

**Apocalypse is No More Far, it is here: Prognostication about Technological Jeopardies in  
Dystopian Fiction and Film**

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of  
Masters of Arts in English

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ID: 2019-1-93-006

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Fall 2020



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## Declaration

I, hereby, declare that this dissertation is an original work of mine except for the references and quotations that I have acknowledged duly. I further declare that this piece of work has not been submitted to any other institution previously or currently. Additionally, I have followed all academic ethics and integrity while preparing it.

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M.A. in English

Course: ENG 599

Course Title: Dissertation

## Approval of Supervisor

I certify that this dissertation has been approved and accepted for the fulfilment of the requirements of Masters of Arts in English.



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Afia Mursheeda

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## Preface

Dystopian fiction has been a field of fascination to me as this dark, prophetic genre has showcased a future world which is often frightening. Dystopian novels, movies or series usually deal with many intriguing issues. Among them issues like genetic engineering, human-machine amalgamation, body enhancement seemed most intruding to me. However, surveillance practice over our everyday life has made me quite curious and conscious lately. When I was thinking about my dissertation project, I wanted to do it on a topic that interests me and is also relevant to our present world. Combining the interest zone with reality is never an easy job unless one has support. In my case also certain individuals, including my Supervisor, helped me in gathering enough confidence in finally fixing my thesis concentration. All the five primary sources that I have used in my thesis show how the technological advancements in some sectors are throwing some unimaginable threats that we might have never even pondered about previously. I admit that dystopian genre is a vast arena that shades light on many issues and I have touched only few of them. Yet, I think my thesis is different as I have mingled two classic fictions with contemporary literary pieces and have connected them all with ongoing talked issues such as obsession for artificial beautification, surveillance over modern human life and emergence of transhumanism and how existence of humanly essence is getting threatened in this cybernetic world. I believe readers would definitely find the thesis interesting and relevant as the dissertation has collected data from popular sources such as Twitter, Youtube and electronic news media. Therefore, I believe that my dissertation would be helpful, interesting and informative for readers in understanding some new crisis that we are inviting unknowingly towards us.

## Table of Contents

Content	Page Number
Declaration	ii
Approval of Supervisor	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Preface	v
Table of Contents	vi
Abstract	1
Introduction	2 - 13
Chapter One: Caution regarding Newly Emerged Beauty Standard in Dystopian Novels	14 – 36
Chapter Two: “Under their Eyes”: Surveillance and Surveillance Capitalism in Dystopian Novels	37 – 58
Chapter Three: Biotechnological Enhancement of Human and a Threat towards Human Origin	59 – 77
Conclusion	78 – 83
Work cited	84 - 88

## Abstract

The aim of this dissertation is to showcase that dystopian fictions are consist of predictions regarding few technological hazard which currently might not seem like a threat towards us. Living in 21<sup>st</sup> century, our life is immersed in science and technological advancement and we are extremely welcoming towards those technological flourishing as we do not want to be non-progressive. However, while welcoming the gradual technological flourishing to make life more comfortable and advanced, we are inviting some unexplainable threats towards us. This thesis has focused on three such emerging crisis, which are; obsession towards electrical beauty enhancement, invasion of surveillance through social media and the use of life comforting technological tools and lastly, threat towards human originality caused by the normalization of body enhancement i.e. cyborg and extreme practice of genetic engineering. This thesis will attempt to demonstrate that authors of dystopian fictions have attempted to warn the readers by foreseeing and predicting few crucial technological hazard. While doing so, this thesis have used five primary sources which consists of three novels, one TV series and one Movie. The used novels are, *Brave New World* (1932) by Aldous Huxley, *Uglies* (2005) by Scott Westerfeld, *If I had Your Face* (2020) by Frances Cha. The two other primary visual fictions are, American TV series *You* (2018), developed by Greg Berlanti and Sara Gamble and Dystopian sci-fi film *RoboCop* (2014) directed by José Padilha.

Keywords: Dystopia, prediction, artificial beauty enhancement, surveillance, genetic engineering, transhumanism, cyborg, posthumanism.



## Introduction

'Utopian' and 'Dystopian fictions' these both genres which falls under 'Speculative fiction'. Speculative fiction genre basically deals with human imaginative faculty such as sci-fi, futuristic fictions etc. From afar this might seem that these two genres have no connection with reality or fact as they are decanted from sheer imagination. However, in reality utopian and dystopian fictions have deep philosophical and social significance. Where utopian fiction deals with the idea of an 'ideal society' with everything perfectly in order, dystopian genre sketches extremely negative views about future society and human kind. Even though dystopia or 'bad place' is antonymous to utopia, the obsession for creating a utopian world of perfection, peace, order and advancement causes dystopia. Order comes with social restrictions and hierarchy and extreme hierarchy causes dystopia. Be it Plato's *The Republic*, or Sir Thomas More's *Utopia*, every utopia comes with social hierarchy and when the general citizens are stripped of the right to question the ruler, dystopia happens. Thus, M. H. Abrams has defined works of dystopian fiction in *A Glossary of Literary Terms* as something that projects a very unpleasant picture of future world that consists of ominous tendencies of our present social, political and technological order (178). Thus, it can be said that dystopian genre attempts to foresee and predict upcoming philosophical, political, social and technological threats approaching towards us. The aim of the thesis is to find out how dystopian genre depicts prediction about technological hazardous impact on modern life and how the predictions are coming true gradually. The dissertation attempts to evoke realization among people before they get consumed by certain threatening technological emergence.

Dystopian fiction which is known to emerge as a response to utopian fiction gained popularity since early twenty century. During twenty and twenty first century, massive advancement took place in science and technology and with technological advancement many unknown social and ethical crises appeared in human lives. Dystopian fictions tried to capture those issues. Thus, during this time popularity of dystopian fiction increased a lot. Dystopian fictions mostly illustrate a futuristic world which is insanely technologically advanced, or a world which is devastated owing to our massive misuse of science and technology. In either way it deals with some danger which might seem imaginative but in reality it has association with facts. Authors of this genre associate their imagination with prediction based on real life situation. They envision about probable miserable destiny of world if the current situation continues the way it is going. By current situation, major social, political, scientific issues are indicated. Dystopian fiction however focuses a lot on technological threats as modern life is embracing technological advancement in almost every arena. Prof. Chintan Ambalal Mahida in his paper “Dystopian Future in Contemporary Science Fiction” discussed that even though we think technology is improving our lives, dystopian genre attempts to look into it from a negative lens and portray how invasion of technology in our everyday life can create huge massacre and apocalypse in the near future (2). Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, genetic engineering, machine-organic amalgamation, body enhancement, xenotransplantation- these are few latest technology we are embracing lately, without understanding how obsessing over these to ensure human niche can in reality risk human congruence. Dystopian fiction is the oeuvre that depicts how human life is getting enslaved in technological leverage. *Nineteen Eighty Four* by George Orwell, *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* by Philip K. Dick,

*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, *Geek Love* by Katherine Dunn- these are examples of some popular dystopian novels.

Mostly, dystopian novels are dark prophetic fictions that portray a world of disillusionment where in spite of the existence of an extreme technological advanced world, core human rights are often violated by a supreme powerful authority that stays behind a canopy and often totally out of the reach of common civilians. However, these prognostications are not baseless. Tara Van Den Neste, in her MA dissertation “Female Dystopias as Warning” claimed that dystopian novels are significant for us as they portray a possible catastrophic future, based on the present day practices and human tendencies, visible in the society (1). We see a type of novel under the genre that is called ‘Speculative fiction’ where a less destructive and more recognizable image is found and readers do not struggle to connect the similarities with the present world condition as they seem physically less gore and ironically a very systematic utopian state can be presented there. However, the ominous vibe is not in the surface level portrayal of the fictions, rather a hidden warning is provided for sensible audiences. Author Keith Neilson in his review article stated that dystopian (anti- utopian) fictions are not about future only, they are indirect representation of present. The authors of these fictions try to imply a caution about certain ongoing- unhealthy practice of the society on any issue which might results in a disastrous way, if not handled already (2). Therefore, the predictions and warnings cannot be ignored and this dissertation is going to explore about the traces of few dangerous trend such as artificial beauty enhancement among both men and women, genetic engineering, technology borne surveillance.

For my dissertation, I have used five primary sources which consists of three novels, one TV series and one Movie. *Brave New World* (1932) by Adlous Huxley, *Uglies* (2005) by Scott

Westerfeld, *If I had Your Face* (2020) by Frances Cha. The two other primary visual fictions are, American TV series *You* (2018), developed by Greg Berlanti and Sara Gamble and Dystopian sci-fi film *RoboCop* (2014) directed by José Padilha. Exploiting these primary sources in my dissertation I want to establish my claim that dystopian fictions attempts to predict coming technological hazards of human civilization based on facts of present time. By exaggerating reality, the authors of this genre endeavours to show to what extent current situation may lead us if we do not get careful already. People might call this genre a bleak exaggeration of authors' imagination but in reality the authors' unceasing venture is to warn the audiences about probable undesirable fate of world in the coming days caused by obsession over technological advancement. In my dissertation I will try to prove that authors of dystopian fiction make prediction about some technology borne unwanted occurrences that might take place in reality very soon. Based on the current situation of obsession over certain arena, dystopian authors attempt to make presumption or prediction that if current practice keeps on going in such intensity, then soon human civilization would encounter massive destruction. Predictions found in these novels should not be ignored as scrutinizing present trend we often find the predictions are already getting real and the scenario might get worst real soon. Even though dystopian genre shades light on many arena, in my dissertation I will focus on technological side and focused on three of such issues that are geared up by technological advancement. Three issues that I will be focusing are obsession over artificial beauty enhancement, insane increasing of surveillance over human life and emergence of posthumanist or transhumanist practice through genetic engineering which might entirely change natural human essence and biology in the near future.

The first text I have selected is *Brave New World* as this piece is undoubtedly a classic dystopian novel that was written back in 1932 and the text is significant because Huxley

predicted about future of genetic engineering and how people might abuse this science. In the novel we see natural reproduction system is banned and human are manufactured in laboratories and their genetics is manipulated and abilities are given according to an arbitrary class rank. He also showed how a seemingly utopian society might actually turn into dystopian when the authority snatches citizens' autonomy in the name of establishing stability and order. This is amusing how accurate his foresight was. The second novel is *Uglies* which criticized our image-obsessed society and latest obsession over plastic surgery. Westerfeld thinks that normalizing this trend of artificial beauty enhancement is creating a huge industry which manufactures beauty product and negatively influence medical sector that deals with beauty enhancement process. He fears and predicts that this emerging industry might become so powerful that they might turn this process circumvent and force people into hating their natural appearance so that they go for body and beauty enhancement. He also predicted how relying too much on technology might turn our life fully artificial and dehumanize human capability. *If I Have Your Face* published in 2020, written by South Korean author where she portrays the current society of South Korea where people specially women are risking everything to fit into the arbitrary social standard of beauty. In their society teen girls are even going under scissor without considering their age and changing their natural feature. While doing so they not only wasting money but also going through indescribable physical pain after the surgeries. They are still doing it because that's what society forces them to do. Artificial beauty is normalized and considered as women emancipation.

Apart from my textual primary sources, I have used two visual primary sources. *You* is an American psychological thriller TV series, developed by Greg Berlanti and Sera Gamble. For my dissertation I will be using 1<sup>st</sup> season of the series. This series can be seen as a sarcasm about

modern life's obsession over social media and how these social media is the advanced version of surveillance. Though the serial is about a psychopath killer Joseph, what convinced me in including the piece is the story shows us the bitter truth of our current society where all our activities are under surveillance without our knowledge. The story also unfolds how we give away our personal whereabouts in these social platform willingly, just to fit in. We do not rethink before making our private life public property and this tendency can lead to unwanted incident that the characters encountered in the story. At today's date, stalking has become really easy as we give away our everyday details on social media to go with the flow or to show-off. The series thus shades light on this new surveillance system that might seem harmless but is a really harmful technological catastrophe. The fifth primary source that I have included is a popular dystopian sci-fi movie *RoboCop* (2014 version) directed by José Padilha. The movie is about a cop's turning into cyborg (machine-human hybridization). Alex Murphy's wife agrees on his transformation into a half robot or cyborg after Alex survives a terrible bomb explosion. She did not want to let him die and the only way out was his transformation into transhuman as he lost 80% of his body. She agrees on his transformation under the association of a conglomerate organization named OMNICORP. This movie showcased the ways how exploiting ones weakness, capitalist organization might create a new threat in the name of giving a better life and ensuring security of a state. The movie also shows how cyborgs, the new kind of human being or the enhanced human like species can be a threat towards human civilization if their instilled programme is manipulated anyhow. In brief, how technology is inviting a new threat towards us in the name of posthumanist or transhumanist revolution.

The selection of my primary sources might seem little ambiguous hence I would like to clarify the reason behind choosing the mentioned above sources as my primary source and their

distribution in each chapter. I have used both *Brave New World* and *Uglies* in all three chapters as they had the trace of the three technology borne hazard I have decided to focus on. First reason behind selecting *Brave New World* is, this novel is undoubtedly a classic text. Technology was in quite inferior state when Huxley wrote it yet because of his extraordinary farsightedness, the predictions he made are turning true after so many years. The second dystopian novel *Uglies* is recent compared to the *Brave New World*. However, like Huxley, Westerfeld also could predict about a probable horrendous crisis that could result in from obsession over artificial beauty enhancement technology. Stereotypical standard of beauty is once again found here, along with surveillance system and body enhancement rejecting natural appearance of human being. In this novel we see how Huxley's predictions were still logical and warning about how situation might turn more severe if we keep on embracing these unethical technological invasions. In my first two chapters I have used these novels as the ground point of the base of prediction and to prove how the predictions are getting real, I have used latest literary pieces for example *If I Had Your Face* and *You*. These two oeuvre depicted real life picture of society and shows how our society is turning into dystopia itself. The final chapter is different compared to the first two as it deals with a topic which is gradually emerging and getting attention lately. As our society has not yet reached the peak of advancement in transhumanism and machine-organic hybridization sector, we are still relying on the probable picture of future. However, the movie *RoboCop* suits in the chapter as practice of implanting prosthetics to physically disabled people has already taken place and is also quite appreciated. Incidents like using super cop in war field is not just an imagination as developed countries like USA has started working on this. Thus, I have used this recent fiction for showing how society is normalizing and to some extent

glorifying machine-organic for achieving perfection, omitting human limitations resulting the emergence and glorification of human evolution process.

In the first chapter I will discuss about unhealthy obsession towards artificial beauty enhancement technology and its probable hazardous impact on society and individual. The two dystopian fictions have talked from different angle about stereotypical and toxic social standard of beauty and masculinity and predicted that this growing obsession would bring unavoidable social crisis. In *Brave New World* we see through genetic engineering embryos that will fall under high social rank is given certain physical features that matches with our social standard or beauty and masculinity. The other fiction *Uglies* even portrayed far worst situation where society is divided into hierarchy based on beauty and everyone is forced to go for artificial beauty enhancement. In my chapter, I will show the predictions about what kind of social and psychological crisis might arise from such image obsession. In the later part, I will shed lights on the unwanted issues, raised by the practice of establishing erroneous standard of beauty and masculinity. Starting from self-loathing, inferiority complex to fuelling a capitalist beauty industry that feeds on human's dissatisfaction about natural beauty. *If I Had Your Face* further shows that the predictions are coming true. Here we experience the extreme society of Seoul that has established the belief that their Mongolian features are ugly thus starting from teen age, almost everyone get pressure to do plastic surgery. Gradually, in my chapter I will attempt to investigate who are the people or force behind establishing such beauty and masculinity standard and how the beauty enhancement technology is thus emerging faster due to the obsession. This chapter further investigates how people are psychologically driven into giving in to this emerging practice of body and beauty enhancement technology. Studying present state of this



emerging industry and its manipulation, we can agree with the authors that in near future this will not be individual's choice to take its benefit or not, rather this will be forced onto us.

