Scifi-Book Review - Neuromancer by William Gibson

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Neuromancer a scifi novel written by William,Gibson in 1984, it is the first part of Sprawl trilogy,the Dystopian Scifi world Sprawl,where the main characters of the novel live, but in neuromancer the main protagonist lives in dystopian Japanese city,Chiba City.In the book neuromancer, William Gibson describes the world in one line as ""The sky above the port was the colour of television, tuned to a dead channel".It captures a whole genre's characteristic,the natural has been subsumed by the artificial.

Gibson's Neuromancer describes a punked-out, high-tech world of cyber realities, tribal jungles operating on society's marginalized fringes, and dizzying labyrinths of images reflecting human desires that are endlessly replicated in mirrors and computers; yet for all its exoticism, Neuromancer offers a compelling vision of the way technology has already affected our lives.

Neuromancer was perhaps the earliest of science fictions to have anticipated it all – the formation of an identity without a body, virtual identity, the alter ego, the struggle to master new technologies, the associated and interlinked corollary challenges of preserving social justice in a space without laws, questions of traditional morality and ethics. These and other related themes taken up in the present study place Gibson and Neuromancer much ahead of their times – foreseeing a time in future where man has to handle these conflicts warring with the perpetual flux that characterises the electronic frontier.

Even though in 1984 when the internet and artificial intelligence was not developed so far,William Gibson,imagined and predicted the futuristic technologies that are yet to come,his concepts were so advanced that still it is not developed in 2019.His concept of Cyberspace so called "Matrix" of virtual reality has given so many blockbuster movies like "The Matrix:Trilogy" and other scifi movies.

William Gibson's Neuromancer uses new concepts that were emerging in the scientific scenario in the 1980s as Artificial Intelligence (AI), constructs and cyborgs in cyberspace or matrix, the use of bodily modifications as implants and prostheses and subtly handles the understanding of time and space. It plays with concepts like real and virtual time and real and virtual spaces. For the major part of the novel, the plane of action is cyberspace. The characters in the novel move from one plane of existence to another – shuffling between a virtual life in cyberspace and a real life in the physical world. While the transition from one plane of existence to the other seems smooth sailing, the one tool for access into cyberspace is a specialised form of knowledge available to only a few.

The novel start with the main protagnist or say antihero, an unemployed computer hacker who is cyberspace hacker and drug ddict whose nervous system has been damaged because of betrayal of his past work, previous employers contract work. Even before the novel begins, Case's capacity to enter cyberspace was jeopardised by his earlier employers whom he tried to cheat and who injected him with mycotoxin.He used to make his living stealing data via cyberspace, but he got greedy and tried to profit from one of his thefts. His employers caught him and damaged his nervous system with a Russian toxin as punishment. One effect is that he can't go online anymore. As a result, Case is just barely getting by as a low-level hustler. The other characters in the novel are Armitage, ex-special-forces soldier who hires Molly and Case to perform a job; Molly is the 'razor girl', Peter Riviera Riviera a deviant character who has had one of his lungs removed and replaced with extensive implants that allow him to project holograms of anything he desires, an ability which he uses throughout the novel to manipulate, disorient and abuse other characters. Now he is hired by a mysterious new employer called Armitage.A man named Armitage sends Molly to recruit Case for a job. As payment, Armitage offers to repair Case's nervous system so he can go online again. Case takes the job.He's teamed with Molly, a cyborg, and Peter Riviera, a thief and illusionist, to carry out a series of crimes that set the stage for the group's ultimate purpose, which is played out on the orbiting space station called Freeside, home of the wealthy Tessier-Ashpool family.

Case, Molly, Armitage, and Riviera fly to Paris and then take a shuttle to a space colony called Zion, founded by Rastafarian workers who refused to return to Earth. The team prepares for their raid on Freeside, another space station. The Elders of Zion tell Case and Molly that she is part of their religious prophecy and that Wintermute spoke to them through their worship music, telling them to help Case and Molly. Case consults Dixie about how to hack an AI, and they give it a trial run. Case flatlines and dies briefly. Wintermute uses visions from Case's past to communicate with him and explain their mission: Wintermute is part of a larger entity, and Case is helping them unite.

