

INTERFACE OF SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY: A CRITICAL STUDY OF H. G. WELLS' *THE TIME MACHINE*

Abida Jan and Manzoor Ahmad Najar*

Abstract: This paper examines the amalgam of scientific and philosophical ideas in H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. It manifests the evolutionary vision of a time machine and the material world's realism. In its science parable, H.G. Wells' approach in this novel is purely scientific as science displays time as the fourth dimension. With the use of scientific methods there is at the same time degradation of humankind as it is reflected in Eloi and Morlocks. Darwin and Huxley use scientific ideas, and philosophical ideas are also used by Wells' interest in Carlyle and Max Nordue's *Degeneration*: this novel glimpses society's horrors and the outcome of industrialization and technology. The text manifests the forthcoming apocalypse to the readers who remain skeptical and unbelieving. The philosophical inquiry in *The Time Machine* displays how man lost the capability of abstract thought by indulging in technological processes and how fear triumphs over humans. Technological progress can improve lives and, at the same time, can destroy the conditions that make humans capable of thinking. This paper will examine how this novel starts as Utopia and ends as Dystopia in the world of 802,701AD, the human condition, the role of scientific society, and the purpose of life. This paper also examines how technology should be used carefully for the benefit of humanity. If not used properly, the consequences will be fatal, such as how human intelligence disappeared due to technology and how Humans resort to mere cannibalism. The paper shall further attempt and discuss the pros and cons of technology.

The present paper proposes to focus on the science-philosophy interface in the backdrop of H. G. Wells's *The Time Machine* (1895). The amalgam of science and philosophy is very conspicuous in *The Time Machine*. It is a work of science fiction and, at the same time, a job that manifests the themes of the degradation of humankind, the horrors of society, and the outcome of technology. This paper attempts to acknowledge some philosophical questions related to *The Time Machine*. The questions are: To generate a fundamental truth about humanity's future decline and why? To understand the mysteries of existence and reality of future humanity—like that of Elio and Morlocks? Would it be possible for science to make it to travel in the future? If yes, what will the conditions be for future humankind? Can technology help us to travel in the future? Is the future already there? Is it possible to have only one sex in the future, as in Elio in *The Time Machine*? If yes, how would they reproduce? Was technology not sufficient for them to make them smarter than time travelers? This paper also attempts to draw an analogy between philosophical and scientific ideas in consultation with H. G. Wells's *The Time Machine*.

Philosophy Science Interface: When human civilization develops the skills to adapt to hostile nature, develop some instruments, and learn how to store things for future use, it could find a solution to the problem and have some supra-animal capacities. They had a developing nature called Scientific in essence. They began to feel superiority over other animals. To conquer nature was one of the earliest tasks of science. To have control over everything, even one fellow man. Nothing should be out of reach for science. So, human civilization began with science. Then, when the human intellect became mature enough to raise several questions about the origin of the world, what the things that give rise are, and

* Ms ABIDA JAN, PhD Research scholar; Dr MANZOOR AHMAD NAJAR, Assistant Professor. Department of English Language and Literature, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Kashmir. Email: manzoor.najar@iust.ac.in