The second chapter of my dissertation will investigate the prediction about emerging surveillance technology and its probable future misery. This chapter will once again exploit *Brave New World* and *Uglies* to find out how technology is spreading its surveillance canopy over daily human activities. The telos of such practice is to create Foucauldian idea of 'weak body' that cannot rebel against authority and also Shoshan Zuboff's idea about creating environment for emerging capitalist surveillance industries. *Brave New World* offers us a unique surveillance that starts from the embryo level of human and continues till the end. In their world, family bond is destroyed so that people become isolated and give in to the surveillance. In *Uglies* we see overreliance on technology for creating human niche makes human prone to surveillance. As the individuals here depends on technology for everything, their each activity gets controlled and supervised by the authority via technological tools. This is ironical that people do not have much headache about losing their privacy as they cannot give up on their advanced comfortable living standard. To prove how these predictions were true I will use the TV series *You* where we see our modern life has been already under surveillance because of too much obsession over social media. Surveillance not only disrupts our privacy but also creates threats such as stalking. Later in the chapter I will investigate the people or reasons behind emerging modern surveillance system. The chapter overall scrutinizes emerging surveillance technology that is embedded with the everyday technologies that we use such as modern biometric system, smart phone, google home, social media, browsing cookies etc. Thus, our everyday movement starting from our daily activities to what we are thinking, everything is now under the surveillance of authority and powerful group of people. Authority and these capitalist business organizations also manipulate

our thinking and decisions. They not only observe our movement but also manipulate our ways of perceiving. So these are the overall focus of this chapter.

The third and final chapter is going to deal with newly emerging ultra-advanced technological practices such as genetic manipulation, cognitive enhancement, human and machine amalgamation. This will find out the newly emerging bioethical dilemma which might question the natural biology and originality of human being, which have been already predicted in several dystopian novels. This will further investigate who to be blamed for the trend of transhumanism. *Brave New World*, *Uglies* and American futuristic sci-fi film, *RoboCop* will be studied here. I consider this chapter different than two other chapters as this chapter deals with a fully new emerging technological threat which not only cause hazard but also question might form of human existence. Here we see how flourishing medical sector of genetic engineering is giving people right to manipulate human genetics. Instead of relying on nature now people decide and design their future babies just like the prediction of *Brave New World*. Even though yet human are not manufactured in laboratories but who know what future hold for us. This chapter shows how body enhancement in the name of beauty enhancement is changing the idea of human form and a new hybrid and modified human form might be awaiting for us which matches with the cyber punk look of *Uglies* or *RoboCop*. This chapter will attempt to closely study ethical dilemma raised by genetic engineering, threat of losing basic human essence. The chapter will also concentrates how in the name of omitting human physical limitation, the creation of cyborg might create new super species Human+ (popularly used in many scholarly article to refer technically, biologically enhanced, advanced human form) which might endanger human without enhancement. Obsession towards the practices of human intelligence and physical enhancement is window opener for many new crises. War obsession of mighty countries

like USA often supports human hybridization and thus invest to the industries that works for human enhancement. Thus, predictions about these overall posthumanist and transhumanist crisis will be discussed in this chapter.

In my dissertation I will talk about Camille Bruneau's idea of capitalist patriarchal hegemony in the first chapter where she examined how capitalism and patriarchy mingle together in creating pressure over women for creating self-loathing which results in accepting beauty and body enhancement technology. In my second chapter I will use Michel Foucault's theory of 'panopticon' from his widely celebrated book *Discipline and Punish* and Shoshana Zuboff's theory of 'surveillance capitalism'. In this chapter Foucauldian types of surveillance and why authority wrap the citizens under surveillance system is studied with the aim of realizing how our present society is nothing different than this. To create psychologically handicapped citizens our authority is flourishing surveillance system gradually. Where on the other hand surveillance capitalism is also growing where without individual's acknowledgement or permission. Owners of diverse social media and online pages are turning netizen's daily activities into their market raw data so that they can bring service and products according to consumer's need and also manipulating consumers into consuming those products and services. The third chapter deals with overall basic ideas of 'Posthumanism' and 'Transhumanism' where several scholars views towards this theory is discussed. So this is how the overall dissertation is constructed.

Dystopian fiction has been a field of raising interest as the genre seems to grab the interest of the young generation. With the raising popularity of this genre, lots of research work is happening on this field. While going through lots of scholarship related to dystopian genre I have noticed that most of them are on showcasing dystopian traits in certain novels or sci-fi

films. Apart from these, how dystopian novels have trace of social hierarchy and presence of totalitarian govt., these are mostly talked issues of the established research work. Novels like *Brave New World* and *Uglies* have been used in many paper however, the main scrutinizing issues were how they can be called dystopian fiction or the unethical social hierarchy. I think my research is unique because I am focusing on the predictions of the authors of these two dystopian novels and will scrutinize the novels from three different lenses, which are danger of ongoing body modification, surveillance through overreliance on technological tools and emergence of transhumanism through the practice of body modification and genetic engineering. To establish my claim that these traces of technological advancements were warning for us, I will connect the novels with recent fictions that portrayed real life situation and crisis related to these warned issues. Showing how dystopian novels are often prophetic literary work which has deeper meaning than just wild imagination and scrutinizing the novels from new lenses make my work unique than any other research work that has been done in this arena.

## Chapter One

### Caution regarding Newly Emerged Beauty Standard in Dystopian Novels

“In a world of extreme beauty, anyone normal is ugly”, Scott Westerfeld’s this quote cannot be questioned anymore when we are living in an ‘image-obsessed’ world where how much ‘pretty’ face one owns or how ‘masculine’ body one possess matters the most. Starting from twentieth century, science, technology, medical science, all these fields have brought tremendous change and advancement for ensuring human niche. However, technology being a blessing ironically often added new hurdle to civilization. New obstacles are added lately when this techno advanced society is forming a new ‘beauty standard’ that requires diverse extreme treatments and surgeries to reshape the body and face into a trending, commonly unique and ‘accepted’ features. Interestingly, this circumstances is now not limited within female community as even males are becoming target of the societal expectations of masculine physical features. As caution and prediction, dystopian novels have often projected human body that is either genetically modified or physically enhanced for beautification in the cases of both man and woman. The authors of this genre have predicted based on the ongoing obsession over stereo typical appearance beauty trend that soon the artificial beautification trend might become normalized and thus forced on everyone. The aim of this chapter is therefore to find out the traces of people’s insane urge of becoming ‘pretty’ and ‘perfect’ in novels, utilizing technological advancement in beautification sector specially. *Brave New World* (1932) by Adlous Huxley, *Uglies* (2005) by Scott Westerfeld and *If I Had Your Face* (2020) by Frances Cha- these novels will be exploited to prove the claim and this chapter will also further query about forces behind psychologically forcing people into following this trend even after knowing the consequences and sacrifices.

Struggle to fit in the beauty standard determined by the society was already an existing obstacle for women but with the technological advancement in the modern world this predicament is now more amplified and also for both gender. In the dystopian novel *Uglies* (2005) by Scott Westerfeld we encounter a new world where everyone is classified into different classes based on their age and beauty. The decision of turning 'uglies' into 'pretties' is also in the hand of a mysterious class who never appears in front of the civilians. Aspiration for external appearance has been an ancient human nature but how this obsession is getting malicious now is the focus of this novel. Westerfeld has skilfully portrayed how beautification technology is feeding onto human obsession for external beauty. Emergence of cosmetics surgery and body modification technology such as silicone implant technology is getting popular now a days. Yet these technological services are not imposed on everyone and also not affordable for all. However, popularity of these technologies is increasing quite fast. Westerfeld has therefore warned us about normalizing this trend. He not only criticised the tendency of worshipping physical beauty but also predicted how the amalgamation of image obsession and beautification technology can bring out a new crisis for future civilization. He emphasised on how normalizing such body enhancement tendencies can threat human autonomy in the future when anyone with a non-enhanced figure will be shamed and considered unwanted. He also criticised how our obsession for beauty makes us blind towards human creativity and other talent. In *Uglies* we see using this obsession human are turned into party dolls who do not have any other thought except for living a purposeless, superficial life. The truth of 'Lesion' can be seen as metaphorical representation of hegemony. The way pretties were blinded after taking 'Lesion', our obsession for such artificial beauty is also such hegemony has blinded us from appreciating other human traits.

In Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* (1932) we see another extreme medically advanced world where pre-birth genetic modification and editing takes place. Looks, ability, intelligence and ranks- all these are decided at the zygote stage and later on conditioned in laboratory. Five ranks of post-human are hatched and the top ranked 'Alpha plus' rank possess extremely perfect body feature and never gets old. They receive the most spectacular physical features because they are the future controller of the state. Whereas, the lowest caste 'Epsilon' are given non attractive physical features. The unethical and arbitrary class hierarchy along with interfering with natural human growth poke reader's conscience. Apart from that the idea that superior caste is the perfect being thus deserves the attractive physical features and the description of those features are highly stereotypical. However, the issue that concerns me was the mentioning of the practice of editing physical features of the embryo and giving the top ranked caste the socially appreciated appearance. The belief that masculine and pretty people deserves to sit at the top social strata and ugly and non-attractive people are the low caste is highly offensive and unacceptable. The wild prediction Huxley made almost a century ago about upcoming danger of moral quandaries where only perfectly conditioned beings deserve to enjoy human rights was a mocking and warning for modern world. These projection about perfect physical structure and unethical genetic modification was not an encouragement rather warning about façade that these lab practices might create.

*If I Had Your Face* (2020) by Frances Cha is an evidence that the brutal predictions made by the above mentioned dystopian novel writers were true facts. Cha has presented the current image obsessed society of South Korea in front of us to show how their society is going towards a wrong and unhealthy way by emphasising on external appearance. Their beauty standard is somewhat insane compared to the rest of the world. Silicon doll like skinny figure, fair glowing

skin with artificial plump lips is their accepted standard. As Cha termed them, ‘electrically beautiful’ girls (5). Women are indirectly forced to sacrifice wealth, money even body in order to afford cosmetic surgery to get that electrically beautiful body. In the novel we see struggle of four young women who work hard to survive in the expansive capital of South Korea, Seoul. Through their voices Cha has shown us the ongoing struggle of the women of their society. One of those is the imposed artificially enhanced beauty standard. Cha has emphasised how these women are often psychologically driven to believe they are not perfect and thus they have to enhance their beauty artificially. The novel also shows the syndicate of plastic surgeon community and also the ongoing flourishing beauty product and beauty enhancement technology business of South Korea. This is not only their cultural crisis that people are making an irrational beauty standard but also the involvement of capitalist community in establishing the trend of artificial beautification is to be blamed for the rising crisis. Utilizing the idea of women emancipation, their community is dehumanizing the female community by establishing inferiority complex and forcing them to change their body according to what patriarchal community desires. Though the novel focused on female community, author’s mentioning about unhealthy and depressing life of male kpop idols and their idea of masculine features deserves attention too. The established idea of artificial appearance and stereotypical appearance standard is hazardous for both gender. Hence, we can grasp the desire for standard beauty is becoming an unhealthy obsession which is leaving harmful impact on both gender. Men are also not free from the toxic picturization of masculine body.

Beauty and external features are worshipped everywhere. Bill Thornton and his fellow authors in their paper titled “Competitive Orientations and Women’s Acceptance of Cosmetic Surgery” stated that beauty is valued everywhere. The outer appearance and how much you fit



with socially constructed idea of beauty matters significantly as since the very beginning of civilization, human tend to worship this 'quality' (67). The set of physical features that is accepted as beautiful or attractive is quite similar in almost every culture. Authors of the two dystopian novels have also mentioned similar, stereotypical appearance as beauty standard. In *Uglies*, Tally has seen prettiness as, "Prettiness that everyone could see. Big eyes and full lips like kids; smooth, clear skin, symmetrical features... A million years of evolution had made it part of the human brain" (Westerfeld 16). This is an unfortunately accepted fact that fair skin has been seen as beauty trademark since prehistoric era. People with not fair skin and specially women of colours have been shamed and termed as not beautiful just because they did not own fair complexion. Now new traits are getting added to that standard. Symmetrical body features and shape of eyes or lips now matters and to get that shape people seek for medical assistance. These appearance challenges are not limited for women only. Men are also facing the challenge and Huxley has scrutinized the toxic masculinity standard set for men. "He was a powerfully built man, deep-chested, broad shouldered...the round strong pillar of his neck supported a beautifully shaped head. His hair was dark and curly, his features strongly marked... he was handsome and looked... every centimetre an Alpha-Plus" (Huxley 61). Both the novels have clearly shown the social standard for male and female appearance. Appearance standard is thus no more a gendered issue as both genders are now facing certain pressure on them. Even though women are often worst victim of such arbitrary beauty standard, men are now also facing pressure to possess stereotype masculine body features.

Obsession for having a beautiful face is not something unusual, especially among women. Having a pretty face is not just a side requirement, rather first and foremost prerequisite for women in many culture i.e. fair skin obsession in South Asia. The pressure of having a pretty

face is therefore more intense over female community. Thus the tendency of beauty care among women existed from a prehistoric era owing to meet up 'appearance standard' (Thorton et al. 67). With the passes of time and the advancement of medical technology, the method of 'beauty care' is transforming and getting more insane. Popularity of plastic surgery or cosmetic surgery is now increasing tremendously and once where having a fair skin meant fulfilling 'appearance standard', now more requirements are getting added to the list. In *Uglies* we see standard for beauty is somewhat insane. "Tally spent a lot time wondering...her skin and bones all filled out, her already full lips perfected...ragged fingernails gone forever" (Westerfeld 70). None denies about the existence of appearance pressure on women. This is almost an accepted issue but also, over time these beauty standard has been criticized. Hence, these days scenario is changing and giving in to beauty standard and going through any beauty treatment and exaggerated beauty care is considered as female emancipation. Ironically, in the name of emancipation, without even realizing, they are just objectifying their face and body according to the taste of patriarchal society (Thorton et al. 67). In *If I Had Your Face*, Cha showed how financially independent women glorify 'artificial beauty' standard and consider going under knife as 'adventure' (149). Even going under knives thousand times does not matter for these girls as they want to impress their male counterparts (16). The lack of realization about self-respect is found among these women. Being financially independent where they should care less about what male community desires to see in them, they sacrifice their money, time and other things in reshaping their body and face and they are taught me believe that thus they practice their freedom of choice. Valuing appearance over other talent is thus showed in *Uglies* as well. Shay called the pretties 'hyped-up Barbie dolls' with no brain because those girls only cared about partying instead of practicing other human talent (Westerfeld 66).

Giving the name of emancipation and normalizing the beauty enhancement practice is intensifying the practice of sexualizing female. This is however unfortunate that female community do not realize and give in to such evil practice. “There are something magic in their large and perfect eyes, something that made you want to pay attention to whatever they said, to protect them from any danger... they were so... pretty” (*Uglies*, Westerfeld 9). Tally’s statement represents her view towards ‘pretties’ and her desperation to be so. As Laura Mulvey claimed in her theory of ‘Male gaze’, women often present themselves as eye candy for male gaze. They also consider their appearance precious and believe it can give them social acceptance. Dystopian novels emphasise on this obsession for beautification. They have indirectly showed how independent women of present world is unknowingly using the technological advancement for beauty enhancement. In the name of getting social privilege, they are enslaving their body for the digital patriarchy. This prediction is an warning for the readers to realize that if the situation continues, in near future female community might not have the freedom to decide whether to go under knife or not. By normalizing and popularizing the electrical beautification trend, the digital patriarchal society might force the women to go for artificial beautification process. “Her eyes clouded over from anger...you don’t have to be such a condescending snob about surgery” (*If I Had Your Face*, Cha 49). Here Miho, one of the female protagonists, who could not afford surgery, was bashed badly by a mutual friend. That girl accused her of being non progressive and snob for not taking any surgery. We see how already the prediction from dystopian novel is coming true. Few women are giving in to the dangerous trend and becoming eye-candy for men and also forcing other women to practice the same. Using female body as a tool of satisfying sexual need was also seen in *Brave New World* where Lenina, an independent girl was termed as a piece of ‘meat’ because of her attractive body and prettiness (Huxley 45).

