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Cyborg Alienation and Ecological Return in Michel Faber's Under the Skin

اغتراب الذات السايبورغية واستعادة العلاقة مع الطبيعة في رواية تحت الجلد لمايكل فيبر

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المستخلص:

تحذر الأدبيات الديستوبية العالم مما قد يحدث إذا لم يُستخدم التكنولوجيّا بشكل عقلاني في حياة الإنسان. فمنذ الثورة الصناعية، اتجه العالم نحو الآلات والصناعة بدلاً من الطبيعة. ويتمثل دور الأدب الديستوبي هنا في تقديم صورة عن المستقبل إذا استمر هذا التقدم التكنولوجي، والذي يؤدي غالباً إلى الانفصال عن الطبيعة. تبحث هذه الورقة في شخصية "إيسرلي" الهجينة في رواية ميشيل فابر تحت الجلد في ضوء النقد البيئي ونظرية السايبورغ. تكمن أهمية هذه الورقة في تطبيق النص المذكور ضمن إطاري النقد البيئي ونظرية السايبورغ. بطلة الرواية هي كائن فضائي يأتي إلى الأرض بمهمة محددة، لكنه يخضع لعملية جراحية تجعله نصف إنسان (امرأة) ونصف آلة. ومن ثم يبدأ الصراع بين هذين النصفين، إذ تكتسب صفات إنسانية تجعلها تعاني مع نصفها الآلي. وتخلص الورقة إلى أن البطلة تقرر التخلي عن جسدها لإيقاف معاناتها، ويحدث ذلك في منتصف غابة، مما يشير إلى اتحادها مع الطبيعة. وبهذا تصبح حرة لأول مرة في حياتها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الأدب الديستوبي، إيسرلي، النقد البيئي، نظرية السايبورغ، العلوم الإنسانية البيئية

Abstract:

Dystopian literature warns the world about what could happen if technology is not rationally used in human life. Since the Industrial Revolution, the world has moved towards machines and industry instead of nature. The role of dystopian literature here is to give an image of the future if this technological progress continues, often leading to a departure from nature. The current paper investigates the Hybrid Isserley in Michel Faber's *Under the Skin* in light of ecocriticism and cyborg theory. The significance of this paper is in applying the aforementioned text within the frameworks of ecocriticism and cyborg theory. The novel's heroine is an alien who comes to Earth on a specific mission but undergoes an operation that makes her half-human (a woman) and half-machine. Then, conflict begins between the two halves, and she acquires human characteristics that make her suffer with her machine half. The paper concludes that the heroine decides to give up her body to stop her suffering, and this happens in the middle of a forest, indicating her union with nature. Thus, she is free for the first time in her life.**Keywords:** Dystopian Literature, Isserley, Ecocriticism, Cyborg Theory**,** Environmental Humanities

