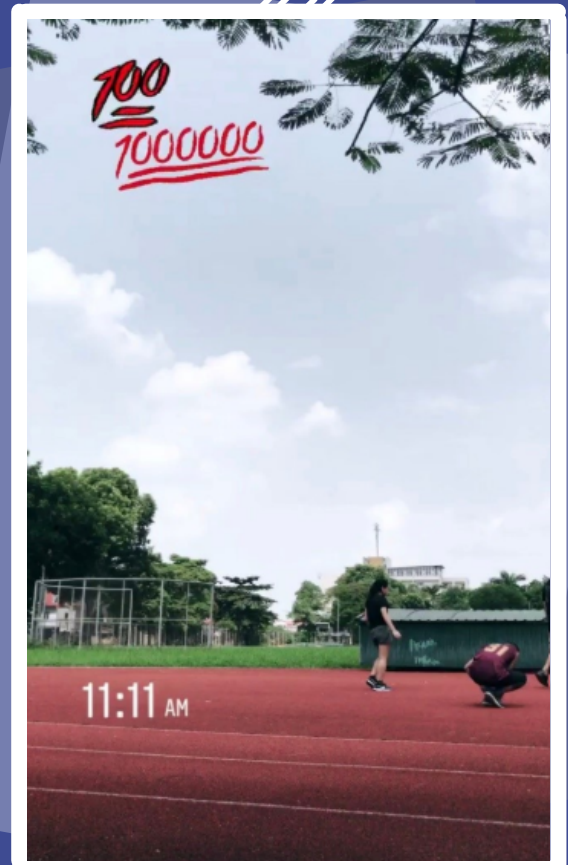


Throughout the training for high jump, I was so caught up with making every tilt and movement formulaically perfect that the thought of the bigger picture – the breathtaking view from the other side or the tall trees that guided me on that training day – had completely slipped my mind. If I had taken a step back to switch perspectives to the surroundings, or to the other side where I could make it once more, I could have maintained my momentum and propelled my body fearlessly.



This perspective on life, choosing to view challenges from different angles, has largely transformed the way I deal with difficulties and look at social issues. Met with obstacles, I may choose to divert my attention to the joyful part of the process, just like how I did on that training day when I fixed my eyes upon the trees and indulged in the beaming landscape. When discussing solutions to social issues, I choose to delve into a variety of social, political, economic causes, instead of relying solely on a one-size-fits-all policy.

As I embark on future endeavours and encounter challenges along the way, I will be constantly reminded of my high jump performance that failed because of a wrong mindset. I have begun to realise that the ‘perfect formula’ has never existed. Instead, what matters is how we make up our experiences and what we create them to be. For me, I desire to craft the meanings of everything I do through the perspectives that I choose. To live life not through small, perfect steps, but to live fully, and wholeheartedly, in every moment.



Knives Out (2019): Using Perspectives to Powerfully Piece a Puzzling Murder Mystery

Thuc Anh To, Y11



This year, a sequel to the 2019 movie Knives Out, currently untitled, will be released in 2022. So, I want to take a look back at this movie and explore how director Rian Johnson seemingly uses perspectives to create an eventful, emotional and exciting whodunnit story.

[SPOILERS, of course. It is best to watch the movie before reading this mini review and analysis as not even a lengthy summary of the story is enough to fully present this 2 hour and 10 minutes long movie.]

THE STORY OF KNIVES OUT:

The movie opens by showing the massive Masseurchuchets mansion in an isolated area. Inside, we see the housekeeper, Fran (Edi Patterson), going upstairs to find the house owner – famous and wealthy murder mystery author Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) – is dead with his throat slit.

The police, Lieutenant Elliot (LaKeith Stanfield) and Trooper Wagner (Noah Segan), arrive a week later to interrogate the Thrombey family. We are also introduced to private detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig), who was anonymously hired to investigate the case. Despite the police prematurely concluding the cause of death to be suicide, Blanc's appearance implies that there is much more to it.

Harlan has 3 children. His daughter, Linda (Jamie Lee Curtis), is married to Richard Drysdale (Don Johnson) and both have a son named Hugh "Ransom" (Chris Evans). Ransom is considered the 'black sheep' of the family; he never works and lives on the wealth of his parents and grandfather. One of his sons passed away 15 years prior but was married to Joni (Toni Collette) and they have a daughter named Meg (Katherine Langford). His youngest son, Walt (Michael Shannon), is married to Donna and they have a son named Jacob (Jaedon Martell). But, the most prominent member of this story is Marta (Ana de Armas), Harlan's nurse and friend. She has been taking care of him every day until his death.

Many things happen throughout the story but Benoit Blanc, in the end, entangles it all and explains this:

Hours before Harlan's death was his 85th birthday. He decided to take things into his own hands after he realised that many of his family members were not the honest and respectable members he had assumed. So, he 'cuts them off'. He threatens Richard, saying he will reveal his affair to Linda; he gives Joni her last paycheck after finding out she is scamming him; he fires Walt from the publishing company. Lastly, he informs Ransom that he and the entire family has been cut out of his will. This angers Ransom, who leaves the party early.

Due to this anger, Ransom formulates a plan: Harlan mentioned Marta and how she is significantly more deserving and worthy of Harlan's fortune. Ransom also knows that Marta is his nurse and knew what medication she gave him: typical medical drugs to help with Harlan's health plus small doses of morphine to help him sleep. Morphine is lethal if given in high dosage. Therefore, Ransom goes back to switch the medications: the plan was Marta would have accidentally given Harlan too much of the morphine, unintentionally killing him. Legally, she must renounce the inheritance so that the family and Ransom would get the fortune. To reveal that Marta killed Harlan, Ransom hired Blanc so he could uncover it.

However, Blanc, describes Marta as a “good nurse”; without looking at the labels on the bottle, she immediately knew which medication to give to Harlan because she has done this a hundred times. Therefore, she gave Harlan the correct medications with the correct dosage. But, when she saw that the labels were switched, she assumed that she had given him the wrong medications. To worsen the situation, Marta cannot find the life-saving antidote because Ransom removed it. Harlan - also assuming that he has been poisoned - knew he would be dead by the time within minutes so, his priority instead is to get Marta out from being suspected by the police, saving her and her family (who are undocumented immigrants).