Defining 'getting sexualized' as emancipation is not the only crisis for women, raised by the emerging artificial beauty enhancement. The magnetism for 'pretty face' often causes self-loathing and inferiority complex, which is extremely detrimental for any individual. People see hate in other's eyes and start hating themselves. Tally also saw herself from the eyes of 'Pretties' and developed self-loathing. These people had the inbuilt self-loathing and desire to protect the 'pretties' thus one always look down upon own self and term own self with derogatory terms such as "stick insect", "pig eyes", "over-sized under educated uglies" (Westerfeld 62-63). Though they hated own self, they worshiped and adored the 'pretties'. "The big eyes and lips said I'm young and vulnerable... I want you to protect me...I want this pretty person... A pretty face, a face like Peris" (16). Tally's reaction seeing Peris is evidence for her inferiority complex and thrive for pretty face. Admiration for pretty face often create sense of jealousy among these people suffering from inferiority complex. "Sujin's face is too square for her to be ever considered as pretty in the true Korean sense...with another envious look at Kyuri's perfect creases, Sujin sighs" (Cha 5). Tally or Sujin to some extent reflects the Afro- American tragic girl 'Pecola' from worldwide celebrated novel *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Bin Yuan in the paper titled "Struggle and Survival in Cultural Clash: A Case Study of Pecola in The Bluest Eye" showed how mainstream culture forces to accept the Black community to accept that they are ugly and unwanted. Du Bois in the book *The Souls of Black Folk* examined how black community sees them from the eyes of white community and mainstream culture and develop their inferior 'Black identity'. Tragedy of Pecola was also a product of such self-loathing of 'Black identity' (qtd. in Yuan 106). Like the women of colour, Tally or Sujin is also learned to hate own appearance by the society so that they practice the artificial beauty enhancement culture.

Society is to blame behind creating psychological crisis among people who do not fall under the socially constructed standard of beauty. So that society's standard is maintained and not questioned, they inject ideas like self-loathing or inferiority complex. Normalizing the trend of present electrical beautification might gradually become inexorable and inevitable for female community. Class division is found based on appearance in both world of Huxley and Westerfeld. Possessing a natural face is considered as ugly and uglies are kept away from the 'New Pretty Town', like some untouchable diseases. These ugly class however do not question the unknown and unnamed authority rather they have unimaginable thirst and obsession to be a part of pretty group. Thing to be noticed here is this group of uglies do not have their own decision about going to the 'turning pretty' process but interestingly they do not find it questionable as well. Rather they cannot wait to turn the magic age sixteen as they can get rid of their hell hole, the ugly 'Uglyville'. The trend of plastic surgery is normalised to the point that Tally even made a comment while having conversation to Shay that in old time (indicating to our present time) not everyone was pretty and they did not try to fix their ugly faces and this seemed pathetic to her (67). Imaginary picturization of Tally's perspective by Westerfeld cannot be called mere imagination. "Sometimes I just cannot stop thinking about how ugly she is. Why doesn't she get surgery? Why? I really don't understand ugly people. Especially if they have money. Are they stupid?" (Cha 13). Kyuri, an independent and electrically beautiful girl made this comment out of her disgust. We certainly can understand where the society is taking the beauty standard and what crises are waiting for us.

This is often believed that stereotypical beauty standard is a gendered topic which concerns female community only. However, the emerging artificial beauty enhancement is no more gender biased and bringing new idea about masculine appearance. The emerging toxic

masculinity standard is creating a new crisis for men. Huxley hence depicted the struggle of a regular man who in case lack the expected features the same way women in society feel out-casted when they fail to match the society's standard for appearance. Bernard who thought himself outsider just because he lacked these features which made him think he has "physical defect" and "physical inadequacy" (Huxly 60). His slender body and shorter height made him detest own self. His frustrations were visible when he said, "I am I and I wish I wasn't" (60). Huxley described his frustration as "his self-consciousness was acute and distressing" (60). In *Uglies* also we see Westerfeld has made the term 'pretty' and 'ugly' as gender biased term and he depict that men besides women might be imposed with artificial beauty enhancement. Tally found Peris breathtakingly beautiful after he was changed by plastic surgery but she comment about David was "David was hardly a pretty. His smile was crooked and forehead too high" (149). So the pressure of toxic masculinity and exaggerated beautification is not only threat for women. Robert E Slavin claimed in his book *Educational Psychology: Theory and Practice* that adolescents start to scrutinize themselves comparing with others to find out how they are different. In these psychological growing up stages when they realize they 'lack' according to the social standard, they suffer from low self-esteem. Previously it was thought that body image consciousness problem exists only among women but for last twenty years scholarships have claimed that even men are suffering from social norms of not only Masculine Ideology (MI), but also masculine body image. Study such as "Male Body Practices: Pitches, Purchases, and Performativity" by Maya Lefkowich and her fellow authors and "Media Internalization and Conformity to Traditional Masculine Norms in Relation to Body Image Concerns Among Men" by Ann Frisen and the fellow authors investigated the struggle, pressure and inferiority complex among young and adult men due to having thin body. The study shows how media portrayed

image of men put them into pressure to have muscly body and these struggles are even gone unnoticed as men's 'body image' is not a talked topic (Frisen et al. 3).

Existence of 'male gaze' is unanimously known but the truth of 'female gaze' should not be ignored anymore. Huxley has described about expected masculine features of men and showed how men can be scrutinized in a much sexualised way. Huxley has showed how height, broad chest and shoulder and superficial masculine attitude attracts women. He thus proved that not only women are expected to possess certain physical features to attract men, men need certain features to attract women as well. In *Brave New World*, Watson, had those features thus "girls were always after him" (63). Lenina's comment, "I do like him. He has such awfully nice hands. And the way he moves his shoulders- that's very attractive" (82) shows the fact that not only men sexualize women, women do the same. Laura Mulvey in her 'Film Theory' claimed that men are also portrayed considering how female audience might want them to see. The pressure of possessing such 'six pack' masculine body now does not limit within actors. In Huxley's world men without socially constructed physique are unwanted. We now see how regular men's Instagram stories are often containing gym videos and about body abs. Not always sports persons or movie actors are sharing these, rather often very young boys are also extremely concerned about their body. Such desire or this trend of Masculine Identity did not come suddenly. Media has its role to play here as well. Recently men are implanting artificial pack and often taking injections to make masculine body. Action movie hero culture or latest Kpop culture is bringing new ideas about male body and beauty. Kpop culture is presenting the idea of 'female gaze' or 'male sexualisation' and showing how men appearance and attire has to maintain certain standard. Having pack, tattoo, body piercing, exotic hair style- all these are newly emerging idea and especially in Western world, men are obsessing over this Masculine Identity. However, these

trends of achieving such a socially constructed standard of masculine features is injecting inferiority complex among many and especially young generation. Many are even suffering from poor self-esteem just like Bernard from *Brave New World*. Even being an Alpha plus, he faced mockery due to lack of enough masculine features (Huxley 65). “The mockery made him feel an outsider; which increased the prejudice against him and intensified the contempt and hostility aroused by his physical defect. It increased his sense of being alien and alone” (60).

Cultural appropriation and gender norms normalization have often been burden over both gender. Female gender norms includes gender role starting from reproductive role or role of caretaker of the family and male had to maintain some arbitrary social trend. In a chapter titled ‘How do patriarchy and capitalism jointly reinforce the oppression of women?’ written by Camille Bruneau, she claimed that besides performing the gender role, women had to be ‘pretty’ and at the same time. Just like her claim this was accepted that women had this extra burden of appearance which men did not have. At present this claim cannot be fully supported. Andrew P. Smiler in his article “Conforming to Masculine Norms: Evidence for Validity among Adult Men and Women” showed that men also undergo societal pressure about their gender norm. They have gender role of taking care of the financial responsibilities of family and also maintaining Masculine Ideology (MI) (767). Recent scholarships are giving away some interesting insights about male idea of their body image. In a paper titled “Body Image Investment among Gay and Bisexual Men over the Age 40: A Test of Social Comparison on Theory and Threatened Masculinity Theory” by Travis A Ryan and his fellow authors investigated and found out that even though it is thought that female group face greater pressure about body image, body fat, appearance and body dissatisfaction, among the gay and bisexual community, men are lately suffering from these stress as well (4-5). Their case study shows that these community have the



tendency of following mass media acknowledged body image of men which includes masculine body structure, tattoos, body piercing, unique hair style and branded stylish clothing (5). This is a matter of fact that the concern of dystopian authors about male body image obsession is therefore cannot be neglected. However, this scenario is still as not bad as the present condition of female community and the increasing insane demand for ‘artificial’ but ‘pretty and perfect’ face and body. So women can be seen as a vulnerable group. Thus Tally’s biggest fear was not turning pretty and dying ugly (Westerfeld 46).

The dystopian novels that I have talked about so far portrayed the struggle both women and men might be encountering in the coming days because of the emerging idea of beauty enhancement. In *If I Had Your Face*, Frances Cha has portrayed the present scenario of modern Korean society which has already rejected the ‘natural beauty’ and have embraced ‘artificial beauty’ due to their dissatisfaction about the ‘Mongolian features’. Chinese and Korean history already shows about their strict and irrational beauty standard of women and how women often go through physical pain to fit into that beauty standard. Women are unknowingly becoming victim of a capitalist ‘image obsessed’ society. Successful men are using female body as ‘trophy’ and overall ‘male gaze’ is fed by ‘surgically modified women’ (15). Cha tried to showcase life hurdle of these modern women. She also attempted to investigate how media and capitalist patriarchy is forcing these women into becoming sexual object and to some extent ‘modern sex slave’ (4). What those dystopian novels predicted seems to be less scary looking at the massacre of Korean modern society. In the paper, “Korean Cosmetic Surgery and Digital publicity: Beauty by Korean Design” authored by Gloria Davies and Gil Soo Han, they have termed this cosmetic surgery trend increased in the 2000s as a by-product of *Hallyu* ‘Korean wave’ which represents the flourish and phenomenal success of their entertainment industry and media (146). Perfect

appearances of media personals and them encouraging the usage of beauty products and cosmetic surgery influenced the Korean people highly and after almost 20 years of this phenomena we see the trend is now normalised like the world of 'Uglies'. The article showed how now even parents, especially mothers are sending their daughters for at least 'eye lid' and 'nose' surgery (149). These words from the article seems to reflect perfectly while reading Cha's realistic description from the novel. The female characters are investing their every last savings for their obsession. Such obsession for turning pretty is unhealthy and it shows rather a sense of self-loathing in these individuals (Westerfeld 38). Westerfeld's caricature was his endeavour to pinpoint towards our present increasing obsession towards 'perfect shaped body and face'. Westerfeld feared that this unhealthy craze and obsession for perfect body and face might take us to the world of *Uglies* in the near or distant future and Cha proved that the fear has come true already.

The amount of sacrifice one has to make for affording these beautification enhancement is unimaginable. The amount of money one has to pay for these surgeries and beauty products is also insane. Starting from the skin care products and the treatment, all these are known to be one of the most highly expensive treatment and products. In *If I Has Your Face*, Cha showed how people of 'not so rich' background work hard to earn money and then spend them all for skin care products and mainly for cosmetic surgery (11). These clinics often offer special discount so that they receive more clients and also they give percentage to the customers who can bring more clients. Thus the business of these clinics are always going good. "The doctor who performed the surgery was the husband of one of our teachers... About half of our school got their eyes done because the teacher offered us a 50 percent discount. The other half, which included me, couldn't afford even that" (6), this statement of Ara, one of the characters indicates how expensive these

surgeries are. Another dialogue of her reveals that Korean people spend a lot for their skin too, like buying latest skin mask and serum. We see Miho talking about Kyuri who buys hundreds of bottles of these serum now and then. These girls we see in the novel are found to work really hard to pay their bills but from that they don't save the money for their better future or for other purposes rather they often work to pay for the surgeries. Often they even take loans on a high interest. "One minute you are accepting loans from... and bloodsucking money lenders for quick surgery to fix your face, the next minute the debt has ballooned in a staggering unpayable sum" (80). We also see how often many rich men even of old age use this weaknesses of young girls and take sexual benefit from them in return of paying of their debt or by paying for surgeries. "The grandfather still comes around every few months... all he asks is that I do little show removing my clothes and then stay naked the time we stay together so that he can touch me and look at me" (81). Being a reader I felt disgusted and also depressed that women out there are actually selling their body just to fit into the toxic standard of beauty.

Besides the expenditure of an insane amount of money, the level of physical pain one has to go during plastic surgery is also unimaginable. "When they grind and stretch your bones to the right shape, peel off face and rub all your skin away, and stick in plastic cheekbones so you look like everybody else- may be after going through all you just aren't very interesting anymore" (Westerfeld 43). This disturbing description that Shay gave to Tally actually is not imaginary. Westerfeld did not exaggerate to scare the readers rather this gruesome description is the real physical sacrifice one has to undergo to have pretty face. To what extent one might go to feed on to their obsession can be a question. For obsession one can do many insane activities or can make sacrifices as well but when obsession leads to torturing own self then we have to understand this obsession is beyond unhealthy. The amount of money one has to pay for

cosmetic surgery is huge but more than that the physical pain one go through while undergoing these surgeries are beyond any of these monetary sacrifices. Frightening description of plastic surgery process is described by Westerfeld can give some insight about it. Frances Cha described the level of pain one has to go through after going through these knife adventure.

When I finally awoke the evening of my jaw surgery and the anaesthesia began to wear off, I started screaming from the pain, but my mouth would not open and no sound came out. After hours of persistent agony, the only thing I could think was how I wanted to kill myself to stop it- I tried to find a balcony to jump from and when I could not, frantically searched for anything sharp or glass (25).

After these surgeries, the patients face enormous pain for months. Cha described in the novel how people face discomforts such as not being able to open mouth normally (80). On top of these, incidents of surgery disaster is also very common. In those cases often the service receiver cannot undo the operation and spend rest of their lives with a defective facial feature (4, 6).

Curiosity arises wondering knowing all these negative aspects and sacrifices that these perfecting body shape and appearance demands, why people go for it, knowingly? Or what are the forces that are fuelling into manipulating people into accepting and practising these trends? One answer is of course the unquenchable thirst for socially accepted beauty and obsession for perfect figure. Media propaganda and also the availability of technology and advancement of clinical science plays big role here. To serve capitalism, consumerism, capitalist patriarchy, societal hegemony- this obsession is accelerated and fuelled by a group of people. Also gender politics is always there for enslaving modern women and living in this technologically advanced world, utilizing technology into manipulating women is not a bad strategy. However, in all the three novels, the authors not only have warned us about what

new crisis is approaching towards us but also have mentioned to the issues that are gearing towards the danger. Scholarships that have also talked about this social crisis tried to find out reasons behind the increasing acceptance and popularity of beauty enhancement, body modification. Few articles have also warned about the coming disaster brought by genetic engineering that are yet not so talked topic in our part of the world however this is already there and like beauty modification, soon those might be turned into a new unavoidable social threat. Having said that, main issues that are mentioned by the authors in the novels, which are working behind the increasing popularity of these trends will be investigated in the further section in this chapter.

