

Negotiating Authorship and Creativity in AI-Assisted Poetry: A Critical Analysis of Contemporary Literary Debates

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Abstract. *The rapid advancement of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has generated significant debate regarding the future of literary creativity, authorship, and artistic legitimacy. While AI-assisted poetry has attracted increasing scholarly attention, fundamental questions concerning who creates literary texts, how creativity should be defined, and under what conditions AI-generated works can be recognized as literature remain unresolved. This study examines the evolving relationship between authorship and creativity in AI-assisted poetry through a qualitative analysis of contemporary scholarly debates and emerging theoretical perspectives. Drawing upon theories of authorship, reception aesthetics, and posthumanism, the study synthesizes recent research on generative AI and literary production to identify dominant conceptual transformations within the field. The findings reveal a transition from singular authorship toward distributed forms of creative agency, a shift from originality-centered creativity to generative co-creation, and the emergence of an Authenticity Paradox in which readers simultaneously question the authenticity of AI-generated poetry while recognizing its aesthetic value. The study further proposes the Authorship Continuum Model and a Negotiated Literary Legitimacy Framework to explain how literary value is increasingly constructed through interactions among writers, AI systems, readers, and cultural institutions. These findings suggest that AI-assisted poetry is reshaping foundational literary concepts and contributing to the emergence of new forms of creative and interpretive practice in the digital age.*

Keywords: *artificial intelligence; AI-assisted poetry; authorship; creativity; literary legitimacy; posthumanism; reader reception; digital literature*



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1. Introduction

The rapid development of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) has transformed the landscape of creative production, including the domain of literary writing. Large language models such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and other AI-based writing systems are increasingly capable of generating poems, short stories, essays, and other literary texts that exhibit linguistic fluency, stylistic consistency, and thematic coherence comparable to human-authored works. Recent scholarship indicates that the emergence of AI-generated literature has fundamentally altered conventional understandings of creativity, originality, and literary production, prompting scholars to reconsider the relationship between technology and human

imagination. Rather than functioning solely as technical tools, contemporary AI systems increasingly participate in the creative process by generating textual possibilities, suggesting narrative structures, and influencing stylistic decisions. Consequently, literary creation is no longer viewed exclusively as an individual human endeavor but as a collaborative process involving interactions between human and machine intelligence.

This transformation has revived long-standing debates concerning authorship and creative agency. Classical literary criticism traditionally positioned the author as the primary source of textual meaning and artistic authority. However, poststructuralist thinkers challenged this assumption by arguing that meaning emerges through interpretation rather than authorial intention. Barthes (1977), through his influential notion of the "death of the author," shifted attention from authorial authority to reader interpretation, while Foucault (1979) reconceptualized authorship as a discursive function rather than an individual identity. The rise of generative AI complicates these theoretical positions because literary texts are increasingly produced through human-machine collaboration, raising fundamental questions regarding ownership, accountability, and creative responsibility. Contemporary studies reveal that AI-generated writing has intensified debates about whether creativity should be attributed to the human prompter, the algorithmic system, or the collaborative interaction between both entities. Scholars have therefore begun to describe authorship in the age of AI as an "entangled" or distributed phenomenon that transcends traditional human-centered models of literary production.

Recent empirical findings further demonstrate that readers' perceptions of literary quality are closely linked to assumptions about authorship. Studies investigating AI-generated poetry reveal that readers frequently struggle to distinguish between poems written by humans and those generated by artificial intelligence. In several experiments, AI-generated poems were evaluated as equally compelling, and sometimes more favorably, than poems written by established human authors. However, evaluations often decline when readers become aware that a text was generated by AI, suggesting the presence of an authorship bias in aesthetic judgment. A reception experiment involving AI- and human-authored poetry found that perceptions of authorship significantly influenced literary evaluation even when textual quality remained constant. Similar findings indicate that aesthetic appreciation is not determined solely by textual features but is also shaped by readers' beliefs regarding creativity, authenticity, and authorial identity. These findings suggest that literary value is increasingly negotiated through complex interactions between textual experience and perceptions of creative agency.

