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TRANSHUMANISM: IMMORTALITY & SINGULARITY IN DO ANDROIDS DREAM OF ELECTRIC SHEEP? & THE TRANSHUMANIST WAGER

*Nurcan BEKİL**

ABSTRACT

The domination of the future by robots who have artificial intelligence and the possibility of the increase in their population represent a situation which may create danger for people. For this reason, killing a robot with which a human-being is having a clash may create a more liveable environment for the humans who are a minority on earth. The main character of the aforementioned book, *the Transhumanist Wager*, is Jethro Knights and the main character of the other book, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* is Rick Deckard, and they both describe the conflict and duties throughout their own stories.

Eventhough the first book's main character Jethro Knights is rejected because of his writings and research on Transhumanism, and he even loses his lover for the sake of this search, he overcomes all the obstacles while searching for his purpose in life. He wants to build his land, Transhumania, and to achieve immortality. The other work's main character Rick Deckard who lives on a place similar to Transhumania (it is called 'Mars' in the book), inhabits a world where artificial intelligence robots do not serve humanity any more for they work for the disadvantage of humanity in a war zone. The story takes place on a planet where artificial robots fight for their lives and a war between the 'real and artificial' takes place for the welfare of Earth. While underlining the differences between the terms 'real and virtual', his war and conflict against the robots is reflected onto the reader.

This study analyses the desire for immortality and the creation of artificial intelligence in these two literary works, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick and *The Transhumanist Wager* by Zoltan Istvan.



* Öğr. Gör., İstanbul Gelişim Üniversitesi Yabancı Diller Yüksek Okulu / İstanbul Aydın Üniversitesi Lisansüstü Öğrencisi , El-mek: nurjohn34@hotmail.com

The desires for immortality of the main characters of two books have positive enduring lives for humans or human-like robots in their chaotic atmospheres. The challenging stories of them make the characters more enthusiastic. Their desires are just some of the pieces of Transhumanistic life or lives. The differences and similarities help the reader see and understand various sides of Transhumanism. Also, the reflection of Transhumanism onto other selected literary works is examined. In this study, Philip K. Dick and Zoltan Istvan's main characters are shown as desiring for creating new lives by creating immortality in chaotic atmospheres for human and human-like robots. The differences and similarities of the main characters present Transhumanism with different examples to the reader.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

In the article, it will be explained the historical background of Transhumanist movement which dates back to the 6th century as a "post-modern" extension of Occultism. The most basic tenets of Occultism will be explained with its geographical dimensions, historical processes and inspirations. As it was born in Mesopotamia and spread over the world especially through Europe, European authors were deeply affected by this tradition's rites or rituals. In this project, it is aimed to analyse the aforementioned books in relation with the Transhumanism movement in regards to science, technology and most importantly to the religions and beliefs of all of the humankind. Because the Transhumanist idea is an exact opposite of religion, and it does not accept the dependency of the individual to a doctrine dominating over him/her, it defends that the individual should be independent and have free will. Only by this way he/she can define his/her creativity and individuality.

The authors of the books, Philip K. Dick and Zoltan Istvan, underline that their existential understandings of life are different from any other dominant doctrine in a society, including religion. Because the protagonists or the authors who gave life to those characters not only create their own lands/ planets but they also create their own religion as well, as it is the case with *Mercerism* in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* It can be said that the created worlds as the individuals' determination for allegiance for religion and the religion is the uppermost levelled opium of the soul. When the individual surrenders his/her soul to the hands of opportunistic people, he/she loses his free will and deserves to die in the hands of them. The Transhumanist movement, as a post-modern? Extension of Occultism, has a very serious conflict with religion. This movement's source of origin, occultism, and affected 17th century authors deeply such as John Milton, and he expresses his defence of free-will in his work *Paradise Lost* (1667). John Milton's seductive character *Satan* will be examined through the religion-Christianity and Transhumanism conflict.

When the perspective is changed and turned towards more recent times, the robots are creating their own responding emotions in their dystopia and their dystopia is like a software inside a computer, their systems are faster than those of human beings on earth, they have flying cars, skyscrapers which are quite higher than those of normally built skyscrapers. It shows that their systems are fifty years or one hundred

years ahead of the earth's system. Therefore, the artificial intelligences are called Transhumans. Even a comparison between a world-individual and a Transhumanian-android cannot be made and also, the coming closer of these two sides are not impossible because we are the humans aware of what is going on in science and technology.