Introduction

This article does not support one idea at the expense of another. Those who tend towards the ecocriticism theory often have ideas that conflict with the approach that calls for evolution through machines or artificial intelligence. The article attempts to investigate the hybrid character of Isserley from both the environmental and cyborg perspectives. The relationship between man and the environment, particularly the Earth, is one of the most critical goals highlighted in ecocriticism theory. "Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment" (Garrard, 2004, p.3).This relationship began with the first human being who came to earth when the two began to merge. Therefore, the relationship between man and nature has lasted for thousands of years. According to Timothy Morton, "nowadays, hardly anybody likes it when you mention the environment. You risk sounding boring or judgmental or hysterical, or a mixture of all these" (Morton, 2009, p.1). That is why it is necessary to talk about environmental issues. The direction the world is taking at this critical time in history portends dire consequences. Ecocriticism theory in literature helps to understand the interconnectedness between man and his surroundings from different perspectives and dimensions. In addition, during literary studies, solutions can be proposed that would contribute to raising environmental awareness. Therefore, the importance of these studies comes in shedding light on the problems that negatively affect the presence of humans in this world. It is not easy to distinguish between purposeful environmental criticism and criticism that aims only to criticize. Sometimes, it is difficult to distinguish between purposeful environmental criticism and criticism that aims only to criticise. Postmodernism is a critical period for the environment, as humans rely heavily on elements that are far from the environment's originality. For Morton, the world's future depends starkly on this period, which will determine the shape of the environmental trend. Many fields fall under the environment, such as politics, media, and aesthetics. All of these are affected by the environment in one way or another, whether directly or indirectly." Literature about the environment takes on various roles within consumerism." (Morton, 2009, p.155) Poetry, for example, helps relieve the industrial tension in our world, where reading about beautiful nature is an essential outlet for people. This movement can be said to have started in the Romantic era when nature had the lion's share. Regarding politics, ecocriticism does not take a clear, specific side; it cannot be said to be on the right, the left, or even somewhere in between. The matter depends on several circumstances, including these policies' general and specific orientation.On the other hand, the cyborg theory rejects essentialism. It believes in the fusion of machines and humans to form one identity. This idea originated from Donna Haraway in her article *A Cyborg Manifesto*. In addition, it challenges the single meaning of language, its importance, and its idealism. The characteristics that could be present in the above-mentioned hybrid person are not clearly understood. Many questions arise: Are human qualities dominant, or are machine qualities dominant? And can such a thing continue and coexist with other creatures? "The cyborg of Haraway is a genderless and raceless mode of being imagined to find a way towards equality by eliminating all sorts of problematic dualisms like that of self/other, culture/nature, male/female, civilized/primitive, right/wrong, truth/illusion," (Haraway, ٢٠١٣, p.١١٠)Differences are other causes of dominance, so blurring these differences can help reduce or eliminate dominance. One reason for these gaps is the boundaries between differences. To break these boundaries is to find a common identity. This identity represents the qualities between the sides, and this is what Haraway believes in. She believes that there are characteristics in the machine and the human that are shared and that can form a single identity (Berolotti & Magnani, 2014, p.922). Of course, these ideas were initially illogical because the article was published in the eighties of the last century. However, with the rapid development of technology, the situation is completely different, as this theory will have a great impact in the near future. From this standpoint, the study attempts to understand this complex relationship between the single identity that carries the characteristics of man and machine. She doesn't seem to be afraid of the world of dystopia; quite the opposite. From her point of view, she seems to be inclined to add qualities that would improve people. This is the interpretation she probably had in mind, or perhaps to suppress other less desirable qualities. As for cyborgs, they will inevitably be a reality that humans must face.In contrast to the strict divisions between humans, technology, and nature, Haraway's idea of cyborg hybridity suggests a fluid, co-constitutive ontology in which personality types are constantly actively linked. In particular, Morton's criticism of anthropocentrism and his focus on the inseparability of creatures within "the mesh" are in line with this boundary-breaking framework and his concept of ecological interdependence. Morton shows that category boundaries are environmentally unsustainable, concealing the intricate entanglements that support life, whereas Haraway emphasizes the cyborg as an image that highlights the artificiality of such barriers. Combining these viewpoints highlights how environmentally interwoven and technologically mediated human existence is,

demonstrating that understanding interconnectedness between organic and inorganic assemblages is more critical for survival than dominance or purity.

