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**SCIENCE FICTION, A LITERARY GENRE THAT SHEDS LIGHT ON
THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY**

M.A. THESIS

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**İNSANLIĞIN GELECEĞİNE IŞIK TUTAN BİR YAZIN TÜRÜ:
BİLİM KURGU
ÖZET**

İnsanlar tarih boyunca duygu ve düşüncelerini aktarmak için farklı yollara başvurmuştur. Sözlü ve yazılı edebiyat ile başlayan bu iletişim kanallarından en modern ve gelişmiş olanlarından biri, bugün oldukça popüler olan bilim kurgu romanıdır. Bu yazın türünde insanlığın en karanlık kabusları, umut vaad eden rüyaları ve gelişmiş toplum tasavvurları gözlemlenebilir. Bilim kurgunun sınırı insanlığın hayal gücünün sınırıyla paraleldir. Bu eserler bir yandan bilimin kesin olan gücünden destek alırken diğer yandan da binlerce yıldır süregelen mitoloji ve kahramanlık destanlarının heyecan verici öğelerinden faydalanır. Hayal gücünün kıyaslanamaz enerjisine ve bilimin kesin ve net ilkelerine dayanan bu yazın türü yıllar boyunca hem ufuk açıcı hem de yol gösterici bir rol oynamıştır. Oldukça kurgusal element içeren bu edebi tür gerçek dünya ile aslında tahmin edilenden daha çok bağlantı halindedir. Dünya savaşlarından atom bombasına, telefondan televizyona ve yapay zekaya insanlık tarihi için önemli birçok olayı öngören bu yazın türü teknolojinin gelişmesinde önemli bir rol oynamıştır. İnsanların yapacakları hataların olası sonuçları veya dünyanın nasıl daha yaşanılabilir bir yer olabileceği gibi birçok önemli konu bilim kurgu edebiyatı tarafından sürükleyici ve dikkat çekici bir biçimde ele alınmıştır. Bu çalışma bilim kurgu edebiyatının gerçek dünya ile olan karşılıklı ilişkisini ve birbirlerini nasıl etkilediklerini bütünsel bir yaklaşımla incelemekte ve sonuçlarını örneklerle ortaya koymaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: bilim-kurgu, edebiyat, hayal gücü, roman, efsane

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**SCIENCE FICTION, A LITERARY GENRE THAT SHEDS LIGHT ON THE
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ABSTRACT

Throughout history, people have resorted to different ways to convey their feelings and thoughts. One of the most modern and advanced communication channels, which began with oral and written literature, is the science fiction novel which is popular today. In this type of literature, the darkest nightmares of humankind, promising dreams, and imaginations of developed society can be observed. The limit of science fiction is parallel to the limitation of human imagination. These works, on the one hand, are supported by the remarkable power of science, and on the other hand, they benefit from the exciting elements of the mythology and heroic epics that have been going on for thousands of years. Based on the incomparable power of the imagination and the precise and clear principles of science, this genre of literature has played both an enlightening and a guiding role. This literary genre contains highly fictional elements and is more connected with the natural world than expected. Science fiction, which foresees many vital events in human history, from world wars to atomic bombs, phones to television, and artificial intelligence, has played an essential role in the development of technology. Possible consequences of mistakes made by humans or how the world can be a more developed place have been dealt with in a gripping and remarkable way by science fiction. This study explores the correlation of science fiction literature with the real world and how they influence each other with a holistic approach and presents its results with examples.

Key Words: science-fiction, literature, imagination, novel, myths

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present this thesis, represents the pinnacle of several years of research and hard work. Finalizing this thesis has been challenging, but it has also been a fruitful experience that has allowed me to explore my academic interests in depth.

I thank my thesis advisor for his support and guiding role. I would also like to acknowledge the help of my wife, family, and friends, who have provided me with abiding encouragement and support throughout this journey. Their belief in me has been a constant source of motivation, and I am grateful for their love and support.

This thesis aims to examine science fiction literature comprehensively, its contribution to real-world developments, and its connection with them, from the earliest works to the present, in detail. This particular type of literature, which has pioneered many technological developments with the power of imagination, will continue to illuminate the path of humanity. Finally, I would like to express my hope that this thesis will contribute to the field of science fiction literature and culture as a whole and inspire more to study and do further research in the years to come

INTRODUCTION

Humans have been separated from other species for thousands of years thanks to their ability of imagination. Creative imagination depends on thinking and spontaneous decisions (Simpson, 1922, p. 233). This incredible power has brought humankind to unimaginable places. All animals communicate somehow, but people are pioneers because of their thinking capacity and complex social life. With the development of oral and written communication, examples of this complex inner world and our imagination began to be shared with other individuals (Şofleteka).

Myths are among the first intersections of people's imagination and communication skills. Egyptian myths were created around 4000 BC, the Sumerian legend Gilgamesh was told about 2000 BC, and the most famous and comprehensive Greek mythology dates back to 1800 BC. Through these myths and legends, people have made up epic stories. For example, the level of Narcissus and King Oedipus interestingly conveyed important messages to society about staying away from arrogance and living by following their religious and cultural beliefs. Perseus is known for his courage and resourcefulness. Theseus is known for his bravery and heroism. He famously slayed the Minotaur, a half-man, half-bull creature that lived in a labyrinth on the island of Crete. These heroes in the epics are exemplary in the societies they live in, and they guide other people, resulting in a more uniform and principled organization.

Some of these stories have been told to scare others, and others have been narrated as heroic stories (Byrd, 1990, p. 166). Most of these stories contain supernatural elements, and that is what people like about these stories. Because people who are busy with daily life and bored with it want to hear different stories and get excited, it is not only about getting bored but also about the need to believe in something. The fact that Hercules defeated a three-headed dog is a clear example of this situation (Loewen, 1999, p. 32).

Science fiction also shares many things with myths and epics. There are also many fictional characters and elements in science fiction novels and cinema. Even after thousands of years, human beings reflect their imaginations in their works. Nevertheless, these works differ slightly from their predecessors; they are based on

fiction and science. Traditional literature, mimetic literature, and science fiction are intertwined like pieces of a three-part ring (Ketterer, 1976, p. 65). Classic epic stories and science fiction are similar in many ways. They both describe things that do not exist today but that people dream of.

For example, people dreamed of fertile land and unlimited water for agriculture seven thousand years ago and traveling in space a hundred years ago. People have been capable of many things that they could not even imagine. Jules Verne wrote a story about traveling to the Moon and back to earth in 1870. Characters in the book visit the Moon and talk for hours about it, but they cannot just land on it (Verne, 2006). Approximately a hundred years later, in 1969 first human, Neil Armstrong, stepped on the moon (NASA, 2008). Such apparent examples clearly show us how human imagination impacts what we can do. During the space exploration process, it was determined that the Moon possesses a sacred nature that resembles our planet regarding its characteristics and features. Traveling to the Moon was initially a dream, lacking the belief that it could be achieved. However, creating works utilizing scientific knowledge and imaginative abilities made very challenging feats possible.

A science fiction novel is a type of literature that does not contradict science and often speaks of the future (Sterling, 2019). Science fiction is a type of literature that explores the impact of scientific concepts, whether real or imagined, on society and individuals. Science fiction authors frequently utilize social and technological advancements to create provocative predictions to captivate their audience and broaden their awareness. This genre often delves into challenging or impossible topics, such as interstellar voyages, encounters with extraterrestrial life, and time travel. Science fiction literature deals with many striking themes, such as aliens, artificial intelligence and robots, alternative societies, feminism, utopia, and space travel. Science fiction is a relatively new genre that is developing rapidly. “Publisher’s Weekly estimated that the annual sale of SF paperbacks alone has reached 40 million dollars” (Stupple, 1977, p. 215).

The list of well-known science-fiction writers includes recognizable and classic names such as Isaac Asimov and George Orwell and some contemporary

science-fiction writers who have just begun to identify. Ursula K. Le Guin, Philip K. Dick, H. G. Wells, Arthur C. Clarke, Frank Herbert, Ray Bradbury, Robert A. Heinlein, Jules Verne, and Aldous Huxley are some of the top science fiction writers. The writers and their literary creations have had a reciprocal relationship with the social, cultural, and political milieu in which they exist, shaping it and being shaped by it. For example, in his "1984", Orwell envisioned television, which had just been invented, as a propaganda tool, and he wrote it in his novel (Orwell, 1961). Huxley predicted a groundbreaking method in the medical world in his *Brave New World*. Years after his book, where he explained that the children were born in a laboratory with test tubes, the first test-tube baby was introduced to the medical world (Huxley, 2007, p. 12). H. G. Wells described a different biological work in his book *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Doctor Moreau, who lives on an island with only one friend, uses the animals here as subjects and tries to produce people from them. In this process, he tortures many animals, making them suffer for weeks, and conditions them to show human behaviors (Wells, 2017). With this scenario, he wants us to see the bad in ourselves and try to warn us of the power of science fiction.

For many years, science fiction has offered many works that open the horizon of people, give them hope, and sometimes make them despair. This genre of literature, which blends science and fiction, has suggested ideas that will change many things for humanity. This type of literature has a significant role in the development and progress of society and literature (Greenlaw, 1987, p. 166). Science fiction literature, the most prominent intersection of literature and science, will contribute to shaping the coming years (Cixin, 2013, p. 22). Not long after the idea of a space journey that Jules Verne could only dream of in his time, SpaceX Company alone sent twenty successful spacecraft to space and landed them on the surface of the earth successfully in 2018 (Mosher, 2018). Submarines inspired by *Two Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, mobile phones inspired by *Star Wars* series, and GPS influenced by *2001 A Space Odyssey* have become real after they were imagined. Thanks to many science fiction novels like these, technological developments such as space travel, wireless electricity transmission, robots, artificial intelligence, and genetic engineering have been predicted and turned into reality thanks to science fiction literature. To date, science has contributed to literature, and

literature has contributed a lot to science, and thanks to science fiction, this development will continue exponentially.

From ancient times to the present, human beings have always worked to create a more developed and advanced society with the support of their imagination and creativity. With its rising popularity, science fiction literature plays a leading role in conveying this imagination and desire for development. This unique type of literature, which emerged due to the mating of literature with science, played a significant role in the world's reaching a much more developed point by blending the creativity of imagination with the precision and determination of science in a short time. This thesis aims to explore the relationship between science fiction literature and technological developments by examining how recent literary works have both influenced and been influenced by emerging technologies. Through a close analysis of selected works and their real-world counterparts, this thesis will identify key themes, trends, and insights into the dynamic interplay between science fiction and technological innovation

1. TIME TRAVEL TO THE ORIGINS OF SCIENCE FICTION: MYTHS

To understand even the most complex literary works and implicitly sarcastic short films, it is necessary to consider the most basic means of communication in detail. Therefore, to understand even the most advanced science fiction novels and stories, it is essential to go back and examine the works and cultures that were created before them. For this reason, some mythological works and stories, the oldest known ancestors in written literature, will be discussed, and the relations and connections between them and science fiction literature will be examined.

It is known that people have been communicating with each other since about 100,000 BC. However, many authorities accept that symbols and images began to be used in the Palaeolithic age 30,000 years ago (Siyanbola, Omolola, & Adeyemi, 2021). Ideograms are drawings used later and can be considered the ancestors of words. These symbols are simple drawings with emotional or similar meanings and are often human-inspired. For example, an eye with a drop of water can be considered a letter representing sadness, which has a similar meaning in many different cultures. These primitive words and phrases contain at least some certainty, but possibly older myths, are unsubstantiated but more exciting oral tales. As history progresses, people find more complex ways of communication, from smoke to letters, but the primary purpose is to express themselves and share their emotions. The fact that man is such an intelligent and ambitious creature has led to the emergence of today's complex languages, many communication methods, and arts, such as written literature and music (McAnany, 2012).

We hunger to understand, so we invent myths about how we imagine the world is constructed - and they're, of course, based upon what we know, which is ourselves and other animals. So we make up stories about how the world was hatched from a cosmic egg or created after the mating of cosmic deities or by some fiat of a powerful being (Sagan, 1980).

Although myths may seem wholly made up at first glance, they are exciting stories with solid foundations passed down orally from generation to generation. In a world without cinema and books, this form of oral literature is an authentic art that

people gather and listen to for fun, fear, or envy. These stories could describe various situations, such as a prince battling a lion, a despised peasant boy, a creature manipulating planets like soccer balls, or a lover's quest to be reunited with their beloved. Because the only thing that determines the limits in this narrative is the narrator's imagination, and people can be pretty flexible in this regard. While these myths are transferred from one person to another, they can become more prosperous and more mature with the additions of the narrator. Since this type of literature cannot be recorded, it is transmitted from generation to generation by narration, and it may take a long time for these literary products to be formed. After reaching their final form, these stories are told for many years and continue to open other people's horizons.

Myth, a story of the gods, a religious account of the beginning of the world, the creation, fundamental events, the exemplary deeds of the gods as a result of which the world, nature and culture were created together with all parts thereof and given their order, which still obtains. A myth expresses and confirms society's religious values and norms, it provides a pattern of behaviour to be imitated, testifies to the efficacy of ritual with its practical ends and establishes the sanctity of cult (Honko, 1984).

Myths are stories that have been told in nearly every great kingdom we know of in history today. Of course, these stories and legends can be shaped according to the events and the place where the narrator lives, but in many different regions far from each other, myths with similar characteristics have been written and told. Egyptian myths, almost the first encounter in history, emerged in 4000 BC (Remler, 2010). Afterward, examples of mythological stories were frequently encountered by Akkadians, Sumerians, Greeks, and Romans. Gilgamesh, the Sumerian Legend, was written on clay tablets around 2000 BC. Some names, figures, or stories that we encounter in many games and movies today, and sometimes even in car designs, are based on Greek or Scandinavian mythology. Many mythological stories and works have influenced today's literature and cinema, but Greek and Scandinavian mythology are the two most influential mythologies. The primary goal of these mythologies is to bless the gods, despise the enemies, and promise people hope, power, and fear in many ways. For example, considering Greek mythology, it will be

seen that there is a separate god for beauty and a separate god for power, and a separate god for punishment. When the stories are sifted through, the life, states, and goals of the mortal and immortal sides are clearly stated in these stories. Thus, stories have been made to ensure that people are always inclined to seek good and avoid evil. People who will not do so voluntarily are made to believe that they will be punished by the hand of the gods in many respects.