Media always play strong role in establishing any belief in society. Notwithstanding, role of media in establishing stereotype model for beauty is an old and talked topic. Like we see in *The Bluest Eye* that media impose their idea or propaganda of beauty on black and non-white people and make these group suffer from low self-esteem. So media here also play its manipulative role to establish their propaganda. In *Uglies* we see Shay trying make Tally understand that hating own self and calling own self ugly is not funny and they are influenced to believe so. “This whole game is just designed to make us hate ourselves” (38). The result of spreading stereotyped ideas is people start believing them as inferior. “Don’t be weird Shay! I am an ugly, you are an ugly” (65) this comment of Tally shows how she has been extensively brain washed by her surroundings that she cannot understand the politics behind the beauty standard and promoting self-hatred. In *If I had Your Face*, the author shows how Korean entertainment industry misguide and manipulate into believing they have dissatisfying body and face hence they should follow the celebrities, whose appearances determines the beauty standard (52). So Yeon Leem, in her paper “The Dubious Enhancement: Making South Korea

a Plastic Surgery Nation” showed 50% of Korean women in their twenties do plastic surgery (2). The Korean media uses idea of women empowerment and emancipation and tangled it with appearance to misguide people. She also talked about Kpop (Korean pop) culture and how media misrepresent their lives and create it as dreamy so that mass people follow their life style (69). Using the obsession towards these celebrities, media use them for advertising for products and clinics that performs cosmetic surgery. Davies and Han in their paper also mentioned about these strategies of media for facilitating beauty business of Korea that has flourished a lot since the rising of *Hallyu* or ‘Korean wave’. Leem also directly blamed technology and science and specially media for increasing such plastic surgery culture in Korea (3). Like Korean media, media worldwide play role in influencing people towards feeding onto their obsession.

Invention of plastic surgery occurred in West after world war 1<sup>st</sup> to reconstruct damaged body parts of war veteran to give them a normal physical and psychological life ahead (Leem 4). However bio-medical technological advancement keep accruing and this technological advancement like development of elements like silicon implants, all these paved new way for plastic surgery industry where now perception of taking this service is fully changed than it was before. Preventing aging, looking attractive, getting perfect body shape, changing the dissatisfying body features, looking trendy and more like celebrities- all these are the reason behind people’s taking this service. In a paper titled “Creativity in Plastic Surgery”, A. Prado and P. Andrades briefly talked how new innovations and advancement of clinical science in plastic surgery realm are adding and making the whole process more intriguing (2). In a report published by The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS) announces the number of cosmetic surgery procedures carried out by members

every year and it reveals that about 9,200,000 were performed in 2011. The number is increasing more and more every day and participation of male member is also increasing. Gloria Davies and Gil Soo Han in their paper also mentioned how technological advancement plays role in increasing popularity of it besides other facilitators (147). Advancement of genetic engineering is also happening fast so perhaps the way main motto behind plastic surgery has been replaced, the same way in the upcoming years, genetically engineered babies will become normal as well just the way we see in Huxley's world. Perhaps ensuring the perfect features even before the baby is born might be normal then, outlawing the normal natural rules of nature.

In an article published in 2019 in an online newsletter named Medgadget it reported about the net worth of the Global Cosmetic Surgery market which was USD 21.97 billion and they predicted that it might increase up to 7.8% more within 2023. This fast growing market has spread its branches almost all over the world and new strategies are being added to expand the market even more. Capitalism has always been there and will remain till the end and capitalist politics to sustain market while maximising profit has always been innovative in bringing new strategies. Using the peer pressure on women, societal beauty norms, influence of media and technology, social media obsession (snapchat, instagram), influence of film industry- exploiting all these capitalists are convincing people into investing money in this market and taking the service. Capitalism always finds its way in manipulating people into believing their agenda. They find out people's weakness and use it for their business. In *Brave New World* we see a total capitalist, class hierarchy is existing and the whole system is run by them. They are feeding people with the dream of 'happiness' and feeding them 'Soma; which is a metaphor for hoe capitalism is blinding people and controlling their psychology. The way

taking 'soma' tablet provides happiness, the same way in the name of giving self-confidence and self-esteem, capitalism is making people investing their all in this beauty enhancing market. In the world of *Uglies* we see how capitalist propaganda is used into luring them into a baseless pompous life of partying and being pretty. These citizens are also drunk into this vague search of happiness. The whole design of self-loathing is a capitalist strategy to facilitate their profit maximization. Frances Cha also directly talked about how vast market is existing in Korea and endless number of items of beauty products are entering to market. Even for fingernails they have multiple items such as nail straightening vitamin or branded thickening polish. They even have eyelid tape which is also available in Bangladesh. Lots of scholarships are already claiming that this dissatisfaction about body is somehow created and injected among women especially Asian women to feed onto consumerism. Authors in the novels have pinpointed that capitalism is to be blamed behind the flourishing of the sick practice of artificial beauty enhancement.

Utilizing gender role norm and gendered beliefs they have oppressed women in many way and promoted the gender norm ideologies that facilitated them. The gender norm of being pretty existed but this norm has been amplified by capitalism. More specifically, patriarchal capitalism facilitates these to sustain 'gender- inequality' 'women's inferiorization' and even their psychological colonisation took place here where western white women were set as standard and women of other nationality was imposed to believe only fair skin and structure like western women can the epitome of beauty. Thus the tendency of beauty enhancement appeared and thus this is still gearing up towards the flourishing of Global Cosmetic Surgery Industry. Canadian feminist Katherine P. Morgan expressed her concern saying plastic surgery is a tool for patriarchy and racism where



women's body is colonised and the whole system paves way for women oppression (qtd. in Leem 3). Cinzia Aruzza claimed that "capitalist accumulation perpetuates gender oppression" (qtd. in Bruneau) so this process of capitalism and patriarchy compliments each other for keeping their control over the society. The rise of technology increases rise of capitalism and however utilizing the rise of modern technology patriarchy brings out new strategy to enslave modern women. Donna Haraway one of the leading Posthuman feminist said in her *Cyber Manifesto* that participation of women in technological advancement has always been non satisfactory (289). She however believed participation of women in this sector might increase when female identity and female body will be a subject of scrutinizing according to female perception. Lately many feminists see female taking service of 'enhancement technology' as their emancipation but the question arises whether this idea is just a propaganda of using 'women against women' strategy of capitalist patriarchy. Donna Haraway also expressed her concern about the new dilemma and ambiguity this technological advancement might arise for women and ushered feminists to talk about this issue.

One of the main facilitators for influencing people into nurturing their beauty obsession is societal hegemony and I think this is one of the strongest facilitators behind this obsession. Harold Lasswell in 1920s came up with the Hypodermic Needle Theory, also known as Magic Bullet Theory which says that starting from early childhood, through medium like tv, posters, magazines, advertisements, sudden ideology is injected among people and the community mass, without questioning these ideologies, start accepting them. The relevance of this theory here is the society we live in, for example the South Asian or Eastern Asian society is very much prejudiced and full of hegemonies when it comes to

beauty standard. Why women feel inferior about their body and complexion and why do they even want to be attractive in 'Men's eyes, all these answers are connected to these existing hegemony and injecting ideology among girls since early childhood. There are already thousands of literature that talks about how hegemony influence Asian and non-white women for their aspiration towards fair skin. At present, besides fair skin other features are added to the requirement list. These case studies of Japanese, Philippine or Korean women and also our South Asian women and their dissatisfaction about body is a result of the injected ideas by the society that asks them to follow others (Western white women). Since childhood they are called uglies when they mismatch with the existing beauty standard and the injected idea makes them vulnerable and force them to follow the trends. In *Uglies* we see mentioning of 'Lesion' which changes the way pretties think after surgery. Like Soma tablet from *Brave New World* this serum also manipulates the way of perceiving things. Metaphorically we can see these medicines as a tool to enslave one so that they never think differently. David's comment to Tally thus can be interpreted differently when he said "ninety nine percent of humanity had something done to their brains and only few people in the world knew exactly what" (Westerfeld 210). This is not just the medicine that makes people think differently. The existing ideology of our society also blinds us and we can never think differently as if we are under some spell of medicine. This change of brain is the societal conditioning that we all go through. The sense of right or wrong, social norms are often a complicated issue. The way in *Brave New World* people are conditioned inside 'Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre' is just a representation of societal conditioning. And the real image of these dystopian representation is depicted in *If I*

*had Your Face*, a culture that is so spiteful towards women and the women that are so fool into conditioning and reshaping them the way society wants.

To conclude and sum up the major discussion of this long chapter it can be said that technological advancement is appreciated but one concern citizen must always be aware of the ways this is utilized or used against us. Dystopian novels have been always warning us about what side of the society is faulty or misleading. The aspects of society that can harm humanity or its existence. The descriptions are often amplified but the inherent message is always significant. In the two above mentioned dystopian novels we might encounter a very well organised world but the reality of those worlds are both frightening. Under the veil of ‘perfect’ and ‘happy’ people what we see is psychological domination and brainwash. The emergence of beauty enhancement technology might seem harmless but the gradual increasing of this obsession might bring disastrous impact on us in the distant future. Once the fear was limited among women due to the ever existing patriarchy, however, now with the rise of other gendered community (LGBTQ), men are also not out of this danger of beauty obsession. No obsession is good and when it lead to endangering own body, it is deadly. The option that is available now about whether to go under surgery or not might not exist in the near future like which has already happened in Korea. In the name of ‘Gangnam beauty’ or ‘Gangnam style’, Korean women and men are being psychologically forced to follow and accept the cosmetic surgery trend. Challenging and altering nature has always resulted in a bad way so altering nature’s way will not bring any better result for us. These are the concerns that the authors of these two dystopian novels tried to convey towards the audiences.

## Chapter 2

### “Under their Eyes”: Surveillance and Surveillance Capitalism in Dystopian Novels

In George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, the repetitive reminder, “Big brother is watching you”, not only terrified the citizens of Oceania but also petrified everyone with an unknown discomfort. The frightening depiction by Orwell shook the readers out of fear and at the same time gave them relief that they are not a part of Oceania but the question arises now, in this twenty first century, are we really living in a different world with no surveillance over us or we are unaware of the eyes following us every moment. The purpose and ways of surveillance might vary but surveillance is existing more indomitably than ever. Overpowering technology persistently exists in dystopian novels while making the life either comfortable or to control. In *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, we see similar surveillance over citizens to keep them under the domain of authority's controlling. The surveillance is to some extent often used as a tool of social conditioning thus the thought process of the oppidans is also observed to determine their future activities. The prediction about the technological-advancement borne surveillance threat has become reality and prevailing in our present society in diverse form. Such as Surveillance Capitalism, where human activity is considered as data and used for profit maximisation. In a recent popular Netflix series *You* (2018), developed by Greg Berlanti and Sara Gamble we perceive how our present life has fully lost its privacy owing to Social media and how our life is now at display as a product. Exploiting these three fictions, the aim of this chapter is thus to illustrate how the prediction about surveillance control over human

lives in dystopian novels is turning into reality and newly added crises are questioning the existence of 'human privacy'.

'Surveillance' simply means keeping an eye over someone's movement in order to prevent and control suspicious activities that might cause unwanted trouble which might create threat towards public safety. However, the term 'surveillance' is not quite innocent as over time its use over people's lives is getting controversial. Michele Foucault in *Discipline and Punish* talked vastly about the surveillance politics of authority where he used 'Panopticon' as a metaphor for disciplinary power over citizens in modern civilization in order to create 'docile body' (138). The other power mode he talked about was sovereign power of authority which aims to expand over civilians lives with the intention of controlling their activities and behaviour. In brief, Foucault showed how authoritarian surveillance exists over human lives in order to exert their control over people. Unaware of hidden politics, people under surveillance, act accordingly to prove they are not breaking any rules. Thus, even in the absence of this mighty Panopticon eyes, they keep acting accordingly and that is what the 'docile body', the authority wants to create. Shoshana Zuboff in *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* stated her concern about the newly arise threat towards human privacy where without their consent and aware, their behaviour is under surveillance via machine intelligence for market enterprises. She demonstrated how human experiences are used as raw data for prediction, product enhancement, extractions and sales maximization (6). Human behaviour, activities everything is now under surveillance. Besides surveillance how human behaviour is being shaped and conditioned via exploiting oppidan's psychology is also a topic to study now a days (7). Zuboff also showed that invasion of unethical surveillance which is interestingly now normalized in this age. In this

chapter based on the theories and claim of these two theorists, I would like to establish my claim utilizing the texts and the series that we have entered to the red zone of danger already.

In Scott Westerfeld's dystopian novel *Uglies* we encounter an extremely technologically advanced world. However, in that world, everyone is designed and more like conditioned to follow an unknown authority and their unquestionable restrictions. The setting of the novel is a depressing environment with the presence of one webbed surveillance and the oppidans' mobility is also minimized and restricted. The ever guarding and monitoring futuristic gadgets keep surveillance over people 24/7, i.e interface ring, "without [this ring] she was nobody" (15). Starting from walking roads, bridges, elevators- everything had Artificial Intelligence (AI) and could keep record of the users. We see how the whole place is fragmented and allocated for dwellers based on age. No one was not allowed for free movement and kept under strict observation. The surveillance not only limited their physical movement but also their mind. It is interesting how they would get signals inside their brain while breaking any rules such as stepping on restricted areas. Westerfeld's world is also covered with the canopy of cameras that scrutinizes everyone's movement. The city dwellers were well aware of their mobility limitations and instead of rebelling against it, we see how they followed those arbitrary rules. The citizens of that world were both psychologically and physically conditioned. They are called psychologically conditioned because they were trapped and tied by their fear of not getting pretty. Citizens were too scared to break any rules. They represent the exact Foucauldian idea of 'docile body', who stays under authoritarian surveillance. Tally's encounter with Dr. Cable of Special circumstances department disclose how Tally and Shay's breaking down the rules did

not go unnoticed (84-89). These people were also physically conditioned as they were injected with 'Lesion' to stop their capability of thinking differently.

In *Brave New World* we see surveillance to a different level. Surveillance starts before the birth of the citizens. In this futuristic dystopian novel we get a glimpse of a very technologically advanced world where natural process birth is also altered and babies are 'created' in laboratory, under close observation and genetics are altered and controlled and determined by the controllers of 'Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre'. After the babies are created, starting from nursery days they are kept under surveillance to be studied and to apply 'behavioural conditioning' (26). The goal of such monitoring and conditioning is to feed a capitalist regime that is looking for enthusiast, non-rebellion labours. The lab created individuals were even predestined with their arbitrary social rank. So that such hierarchy remain intact, the authority condition people and keep them under surveillance in order to produce 'docile bodies' that will follow the rules and never go against the state. This is why the Director said, "But all these suggestions are our suggestions! Suggestions from State... is therefore follows" (34). Like many dystopian novels in Huxley's world also surveillance exists to feed a totalitarian govt. and they not only end the game here rather Huxley showed the extremity of such practice where humans are considered as products. These unbelievable advanced genetic engineering laboratories produced human and for keeping the business unperturbed. To keep their system active, they snatched away productive ability from women and filled them with disgust towards family life. To keep their motive unharmed, they have even produced a 'legal drug' called 'Soma'. Capitalist surveillance knows that people aspire for happiness. Therefore, they have made this drug known to be 'side effect less' and which gave people euphoric feelings.

By making this drug intake compulsory, they kept the people in drunk and unaware state and also kept the production of 'Soma' active. Thus two types of surveillance ruled these people.

In a recent American Netflix, psychological thriller series *You* (2018) we see how dependence on gadgets and social media is severely damaging our personal space and making our life unguarded in front of outsiders. In this series we see the story of Joe Goldberg, a psychologically disturbed bookstore manager in New York, who upon meeting Guinevere Beck a writer, becomes obsessed. We see how all information about her residence, friends, workplace and even her personal information such as relationship or how she is feeling everything had open access. Just by stalking her Instagram account, this guy Joe could lure her into trap and later we see how she and her friends also became victim of this psychopath Joe. The reason behind including this series to this chapter is to show the modern surveillance over human life and how, unknowingly we are letting intruders have their access to our lives via these social networking sites (SNS). How a person is feeling, thinking or what is their personality- all these can be trace down via SNS and as Shushana Zuboff stated that our liking in one Facebook post related to one product determines the types of advertisements we will receive from next time (12). If we compare this series with her idea then we see how a person acts can help in predicting about further actions and also how showing off tendency on SNS is flourishing consumerism which is also feeding capitalist society. Mentioned two dystopian novels depicted how giving up privacy for making life comfortable has backfired in the imagined futuristic society and the aggression of such displaying personal life is already taking toll on us without our realization. Not only we are turning into raw data for capitalist market or 'surplus data' and getting robbed but also, like girl Beck from the series, we can turn into a victim of any crime. One of the messages of this series was to make us aware that not always visible CCTV is watching us rather our very personal



gadgets like smartphone or laptop are displaying and selling us to others and often we are allowing it knowingly or unknowingly.