The Hybrid Isserley*Under the Skin* is a novel about an alien who comes to Earth on a mission. This being is surgically made to look like a woman. This woman/alien is called Isserley. Her mission is to bring young people who have no relatives or are isolated from others. She does this by driving around the Scottish Highlands. She then brings them to an isolated farm to feed her home planet creatures. During this journey, she discovers new traits that are strange to her species. This creates confusion in her identity between who she originally is as an alien and the latest traits she finds in herself as a human. As a result of her acquiring human qualities, externally and internally, she begins questioning her actions and loyalty.The novel begins with Isserley wandering the streets of Scotland, specifically in the Highlands. As aforementioned above, she is looking for single wanderers. She sees one of them and tries to observe him from afar, looking for masculine people with solid bodies. Besides, there is an apparent reference to nature at the beginning of the novel:Driving through the Highlands of Scotland was an absorb- ing task in itself; there was always more going on than picture postcards allowed. Even in the nacreous hush of a winter dawn, when the mists were still dossed down in the fields on either side [...] the mountains might still have some shifting to do and the wooded valleys might yet be recast as seas (Faber, 2000, pp.1-2).She enjoys seeing these scenes a lot and sometimes forgets her primary mission. These are some strange moments for her. She is not used to seeing such scenes in her world. These discoveries begin a machine changing into something else that starts to feel. David Mitchell states, "[she] is, after all, a very human heroine." (Mitchell, 2000, p.1) This means that later on, it will acquire human characteristics that will make it a unique being with characteristics from both sides. Although it is too early to judge, the matter seems inevitable in the end. And the reason is that this is just the beginning of the article. Walking down the street and seeing people and nature affects this being called Isserley. She has never seen such things in her automated world based on commands. At this point, Fabre is a genius as he shows the reader what it is like to be from a different world. Not only that, but what impressions those from a different world have on the world we know. This helps the readers understand Isserley's complex character and how she reacts to the outside world and even the inside world.Most distracting of all, though, was not the threat of danger but the allure of beauty. A luminous moat of rainwater, a swarm of gulls following a seeder around a loamy field, a glimpse of rain two or three mountains away, even a lone oystercatcher flying overhead […]. She would be driving along as the sun rose fully, watching distant farmhouses turn golden (Faber, 2000, p.3).In the above quote, Isserley continues to immerse herself in the magical nature of Scotland. For a machine whose job is to collect corpses, this nature completely disrupts its mission. However, she does not care; rather, she enjoys nature. The writer's attempt to explain the effect of nature on all creatures clearly conveys the importance of nature and its role in shaping character. Nature has a strong influence on people, as the crime rate is lower in places with beautiful nature than in industrial cities. Apparently, this is one of the messages of the novel, where returning to Mother Nature is a reminder of peace and the beautiful feelings associated with humanity. For a moment, Isserley forgets about the killing, a clear indication of the importance of nature in the souls of creatures. Also, the essence of nature is effective in a significant way on others, even if they are not from the same world as we know it today. Nature is a common point between humans and non-humans, serving to connect them in some way. This helps Isserley find something in common with being a cyborg and a woman.Sometimes, examining this mental image as she drove on, she would note that the hitcher was a female. Isserley wasn't interested in females, at least not in that way. Let them get picked up by someone else. If the hitcher was male, she usually went back for another look, unless he was an obvious weakling (Faber, 2000, p.6)The author's choice of a woman as the first character in the novel, in addition to the fact that she prefers sending men to their deaths instead of women, is not a coincidence. This can be understood as an attempt to change the stereotype that men are more violent than women or simply changing the roles to add unusual events. On the other hand, this is a choice of a machine as they prefer strong muscles, so naturally, what they are looking for is more present in men than in the opposite sex. This can also be understood as a challenge to history and a reversal of the balance of power, making women stronger than men and even exposing men's weakness and cunning in front of ruthless women. Isserley's identity is unusually interesting. She is a mix of machine and woman in one body, with strength and delicate feelings presentIsserley fell from her vantage point, a dizzying drop, and plunged back into her body. [...] Finding her way back to ground level always took a little while. She counted her breaths, slowly getting them down to sis a minute. When at last the adrenaline had ebbed and she was feeling calmer, she re-applied herself to the job in hand. [...] She was never aware of having touched that button; it must happen during the adrenaline rush (Faber, 2000,