The both authors stress on the step which should be taken onto the scientific and technological worlds without having any limitations related to old world and they are handling those improvements on a promising dimension of human it is 'Transhumanism' in the literary frames. The main point of analysis is to show whether it is possible to create a sci-fi based land and live on that land without any fear of 'death'. Because the longevity of a human being's life restricts one's plans, programmes or any hopes regarding future. The aim of Transhumanism is to show how to live without having the fear of having a short longevity (about a 60-70 years of life) and how to adapt those utopic plans into real life conditions. Transhumanism basically and simply stresses on the impossibility of nothing.

The transhumanist movement will be explained by the two literary works *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* by Philip K. Dick and *Transhumanist Wager* by Zoltan Istvan. Especially the book *Transhumanism: The History of a Dangerous Idea* by 21st century author David Livingstone is held as a source of the movement with very concrete examples. The other works that are studied to support the discussions in this article will be mentioned through quotations. Transhumanism is the first highlighted title of this article. With its broad definition and mutual interactions with literary works, the movement is mapped out in the mind of the reader. Singularity, the highest level of Transhumanism, is the second concept which is going to be explained towards the end of the article. Singularity, unlike the dystopic treatment of Transhumanist ideals in Philip K. Dick's work, represents a utopic dimension that the Transhumanists may achieve after reaching their targeted kind of human 'androids' or 'artificially intelligent' super humans.

In the conclusion part, it will be explained whether the real-life transhumanist can achieve his objective after having very supportive affirmations or dissuading crisis.

Keywords: Immortality, Science, Singularity, Transhumanism

ANRDOİDLER ELEKTRİKLI KOYUN DÜŞLER Mİ? VE TRANSHUMANİST BAHİS'TE TRANSHUMANİZM: ÖLÜMSÜZLÜK VE TEKİLLİK

ÖZET

Geleceğin yapay zekâlı robotlarla yönetilmesi ve onların gelecekteki nüfuslarının artması ihtimali insanlar için tehlike arz edebilir bir durumdur. Bu sebeple, insanoğlunun çekişmeli bir halde olduğu bu robotları yok etmek dünyada azınlıkta olan insanoğluna yaşanabilir bir atmosfer yaratabilir.

İlk eser *The Transhumanist Bahis*'in başkarakter araştırmacı Jethro Knights hikâyesinde Transhumaizm hakkında yazmış olduğu yazılarının ve araştırmalarının reddedilmesine rağmen hatta araştırması uğruna sevdiği insanı kaybetmesine rağmen, bütün bu engelleri Transhumanya' sını kurup ölümsüzlüğü başarıma hedefine ulaşırken bir engel olarak değil aksine destekleyici unsur olarak görmüştür. Diğer seçilen eser *Androidler Elektrikli Koyun Düşler mi?* 'nin baş karakteri Rick Deckard, bahsi edilen Transhumanya'ya benzer bir gezegende (kitapta bu gezegenin adı Mars'tır) yapay zekâlı robotların artık insanlığın yararına değil, zararına yaşam sürdüklerini okuyucu anlatmak ister ve bir yandan da 'gerçek ve yapay' kavramları arasındaki farkı sunarken insanların robotlarla olan savaşını okuyucuya aktarır.

Bu çalışma, iki edebi eser, Philip K. Dick tarafından yazılmış *Androidler Elektrikli Koyun Düşler mi?* ve Zoltan Istvan tarafından yazılmış olan *Transhumanist Bahis*'te ölümsüz olmayı ve yapay zekâyı oluşturma arzusunu temel alarak Transhumanizm'in seçili edebi eserlere yansımalarını incelemektedir. Bu incelemede Philip K. Dick ve Zoltan Istvan'ın ana karakterlerinin, insanların ve insan görünümlü robotların kendileri için ölümsüzlüğü kaotik ortamlarında başararak, yeni yaşamlar oluşturma istekleri de sunulmaktadır. Her iki eserin başkarakterlerinin farklılıkları ve benzerlikleri, Transhümanizm kavramını edebi eserler aracılığıyla okuyucuya farklı örneklerle sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ölümsüzlük, Bilim, Tekillik ve Transhumanizm