Living in modern world means being under surveillance. Surveillance is quite normalized in our present world as many of us think that surveillance provides security. In the name of safety and security, we, modern individuals are never free from surveillance. This condition justifies Sean P. Connor's claim, made in "Surveillance, Agency, and the Possibility of Resistance in YA Dystopian Fiction" that modern society is moulded with surveillance. He quoted Lyon D. in his paper saying that to participate in modern society is to be under electronic surveillance (2). However, this was not the case in past. Sébastien Lefait, in the paper titled "Dystopian Villages: Surveillance and Re-mediation in *The Prisoner*" stated that the extensive use of surveillance devices in public space was noticeable during 1980's and went through sharp increase during 1990's (79). Direct mentioning or presence of surveillance was also found in reality shows and different TV series as well (78). *Brave New World* was written back in 1932 and the question might arise how Huxley's world could have surveillance in it. The answer is, Huxley had impressive farsightedness. Huxley, being a dystopian author used his imagination and prediction about a futuristic technologically advanced era where surveillance was not the central theme but surveillance narrative pattern functioned dynamically as reflexive agent. Presence of multi-layer surveillance is undeniable there. At the very beginning of the novel we see how human birth process is altered and now under the supervision and surveillance of authority thus the rank of the babies are also predetermined. The active surveillance for ensuring behavioural conditioning cannot be unnoticed. Starting from early nursery level kids are kept under surveillance (26). Thus, innocent brain is exploited and based on social rank, they are trained into their future serving purpose. For example, kids belonging to lower rank as Deltas or

Epsilons are meant to be sewage workers so they are kept away from books or by applying habit formation over them where they are given electric shock therapy. This habit formation process is also done under authority supervision and surveillance to find out any suspicious case and to be handled right away. Such practice over someone undoubtedly falls under unethical surveillance.

The setting of *Brave New World* also confirms lateral or peer to peer surveillance. As the existence of family is banished and everyone stays in a dorm and everyone under same hierarchy knows and mingle with everyone, thus, no one gets the opportunity to break the state imposed rules. From the conversation between Fanny and Lenina about Lenina's dating partner, we see how Lenina's dating same guy for four months did not go unnoticed by her peer and so she warned her saying, "And you know how strongly D.H.C objects to anything intense or long drawn. Four month... without having another man, he would be furious if he knows" (43). Almost same kind of living style is found in *Uglies* as well even though they don't consider family bond as scandalous but we see kids are kept away from their real parents and they are kept in segregated dorm and different towns. The pressure of getting caught by peers existed there too therefore, Tally had to sneak out carefully not to be caught by her fellow *Uglies* as well besides the authority itself. When Shay asked Tally to step outside their city completely which wasn't covered in surveillance camera as per their knowledge, tally hesitated saying, "But what if we get busted" (41). You can be the best reference for lateral surveillance which was accelerated and made possible via internet though. Joe, using Beck's social media account kept his eyes on her all activities starting from her address. On the 1st episode "Pilot" Joe said while stalking her, "the next thing our little internet gave me was your address" (00:08:30). Since the very starting of the series we see how modern world is under extreme peer surveillance. The series reflected how in the name of modern socialization, we are facing contemporary

surveillance danger these days. Often unknowingly we are giving away our every daily updates on internet. In *You*, third episode, “Maybe” we see Beck posted a picture and through that picture Joe could trace her location which Beck wanted to hide for her personal reason. Which resort she stayed and all her updates were under peer surveillance and social media made it possible. Thus this can be said that those innocent posts are becoming tools for our peers to determine our attitude and lifestyle pattern. Thus, we are always under peer surveillance and left with no privacy.

We consider technology often as a benediction as it has connected us with everyone from any part of the world. We feel lucky to have our access everywhere but we hardly realize that others also have access to our activities. Claiming that we are living in a surveillance village now will not be a lie. Here all our activities are always under authoritarian observation. Sebastien Lefait in his above mentioned paper scrutinized a contemporary TV series *The Prisoner* where he detected types of surveillance system and he called that place a surveillance village as the high angle shots gives a vibe that the dwellers are always under some speculation (79). Comparing with his claim I would also call *Uglies* a surveillance village. Tally’s comment makes it more obvious, “skipping classes or tricking the house into playing her music louder than allowed, everyone did that kind of stuff and everyone got busted for it” (9). Later with the unfolding of stories we realize that Tally and Shay’s secret adventures were also known to the special circumstances department. “We’ve been watching Shay since then, hoping she might lead us to her friends” (87). Just like Orwell’s society of Nineteen Eighty Four, no one could ever hide any secret. ‘Uglyville’ or ‘New Pretty Town’ here technically falls under microcosmic surveillance village as dwellers of these places were always kept under eyes of either authority or the peers. We encounter same incident in *Brave New World* and the claim gets strong looking at the

comment of Bernard when he stopped middle of nowhere with Lenina, and asked whether she never wishes to be free. He says, reluctant to go back to their usual place, “I thought we would be together here- with nothing but the sea and moon. More together in that crowd or even in my rooms. Don’t you understand that?” (80). His comment clearly raise question about what he meant by being ‘free’ when technically they were all free and happy. Apart from that, there is emphasising on being ‘closer than ever’ symbolizes the probability of how they might have always been under someone’s observation even inside their own rooms. Freedom is an irony for these people. Be *Uglies*, or *Brave New World*, their authority gave them an illusion of freedom and free choice. However, showing the greed of freedom they were actually turned into puppets. Dr. Cable’s this comment represents the level of immense irony and hypocrisy, “And our city can stand a great deal of freedom, Tally. It gives youngsters room to play tricks, to develop their creativity and independence” (Westerfeld 86). Giving someone artificial environment to create creativity and claiming it as freedom is nothing but sheer hypocrisy. The authority of these society’s turned real world into artificial reality. Freedom with limitations and surveillance is never freedom. To turn people obligated to follow social rules, the authority made surveillance village where people lived in an illusion of freedom and nothing more than that. Looking at the present state of our society, I feel the same. We all have freedom within limitation. The limitation is not questioning or going against the authority.

We experience a very technologically advanced world in dystopian novels where technology makes life comfortable to the level of bewilderment. While making life dreamlike comfortable and safe, people have mingled their life so much with the technology that often their existence cannot be separated from one another such as a talking room, chewable toothbrush pill, portable heater etc in *Uglies*. While doing so unfortunately we find how the very private space is

under invasion and starting from physical movement to own thought process, everything is under surveillance. Which is why authors in these dystopian novels warned us regarding over relying on gadgets more than necessity. In *Uglies* for example we see use of interface ring that starting from identity, access, holds the details about location as well. “Without her interface ring, she was invisible to vehicles. They’d just run her down like she was nothing” (8). In the later part of the novel we see a pendent was used as a GPS tracker and even by destroying it Tally put the whole ‘Smokies’ in danger. In the novel we see even the bridges could report trespassers which means the roads you are using are also notifying central server about your locations. Just imagining such a world itself is suffocating and it raise sense of discomfort among readers. Looking at our modern life we can relate to this as almost all of us have GPS tracker in our hand phones which discloses our current location. Out of sarcasm thus the central character Joe of the series *You* said on the second episode “The Last Nice Guy in New York”, “Sci-fi authors are so wrong. Technology is our friend” (00:02:35). Joe made this sarcasm when due to i-cloud account he could stay logged in to Beck’s devices and could use her phone as a device of constant stalking over her. In the third episode “Maybe” we see Joe had access to Beck’s bank information as he had access to her phone (00:11:10). We see how our phone now is like an open door to all our personal and confidential information. The tendency of depending on technology and welcoming the surveillance on us in the name of making life comfortable is already getting widespread in our present world. In a business online portal *Business Insider*, it was reported that last year, Google revealed to sell more than one Home smart speaker device every second since the previous October and this home speaker is now widely popular as Google Home which does have unique configurations starting from taking voice command of the user. Interesting fact is, to utilize this device’s capacity now people are giving them access inside bedroom and starting

from phone, computer, TV, in everywhere this device is keeping an eye which is of course questionable and threatening specially after the accusation on Apple's 'Siri' for transposing of information of the users to the central server without user's knowledge. On several online news portal including *BBC News* and *Tech Times* this news was confirmed.

Literature helps in perceiving reality. Even most atypical description from a fiction might have some inherent meaning that symbolises reality and dystopian novels are no exception. Hille Koskela in his article titled, "Webcams, TV Shows and Mobile phones: Empowering Exhibitionism" quoted Zizek, who said that the fiction becomes indistinguishable from reality (qtd. in Koskela 200). Therefore, repetitive caution about technology borne catastrophe cannot be taken lightly and surveillance is one of them now which is creating multilayered issues. Thus 'Surveillance studies' is considered as a trans-disciplinary' subject matter as this has connection with social, economic, environmental and even political issues. In a book chapter "Introducing surveillance studies" by David Lyon, Kevin D. Haggerty and Kirstie Ball have claimed that consequences raised by surveillance cannot be isolated as it is embedded with aspects of daily life (1). Ayse Ceyhan in book chapter "Surveillance as biopower" explained how Foucauldian idea discipline and punishment is applied by the state controller. Surveillance now is not limited within governmental rationality which only look for effective market management, population observation and classification for capturing 'uncertainty' and 'security threat'. Now this overreliance on technology for surveillance is creating new model of biopower where society is relying more on information and communication technology which is causing change in power, intensity and scope. Starting of such practice happened during the post 9/11 incident in America. Where govt. normalised surveillance for state security and stability. We need to understand how the picture has turned around in this era where surveillance was once introduced for ensuring

security for the citizens, now replacing the central and focal point. Looking at present time it looks like surveillance is not ‘for’ us rather ‘security’ is more prioritised where everybody is now ‘data’ (38). For security, biometrics, face recognition these are introduced and all our biological information is now stored in govt. database and maximum power is given to technology as everything is now under AI monitoring and computerised. This amalgamation of technology and politics is a new tool for ‘managing population’ where human is no more in centre, rather governmental strategy for management and technology is in the centre that is enslaving us. In *Uglies*, technology kept the dwellers under restrictions using surveillance strategy and justified the act by naming it security. “This city is paradise Tally. It feeds you, educates you, keeps you safe” (86). This statement was made by Dr. Cable while justifying their limitless surveillance over citizens. She convinced Tally by saying all the surveillance is just to keep the town safe and secured (87). “The room must be reading her heartbeats, her sweat, her pupil dilation” (87). The suffocation and the inferior position of human was clearly found in Westerfeld’s world where every human activity including eye movements were also monitored and scrutinized.

Even though public surveillance raises controversy, people still rely on it and give in to this process as they accept that their and states’ security is associated with it. This is in the authority’s hand that they ensure real transparency in security as they are violating public privacy for this matter. Toni Weller in his book chapter “An historical perspective on surveillance” said that with the evolving of technology, surveillance is getting new shape and becoming widespread and intensified. Now significant information starting from bank info to driving licence all are no more shared with associated people rather sent directly to govt. central database (58). However significant information or insignificant information- all are now somehow sent to central database and with the rise of surveillance, ‘hactivism’ is also increasing and often these

significant or insignificant data are stolen and sold in this ‘capitalist surveillance’ market. In the era of capitalist surveillance, all types of data is important and can be used for market benefit. There are scenarios where authority also sells their information to capitalist community as the growth of capitalist and consumer society from the late nineteenth century seeks for information collection in businesses (62). History shows that authoritarian government also seeks for citizens’ information in order to manage the citizens and also prevent any probable threat towards the authority. Using this security issue, in reality now two groups of communities are benefiting themselves. One is an authoritarian govt. who ensure people about security but in reality they violate their security for own purposes and also control the people by controlling their movements. The other community is the capitalist community which, utilizing capitalist surveillance violates people’s privacy and that also without any remorse. Among all these issues of security violation, one major problem that is social change is taking place where people’s privacy is now no more respected and as privacy violation is now normalised. Social crisis such as hacking, cyber stalking and cybercrime is coming towards us (68). *You*, the whole series is based on these newly emerging social crises in the society. Through social networking sites, which are now too much normalized platform of willing violation of personal space. People are now letting these criminals to take advantages and at present rate of cyber-crime has increased so much and this is one of the consequences of too much ‘transparent’ life style. Crimes are taking places and people are losing their privacy. Rise of cyber rime is not the only concern, the newly emerged social change where people are willingly giving up their privacy is the concern. In the fifth episode Joe made a sarcastic comment about how the obsession to become Instagram celebs, people act shamelessly preach and superficial ideas by pretention just to gain popularity (00:5:50- 00:7:17). While pretending, they sacrifice personal space to make people believe them.



Surveillance, which is already creating issues, have gained a new concern from the scholars of gender studies. New concern is, surveillance is also gendered. Surveillance is not only a social crisis but the community is affected differently based on their gender. While scrutinizing how technology is imposing surveillance on us, this is equally significant topic to know how this surveillance is affecting male and female community differently. So that we can understand who is more vulnerable to this newly arising social crisis, in the shape of surveillance. In a book chapter “The problematic of surveillance and gender” Hille Koskela talked about gendered aspects of surveillance and how ironically, enhancing surveillance creating security and other threats for women in form of power and exclusion. Donna Haraway in her *Cyber Manifesto* pointed out how technology is seen as a masculine entity where women have always been kept away or taken for granted that they don't belong to this field. Emotion and culture have been their field whereas people behind technological usage or control also have been mostly men. Koskela claimed that not only women but people with less social privilege are somehow victim of surveillance where they often fall under stereotype beliefs as a group of black young male group automatically becomes potential suspect (51). However, due to sexual objectification, the state of ‘being watched’ under surveillance is a gendered issue. In video surveillance, vision overpowers other senses and the camera operator here automatically dominates with the technological upper hand with the ability to zoom and pan. Unanimous scenario reveals that in most cases person behind camera is men and person under camera is women (51). In these situations a voyeuristic attention occurs and Koskela calls it voyeuristic gaze (52). As female body is different in shape than men, so while scrutinizing body via camera is similar to male gaze which objectifies female body. Most importantly all these actions take place without mutual commitment. Therefore, surveillance can be perceived as form of

harassment. The unequal power distribution ‘behind camera’ makes surveillance oppressive and establishes unequal power relation (55). This makes female community vulnerable and *You* justifies such action where Beck was violated in so many ways by a man owing to surveillance.

Practice of autocratic power over citizens is one of the characteristics of totalitarian govt. and use of strategies to control the civilians to prevent any rebel that might jeopardize ruling system is common among totalitarian govt. Emerging strategies to abolish rebellion mind-set in the root has been modernized after the globalised use of surveillance. Therefore, existence of totalitarian govt. accelerates the wide spread use of surveillance in the name of ‘crime prevention’ which in reality is actually used to prevent ‘rebellions’. Thus, in most dystopian novels we find totalitarian govt. and use of surveillance over mass. References of abolishing family bond in *Brave New World* and *Uglies* and keeping the citizens under 24/7 surveillance justifies this claim. Even in *Uglies*, citizen’s mind was under observation. Which is why when Tally stepped on restricted territory, she got notification. “A voice came into Tally’s head, “Warning, restricted area” (43). In Michel Foucault’s *Discipline and Punish*, he, in detailed described how surveillance serves in keeping the society in order or at least that’s what authority claims. Thus, Dr. Conner justified their surveillance on Shay saying, “We have been watching Shay since then, hoping she might lead us to her friends” (Westerfeld 87). Foucault in his Panopticon theory shows how authority utilizes this surveillance in order to discipline citizens to keep the state in order. He emphasised in the ‘peripheral ring’ where one is totally seen, without seeing who is seeing. Whereas from the ‘tower’ one is always seeing everything without being seen (201- 202). The authority that is watching over individuals every movement is always living under veil and we see same scenario in most dystopian worlds starting from Orwellian Oceania

to Westerfeld's world. Civilians in most cases have never seen them and just have heard about them. Conversation between few *Uglies* makes is clearer. "Specials are like gremlins...Some people think that they are totally bogus and no one I know has actually seen a special" (100). The theory here is relevant because our authority has surveillance over us and we act accordingly not to get busted. They 'discipline' us using their power and we are helpless to even protest and stays under the surveillance like some lab rats.