p.26).In the above quote, Isserley struggles to understand her new body and the interactions taking place. Seemingly, she is still confused between her hybrid identity and her body. As a machine, she is designed to execute orders based on precise data and statistics without thinking. She does not have complete control over her body because of the changes it underwent when she landed on Earth. For this reason, she sometimes loses control of her body or does not know its internal energy or its changes. In this case, there is a battle between consciousness and body. It can also be said that she is somewhat alienated in this body. The above quote can be interpreted as a lack of balance between mind and body. The mind has not yet absorbed this new form with new characteristics. This will affect the functioning of the functions, even if not significantly. This will highlight disturbances that are currently unnecessary due to her mission. Her adrenaline rush is a clear sign that she is not adapting to the physical changes. Despite the above, the other side of her identity appears when she tries to calm herself down by breathing regularly. The other human half shows up when you need stability, which adds an emotional quality not usually found in a machine. It is challenging for her to adapt to this reality that she has begun to be affected by, but so far, she has not succeeded in fully controlling her body.Tried gathering whelks?' 'Whelks?'[…] 'What are whelks?' she said at last […] He grinned through his haze of steam. […] 'It's to show people the size that's wanted. There's piddly wee ones, y'see, size of peas, that aren't worth the bother of picking up. But these big fellas are just fine.' […] 'Too cold for the whelks in winter?''Too cold for the people. But you'd do all right. Wear rubber gloves, that's my tip. The thin ones, like women use for washing dishes' (Faber, 2000, pp.30-31)In the above quote, the author shows that his heroine is a machine that lacks human knowledge of the creatures on Earth. The author also reveals that Isserley's identity is linked to a world that is alien to Earth. From the point of view of ecocriticism, she is far from being a human in this scene. For another person living in the same geographical area, it is evident that Whelks are known and are a good source of income for people who work in collecting them. Even anyone with some knowledge of the earth can recognize whelks. Her lack of understanding of culture and the simple things that humans enjoy or know indicates her alienation and difference from others on earth. The hiker telling her to wear gloves so she doesn't get hurt is another indication that she, as a woman, doesn't know how to do simple things like wear gloves to protect her skin. Any woman in her position would know that wearing gloves is a common thing, for example, when washing dishes. All of the above shows her ignorance of simple human customs and standards. Thus, there is a barrier between her and the nature humans know which would flaw in her hybrid identity. She also wonders why it makes sense for humans and fish to go to the sea at this cold time of year. For her, the reasons driving people to work for a living are challenging to understand, at least initially. Going to the sea to collect Whelks is illogical to her, as her mechanical side appears here, documenting the differences between man and machine.Isserley drank it, even though it crackled slightly in the pouring. After a whole night of lying still and letting nature take its course, her body had attained a simmering circulation that would persist until she'd exercised herself into diurnal metabolism. In the meantime, she was as warm as a snow goose (Faber, 2000, p.54).Being between two worlds radically different from each other is the most accurate definition of what she is going through. Her original world is based on orders and execution, and there is no self-thinking because she is a machine. When she lives among humans, it is entirely different from what it was, as she begins to feel things she has never experienced. She is still learning what it is to be physically and psychologically human. This causes her unnecessary disturbances, affecting the mission for which she came to Earth. She is trying as much as possible to adapt to a strange environment. Her need to eat and go to the bathroom is something she is not used to. As for humans, these things are known and dealt with daily. This is another indicator that she is physically alien to Earth. This conflict, which she lives due to the difference in the nature of her original world and the earth, causes her to be in internal and external conflict. Internally, she is trying hard to understand and deal with the new nature, whether with humans or the earth. Externally, her body has undergone new changes that make her question her identity. She is not used to the difference in the atmosphere inside the Earth, but it does not seem to affect her much. Making her a woman is also a clever move by the writer, as acting strangely might get attention to her, but being a woman in appearance doesn't make people suspicious.To her left, the air was swirling with seagulls, a chaos of white birds endlessly falling towards the water, then hovering just above the firth, sinking gradually, as if caught in sediment., [...] tried her best to breathe deeply and unclench her hands. [...] She was on terra firma now, in control, blending in perfectly, and doing a job only she could do (Faber, 2000, pp.71-72)The quote shows how she adapts to the surrounding circumstances despite their difficulties. At first, it's not easy because of her new hybrid identity, but she seems to be adapting to the changes. The description of the seagull and how it flies in the sky may indicate that Isserley has gained relative freedom as she has acquired human