This is Harlan’s plan: Marta leaves the house and shouts out the time; that way, one of the family members could check the time and recall that Marta left at that time if the police ask. Next, she must come back to the house through the back, get dressed in Harlan’s clothes and pretend to be him. She would go downstairs disguised as Harlan and get noticed by a family member. The purpose here is to show that Harlan was alive even after Marta left, therefore, eliminating her being involved in the situation. Then, the police would arrive and declare the cause of death as suicide.

At the will reading, the family finds out that Marta is the sole inheritor of all of Harlan's fortunes: the house, the company, the money, everything. They are enraged and harasses Marta, demanding answers when she had no idea herself. To escape, Ransom pulls up and drives her to a restaurant. It is also worth mentioning that Marta has this condition where lying makes her vomit, so Ransom uses that to his advantage and forces her to confess everything she knows about Harlan's death. She confesses, but Ransom is now stumped; he realises Marta is innocent and the toxicology report will prove that. Another weight on Ransom was that Fran saw him tampering with Marta's medicine bag and suspects he did something with Harlan. She blackmails him with a time and place to visit her. Fran also has a copy of the toxicology report hidden in a cupboard at the mansion.

But, Ransom twists the situation so that it is hopefully in his favour: he burns down the lab centre and destroys Harlan's blood samples, therefore, destroying evidence of Marta's innocence. Next, he alters Fran's blackmail and anonymously forwards it to Marta. The objective here is to frame Marta for another murder: Ransom keeps his appointment with Fran but he poisons her by injecting high dosages of morphine. Then, Marta would arrive a couple of hours later, discovering Fran close to death, and then the police would be called and catch Marta at the scene.

However, Marta unknowingly outplays Ransom once again: instead of fleeing the scene, she calls the ambulance and tries to save Fran. That would mean Fran can confirm and tell the police about Ransom's guiltiness. Marta also confesses to Blanc about everything but it is only when Marta was close to confessing to the family is when Blanc reads the toxicology report, realises everything and stops her. He pulls her into a private room and drags Ransom too, revealing everything: Marta's innocence, Ransom's guiltiness and confirming that Harlan did, indeed, kill himself.

It doesn't end yet: Marta gets a call from the doctor and she confirms that Fran is alive. This causes Ransom to get upset and threatens both Marta and the police about what he will do after he gets out of jail. "What do you have on me?" he says, "Nothing! Attempted murder?". But, it is revealed that Fran is dead; Marta lied, vomiting all over Ransom. However, this means that Ransom had just confessed to Fran's murder, his confession also recorded, and he is arrested.

The movie ends with Marta looking over the crumbling Thrombey family, standing on the balcony of her mansion.

HOW DOES RIAN JOHNSON USE PERSPECTIVES TO TELL THIS STORY?

As this is a mystery, details of the story will be shown very sparingly until at the very end where all of the pieces that seem to be so mismatched and unfitting, come together and reveal the full picture. In this movie, Rian Johnson achieves this seamlessly by focusing on the perspective of one character: Marta.

It is worth noting that, while the perpetrator is Ransom and the detective is Blanc, most of the movie is focuses on Marta.

Usually, mysteries follow a detective or an unrelated protagonist slowly revealing the full picture. The major benefit of allowing the mystery to be revealed through the eyes of a more detached, unrelated character is so that the mysteries and details are significantly more hidden and the twists more surprising. However, by making the viewer watch the story unfold in the perspective of Marta, a huge suspect and major character involved directly with Harlan's death, it sort of gives the impression that the objective of finding who did it feels quite complete. However, due to the sympathetic and likable nature of the character and the exceptional performance by Ana de Armas, the viewers stay instead to watch how she will get away with it.

Therefore, by engrossing the viewers to stay and watch how Marta gets away with the murder, it makes Ransom's actions significantly more surprising because for the longest time, the viewer would have believed that Marta was the sole killer.

Another benefit that is worth mentioning is that it makes Ransom's actions more compelling, significantly more surprising. A lot of viewers have said how they have guessed that Ransom was involved and responsible for the murder; these comments usually come from the moment he arrived on screen, and even in the trailers! But, engrossing the viewers in Marta's perspective misleads them into rethinking their initial thoughts: instead, the viewers would think that Ransom was innocent or, at the very least, minorly involved since Marta is already shown as the killer. This clever route enhances the shock of revealing Ransom's guiltiness and not only that, brings more attention to the method of murder rather than who is the murderer. The movie is advertised as a whodunnit but in reality, the priority is revealing how it happened and, more importantly, how to prove it.

Another way Rian Johnson uses perspective to tell an effective story is found in the first act. The first act is amazingly well crafted: it's well-paced, exciting, humorous and misleading. We open straight to the shot of the mansion and immediately to the reveal of Harlan's death. Then, we move to interrogation scenes where the police ask the Thrombey family and Marta about what happened during the party.

Since it is the first act and we have not established a protagonist yet, so Rian Johnson takes full advantage of this and uses almost everybody's perspective of the party. It is incredibly clever because, while many of the Thrombey members' stories align, members recall details differently but they all, especially the 3 out of 4 Harlan was planning to 'cut off', can lie. For example, Richard talked about how Linda idolises Harlan and himself, also praising Harlan's success. This scene does not show him actually saying it, but it is put as a voiceover on top of another scene where he and Linda stand behind Harlan, watching the cake get set up.



This same exact scene is shown once again with Walt, but this time, it's him, Donna and Jacob standing behind Harlan, not Richard or Linda. This intentionally creates a slightly confusing perspective of the party because, due to the different ways the party, Harlan and the members themselves were presented, the viewers do not have a clear understanding of the party yet. Furthermore, by showing Harlan 'cutting off' 3 out of 4 of his family members, it misleads viewers and makes these members especially suspicious.

Another trick the first act pulls is hammering in the parts of the story that seem true. There is an entire scene dedicated to Lieutenant Elliot explaining the timeline they currently have. This scene is very important because it misleadingly establishes the many details of the party that, later in the movie, proved to be wrong or proved to have more to it. For example, in the scene where 'Harlan' climbs down the stairs sometime after Marta left, Walt loudly tells him to go to bed and his son, Jacob, was also there to witness. But later, we find out that this is not Harlan but Marta disguised as him because she was following Harlan's plan. But because this scene felt so concrete and so indisputable that the viewer would have probably pushed it aside until the very end when Blanc brings it up again.