1.1.The Epic of Gilgamesh

The mythological works offer valuable insights and glimpses into the time they were created, with Gilgamesh being a prime example. The epic tells the story of a King on a quest for immortality and is the oldest known written epic to have survived to the present day. It was written in Akkadian and Sumerian languages and consisted of 12 tablets, although some parts are missing. The epic begins by praising Gilgamesh's traits as a half-man, half-god expert in building and warfare, possessing knowledge of land and sea. Next, the tale recounts Gilgamesh's adventures, including his battle with the wild animal Enkidu, sent by the sky god Anu to punish him for mistreating his people. Gilgamesh emerges victorious and later befriends Enkidu, who becomes his closest companion. In another adventure, Gilgamesh rejects the goddess of love, Ishtar, who sends a bull to kill him. With the help of Enkidu, Gilgamesh slays the bull. Some parts of the epic are lost, but it is known that a flood occurs, and Gilgamesh returns to his homeland without achieving immortality. Some sources suggest that he desired to share the immortality plant with his people (Tigay, 2002).

In the mentioned period, a king who seeks immortality is depicted as a wise and expert demigod. The book also mentions the famous flood that people dream and tell about, even at many different times and in distant lands, the hero overcame many obstacles, but he could not eat the grass necessary for immortality. Thus, it is emphasized that death is inevitable for everyone, no matter how powerful and talented a person is, is death (Heidel, 1963).

Gilgamesh, the ancient epic of Mesopotamia, is connected to science fiction literature. The story of Gilgamesh, a half-man, half-god king, and his quest for immortality, explores themes of human mortality, technology, and the desire for

eternal life that are still relevant today. The king seeks eternal life; this theme can also be found in many science fiction works. Science fiction works such as Frank Herbert's *Dune* and Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* series draw inspiration from Gilgamesh in exploring similar themes. The epic also features fantastical elements such as the wild man Enkidu, whom the gods create, and a journey to a far-off land beyond the sea, inspiring similar elements in science fiction works. Overall, the enduring popularity and influence of the epic of Gilgamesh in science fiction literature demonstrate the lasting impact of ancient myths and legends on our collective imagination. The concept of the "superman" or the "heroic protagonist" in science fiction can be traced back to Gilgamesh, which is often considered the first epic hero. Additionally, the idea of a quest for immortality, central to the story of Gilgamesh, has been explored in many science fiction works, such as H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine* and Arthur C. Clarke's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The story of Gilgamesh has also been adapted into various forms of media, including films, television shows, and video games, further solidifying its influence on popular culture and science fiction.

1.2. Greek Mythology

Even though World History is full of mythological works, the first examples that come to mind when people think of mythology are usually related to Greek mythology. Of course, it is not by chance in this case. On the contrary, it is a very detailed and carefully handled plot and character formation. Greek mythology is an extraordinary formation that analyses what people are like and how they want to be and reflects these features following the myths (Rose, 1964). Although many authorities accept these myths as fictional, some people think they are real. Because throughout history, people have tended to believe in things they have not seen and to dominate their surroundings by creating a powerful wave of influence with them. Mythology is the perfect tool for this. Especially the Greek society managed this issue successfully and created a very complex mythology universe. Other people who lived at that time believed or at least were influenced by these stories. In this way, they tried to be more virtuous and did their best to gain the gods' mercy, as in other religions (Dietrich, 2004).

Greek mythology undoubtedly leads the mythologies with the most exciting and gripping stories. Of course, there are specific reasons why it is so attractive to people. First, it is interesting that these narratives are very detailed and professional, but one of the most significant factors that increase people's interest in them is the audience's identification. One of the most distinctive features of this mythology that distinguishes it from the others is that the gods exhibit human-like behaviors, and the plot is more logical than other mythologies. Jealousy, stubborn sexuality, and similar human traits were attributed to the gods. Kronos' fear of his children and swallowing them, Zeus' weakness for women, and Hades' stubbornness for Persephone can be shown among the humanized characteristics of the gods. Contrary to all of these, it is possible to see that Zeus, who stands out and holds power alone, is similar to the supreme god found in other divine religions and mythologies, and thus, he is separated from humanity. Greek mythology has many elements, similar to humans and demigods who show superhuman effort and power, and many elements that shape society (Christopoulos, Karakantza, & Levaniouk, 2010).

In Greek mythology, unlike the others, no god created the universe; on the contrary, the universe created gods. The gods later joined Greek mythology, starting with only two parallel universes, earth, and heaven. They are called Olympians because they lived on Mount Olympus. Each god is in charge of another area. For example, Poseidon is the god of the sea and takes care of everything that happens there. Hades is the god of the underworld, where he takes care of dead people with his wife Persephone and his famous three-headed dog Cerberus. Finally, Zeus, the king of the gods, is responsible for both the other gods and the operation of the universe, as well as the weather events that occur.

The story of the creation of the universe and humanity, which finds its place in every belief, also has an important place in Greek mythology. People curious about their ancestors and the genealogy of the recent past have also been inquisitive about creation. There are different creation stories in every religion and belief, and while they are similar in some ways, they sometimes differ (Franz, 1972). Even in Greek mythology alone, there are three different starting scenarios. Homer, Hesiod, and Orphism told three different creation stories.

The most prominent and first creation story begins with chaos. In a way, chaos gave birth to Gaia Nyx Erebus and the others. First, Gaia (Earth) creates Heaven, and then two of them together make all the other living, including monsters, creatures with a hundred hands, and Titans. Cronus, the youngest of the titans, kills his father, takes his place, and rules the universe with the other titans, but he eats all his children alive, knowing that he will suffer the same fate later (Loewen, Zeus, 1999). However, one child escapes this fate, kills his father, and saves his siblings. Now the glorious and famous life of Zeus, the god of gods, begins.

It is no coincidence that Zeus is the most popular god, thanks to his distinctive and charismatic style and being the god of gods. Despite all this interest and being under the spotlight, it is undeniable that he is not an ethical monument. Zeus is a cruel character who does not hesitate to torment people and gods and has sexual intercourse with women at the opportunity. Zeus had an incestuous relationship with his sister Hera and married, and while he was married, he had sexual intercourse with many mortals and even raped some of them. Zeus, who took the throne by having to kill his father, was seen as a victim of fate. With all these personal traits, this god is perhaps the mythological god most likened to humans. Zeus is one of the most prominent examples of how the real world can seriously influence mythological stories. Because these stories and characters cannot be wholly disconnected from daily life and people, even the gods mentioned have many human characteristics such as anger, envy, love, and lust (Loewen, Zeus, 1999).

Greek mythology has a considerable number of characters made up of gods, humans, and clans, and not all of them are known for their bad habits as Zeus. For example, Demeter and Dionysus are among the most humanly known and loved gods. Demeter is recognized as the deity of agriculture and the natural world, with a reputation for promoting fertility. Meanwhile, Dionysus is commonly associated with being the god of wine. These deities, which evoke beautiful things, are often associated with each other, and a festival is held in their name on the same day. Hades kidnap Demeter's only child, Persephone, to the underworld and makes her his queen. Disgraced by this situation, Demeter works hard to get her daughter, and in the end, they agree that Persephone will stay with Hades for one-third of the year and spend the remaining two-thirds of her time on earth with her mother. When

Persephone goes underground, winter begins in the world, and when she goes to the earth and reunites with her mother, flowers bloom with Demeter's joy, and thus spring begins. The Greeks attributed the formation of the seasons to the joy and sadness of such a divine power (Parker, 2017).

In Greek mythology, mortal people and demigods have been included, as well as gods. Perhaps the most famous of these is Hercules, the illegitimate son of Zeus. Hercules, the fruit of his mother's relationship with Zeus, who was an ordinary person, experienced the advantages and disadvantages of this situation. Throughout his life, he has used the power of being a demigod among the gods and has always been well-known. Even as a child, Hercules showed that he had superhuman powers by killing two giant snakes that entered his room. However, even when he is young, he reveals a weakness; his superhuman strength. Hera, the wife of Zeus, casts a spell on Hercules because of her anger and jealousy towards Hercules' mother and makes him kill his wife and children with insanity. After this grave event, Hercules decides to kill himself because he thinks that punishing himself in this way would lighten his burden. Theseus persuades him to live and tells him to purify himself. Encouraged by Hera, Eurystheus contemplates a series of twelve impossibly hard quests. During these twelve missions, Hercules killed lions, fought monsters, caught boars, and cleaned a barn by making two rivers flow there. While Hercules, who had such a sorrowful life, almost unwittingly took on the duty of carrying the world, which is Atlas's duty, he cheated at the last moment and gave the world back to Atlas (Evslin, 1988). Far from being an ideal god, the story of Hercules is known for his mistakes and suffering for them. Although Hercules, who is physically strong and rigid, often defies the gods, he is weak in character traits, and this dilemma wastes his life. He wanted these twelve duties as a confession and an opportunity to escape from the torment of conscience (Vickers, 2014).

Odysseus by Homer is one of the oldest and most important literary works, still among the most popular today. The narrative recounts the arduous journey of a heroic figure named Odysseus, who must navigate various obstacles over a prolonged period before eventually achieving his ultimate goal of reuniting with his loved ones. After the Trojan War, while the Greeks were destroyed by the waves

created by Poseidon, Odysseus and his crew survived and began a journey that would last for a decade.

First, they encounter one-eyed giants, and Odysseus first tricks the giant who has locked them in and makes him drink too much wine, eventually gouging out his eye, and they manage to escape. Later, Aeolus, the guardian of the Winds, gives Odysseus a precious gift, a leather sack that keeps all the storms and winds. Odysseus can safely sail home on condition that he keeps the bag closed, but his curious crew opens the bag, causing a fierce storm and hurling them into the land of Laestrygons, man-eaters who destroy all ships in the fleet except one. Continuing the adventure, they meet a woman named Circe, who turns everyone into pigs except Odysseus. The one that protects him from this spell is a herb given to him by Hermes. Seeing this man unaffected by her spell, Circe falls in love with him and allows them to stay in her house for a long time. From here, Circe helps them go home and returns to his hometown, having survived other hardships. His wife, who has been waiting for him for years, organizes a contest to choose her new husband, and Odysseus finishes first and then reveals his identity. They live happily ever after (Homeros, 2002).

One of the oldest fictions, this work has a very complex and challenging plot, but Homer has done it successfully. Except for the fantastic events, the places where the events take place and the order are generally not illogical. In fact, according to the results of a recent study, it has been revealed that some parts that have been considered fantastic and unreal for years might be true. It was discovered that the jimson weed that Circe gave his guests contained a narcotic with hallucinogenic effects, and the Moly herb that Hermes gave to Odysseus could work as an antidote. (Kaplan, 2015)

“Alas, how terrible it is to have wisdom when it does not benefit those who have it. I knew this well, but let it slip from my mind: otherwise, I would not have come here. What now? How disheartened you have come!” (Sophocles, 2006). In the famous play of Sophocles, *King Oedipus* utters the above sentence, emphasizing that the truth can be useless and even painful. Sophocles, who impressively dealt with the inevitability of pain and fate in this work, tells the bitter story of king Oedipus in

detail. Oedipus, the king of Thebes, tries to find a cure for the plague that has put the kingdom in trouble, but according to the prophecy, the person who killed the previous king must be found and killed. The blind prophet Tiresias says that it was Oedipus who killed the old king, but the king does not believe this and angrily drives him out of his presence. He also talks about an incestuous marriage with his mother and blindness before he leaves. Then he tells his wife Jocasta about this, and his wife tries to reassure him; an oracle told him that his own son would kill her husband, but she says that her son is already dead. Eventually, Oedipus finds out that the person he met and killed on the road years ago was his father and that the woman he is currently married to is his mother, and he goes crazy. Seeing that his wife Jocasta hanged herself, the king gouged out his own eyes, and thus the prophecies mentioned above were fulfilled in order.

The story emphasizes that destiny is inescapable and that the truth will come out sooner or later, no matter how much we deny it. On the other hand, Sigmund Freud saw something completely different in this story and even introduced a new concept to psychology called the 'Oedipus Complex' (Greenberg, 1991). According to this claim, the boy sees his father as a rival and subconsciously wants to get rid of him because he also has sexual urges toward his mother. This claim of Freud is valid for both sexes; the girl feels the same impulse toward her mother and father. Furthermore, Freud states that the period in which this complex is experienced is crucial and that for a person to have a mature sexual identity, he or she should establish healthy relationships with both parents.

In his book *The Red-Haired Woman*, Orhan Pamuk tells an eloquent story that centers on the abovementioned Oedipus complex. The main character is a young boy who feels anger and sadness towards his father, who lives away from home due to his constant arrest for political reasons. However, due to their financial situation, he accepted a job digging a well just outside Istanbul and worked there for a long time with an old well master. While he is sometimes pleased with his master's fatherly attitude, he often feels uncomfortable inside. The main character, Cem, falls in love with a red-haired woman from the theater team who came there while he working in this small town and has his first relationship with her, and his lifelong admiration for her continues. One day, Cem accidentally drops the bucket they took

out, and when there is no sound from below, he assumes that his master is dead and leaves there with a pang of tremendous guilt. (Pamuk, 2016)

Cem grows up, gets married, and runs a successful construction company, and throughout his life, he has thought about the "Oedipus" and "Rustem and Suhrap" stories and examined the similarities of his life with these stories. Finally, because of his job in the town where he worked, he learned that the master did not die and that he had a child with the red-haired woman. What surprises Cem more and reminds him of Oedipus is that this woman is her father's former girlfriend. Cem's instinctive impulse towards his father's partner, his anger towards his master and his father, and finally his son's attempt to kill him, and seeing that the work *Oedipus Rex*, written in 429 BC, inspires best-selling stories even today, reveals how effective the myths are.