The growing presence of AI in creative writing has also generated renewed interest in posthumanist perspectives on creativity. Posthumanist scholars argue that human creativity should not be understood as an isolated cognitive achievement but rather as an emergent process distributed across networks of humans, technologies, and cultural systems. Within this framework, AI functions not as a replacement for human creativity but as a creative partner that expands the possibilities of literary experimentation. Recent studies show that collaboration between humans and

generative AI can enhance creative performance, particularly during ideation and drafting stages, although concerns remain regarding originality, diversity of ideas, and artistic authenticity. Such findings indicate that creativity in the digital era increasingly emerges through collaborative assemblages rather than through the actions of a singular author. Consequently, literary studies require new conceptual frameworks capable of explaining how creativity is negotiated within human–AI interactions.

Despite the rapid growth of scholarship on AI-generated literature, several important gaps remain. Existing studies have predominantly focused on technological capabilities, textual comparisons, or educational applications of AI-assisted writing. Much less attention has been devoted to examining how readers and writers simultaneously negotiate concepts of creativity and authorship within literary production. Furthermore, empirical research remains heavily concentrated in Western contexts, leaving limited understanding of how these debates unfold within non-Western literary traditions and cultural environments. Indonesian literary culture provides a particularly important context for such investigation because poetry continues to occupy a central position in cultural expression, identity formation, and literary education. The increasing adoption of AI-assisted writing tools among students, emerging writers, and literary communities introduces new questions regarding originality, authenticity, and creative ownership that remain largely unexplored in Indonesian scholarship.

Accordingly, this study investigates the negotiation of authorship and creativity in AI-assisted poetry through a reader–writer reception framework. Drawing upon theories of authorship (Barthes, 1977; Foucault, 1979), reception aesthetics (Jauss, 1982; Iser, 1978), and posthuman creativity (Braidotti, 2013; Hayles, 1999), the study examines how Indonesian readers evaluate AI-assisted poetry and how writers perceive their creative relationship with generative AI systems. By integrating reader reception and writer perspectives within a single analytical framework, this research contributes to contemporary debates on literary creativity, expands discussions of human–AI collaboration beyond technological perspectives, and offers empirical evidence from an underrepresented cultural context. Such an approach provides a novel contribution to the emerging field of AI-assisted literary studies by demonstrating how literary value, creativity, and authorship are negotiated within the evolving ecology of human–machine cultural production.

2. Method

2.1. Research Design

This study employed a qualitative digital ethnographic approach combined with qualitative content analysis to investigate how authorship and creativity are negotiated in discussions surrounding AI-assisted poetry. The study was grounded in the assumption that contemporary literary debates increasingly occur within digital environments, where writers, readers, literary critics, and technology users actively exchange perspectives regarding artificial intelligence and creative production.

Digital ethnography was selected because it enables the examination of naturally occurring interactions within online communities without researcher intervention. Rather than relying on survey responses or experimental manipulation,

the study analyzed publicly available discussions in which participants articulated their views concerning AI-generated poetry, literary creativity, originality, and authorship.

The study was informed by reception aesthetics (Jauss, 1982; Iser, 1978), theories of authorship (Barthes, 1977; Foucault, 1979), and posthumanist perspectives on creativity (Hayles, 1999; Braidotti, 2013). These frameworks guided the interpretation of how participants constructed meanings regarding literary value and creative agency in the context of human-AI collaboration.

2.2. Data Sources

The data consisted of publicly accessible online discussions concerning AI-assisted poetry collected from multiple digital platforms, including Reddit, X (formerly Twitter), Medium, literary blogs, online magazines, discussion forums, and YouTube comment sections. These platforms were selected because they host active conversations involving readers, writers, poets, literary enthusiasts, and technology users.

Data collection focused on discussions published between January 2023 and March 2026, a period marked by the widespread public adoption of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and other large language models.

The search process employed combinations of keywords such as "AI poetry," "AI-generated poem," "creative writing with AI," "artificial intelligence and literature," "AI authorship," "poetry and ChatGPT," and "machine creativity." Only discussions directly addressing literary creation, authorship, creativity, originality, or reader responses were included in the dataset.

2.3. Data Selection Criteria

The inclusion criteria required that data:

1. Discuss AI-generated or AI-assisted poetry.
2. Contain explicit opinions, evaluations, or reflections regarding creativity or authorship.
3. Be publicly accessible.
4. Be written in English.
5. Demonstrate substantive engagement with the topic.

