

THE POETICS OF CYBORG CHARACTERS IN THE NOVELS OF PAT CADIGAN

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the artistic poetics of cyborg characters in Pat Cagan's novels. In Cagan's work, the cyborg appears not as a simple technical being, but as a philosophical and social symbol. Through the construction of metaphor, symbol, and plot, the writer illuminates the complex relationship between man and technology in an artistic form. The article examines virtual reality and the problem of identity, social inequality, and the concept of post-humanity as key ideas. In Cagan's works, cyborg images are considered not only as a literary aesthetic element, but also as a poetic tool expressing the ethical and philosophical problems of modern society.

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Pat Cagan is one of the most prominent representatives of modern science fiction and cyberpunk literature, and the intersection of technology and the human mind is a central theme in her work. Cagan's novels are often built around virtual reality, memory and identification problems, as well as the impact of network and machine systems on human life. His style combines psychological depth and social analysis: he reveals technological aspects not only through technical details, but also through a person's inner experience and personal feelings. Therefore, Cagan's works are considered not only as a layer of fantasy or science fiction, but also as a literary text discussing contemporary cultural and ethical issues.

Cyborg, that is, the concept of a cyber-organism, has multifaceted interpretations in literature and science fiction. While cyborg is traditionally understood as a mixture of biological and mechanical elements, in literature it performs a more metaphorical and conceptual function: cyborg defines the boundaries between man and technology, raising

questions about personal identity, agency, and the changing nature of the body. In literary texts, cyborg characters often show the contradictions between humanity and artificiality, freedom and control, organic and artificial; with their help, the authors reflect on society's attitude towards technology, the monetization of work and personal life, and new types of social connections.

In Cagan's work, cyborg poetics is revealed mainly through creative means related to language and structure. It often describes a fragmented or reassembled state of personality through fragmentation of memory and consciousness, multiple voice layers, internal monologue, and sharp plot cuts. Through technological metaphors, sensory details, and network images, the author conveys to the reader the inner experience of cyber-organisms: the mechanical parts of the body, the transformation of memory into an archive, the exchange of personal information and algorithms are combined with human emotions through artistic language. As a result, cyborg characters become subjects with not only external appearances or functional attributes, but also artistically complex, philosophical, and emotional layers.

The relevance of this topic is growing once again in modern times, as real life is changing significantly under the influence of technological capabilities, artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, and digital platforms. By analyzing the cyborg characters in Cagan's novels, we not only understand literary processes, but also have the opportunity to consider current socio-political problems - the security of personal data, the monetization of identity, the technological modification of the body, and new ethical boundaries. Therefore, the study of Pat Cadigan's poetics of cyborg characters is important not only from a literary point of view, but also for illuminating the process of human self-discovery in the age of technology.

The artistic function of the image of Cyborg is much broader and deeper than simply depicting a technical detail: it is a tool that shows the boundaries between man and technology in literature, symbolically revealing social and philosophical problems. For writers like Cagan, cyborgs serve as a testing ground for the concept of humanity; through them, the author shows that personality is not stable, but is in a constant process of change, division, and reassembly. These images artistically reveal how the body, memory, and consciousness can be combined with or disrupted by technological systems.

Cyborgs dramatize the issue of personal identity: through them, the question "who am I?" is raised in literature in a new context. The transformation of memory into an archive, the exchange of information, and the formation of identity under the influence of algorithms are frequently encountered motifs in his works, which discuss how the hero understands himself, his loyalty to himself, and the possibility of maintaining inner unity. With the help of artistic language - fragmented internal monologue, synchronous and asynchronous voice layers, reminder and reconstruction scenes - the writer conveys to the reader the inner experience of the cyborg and shows the instability of identity.

The issues of freedom and agency are considered from a new angle through cyborg characters: technological integration gives the hero new opportunities, but at the same

time introduces elements of control and sensitivity into his decisions. Cagan's works often depict situations where external technological systems or corporate rules restrict or direct actions viewed as "free"; as a result, the validity and limits of that freedom are discussed. The literary text shows this problem through dramatic contradictions, internal struggles, and external pressures, thus forcing the reader to reflect on the moral and political consequences of integrating with technology.

Harmony with technology is another artistic function of the cyborg image, allowing for technological modification and the depiction of new types of human life. Cagan does not idealize cyborgs: he shows both the positive aspects of the integration process and its harmful, dehumanizing consequences. Therefore, through cyborgs, the writer illuminates not only how technology can enrich human life, but also what new social roles, obligations, and dangers it creates.

In general, cyborg characters serve as a powerful tool for reading, criticizing, and discussing ethical boundaries of the technological reality of contemporary society from an artistic perspective. They encourage the reader to revise traditional concepts of humanity, freedom, and responsibility and allow literature to convey complex socio-political issues of the technological era.

Poetic means of expression in such writers as Pat Cagan reveal cyborg images not only through appearance, but also through artistic language and structural means. Metaphor is one of the most powerful tools in Cagan's works, and various figurative comparisons are used to express internal conflicts and their place in society through cyborgs. For example, the "stitching" of the body with metal and cable is not a simple biotechnical modification, but a figurative indication of the division or reassembly of personality; the transformation of memory into an "archives" or "bases" means the commodification of memory and identity, the connection of human memory to external systems. Such metaphors help the reader perceive the cyborg not as an external object, but as a symbol reflecting the inner world of a person.

In the context of symbolic meanings, cyborgs indicate a violation of the boundary between man and machine, a limiting state. In Cagan language, boundaries are presented as skin, cable, code, and interface; the uncertainty arising from their violation raises issues of personal agency, freedom, and responsibility. Integration with the machine can force the hero into new social roles or turn him into a tool of control and corporate structures, so through the cyborg symbol, the author analyzes changes in the spheres of power, market, and ethics. Also, through cyborgs, the writer symbolically describes the "post-human" state - new forms of subjectivity that arise as a result of the combination of organic and artificial.

In terms of plot construction, technology is the main driving force behind the narratives that change human destiny. Technological elements often create the starting point or turning point of the plot: memory erasure or rewriting, hostility or identification errors resulting from data transmitted over the network, decisions related to artificial intelligence radically change the lives of the characters. Artistically, these changes

transform the internal struggle into external dramatic situations through internal monologues, reminiscences, and memoir scenes. The plot uses technical and artistic devices such as "glitches," interface cuts, and time distortions as conductors; this allows the reader to both experience and observe the fragmentation or reorganization of personality under the influence of technology.

Another important aspect of poetic expression in the Cagan style is the combination of language and rhythm with technological experience. Through short, unexpected clippings, repetitive phrases, synchronous and asynchronous sound layers, the author artistically reflects the interference of memory and consciousness, the noise of the information flow. The connection of emotional and organic images with sensory detail and technical vocabulary (code, interface, server, glitch) makes the reader excited and somewhat ambiguous - through this ambiguity, the internal contradictions of the cyborg image are intensified.

In conclusion, Pat Cagan's novels are aimed at studying the complex relationship between man and technology in cyberpunk literature through poetic means of expression. The images of Cyborg reveal such issues in the author's work as the redefinition of personality, the limits of freedom, and the distribution of power through technology. In Cagan's works, the boundaries between humanity and post-humanity, as well as the positive and negative consequences of technological integration, are expressed dramatically and symbolically. Therefore, his novels serve not only as fiction, but also as an important source for analyzing philosophical problems in modern culture and society.

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