The importance of myths and mythology in the history of the world is of great importance, and numerous works have been produced. It is not possible to address each of them and examine them in detail, and therefore some examples have been chosen in this article that stand out at first glance and play a leading role in the formation of today's literature. With the stories mentioned, it can be clearly understood how complex and detailed mythology is. It is an incredible success that Greek mythology, which has a history of more than three thousand years, is still spoken today and is directly or indirectly shedding light on some branches of science.

Although the connection between a modern literary genre such as science fiction literature and an ancient narrative genre such as mythology may seem weak, they have a much more complex and close relationship than one might imagine. Even if they live in a completely different century, the architect of the two literary species is human, and despite all these environmental differences, they have an important common point; imagination. Both mythology and science fiction novel is the product of man's extraordinary imagination, and it is a synthesis of the real world around us and the fictional one inside the narrator's mind. If no one-eyed giants appeared before the great heroes, the snake-haired woman who turned everything into stone with just one look, and thousands of imaginary characters like this, it

would not have been possible to talk about science fiction literature in the sense we know today. This mutual relationship between the real world and literary works is as old as human history.



2. SCIENCE FICTION LITERATURE

Science fiction literature is undoubtedly one of the most interesting and popular genres of literature because it is an intriguing, predictive, complex, and fascinating world. The history of literature that is so popular around the world is as important as itself. However, it is difficult to say precisely when it started because literature is also a living entity and completes its formation by itself. Since no one created this genre directly and intentionally, the most accurate historical analysis can be made by examining the products that contributed to the formation of this genre. When the works written throughout history are examined, it is possible to see the works that directly and indirectly contributed to the evolution of this genre (Roberts, 2016).

2.1. A Brief History of Science Fiction

Science fiction is a literary genre that deals with the influence of real or fictional science on individuals or society, which is often considered difficult or impossible to access, such as space odyssey, aliens, and travel in time. The concept of science fiction literature, which entered our lives in the 1920s, was founded by Hugo Gernsback, and still today, Hugo Awards have been given once a year for these literary works since 1953 (Sterling, 2022). Especially after the 1950s, the demand for science fiction literature rose dramatically, and essential novels, comics, and movies were created through time. With the influence of rapidly developing technology after the industrial revolution, people redefined the limits of their abilities and continued to dream beyond. The developing world and the opportunities it offers have fed people's wishes and dreams, and these dreams have been guiding and motivating technology to succeed.

Science fiction writers often use social and technological developments to make shocking predictions about the future, grab readers' attention, and expand their consciousness. Considered the most successful in this field and even considered by some to be one of the founders of science fiction literature, H.G. Wells also applied this approach in his works. Wells was one of T.H. Huxley's, a 19th century English scientist, most successful students, and it is possible to find traces of his Darwinist master in his works. The first name that comes to mind when it comes to science fiction in the literary world, Wells' works include many features such as harsh satire,

the possible terrible consequences of technological developments, and the effects of bad political situations. Therefore, it is unsurprising to see the pessimistic mood in the works of world-famous author Aldous Huxley, grandson of T.H. Huxley. In *Brave New World*, Huxley reflected on how technology can isolate people and lead them to robotic life in a harshly critical style. Science fiction literature, which was not very popular in the twentieth century, even in its birthplace America, spread worldwide, especially after the second world war. The reason why it became so popular is that topics such as nuclear power plants and weapons, the atomic bomb, the journey to the moon, and human cloning were then being heard a lot.

A True Story by Lucian of Samosata contains science fiction elements such as aliens, space travel, interplanetary colonization, and artificial life forms. Written in the second century, this work is accepted as a provincial example of science fiction literature due to the traces of science fiction it contains. In his article published in a journal, Katelis Viglas said the following about the book: “Moreover, in the novel, two decisive characteristics are included that lead to the same conclusion. One is that the empirical and conventional situation of the reader is estranged, and the other is that novel’s abnormal findings (“novum”) refer to an alternate reality (Booth 1975: ix), which is verified cognitively. Due to the existence of these two features, True History should not be classified as mythology, religion or imaginative and supernatural literature, but as the beginnings of Western Science Fiction” (Viglas, 2016).

However, a clearer predecessor of this genre is Cyrano de Bergerac's work, in which a traveler to the moon recounts his observations of encountering a utopian community there. Here, people lead a prosperous life away from disease, war, and poverty. This hero, who went to the sun as a result of being dismissed from the moon due to blasphemy, is judged by the birds here for the crimes committed by humanity. Cyrano made difficult things seem easy to achieve and inspired others to follow. Especially Voltaire's *Micromégas* (1752) and Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) bear the traces of Cyrano de Bergerac with creepy monsters and bleak satire. *L'An deux mille quatre cent quarante*, which describes the twenty-fifth century, was written by the French writer Louis-Sébastien Mercier in 1771. This story, which takes place in the year 2440, also the book's name, tells of a utopian society that

worships science. This work, owned even by George Washington, was banned by the administration of the time because Mercier had revolutionary and destructive ideas against the existing regime. Perhaps because of this fear, the book was banned and became a bestseller worldwide for the same reason.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Frankenstein, a creature known to almost everyone, was created. In 1818 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley penned *Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus*, which took science fiction literature one step further and opened the door to a more modern era. While the concept of scientist has not been used in history yet, Mary Shelley chose the main character as a competent scientist. The resurrection of the dead is scientifically possible in this story, which causes people to fear and worry. Nevertheless, it has been widely read in print since it was first published. This book, which even those who have not read it have certainly heard its name, has contributed significantly to the success of science fiction literature (Cambra-Badii, Guardiola, & Baños, 2020).

Some also consider Edgar Allen Poe one of the science fiction writers of that period, but although he was a significant writer, his works cannot be considered science fiction. However, Poe had a great influence on science fiction literature indirectly by influencing someone else. Jules Verne, one of the most important and influential figures in the science fiction novel, was influenced by Edgar Allen Poe. Verne wrote *Le Sphinx des Glaces* as a sequel to Poe's *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*. His book *Paris in the Twentieth Century* (*Paris au XXIème siècle*) contains reasonably accurate predictions of trains, fax machines, automobiles, and electric banks. Verne started a series called *Voyages Extraordinaires* (Extraordinary Voyages) and wrote *Cinq semaines en ballon* (*Five Weeks in a Balloon*). In this series, he explained to his readers the marvels of engineering, such as balloons, submarines, and trains, with extraordinary accuracy. *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Seas*, *From the Earth to the Moon*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, and *Around the World in Eighty Days* are among this series' most well-known and influential examples. He describes a team traveling around the moon in his *Autour de la Lune* (*Around the Moon*), and he used concepts such as gravitational forces, asteroids, and orbit very accurately in this work and years later when the trip to the Moon was achieved, it was revealed how close Verne's

calculations were to reality (Sandner, 1998). These predictions, which are not entirely correct but do not contradict the basic principles in general, show humanity how effective science fiction literature can be in real life. In fact, sci-fi literature provides the most important thing here, dreaming and activating the emotions such as curiosity and perseverance necessary to achieve this.

Britain also assembled influential writers and hosted the creation of very significant science fiction works, keeping up with the rising trend of the period. Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* is an important story about a brilliant scientist dealing with the dark side of science. Undoubtedly, one of the most important names of science fiction literature, British writer H.G. Wells, on the other hand, wrote his world-famous trilogy during this period; *The Time Machine* (1895), *The Invisible Man* (1897), and *The War of the Worlds* (1898). Concepts such as time travel, space travel, dystopia, and utopia, popular in the twentieth century, bore the British seal. British writers, who wrote new and unique works in science fiction, played an important role in the development of this literary genre and made their names known to the whole world. There were also English writers who wanted to go back to the pre-industrial revolution and live a quiet village life as in that period and reflected this in their works. William Morris penned *News from Nowhere*, a pastoral utopia in the twenty-first century that combines the clear and serene values of old years. Morris also influenced Lord Dunsany, C.S. Lewis and the hugely popular J.R.R. Tolkien and wrote works by instilling the pastoral environment with Christianity and mythological elements like heroism. Although the heroic stories written in this genre for a long time were not popular worldwide, they began to find their place among the bestsellers towards the end of the twentieth century.

New printing methods and trends have caused shifts within this genre. Magazines were now printed and read rather than novels and long books. This change paved the way for short story writers because they could now more easily produce a short story and have it printed in a magazine. The habit of reading increased in the general population, as paper pulp could easily be converted to paper and an easier mass production line was developed, resulting in the proliferation of magazines full of short stories. In the magazines called 'dime novels' that emerged in the USA, short

stories usually attract young people's attention and contain science fiction elements. These magazines owe their name to their cheapness. After all, they were called dime novels because they could only be bought with a coin (LeBlanc, 1997). Adult science fiction magazines loved and pioneered this sci-fi magazine culture for young people in the 1920s in the following years.

Hugo Gernsback, who gave his name to the annual Hugo awards, founded the magazine *Amazing Stories* in New York in 1921. This writer, who immigrated to America from Luxembourg, made a living by writing technical magazines for radios, but later, when he saw the science fiction stories that became popular among young people, he founded *Amazing Stories*. This magazine became an inspiration for future sci-fi magazines. Gernsback founded a sci-fi league after a while, and young dedicated science fiction writers published their amateur works and gradually grew into professional writers and critics of this industry. Science fiction, no longer just a fantasy genre, became a culture with substantial fan bases. There were short stories that people had in common, or heroes they shared, and works to discuss or praise when they talked. There were short stories that people had in common or heroes they shared and worked to discuss or praise and talk about (Bleiler, 1990). The mid-twentieth century and beyond is considered by many to be the golden age of science fiction. Undoubtedly, these science fiction works were the most appealing source of technological developments that young people living in that period dreamed of and thought about.

Throughout history, the Soviets have competed with America across various fields, and in the area of Soviet Science Fiction, they held their own and joined the competition. In this country where scientific socialism was supported, science fiction literature provided a more available literary production space for the writers there. Russian science fiction has extensive subgenres such as Marxist revolutionary and space tales. *Aelita*, written by Aleksey Tolstoy in 1923, was adapted into a movie and released under the same name a year later. This movie's impressive setting and story inspired and guided some movies after it. In the film, an earthly man guides the Martian proletarians to revolt, and the people try to overthrow the oppressive government. These works managed to be heard and impact America as well. Russian writer Yevgeny Zamyatin wrote the novel '*we*,' which is much more striking and

impressive. Zamyatin, who rebelled against the government and had a revolutionary spirit, describes a pessimistic future totalitarian police state in this work. Two of the world's most famous bestselling dystopias, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley and *1984* by George Orwell were inspired and affected by this book, which shows what a torch this novel lit (Watt, 1984). The Soviet dictator of the period, Joseph Stalin, found this work objectionable and did not allow it to be published.

After the second world war, paper use decreased, and publishers started to prefer not to print novels, but they continued to be printed in some way because science fiction literature was very preferred. Magazines such as *Galaxy Science Fiction* and *The Magazine of Fantasy* were widely printed and read. The interest in science fiction was increasing due to events such as the sending of Sputnik to space and the atomic bomb in Japan. This incident proved that science fiction not only led the real world, but events in the real world also contributed directly or indirectly to the science fiction universe. In many science fiction works written since the middle of the twentieth century, observing the effects and possible destructiveness of the cold war with paranoia was possible. It has also become a more satirical and critical genre at that time. The movie *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, on the other hand, is a work that successfully conveys the paranoid psychology of that period, explaining that communists took real people and replaced them with similar-looking robots managed from a single center. Important names such as Isaac Asimov, Italo Calvino, Arthur C. Clarke, and Ray Bradbury wrote unforgettable works during this period. At the same time, the Japanese made Godzilla movies, which remained popular for a long time (Sterling, 2022).

2.2.Major Science Fiction Themes

Some of the best-selling and read books of science fiction literature are examples of utopia and dystopia. Although the words utopia and dystopia seem to describe two opposite concepts at first glance, the situation is slightly different. The word utopia

was brought to the literature by Sir Thomas More and is thought to come from Greek eutopia or outopia. Eutopia means the good place and outopia means a place that doesn't exist. The incredible writer made the selection of the title in such a critical line that he showed that even the name of the book lets the readers expect to read about a paradise-like place, but also too good to be true. The things that the book told indeed confirmed this title. Thus, it would be appropriate to say that utopia is defined as a story type that describes an excellent society and environment that is impossible to exist. On the other hand, Dystopia describes a pessimistic future life that no one wants to live in. It is possible to see settings such as oppressive administrations, nuclear war, or a world invaded by aliens (Eagleton, 2009).

Many people think that dystopia and utopia are two opposite concepts; at first glance, it is quite possible to think so. Utopia imagines a place that does not exist now but will set an example for society's progress, thus showing what society should evolve. On the other hand, Dystopia illustrates a society that does not exist, but such works depict what should not be transformed instead of what should evolve. In other words, in many respects, it tells us that we should stay away from this scenario by showing bad and corrupt governments or societies (Isaac, 2015).