Lastly, in order to switch to the second act, the first act finally establishes the main character the movie will follow - Marta. It does this by revealing what happened when Marta and Harlan were alone together and she allegedly gave him the wrong medications. We know this is a real event that happened because it is not said by Marta but shown as a flashback. This event itself gives the impression that the mystery has been 'solved': it shows exactly who the killer is and how she did it. But, what makes this scene special is because, as the flashback is shown, Blanc flips a coin. Only after the line of scenes are complete that we come back to the present and Blanc has finally caught his coin.

This is quite a symbolic way of showing that the objective of the film has changed: it is not about finding out who did it anymore but how will Marta get away with it. It is as though the movie has flipped on its head, now looking in the perspective of the supposed killer. It is such a clever and creative way of transitioning to the second act and this, alongside the other tricks Rian Johnson pulls, makes the first act so gripping and compelling.



To conclude my thoughts, I find this movie incredibly entertaining, exciting, compelling and quite mind-bending: rewatching it for this article, I found myself loving the movie more and more. Even when I knew exactly how the story progressed, I keep discovering more Easter Eggs, more details that make this web-tangled story make more sense. The only problem I have with this film is that the pacing slows a bit around the beginning of the third act: there was a car chase that felt a bit too underwhelming considering it had nothing to do with the murder or story.

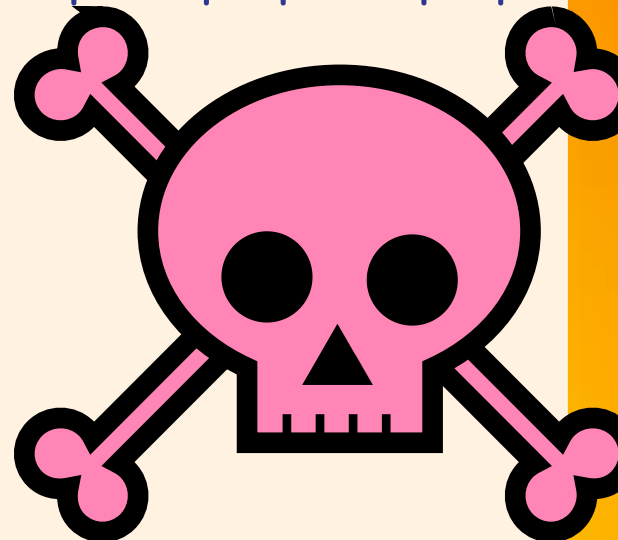
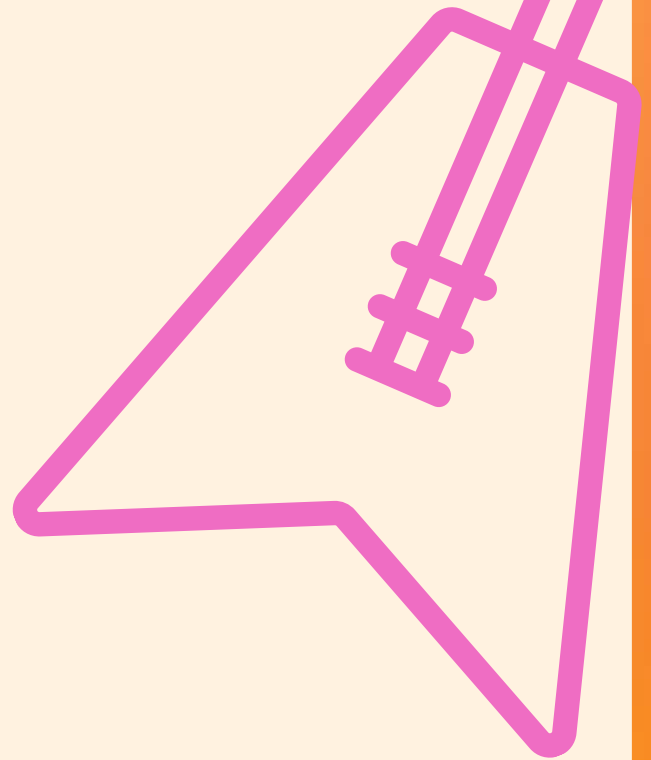
Another minute nitpick I would add is that I wished they included more scenes of the Thrombey family. Understandably, including more scenes of the Thrombey family would be slightly redundant and clog the story up, but I believe their presence add much more character to the story. In fact, I end up forgetting some family members so when they reappear again, it feels like I'm meeting them again. One more minute nit-pick is that I wished Ransom was less predictable as the main perpetrator; his method and what he does were incredibly compelling but knowing that he did something killed some of the excitement towards the end. That is not to undermine Chris Evans' acting, though: he was an incredibly believable villain for someone well known for playing a superhero. Overall, this movie is incredibly well-crafted not just because of the clever use of perspectives but many other elements like symbolism, character development etc. I highly recommend rewatching the movie if you can; there is so much more to be noticed the second, third time watching. Or, if this is your first time approaching this movie, please go watch it; this lengthy article absolutely is not enough to fully encompass this enthralling movie.

A different perspective on the Punk subculture

Yewon Chun and Chaeyeon Seo, Y12

How does the world perceive subcultures?

Subcultures are defined as subsystems of society with their own attitudes and norms that distinct from those of the majority and are held by a group within a wider society. We have grown accustomed to subcultures being talked about in a certain way. Usually, they involve negative connotation as they may refer to antisocial or anti-mainstream movements as a way to rebel against the mainstream culture. Equally dramatic are the policies proposed by many countries to force a transition away from subculture to mainstream. These admittedly painful changes have resulted in subcultures being often disregarded. However, subcultures are occasionally perceived differently as they can have positive influences as well.



Punk music, an assortment of subcultures

Music is predominant in subcultures; several subcultures, including Punk, Goth, and Emo are music-based subculture. In fact, several subcultures have originated from Punk but have become distinct in their own right such as Goth and Emo. In this sense, Punk is a diverse assortment of smaller subcultures. Punk, as a subculture, was a rebellion against the social conditions of the 1970s through its aggressive style and aesthetics. Punk subcultures often distinguish themselves by having unique style of punk rock, involving simple arrangements, short songs and lyrics that espouse punk values.