Introduction

Man's struggle to become immortal and unify his existence with God dates back to *Genesis*, even at a time when people were being punished by God for engaging in occult occupations such as alchemy and mysticism. The movement Transhumanism is thought to be a post-modernist idealistic product (you need citation for this!!!). To become the combination of science and human thanks to technological improvements, has its origins in the 6th century B.C and it has a connection with Occultism. Occultism is the mystic and non-physical term, which manifests itself in relation to theological subjects such as Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In fact, it has no relationship with theology. Because while some people believe that religion tries to reveal the unknown for the individual, other people believe that Occultism tries to keep any knowledge secret in itself. Occultism is rooted from Middle-Asia and ancient Shaman traditions based on having connection with Gods and spiritual existence, this existence refers to the sayings on Adam & Eve -in the *Book of Genesis*- the rejection of the superiority of God and the desire of overthrowing him by eating the fruit from Tree of Knowledge with the help of Satan (Livingstone,2015).

Faust by Goethe is a specific example. Faust the character has no satisfaction as a result of his bargain with the devil and he leaves the religious belief while dealing with mysticism and economic issues. Because he wants to rule over everything in nature and this is like a Syndrome of Control. The connection of this situation is revealed through the concept of empathy in Philip K. Dick's work because as the search for information rules over the atmospheres of the planets Mars and the Earth. It rules over through the "retirements" of the androids and Dick's characters forget the sensible sides of knowledge and they just focus on technological side of surviving, so, he displays that the desire of utopic land turns into a dystopic land. While Jethro Knights, in *Transhumanist Wager*, rejects religion, he deals with this spiritual perception throughout the book, for he knows and

criticizes it. Meanwhile, he explains the restrictive perspectives of spiritual doctrine. Knights' desire for immortality winks at turning into an achievement for a utopic land: Transhumania. Yet, although Dick's book depicts a later and higher level of Knights' (Istvan's) desired land Transhumania, Dick cannot provide unlimited lives for his androids. The failure of his androids is shown as the lust just for technology and science. The failure of Faust can be related to the androids' failure because Faust's failure is depicted as a result of desire for strength and comfort: the unbridled exercise of science and technology in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* It can be explained as "the revenge of technology" (Stahl, 2000). It means that computers cannot solve the problems, they just make the problems go around and stay the same or even become worse.

People have always been dealing with the occult to defend themselves against others, to be powerful against other people by acquiring supernatural abilities like affiliating with gods or defending themselves against gods. Mysticism includes different kinds of rituals such as sacrificing children to a holy person or worse, to the fire. Worshipping an underground god is one of them. Middle-Eastern people –Assyrian and Babylon- proceeded doing their rituals and they called themselves as Kabbalah. After Persian people started to dominate the Middle East, their similar kind of rituals started to be seen in the area. And like those people, Persians following the religion Zoroastrianism had devilish gods such as Hades, Dionysus or Bacchus - "they have undergone many names and interpretations throughout the centuries, including ghosts, goblins, demons, leprechauns, elves, fairies and in Islam they are known as "Jinn", [...]" (Livingstone, 2015 pp: 5-15). -These devilish gods are the forms of rebellion and disobedience of people against deities in terms of religious aspects and they represent human's evil and animalistic situations in the first century A.D. The origin of such rebellious practices is explained in the Bible as the punishment of Jews because they were the people who dealt with magic and they worshipped the dying-god that represents evil by creating groups of people – the Kabbalists. This group of people has some effects of their so-called normal lives, it is the intoxication effect of the herb Haoma. This herb is used in their rituals, Magi, and they believed that whoever drank this herb's essence would become 'immortal' (Livingstone, 2015 pp: 5-15). The Greek philosophy and the magic of Jews are cultivated by the term *Magi* or *Magic* and they helped the creation of new terms such as Hermeticism and Gnosticism, which found embodiment with Kabbalistic teachings. Kabbalistic rituals include magical and spiritual acts, the middle-eastern origin of these rituals spread over quickly to the south-east Mediterranean and Europe, and it influenced European studies in science and religion. European science began to have a magical and mystic teaching; therefore, it turns to be a kind of study, a 'pseudo-science' and it comes around by the effect of Occultism or Kabbalistic teachings. The reason of not accepting it as a field of science is that pseudo-science's base includes witchcraft and esoteric teachings. While being not accepted by most people, the effect of pseudo-science went on spreading among different nations and people. In the Middle Age, Arabic people help the movement spread under the name *al-kimiya* meaning alchemy and Kabbalah became the base of medical teachings. It went on being popular during the following centuries, even the reasons of uprisings against the religion Christianity in the 15th century were the Gnostic teachings, because there was a promise of Messiah and he was believed to be the supreme personification unifying Kabbalah cults on one land, Jerusalem (Livingstone, 2015 pp: 5-15).