Many thinkers, including Karl Marx, believed that utopian works would benefit future societies and that a more equal and happy life would be possible as a result of escaping from negative examples and pursuing the good ones. The Bostonian character in *Looking Backward*, written in 1888, wakes up in 2000 and realizes that class differences are destroyed and that the country's resources and wealth are equally presented to everyone. Edward Bellamy calls the concept he describes in this book nationalism. German writer and politician Walther Rathenau rejected the nationalism movement in his book *Von Kommenden Dingen* (*In Days to Come*) for allegedly exploiting workers and was later killed by the anti-semitic nationalists. H.G. Wells was a socialist writer, and of course, he wrote utopian works like *A Modern Utopia*. However, Wells, who saw events such as atomic bombs and World War II, has also published a work named *Mind at the End of Its Tether* in which humanity faces an inevitable end, the extinction of the human race.

There is a problem with the technocratic elements in the works of writers such as Wells and Skinner, and in this real world, where and how will development stop? There is no such problem in pastoral utopia because these works are based on fantastic foundations rather than stable things like technology and science, so they do not encounter such a paradox. These stories often tell the trouble-free lives of people living peacefully in the villages and mountains, helping each other. Samuel Butler's *Satiric Erewhon*, James Hilton's *Lost Horizon*, Ernest Callenbach's *Green Postindustrial Ecotopia*, and Aldous Huxley's *Psychedelic Island* are some examples of pastoral utopia.

Another common science fiction theme is alternative societies. Classifying it as marvelous or awful would be impossible, but the science fiction novel has created divergent and interesting societies. For example, Robert Heinlein, in his novel *Stranger in a Strange Land*, talks about a human from a Mars mission who was born and grew up on Mars and came down to Earth later on and watched and learned earthy things such as traditions, religion, and sexuality. For this Mars-raised man, the world's traditions felt very different, and vice versa. This novel deals with these conflicts and adopts a critical style against oppressive regimes (Joy, 2021). William Gibson's *Neuromancer*, on the other hand, describes a futuristic cyber world independent of the nation and where artificial intelligence powers are effective, so only the rich live in prosperity.

Gender conflicts, still controversial and influential in history, have also found a place in science fiction novels. Science fiction literature has become a new and effective tool for feminism to be heard, and many feminist writers have created works in this field. For example, in *Herland*, Charlotte Perkins Gilman described a society of women who reproduce without the need for men. This issue was not only in the field of interest of female writers because Theodore Sturgeon described a world in which individuals lived, in which sex and reproductive organs could be added later, in his book *Venus Plus X* (Sturgeon, 1968). Another person who dealt with a very similar subject was Ursula K. Le Guin. Undoubtedly, it is one of the first names that come to mind when it comes to feminist science fiction because *The Left Hand of Darkness*, one of the most successful and well-known novels on this subject, was written by Le Guin. In this novel, Le Guin describes the experiences of the

character Genly Ai in Gethen, a fascinating planet. The protagonist is a male from a human planet whose purpose is to persuade the inhabitants of this planet to join the human colonies. However, Ai soon realized that some of the basic things he was used to were different in this place. The residents of Gethen do not have a gender concept as humans do, and they can choose the gender they want each month and live with that body for one day. Although it was difficult for the main character to understand and accept this at first, he later started to accept this situation by observing this society and spending time with them (Guin, 2013).

Considered one of the first feminist science fiction novels, *The Left Hand of Darkness* is undoubtedly one of the most critical novels in this category. These creatures, described as ambisexual, have shown how conflicts and sexual roles between people keep them away from empathy. The chance for everyone to choose and try each gender allows the chance to see the events from different angles and understand the other side more easily. Although it is a critical work on the male-dominated structure in our world, masculine destructiveness, and sexual roles, this work has been criticized by feminists. Even though the characters can choose gender, they always assume heterosexual roles, which was criticized by modern feminism and later accepted by Le Guin (Cornell, 2001).

The human race sees itself as one and the highest among intelligent and advanced beings, so the existence of a non-human life has always aroused suspicion and curiosity. Since this is the case, science fiction literature has dealt with this subject carefully and in detail, as in every other field, and numerous works have been published on this subject. Since the 17th century, works on journeys to worlds inhabited by other creatures have been written, but not all of these creatures have been described as aliens. For example, Voltaire's *Micromegas* describes people living on Saturn, but their dimensions differ from those of humans according to the requirements of the planet.

Certain geometers, always of use to the public, will immediately take up their pens, and will find that since Mr. Micromegas, inhabitant of the country of Sirius, is 24,000 paces tall, which is equivalent to 120,000 feet, and since we citizens of the earth are hardly five feet tall, and our sphere 9,000 leagues around; they will

find, I say, that it is absolutely necessary that the sphere that produced him was 21,600,000 times greater in circumference than our little Earth. Nothing in nature is simpler or more orderly. The sovereign states of Germany or Italy, which one can traverse in a half hour, compared to the empires of Turkey, Moscow, or China, are only feeble reflections of the prodigious differences that nature has placed in all beings (Voltaire, 1829).

With the development of fields such as history and science, people have realized that life can exist on other planets under different conditions but can evolve according to environmental factors. For example, J.H. Rosny Aîné published a short story called *Les Xipéhuz*, in which he describes a battle between prehistoric humans and a threatening crystalline life form. Numerous alien forms have been depicted in this, and other works with the imagination of science fiction writers have been written by establishing many plots around them.

“The universe is a pretty big place. If it is just us, it seems like an awful waste of space.” says Carl Sagan. Nevertheless, aliens have an important place in science fiction literature and have attracted people's attention throughout history. These creatures generally attracted attention with their advanced technologies, superior intelligence, and different physical features. What most of them have in common is that they are generally portrayed as enemies with earthly people. Perhaps the most famous of these enemies are the invading Martians, described by Wells in his book *The War of the Worlds*. After Wells' work was broadcast on the radio, many thought the Martian attack was actual and caused chaos and panic on the streets of New Jersey. That was one of the most famous radio stories of all time.

In many published science fiction novels, aliens are portrayed as invaders and murderers. For example, Wells mentioned ant-like harmful creatures in his book *The First Men in the Moon*. Stanley G. Weinbaum, on the other hand, drew a more moderate and positive Martian picture in his book *A Martian Odyssey* and surprised people with how those aliens were better than imagined. Later, good and kind aliens continued to be described in the works of other authors.

In his 1965 novel *Dune*, Frank Herbert said: "If there are other intelligent creatures in the universe, I would expect them to be as different from us as we are

from snails" (Herbert, Dune, 1965). Herbert emphasizes that it is difficult for us to imagine aliens and states that they will be very different from us if they exist. When people dream of things they do not know or have seen, they often build on what they already know. If a child is asked to draw a house, a village house with a single-story chimney and windows may come directly to mind. However many modern living spaces have been built by successful architects, but generally, people tend to imagine and describe their imaginary houses through familiar archetypes. That is why the first examples of aliens showed such human-like errors and tendencies. The only difference between aliens and humans, depicted as completely human in some works, is the planet they live on. On the other hand, writers who think a little differently imagined aliens with different sexual tendencies, very tall and three-legged, or aliens with one eye, who also have human features, but unlike us, some physical features are exaggerated or altered.

It is pretty normal for human beings, who are so curious, to wonder if there is life on another planet and to go on it. However, at the same time, this competitive species wonders if there are intelligent beings in this possible habitat, and if there are, they fear that they may be more intelligent and advanced than they are. The science fiction novel also intervenes in this regard and offers hundreds of works that both partially satisfy and fuels people's curiosity.

Space travel has always been a major theme for science fiction literature. This topic has provided science fiction writers with a huge space to work on, like a blank canvas. From the simplest of space travels to highly complex modern stories involving different planets and space travels, all these works have been a part of science fiction literature. Space has always been a point of interest for humanity, who has watched and sanctified the sky for years and even considered the stars and planets they saw as gods. For these reasons, sky and space travel has been an impossible but exciting and striking adventure for people to explore. After the planet and space stories in mythology, science fiction literature has dealt with this subject more scientifically and detailed, closest to real ones (Dubey, 2019).

In his book *From the Earth to the Moon*, Jules Verne described in detail the adventures of a group of scientists going to the moon with a cannonball. Despite the

lack of technology required to go to space and the difficulty of understanding at the time of the book's writing, the author took a bold step and described a detailed lunar voyage. Jules Verne was interested in science, but he was not a scientist. He was a writer; however, his book told a detailed story of a team visiting the moon, and his guesses were close to reality. His dream of a lunar voyage helped scientists and astronauts imagine and achieve the hard work. Not more than a hundred years later, the first man, Neil Armstrong, set foot on the moon (Clar, 2021).

As science and rocket technologies developed, space travel-themed works in science fiction continued to develop. E.E., Doc Smith, and Edgar Rice Burroughs wrote stories about space travel and planetary wars in distant galaxies at the beginning of the twentieth century. In the middle of the twentieth century, writers began to write more solid stories, and space travel began to be treated as a more serious and realistic subject. In his book "*2001 A Space Odyssey*", Arthur C. Clarke describes a future with easier access from earth to the moon and other planets, just like flying to a city with a plane (Clarke, 1968).

Today, science fiction literature and cinema still conduct many studies on space travel, sending people to distant planets and even establishing life on different planets, and also plays a guiding role for science, which inspires it on this path. As a result, subjects such as space travel and the discovery of other planets have closely interested science fiction.

So much so that there is an international space station that constantly orbits and observes the world, and scientists from different nationalities are in it. A company called SpaceX carries space station cargo and launches rockets back to Earth on behalf of Nasa, as well as working to deliver astronauts. It is the first time a space company has gone this far after the states, and the events that science fiction has described for years have become a reality. The head of this company, Elon Musk, goes further and predicts that the world may end or it will not be enough for the human population, and he aims to establish a living space for humans on Mars, the planet most similar to Earth.

"You want to wake up in the morning and think the future is going to be great - and that is what being a spacefaring civilization is all about. It is about believing

in the future and thinking that the future will be better than the past. And I can't think of anything more exciting than going out there and being among the stars" (Musk, 2022).

Time travel is another popular theme for science fiction alongside space travel, and it has captured people's attention for decades. People are very eager and enthusiastic about wondering and exploring the unseen, and the idea of time travel has always motivated them. Time travel describes a two-way journey through time. A journey back in history or a journey into the future is possible. People's desire to see their future or to go to their past and change something has always been an issue, and people have always been curious because time travel can enable both.

Charles Dickens tells the story of a wealthy but miserly man named Ebenezer Scrooge, who is the subject of time travel in his novella *A Christmas Carol*. Ebenezer Scrooge encounters the ghost of an old colleague who tells him that more ghosts will visit him. Three Christmas ghosts, past, present, and future, visit him and take him on a journey through time. The ghosts take Scrooge to his past and future, show him his mistakes and the consequences, and eventually make him see the wrong, leading him to be more kind and generous (Dickens, 1843). This work has gone down in history as a classic and is read or played on the radio yearly, especially during Christmas, as an instructive and love-spreading work.

H.G. Wells's successful and striking novel *The Time Machine* is considered one of the earliest examples of time travel work in science fiction. The protagonist is a scientist who designs a device that can travel in time, and thanks to this device, he starts to travel in time. At the end of his travels, he sees that a utopia in the future is not waiting for him; on the contrary, a socially collapsed society is struggling with war and similar problems and soon returns to his home. The character, who understands the value of the time he has lived after what he has seen, becomes grateful for the moment he is in and continues to live a happier and calmer life (Wells, 2019). Wells' masterfully written work has been widely read and has also served as a guide to subsequent works of science fiction.

By His Bootstraps is a science fiction story written by Robert A. Heinlein, and published in 1941. A time travel story that resolves some paradoxes, this work also

carefully handles advanced aliens who can manipulate time. They offer Bob Wilson the opportunity to become the first human to time travel but also point out that this can have unforeseen consequences. While trying to make a decision, Bob realizes that he is imprisoned in a limited time frame and realizes that his decision no longer has any effect and that he will continue to live the same cycle so that he does not even have a direct effect on his own choices (Heinlein, 1941).

The concept of time travel brought with it some problems and created paradoxes, resulting in a completely new science fiction field. If a person manages to move away from logical causality and travel in time, this chain can be broken, and logical problems may arise. For example, if a person goes to the past and kills his father, he must not have existed at all, and in this case, he cannot travel there, which is a paradox (Lewis, 1976).

Parallel universe predictions are one of the most likely consequences of the time travel paradox. Because if a person is traveling to the past, he should not be in the place where he will leave because the time he will arrive will have already happened, and if this is possible, the existence of two parallel universes at the same time makes things easier (Lewis, 1976). Since the science fiction novel feeds on interest and curiosity, these two subjects provided good opportunities for him to work, and significant works were written in this field. There have been many works of science fiction literature written about time travel and parallel universes, including classic novels such as "*The Time Machine*" by H.G. Wells "*Doomsday Book*" by Connie Willis "*By His Bootstraps*" by Robert A. Heinlein "*The End of Eternity*" by Isaac Asimov "*Slaughterhouse-Five*" by Kurt Vonnegut "*The Man Who Folded Himself*" by David Gerrold "*A Wrinkle in Time*" by Madeleine L'Engle.

In his book *Sidewise in Time*, Murray Leinster describes multiple parallel universes and alternate worlds called the multiverse, explaining that one does not need to be tied to only one past or only one future and that one can go to other times at the same time while existing in other parallel universes. In the universe called Multiverse, as the name suggests, there is more than one universe, and they continue to operate in parallel with each other simultaneously.

While establishing a connection with reality in time travels to the past or future, parallel universe theories are completely imaginary and hypoplastic fiction. However, readers soon realized that parallel universe fiction is entertaining and open-ended and that historical or important characters can be processed in different scenarios. In addition, familiar places and scenarios could be interpreted differently (Sterling, 2022).

Uchronia is a word meaning no time, and it tells a fictional story that takes place in our world but tells about another time (Schmid, 2020). It is thought to have been created by being influenced by the word utopia, which means nowhere. In his article published in *Victorian Literature & Culture*, Worth says, “In 1857, the French philosopher Charles Renouvier imagined that the Roman Empire had never become Christian, in work titled *Uchronie*, a term Renouvier invented to designate “[une] utopie des temps passés”—a utopia of past time” (Worth, 2018). This concept is utopian or dystopian fiction that imagines the same world at another time. This is a literary way of creating a universe directly parallel to our world.