Punk Rock fashion style originated in England around the early 1970s

What makes Punk a subculture?

Belonging to a subculture shows your identity mirrored in your looks and clothing. For this reason, many subcultures have specific clothes or styles of dress at

the heart of their identity, helping them differentiate themselves from mainstream culture. Typically, Punk fashion has included black or camouflage trousers or shorts and skin tight black jeans. The darkness shown by the colour black was a purposeful attempt to offend mainstream culture and figures of authority.

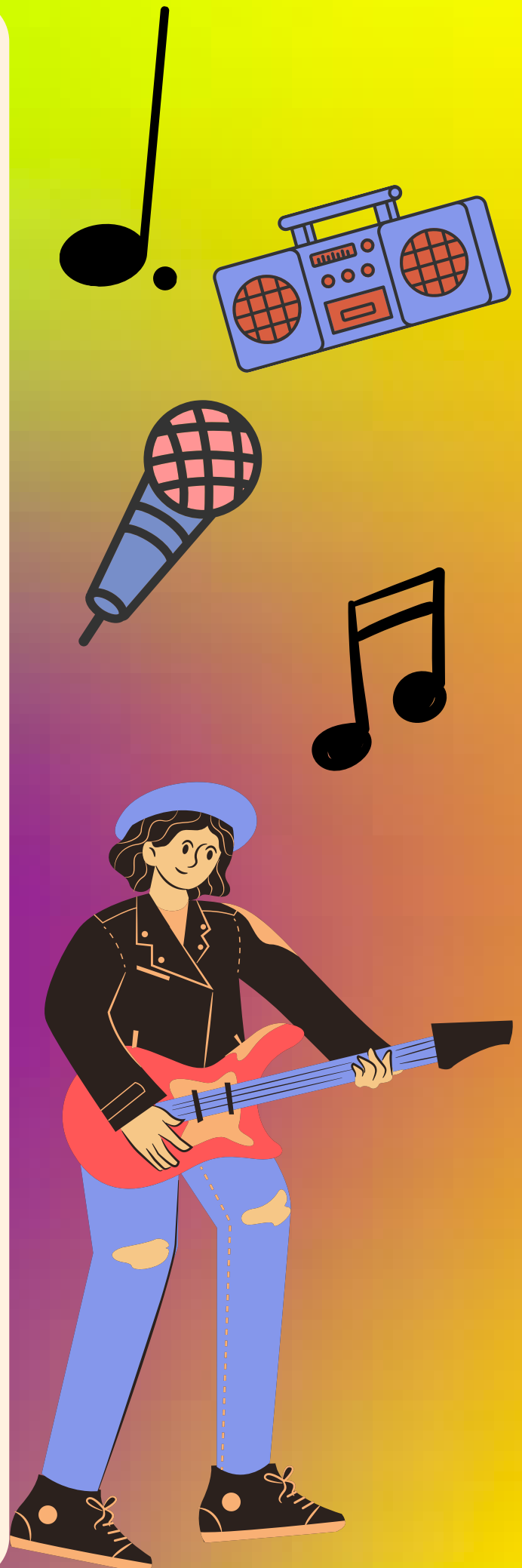
What is special about Punk?

Some good aspects of Punk

Compared to some alternative cultures, Punk is much closer to gender equalist and anti-racist. In comparison to mainstream culture, larger portions of the punk community are homosexual or bisexual who are considered to be 'minority' in society.

Although Punk vastly consists of white, especially in Europe and North America, it is an anti-racist group, given that numerous ethnic minorities, such as Black people, and Latinos, have taken part in the punk subculture.

Accordingly, considering Punk is a community where minority is dominant and equally respected, it can be perceived as a non-authoritarianism group.



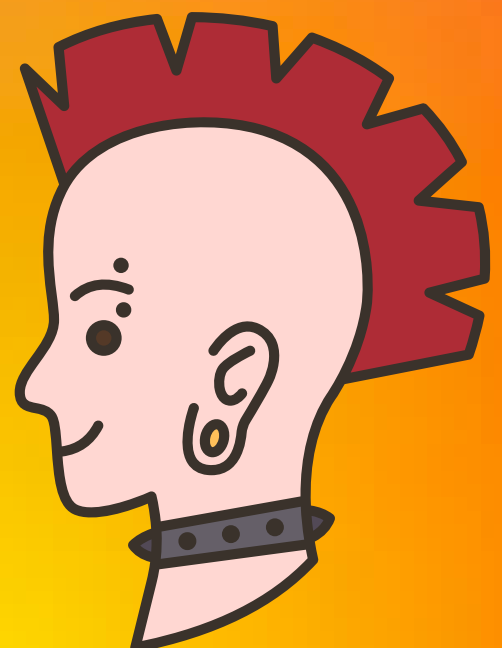
How has the perspective on punk changed?

Like many cultural movements, the origins of punk correspond to the response to something outdated.


Furthermore, it expresses raw feelings toward the restrictions and rules in society. Along with this nature of punk music, some artists and listeners who want to escape from the social prejudice devotedly support this subcultural music. For this reason, it is gradually leading from the front of the overly progressive rock era. While it never emerges as a mainstream movement due to its unique characteristics, the sheer passion of punk music helps itself to find a loyal audience. Ironically this uniqueness is attractive for music lovers who constantly desire something new and meaningful, resulting in the growth of punk music. With this changing social trend, more people have turned to punk in search of their individuality or identity.

What are the impacts of the changed perspective upon punk?

As the consumer's perspective on punk has transformed, the branding environment has also changed, especially in the marketing field. One of the factors is the symbolic image of punk: individual freedom. Representatively, this image is formed



by bright color, characteristic hairstyle, and striking fashion, allowing it to not only contribute to the diversity of visual art but also offer a positive impression. The second factor is the favorable perspective of the young age customer that is the major target of companies. In part, younger millennials are more connected to companies that are willing to make a change in the world, which means becoming more punk is more significant for the companies to secure their customers. Adhere to this positive image and tendency of new customers, punk is an effective tool to engage and interact with the consumer, providing an optimistic representation of the company. Accordingly, it is now impossible to overlook and isolate punk's influence as a minor culture, instead, affects various industries, including visual art and advertisement, in a positive way. Therefore, punk music has become a distinct genre in music with respect, not disregard from the entire society.