qualities. These qualities are utterly different from being a machine, as previously, it lacked the feelings associated with thinking and feeling. In addition, the mention of the seagull itself indicates the extent of the heroine's adaptation to other creatures on Earth. On the other hand, this scene can be interpreted as a metaphor for the bird being between the sky and the earth, and the matter is similar to Isserley, who is between two different worlds. From a literary ecocriticism point of view, this difference is an apparent dissonance between nature and the other, represented by the machine. This conflict between the industrial and the natural has existed since the Industrial Revolution.She hadn't changed her attitude; it was sheer anxiety keeping her awake, anxiety that she'd be roused out of her bed by the men, or, worse, by Amlis Vess. More than anything she was afraid of not hearing them knocking at the front door, of sleeping right through the noise. [...] He'd seemed to have trouble hearing her when she told him she didn't want to be disturbed; it wouldn't take much to make him forget. (Faber, 2000, p.93)For her, her space is threatened by other creatures, and she feels vulnerable in this different environment. Her fear of others intruding on her, or more precisely, her personal space, indicates that she does not feel safe. This could explain nature's relationship with other creatures, as the Isserley exploitation of humans is similar in some ways to the exploitation of nature by humans. All of the above exploitation of the environment and human bodies has one result, which is the supreme authority, where the strong exploit the weak in a world similar to the brutal law of the jungle. What happened to her body was also considered exploitation of her body during the surgical operation. This serves as another indication that she is a victim as well. Her fear of looking at the surgery represents an abuse of higher authority for an unjustified purpose. What is happening to Isserley can be compared to the environmental violations that occur on Earth. In addition, this conflict represents a hybrid between machine and human, nature and industry. Her body represents a threat to both humans and machines because she has the characteristics of both.[A] bleary-eyed Isserley squinted up at a vast electronic traffic sign that said TIREDNESS CAN KILL: TAKE A BREAK. It was a self- confessedly 'experimental' sign [...]. Today, she smiled ruefully at the sign's advice. It was true: she was tired, and she ought to take a break. To be reminded of this by a soulless machine was funny, in a way - but easier to obey. She'd never been very good at listening to advice when it came from her fellow human beings (Faber, 2000, p.116).Technology controls the joints of life and nature. Traffic signals and their control over the movement of people and others is a manifestation of control. Therefore, technology dominates the lives of humans, machines and nature. Even Isserley is subject to this control, despite having common characteristics with technology. Human dependence on technology can come with several concessions to human nature and the environment. As shown in the above quote, the soul is absent from the place due to the non-human presence that runs human life. No matter how advanced a machine is, it lacks the soul that distinguishes humans from other things in this universe. This character is a victim of the industrial consumer world. Environmental issues also arise from our dependence on technology. So, that man has already begun or surrendered to the temporary comfort that technology offers. Even she ignores human advice and pursues technology, which indicates that this hybrid person sometimes leans towards the industrial side. On the other hand, it can be interpreted as being isolated from the human world. She embodies this conflict between the natural and the artificial, which is often never-ending.WHEN ISSERLEY FINALLY clawed her way back to the surface from a black hole of sleep, she opened her eyes to find that it was still dark. Floating in a void, her little clock's digital numbers were feeble and flickering, and said zero [...]. The internal power source needed replacing [...].She lay tangled in the bedclothes, confused, disoriented and mildly anxious [...]. She'd let things veer a little out of control lately; she must restore some order at the earliest opportunity (Faber, 2000, p.142)Again, in the above quote, she is relying on technology that is failing her rather than her natural other half. This is embodied in her reliance on the electronic clock that fails to wake her up. Here, the semi-automatic nature of her body that controls her personality at these times is highlighted. The clock represents the weakness of the inanimate automatic system, as its repeated reliance on a precession puts it in an unenviable position. Although the electronic system is advanced, it is ultimately not live and can be subject to malfunction and procrastination, which causes problems with uncountable consequences. Her attempt to control the situation undoubtedly comes from the human half of her, who is more experienced in dealing with problems. Therefore, this point opens the door to the question of whether technological progress needs a lot to reach the natural human capacity. Environmentally, this industrial presence directly threatens nature, as reliance on machines will cause more disregard for nature. In addition, Isserley's human half is threatened by her artificial half. Her anxiety can be interpreted as a disharmony between the artificial and the natural, creating an incomprehensible imbalance. From all of the above, it becomes clear that the writer is trying to illuminate the dangers that could occur if artificial intelligence takes over the joints of life.she could tell from