Living in the metaphorical watch tower, the powerful regime uses the surveillance politics in the name of keeping society is order or this is what the regime claims in justifying their surveillance. Foucault claimed that authority induce the detained person the idea of being visible under the watch tower, which assures the practicing of automatic power of authority (234). However, Foucauldian scholarship later on was criticised claiming that this surveillance for discipline and punishment is not as innocent as it seems. Here in the name of surveillance totalitarian govt. is imposing surveillance with and without consent of the civilians and Shay's one statement matches with this helpless state of civilians, "...the city fools you about how things really work" (Westerfeld 49). The surveillance even controls ones psychology. Knowing one is under watch, everyone acts accordingly. Tally's denial in breaking major rules was because of her fear of getting busted by the authority. Her such act is the consequences of her psychological conditioning like Foucault mentioned that under authoritarian surveillance civilians automatically don't dare breaking rules in order to avoid punishment and in Tally's case the punishment was 'not turning pretty' (46). Throughout the novel we see how the lives of the civilians were under authoritarian monitoring. Same goes in *Brave New World*. People there lost the capability to break authority's law. They could not even question let alone rebel against such abnormal practice of dehumanization. The citizens supported the authority as they thought this is

how 'Ford' is keeping them safe and happy. Michael Zimmer claims that American govt. normalized the widespread use of surveillance and profiling of individuals especially after the 9/11 incident (qtd. in Zimmer 204). Bart Simon in his paper "The Return of Panopticism: Supervision, Subjection and the New Surveillance" stated that technological innovations fundamentally alter the organization, practice and effects of surveillance relationships, making them at once more dispersed, pervasive, fluid, and invisible (1). This everyday emerging and advancing surveillance is serving authority and thus they are investing more in this surveillance sector and the new name that has been added to this sector is Artificial Intelligence (AI) Surveillance that this AI surveillance is enslaving the citizens under the regime of the authority. Best example for this claim can be China, where the authority has covered the country with AI surveillance technology such as smart city/safe city platforms, facial recognition systems and smart policing. They are not only using AI surveillance but also provide this technology around the whole world. Next to China, US companies are actively participating in providing AI surveillance in other countries. Here we see totalitarian and autocratic countries are not only responsible for enslaving own citizens but also for its global usage for business purpose.

At present, many of us are aware of that fact that surveillance is not as innocent as it seems. In spite of knowing reality of surveillance, no one can break the shackle of it and interestingly, the surveillance method is flourishing more and more. Involvement of totalitarian govt. behind its flourishing has been mentioned already. Another powerful community who is responsible behind emerging surveillance is capitalist surveillance. When the issue of business arises, Zuboff's recent theory of 'Capitalist Surveillance' cannot be left undiscussed. While talking about forces that is flourishing this surveillance system capitalist surveillance needs to be included after totalitarian regime. In Zuboff's *The Age of Capitalist Surveillance* she basically

argued that in the age of digital surveillance, Google has brought a new type of capitalism where human behaviour and human experiences in digital platform is considered as 'raw material' and thus studied. These data is partially used for improving services and products but mostly this "proprietary behavioural surplus" is fed into "machine intelligence" for producing 'prediction products' and sold by Google to new market called "behavioural future market" (8). This is pathetic how not only surveillance technology is being sold but also human behaviour is now product that is sold without hesitation and consent. Zuboff expressed her concern observing how this unethical process is now normalized and in this era of market domination and profit maximization, capitalists have endless quest for predictable sources of behaviour. Zuboff termed it as "the extraction imperative" where imperative means raw materials supplies must have ever expanding pace (87). So the way consumerism had the motto of making consumers consume more products to increase production, this same way now capitalist surveillance community wants every detail about human behaviour, every society, every social relation for "rendition, calculation, modification and prediction" to keep up with the profit maximization trend (399). Sean Erwin in his paper "Living by Algorithm: Smart Surveillance and the Society of Control" mentioned how our search histories are now tracked by cookies (31). Previous concern and debate about surveillance was that this is used for controlling but now the situation is more horrendous where instead of minimizing use of this controversial tool, now capitalists are turning human into product to feed onto their new market strategy and as capitalists are flourishing this tool, we might not see end of this practice any sooner.

Zuboff's arguments are logical and enriched with tons of visible examples thus relevant and also scary. Her argument makes us see how Google and Facebook of this world are shaping an antidemocratic world, in which every little detail of our online and offline lives are now raw

data in the production of predictive future products that is erasing our freedom. This surveillance does not end here as they are the basic tool for manipulating our choices and activities for their benefits of creating “guaranteed outcomes” and as individuals we cannot go against this powerful and “profoundly antidemocratic” force (192). Even though Zuboff has blamed surveillance capitalists for stealing our privacy via social media, I would say that we as individuals are also to be blamed for losing our privacy. Flanagan, V in *Technology and identity in young adult fiction: The posthuman subject* talked about “participatory surveillance” where he referred to situations when people voluntarily participate in surveillance i.e “online activities as shopping and social networking” (128). Hill Koskela mentioned how we are living in an age of webcam and intentionally making us tools of ‘cyber-stalking’ and gave example of young women turning their real life images into pornography and charging viewers and also mentioned how gay communities often presenting their life style on net for building global collective identity (201). Koskela talked about ‘counter surveillance’ as a response to imposed surveillance where people create fake reality as resistance. However, I don’t really find this resistance a clever strategy as this is not doing any harm to the authority rather creating fake reality making the reality more ambiguous for the general people as authority being in power are well aware of reality. Media utilizes this showing off culture and uses it as their propaganda setting strategy. Thus in the name of creating resistance, participating or more like utilizing the surveillance for own benefit is promoting and accelerating surveillance.

In this age of Social media people have normalized surveillance and instead of realizing how this is destroying their privacy, they are willingly giving in with the intention of getting attention. Connors also pointed out that in many occasions people intentionally submit to surveillance and present themselves in order to capture attention or to show off (4). This showing

off culture and bringing superficial personal life in social media is a result of present narcissistic culture. Having millions of followers on social media and getting popular in that virtual world has become a fever that people are often doing insane activities (fake reality) over social media just to grab attention. This attention seeking tendency using social media is another reason which promotes surveillance. In the series *You* we see how Beck was a misfit among her friends and to get her attention she would buy branded gift to her friends which eventually will reach their social media, and that's why in episode three, Joe sarcastically said "Its time so that I can focus my undivided attention on you Beck" (00:10:01). His focus was not healthy rather obsessive one but interestingly, people don't mind having these obsessive attention over them rather they enjoy it due to the narcissistic culture. Taking countless pictures or carrying mobile phone which has phone installed in it is now totally normal and thus Lyon stated that everyone is now constantly performing in their own surveillance ( qtd. in Koskela 202). So inviting security threat or losing personal space does not matter much in this era and this attitude promotes surveillance and normalizes this practice. In dystopian novels we see people let go their personal space for making life easy and comfortable. Authors of those novels therefore attempts to make us realize how we can build resistance. Thus, Connors said that dystopian novels encourages us to build resistance and thus he quote Foucault to establish argument, who said that we are freer than we think (3).

In this modern age, social media is forcing us to submit to their surveillance. Notwithstanding still there is minimum scope for resistance where there are examples in front of our eyes that shows ultimate helplessness against surveillance. In the UN general assembly of 2019 session, they have blamed the autocratic regime ruled by Kim Jong Un for ongoing strict widespread gross violation of human rights. This leader of Kim dynasty is already known for

secluding North Korea from entire world where citizens don't have access to information or even news related to the outer world and outsiders also don't have access to their inside news.

Starting from eavesdropping to twenty-four hours of surveillance is used to oppress the citizens where they cannot make international call or have access to international TV channels let alone social media. In a recent report, it was found that in 2020 the ruling party has reintroduced telecommunication surveillance with tight control where they have bought ICT technology from China and working together with Chinese companies KPTC and Orascom they have created one of the most restrictive cellular system. Apart from many other oppressive activities such as arbitrary legal system, zero democracy, no civil and human rights, North Korean insane surveillance over citizens reflects much intense dystopian world of horror and unfortunately this is not a fiction rather real picture in front of us. Looking away from this 'exceptional' case what further might grab the attention of many is the recent Apple scandal of privacy blunder where on a report published in The Guardian on 26 July 2019 they've reported that Apple gives access to third party to eavesdrop to confidential medical information, drug dealing and recordings of couple having sex as their part time responsibility for 'quality control'. After such scandal Apple apologized but recently for the second time they have been put under the same accusation where interestingly the Apple CEO Tim Cooker responded in a very reluctant way and said that profit maximization is always prioritized over people's privacy. These contemporary scenarios are the evidence that we are living in a hypocrite world where in the name of making life comfortable and secured, we are somehow put under scrutiny and these reminds me of T. S Eliot's verses from 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock',

And I have known the eyes already, known them all—

The eyes that fix you in a formulated phrase,



And when I am formulated, sprawling on a pin,

When I am pinned and wriggling on the wall (Lines : 61- 64)

Looking at present world, we are really pinned on wall and scrutinized and studied like some lab rat which do not gain any minimal sympathy as well.

Overreliance on technology has been proved to be jeopardizing civilization several times and in the current world socializing and making life comfortable is taking a huge toll on us in the name of surveillance. The hazard doesn't end here as in the name of population management, govt. is rising control over citizens. Evolution of modern capitalist surveillance is also intensifying this technological hazard. Speculative fiction writers have been sincerely warning us about many technological peril and one of those concerns included the surveillance practice which is now seen as a social and global issue in multi-stream. The more social critics are concerned, the more this process is getting normalized. Orwell was the first one who pointed out how world might turn into dystopia if surveillance gets widespread and his prediction has turned into reality. Like his prediction in the used two novels we see multi-layered warning about how surveillance might enslave us and harm democracy. As sensible individual, people can create resistance before it's too late. Even though there are situations when one cannot break free of the shackle of surveillance yet instead of giving up on own privacy and voluntarily participating there in the name of socializing, creating resistance from micro level is possible.

## Chapter Three

### Biotechnological Enhancement of Human and a Threat towards Human Origin

There is often a thin line between good and bad and often we fail to notice that. Without realizing, we often cross the threshold and step on a questionable side. Use of technology can be an example which has been a constant companion in turning life comfortable and perfect. However, now technology is a tool to create bewilderment and to ‘challenge’ and ‘alter’ the natural and often way of perceiving reality. We are living in an age where many are not only content with eradicating discomfort rather technology is used in enhancing bodily features and also creating human (if that can be called) in laboratory and altering hereditary criteria of an embryo. These do not end with the exploitation with genome only but now people are turning human into ‘Transhuman’ which is a hybridity of human and machine. The biological and philosophical definition of ‘human’ itself is changing now. We often do not question how far we are allowing this technology to invade our own space. Dystopian and Sci-fi authors have been trying to warn us against technological invasion and destruction of nature and originality in the process of making human life easy and human body ‘perfect’ and ‘enhanced’. This third and final chapter is going to deal with some of these ultra-advanced technological practices such as genetic manipulation, cognitive enhancement, human and machine amalgamation. This will find out the newly emerging bioethical dilemma which might question the natural biology and originality of human being, which have already been predicted in several dystopian novels. This will further investigate who to be blamed for the trend of transhumansim. While doing so this chapter will use *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley and *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld and American sci-fi film, *RoboCop* directed by José Padilha.

In the preface of *Brave New World*, the author clarifies the theme of the novel where he expresses his deep philosophical dilemma and fear seeded by accelerating technological and scientific advancement in many arenas. He even stated that this book holds prophecies which according to him might come true in near future (9). This novel, even though deals with a technological advanced world but does not only talk about issues related to science but also focuses on moral decay of human being as well while mentioning how atomic energy later on was used against human civilization and destroyed environment (17). The novel questions how far we can allow science to change the ways of nature in the name of advancement. In the novel we encounter a world where genetic engineering has reached the peak of advancement and now human beings (I would rather say transhuman) are created in laboratory like products. In a batch maximum ninety-six humans are produced who are divided into five categories and based on the rank of the category they are allocated with intelligence and physical features (18). Life length of the created individuals are also fixed and predetermined. In the name of giving stability to the state and making human perfect, these people in reality have stripped away the 'potentiality' one individual acquire or inherent naturally. In the name of stability natural human reproduction capacity is destroyed and so is 'family' institution. The novel can force a reader to rethink about the way biotechnology or these advanced genetic engineering eliminate not only hereditary shortcomings but also eliminates human possibilities in the threshold. Nonetheless, determining how a person would look or what talent s/he would possess even before they can give own consent is highly unethical because it violates the unborn person's autonomy. A human being with no creativity and who doesn't have own choice and opinion and every act is prefixed cannot be justified and these questions are raised by Huxley and this was his warning towards us as well in order to save human civilization from this coming techno borne destruction.

Another highly technologically advanced artificial world with artificial human beings are found in *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld. Westerfeld criticized social standard of acceptance and in doing so he used the social 'beauty standard'. In *Uglies* every individual goes through physical change and later we see how under the name of beauty enhancement, these individuals went through cognitive manipulation, where their intelligence was forcefully fossilized and they were turned into mere pretty puppets. Unlike Huxley's world, here they were not laboratory created to destroy their human intelligence. Here we see how they are kept in a society which psychologically destroys them at a very early age and promote self-loathing among them (38). Later without their acknowledgement and consent they are changed by injecting a medicine named 'Lesion' which stops them to think freely and they never can question the rules of their 'New Pretty Town' or its authority. In this novel we also see how human and technological extensive collaboration might result in enslaving human only. In my perspective, the author somehow tried to portray how our overreliance on technology might backfire and instead of making life comfortable and beautiful, technology might make life unbearable, frustrating and monotonous besides promoting inferior position of human. Westerfeld as author wanted to imply how we should not always give in to socially constructed idea of 'appropriate'. He doubted that our present image-conscious society might soon reach the state where beauty enhancement will be forced upon all like society impose its customs and beliefs on the dwellers usually. Molding into socially constructed systems might often destroy inner essence and here the transformation individuals had to undergo somehow transforms them into transhuman. Simply Transhuman is the idea where human body is modified to reach 'perfection'. Thus Westerfeld not only warned against giving in to an authoritative society but also questioned how far human essence will remain intact within us.

*RoboCop* (2014) is an American sci-fi film which is the remake of the film with same name released in 1987, written by the same writers, Edward Neumeier and Michael Miner. The remake of this film was highly anticipated as the first movie was a huge success as the theme of cyborg was spiced up with emotion. The film can be seen as a promotion for the idea that disability of human body can be to some extent fixed by the machine and organic amalgamation. In the movie we see an American cop lost eighty percent of his body in an explosion. He was alive losing everything except for his brain and heart. Later one conglomerate company named Omni foundation took his 'left over' body and using latest robotic technology creates a cyborg/transhuman/ bionic man who would eliminate the discomfort of American citizens about trusting robots due to its lack of emotional faculty. The idea of bionic man which is simply the hybridization of machine and human to eliminate physical disability caused by accident or present since birth as highly promoted here. The fear that we human have about machine overpowering our human mind was also to some extent nullified here by claiming that human brain is such a unique creation that even if manipulation takes place, our brain can detect and take back the control anyway. So this can be said that human psyche has been seen as more powerful than anything and the threat here is not the robots or AI taking over world rather the message was that human obsession over something can create social upheaval. We cause chaos and we misuse technology due to our destructive instinct. However, at the end still the question remains whether the movie was just another trick to convince us into supporting the idea of transhuman or we actually can rely on this amalgamation. Still I have question whether individuals will actually like to be transformed to the level where the confusion will arise, whether to call them human or robot. The dilemma remains whether immortality matters or living accepting the reality matter to us.