Considering the positive influences that Punk has brought to our society including marketing benefits from punk's image of individual freedom, we can have a different perspective, taking a step back from disregarding it just because they are not mainstream. In fact, we may need to appreciate its values including minority rights and individual freedoms.

Different Perspectives in an Artwork

Su Min Ryu and Hea Min (Lina) Jung, Y11

'Mother and Child (Divided)' by Damien Hirst was created in 1993. This artwork has multiple messages that convey to people the social values, tradition, context, judgments on what art should be, and more. There are various perspectives from different people about 'Mother and Child (Divided)'. Damien Hirst thinks that shock and disgust are the attraction of 'Mother and Child (Divided)' and he wants more transgressive artworks created in the world. The separation of the mother and her child feel like they are being torn apart or split in half from the artwork. The term 'cow' is a derogatory term for a woman. The piece is not a straightforward or abstract meditation on life and death. It is an emotional being that is attempting to make sense of itself, to represent, or to be represented.



↳ Mother and Child (Divided)

Even if we look at the same artwork, we can interpret it from a different perspective. That is the joy of interpreting the artworks. We introduced "Mother and Child (Divided)" by Damien Hirst to BIS Hanoi students and asked them questions to examine the different perspectives of an artwork.

Here are what our students think.

1. What do you think the mood of this artwork is?

- "I feel like the mood of this artwork is quite melancholy, gloomy, and blue. The main reason for this is that blue colour and the cows' faces seem to suggest depression"
- "Creepy. It was hard to identify with this picture, but the mother and its offspring cow are cut in half, and it looks so realistic that makes to feel creepy and a bit cruel as presenting the half-sliced mom and child cow as an art."
- "It looks sad and depressing. They want to be together, but they are not."
- "It feels quite eerie and somewhat unnatural."
- "It looks weird, depressed, and scary."

2. What message do you think the artist wants to deliver to you by this artwork?

- Human's cruelty
- I think the artist wants to emphasise the separation of mother's cow and the little cow. This is reinforced by making two cows to face same direction but not allowing them to meet each other.
- I think Hirst wanted to convey awareness of global warming through the shape of cows submerged in water. When you hear the word "global warming," it may not feel close to each individual because it is such a bold word. However, these small animals convey greater awareness of global warming to people through portraying animals being submerged.
- I think the artist wanted to show how the cows would feel when they get separated while being fed, cutting them in half.
- The separation between mother and child feels like they are spliced and being split in half.

3. Do you think everyone who sees this artwork will feel the same as you? Why or why not?

- I think it depends on each person because as each person has different perspective and viewpoint, they can interpret the pieces in different ways, and I think that this is the enjoyment in viewing the artwork.
- I do not think everyone feels the same as me, but I do think there are lots of people who would feel like me. This is because perspectives and opinions towards this artwork can be changed after understanding the true purpose and meaning.
- I don't think so. This work is indirectly showing the message of the artist, and I think the feeling that people get from this work would differ.
- I think it depends. Other people can have their perspectives and they might can think about the structures first. If they don't know about the title, they cannot find out the meaning that I have found.
- I think they might feel similar to me. The cow(livestock) stocked in the narrow water tank spread the suffocating mood to 'human'.

Damien Hirst invites viewers to view his work in a new light, one that is more expansive and sophisticated. People's relationships to the work alter as a result of the artwork, and they become more involved in it in new ways. We can see why various people have different perspectives of the work through 'Mother and Child (Divided)'.

What is good art?

Thai Anh Hoang (Y9I)

In the world, there are many people, and with many people come differences between them. Perspectives on what good art is, are similarly affected by this fact: the definition of what is considered good art varies from people to people, culture to culture because there are many people, whose differences in cultures and priorities change the perspectives of what is considered good art.

For example, back long ago in History, when art was still exclusive to only the wealthy: good art was art that could portray the person in question well (either making the person look, act a certain way that is superior than how they look and act in real life; or simply being able to capture the full details of the person.) Back then, if you were to make a great technical abstract piece of work with beautiful meanings, you probably won't make a single cent as your art probably won't be deemed as good, even if that technical abstract piece of work with meanings will be considered valuable and, a 'good piece of art' in modern society's eyes. As with life, different things produce different outcomes, so different perspectives will create different art industries.

If an art industry is focused on portraits that amplify the beauty of someone or capture their full details, certainly that art industry will produce popular portraits; some are even promoted to the level of 'masterpieces' inspired artists of the time! However, if you were to produce something different, something not market-friendly nor abides by the perspective of the art industry, you won't be able to earn much or nothing at all. Your art will be looked upon as not good art by the majority (of course, there will be people that like your work and support it but they are still considered a minority as most probably won't voice an opinion against the norm, the perspective of the time and the people who do are rare!). It is important to note that perspectives can be built over time and can take a long time to change, or can change quickly mostly due to circumstances like war.



In war, you want your citizens to fight for the country and participate in the war effort in all ways they can, so you must use everything to make your citizens want to do so, and art is not an exception. Art that portrays the valorous, patriotic, shining aspects of the war are considered 'good art' and distributed everywhere, which leads to propaganda. Unfortunately, art that shows the darker side of war is not only considered 'bad art' but also named as treason, banned and heavily punished in certain countries in the world.



In conclusion, the definition of 'good art' varies based on the societal, cultural values, as well as events that have happened in a place. This, in turn, causes the art industry in each specific era, to place a value of good art from a spectrum of perspectives! As an ending note, it is recommended for budding artists to find art industries that support their art, or else they will have a very hard time but who knows? You could be the one initiating a revolution in art inside that era (but if you want to live a normal, under-the-radar, safe life then you probably shouldn't choose this option!)