Gnosticism was a heresy of Christianity which derived from what Gershom Scholem called "Jewish Gnosticism," an early form of Jewish mysticism that led to the development of the Kabbalah. [...] Hermeticism is a religious and philosophical tradition based primarily on pseudographical writings attributed to a supposed ancient Egyptian sage name Hermes Trismegistus ("Thrice Great"). (Livingstone, 2015 pp: 5-15)

Today, the teachings Gnosticism and Hermeticism can be accepted as the supporters of the humanistic philosophy that places the individual to a place higher than any doctrine has done before,

because both pseudo-science roots reject Christian doctrines and take the human as the centre of the knowledge; the person can learn and find it by himself, not by the means of any conductor. The terms cannot accept any dogmatic perception of the world and humanity in general. It is a personal experience of religion and of people creating their own gods or sub creations. Therefore, philosophy of these two terms is based on a structure not having any theological aspect. The individual reaches the numinous salvation through his/her exertion.

People went on dealing with alchemy, astrology, and magic although the scholastic idea was not only a dominant power over the individual's free will but also an obstacle in terms of limiting him to think by himself. This long-lasting age is followed by Renaissance –the humanistic age-, in Renaissance mysticism and occult come out under the name of a pseudo-science that reacts against religion (Livingstone, 2015 pp: 5-15). And it can be said that the occult- idea has an alternative name; *Transhumanism* defending that by means of contributions of science, medicine and 'human created' technology, to overcome diseases and longevity is possible. As it is mentioned, the term *transhumanism* does not give a place to any religious manipulation in its world, especially to the Church of Rome or Popery, which is the target of the reactions against the term 'religion'. "Thompson further stated that, the age of the independent sovereign state, with the sovereign individual in his private property, [is] over, just as the Christian fundamentalist days are about to be over." (Livingstone, 2015 pp: 257-269). Therefore, we can call this term as a Post-Renaissance product because technology, medicine or science do not include any religious perspectives in their territories, the main aim is to broaden the human mind and life expectancy through their connected innovations which have the human as the centre, not a superstitious power. When Timuçin Buğra Edman explains Fantastic Literature's meaning in his article *A Journey of Hero Science Fiction and Cinema from Antique Myths*, he explains sci-fi as a sub-genre of Fantastic Literature, and stresses out that the archetypes in the western and eastern worlds are the similar characters under different names. He continues explaining that Fantastic Literature is a product of imagination and its border is limitless. Literary works in it are fed from legends and myths, the characters in the works are created by being affected from legends and myths. He depicts that the main aim is to define 'who the human is,' what the reason of being is' while creating the characters and understanding the environment of human.(Edman, 2017) Therefore, the human always puts himself/ herself at the centre and aims to broaden the capacity of the brain to ask more questions and answer them. In that process, with the aim of not obeying god, people create their own holy entities- sub-gods-in their mythological works such as *The Silmarillion- The Myths and Legends of Middle Earth* by J. R.R Tolkien Tolkien handles his own work creating a supreme god: Iluvatar; a kind of character that is disobeying worldly god belief. The monotheistic power of the world is divided into polytheistic gods' powers with Tolkien's work. This literary work can be related to the Satan figure in *Paradise Lost* by John Milton as well, because Satan's role is to have the will of power and he seduces the human being with his most powerful item, food, 'with an apple'.