On February 21, 2011, Time magazine Cover had a very interesting tag line which says, “2045, the year when man becomes immortal” and the cover page had an interesting image of a person whose spinal cord was connected with an electronic wire. There should be no doubt about the fact that we have already entered to the era where biotechnological advancement has started redefining human physiology. I started this chapter by saying that often there is a very thin line between right and wrong. The question of right and wrong is often paradoxical as it varies from individual to individual. Thus the question about how far genetic manipulation of the embryo is ethical varies from group to group. Scholars have been divided while considering this issue where some talked in favor and some questioned its ethical base. Whereas, rigid humanists has seen human as the ‘perfect’ form among the whole creation and ‘center’ of everything, posthumanist sees human not as center rather a part of everything and believe that human can go through gradual enhancement process, be it with ecological or technological support. For them reaching the utmost perfection is seen as the *telos* for humankind and transhumanist sees technology as the utmost tool to overhaul and enhance human biology and ontology (Nayar 11). Cloning, stem-cell, xenotransplantation, genetic modification and alteration, cyborg (machine and organic amalgamation) all these are thus the result of enhancement of human kind (at least according to the posthumanist). If we follow what posthumanist claims about enhancement of human then one of the consequences of fascination towards this practice of genetic manipulation and technological amalgamation with organism will make the enhanced individuals more than ‘human’ or simply ‘post-human’. Interestingly, as there is no limit for this enhancement process thus picturization of human form can be wild in imagination. Which is why sci-fi and dystopian fiction’s picturization of human form is atypical. Which clarify one fact that authors of futuristic or dystopian fictions predict that human form is going to be enhanced and changed soon by

entering the realm of technological enhancement. In Huxley's word, "out of the realm of mere slavish imitation of nature into the much more interesting world of human invention" (22). While entering the era of human modification, few issues and consequences might arise which prediction we find in dystopian novels as well. Consequences that need to be addressed.

Human civilization has always been open toward increasing physical and intellectual capacity. Genetic enhancement or body enhancement are results of this human tendency. Initial justification for genetic manipulation was to eliminate hereditary deficiency. However, in an online article, the author David Masci talked about a recent gene-splicing technology named CRISPR (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats). This new method greatly improves scientists' ability to accurately and efficiently edit the human genome, in both embryos and adults (3). We are then not really far from what Huxley predicted. One common human nature is its very tough to content them as they always look for more. Now when scientists say they can choose to 'edit', what they mean by that, can be a question. The answer is probably deciding the sex of the embryo, physical features and talent. Now when parents decide to edit and fix physical features, why do they do so is a question. The reason might be simply they want their kids to meet up the social standard of physical features and social unending demand for talent and intellectual excellence. In "A Liberal Argument on the Topic of Genetic Engineering", Elvio Baccarini questioned how social standard can be seen as ultimate best option without even evaluating other options or choices, or is it even ethical to prioritize what the powerful minority imposes on the subordinate majority of people (8). If we think about a society where dark skin tone is seen as ugly and having the power to manipulate the genetic quality, the parents might change the way to make their child feel 'accepted' instead of 'unwanted' by the society. Now, doesn't his attitude shows disrespect and derogatory outlook towards a particular race? Actually

Baccarini implies to deliver is just because society makes a standard, this should not be seen as best solution. To justify his claim he used Afghanistan society as an example saying that being born as women is similar to disability. So, if such extreme sexist or racist society gets access to these biotechnological superiority, will not the parents change the gender into male to avoid shame? (11) This situation is just an example of what disaster we might bring onto us if we normalize the process of genetic and body enhancement. Ethical objection that Westerfeld raised towards bodily enhancement is why we do need to create something that is perfect according to social standard, be it appearance or talent. He also portrayed an extremist society with hegemonic beauty standard. Big eyes, full lips, fair and smooth skin, symmetrical features were there considered as more significant than anything (Westerfeld 16). “Back then they had weird idea about beauty. They did not even know about biology” (36). Tally’s comment about past (our present time) can be one example how our society can turn into such an image obsessed one where being normal will be bizarre. Thus I find practicing genetic and body enhancement as precarious. Even the authors of the mentioned above novels have predicted so.

Imposing any system on a group of people is unethical yet we often receive many customs to follow without even getting chance to decide whether we want to follow it or not. Another ethical dilemma that concerned Huxley was manipulating the embryo without taking the consent of that individual as this is not even possible. Therefore, normalizing this trend seems to be unethical and turbulences that might occur by establishing such body enhancement practices and Huxley and Westerfeld attempted to showcase those horrendous possibilities. The increasing fascination and support towards genetic manipulation might soon become normalized. Normalization of such practice is questionable as thus the coming generation are already imposed by others decisions over them, even before their birth. In simple word, without taking



their consent their autonomy will be snatched from them and they would never get the chance to say whether they wanted their genetics to be manipulated or not. This dehumanizing practice of imposing a system on people might be seen as another consequences raised by evolution in medical science that has been predicted in dystopian novels. “That is the secret of happiness and virtue-liking what you’ve got to do. All conditioning aims at that: making people like their unescapable destiny” (Huxley 24). This declaration from the Director implies how a decision is imposed on people and how they will be enslaved even before they are born by the system that will be instilled within them. Elvio Baccarini said that every individual should have opportunity to realize their values or goals to take decision and he showed his concern while expressing how genetic modification unfairly take away that right from individuals and put them in an unequal situation (49-50). In the entire paper he argued how people’s autonomy is threatened by the practice of genetic manipulation as an embryo cannot decide or give consent. Normalizing such practice thus, is very questionable. Once these embryos will be fertilized and formed as human, they can never question the conditioning that was done over them as they would never have the faculty to question those decisions. This is a matter of fact that a new born child, to some extent cannot take decision over several matters such as religion. However, while growing up they start perceiving reality and take control of the decisions their parents used to take. This scenario is different when they get genetically modified because once these modifications and editing is done, they can never change it or even realize what they traits they could have had. This seems like the way a robot is programed to never harm its creator. So, their free will of deciding is how much their ‘free will’ puts a question mark here. And at this point I would quote the sarcastic comment made by Dr. Dennette Norton from *Robocop* while he explained Murphy’s free will as just “illusion of free will” (1:12:31). When a system is established, we tend to hardly question it

thus establishing or normalizing a practice is crucial. In *Uglies* such an unethical practice of forceful body enhancement was normalized. In that suffocating world also we see a wrong definition of happiness was prefixed and instilled in individuals who were also like robots, living illusion of free will.

Human curiosity has brought many revolutions and destruction as well. Myth of Prometheus, Icarus, biblical reference of Adam and Eve's curiosity and their fall, and Shelley's Frankenstein, a human created monster, all these are evidences of going beyond nature in order to either quench thirst for knowledge or crossing human ability to become far superior. All these wild attempts results in ultimate fall and caused misery. Genetic and body enhancement is such another human wild curiosity meeting attempt to create something superior but in reality such practice might just bring crisis like destroying natural talent of *homo sapiens*. When human traits will be overhauled, we do not know what internal defect can be caused thus danger of losing hidden possibilities increases. For example, to eradicate one possible hereditary deficiency, that gene might get eliminated. Now that gene might have possessed any unique talent and consequently the individual will never receive that hereditary talent. Also one talent that the society or parents sees as unnecessary doesn't mean to be unnecessary at all. The infamous Bokanovsky of *Brave New World* shows how a person's possibilities were destroyed in a nut shell just because the state decided that to be unnecessary among a group of people. "The lower the caste, the shorter the oxygen. The first organ affected was the brain, after that skeleton... who are no use to us" (23). Here the director was talking about Epsilons. He further added, "But in epsilons, we don't need human intelligence" (23). They even provided them inferior physical structure and shortened their life length just because 'They' felt those were unnecessary for that caste. Who are we to decide what is needed and what not as this is totally an individual's right to

decide. Same situation is once again found in *Uglies* where under the veil of body enhancement, cognitive enhancement takes place which enslaves people and limit their human capacity. The society also promotes self-loathing to justify and politically impose beauty enhancement operation. By turning pretty they somehow enslave people and limit their capacity. The pretties never feel the urge to explore the world rather they get operations to beautify their body more and more and do chaotic parties all night. They have no talent except for one quality that they are pretty. Therefore, resisting social norms Shay said “we are not freaks Tally, we are normal. Atleast we are not hyped up Barbie dolls” (66). She further said, “The last thing I want to become is some empty headed new pretty, having one big part all day” (67). So, what we see as evolution of human capacity might instead cause harm to other human capability while turning human into ‘superior human’. Baccarini also argued in his paper that we are no one to decide what feature or talent to eliminate as it depends on others which one they might prefer (6). He expressed same fear by saying that genetic engineering might create a generation where certain talent might be entirely omitted just because the state or parents thought those talents were worthless (11). Thus, many inborn human creativities might extinct without human knowledge.

Family is one of the most significant institutions in human life but the future of this institution might be at risk if humans are artificially born with the assistance of laboratory, instead of the natural process. Fear of extinction of family institution has been visible in dystopian and futuristic novels. If human cognitive conditioning, genetic enhancement- all these are done with technological assistance then the roles a family usually plays in rearing up a child will be undoubtedly replaced, due to the lack of parent- child bond. Thus, family institution might become unnecessary. In *Brave New World* we see a far worst situation where family is fully abolished and terms like family, childbirth, parent or mother are taboo. When the Director

was asked about family he acted really disturbed and said, “And then babies were decanted... in brief, the director summed up, the parents were the father and mother. The smut that was really science fell with a crash into the boys’ eye avoiding silence...Mother... these are unpleasant facts” (30). He further even said with much disgust about past practice of human reproduction and family, “For you must remember that in those days of gross viviparous reproduction, children were always brought up by their parents and not in State Conditioning Centers” (30). Less horrific yet same fragmented family life is found in *Uglies* too. Westerfeld showed how while creating utopia and social stability, family institutions are fully destroyed. When Tally was under the pressure by Special Circumstances department and her life was almost at stake, we see her parents, Ellie and Sol for the first time. However, their conversation was different than how a parent-child interaction should have been in a crucial situation like that. Even when Tally wanted to go with them because she was being harassed by the fellow uglies, they declined her making excuses. “Don’t you think it would be stranger for you out in Crumblyville? I mean there is no other kids out there at this time...we don’t have your room ready at all! (95). Even after declining her offer when the desperate girl was trying to convince them, her mother denied. Later on we found out that they were not there to support Tally, rather they actually appeared to emotionally convince Tally to support the state system. However, different scenario was seen in David’s case, who represented ‘Smokies’, the ‘non advanced’ people according to the Pretties. Seeing a warm interaction between David with his parents Tally was astonished. “Mom and Dad, words Tally hadn’t used for Ellie and Sol since she was a child” (196). We see how sending kids under State’s care, the family bond was destroyed. In most cases as their cognitive conditioning was done by state, the parents also did not feel the bond and the kids also never felt the warmth. Threat towards family bond was encountered in the movie *RoboCop* as well. After Marfy was

turned into a transhuman or a cyborg, he could not stay with his son and wife as for the maintenance of his 'suit'. Later we also see that while stepping onto the realm of 'human+' his emotional faculty to feel family bond was changed and he was a 'logical' entity without warmth. Thus, segregation from family might destroy family bond in near future of human.

The world always had class-distinction based on mainly socio-economic status of individuals. However, this status quo might increase in a far different level, with severe complication into it. In the book titled *Human Genome Editing: Science, Ethics, and Governance* the authors have predicted that status quo will increase with the invention of new technological advancement in the coming days. We have two possible scenarios. The scenario can be that human without enhancement will be looked down upon by the superior ones (Superions) like we see in *Uglies*. Another scenario can be that the enhanced humans will be seen differently, like non-human and just mere machine, a clone or as different hybrid species than *Homo sapiens* like we see in *RoboCop*. Another interesting scenario might arise where people with financial superiority will have more advancement compared to the ones with inferior social circumstances and thus this group might be looked down upon just like we see in *Brave New World*, status quo among the transhuman. So, in all cases, class conflict might appear. In a paper titled "Genetic Engineering and the Speciation of Superions from Humans", we see prediction that the coming generation of enhanced humans will be superior in abilities, intelligence or physical power. Thus they will gradually take away the power, properties and niche of *Homo sapiens* (438). David Masci also mentioned about many anti- transhumanist theorists concern that in a time when these practices will be normalized, people with enhancement might see normal people as subhuman, or individuals with less capabilities. In *Uglies*, even though this was not about genetic modification, yet people with new advance appearance was seen as superior. To justify the enhancement which

was forced onto people, the social controllers made the normal human form look as inferiority of human kind. Thus Tally expressed her astonishment that people in past had peculiar idea about beauty. She mainly implied that people did not change their 'ugly' faces into 'pretty' ones (37). The second scenario can be the opposite of first one. People's less progressive and hegemonic mentality might create discrimination between the enhanced humans. In films like *Gattaca* or *The Island* we see the genetically enhanced people or human clones are considered as less human. Even though they have same features, still they are looked differently and in an inferior way. People with strict religious values have always been against human enhancement as they believe human are created perfectly by God and no further enhancement is required. These people and the humanists will always see the new advanced citizens as either blasphemous, or threat to human kind and as inferior living being. This scenario we see in *Robocop*, when Marfy undergo few more changes after losing combat with robots, the chairman of OMNI foundation says, "he is a better machine now" (00:49:55). For him, Marfy was just a product that he wants to launch. Zigmund Baumann argued the same thing in his book *The Individualized Society* that in business persons are perceived as product (186). So Marfy was a mere robot, a machine for them. Even few of his colleagues called him a robot, denying the existence of his human side. For them he was a toy without human emotion. However, another kind of crisis might arise if the human evolution practice gets normalized. That is segregation among the biotechnological entities. In *Brave New World* we see that to establish state stability, hierarchy is established and also in the early age they are made conscious about their superiority or inferiority and status quo. "Elementary Class Consciousness did you say?... at the end of the room a large loud speaker projected from the wall... all wear green but Delta children wear khaki, oh no I don't want to play with Delta children. And Epsilons are still worse. They are too stupid to read and write.

They wear black, such a beastly color. I am so glad I am Beta” (33). The worst scenario can be seen here as these artificially created entities never would get opportunity to realize that their autonomy was taken from them before they realized. Thus, with advancement of civilization, these crises will not get abolished rather they might turn into different, far more terrible form.