These parallel time tubes have also directly influenced science fiction and created uchronic outcomes. For example, the novel *1984*, written by George Orwell in 1948 and imagined to be in the same year as its name, is one of the best examples of this concept. The parallel universe described by the author in *1984* did not seem so inconsistent and distant and even matched in many respects. Devices that display videos everywhere and systems that follow people step by step have gone beyond being real towards the end of the 20th century and have started to become widespread. Moreover, the dark and cruel political world described by the author still maintains its influence in real life.

The 1946 movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, based on the Philip Van Doren Stern short story "*The Greatest Gift*" (1943), is a perennial favorite among emotional people. In the movie, a hopeless guy discovers that his life does matter when he witnesses how, in his absence of him, his village transforms into a terrible dystopia. When the universe rewrites itself to revolve around a fantasy of self-worth, it is the highest kind of flattery for the person.

"*The Machine in the Garden*" is a science fiction novel by author Leo Marx. It was first published in 1964 and explored the impact of technology on American culture and society. This book, an American classic, deals with how technological developments such as the railway have affected human life and concepts such as pastoralism. People lose their admiration for how important some scientific developments are and continue to consume them as if they were ordinary things. For example, important technological developments such as the contraceptive pill, railroad, or recycling do not receive much attention, while things like space travel, gravity, or time travel are highly valued. The reason for this is neither scientific principles nor the perspective of scientists on these developments; it is completely related to people's interests socially and culturally. The audience that likes to read and watch things about time travel or aliens also socially determines what is popular, engaging, and ordinary.

High technologies like space travel, teleportation, neurotransmitters, and wireless telecommunication are crucial for science fiction writing. Readers always want to discover new and exciting devices and technologies through science fiction novels to keep their curiosity alive. As a result, many science fiction novels and stories provide brand-new high technologies and imagine extremely developed societies. The concept of cyberspace, which is a term used in science fiction for computer networks and virtual environments, has similarities. Both offer a sense of excitement and innovation, but through different mediums and in different eras. Science fiction has a long history of exploring biotechnology, dating back to the publication of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. (Delgado, Rommetveit, Barcelo, & Lemkow, 2011) Unlike computers or other technological devices, biotechnology is a thought-provoking subject that has drawn attention throughout history. This issue draws attention in fields such as medicine and agriculture and is under the social spotlight. However, genetically modified products like crops or animals are still hardly accepted by society.

When computers first came out, they served many different and lofty purposes, but as time went on and became widespread, the area of use also changed. These devices, which now find a place in every home, have become a part of life and have started to give a serious direction to social life. Computers that help make people

look like each other in an almost cloning-like structure bring to mind Aldous Huxley's famous novel *Brave New World*. In the 1980s, Czech science fiction stories known as "biopunk" used genetic allegories to denounce the ethical degradation of Czech society during the Warsaw Pact repression. Disadvantaged and terrifying people or Nietzschean heroes were the characters of these stories.

2.3.Masters of Science Fiction

As in every field, in science fiction literature, the creator who produces it is important as the product. Science fiction works that have pioneered many developments today and are read by millions of people are also masterpieces of invaluable authors. George Orwell, H.G. Wells, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, Ursula K. LE Guin, Ray Bradbury, Frank Herbert, Jules Verne, Mary Shelley, Robert A. Heinlein, Philip K. Dick, William Gibson, Hugo Gernsback, and much more writers contributed to the field of science fiction literature and culture constructively. These writers and creators have helped science fiction literature and technological developments to go one step further with a collective mindset. Since the science fiction community is such a large field, it will not be possible to examine all authors, and some important names will be examined in this study.

The visionary writer Wells, whose future contribution to the world was unpredictable, opened his eyes to the world in 1866 in Bromley, England. The author was a British citizen of the working class whose parents were shopkeepers. He won a scholarship to a science school where he learned about physics, astronomy, chemistry, biology, and other subjects. Even at that time, he tried to write as a profession. In 1895, Wells made an influential entry into the literature market with his novel '*The Time Machine*,' in which he wrote about time travel. Speaking of a British who designed a time machine in his novel, he laid the foundations of the literary genre called science fiction. (Jonsson, 2013, p. 311)

He continued to write science fiction books such as *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896), *The Invisible Man* (1897), and *The War of the Worlds* (1898) and became an authority with his success. In *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, he tells the story of a man encountering a scientist who tries to produce human beings by conducting gruesome animal experiments. In his book *The Invisible Man*, the author

again deals with a scientist, but this time mentions a scientist who has managed to make himself invisible. Finally, in *The War of the Worlds*, H.G. Wells describes an alien invasion and even an adaptation of this novel is broadcast on American radio, causing panic among the public.

Wells, both a writer and a scientist, has foreseen many developments that have changed the course of the world. For example, he predicted that the atom could be split and that a bomb using its destructive effect could be used in his book *The World Set Free* (1914). Furthermore, unfortunately, the exact thing happened in Hiroshima (Wells, *The World Set Free*, 1914). Wells said there would be another world war after the first. As for the solution to the chaos in the world, it made sense that a single government would rule the whole world, according to him. Wells, who tried to develop his political ideas, had a socialist perspective. Although he tried to enter the parliament as a member of the Labour Party, he was unsuccessful in this regard.

Wells, an internationally renowned intellectual and writer, has traveled extensively. In 1920 he visited Russia and met with Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky. More than ten years later, Wells had the chance to speak with Josef Stalin and The U.S.A. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He also lectured and continued his speech tours, gaining fame for his radical social and political views. Wells arrived in the United States after a break from London in 1940. He gave a speech titled "Two Hemispheres - One World." (Wagar, 2004, p. 246)

H.G. Wells, who has produced many works and contributed to the world for nearly fifty years, had taken on a more pessimistic character in the later stages of his life. His reference to the end of humanity in his 1945 book *Mind at the End of Its Tether* is a clear example of this. Some critics thought that his poor health impacted his perception of the world. In August 1946, Herbert George Wells, known as the father of science fiction, died in London, leaving behind the giant works.

Mary Shelley is a significant writer in the science fiction genre, often credited with writing one of the earliest and most influential works of science fiction, "*Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*." Published in 1818, the novel tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a living creature out of

the body parts of the dead. The novel explores themes of ambition, morality, and the nature of life itself.

This groundbreaking work considered the first science fiction novel in the literary world, was highly appreciated and sold. It is a detailed work that deals with a scientist doing experimental work in the laboratory, the limits of technology, and the psychological effects of this process. At the end of the process, an experimental creature emerged, harboring a grudge and anger at its creator because it was left alone and excluded. With her complex character analysis, empathetic approach, and versatile perspective, Shelley has brought an unforgettable work to science fiction and planted seeds of curiosity in people's minds.

Although *Frankenstein* is still her best-known novel, she wrote other important works *throughout her life*. *Mathilda*, *The Last Man* and *Lodore* are some of her notable works. Overall, British writer Mary Shelley is a significant figure in the science fiction genre, who helped to establish science fiction as a serious literary form and whose work continues to inspire and challenge readers today.

Jules Verne was a French writer often considered one of the founders of science fiction. Born in 1828 in Nantes, France, Verne was fascinated by science and technology from a young age. He went on to study law in Paris, but his true passion was writing. Beginning his career in the 1850s, Verne wrote important and science-centered works such as *Five Weeks in Balloon*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

Centering science and imagination, Verne produced unforgettable works and even played a leading role in some inventions. In his book *From the Earth to the Moon*, Jules Verne deals with many aspects of the journey of a group of scientists to the moon and plays a triggering role in making this journey by American astronauts in the future.

Born to a Jewish family in Russia, Asimov grew up in America and continued his education there. Asimov recognized as an authority with his works in science fiction, had been a professor of biochemistry at Boston University. Isaac

Asimov, who has authored more than 500 works, has a unique position in the science fiction world.

Asimov's writing was characterized by his ability to combine complex scientific concepts with employing storytelling. His works explored various topics, from robots and artificial intelligence to space travel and the human condition. In addition, he was a master at constructing and designing universes, envisioning and describing flawless worlds and communities. One of Asimov's most enduring legacies was his creation of the Three Laws of Robotics, which continue to be influential in robotics today. In addition to his contributions to science fiction literature, Asimov has written many articles and books in fields such as astronomy, biology, physics, and chemistry.

Isaac Asimov's impact on science fiction and popular culture is undeniable, as his works continue to inspire readers and influence the field of robotics today. His ability to seamlessly blend scientific concepts with engaging storytelling is a testament to his skill as a scientist and a writer. Asimov's legacy remains significant, as his contributions to science and literature have solidified his place in history.

Ursula K. Le Guin is considered one of science fiction literature's greatest fiction and fantasy writers. Born in Berkeley, California, Guin grew up with a family of writers and academics and began writing early. Dealing with concepts such as race, conditioning, gender, and power in a striking way, Le Guin is also very successful in depicting new-world fiction and imaginary society. She has won many awards, including the Hugo and Nebula awards, and her works have been translated into many foreign languages and are read with interest around the world.

In her work *The Left Hand of Darkness*, she described the different structures and lifestyles of a community whose genders are not fixed and who can choose the gender they want regularly. The book explores themes of gender, identity, and the nature of human relationships. Another important work, *The Dispossessed*, describes two different societies living on two planets. These communities, one of which is an anarchist capitalist, do not get along very well, and a physicist acts as a negotiator between the two groups and tries to resolve their problems. The book explores

themes of political ideology, freedom, and the tension between individual and collective values.



3. THE POWER OF IMAGINATION: SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS THAT FORESEE THE FUTURE

Science fiction culture is an innovative movement that has left deep traces in the world, and it is possible to come across footprints and works related to this in many areas. Since the tradition of reading has been replaced by more watching in recent years, TV series and movies may come to mind first when it comes to science fiction, but one of the most significant pillars of this culture is undoubtedly the novels. It is known that many fantasy and science fiction programs that break audience records today are adaptations of novels and stories and owe their success to the author's extraordinary fiction.

Novels have always served people as a preferred recreation tool or an imaginary playground where they can get lost. Many genres of novels and stories have been written, but the most unrealistic and intriguing novels are often born under the umbrella of science fiction literature. Science fiction literature has both been supported by the factual reality of science, and with the help of unlimited imagination, it has provided the basis for producing surreal but fascinating and gripping works that are just as likely to be. Many topics are covered, from flying cars to interstellar travel, from aliens to lab-made humans. However, besides all these intriguing extraterrestrials or deep space travel and advanced technology, science fiction literature has also tackled real-world issues, including politics and oppressive totalitarian regimes.

In this part of the study, remarkable novels that are very important for the history of science fiction literature and shed light on the future at the time they were written, the symbols they contain, and the necessary clues will be carefully examined. Some examples of notable science fiction novels are as follows.

1984 is a dystopian novel written by the great British writer George Orwell tells a story about a totalitarian government in the future. The novel was penned in 1949 and imagined the future, to be exact, the year 1984, in which every life is under stress, and the government tries to control every move people make.

The novel describes a socialist party and its leader, “Big Brother,” and their brutal actions to keep their control over their citizens. This figure is accepted and feared by all the people who live in that country since Big Brother and the party control everything people do and even think. Their ideas, beliefs, interactions, and communication with other citizens are reliant on this system without their will. The state has absolute power, and no one has a private life because there are surveillance devices far and wide; they use propaganda and censorship to prevent overpopulation out of their control. This quote from the book demonstrates oppression "If you want to keep a secret, you must also hide it from yourself" (Orwell, 1961).

The novel's protagonist, Winston Smith, is a low-level official working in the ministry of truth. Life is not easy for Winston in Oceania, where things like free thought and sex are forbidden, and he is aware that he is constantly being watched by devices called telescreens. That is why he keeps a diary secretly at home, where he writes his forbidden thoughts and tries not to forget them. He meets a girl named Julia at work, and soon they become close and secretly meet in other parts of the city. Winston also thinks positively of O'Brien, who works at the same ministry, and thinks he does not like Big Brother and his party like himself, but this person is actually an agent and eventually traps Smith and throws him in jail. After enduring torture for a long time, Smith is taken to room 101, where he encounters the greatest fear and is exposed to rats. No longer with power, Winston is broken and accepts the power of authority and is finally free, but he is never the same again. “Always eyes watching you and the voice enveloping you. Asleep or awake, indoors or out of doors, in the bath or bed—no escape. Nothing was your own except the few cubic centimeters in your skull” (Orwell, 1961).

In this remarkable book, Orwell describes the horrific and terrifying possibilities of a probable socialist party and its dictatorial president, which will take power in the future, with symbols and analogies. There are impressive examples, such as the Truth ministry trying to cover up the truth and history, the torture of people in the Love ministry, or the obligatory gatherings of everyone in the hour of hate to commemorate someone who did not exist. With new words and phrases created entirely for this novel, a gripping and pessimistic story, and, worst of all, the reality

that these totalitarian regimes can exist, *1984* is one of world history's most crucial dystopian science fiction works.

Orwell wrote *1984* in 1949 when technology was not as advanced as it is now. However, he still managed to predict some of the advancements we see today, such as using telescreens to monitor citizens' activities. Today, however, a much more complex surveillance system is actively operating than the author described, including facial recognition and chip entrance regulations. Moreover, the oppressive totalitarian regime that Orwell describes and their use of technology to follow and restrict people is still an accepted view today, and many administrations implement this with many tools such as social media. Nevertheless, *1984* remains a powerful and thought-provoking novel, offering a cautionary tale about the dangers of totalitarianism and the importance of preserving individual freedoms.

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" (Orwell, 1996). This sentence is perhaps one of the most famous ironic sentences in literature. This sentence, taken from another book by Orwell, *Animal Farm*, is an important reference to world hierarchy and social status.