To whom thus EVE yet sinless. Of the Fruit
Of each Tree in the Garden we may eate,
But of the Fruit of this fair Tree amidst
The Garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eate
Thereof, nor shall ye touch it, least ye die.

(*Paradise Lost*, VIII, 659-663)

It is a significant item for a human. It is food and as a result, the idea of surviving by feeding himself comes to light and it is related to the term 'free-will'. Satan as an inhabitant of Paradise is sent to hell after he has seduced Adam and Eve and he was the first figure that has rebelled against

God and did not obey him. Now, he creates new disobedient people by seducing them with an apple from the Tree of Knowledge that is forbidden to people. The bitten apple symbolizes the conflict between God and individual or between religion and freewill.

Tolkien's gods or Milton's Satan have the same purpose, that is to survive as they desire and exercise their own wills. Similar to these disobediences, today's disobedience against God can be in a modern or postmodern structure. Taking science to the first place of respect can be named as the combination of technology and man's own will or the combination of man and machine because today the person has a knowledge of no perfect religion on earth and also the mythological characters and gods are not feeding their appetite for knowledge. The individual who accepts the norms of transhumanism accepts technology as the ultimate power as well. The technologic idea has one reality for anyone, it does not implement any force on him, and the individual rejects the force of the open-ended philosophy of any religion built in different places on earth such as Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism or Hinduism. Technology is a religion that has only one truth for everyone. It does not have any classification against the individual because it handles him with a secular approach. As it is in *Transhumanist Wager (2015)*, Jethro Knights ignores the religious attacks on his and his friends' studies, and always dreams of creating a new utopic-like world where technology, medicine, biology, law, science or culture have their best forms for the improvement of humanity, His utopic land just provides independence for human being in terms of creating whatever he likes without any pressure on his ideas and inspirations. It cannot be denied that religion is a philosophy in itself, yet the reality of technology, science or medicine understands that this philosophy restricts the borders of human-mind, it accepts a creator having a dominance over everything, not letting the individual independent, therefore, the individual is not allowed to do anything for the longevity of its own species; it needs a struggle as a transhumanist study just to extend the duration of human life period.

The idea which is given through Transhumanism is that the individual who frees himself/herself from the borders of any restrictive concept, questions the life more and more, deeper and deeper. This questioning is on behalf of human and humanity as well, not for any leader or religious person as they create a fear which does not let the individual produce or question alternative ways. *Transhumanist Wager's* protagonist Jethro who rejects the authority of the church in his own world wants to gather the fearless entrepreneurs on his Transhumania. He calls anyone from the world to his Transhumania to search, produce and analyse for humanity and prolongation of human life. The protagonist lives a deep sorrow of losing his lover at a very young age, so the scientist Jethro tries to find a way to provide a long-life for humanity -young people-. In his sad story, although artificial intelligence search, cloning, genetic engineering or stem cell therapy are practiced widely on the earth, he implies that even the improvements and scientific research are done within certain doctrines: government and religion. Because the norms are imposed onto people over their latent fears, he focuses on that disobedience of the governmental or religious norms and stresses that they bring the society and individual to a hazardous point. To be punished with the certain norms are accepted true for anyone in that society as the force on people about making any scientific search is to be superior to each other on the earth and it is like a force just putting the individual in a rank. The Transhumanist Wager Jethro warns people on the earth and promises that everything will be rebuilt to have a better and more promising world thanks to scientific search without any governmental or religious pressure and it will be just for humanity. The implementation of the ideas comes into being with the history of his life.

A) Transhumanism

The name 'Transhumanism' was pronounced for the first time by Julian Huxley in 1957, Huxley aimed include the meanings in this word as a welfare, an efficiency, human's gradual potential progress and wanted human to go beyond himself through observing the nature. All the

situations are for a better society, so that human can uphold his life both intellectually and scientifically. (Hansell, Grassie, 4)