Human appearance and attire in the past and the present picture has a drastic difference. The idea of beauty enhancement brought out the tradition of tattoo, piercing, hair dye, artificial skin brightening or tanning, lip jobs, nose jobs or silicone implant- these are few evidences for body enhancement. How we can find human form in the past and how we see at the present is a lot different. Specially, in popular culture, these body and beauty enhancement is hyped and trending. The latest trendy look we are getting lately is the cyberpunk look. Human appearance is quite exotic and atypical in pop culture. These enhancements are now possible of course owing to technological advancement. As human obsession usually gets more intense, we can however predict that utilizing these technologies, in near future, human appearance is going to change to a great extent. In the name of turning human look ‘perfect’ and also ‘advanced’ already changes are taking place. New fear arises regarding the future physical form or concept of human. The human essence might get contaminated with the current obsession of turning human perfect and into cybernetic organism to obliterate weakness and lacking of human kind. In dystopian and sci-fi fictions we already see the future form of human is not same as us. In their advance world, the new human kind is different in form, appearance and ability. In *Brave New World*, for example we see humans are no more born from mother’s womb rather like products, they are manufactured in identical form and in lots of number (Huxley 18). The natural process of human birth is here disrupted and technology is replacing human productive capacity. How far the species that is created in laboratory can be called human, is another dilemma. As their society

has strict social hierarchy, the lower cast is given non-attractive, beastly features and due to the process of genetic conditioning, these individuals cannot even say anything against this. Now, where human intelligence and freedom of choice makes us superior than any other species, how far these individuals can be called human, is a matter to ponder upon. Also, how technology is used to dehumanize human is also a matter to notice. Stepping away from Huxley, if we look at *Uglies* we see another dystopian world of horror under the veil of utopia. Like the citizens of *Brave New World* they also have lost their autonomy. Every citizen has to go through body enhancement to create a 'perfect' human appearance that suits the standard of the society. For this society, human talent, intelligence means nothing rather the outer shell is evaluated only. Identical, glimmering and shimmering hyped up Barbie doll with no power of thinking freely is the reality of their advanced human (Westerfeld 66). They established new appearance standard for all. Being natural was seen as disgrace and a hyped cyberpunk look was defined as normal and beautiful. Stepping away from these two, looking at *RoboCop*, we find a probable future form of human. We know that main allegation and objection against robot is they don't have human emotion. However, hybridizing human with machine turns human into more like robots than human. For them human emotion is the only faculty scientists could not create in robots thus they planned on turning the human into a metallic cyborg form. Pramod K. Nayar stated in his book *Posthumanism* that "in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the nature of the human has been the subject of debates within bioethics, especially over euthanasia, genetic engineering, prosthetic technologies and implants" (109). Along with that physical form of human might also be going to change very soon as we have already entered the realm of enhancement. Human essence and nature might soon be going to change into something new, artificial, unknown and ambiguous.



On 2017, April 26, Sophia, the first social humanoid robot came to Jimmy Fallon's The Tonight Show and one of her sarcastic comments startled me. The robot upon winning a small mind game with the host said, "This is a good start to my plan to dominate human race". The reason behind bringing this topic is, fear of being enslaved and dominated by Robots or the new human- machine hybrid (cyborg) race has frightened many. Fear of losing social superiority and superior position has tormented 'normal' human beings and the fear has been intensified a lot more when the natural form, essence, nature of 'human' is becoming debatable. Traditional humanist has set a very strict boundary for human code where human define themselves against animals, mutants and machines (Nayar 110). Upon agreeing on the fact that future human appearance and form might get changed gradually owing to these genetic manipulation, body enhancement trend and organic and non-organic amalgamation (cyborg), traditional humanists at least will not consider the evaluation of 'human' as 'human'. There comes the question of 'them' vs. 'us'. In the article "Genetic Engineering and the Speciation of Superions from Humans" the authors have termed the genetically and technologically advanced humans as Superions as they are superior in power, intelligence, ability considering us, the non-advanced ones (437). In *RoboCop* we see that fear of getting dominated by these Superions is not baseless as they are obviously physically strong than non-enhanced human. Murphy as cyborg was a lot efficient cop than he used to be as human. He singlehandedly minimized crime scenario of the entire state with the inbuilt technical equipment. Now if one hybrid human can hold such immense power, imagining a world with huge group of them can of course change the scenario a lot. The superior kind can therefore, see us as subhuman as they alone can physically harm uncountable number of 'subhuman'. Millers et al. has called this as 'ethnic cleansing' where the subhuman will be inferior ethnic group that has to be abolished or transformed (439). Even if we take for granted

that with human brain, these powerful entities will not try to harm the entire human civilization, there is always a possibilities of them getting cognitively manipulated by anyone. They are like time-bombs that can blast anytime. However, many might not yet agree upon the probable violence that might be caused by the normalizing technological evolution of human. Yet, the discrepancy of subhuman and Human+ will exist like in *Uglies* past human generation was seen as peculiar generation who had faulty biology and weird system of not enhancing themselves (67). Thus, this can be said that according the prediction of the dystopian authors, if we normalize genetic enhancement and machine- organic hybridization then eventually we human might be cornered and dominated by the powerful, Human+.

Religious ethicists or leaders have always been strictly against the practice or idea of genetic enhancement or transhumanism as in many religion it disbelieved that human body mirrors God image. Thus, human form is the perfect form which requires no further evolution. If human form is perfect then from where the issue of social standard comes is an issue to find out. Who decides what standard to follow and what modification or fixing is needed? In *Brave New World* that a generation is created in laboratory by an authoritarian govt. who promises social stability but in reality a world of social disparity and status quo is established. Human possibilities are nipped in the bud so that no one can rebel against the terrible misdoing taking place there. The same issue of imposing a system on people without taking their opinion is also common in Westerfeld's *Uglies*. In their world this was not genetic engineering but the issue is same. To meet up socially constructed standard of appearance, a system is established and imposed on individuals. Confidence, creativity, self-esteem-all these are destroyed and replaced with hatred, self-loathing, inferiority complex. In dystopian novels often government imposes these tradition for their veiled intentions of enslaving the citizens. Also, recently, in few

powerful countries government financially supports for these research work (*Human Genome Editing* 147). Creating powerful entities to become superior over other countries can be one reason behind supporting these research works. As our world now is war obsessed, the idea of creating super cop is not unknown and we see that glimpse in RoboCop where America is shown as the state who delivers their robotic technology in war stricken places. We see in the movie how the practice of sending robots in war stricken places and capturing those places are given name of 'peace promotion'. "It is great to see American machines are used to promote freedom and peace abroad" (00:02:19). The scenario of the movie seems real recalling the statement 44<sup>th</sup> American President Barak Obama gave on 2014, February 25 during his meeting with Army officials and Engineers at Pentagon about launching technologically advanced super armor. He said jokingly "we are creating Iron man". That suit was designed to make soldiers dangerous and harder to kill (Masci 5). Isn't it the same scenario we see in Robocop, where a robot Cop was created which was harder and almost impossible to kill? Thus government can be blamed for encouraging such practices of biotechnologies for fulfilling immoral desire such as war and destruction. Besides them capitalist business world can be blamed for introducing and establishing such evil practices. They create ambiguous beauty standard to sell their technology, they also promote ideas for genetic enhancement for neutralizing genetic lacking so that they can tempt people in using those expensive medical technology. For the business world, human bodies are just like product that they sell or use to consume their service and products (Baumann 186). Ted Peters and his fellow writers blamed the profit oriented medical sector for encouraging these genetic and body enhancement trend in a book chapter "Religious Traditions and Genetic Enhancement". They argued that medical science lure us to achieve socially established body perfection so that we take their services (16). Establishing such medical practice, in world of

*Uglies* social discrepancy was established and human purpose of living was altered into believing that the only purpose for human is to be pretty and perfect.

About the crisis this whole chapter has talked about is different from any other crisis as this one, questions future status of human. Use of technology in war craft has previously endangered human life but that was a direct offense over particular war stricken places whereas, the present crisis which is rising is bigger and absolutely different than any other situation. Now human originality and nature is threatened. The obsession for more advancement is somehow causing more harm than benefit. Even though few school of thoughts who support transhumanism or posthumanism might encourage for embracing the new trend but if we ponder upon what can the end result of this obsession we might get our answer whether to support this practice of biotechnology or not. Posthumanist school of thoughts question how far this is ethical to look down upon other species or disabled human to establish human superiority, continuing anthropocentrism. Ironically, if we support their claim and decentralize and to some extent dehumanize human being then the same crisis of superiority arises again. Now the fight will occur between subhuman and Human+. Those who doesn't want to go through the enhancement process might be seen as non-progressive human kind and those who will embrace the change will turn into something that is not quite human itself. As a result, human race might be facing dilemma about its original essence. Thus, the issue of questioning what is natural should be addressed immediately grasping the coming horror that is approaching towards human civilization. If the predictions of these authors somehow comes true then this will be ironic as this time reason behind human destruction will be human themselves and there will be no coming back from it as once the power will be gifted to some hybrid superior entities with human ancestors.

## Conclusion

Human mind is very ambiguous and difficult to understand. Where on one hand they work hard to flourish technology and science for the betterment of human civilization, there on the other hand using technology, human civilization, existence, autonomy and safety is brutally violated. Living in the twenty-first century, most of us worship technological advancement because of the ways it has made our life advanced and comfortable. Talking against technology or denying its significance shows ones non-progressive mind only. However, dystopian fictions play that challenging role of questioning how far this is safe to go with modern science and technology. The authors of dystopian fictions have pointed out human obsession over the advancement and how the tendency of challenging nature with it has been an old issue of ours. Dystopian authors attempt to warn us predicting against future based on our current obsession over few technological arenas, which are going to create complication for us. Nevertheless, this will be inaccurate to say that these authors are not progressive and thus against technology. The right assumption is that they are not against technological advancement but they are against unhealthy obsession towards it. Especially in the arenas where the obsession leads to human harm. The telos of my dissertation was to demonstrate how dystopian fictions predict about future hazard caused by technological obsession. In proving so, I have illustrated three such crucial arenas, about which dystopian fictions have predicted and tried to warn the readers.

This is interesting how now a days the technological hazards are different. This is so closely mingled with us that even we do not realize the involvement of technology. In the first chapter, I have talked about unhealthy obsession for perfect body and social standard of beauty and masculinity. Involvement of technology in this hazard might seem invisible unless we dig up how the obsession is growing. Advancement in medical sector that deals with cosmetic surgery

and body enhancement for beauty enhancement is flourishing fast. The availability of these services is increasing and expense is decreasing to allure people. New ideas are coming to feed onto human obsession such as pack implant surgery for men to give them masculine body without doing gym. There is no end of such beauty enhancement implant surgery for female body. Because of the technological flourishing in this medical sector, people are going for such enhancement which is provoking others to do the same. This whole thing is also a psychological provocation. People are getting dissatisfied about their natural look and society and some certain group are creating stereotypical beauty standard to inject self-loathing and insecurity about own body. The whole cycle is fuelled by the abuse of technological advancement. First chapter therefore has utilized the primary sources to show how these were predicted in dystopian fictions long back and how those predictions are coming true. To support the claim, secondary research articles have been used where, scholars have done study on present 'image-obsessed' society and how this medical sector is flourishing rapidly. In near future, we actually might enter to a world where like Scott Westerfeld's world of *Uglies*, artificial look will be natural and natural face will be synonymous for ugliness.

Lately, we can see a new obsession is emerging, that is achieving perfect body and eliminating humanly limitations. Whereas, in the first chapter I have talked about body enhancement for beautification and to fit into stereotypical appearance standard, the third chapter dealt with how recently, human are trying to break the shackle of their biological limitations. People are often born with some physical disabilities or limitations. We also inherent hereditary diseases. As human we also have some natural limitations such as aging, limited memory, fatigue, limited physical strength and of course death. As mentioned in the third chapter that lately genetic engineering is flourishing very fast where, they are making things possible which

were beyond human imagination. Now through CRISPR technology, not only people can know the sex of the unborn child, but also can choose what sex they want. With this technology, now they can make other genetics related editing such as omitting any hereditary diseases or determining features like complexion or eye colour. The obsession is growing and turning new face where natural birth process might be altered if the obsession keeps growing in this pace. That was about genetic engineering. Now we have another type of implant technology. In this technology robot and human is mingled into cyborg. More likely to break free the limitation of robot's emotion faculty and human's physical limitation, now idea of cyborg is getting facilitated and encouraged. Also new ideas are getting introduced, such as chip implantation under human skin or at the back of head to have endless memory. The posthuman belief that human is not the epitome of perfection and can still go through evolution is encouraging people for running processes such as hybrid human or cyborg. This dissertation has tried to find out what can be result of such obsession to reach the peak of perfection. While turning ourselves into ultimate perfection, we might lose basic human essence too. These were the overall discussion of my third chapter and as the discussed issue of this chapter is based on prediction, I have used ongoing research work on genetic engineering sector. I have used their research data on ongoing advanced technologies and used other scholarly articles that deals with posthumanism crisis, especially related to this sector. Prediction and case study present in the scholarly papers match with what dystopian authors have prognosticated. Combining these both I have tried to establish my claim.

Another crisis that we are having lately is surveillance over human activities. In the name of safety and virtual socializing we are giving away our personal space and privacy. Starting from Govt. to owner of these social media apps- all are having access to our personal life. We are

willingly making our personal life public property. Many companies even buy these private data from these app companies and Facebook was even accused for peeking into personal information of people. They sell these information to diverse companies who based on people's interest design their product or services. Technology such as Google home, apple Siri have also been blamed for stealing information of the users. Apple has been sued twice for stealing information without user's acknowledgement. We may be don't understand but our daily life is under surveillance by technological tools as we are surrounded by them. They are not as innocent as we think they are. How surveillance technology is capturing us has been another discussion of my dissertation as I believe we need to be aware of them. For establishing my claim how we are under surveillance, I have given references to real life issues from different news sources. Using a contemporary TV series, I have showed how the dystopian concern about surveillance is not irrelevant for us. Utilizing Michel Foucault's theory of surveillance and Shoshan Zuboff's theory of capitalist surveillance, I have tried to trace the forces behind the normalization of surveillance shackle and the probable impact of the ongoing practice.

Dystopian genre has predicted about many other issues that concern technological hazard. There are other issues such as political or social which do not concern technological hazard solely. In this research work, of course I could not include every prediction that dystopian fiction deals with because of the length limitation of MA dissertation. However, I believe that I have attempted to scrutinize the significant and focal point of the issues that I have focused for my dissertation. Still there are further research scope left, especially regarding chapter three, on which I want to do further work. However, I am satisfied about one thing and which does not make me regret and that is, I have tried to scrutinize the major scenarios and reasons related to these technological hazards. Many readers without knowledge of this side of dystopian fiction



will be able to know about issues from a new lens. I believe this dissertation is informative enough to grasp the intensity of these new and upcoming technological hazard. So far ample study has been done over the practice and trace of totalitarian govt. in dystopian fiction. My work has shown how totalitarian govt. or autocratic govt. can be a force behind normalizing unethical practices like surveillance but my work focused more on the trait and trace of issues like surveillance, artificial beautification and body enhancement. I believe that this makes my work unique

As I have already mentioned, there is research scope on the discussed issues. Now a day's dystopian fiction is getting popular and authors are talking about new crises and issues there. Technology is also flourishing and creating new situations for us. If I talk about my interest on which I could not talk in much detail in this thesis is posthumanism. This genre is multidisciplinary as it involves philosophy, medical sector, robotics and also psychology. This is like an ocean with huge depth and emerging ideas about new posthuman technology is bringing new research scope as well. I could not include significant issues such as how advancement and normalization of genetic engendering might threat natural human reproductive capacity. If babies can be created in laboratory like we have seen in *Brave New World*, then human reproductive system and process of human birth might encounter new situation. Also, how this technology can be mostly dangerous for female sex as thus their power of reproduction ability will be replaced by technology. Issues like what will be the identity of cyborg and what will be their sexual identity, how moving away from anthropocentrism and denying it can question human superiority or whether human superiority is even ethical- such interesting issues can be highly interesting issues to talk about. I am looking forward to do further research in this sector

especially as it feeds my interest too. Also, the new dystopian fictions can also be scrutinized from the lenses I have seen.

The fact that dystopian fiction is getting popular and new issues are arising is actually a bad news for us. New issues are coming means new problems are arising and technology borne issues are one of the biggest concern. There is no doubt that technology is making life easier and comfortable and also helping for betterment but we cannot forget that a thing that hold power needs to be handled carefully. What can flourish can also destroy and technology is such kind of power which can flourish human civilization and also can destroy it. Dystopian authors try to warn us about this issue that our obsession about certain issues are satiated by technology. Thus often we do not realize how that obsession is leading technology in a harmful way and the way will be leading massacre for us only. Also when we use these technologies, we need to be conscious as well so that that doesn't create hindrance for us. The whole thesis was an attempt to make the readers realize how unknowingly we are creating a way for technology that might harm us in the long run in diverse ways. Therefore, one should keep their eyes open while relying on technology so that while making human niche, human existence doesn't get threatened.

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