Perspective on vaccination

Se Hyun Lee, Y13



The development of COVID-19 vaccines has been effective in reducing the risk of virus infection. However, after several reports concerning the adverse effects and cases of death after the immunization, there have been claims about vaccines safety. Vaccine hesitancy has been defined by the World Health Organization(WHO) as "delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite the availability of vaccination services." Despite the scientific consensus proving the general safety, vaccine hesitancy may result in disease outbreaks and is thus characterized as one of the top ten global health threats by the WHO. The perspective of people against vaccination has sometimes led to widespread misinformation or even conspiracy theories involving governments or the pharmaceutical industry.

Anti-vaccine activists are affected by issues in various areas, from religion to politics, and even technology. The suspicions about vaccines are brought from these different areas, and join to form a widespread belief where people believe their suspicions as facts. Some believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is a conspiracy, or that the vaccines may cause other diseases like autism. These suspicions become distorted as misinformation and could disseminate through social media as fake news.



There are a range of perspectives contributing to the opposition of vaccination: cultural, political, or even contextual influences. For instance, in the United States, several Republican leaders opposing vaccination has resulted in a lower uptake in regions that lean Republican. In addition, such movement can spread uncertainties in their trust of vaccination, triggering people to behave in a way that can weaken stability.

The spread of such perspective can encourage falsehood knowledge, limiting the truth. Such falsehood as a result of a certain perspective can negatively impact groups of people, also influencing people who were not involved, especially when concerning misinformation in social media.



Different perspectives containing misled values may produce harmful effects to society as a whole. Thus, it is important to consider how opponents' perspectives of vaccination can be altered. interventions to address vaccine hesitancy in different communities will require taking different approaches according to the culture and values of that community.

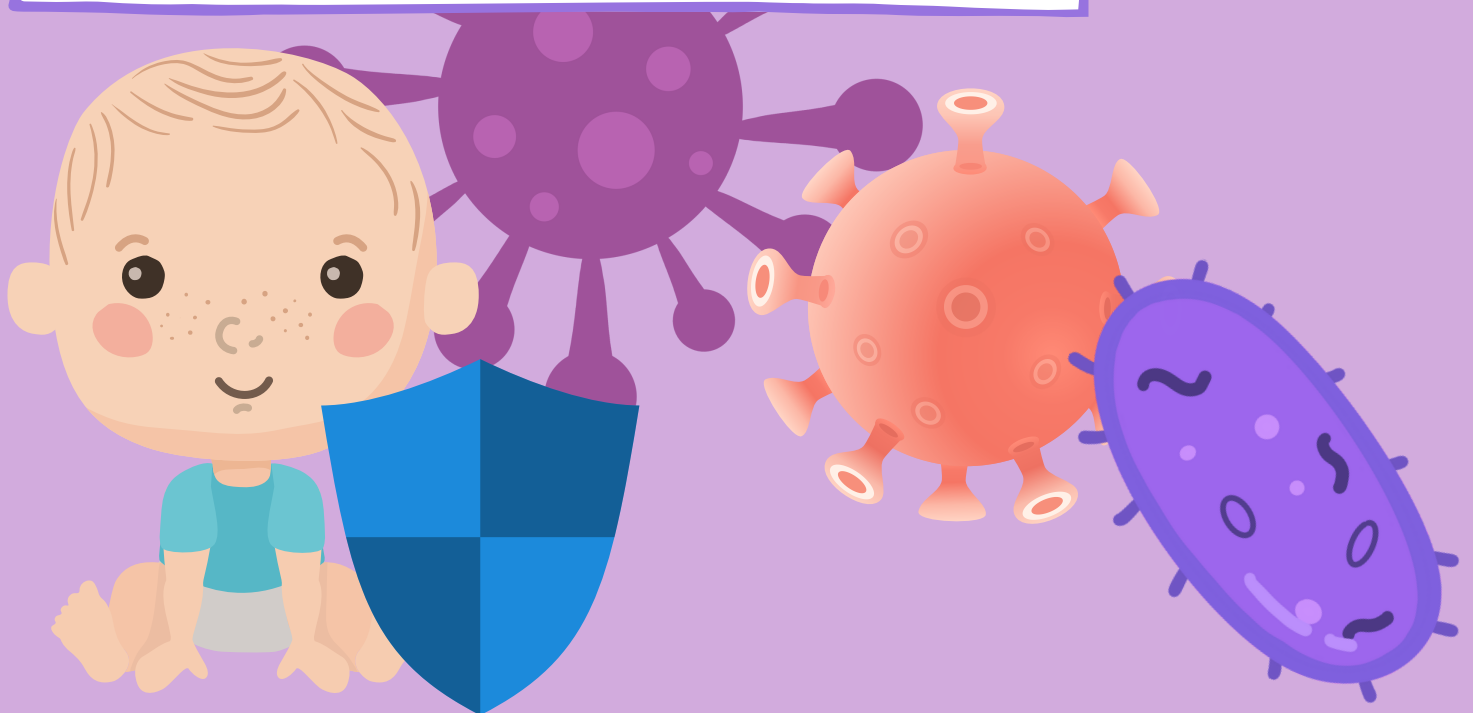
Biotechnology: Controversial Perspectives of Designer Babies

Hye Jin Cho, Y13



The infinite development of science has made what was impossible in the past possible today. In particular, the 'in vitro fertilisation (IVF)', which is a fertilisation process of fusing an egg and sperm in vitro, can present new lives to infertile parents and bring great happiness. However, this technology of science being involved in life causes people's perspectives to vary widely. Particularly, designer babies, emerging as a new promising technology, are constantly causing a lot of controversies, showing the problems of differences in people's perspectives on scientific technology.

In November 2018, the world's first 'designer baby' was born in China. Professor He Jankui of China's Southern University of Science and Technology used genetic scissors technology to create twins Lulu and Nana who corrected their genes to be immune to AIDS. Designer baby was named in the sense that it can 'design' a baby by manipulating the genes of a human embryo using genetic scissors technology. When it comes to 'designer baby', people generally think that parents choose the child's appearance or intelligence according to their taste. However, the goal of 'designer baby' began with the protection of babies from diseases by removing or replacing genes associated with genetic diseases.



