

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/367334817>

# Technological Singularity: A Transhuman Speculative Study of Ramez Naam's Nexus

Article · September 2022

---

CITATIONS

0

READS

60

2 authors, including:



V.L. Jayapaul

St. Joseph's College (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University), Tiruchchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India

1 PUBLICATION 0 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

**Technological Singularity: A Transhuman Speculative Study of  
Ramez Naam's *Nexus***

**S. DINESH NATHAN**

*Full-Time PhD Scholar,*

Department of English, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous),

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University,

Trichy, TamilNadu, India, 620020

dinaalegacy@gmail.com

&

**DR. V.L. JAYAPPAUL**

*Head & Assistant Professor,*

PG & Research Department of English,

St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), affiliated to Bharathidasan University,

Trichy, TamilNadu, India, 620002

Jayaapaul@gmail.com

**Abstract:**

Innovation created a great impact right from 21<sup>st</sup> century, in all the aspects of life, societies and customs. It has worked on mankind in incalculable ways. At present, innovation performs an inevitable part in individual's everyday life that has become unbelievable to imagine a future-society with absence of innovation. Despite the fact that, it tends to be viewed as an answer for most human issues and comfort, moreover it has obtained its negative abilities to adjust the very human personality. Due to the advancement of innovation, the mankind species have stepped into the state of cyberpunk where the innovative gadgets like cell phones, PCs have turned into an another brain of the body, which may, in turn, become a danger or the human develop into a transhuman. People turned out to be increasingly more reliant upon innovation which gradually fuses with and modifies the exceptional human condition to turn into a 'Seventh Kingdom of life'. As PC and Artificial Intelligence progress over mechanical advancement, the chance of the 'Technological Singularity' is extremely close. Ramez Naam's *Nexus* forecasts this possible chance of human race blending or converging innovation into complicated, interconnected, reliant species: the 'Technium', soon evolving into transhuman creatures. The research attempts to feature the attainable technological singularity, which totally modifies the human personality to another species structure as "transhumans". To justify the concept of transhuman speculative, Ramez Naam's *Nexus* has been taken into consideration.

**Keywords:** *Transhuman, Technium, Seventh Kingdom, innovation, Technological singularity, Transhuman speculative, Artificial Intelligence.*

Ramez Naam's novels are mostly genetic, cybernetic and innovation which permit people to connect their brain straightaway with each other, plot loaded up with translating images, codes, expressions and collaborations. His recital manages with socio-political, authentic, religious, just as environmental interrelations of mankind existence with innovative, logical and biomedical creations. In the sequels, *More Than Human* and *The Infinite Re-*

*source*, Naam differentiates the biological enhancement of the human mind and its body and he further explains the state of human and transhuman stages by developing the human knowledge and its abilities. In *Nexus* trilogy, he progresses onto a transhuman state of a future in absence of mankind species or with modified mankind species.

In *Nexus*, Naam dives both into the prior and eventual destiny of life, advancement of life grounded by the laws of material science from the earlier stage, to the development of mankind species and the future of mankind has been adjusted from its originality and made them into transhumans. He presents an eventual fate of mankind during a time when innovation control over mankind and fuses them into another synthesis, indistinguishable transhuman being: the 'Technium'. The entity of Technium was first presented by Kevin Kelly in his work "*What Technology Wants?*" He calls 'the Technium' as the collection of all the advanced innovations as the "Seventh Kingdom of Life." The six realms of life being called as Archaeobacteria, Fungi, Protista, Eubacteria, Animalia, Plantae. Kelly affirms that the 'Technium' is self-coordinating and it needs, wants and dependents upon the advancement. The research tries to compare the concept of Transhuman as one of the 'Seven Kingdom of life'. It tends to be obvious, that machines, today, in all actuality do have advanced after Darwin's theory of *Survival of the fittest* by continually adjusting to changes and circumstances, growing new limits and highlights for endurance and even it procreates as stated by the developing world to dominate the accessible assets. Like the Cambrian Explosion which brought the unexpected ejection of life, presence of a large portion of the species in the planet within short-term, for the moment the world is seeing the Cambrian Explosion of Technium. New innovations are being created and each new innovation assists with making other new innovations. For example, the actual innovation of PC has assisted the mankind with making new mechanism like spacecraft, mobile phones, jetpacks, cyborg to artificial intelligence. In any case, it must be perceived that the mankind are the makers of the 'Technium', the 'Seventh Kingdom of Life'.

