Famous Victorian critic Matthew Arnold wrote an essay entitled ‘Literature and Science’. The essay discussed the relationship between literature and science. According to Arnold, “literature is the basic for ‘knowing ourselves and the world’, and science ‘it is one thing to just look at literature.’” It means that science is only a part of the literature. Many past writers have written on the relationship of literature and science. D.H. Lawrence, a renowned novelist compared literature with other disciplines like science, medical and philosophy. According to him, science studies human being in its partial form, whereas literature studies a human being in its full form.

No matter science and technology profoundly affected the production and reception of literature. Technology is a major player in this connection. There is a great fear taking the wider impact of technology on written literature. The question is being asked, why we should continue with the current form of literature. Rapidly growing influence of technology has altered the way in which we live and think. The cultural, social, and economic life of man has drastically changed.

Technology, inescapably impacts our lives, even more strikingly than any other discipline. We are related directly
to the use of technology and not with the theories and philosophies. As we are aware, literature follows culture. The literature adopted technical changes to keep pace with pressing needs of the time. Since the invention of various techniques in writing i.e. paper, ink, printing press, binding, circulation, literature got changed. The change was not limited to the technical things but also the very production and reception of literature. Various writers either used technology or made it as their subject matter of their creation. Technology becomes the part of the environment within which literature works.

Since the very existence of literature, technology has been remained a subject of literature. The word technology has its root in Greek word ‘techne’, means ‘craft’ or ‘making’. Literature being a creation, or making something new, has strong relationship with technology. The later part of the word, ‘ology’ means, ‘an intellectual discourse or a system’. The word technology first appeared. Even for Martin Heidegger, technology is, ‘a form of consciousnesses. It is evident that technology is a subject of literature.

Chaucer to the Post-Modernist authors shown technology in various forms in literature. These writers depicted technology as their subject matter and same was shown as a service of transformation to the humanity. The transformation technology brought has some positive and negative impacts on society in general and literature in particular.

Firstly, the positive impacts of technology on literature should be discussed. Writing and publishing imaginative literature was not an easy task in the past. It was a laborious work for writers, editors and publishers. However technology, in recent times made all these things
quite easy and fast. The fast and effective communication is a reward of technology. It has offered a platform for writers to reach to the masses. Several books are published online in digital form. The response of readers to the digital copies is overwhelming. Frankfurt book fair in Oct 2010, is an evident of this tremendous response to the new form of books. That fair is characterized by the discussion of ‘digital rights’. It is agreed, that a book can be available online through e-reader or mobile. The old idea, publication means a ‘printed book’ is quite embarrassing. Publication is taking place in a virtual form. It has the tremendous potential to reach such readers who do not prefer to read. The online publication of books is attracting a large number of readers due to its presentation.

Giant players of technology taking much interest in the production and circulation of literature digitally. These players include Google, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Apple. The publication giant, Amazon has introduced its first e-reader as ‘Kindle’. There is an astounding experience of Amazon, that people prefer digital books than printed one. The novel, ‘The Girl with Dragon Tattoo’, published in 2008, turn out to be a bestseller thriller of the year. Around 10 Lakh online copies were sold out. The authors who have earned in a big amount were those who published their books online. These authors include Jamie Oliver, Julia Donnellson, James Peterson, and Jeff Kini.

An idea of publishing book online in India is not popular. Mandar Joglekar is trying to publish books online through his maiden enterprise ‘Bookganga’. Book fairs are turning to be a way to propagate an idea that online publication is not only possible task but also a very effective mean to reach to the masses expending less.
Technology and its devices have offered a unique platform for renowned authors as well to the common people. People are easily expressing themselves through means of electronic media like blog and social networking sites. There is a vogue; famous personalities are sharing their views with readers through blogs. These ways to reach to the people have been adopted by politicians, sportspersons, actors, social activists, industrialists and so on.

Technology enabled one to one correspondence between an author and a reader. This new way of communication is adding new dimensions to the literary fraternity. It is providing a healthy discussion about the reception and understanding literature in a better way among scholars, researchers and common readers.

Moreover the online reception of literature in academics is growing day by day. A large number of academic institutions are designing their courses online. These courses consist, course on literature, language, teaching, creative writing and so on. This availability of designing courses as per the hour will definitely bring fruitful results.

Researchers found a big reservoir of resources in the form of information which is available on internet. Sharing of digital information among researchers has opened a new horizon in the advancement of research. This will attract more scholars toward research.

Technology has opened new prospects to the field of translation. The development of translation was facing several impediments in the past. Non-availability of dictionaries, scarcity of reference books and limited resources were big hurdles in translation. As technology advanced, the process of translation got much easier.
Availability of online dictionaries, thesauruses, reference books, and resources made translation as an interesting work. Translation developed as one way of earning for new writers and editors. There are many software and tools, available online, facilitated the painstaking process of translation. This resulted numbers of books are getting translated into several languages.