The most common argument people who oppose 'designer baby' claim about is life-related ethical issues. In the process of creating a 'designer baby', all fertilised eggs that have not been successful are discarded, and people criticise that this is an unethical act that goes against nature's logic. They strongly argue for the issue of neglecting the life of a 'designer baby' from the perspective that it ignores the dignity of life. In addition to technology, it criticises the high risk of error problems caused by the incompleteness of technology and another problem of abuse. Even if 'designer baby' starts for the purpose of preventing genetic diseases, the others argue that if sperm transactions occur simply to obtain the desired gene, not for treatment in the future, there will be problems with parental rights as well as illegal transactions. In addition, there is a steady view that the enormous cost of the technology to create a 'designer baby' will only be allowed to the upper class, which will further maximise the gap between the rich and the poor.

However, others, including some scientists, argue that 'designer baby' will contribute greatly to the study of treating incurable diseases. The view is that 'designer baby' will also be helpful in the study of human genetic diseases as it is being developed for the purpose of treatment while screening out normal embryos. This perspective also argues that giving a healthy birth through

this technology will reduce the psychological and economic burden on the family as the cost of treatment for incurable diseases is enormous. In addition, there are consistent opinions that 'designer baby' should be allowed because it can have a positive impact on society while preventing the inheritance of genetic diseases. They are concerned that rejection of new technologies will dampen the high potential of developing technologies related to genetics.



Currently, most countries legally prohibit research on genetic manipulation technology using human embryos. However, it is exceptionally allowed only for basic studies to treat rare or incurable diseases. Social consensus on genetic manipulation and correction has not yet been reached clearly, and ethical problems of 'designer baby' for various reasons, including social, cultural, and religious reasons are still on the debate. People's various perspectives on biotechnologies, including 'designer babies', cause a lot of controversy today. Recognising all other perspectives and finding consensus is the next step we must take.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Different Perspectives on New Technology

Hye Rin Yun, Y11

"Artificial Intelligence will be either the best, or the worst thing, ever to happen to humanity"

– Stephen Hawking

Artificial intelligence, the word itself might remind us of human-like robots that are somehow sinister and unfriendly from a typical science fiction. In fact, it is a much broader concept that embraces ranges from voice recognition technology like Siri to self-driving cars. According to the Oxford Dictionary, artificial intelligence is defined as the development of computer systems which are able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence. In simpler words, it is the ability of computers to think and learn like humans. However, in plenty of journal articles, a lot of researchers tend to convey how artificial intelligence can threaten our lives.

This trend is quite interesting as most people acknowledge that artificial intelligence – a new, innovative technology – may bring light to daily life. This discovery proves that artificial intelligence is such an important, but a controversial topic in every field of academics. Even though bias towards one argument about this emerging technology should certainly be avoided, learning novel perspective and information about such technology can widen the approaches to seeing the world.

One of the perspectives towards artificial intelligence remains relatively positive. Nowadays with the 4th Industrial Revolution, AI is applied to almost every single business model, especially those adopting remote work. Efficiency, which is the most significant benefit of AI, enables better customer experience as well as generating greater profit for businesses.



For instance, navigation technology uses artificial intelligence to monitor real-time conditions on the road and guide users with the most optimum routes. This functionality works by AI's ability to learn the continuous changes in the traffic system and draw the most effect result by itself. Humans might be able to do the same tasks, but it is not as easily and effectively managed as AI.



With this high efficiency, AI reduces the time taken to calculate and consider almost all information given in every second. Another recent example of AI's power is facial recognition which is a technology developed in Covid-19 that monitors whether passengers or customers wear masks.



This reduces the amount of work and time taken by the humans to check while showing reasonable accuracy for diverse applications such as schools, hospitals, and retail shops. Artificial intelligence can simply learn new algorithms and information much faster and more accurately, enabling and helping humans to work more efficiently and effectively.

However, there would not be any controversy if artificial intelligence only had its benefits. Many experts and researchers in computer science or AI have been concerned about possible drawbacks and ethical issues regarding artificial intelligence. A typical example of this inappropriate, and even illegal, application of AI is Deepfake. Deepfake, the image or video that replaces one's real face with a computer-generated face, has serious ethical problems with its manipulation of the public. Due to advancements in technology, the real person and their identity on Deepfake are almost indistinguishable. The public can be manipulated with inaccurate information which might cause further complicated issues such as defamation and fake news.



Furthermore, privacy and security are other serious problems. As the pandemic continues, face-to-face interactions have been almost impossible in some areas. To overcome this problem, some universities such as the University of Florida and the University of Alabama implemented the ProctorU, an exam proctoring software. Simon Coghlan, a researcher from the University of Melbourne, explains that the software detects suspicious activity in students' computers including web access and keyboard strokes, and even records cameras and microphones to detect unusual behaviours using facial recognition.



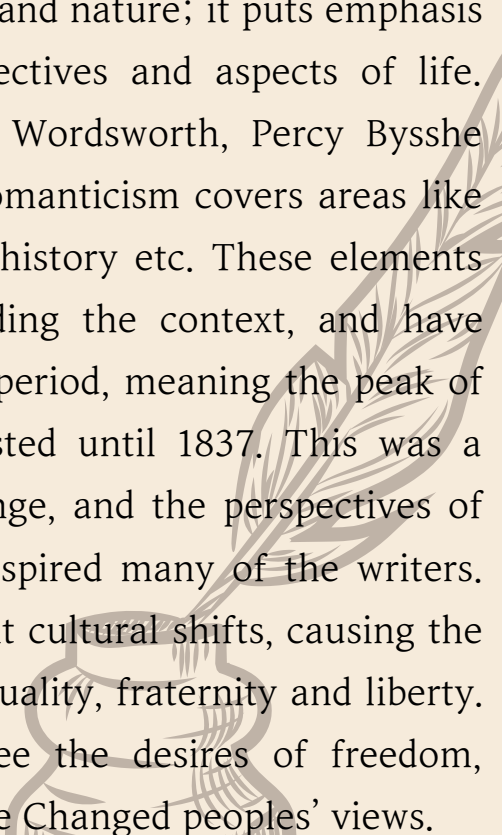
However, this software brought ethical issues as to whether it is a fair system and whether it invades personal rights of privacy. Certainly, those serious problems should be addressed thoroughly with various perspectives and considerations. Still, the fact that artificial intelligence has drawbacks is not negligible.