The innovation is emerged out of the human brain. It is the human's thoughts and contemplations that overflow into the planet as innovation. Mankind makes subjects, innovation as per their will. Mankind revamps the data fact by developing new structure of higher association of innovation. Instance, the general concept of cell phones today which empowers individuals to send their line of thinking through messages, emails, vocalise, and recorded video messages and phone calls beyond seas and heaven to others as an accurate brain to brain contact is in itself a solid evidence that innovation is component for mankind. It keeps up with the shoulder and the builds continuity sequence. So, despite the fact that mankind made the innovation, their over association with it causes more evident fragment of mankind and modifies their actual mankind subject and character. It proves the chance of human development into the transhuman other by combining with the innovation. The Technium is the super-organism of innovation and transhuman of mankind. It is the combination of mankind and innovation. It is *endosymbiosis*, the combination of two breed into a single breed. Usually, evolution is a parting, dividing, isolating cycle, for instance a breed or living-being parts into two new breeds and develop further independently. Yet, in a few uncommon events it requires the condition that two species cannot remain-alive without one another, so the development cycle happens backward and rather of one breed isolating or parting into two, two breeds wires into one breed. Furthermore, this combination of mankind and innovation is

now occurring at everyday life. One would have the option to observe it when one investigates the present existence where individuals are stuck to their cell phones, utilising wireless headsets, VR goggles, online-shopping and exchanges.

Ramez Naam's *Nexus* deals with the one extreme foundational question that have lured mankind since we initially come to self-awareness: "We can do it with wires and with radios. Why not with something you swallow? As long as it gets into the brain..." (*Nexus*, 20) Ramez believes that it is the mankind's beginning and future. In *Nexus*, similar to rest of Naam's novels Kaden Lane plays the vital role to leave on a hazardous experience. After several incident the novel takes a turn, Kade's discovery of a nano-drug called nexus which allows people to connect their minds to each other and share thoughts, feelings, and conversations without actually talking. It can mentally communicate and share mind with someone who has taken the drug. It allows people to connect. It is a show of disclosure on the fate of humankind which subverts the actual foundations of strict confidence, conviction and attempts to demonstrate God isn't required for creation. Kade also discovers how to keep nexus permanently in the brain, as well as how to keep brain structures which produces to create an operating system, and write code thus changing human abilities. Such a technology will obviously be used for good and bad. The author, at one point, shapes and shows some characters who wants to eradicate the nexus and some who just want to exploit it.

Thereafter, *Nexus* was uncovered in Kade's introduction that life advanced from the fundamental laws of physical science in the primordial soup and lacking the necessity of God. Kade with the assistance of Rangan, creates and demonstrates nexus, The nano-drug which builds the connection between minds; The author indirectly expresses the role of nexus is transforming the human race to transhuman. It tries to express that transhuman being is not evolved out of artificial creation, moreover it makes us to believe that the transformation is part of the natural tendency. Hence the author comes with the foundational question of 'why not', "We can do it with wires and with radios. Why not with something you swallow?" (*Nexus*, 20). He further writes the eventual fate of mankind by adjustment of mankind's personality and likely to develop further into a transhuman The 'Technium' "We are now in the life Extension Era" (*Transhumanism: what is it?*, 01). Kade uncovers that the fate of mankind is in the edge of termination as another species suddenly advanced and totally eradicated humankind from earth. Therefore, the 'Technium' can be called as one of the kingdom of life. The research further goes deep into the concept of Technological Singularity which is invented by Vernor Vinge. The nanotechnology is consisted as one the key extensions that will get the singularity happen. 'Technological Singularity' represents the state of technology where it is taken by the upper hand, not in the right sense.

Technological Singularity is a possible, speculative future when advances create out of hand and becomes irreversible bringing about limitless, inconceivable changes to human existence, matter, and character. It alludes to a chance in Rupert Wyatt's *Rise of the Planet of Apes*- A movie where hyper-savvy beings have excluded human knowledge guiding people into a transhuman future. The technological singularity theory in fact acts as an insight blast, an incredibly smart, self-upgradable keen specialist like a super PC with a product customised artificial intelligence which in the long run self-advance with genius which outperforms human knowledge have a danger to mere mankind life and endurance. In *Nexus*, Kade's

“Super-Drug” has a capacity to turn a human with such a ton more prominent ability. It leads to have a decision and opportunity but at last it ends up being the bad egg. It can likewise be seen that it outperforms all the human insight.

This opens up the chance of transhuman speculative investigation of the book. Transhuman Speculative investigates the various manners by which transhuman belief interconnects with current speculative fiction. It is worried about mankind's anxiousness over our innovative and biomedical investigations and developments and their ability to modify our view of being a human. It additionally focuses on human's anxiety toward turning into the Transhuman the 'Technium' with connections with advancements. Transhuman Speculative fiction investigates the logical and mechanical advancements on anti-aging, enhance longevity, artificial intelligence, mood, cognitive abilities, virtual environments, wearables, implantable technologies, genetic, cloning, nano-technology, nano-medicine, bio-technology, bioengineered transhumans and any access of producing superhuman being in a modern speculation in a daily scenarios which gives an hairy, attainable Transhuman future “The question is what shall we become?” (*Transhumanism: what is it?*, 03). The Transhuman theoretical future might involve the human or change the human personality which the book expresses. In *Nexus*, the silvery fluid has the capability of enhancing the human into transhuman. The character in *Nexus*, called Sam after consuming the nexus, experiences new opportunities, and new approaches to bridge between persons, and understand one-another thoughts. The novel demonstrates the human mind and neuroscience. Nexus is also used to communicate without words and actions as an extraordinary executional device but it was exploited by characters of Professor Somdev Phra Ananda, Professor Su-Yong Shu, Feng, in *Nexus*, and it was made to assassinate a person.