One of the most famous dystopian novels, *Brave New World* was written in 1931 by the famous English philosopher and writer Aldous Huxley. This book, which can be described as futuristic in general, contains imagination and complex fiction beyond its time, so it has an unforgettable position among dystopias, and science fiction works. Huxley, who was born into a distinguished and educated family, graduated from the English literature department at Oxford University and wrote about fifty works, but *Brave New World* stood out among them and became one of the most widely read and appreciated science fiction works in the world (Murray, 2009).

The book begins at a conditioning and hatching center in London, where students are introduced to human creation. The Director of the Hatchery provides information on broods and embryos here and explains that thousands of identical offspring can be produced from a single embryo. This production area is a factory-like structure of conveyor bands and tubes, where the embryos are chosen to fall into which of the five caste groups are alpha, beta, gamma, delta, or epsilon. This selection is made

among completely equal embryos, and individuals are reared according to the group they belong to through the amount of oxygen taken, nutrition, and conditioning throughout the growth process. While alphas grow as the supreme human and leader, there is a cognitive and class decline towards the epsilon. From managers to the lowest-level jobs, people do things according to their classes.

Another production facility area is the Nursery, where children are exposed to the necessary conditions. For example, deltas are exposed to electricity in an area with flowers and books and are conditioned to believe that concepts such as reading and nature are useless. In the same area, social norms and morals are taught with a hypnopaedic technique by making children listen to some sounds during sleep. At the same time, children play naked in the garden, causing naughty and sexual desires to become casual and unimportant. Thus, it aims to eliminate strong feelings, emotions and reactions from individuals and society by reducing them and normalizing actions (Firchow, 2015).

A beautiful girl named Lenina is hanging out with a guy named Henry, but she is attracted to a quiet boy named Bernard, also the alpha, and wants to go to the Savage Reservation in New Mexico with him. In the place where they go together, Lenina and Bernard are both sad and terrified for the old and sick people they see here because there are no such problems in the state where they come from. In this campsite, they see a blond boy named John who is different from the others, they talk, and the boy tells them about his mother, Linda, and her story of rescue by the villagers. Bernard soon realizes that this story is the same that his director told him about. John says that he learned to read “The Chemical and Bacteriological Conditioning of the Embryo” and “The Complete Works of Shakespeare” when his mother was ostracized by society because she slept with different people, so John lived an isolated life as well as his mother. John tells Bernard he is excited and interested to see the “Brave New World” that her mother talked about much, so Bernard invites him to the World State.

When they all come back together, the Director plans to fire Bernard, while Bernard surprisingly reveals that the ones next to him are the manager's wife and child, and John calls the man 'dad,' an embarrassing situation for all alphas that are

met with laughter and contempt. Since human production is factory-made with tubes, the concepts of mother, father or son are dictated to society as shameful and ridiculous. Thus, Bernard and his friends live here in freedom and comfort. John has become quite popular in London and attracts people's attention because of what he lived and learned on the Reservation. The people and lifestyles he sees here disgust John, but he still desires Lenina. What he wants is more than lust, but he knows the point of view of the other person and falls into a paradox. He also rejects Lenina, who comes to his room under the influence of heavy soma, because the relationship he wants is a more sane and emotional intimacy.

Actual happiness always looks pretty squalid in comparison with the overcompensations for misery. And, of course, stability isn't nearly so spectacular as instability. And being contented has none of the glamour of a good fight against misfortune, none of the picturesqueness of a struggle with temptation, or a fatal overthrow by passion or doubt. Happiness is never grand (Huxley, 2007).

Bernard becomes famous for bringing a wild man to town, using that fame to his advantage to sleep and party with many girls. Meanwhile, Lenina has become obsessed with John and wants to have him, but John constantly rejects her for his reasons, and eventually, Linda, his mother, dies from heavy soma use. Even in this horrific situation, some students come to examine Linda for death conditioning, and John gets very angry and persuades the deltas to revolt and stop soma, but this uprising is soon suppressed by soma steam. Three friends are arrested by Mustapha Mond and imprisoned after all this happened.

Mond and John start an argument about the State, and Mond argues that things like emotion and art are removed from society so that a stable life is offered, while John argues that this is not living humanely. After arguments and many events, John escapes to the lighthouse, and everyone follows him, and they want him to whip himself and have an orgy party as they used to, and John joins in this frenzy. When he wakes up, he hangs himself and ends his life due to regret.

Brave New World presents a harsh and impressive critique of capitalism with an extraordinary setting and story. In the World State world, people are produced in a

factory-like place; therefore, no family, kinship, or any relationship involving emotional attachment is allowed. In this world, which is established later and where everything that makes people unhappy is taken from life and a drug substance is put forward in every problem, people are happy but not free. However, with the character of John, the author emphasizes that man is a free being, that he is a whole with his pain and happiness, and that he exists with all his human characteristics that appear to be flawed.

In the early nineteenth century, *Brave New World* coincided with a period when technological developments accelerated, and mechanization advanced. The book strongly condemns the education of a genetically modified human society that follows a strict hierarchical system and regularly administers mind-altering drugs to suppress notions of independent thinking and revolt. In this book, Huxley eloquently and authentically expressed his fear of the dire consequences of the uncontrolled development of technology and its use by misguided people and organizations. Written when human relations were critical, this work predicted that some technological developments would cause possible problems, such as the deterioration and monotony of people's social and cultural relations. As predicted by the author, not as a result of genetic engineering and human mass production method but due to the use of mobile phones and social media, it is seen that social ties are weakened, and communication is disrupted in society, especially among children and young people. In light of the facets mentioned above, it is widely regarded that *Brave New World* stands as a significant hallmark within the realm of science fiction literature.

“In his nonfiction, he laid out a vision of endless human progress. In his fiction. He foretold a darker truth” (Gopnik, 2021). wrote Adam Gopnik in his critique of H.G. Wells for *The New Yorker* magazine. One of the most powerful pens of science fiction, about which countless articles have been written and whose works are still carefully studied and taught today, H.G. Wells is undoubtedly one of the most influential writers in this field. If science fiction works are to be given as an example, it is almost necessary to mention Wells, the author of works that inspired many authors, books, and films in this genre. With both his interest in science and his knack for literature, Wells is the perfect fit for science fiction writing; as a result, he is called and accepted as the master of science fiction. In addition to producing

literary works, Wells has always sought to improve himself in science, striving for the dissemination and popularity of science, which made him a visionary and impressive writer, far from the ordinary (Kirsch, 2011).

One of Wells' best-known novels, later adapted into two different films, *The War of the Worlds*, is a compelling story that has an influential place in science fiction literature. The story is about a Martian invasion that started in London, told by an unnamed narrator. While our narrator examines the Martians with his telescope before they come to earth, he sees different light events and tells this situation to others, but no one takes it seriously. The narrator sees a star falling from the sky and scrutinizes it. When a vast capsule crashes near his house, he and many other people go and examine it, and they see that giant three-legged and metal creatures, namely Martian aliens, have out of it. No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by bits of intelligence greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own (Wells, 1898).

Seeing that the Martians scatter a special laser light around and burn and destroy everything, he moves away and leaves his wife in a safer place with her family. Then he takes back the chariot he rented and finds that more Martians are coming for the invasion and that the soldiers cannot cope with these metal tripods. Finally, when all sides are full of Martian invaders, he finds shelter, and after a while, he starts to make his way back to London. Then, while crossing the Thames, he encountered a Martian at a very close distance but escaped undetected at the last moment. An artilleryman he met on this journey says that the Martians destroyed everyone and that the human race is now over. He even says that the Martians completely took London and set up a camp north of the city. When they arrived in the city, people almost lost hope, but they realized that the tripods controlled by the Martians were now useless, and when they examined it, they realized that the Martian beings within them were infected and died due to the bacteria and viruses there. This situation is similar to the native people who died at once because they were not immune to viruses in Europe at the time of the discovery of America.

This novel is a work that blends multiple themes beautifully. One of these themes is imperialism because the Martians, who are depleted of resources, want to come

and exploit the resources on another planet. This colonization effort parallels European countries' situation to exploit other countries in our world.

Another theme, of course, is technology because when we look at the Martians depicted in the story, they have the power to reach and occupy another planet by using much larger and more advanced machines. The Martians have good vision at night, and laser beams' destructive effects are examples of their technological sophistication. In addition to technology, it is stated that they are evolutionarily ahead of humans and have a level of intelligence that can develop the technology to design more complex things.

When the novel is taken as a whole, it tells that there may be life on other planets, that, after evolutionary processes, there may be beings that are much bigger, stronger, or more intelligent than humans, and that humanity can always face such a situation. Therefore, it can be deduced from the story that we should not be so arrogant as human beings and should use resources sparingly and not try to exploit others in our precious world.

Another major science fiction novel by Wells, *The Time Machine*, was published in 1895. The story tells that a narrator named time traveler invents a machine that allows him to travel in time; with it, he can go anywhere. He uses it to travel to the distant future and finds that only two races are left in the world, the Eloi and the Morlocks. While the Eloi are a gentle, childish species that lives on the surface, Morlock has evolved as an underground living and hunting Eloi species. Here he sees that the Eloi race is the oppressed side, and once they rescue an Eloi named Weena from drowning, they become friends. He then aids the Eloi race and, with them, tries to thwart the Morlocks attacks, and finally goes further with the time machine when the Morlocks think they have got him. Thus, he sees a few other stops in time and encounters interesting things like giant crabs.

In this book, the author has dealt with several themes, such as the impact of technology on society, class distinction, and the extinction of the human species. In addition, in this novel, Wells dealt with some of the political and social issues of his time through the time traveler, such as the frightening effects of the development of technology on people (Partington, 2002).

With the example of Eloi and Morlocks, the author clearly shows the differences between the working and elite class and their consequences with a simple example and emphasizes that the working class must always continue to work for the bourgeois to survive. Morlocks and gigantic Crabs can be considered as possible negative examples of technology in the future. Despite all these negative examples, time travel and especially the hope that most of these travels are forward-looking, that is, the future, emphasize the importance of development. “There is no difference between time and the three dimensions of space except that our consciousness moves along it” (Wells, 2019).

One of the writers who added extraordinary and unforgettable works to science fiction literature is Ray Bradbury, born in 1920 in Illinois. Known for books such as *The Martian Chronicles* and *Fahrenheit 451*, the author is considered one of the essential science fiction writers of the 20th century. His love for science fiction and his creativity in this field can be easily observed in his works. The environments and characters handled with a powerful imagination in his writings, technological developments, and criticisms of oppressive governments such as totalitarian regimes stand out.

Fahrenheit 451 is a dystopian novel by Ray Bradbury, first published in 1953. The novel is considered a classic of science fiction literature, where books are banned, and firefighters burn every book found. The journey of Guy Montag, a firefighter who begins to question his actions and eventually becomes a fugitive in his society, is dramatically rendered (McGiveron, 2010). Montag, who was a part of this mechanism at first and burned a book almost as an executioner, finally starts to think about this issue and turns into a rebel by ending this situation.

The novel is a powerful commentary on the dangers of censorship and the importance of free thought and intellectuality. Bradbury explores the power of knowledge and the dangers of a society that values ignorance and apathy over education. It also touches on the idea of a "perfect" society and the role of technology in shaping that society.

The most prominent subject in *Fahrenheit 451* is the pressure on free thought and the effort to censor information. Reading is prohibited in this imaginary society, and

there is an oppressive government that cannot even tolerate the existence of books, and they have assigned firefighters to destroy the books. This situation metaphorically represents the oppressive and restrictive mentality against knowledge and thought. Through Montag, the author emphasizes how personality can be lost through censorship and, therefore how important free thought and expression are.

The books are to remind us what asses and fools we are. They're Caesar's praetorian guard, whispering, 'Remember, Caesar, thou art mortal.' Most of us can't rush around, talking to everyone, know all the cities of the world, we haven't time, money or that many friends. The things you're looking for, Montag, are in the world, but the only way the average chap will ever see ninety-nine per cent of them is in a book. Don't ask for guarantees. And don't look to be saved in any one thing, person, machine, or library. Do your own bit of saving, and if you drown, at least die knowing you were headed for shore (Bradbury, 1953).

One of the most prominent themes of this book is technology and the value given to technology by society. In this book, Bradbury has shown and emphasized how it is possible to manipulate people, and society as a whole, with the power of technology.

Fahrenheit 451 occupies an exceptional place in the science fiction novel with its detailed descriptions and thought-provoking style. The fast-paced story is both impressive and fluent, so it conveys the message it wants to convey easily and is interesting despite this pessimistic world description. Ray Bradbury, who deals with the themes such as censorship, freedom of thought, ignorance, information, and technology, which are still valid even today, originally and impressively, has created this significant and valuable work, which also finds its place in the fields of cinema and theatre. With this dystopian world, the author warns us about the importance of free thought, the damage that oppressive attitudes can do, and the contribution technology can make to this situation (Sisario, 1970).

Frank Herbert's classic novel *Dune* is one of the most successful works in science fiction that has been adapted into many movies, TV shows, and video games. The novel describes a complex future community about twenty thousand years later. Set in the year 10191, the story also deals with life on other planets colonized by humans.

The story begins with the departure of Duke Leto, who lives on Caladan and is appointed as the ruler of Arrakis, to his new planet. This planet called Arrakis has serious reserves of a narcotic spice popular among the wealthy called melange, and since it is deserted, Duke Leto goes there and makes a plan to settle, despite the warnings of many of his loved ones, to have these reserves.

Atreides arrive on this planet, and Duke immediately wants to secure it against any probable Harkonnen attack. He wants to enlist and use the Fremen to protect this precious planet. The Fremen are the native tough people of Arrakis, strong fighters living in this desert. They think Duke's wife and son are their saviors and will help them create a heaven-like environment. Dr. Yueh is a respected member of the Atreides family but betrays and helps Harkonnen's baron to have Duke. Feeling regretful and guilty, he let Jessica and Paul, Duke's wife and son, run away.