The family has created two artificial intelligences (AIs), Wintermute and Neuromancer, that are so powerful that

they can only be connected at a single point. Case and his cohorts learn that they had been hired by Wintermute to break the separation between the AIs. Case and Molly overcome the interference of cybernetic law enforcement and an attempted double-cross by Riviera to merge Wintermute with Neuromancer, and the novel ends with Case living in a brave new world wherein the merged AIs possess nearly limitless power.Wintermute and Neuromancer fused into a larger entity. The new entity altered computer records, so there is no record of its existence, and paid Case a lot of money. The entity is now the matrix and is talking to another similar entity in a distant solar system. Case buys himself a new liver and pancreas and a new deck he can use to jack into the matrix. He starts working again as a cyber cowboy.

Technology in its heightened form is extensively used in Neuromancer. One of the best examples of the use of heightened technology is apparent in the occurrence of the recurrent figure of the cyborg – half man and half machine, a human with robotic implants that raises the working capability and adaptability of the human to superhuman heights.The cyborg is the interface of the organic with the technological the technicizing of the human and the humanizing of technology, i.e. the body as both the hardware and software for machines...the cyborg is partly the product of surgical implantation, where the machine and/or the simulations it generates penetrates the surface of the body.

The very futuristic technolgy in the novel was that of changing a perosn's personality which in real world from now 2019, would still take 100 more years to build it,because the technolgy was so complex but and no can detect it, like AI can talk to you and interrogate you with diffrent peronality or disguise with friends you know.In novel AI Wintermute rebuilds Corto's entire personality and being into Armitage – someone who is very different to the old colonel. This opens up questions about identity – about whether someone when changed by something significantly one becomes a new person, with a new identity. The same schizophrenic Corto heals fast when treated with computer-based therapy too – setting up a classic example of technology altering humanity. The two different personalities come into conflict later in the novel, when he goes about organizing and executing Wintermute's secret missions and eventually once again Armitage collapses mentally. Wintermute. finally kills him.

Some of the best technologies are so unique and special if these technologies were brought into real life world will be changed for good or for bad cause.

Brain chip which deleted emotions: A chip implanted in the brain that allows a person, or their employer, to selectively turn off their consciousness. Specifically used in brothels, where prostitutes can rent out their bodies without consciously participating in sexual encounters.

Understaning the humans: Understanding Just as Case struggles to understand Wintermute's motivations, Wintermute struggles to understand humankind and behaviors that veer outside of their predicted profiles.

The pyhsics in cyberspace and matrix: Although merely constructions in cyberspace, Deane's body is real enough to violently explode,real or not, it obeys the real world's physics.The matrix programming was done so that it can mimmic the real world physics.From this inspiration many cyberspace movies were made for example "The Matrix" where all people live in simulated cyberspace but if anyone access to the master code and changes it incraese or enhance the person can do impossible things becuase it's matrix and simulation but people can feel the emotion and pain becuase of the William Gibson's concept of SIMSTIM - Simulated Stimulation. A digital representation of the thoughts and feelings of another person. One individual is fitted with a simstim rig that broadcasts their senses to another person, who then rides along in their brain and body, seeing and feeling everything they see and feel.

AI's controlibilty to the real world: Wintermute doesn't have much control in the physical world, but it is able to control any machines hooked up to the internet, whose brains it can invade.

Reality and perception : In the novel character named riveria has implants allow him to manipulate other's perception of reality,and making person belives it and unable to distiguis whether it is reality or perception.

Apart from the human and the cyborg, even AIs as Wintermute use technology to its fullest. It brings Linda Lee back to life although imperfectly, it can generate a world in cyberspace and it can create Armitage from a destroyed human being. Of course all these acts had their shortcomings and disadvantages. Yet, all these imperfect acts too make for a sort of transcendence and arouses a feeling of the godlike in the AI. Further, even the agents call Wintermute a "demon," acknowledging the godlike powers of AIs.

Reading this novel was confusing in the starting because of changing from cyberspace and real world doesn't differ too much sometimes protagonist gets high in cyberspace sometimes in real world,realistic illusions that were too real.AI's controlling different personality that we can't distinguish if it's and AI or real person. The concept were the base for today's scifi movie and real world technologies some of the technologies developed now like,recently Elon musk and Jack Ma argued about how AI will communicate with each other and take the control of the world there were still many debates about it and also Facebook shuts down it's AI which created it's own language to communicate with other AI's.But the good part of the technology in the novel was biological surgeries,re-paring Brain nervous system and pancreas and control it's limit so that a person can unlimited high or control the drug addiction.In present world 2019, research on stem cell has been done and one day the techonlogies used in novel will be made but it depend upon the ethics of the people how they use it.