Most of the successful directors of Hollywood and Bollywood have taken inspiration from several literary pieces. They look toward literature as their muse. Movie is the modern version of drama. Adaptations of classics are frequent. Drama was the leading genre of literature during Elizabethan age and Restoration Period. There was a gradual decline of drama from Augustan Age to the revival of drama by Eliot. Drama gained resurgence in the form of a movie. Movie is an outstanding example of modern technology, which has the capacity to reach even to illiterate ones.

Secondly, negative impacts of technology on literature should be addressed. It is upon us how we use technology. If we use it for destruction, it will bring holocaust as the case of two world wars. Extensive use of technology in Second World War caused great devastation of wealth and human lives. These two events characterized with technology altered the very ways of belief of human being. People were torn and confused due to the damage. The hard realities of contemporary society were highlighted in literature. We can experience the trauma, confusion, despair that technology caused, was palpable in modern literature.

The most admired thing of technology is TV. This is an effective way of communication. Now a day, TV is turning out to be a contaminated form of communication.
Sensation, hatred, conspiracy, violence, bloodshed are the some subjects which are addressed by TV operas, serials and programmes. There is a shortage of good programmes, which can promote good values among people. Most people prefer to see such filthy programmes than reading. TV is one of the alternatives of modern entertainment turning to be a major way of enjoyment for the people.

Industrial revolution created many problems such as slums, migration, urbanization, displacement, unemployment, identity, exploitation and pollution. This resulted due to the advancement of technology. The contemporary problems and probable solutions to them were taken up by artists. Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Robert Browning addressed these problems through literature. Modern and Post-modern writers are dealing the problems in a wider sense, in terms of race, exploitation, gender, identity, migration, pollution, marginality issues which are the outcome of modern technology.

Increasing pollution is a gift of technology to which we are accustomed. Many scientists and philosophers are warning the level of various forms of pollution. The problem of pollution is described through contemporary literature. An attempt is being made to aware people about pollution. There is a great need to address the problem properly so as to have a sustainable development.

There is a big danger relying more and more on technology. This will cease the power of innate thinking. It will badly affect and corrupt the minds of younger ones. They remain engrossed in the use of technology. They forget the world around them, when they are using a
device. Natural process of thinking may be at risk at the cost of technology. This will create many problems for later generations.

Various theories and isms are also the result of technology. An objective approach is developed along with technological advancements. Critics are trying to see literature in terms of language, race, gender, marginality, identity and so on.

The technological advancement is pervasive but the benefits of this are limited to a certain group of people. The group is using technology to strengthen their places. They are licensed to exploit poor people. And the very cultural superstructure is in their hands. Literature being a superstructure is controlled by such people. The problem of dominance of one community over another community is addressed in post-colonial literature.

Thirdly, a discussion of technology as a subject of literature is necessary. Technology is being considered by creative writers as a contrasting force to literature. This can be seen in Romantic poetry. Almost all classic literary texts depicted technology as a sinister. Many Victorian, Modern and Past-modern writers made technology as the subject matter for their literature. Early 19th century published novel of Mary Shelly’s, ‘Frankenstein’, is about a creature produced by scientific experiment. The novel is one of the earliest examples of Science Fiction. Advancement of science and technology in modern period compelled many artists for experimentation. The experimentation took place not only in literature but in various other arts like architecture, painting, music and sculpture. James Joyce and Virginia Woolf experimented in novel, while Eliot, Auden, and Pound produced new kind of poetry and drama was not exception for this. Samuel
Becket, T.S. Eliot, Albert Camus, Franz Kafka changed the ways of writing a drama. Technology does not bring only physical change but it changed the ways of thinking and living. Early 20th century decades were known for the unorthodox thoughts of Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud. These writers changed the set concepts of society, culture, selfhood, identity and so on.

Thomas Pynchon, an American novelist, depicted technology in a bizarre form. He was of the opinion, if we let ourselves as victim of technology, we are creating it’s our own predicament. Moreover his work concerns the strong relationship between technology and society. The use of technology is coupled with psychological dependencies upon technology we develop. Pynchon depicted the essential and reciprocal nature of contemporary society and its relation with technology. He disclosed nature in the continuous struggle between technologies advancement on us and our responses to the same.

Spy fiction treats, literature itself as a form of information whereas Juvenile fiction is the only genre to represent technology affirmatively. The children’s literature manifested technology benevolently.

Thus, literature and technology have impacted on each other. Literature has been remained as a witness of various changes since centuries. Many things got changed in the course of time. Literature also changed its means of production and reception. But it is having the same cult which had before wider the impact of technology.

It is not the question that literature will last or not. The imaginative literature always remained an integral part of the society. Despite various changes literature will serve its purpose as it was served in earlier times. However, it is
the big question in front of us, in which form literature will last is uncertain. I think the current book form will be replaced by a digital form.

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