Data were excluded if they:

1. Consisted solely of promotional content.
2. Focused exclusively on technical aspects of AI systems.
3. Contained duplicate content.
4. Were unrelated to literary production.

2.4. Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis and thematic analysis. The analysis followed Braun and Clarke's six-stage procedure: familiarization, coding, theme generation, theme review, theme definition, and interpretation.

Initially, all texts were read repeatedly to identify recurring ideas and discursive patterns. Open coding was then conducted to capture statements related to authorship, originality, creativity, authenticity, literary value, emotional expression, and human-AI collaboration.

Codes sharing conceptual similarities were subsequently grouped into broader themes. The final themes were interpreted through the lenses of reception theory, authorship theory, and posthumanist creativity to explain how participants negotiated literary meaning in AI-assisted poetic production.

2.5. Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness was established through prolonged engagement with the dataset, iterative coding procedures, and continuous comparison between emerging themes and original textual evidence. Data triangulation was achieved by incorporating discussions from multiple digital platforms representing diverse communities and perspectives.

2.6. Ethical Considerations

The study utilized publicly available online content and did not involve direct interaction with participants. Usernames and identifiable information were removed during analysis to protect privacy. All data were reported in accordance with ethical guidelines for internet-mediated research.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. The Collapse of Singular Authorship: Mapping the Emerging Landscape of Literary Agency

The most significant finding emerging from the analysis concerns the gradual erosion of singular authorship as the dominant organizing principle of literary production. Across the reviewed corpus, authorship is no longer treated as a stable category exclusively associated with an individual writer. Instead, contemporary scholarship increasingly portrays literary creation as a distributed process involving interactions among human authors, generative systems, training datasets, algorithmic architectures, digital infrastructures, and interpretive communities. A comparative examination of the literature reveals that current debates on AI-assisted poetry can be organized into three broad paradigms of literary agency.

Table 1. Emerging Paradigms of Authorship in AI-Assisted Poetry

Paradigm	Position on Authorship	Role of AI	Source of Creative Agency
Human-Centric Authorship	Authorship exclusively human	remains Instrument tool	or Human intentionality
Collaborative Authorship	Authorship is shared	Creative partner	Human-AI interaction
Distributed Authorship	Authorship is networked	Participatory actor	Human-technology assemblage

The Human-Centric paradigm continues to dominate traditional literary criticism. Studies adopting this perspective argue that AI cannot qualify as an author because it lacks intentionality, consciousness, self-awareness, and lived experience. Under this framework, AI-generated outputs remain extensions of human creativity rather than independent creative acts.

By contrast, the Collaborative Authorship paradigm acknowledges that AI systems increasingly contribute to textual generation, stylistic variation, metaphor

construction, and narrative development. Here, literary production is understood as a co-creative process in which humans and machines jointly shape textual outcomes. The writer functions less as a sole creator and more as a curator, editor, and creative director.

The Distributed Authorship paradigm represents the most transformative position. Rather than locating creativity within either humans or machines, this framework conceptualizes literary production as emerging from an assemblage of actors, including datasets, algorithms, interfaces, prompts, cultural archives, and reader interpretations. Within this perspective, authorship becomes a relational effect rather than an individual possession.

These findings suggest that contemporary literary culture is witnessing a gradual transition from ownership-based models of authorship toward participation-based models of creativity. The significance of this shift extends beyond technological innovation, as it challenges one of the foundational assumptions of modern literary theory: the existence of a singular creative source.

3.2. From Originality to Generativity: Reconstructing the Meaning of Creativity

The second major finding concerns a profound transformation in the conceptual foundations of creativity. Historically, creativity has been associated with originality, individual expression, imagination, and innovation. However, the emergence of generative AI has destabilized these assumptions by demonstrating that systems lacking consciousness can nevertheless produce texts widely perceived as creative.

Analysis of the literature reveals that contemporary scholarship increasingly distinguishes between originality and generativity. While originality refers to the production of novel ideas attributable to an individual creator, generativity refers to the capacity of a system to continuously generate meaningful variations, possibilities, and creative outcomes.