How did diverse cultural shifts impact the trend of literature

Ji Hyo (Chloe) Moon, Y11

There are many trends on social media, and people are busy following those trends. But did you know there were also trends in the form of literature? These trends for literature were made from people's perceptions. Perception describes the act or faculty of perceiving, or apprehending by means of the senses or of the mind. Since the reader's taste interest is important to writers when writing, they get influenced by the trends and convey their thoughts and work by that form. These perceptions are related to major events in history, that cause major cultural shifts in literacy, and the most well-known examples are, romanticism, realism, and modernism.

First, the most literal literacy movement was romanticism, which was strongly influenced by the change in people's lifestyle, and their perspective of life. As you can infer from the name, romanticism is the emphasis on emotion and individualism as well as glorification of all the past and nature; it puts emphasis on beauty and emotion through different perspectives and aspects of life. Famous writers of romanticism include, William Wordsworth, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and far more. Romanticism covers areas like the acceptance of emotions, emphasis of beauty, history etc. These elements are factors that need empathy when understanding the context, and have different opinions when viewing it. This romantic period, meaning the peak of romanticism, began roughly around 1798 and lasted until 1837. This was a period when many people experienced social change, and the perspectives of political and economic atmosphere at the time inspired many of the writers. Due to such dynamic in changes, there were instant cultural shifts, causing the writers to become inspiration from the ideals of equality, fraternity and liberty. In the pieces of work at that time, you can see the desires of freedom, individuality and the devotion to beauty, which were Changed peoples' views.



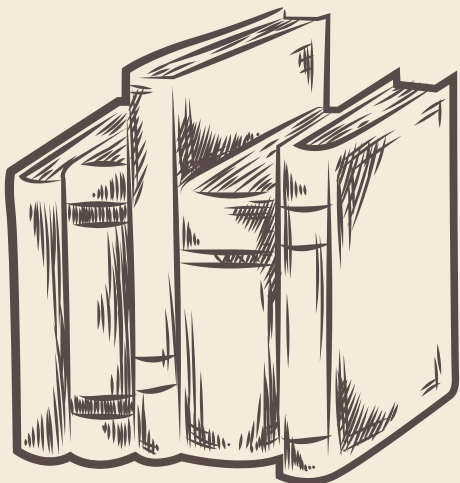
After came realism, which prospered as people changed their perspective of viewing and representing beauty. However, it was primarily concerned with how things appeared to the eye (directly). Photography, the new visual source that created a desire for people to produce representations which look objectively real, also contributed to the popularity growth. Realism is generally the attempt to represent subject matter truthfully, without artificiality and avoiding speculative fiction and supernatural elements. Realism was an artistic movement that began in France in the 1850s, following the 1848 Revolution. The Industrial Revolution stimulated the dramatic expansion of industry and increased prosperity, but it also brought enormous inequalities in wealth that eventually led to social revolution. As people started to speak up for their situation and raised awareness, they were at the point where they couldn't be ignored. Many writers got inspired from the movements, which led their interests and perspectives of writing to change towards realism. This made realism at its peak at 1850–1880, with famous writers like Gustave Courbet, Jean-François Millet and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot.

Third, the form of writing characterized by a self-conscious break with traditional ways of writing, in both poetry and prose fiction writing was introduced: modernism. It was mainly shaped by the development of modern industrial societies and the rapid growth of cities, followed by the horror of World War I, which was an emotional and experimental style of prose and poetry. People's perspective started to change as the disenchantment caused by the war and made a genre that didn't follow the traditional ways of writing, reject romantic views of nature, and focus on the inner world of people. This major change was a philosophical movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, making modernism hit its peak at 1960, with famous writers like Virginia Woolf, James Joyce and T.S. Eliot to represent the time and form. As said above, this change influenced the ways of writing for writers, and made modernism have characterized

of experimentation, individualism, free verse, and having the story with multiple perspectives. This drew attention to the processes and materials used in creating works of art, and also developed their ways of thinking in literature as the perspectives change for not just the readers, but also the writers themselves.



In conclusion, by viewing the historical events that have influenced the ways of thinking and perspective towards life of people at the time period, we could see what have influenced writers to write in that type of form. Interest in beauty and freedom made a peak for romanticism in late 1798 to 1837, concerns for realistic visual made a peak in realism in 1850 to 1880, and the philosophical change made a peak for modernism in the late 19th century to 1960. All shows the intricate nature between people and literature and the effect of cultural shifts on Literature trends.



Why is Perspective Important When We Learn History?

Tae Yeon Kwun, 9H



Understanding the unfamiliarity of the past is a great challenge for students. But facing the challenge illuminates the scope of human behaviour, beliefs, and social organization. It offers a surprising alternative to conventional wisdom taken for granted and opens a wider perspective from which to evaluate our current preconceived notions. And so, we should take a historical perspective.

Taking a historical perspective means understanding the social, cultural, intellectual, and emotional environment that shape people's lives and behaviors in the past. Understanding different perspectives is also key to taking a historical perspective, as different historical actors at some point may have acted based on conflicting beliefs and ideologies. Although it is sometimes called 'historical empathy', the historical perspective is hugely different from the common-sense concept of identification with others. Indeed, taking a historical perspective requires an understanding of the vast differences between us today and those of the past. It always questions and criticizes, drawing tentative conclusions.

The most important thing in history is perspective. Many people ask the question, 'what is history?' As the historian E. H. Carr said, "History is an unending dialogue between the present and the past." This is looking at the present as the principal. The historian must always be in the present. When someone says, 'what is history?', that person's point of view, a subjective interpretation, is included. So, whoever sees history is very important. Jenkins, one of the most prominent postmodernists said, "The question of what is history is meaningless. The question should be turned into who is history for?" As such, it is important who made history and for whom it was made. In the past, history was the science of kings. You could say that kings wrote history books to show off their achievements. Since all history was written from someone's point of view, and history is written according to that point of view, it is especially important to see what point of view this person is writing history with.



E. H. Carr

"History is an unending dialogue between the present and the past."

Jenkins

"The question of what is history is meaningless. The question should be turned into who is history for?"



On the other hand, although history tends to be interpreted and given meaning from a subjective point of view, it must also be formed because of objective facts. History is an unending dialogue between the present and the past. I think this one word will motivate us to know and learn history.

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