that infuriating grimace of pity on his face. Typical man: so obsessed with his own idealism he was incapable of feeling empathy for a human being suffering right under his nose [...]. Isserley stepped clear of the lift, determined not to humiliate herself in front of him. A few moments ago, she'd felt like burying her face in the soft black fur of his neck, clinging to his perfectly balanced body; now she felt like killing him. (Faber, 2000, p.١٦٧)In relation to the above quote, the hybrid character is faced with the reality of being a machine in origin and the acquired feelings of his new human half. As a machine, she has a specific goal that she must fulfil. As a woman, she acquires complex feelings and emotions that are incomprehensible to her non-human half. The look on her face towards the man indicated that a machine was controlling this body. Humans are a complex mix of emotions and decisions that are sometimes inexplicable. It is, therefore, difficult for a machine to understand this complexity, mainly if it follows orders and operates stably. The machine is pre-prepared to understand ideas and symbols in a way that helps to give clear and correct results, and any other ideas outside this formulation are considered incomprehensible. For a hybrid being, the matter is understandable, as psychological factors and the environment sometimes stabilise the acceptance or understanding of the self. Being on a mission for a long time creates in her the desire to communicate with others because of her loneliness, and thus, this will create a kind of attraction or the opposite toward others. On the other hand, her human half longs for nature, as her longing to be in harmony with this new world makes her more curious. In addition, criticising men can symbolise criticising humans because they often prioritise humans at the expense of nature. There was a hitcher in her sights. She drove past him. She was looking for big muscles. Puny, scrawny specimens were no use to her. This one was puny and scrawny […]. The physical world did not exist for her, apart from the ribbon of grey tarmac on which she was driving. Nature was a distraction. She refused to be distracted (Faber, 2000, p.197)She once again sees this person from the perspective of a machine, stripped of feelings and morals. She sees him as just an object to complete her mission. Her scale of the intruder is based on several criteria, including physical strength, height and age. Therefore, these criteria are far removed from human feelings and logic. The robot is far from an individual, as its decisions come from another source that motivates it to do the work. The machine lives an oppressive and miserable life but without awareness due to the lack of human sensory elements. The machine elements overpower the human characteristics she possesses. At some point, Isserley finds herself in the middle between what she is essentially a machine and what she should feel like as a human being. Sometimes, we see her merging with nature, sometimes rejecting nature; other times, her robotic side overwhelms her, and other times, she appears as a human being full of feelings. All of this causes her an internal and external conflict that makes her identity a mixture of disturbances and contradictory feelings.FOLDING HER ARMS across her breasts, palms on shoulders, and closing her eyes, Isserley allowed herself to slip under the water […]. She felt her hair swirl up towards the surface as her heavy little skull sank like a stone. The world disappeared into darkness, and the familiar sounds of Ablach Farm were swallowed up into a numb aquatic murmur (Faber, 2000, p.٢٥٠)The scene when Isserley submerges herself in the sea provides fertile ground, emphasizing the protagonist's nuanced connection with both her identity and her surroundings. When she dives into the lake, she represents a break from the hectic industrial environment of the farm. She begins with the sensory perception of nature and blends with it to generate feelings far from being a semi-machine. She also wonders why it makes sense for humans and fish to go to the sea at this cold time of year. When she lives among humans, it is entirely different from what it was, as she begins to feel things she has never experienced. She is still learning what it is to be physically and psychologically human. This character is a victim of the industrial consumer world. The bodily motion of bending her arms conveys a defensive and reflective posture, signifying a need to withdraw inside in the face of outside chaos. The weight of her body due to the water as a result of minerals is an image of the environmental pollution occurring in the world. The reason is due to industry and the reliance on industrial materials in daily life. The writer gives two points of view, one related to the environment and the other to the machine. This contradiction is a feeling that the heroine feels throughout the parts of her journey. During these dimensions of this character, one delves into the depths of the hybrid, who carries both human and machine qualities. In addition to the feelings resulting from the overlap of these qualities, they create a unique negative or positive atmosphere. Her movement between worlds overwhelms her personality, as she is an image of the being who blends between these worlds.Although the novel is science fiction, it cannot be denied that it predicts the present and the future that could be like this. Dystopia is itself a warning about what scientific experiments can lead to if they exaggerate and ignore nature’s important role (Cooke & Booker, 1996, p.770). Therefore, there must be a well-thought-out balance between nature and inventions that would limit the role of nature. At the novel’s end, she is involved

in an accident that causes her serious injury. It happens next to the forest, where nature blends with her to form the end of this world for her and the beginning of eternity with nature. She could have called for help, but she preferred to end her suffering. Ending her life is an indication of the high sensory perception that humans often have. Throughout its existence on Earth, it acquired human characteristics in terms of external and internal form. In addition, for the first time, she has freedom of choice, as she usually only carries out orders. She felt taken advantage of all the time, and this ending was a release from all the restrictions imposed on her. She defies her original world and refuses to remain a mere machine that carries out orders to become immortal by merging with nature, as this act makes her far from being a machine. She wants a great connection that is not bound by a specific time or world. The phrase "Here I come" embodies her complete belief in the goodness of her decision, as she imagines leaving this complicated body (Faber, 2000, p. 296).

Conclusion

Through his literary acumen, Faber depicts what might happen in a world in which there is a machine with control capabilities similar to humans. At first, he depicts how a machine comes to Earth on a specific mission. To ensure the mission's success, a surgical procedure is conducted to make this machine resemble a human. This change in external appearance raises many questions for this creature, keeping it in turmoil throughout its journey on Earth. Isserley struggles during her mission as she begins to feel things she has never experienced due to her new human half. These feelings affect her being a machine as the conflict between the two identities begins throughout her exploratory journey. Fabre, through his heroine, shows the conflict between the natural and the artificial. This conflict between the two in modern times is one of the most disturbing topics in studies and literature. What is interestingly eye-catching is that throughout the novel, the author transforms his heroine from a machine whose only mission is to kill into a being full of feelings. The credit, of course, goes primarily to nature, which has enchanted this creature that lacked much life. The ending is the most extraordinary proof that nature can do a lot. Isserley's abandonment of her body in the middle of nature is a blatant act against artificial life. This indicates the necessity for man to return to nature from which he was initially created. Hybrid identities can influence literary and environmental discourse, at least in the long term. With the advancements taking place worldwide, there is an urgent need to understand the nature of machines and study them from an environmental and literary perspective. Therefore, hybrid identity will have a significant impact on literary and environmental studies in the future.

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