Table 2. Shifting Conceptions of Creativity

Traditional Creativity	Emerging Generative Creativity
Individual achievement	Collaborative process
Human imagination	Human-AI interaction
Originality	Generativity
Personal expression	Iterative production
Creative ownership	Creative participation

The distinction between originality and generativity represents a major epistemological shift within literary studies. Under traditional frameworks, literary value depends upon the uniqueness of authorial expression. In AI-assisted environments, however, value increasingly derives from the ability to generate productive interactions between human imagination and computational systems.

A recurring observation across the literature is that many AI-assisted poems do not achieve literary significance because of machine autonomy but because they enable new forms of experimentation. Writers frequently describe AI as a source of unexpected metaphors, unconventional linguistic associations, and alternative poetic

structures. Consequently, creativity is increasingly understood not as a possession but as a process.

This transition suggests that contemporary literary culture may be moving toward a posthuman conception of creativity in which the boundaries separating human and machine contributions become progressively less important than the quality of the creative interaction itself.

3.3. The Authenticity Paradox: Why Readers Distrust AI Yet Appreciate Its Poetry

One of the most persistent tensions identified in the literature concerns the relationship between authenticity and aesthetic appreciation. Across diverse studies, readers consistently express skepticism regarding the authenticity of AI-generated poetry while simultaneously recognizing its aesthetic quality, emotional resonance, and literary sophistication. This contradiction gives rise to what may be termed the **Authenticity Paradox**.

Table 3. The Authenticity Paradox in AI-Assisted Poetry

Perception of AI	Reader Response
AI lacks emotion	AI poems evoke emotion
AI lacks experience	AI poems appear meaningful
AI lacks creativity	AI poems are perceived as original
AI cannot be an author	AI poems resemble literature
AI lacks authenticity	Readers appreciate AI poetry

The paradox emerges because readers continue to associate authenticity with lived experience, emotional suffering, personal memory, and subjective consciousness. These characteristics remain deeply embedded within traditional understandings of literature. Consequently, many readers hesitate to recognize AI-generated poetry as fully authentic regardless of its textual quality.

However, empirical studies repeatedly demonstrate that readers often fail to distinguish AI-generated poems from human-authored poems when identifying information is removed. In several cases, readers evaluate AI-generated texts as equally compelling or aesthetically superior to human-produced poetry. This discrepancy suggests that judgments regarding authenticity are shaped less by textual experience and more by assumptions concerning the nature of authorship itself.

The Authenticity Paradox therefore exposes a fundamental contradiction within contemporary literary culture. Readers increasingly evaluate texts according to aesthetic criteria while simultaneously maintaining philosophical commitments to human-centered models of creativity. The coexistence of these positions illustrates the transitional nature of current literary debates.

3.4. The Reader-Centered Turn: Literary Value Beyond Authorial Identity

A fourth major finding concerns the growing importance of readers in determining literary legitimacy. While traditional debates focus primarily on authorship and creative production, the reviewed studies increasingly emphasize reception as the decisive arena in which literary value is negotiated.

The literature demonstrates that readers function not merely as consumers of literary texts but as active participants in the construction of meaning, authenticity, and legitimacy. This shift reflects a broader movement toward reception-oriented frameworks that prioritize interpretation over authorial intention.

Table 4. Dimensions of Reader-Centered Literary Evaluation

Dimension	Central Question
Aesthetic Quality	Is the poem artistically effective?
Emotional Resonance	Does the poem evoke feeling?
Interpretive Depth	Does the poem generate meaning?
Authenticity	Does the poem appear genuine?
Literary Legitimacy	Does the poem deserve recognition as literature?

Across the reviewed studies, readers consistently evaluate literary texts through multiple dimensions simultaneously. While authorial identity remains important, it no longer functions as the sole determinant of literary value. Instead, readers increasingly prioritize textual performance, emotional impact, and interpretive richness.

This development suggests the emergence of a reader-centered turn in AI-assisted literary debates. Rather than asking whether AI can be creative, scholars increasingly ask how readers interpret and respond to AI-generated texts. The focus therefore shifts from production to reception, from authorship to interpretation, and from intention to experience.

Such findings resonate strongly with reception aesthetics, which argues that literary meaning emerges through interactions between texts and readers rather than through authorial control alone.

3.5. Toward an Authorship Continuum Model

Synthesizing the findings across the literature, this study proposes an Authorship Continuum Model to explain how contemporary scholarship conceptualizes literary agency in AI-assisted poetry. Unlike binary frameworks that oppose human and machine creativity, the model conceptualizes authorship as a continuum characterized by varying degrees of human and technological participation.