Transhumanism is not science, but science fiction, a literary genre with which it has not accidentally been associated since the very beginning. It represents the idealistic and false appropriation of fantasies about the possibilities of science into the real world. In other words, transhumanism is pseudo-science. Effectively, it is a religious idea. Not in the traditional sense of course, as transhumanists are vehemently opposed to traditional religions (Livingstone, 315). Using a word with a very opposite meaning –religion- it is the new definition of 'humanism' in the postmodern age. It is a posthuman referring to future and beyond, and it is a definition of the conflict with god & devil that questions the power of god and a new angle for religion. Because the individual creates the rules by himself, not by a superior authority, and Transhumania's benefit is not only for a definite society in the world but also it is for everybody on the earth and on Transhumania – a new super-land- preparing an atmosphere where people can overcome their biological short-comings. "A broad definition: transhumanism is a liberation movement advocating nothing less than a total emancipation from biology itself" (O'Connell, 2017). It means that the aim of the transhumanist is to create a transition from limited biological existence to a technologically improved non-biological existence, therefore, the main aim of the individual is to provide a long, healthy and technologically enduring life. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* depicts the androids' scientific dimension through and their conflictions with humans on Transhumania. Zoltan Istvan - *Transhumanist Wager* can account for a preliminary stage of Philip K. Dick's world in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* because in that work there are different lands, two utopic lands which are androids' land/planet and the earth. The robots go between these two planets but Jethro Knights' land is an unborn baby-land having the conflicts long before moving to Transhumania. If we elaborate in a simple way, Istvan's character Jethro has no conflict with the people on the land unlike in Dick's book. Jethro's conflict is just with the fundamentalists who refuse his ground-breaking innovations in technology and science. Istvan's confliction is the period before building that utopic land. His most important item can be providing fund as it is a very crucial part of science and research, but it is not an obstacle; in fact, the prohibition is religion. Philip K. Dick depicts the world as it achieved the transhumanism or transhumanist struggles to refer to the future of humanity and depicting the non-productive side of the people in the 21st century.

The transhumanist mission is to pursue the most expedient course an individual can take to reach one's most powerful and advanced self, whose primary purpose is to overcome anything that gets in the way of that goal; namely, death. Otherwise, if you do not agree with us and with our mission, if you choose to refuse the logic and sensibility of the Transhumanist Wager, then get out of the way—or be thrown out of the way. (Istvan, 2015)

His main aim is to beat death and create ways to get away from it. And the motto of the protagonist concept can be seen as 'love the life' by leaving anything behind and by searching for not only the longevity of human life but also by dealing with all aspects of human life, human brain, human body and organs, language, food, transportation, mass-production and population within technological processes predicting a computerized system for each (Istvan, 2015.194). The only way to overcome them creating a barrier for each aspect is an improved technology –science- which provides a welfare for human and transhumanism.

B) Singularity

Singularity refers to a race – androids having artificial intelligences- whose mind-speed is faster than today's human, whose appearance has no differences from human, whose recalling abilities are extremely stronger than human's, whose neurological abilities have no limitations, whose system producing its own programming systems, whose mind goes beyond human intelligence fast

each day, whose identity is virtual, whose intelligence is surpassing human's biology (Kurzweil, 37-40). We can say that Singularity is the term that the human dreams of having all the superiorities such as storing the knowledge in a flash memory to use it like a computer system or living longer than a limited human age such as at most 85 years of health.

So, what is the Singularity? The singularity is, in my eyes and many others, an inevitable event that will happen in the not too distant future. Technology, in particular, Artificial Intelligence, will merge with biology creating a new super race, the evolution of humanity. (Barker, 2015)

Jethro Knights is like on the side of the preparation process for a world or a land in which there are androids and "electric animals". The book can *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* is a dream world including a perfect social life, perfect economy, perfect technology and perfect medicine. The people or androids in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* moved off from the earth are like the ones living the process of getting ready for the Transhumania of Zoltan Istvan.

What he wanted on Transhumania was hackers, programmers, code-breakers, and cyber-warriors—the world's best. [...] Jethro spent hundreds of millions of dollars of his military budget creating customized supercomputers and hiring the best techies in the world to run them. (Istvan, 2015.165)

In *Transhumanist Wager*, Jethro Knights designs robots such as Weapon Bot for search- and – destroy, Medibot for medical surgery, Firebot for fighting all types of fires, Bombbot for bombing and so on (Istvan,2015.165). These robots are like the citizens of a nation who acts according to rules, designs and circumstances. These citizens are like the androids that Dick's main character, Rick Deckard, is responsible for killing during his hunting periods. Istvan envisions the artificial intelligence as being responsible for the superhuman that has an advanced capacity of thinking and scanning like a computer. Therefore, this implies that human is becoming an identity having a technological basement and it opens a door to the term Singularity, as it is a new way of living or 'surviving'.

