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BA English Honours | Semester VI | ENG6EJ305

Literature, Science, and Technology

Module 3: Cyborgs, Artificial Intelligence, and the Posthuman Condition • Comprehensive Notes

Chapter 3: Posthumanism, Cyborg Feminism, and AI Ethics

The convergence of computational intelligence, genetic editing, and cybernetics has destabilized classical humanism, giving rise to Posthuman Theory.

3.1 Donna Haraway's "A Cyborg Manifesto" (1985)

Feminist theorist Donna Haraway formulated the concept of the **cyborg**—a hybrid of machine and organism. Haraway rejects essentialist notions of "natural" womanhood, arguing that in a technoscientific world, the cyborg myth subverts rigid patriarchal, racial, and anti-technological binaries, championing subversive political coalitions.

3.2 N. Katherine Hayles: How We Became Posthuman (1999)

Katherine Hayles traces how cybernetics privileged abstract informational patterns over physical embodiment. Hayles advocates for an embodied posthumanism that celebrates technological integration without losing sight of somatic, ecological, and ethical realities.

Advanced Critical Theory, Hermeneutics & Literary Praxis

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Critical inquiry into Module 3: Cyborgs, Artificial Intelligence, and the Posthuman Condition reveals how textual forms construct meaning through complex aesthetic strategies and structural choices:

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2. Historiographical Context and Reception Theory

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3. Comparative Aesthetic and Thematic Matrix

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