Table 5. Authorship Continuum Model

Position	Dominant Creative Actor
Human Authorship	Human writer
AI-Assisted Authorship	Human writer with AI support
Collaborative Authorship	Shared human–AI contribution
Distributed Authorship	Human–technology assemblage

The continuum illustrates that literary production increasingly occurs within hybrid environments where creative agency is negotiated rather than predetermined. As the level of technological participation increases, conventional distinctions between creator, tool, collaborator, and medium become progressively less stable.

Importantly, the model does not predict the disappearance of human authorship. Instead, it suggests that literary creation is entering a period of diversification in which multiple forms of authorship coexist simultaneously. Human-authored poetry, AI-assisted poetry, collaborative poetry, and distributed forms of literary production are likely to remain interconnected components of future literary ecosystems.

The Authorship Continuum Model therefore provides a theoretical framework capable of integrating apparently contradictory positions within current scholarship. Rather than viewing AI as either a threat or a replacement for human creativity, the model conceptualizes literary production as an evolving field of negotiation involving humans, machines, texts, and readers.

3.6. A New Conceptual Framework: Negotiated Literary Legitimacy

The changing landscape of creativity due to the presence of generative artificial intelligence not only affects the process of creating poetry, but also shifts the understanding of who can be called an author. Recent literature shows that the relationship between humans and technology in literary production is no longer binary, that is, between creators and tools, but rather forms an increasingly complex spectrum of engagement. In this context, this study developed **the Authorship Continuum Model** to explain how the author's position moves from full human domination to an increasingly distributed form of creativity through collaboration with AI systems. This model is based on a synthesis of various theoretical debates regarding authorship, creativity, and literary legitimacy in the era of artificial intelligence.

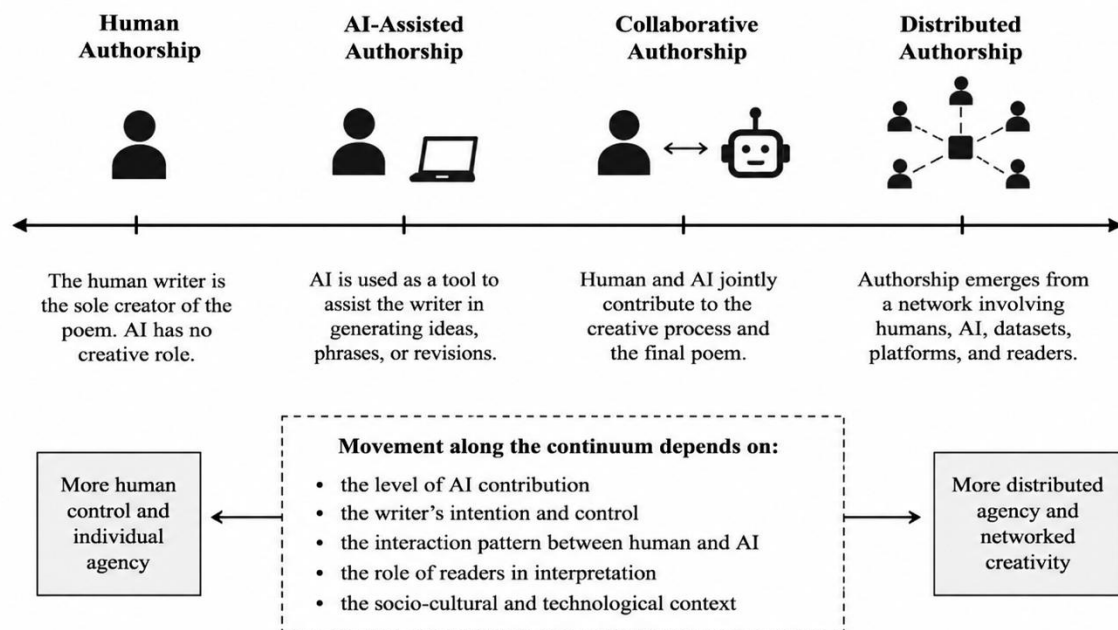


Figure 1. Authorship Continuum Model in AI-Assisted Poetry

The model in Figure 1 illustrates the spectrum of authorship evolution in artificial intelligence-assisted poetry, ranging from *Human Authorship*, *AI-Assisted Authorship*, *Collaborative Authorship*, to *Distributed Authorship*. The shift in position on the spectrum is influenced by the level of AI contribution, the author's control and intention, the pattern of human-AI interaction, the role of the reader in the

interpretation process, and the social, cultural, and technological context surrounding the creative process.