The core of the study will be the human; he will search, analyse, apply, and will be the example of the study as well. By examining the example or the human, the human being will create a new superpower – a copy of himself - having the utmost computerized thinking and living forms of the previous race. In this area, the human will be able to combine technology and biology to create the new so-called race, the superhuman, thanks to his limitless innovations in any scientific study.

Most important, the Most of the intelligence of our civilization will ultimately be nonbiological. By the end of this century, it will be trillions of trillions of times more powerful than human intelligence. However, to address often-expressed concerns, this does not imply the end of biological intelligence, even if it is thrown from its perch of evolutionary superiority. (Kurzweil, 2013)

There is a significant transition from biological being to nonbiological being. This is the utmost stage of biotechnological research and machines will surpass this human improvement and go on their own very quickly. Singularity searches for the conflicts on earth created by social statues complexity, hierarchy complexity, long-life complexity, food complexity and production complexity; for example, in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* having a real animal shows the social status of a person because the Singularity brings a longer life expectancy to life via the combination of technology and biological capacity. It will let us overcome the short longevity of human-life, the slow speed of thinking, the ability of solving any problem will be embodied by means of improvements in technology and computerized programming system as it is much faster than the human brain. *Matrix*-like robots or androids of *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* are the dreamt improvements and they are not far away from being realized. For example, in the movie, *The Space Odyssey* Stanley Kubrick and Arthur C. Clarke solve the conflict through the idea of a human beating

the machine. We –the humans- may be just at the beginning of this process yet it is possible to embody the Utopic idea by combining the best biological and the best technological improvements; thus, the borders of incapability will be surpassed unlike the previous reaction of society compared to the present. Especially the media is a crucial way for humans to encounter that impossible possibility, movies and series are being produced thanks to singularity.

The future plans are in a wider period such as 2.000 years' plans rather than 20 years plans and there may be changes in predictions because androids' nonbiological capacity stores and combines the information very fast. In Ray Kurzweil's book *The Singularity is Near*, he depicts that chemistry was born to analyse the Big Bang and laws of physics were needed to analyse it. He says that it is obvious that to make guesses about the past is more difficult than predicting the future as there are not enough written or programmed documents about the universe and the human in general. In the future the technology will go beyond even the borders of the computerized brain, the slow change of the previous timeline will be able to have a speed improving well at the optimal level because an intelligent machine or artificial intelligence will be able to produce more intelligent one than itself but it is not probable for a human brain; human just questions and looks for trial and error forms for himself, it is vice versa for a machine. The word "Singularity" is an English word meaning a unique event with, well, singular implications." (Kurzweil, 2013). Singularity foregrounds that the humanity will come to a point where the artificial intelligence will surpass the intelligence of the humanity and its implications are the questions about the human's intelligence and life expectancy, because the search for a better life and intelligence prepares the scientific base for the human and he wants to go beyond the borders of science. The borders start with the invention of the robots or androids instead of fallible and transitory human.

On the website page *How Stuff works?* Stephanie Watson describes the term 'cryonics' as:

[...] the practice of preserving human bodies in extremely cold temperatures with the hope of reviving them sometime in the future. The idea is that if some-one has "died" from a disease that is incurable today, [...] the icy water put their body into a sort of suspended animation, slowing down their metabolism and brain function to the point where they needed almost no oxygen. (Watson, 2005)

Jethro Knight uses the cryonics practice to keep his body enduring and young; therefore, he achieves his aim through technological facilities which are beyond producing domestic appliances, trains, cars or planes because 21st century's technology either wants to make the human life longer or to create a transhumanist sample of himself that is the utmost point of itself; superficial intelligent robotics; it means that science wants to create a human from the human. The target is the human. Because both works *Transhumanist Wager* and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* imply a world which has been come out of the World War III and the human is looking for a peaceful place for himself; the human and animal population have decreased. In *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Deckard sees that having an animal is a symbol of representing high culture in the society, whoever finds a real animal more than a robot one is lucky. If it is an animal such as a sheep or a chicken which provides food, he is very lucky as the world has lost its touch with nature as a result of WWII. Therefore, transhumanism or the idea of superficial intelligent and androids are the products of human's old world destroyed and this destroyed world wants to take the human to a point having and producing the utmost opportunities of the technology.