The Fremen find Jessica and Paul and accept them as their leaders. Although both are considered appointed leaders, Paul achieves more prophetic status and leads them by obtaining a spiritual title. Beginning to see both the future and the past, Paul realizes that these features become sharper and more robust as he uses melange. Under Paul's leadership, the stronger Fremen army becomes more organized and technically advanced and takes complete control of Arrakis. After all these gains, everyone understands the power and ability of the Fremen army and wants to have them, but this community, loyal to their leader, destroys their enemies, and eventually, Paul becomes emperor by marrying the king's daughter (Herbert, 1965).

Dune deserves to be one of the most valuable science fiction novels, with its highly complex character roster and purely fictional and advanced setting. This richly detailed world is also home to conflicts of opinion, politics, and fights for the throne. The main problem is the fight for possession of the melange, which everyone covets, the substance necessary for both drugs and interstellar travel and only found on the planet Arrakis.

One of the novel's most notable aspects is how it skillfully handles subjects such as ecology, religion, and politics. For example, Herbert, with the spice called melange, metaphorically emphasizes the war of humanity for underground resources on earth and how we unconsciously consume our precious resources (Ellis, 1990).

Another metaphor Herbert uses is the Fremen community because their unconditional devotion and loyalty to their leaders through religious dogma highlight how religion will have a political impact on communities. As a result, *Dune* is an important science fiction novel that deals with many issues, such as different communities, religion, science, ecology, and politics, in detail and meticulously.

In terms of the technologies they provide, each of these novels offers a unique perspective on the issues of their respective eras. *Fahrenheit 451* and *1984* both focus on the dangers of government surveillance and control, while *Brave New World* explores the ethical implications of genetic engineering and mind control. *The War of the Worlds* provides a glimpse into the fears of the Industrial Revolution and the potential destructive power of technology. Overall, these novels offer a thought-provoking commentary on the role of technology in society and its impact on the individual. Science fiction novels have the power to inspire us toward a better world. They do so by cautioning us about the negative consequences of societal flaws and by highlighting the positive aspects of technological advancement and progress. These stories guide us toward a more desirable future.

Science fiction novels have significantly shaped our understanding of the universe and our place within it. These stories have taken us to worlds beyond our wildest imaginations and introduced us to incredible characters that have become popular culture icons. For example, Orwell's depressing *1984* made us experience the most painful aspects of despair, and at the same time, Verne's *From the Earth to the Moon* showed us how exciting space travel is and kept our curiosity alive. Science fiction novels have continued to shed light on the present and the future, guiding people and technology. Science fiction has left an indelible mark on our imagination and has inspired countless writers, filmmakers, and scientists. Its impact will continue to be felt for generations as new ideas and stories are imagined and brought to life in this fascinating genre.

4. FROM FICTION TO REALITY: HOW SCIENCE FICTION HAS SHAPED AND ANTICIPATED REAL-LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS

It was not easy for the words 'science' and 'fiction' to come together and make a term used today. These words were perceived as representatives of the two opposed terms and were hardly remembered together for long periods. When science spoke of certain things, fiction often reflected the possible assumptions of our imagination. Some writers led the complicated writing process in such a genre by having an interest in science and literature. Knowing some basic scientific things and having a superior imagination helped some authors like Wells to produce impressive works in science fiction. Using the power of science, Verne imagined a lunar voyage, and this book may let the real lunar voyage happen. Humans, as intelligent species, think and imagine work before they do it, and it helps to see the pros and cons of the work that will be done. Thus, like a simulation, these science fiction novels may predict the difficulties and benefits people will face through their imagination. Human history needs to create this simulation-like work.

The science fiction novel, which has appealed to readers looking for a different taste after love stories, heroism, wars, and biographies, has quickly gained popularity. This genre, a more complex and scientific version of the surreal but amusing elements children find in fairy tales, has become a fan of many. In addition, the elements of epic stories that people have loved to hear for years have been written in a more modern form in the science fiction novel. Both works that are interesting for people who love science and contain some scientific facts and those to be read in the name of fiction just for fun have been published throughout history.

Great writers such as Herbert George Wells, Marry Shelley, Jules Verne, Isaac Asimov, Ursula K. Le Guin, Aldous Huxley, Willam Goulding, and George Orwell have given a lot of essential and unforgettable dreams via their unique works to their readers. For example, in Le Guin's *'The New Atlantis,'* she reflects on the message of trying not to lose hope and survive even when everything in the world is awful in a very literary language. The book emphasizes the things we should do and the things we should not do. The author has harshly demonstrated that the behavior we continue to do today triggers global warming, which will soon leave some cities

and even the continents underwater. It shows that people who have technically sunk the world can raise it again. While even the white house was inundated, its location had to be changed. Among some people, there was a rumor about a new continent rising from the water (Guin, 2013, p. 29). Guin, who uses many emotional elements in her work, uses more convincing language by using scientific facts. The author, who supported the imagination of the world she created in her imaginary world with the power of science, succeeded in reflecting her message to her readers more seriously and sharply. Ursula K. Le Guin has mentioned ecological problems in many of her works and implicitly suggested their results and possible solutions. It is not a coincidence that the author uses science fiction, one of her greatest weapons, to convey her messages to her readers.

In addition to ecological and environmental issues, some authors have addressed social and political issues. George Orwell's '*Animal Farm*' is one of the most prominent and well-known examples. In this book, Orwell preferred to make the animals in the animal farm talk like the ones in the *La Fontaine* tales and equip them with human characteristics. Even though this work is not accepted as an obvious example of a science fiction novel, his method is a clear example of the possible use of limitless imagination in the field of science fiction. In this work, which mentions that animals do not like the living conditions and seize the farm due to rebellion, the reflections of the human inner world are depicted. Through this novel, the reader explores Orwell's view of the rise of socialism at that time utilizing introspection. Orwell harshly criticizes socialism, which is believed to end many injustices and inequalities in the world at that time, and stresses that after animals take over the farm management, some can go apart, and some do wrong just for their benefit. And this striking sentence, which emphasizes the discriminatory approach of people, has appeared in many people's minds after this book; "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" (Orwell, 1996, p. 112).

Many such works continued to shape human history, but the most known and influential ones were by H.G. Wells. He is known as the father of science fiction since he was the person who let science fiction literature rise (Roberts, 2006, p. 143). Wells began to be popular when he began writing in the field of science fiction. His science-fiction novel *The Time Machine* was enough to make him famous in a very

short time. In *The Time Machine*, reminiscent of Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Wells is actually a critic of communism. This novel deals with the journey from time to time, which is one of the things that humanity has been trying to do for thousands of years. The character named Time Traveler actually mentions that time is the fourth dimension and that they can travel in this dimension if they wish. This man, who invented a device that allows him to travel through time, presses the button and finds himself in 802,701 AD. At this time, the time traveler encounters two types of creatures and cannot conceal his astonishment. One of them is small childlike people called Eloi, and the others are Morlocks, more savage and primitive beings. While the author mentions two possible types here, he predicted a possible outcome of communism. The elite is positive about everything and becomes purer and purer as children, and the working class is increasingly distant from society and forced to live underground. After all that he has seen and the adventures he has experienced, the time traveler returning is surprised. The following day, he leaves home and never returns (Wells, 2019, p. 143). This groundbreaking science fiction novel by Wells is a different example of the time travel humanity has longed for years.

In his book *The Time Machine*, Wells discussed the relativity of time sometime before Einstein and mentioned that parallel universes could exist in other dimensions simultaneously. In 1905, Einstein introduced the concept of relativity, which suggested that time is relative and its flow can be affected by gravity and motion (Einstein, Lorentz, Minkowski, & Weyl, 2000). Time dilation is another concept that Wells brought up in this novel, and it is the idea of time passing at different rates under different conditions. This concept is accepted and confirmed by authorities, and it is the essential function of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The idea of time travel came to people's minds thanks to this book, and it prompted the scientific world to explore its possibilities. The idea of time travel, on the other hand, could be related to concepts such as black holes and wormholes, which caused scientists to work on this subject, and thus *The Time Machine* indirectly signaled the existence of black holes.

The Island of Doctor Moreau is also one of Wells' well-known works. In this book, the author tells the adventure witnessed by a man who came to an island by the ship. The passenger arriving here learns that the only person on this island who lives

regularly is a doctor named Doctor Moreau. After spending some time on the island, the passenger notices something is not going well and tries to find it. This man, Prendick, sees a few things and believes that Doctor Moreau is the one who did strange experiments on humans. He escapes with the shock of this incident and encounters strange creatures in the forest. Later Prendick learns that these humanoid animals he encounters are animals coming out of Moreau's laboratory. He feels more disgusted with Moreau for his inhuman treatment of animals and flees back into the forest. Prendick, having problems with these half-human and half-animal creatures living in the forest, finally finds his chance and returns to London. He always takes distance from people for the rest of his life (Wells, 2017).

In this book, Wells describes the animals on which a scientist experimented in a laboratory environment and the humanoid animals he produced, similar to some genetic and similar studies carried out today. In this book, the author sheds light on the future by explaining the possible effects and results of genetic engineering. Although it has been a long time since the writing of this book, the subjects such as scientific ethics, subject psychology, and animal rights still maintain their actuality and importance today.

Science fiction literature and cinema have made profound contributions to the invention of many devices that we use widely today and have been a source of inspiration for the function and design of these modern devices. In addition, even if not directly, many products and devices have been the subject of science fiction novels long before they were produced, and these novels and authors have inspired and contributed to real-world production, albeit partially.

Submarines are one of the best examples of this inspiration. The first successful underwater ship known in history was the submarine built for King James I by a Dutch designer named Cornelius Drebbel. This submarine made a short and shallow tour of the Thames river in London and was seen and approved by the people living in the city, but it was noted that they did not know much about the building process of this ship (Fontenoy, 2007). Jules Verne's 1870 book *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* describes an advanced submarine that can easily navigate deep in the ocean, travel long distances, and defend itself against enemy

attacks (Verne, 1998). Even though this book is not the first to imagine a submarine, the novel created immense popularity for such an advanced submarine idea and undoubtedly motivated scientists to work in this field.

There are many examples of science fiction novels in which cybernetic implants and other advanced technologies are used. One of the most well-known and classic examples of these is the "cyberdeck" in William Gibson's book called *Neuromancer*. This technology has implanted devices that allow neural confluences with computer systems (Gibson, 1984). This novel is about a talented young man who uses his brain power, computer knowledge, and cybernetic implants to dominate computers and reach vast information. In today's world, experts have started to produce and use such unique cybernetic implants for some people. For example, in light of these advanced technologies, scientists have developed implants that will restore vision for blind people and prosthetic limbs that can be directly controlled by the brain for disabled people (Mehrali, et al., 2018). Although these developments and cybernetic implants are still in their early stages, some of them have been implemented, and this is undoubtedly a technology that will be encountered in many areas soon. Therefore, it is unsurprising that science fiction literature also inspired this technological development.

Arthur C. Clarke's *The City and the Stars* is an important science fiction novel because even though it does not directly tell about a GPS, it mentions satellites that help with positioning and mapping (Clarke, 1956). Clarke was a science fiction writer and futurist who inspired those after him to explore and discover what surrounds us and develop new technological instruments to understand our universe better. In the 1960s, the U.S. military started working on satellites to find a way to position systems. Finally, in the 1970s, they achieved to launch a satellite into the earth's orbit, and in the following years, they managed to develop and offer a worldwide GPS for civilians as well (El-Rabbany, 2002).

Isaac Asimov is a revolutionary science fiction writer and biochemist who graduated from Boston University. He wrote over five hundred books, but his science fiction novels have been his most famous works. He is best known for his Robot series. *I, Robot* deals with ethical issues and moral implications about robots

and their artificial intelligence. This book occupies a prominent place among science fiction novels and deals with interesting topics such as the rights of robots. Years ago, Asimov dreamed of some concepts and devices that would be invented and implemented long after the book was written.

A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws (Asimov, 1950).

The excerpt above explains the rules that robots must follow regarding their attitudes toward humans. It is possible to say artificial intelligence because these beings do not have human intelligence but can make some choices or obey commands. Robot vacuums, which follow our orders and clean our house from top to bottom today, can be given as an example. In addition, robots that help to do dozens of complex jobs in factories are also widespread today.

Today, artificial intelligence is used everywhere, from phone cameras to computer applications, from driverless vehicles to chatbots. Here is an answer to the question “What is artificial intelligence?” from a well-known artificial intelligence chat robot, ChatGPT:

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a field of computer science and engineering focused on creating machines that can perform tasks requiring human-like intelligence, such as understanding natural language, recognizing images, learning from experience, and making decisions. AI is typically achieved through machine learning algorithms, which enable computers to learn from data and improve their performance over time. Other approaches to AI include expert systems, which rely on rule-based reasoning, and symbolic AI, which involves representing knowledge and reasoning about it using logic. AI has numerous applications across many fields, including healthcare, finance, transportation, and entertainment (ChatGPT, personal communication, February 21, 2023).

As it can be easily understood, this chat robot with artificial intelligence can answer questions and make explanations quite successfully. In addition, it may reasonably chat with one, assist them in setting up an itinerary, and even write down a website code. This improvement shows that the artificial intelligence that Asimov envisioned in the 1950s has reached a highly developed state today and will perhaps be doing more complex tasks in the future. Artificial intelligence has also been developed thanks to the predictive power of the science fiction novel and its ability to inspire scientists.