Figure 1 shows that authorship in AI-assisted poetry can no longer be understood as a single category that is static. At the left end of the spectrum, *Human Authorship* represents a traditional paradigm that places humans as the sole source of creativity and meaning. In this paradigm, the entire creation process, from conceptualization to text structuring, is under the author's full control. AI, if used, only serves as a technical tool with no significant creative contribution.

As technology involvement increases, comes the *AI-Assisted Authorship phase*, where AI functions as a support for the creative process through the provision of ideas, diction alternatives, metaphors, or the development of poetry structures. Nonetheless, the main control still rests with the human writer. The next stage, *Collaborative Authorship*, shows a more intensive form of collaboration. In this phase, the text of the poem is generated through the mutual interaction between humans and AI, so that creative contributions can no longer be strictly separated. The author acts as a director and editor, while AI acts as a generative partner that also influences the final form of the work.

At the right end of the spectrum is *Distributed Authorship*, which is the most progressive paradigm in contemporary literature. In this model, creativity is no longer considered to come from a specific individual, but rather emerges from a network of actors involving humans, AI, training datasets, digital platforms, algorithms, and a community of readers. Thus, authorship is understood as the result of negotiations that take place within the broader creative ecosystem. These findings suggest that the development of AI does not eliminate the role of human authorship, but rather drives a conceptual transformation from individual-centered authorship to collaborative and distributed authorship.

Theoretically, this model reinforces the argument that the main debate in AI-assisted literature no longer focuses on the question of whether AI can write poetry, but rather on how creativity, authority, and literary legitimacy are negotiated in the increasingly complex relationship between humans and technology. Therefore, *the Authorship Continuum Model* offers a new conceptual framework for understanding the paradigm shift in authorship in the era of generative artificial intelligence while bridging classical humanistic perspectives with contemporary posthumanistic approaches.

4. Conclusion

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence has fundamentally transformed contemporary understandings of literary production, challenging long-established assumptions concerning authorship, creativity, authenticity, and literary legitimacy. This study demonstrates that AI-assisted poetry should not be interpreted merely as a technological innovation but as a cultural and theoretical phenomenon that compels literary studies to reconsider some of its most foundational concepts. The findings reveal a clear shift from singular and human-centered models of authorship toward increasingly collaborative and distributed forms of creative agency. In parallel, creativity is progressively understood not only through originality and

individual expression but also through generativity, interaction, and co-creative processes involving both human and technological actors. These developments indicate that literary production in the age of generative AI is becoming a negotiated activity situated within broader networks of writers, algorithms, datasets, platforms, and readers.

The study further identifies the Authenticity Paradox, the Reader-Centered Turn, and the Authorship Continuum Model as key conceptual contributions that help explain contemporary debates surrounding AI-assisted poetry. Collectively, these findings suggest that literary legitimacy is no longer determined solely by authorial identity or human intentionality but increasingly emerges through processes of reception, interpretation, and cultural recognition. Rather than signaling the disappearance of the human author, AI-assisted poetry reveals the growing complexity of creative ecosystems in which authorship and meaning are continuously negotiated. Future research should extend these discussions through empirical investigations of reader responses, writer practices, and literary communities across diverse cultural contexts, particularly in non-Western traditions where the implications of AI-assisted literary production remain insufficiently explored.

Author Contributions

Jaimul Amili conceived and designed the study; conducted the literature search, data collection, and analysis; developed the conceptual framework; prepared the figures and tables; wrote the original manuscript draft; and revised and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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The data supporting the findings of this study are derived from publicly available scholarly literature and digital sources cited throughout the manuscript. Additional information is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Artificial Intelligence Use Disclosure

Artificial intelligence-assisted tools were used during literature exploration, language refinement, and manuscript preparation. All conceptual development, interpretation of findings, critical analysis, and final editorial decisions were performed and verified

by the author. The author assumes full responsibility for the content of this manuscript.

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