In *Nexus*, the nexus users, should be viewed as the speculative transhuman who endangers life, survival and lifestyle of mankind as it makes anyone enter into other users mind it controls men against one another. Like the character Sam asks Kade “what about other people who get their hands on this? You think they won't make slaves out of this? Suicide troops? Sex slaves? Worshippers?” (*Nexus*, 66). And she also says “once the genie is out of the bottle, you can't control what they do” (*Nexus*, 69). As like she expected, Lobsang Tulku, a buddhist monk who never have handled a gun in his lifetime, has made headshots without missing even a one shot. Even, character Becker mentions it as- “Lobsang had no history of using firearms, he'd never even touched a gun until a week before this event. Yet his marksmanship was impeccable. He fired six times, twice for each of the two bodyguards, and twice for the Dalai Lama. Everyone was a headshot. He didn't miss with a single bullet. I believe that someone turned this man into a kind of puppet and used him to commit a political assassination.” (*Nexus*, 90). He performed a political execution. It clearly shows he has been controlled by a mind control of Nexus user. Speculative transhuman is the negative transhuman character under the class transhuman speculation.

The Transhuman Speculation is worried about the mankind's curiousness over mechanical and biomedical trials and creations and their capacity to modify impression of being a human and change human subject and character. It additionally focuses on the feeling of dread towards into the Transhuman 'Technium'. It shall be viewed, in the novel, as it predicts the chance of "Technological Singularity" in the close destiny when mankind combine or

fuse with innovation to form a transhuman existence: the 'Technium', which is mentioned before. *Nexus* additionally broadens the innovative, bio-clinical, logical possible chance of transhumanist upgrading of human in their everyday existence with mechanical devices, artificial limb implants and enhancement in the human body even to the stretch of everlasting status through mind transferring or moving consciousness of mankind into a man-made body.

At last, the novel interconnects these transhuman ideologies and conceivable outcomes with contemporary Speculativism. The conventional Speculative Fiction is a reverse study generally with a fantasy setting and historical places to make a unimaginable theme, in contrast contemporary Speculativism is a head seeking study which makes the very same sci-fi and dystopia in the near future world which is in the daily lifestyle. Despite the fact that, there were enough of innovative focuses, speculative features like softwares, modes, sensors, digital keys and wearables threaten us a little with its features. The hazardous feel could be smelt throughout the book just from the Peter North mode, Nexus OS: A liquid's extension to neuroscience mind-controller as the speculativism that Kade and Sam follow. Thus, in contemporary Speculativism the sci-fi and dystopia is established in the near world with the actual storyline of the novel in Naam's *Nexus*.

Henceforth to conclude, the Transhuman Speculative components can be distinguished in Ramez Naam's *Nexus*. The research brings out the mutual connections between Contemporary Speculativism and Transhuman ambitions with the Probability of mankind transforming into the Transhuman being: the 'Technium', which frames the 'Seventh Kingdom of Life'. The researcher moreover tracks down the chance of 'Technological Singularity' and transhumanist-Posthuman 'Technium' with the assistance of millennium advancements "The question is what shall we become?" (*Transhumanism: what is it?*, 03). Furthermore, the researcher concludes the advancement of speculative Transhuman Enhancer like nexus is more danger than a helpful aid to the human beings survival and lifestyle which are being discussed in Ramez Naam's *Nexus*.

#### **Works Cited:**

1. Braidotti, Rosi, Maria Hlavajova. *Posthuman Glossary*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2018.
2. Braidotti, Rosi. *The Posthuman*. Oxford: Polity Press, 2012.
3. Naam, Ramez. *Nexus*. Angry Robot, 2012
4. Vita-More, Natasha. *Transhumanism; what is it?*, Bowker, 2018
5. Sorgner, Stefan Lorenz. "Beyond Humanism: Trans- and Posthumanism / Jenseits des Humanismus: Trans- und Posthumanismus". *Beyond Humanism: Trans- and Posthumanism / Jenseits des Humanismus: Trans- und Posthumanismus*. Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang D, 2011. <<https://www.peterlang.com/view/serial/BEYHU>>. Web.
6. Wikipedia.2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technological\\_singularity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technological_singularity). Accessed 11 Nov. 2019
7. Edge. 2019. [https://www.edge.org/conversation/kevin\\_kelly-the-technium-and-the-7th-kingdom-of-life](https://www.edge.org/conversation/kevin_kelly-the-technium-and-the-7th-kingdom-of-life). Accessed 11 Nov. 2019