Another advanced technology directly related to artificial intelligence is autonomous and driverless cars, and science fiction has also focused on this issue and inspired the future. Asimov also mentioned autonomous vehicles in *I, Robot*, and in a story named *Sally*. In his story *Sally*, published in 1953, Asimov describes an artificial intelligence vehicle designed by a group of engineers that can turn and determine its direction by deciding on its own. Increasing safety, one of the plus features mentioned for autonomous vehicles today, is also emphasized in Asimov's book: "Once we had self-driving cars, no one would dream of risking a human life by drivingar himself" (Asimov, 1962). Murat Dikmen and Catherine Burns from the University of Waterloo, Canada, conducted a study on the trust in Tesla autopilot and summoning features and found a significant trust rate, especially because young drivers rely on these autonomous systems more (Dikmen & Burns, 2017). *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* is a novel by Philip K. Dick, and it explores the theme of artificial intelligence and foresees some technological developments like autonomous cars and some challenges they may bring. One relevant quote is: "A one-person car, borne on a single cushion of air, might jam its guide-roller against the side of a building, or a rock projection, in such a manner that the driver could not possibly extricate himself. A passenger car, however, could detour and thus gain safety. There were many problems yet to be solved" (Dick, 1996).

Today, it is possible to see semi-autonomous and fully autonomous vehicles on the roads, and the pioneer of this trend and the brand that comes to mind when it comes to autonomous driving is undoubtedly Tesla. The company's founder, Elon Musk, is a master of software and is considered one of the most visionary scientists and investors of the century. Autonomous driving systems, developed under the

leadership of Musk and many brands that work in-house and go one step further every day, are still being examined, and it is observed how they work in harmony with drivers and how they affect traffic. In a research article she wrote, Endsley presented a product in which she examined the possible negative consequences of these autonomous driving systems, such as the difficulties and sometimes the complex situations they create (Endsley, 2017).

Smartphones, one of the essential parts of life today, have a very significant place in our daily lives, but considering the history of humanity, it is possible to say that they have just entered our world. According to the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*: “a mobile phone that also has some of the functions of a computer, for example, the facility to use apps and the internet” (Oxford University Press, 2023). Considering this definition, smartphones have been in our lives for several decades. However, cell phones were generally invented very recently and became widespread quickly.

The book *The World Set Free* by H.G. Wells is one of the earliest examples describing a device that let people communicate wirelessly. Star Trek is another significant science fiction work that contributed to the development of smartphones. In the show, a device named “communicator” allowed the people on board to communicate with each other from long distances. In the 1982 movie Blade Runner, the characters use smartphone-like devices, which are devices for communicating and technological products with voice detection and artificial intelligence (Scott, 1982).

H.G. Wells' 1914 novel *The World Set Free* predicted the development of a weapon that would release atomic energy and have devastating consequences for humanity. This prophetic vision inspired physicist Leo Szilard in 1932 to conceive the idea of a nuclear chain reaction, which he subsequently patented and collaborated with other scientists to develop the first nuclear reactor. During World War II, fears of Nazi Germany developing a similar weapon led to the establishment of the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb. The successful detonation of the first atomic bomb in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1945 and its subsequent use against Japan changed the course of human history. Thus, *The World Set Free* played a

pivotal role in inspiring the development of the atomic bomb, and its impact continues to be felt today.

In addition to smartphones, science fiction has also imagined and depicted smart homes, thus inspiring new generations and contributing to this becoming a reality. One of the developed examples of a smart home can be found in the 1999 movie *Smart House* in which a fully autonomous house is controlled by an artificial intelligence system that does chores like cooking and cleaning by itself (Burton, 1999).

Space travel and deep space exploration are some of science fiction literature's most remarkable and emphasized subjects. The pioneers of this movement are prominent science fiction writers such as Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, and Arthur C. Clarke. For example, Jules Verne's *"From the Earth to the Moon"* (1865) was one of the earliest works of science fiction that popularized the idea of space travel. The novel tells the journey of a group of people who were thrown to the moon in a capsule, and although such a trip with a cannon and capsule is not possible, it has seriously contributed to the possibility of this idea by showing the exciting and attractive aspects of this journey. Future generations of engineers and visionaries have worked hard to make this journey possible and eventually made it happen. In 1969, NASA astronaut Neil Armstrong made history as the first man to set foot on the moon and said: "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" (Clar, 2021).

In Wells's book *The War of the Worlds*, the possibility of interplanetary travel and intelligent life on other planets was discussed, which attracted much attention. In this story, which tells about the Martians who came to invade the world, the effort of a more complex and technologically advanced community to invade the world due to the resource problem is successfully told. Today, Elon Musk, who has become the wealthiest man in the world and is still at the top of the list, manages the private space organization SpaceX. The ultimate goal of this company, and naturally Musk, is to colonize Mars, which can be a second chance for humans (Buchanan, 2017). Like in Wells' story, if the resources are insufficient for humans to live on

Earth, Mars can act as a second world for humanity, thus transforming humans into interplanetary beings.

Arthur C. Clarke, a prolific science fiction author and inventor is often credited with predicting many technological advancements that we take for granted today, including the internet and communication satellites. His novel *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) is widely regarded as one of the greatest works of science fiction and explores the possibility of intelligent life beyond Earth. This science fiction novel was adapted into a movie directed by Stanley Kubrick in the same year it was published. The story is about a group of astronauts traveling through space when they stumble upon a mysterious black monolith with significant implications for human evolution. This novel and film, which gained serious acceptance in popular culture, dealt with human evolution and the existence of non-human creatures strikingly. "Two possibilities exist: either we are alone in the Universe or not. Both are equally terrifying" (Clarke, 1968).

Science and technology have continued working to make the world better and more developed. As a result of many successful and unsuccessful initiatives, these efforts have pioneered developments that have revolutionized and made life easier while providing a more hopeful outlook for the future. For example, the light bulb that illuminates at night and the wired and wireless use of electricity in nature to power many devices, cars, ships, airplanes, smart homes, and much more have come to life thanks to the imagination and efforts of visionary scientists.

Science fiction literature and, on a larger scale, science fiction culture have an important place as a significant triggering force in such developments. For example, Orwell described a modern-day television-like device in his 1984 book, Verne detailed a journey to the moon in more than one book, and the Star Wars series described the radio communication devices that inspired the cell phone. Science fiction literature predicted some of these long before inventions and discoveries, and even completely imagined some of them and helped them to be designed from scratch. Likewise, many concepts and developments, such as submarines, artificial intelligence, geolocation service, artificial limbs, genetic studies, and space travel, have been brought to the world of science by science fiction writers. All these taken

into account, the development of humanity and the progress of technology clearly show how vital this interrelationship between science fiction literature and the real world is.



CONCLUSION

Throughout history, humans have used imagination to overcome obstacles and achieve incredible things. Imagination is one of the most fundamental things that have brought humankind to its current position. Many challenges have been overcome through insights, aspirations, and dedicated efforts. Over time, communication channels have evolved from their rudimentary beginnings to become increasingly sophisticated, giving rise to an infinite network of transmissions from oral to written literature, even branching into various sub-genres. Throughout a couple of millennia, mythological tales have transformed into awe-inspiring science fiction novels, filled with intricate plots and prescient visions of the future based on science. This foresight and direction led to the acceleration of technological developments and enlightened the way of humanity in the universe, who, thanks to their intelligence, could change the world on a large scale and explore extraterrestrial places for the first time.

Epics and myths are the earliest examples of human imagination and creative thinking. Epics are heroic stories that glorify concepts such as heroism, bravery, honor, and glory over certain characters. Examples of well-known epics include the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" by Homer, the "Epic of Gilgamesh," and the "Mahabharata" from Hindu mythology. On the other hand, myths are traditional stories of existence and creation formed by the unique accumulation of each culture. Myths usually feature gods and supernatural characters to give moral messages to their readers. Many mythologies have been formed in the region where they are located and have taken their current form due to the cultural accumulation of oral stories passed down from generation to generation. Examples of well-known myths include the creation stories from the Bible, the Greek myths of gods and heroes, and the Norse myths of Odin, Thor, and Loki. These stories generally reflect the social life, moral norms, and traditions of the societies in which they exist. For example, the Greek myths of gods and heroes reflect the values of ancient Greek society, which greatly emphasized heroism, honor, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Epics and myths are essential resources that help us understand our past and essence. Myths and epic stories, one of humanity's most significant cultural legacies,

are also considered and studied as remarkable literary works. These written and oral literature elements, which shed light on humanity's past, have guided people throughout history to hold on to life and go further and have tried to develop society positively by defining an ideal life and human. One of the primary similarities between myths and science fiction literature is their imaginative and creative storytelling capacity. It is vital that some myths told thousands of years ago have found a place in some branches of science even today. For example, the myth of King Oedipus, which has an important place in Greek mythology, tells the story of a king who unwittingly killed his father and married his mother. The Oedipus complex, as posited by Freud's psychoanalytic theory, contends that individuals harbor an unconscious attraction towards their opposite-sex parent while simultaneously experiencing an instinctive desire to eliminate their same-sex parent. The Greek myth of Narcissus portrays a striking tale of a comely and haughty youth who falls prey to his reflection in a water pool, becoming enraptured with it to the extent of neglecting all other aspects of life and eventually wasting away and perishing. This fable has been closely associated with various psychological constructs, such as narcissism, self-love, and self-esteem. It has underscored the significance of a balanced and healthy self-awareness in maintaining psychological wellness, emphasizing that an excessive preoccupation with one's appearance or self-image may lead to a distorted perception of the self and estrangement from reality. These and many similar examples show that it is undeniable that there are strong ties between mythology and the modern science world. Undoubtedly, science fiction literature, deriving its inspiration from scientific advancements, has made significant contributions to the field of science and has gained immense significance in shaping the course of the future. Myths and epics, which continue to shine in the past, have given the flag to science fiction literature to enlighten the future.

Throughout history, science fiction novel has shed light on the dark sides of humanity, solved their mysteries, and revealed their secret desires. From the possible consequences of possible state regimes to the devastating effects of global warming, it has dealt with what interests man. Like other literary works, these novels reflect not only the author's inner world but also the zeitgeist of its time. Some works provide much information about the period and environment in which it was written,

but the aspect distinguishing science fiction literature from other novels and stories are that it turns its face to the future and imagines unusual scenarios. For example, *1984* reflects the oppressive and dictatorial administrations of its era, but by putting forward innovative inventions such as the telescreen, it offers a different perspective on how human life may be restricted. Science fiction literature is among the essential elements of popular culture and helps to establish a serious relationship between science and literature. The science fiction genre conveys the world's social phenomena, possible technological developments, devices, and possible results to readers in a scientific, literary language. It plays a guiding role in humanity to think about things outside its world and to understand what is going on in the universe.

One of the most crucial features of science fiction literature is that it is a source of inspiration for science and technological developments. Many electronic devices, technological concepts, weapons, and aircraft used today have been depicted in science fiction novels before, thus revealing the necessary imagination to make them come true. Sketching possible future scenarios has helped scientists as the initial impetus to make them happen. Submarines, GPS, mobile phones, smart homes, robot cleaners, artificial intelligence, and numerous other advancements have been achieved thanks to the vision science fiction literature provided. In 1865, Jules Verne, in his book *From the Earth to the Moon*, described the experiences of a group of scientists who traveled to the moon as scientifically as the conditions of the time allowed, and about a hundred years later, NASA successfully sent a group of astronauts to the moon in 1969, and Neil Armstrong became the first man who set foot on the Moon's surface. The achievement of such an excellent development for the history of humanity in such a short time after being imagined has revealed how effective tools imagination and literature can be.

Aware of the significant power of science and technology, science fiction literature has not always predict what will be helpful. Any substance in nature or technologies developed by inventors can never be inadequate; on the contrary, what makes them good or bad is how they are used by whom. H.G. Wells' novel "The World Set Free" foresaw a weapon that could release atomic energy. This idea inspired physicist Leo Szilard to conceive of a nuclear chain reaction, which led to the development of the first nuclear reactor. The fear of Nazi Germany creating a

similar weapon during World War II prompted the establishment of the Manhattan Project to create the atomic bomb. The course of history was changed by the successful explosion of the first atomic bomb in 1945 and its subsequent deployment against Japan.

This thesis has dealt with science fiction literature by its illuminating features and aspects that shape the world and has clearly explained through important works by examining in depth how it successfully pioneered scientific and technological developments. It also has addressed the genre of science fiction literature, starting from its earliest instances, and has analyzed its links to mythical narratives, illustrating these connections up to the contemporary era. With its audacious and striking prognostications about the future, science fiction literature has given rise to non-existent worlds, developed existing ones, and continues to embark on this endless journey of innovation. Due to the extensive scope of the subject matter, the primary constraint encountered is the need to restrict the examples presented within the confines of the study. Examining all works related to the topic in a single product is not feasible. Instead, this study has the potential to be adapted with entirely different samples following the same objectives, further enhancing and expanding the connection between literature and science. As a literary genre that illuminates the unknown, science fiction literature propels progress and sheds light on the future, it will endure in its brilliance like a star over the universe and humanity.

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ÖZGEÇMİŞ

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Yüksek Lisans		
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Yayınlar

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VAN YÜZÜNCÜ YIL ÜNİVERSİTESİ
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LİSANSÜSTÜ TEZ ORJİNALLİK RAPORU

23/03/2023

Tez Başlığı / Konusu:

SCIENCE FICTION, A LITERARY GENRE THAT SHEDS LIGHT ON THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

Yukarıda başlığı/konusu belirlenen tez çalışmamın Kapak sayfası, Giriş, Ana bölümler ve Sonuç bölümlerinden oluşan toplam 63 sayfalık kısmına ilişkin, 10/03/2023 tarihinde tez danışmanım tarafından Turnitin intihal tespit programından aşağıda belirtilen filtreleme uygulanarak alınmış olan orijinallik raporuna göre, tezimin benzerlik oranı % 5 (beş) dir.

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Gereğini bilgilerinize arz ederim.

23/03/2023
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