In Tony M. Vinci's article *Posthuman Wounds: Traum, Non-Anthropocentric Vulnerability, and the Human / Android / Animal Dynamic in Philip K. Dick's "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep"*, he describes K. Dick's planet as

[...] a post-apocalyptic world devastated by World War Terminus (WWT)- a global military conflict that dismantled international political systems, leaves the planet barren, and obliterates the

world's animal population. After the war, those persons deemed human enough to retain legal rights emigrate, leaving behind a decimated human population (Earth's residents now number in the thousands). Subject to societal collapse, daily nuclear fallout [...]. (Vinci, 2014)

Taking place both on earth and on another planet created in Dick's book focuses on that if it is misused, technology can bring an end to the human and to his/her nature because the reasons for the wars are not only the conflicts between the nations and their human-made weapons but also the weapons which cause chemical, cultural, psychological and educational corruptions, depopulation and mental illnesses. These negative influences make countries worn out in time and humans start to look for a place that they can emigrate to and find a peaceful atmosphere for themselves. As there is a depopulation in this work too, humans both create a planet for themselves and build a new so called-race: 'androids' who are very similar to humans. Rick Searle explains that situation from an opposite angle is his article *Betting Against the Transhumanist Wager*:

What it does suggest is that unless we free ourselves from our narrow understanding of technology we might end up running to stand still as failure to invest in education robs children, in the aggregate, of the ability to learn, or failure to invest in public health gives rise to a median decline in lifespan at the very moment we've grasped the neurological mechanisms behind learning and memory and discovered how to slow life's clock. (Searle, 2013)

Although Searle is against the idea of Transhumanism of providing longevity, he describes it as a fascistic movement in his writing, it should be agreed with his one point that he defends not-thinking in a narrow comprehension of the technology. Because technology does not slow the currency of time, on the contrary, it provides a broader life, society, health, education and ways of thinking, therefore, it can be said that Istvan's protagonist Jethro Knights wants people to be aware of the narrow aspects of the technology by saying that even the technology, politics or the religion of the world serve for the utilitarian on the earth. Because they want people to act according to the pre-determined rules by themselves and the ones like Jethro will be punished unless obey their order. Jethro wants to create the long-lived human and human-like androids or robots on his *Transhumania*, as well. His aim to serve humanity for the future of humanity so the life's clock is very fast and improving fast unlike the slow clock of Rick Searle.

Conclusion

The purpose of becoming immortal through technology is Transhumanism; creating a new religion-like or society-like term is Singularity. To provide those ideal areas by means of science seems possible because the basic teaching Occultism has been surviving for 27 centuries and it seems that it will go on in the following centuries, as well. Fast improving technology and science especially in medicine and computerization implicate that humanity is on the edge of his triumph and as the characters Rick Deckard and Jethro Knights achieve their aims, the present-day human will achieve his/her Transhumanist target. In other words, the desire of being immortal has been existing for centuries. When humans achieve immortality, it is the point that Singularity begins and the Singularity has the digital, computerized, very deep systematic, non-biological dimension of humanity or post-human. Artificial-intelligence takes over the role and begins to rule himself/herself with a quite wide connection with technological improvements. It is not as simple as using a computer, or using a smart phone. It is an operating system and it is far beyond the conception of storing any information into a chip. If it is imagined how millions of files are stored in one terabyte external hard drive and if it is imagined that those files are able to be taken to any other computer or to any other place, the importance of artificial intelligence can be understood as well. Those files are not going to be taken to anywhere anymore, because, the external hard drives are coming out in the shape of a human that speaks, hears, sees and the most importantly scans any information in seconds. The future will be full of these androids, artificial-intelligence robots and they will have a settlement, life and an organization for themselves. It will be a place not concrete as against slow human pace.

Therefore, Singularity as the advanced level of technology is the unborn ancestor of Transhumanism and it will be the planet of the technology.

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