

## **2020 Call for Papers: The 2020 ELLAK International Conference “The Age of AI and Machine Translation: What Can Language, Literature, and Education Do?”**

- Organized by the English Language and Literature Association of Korea (ELLAK)
- Venue: Kookmin University, Seoul, South Korea
- Date: December 17-19, 2020
- Deadline for submissions: July 31, 2020
- Notification of Acceptance: August 15, 2020
- Deadline of papers for the proceedings: October 31, 2020

The English Language and Literature Association of Korea (ELLAK) is pleased to announce an international conference on “The Age of AI and Machine Translation: What Can Language, Literature, and Education Do?” to be held in Kookmin University, Seoul, South Korea, from December 17 to 19, 2020.

Since Aristotle defined art as “imitation of human action” in *Poetics*, ‘mimesis’ has been the foremost theoretical principle of all artistic practice in human history. Mimetic aesthetics was particularly strengthened in the Renaissance era when human abilities were rediscovered, spawning the emergence of humanism. Perspective, a way of looking at the world with human eyes, was rediscovered. Accordingly, the illusion of human perspective embodied verisimilitude on canvas and stage, which became the matrix of realism that emerged with the advent of modernism in the late 19th century. The act of imitation, in this way, has been evidence and manifestation of human power, privilege, and values as “the highest creature of God as well as the master of all things.”

Not to be overlooked is that in Aristotle’s definition, the object of imitation is ‘human action.’ From the birth of human instincts to imitate, through the modern and post-modern era to the present, human beings have been the object of their own imitative action. Humans have created robots that look like themselves, cloned ‘artificial intelligence’ (AI) that resembles their intelligence, and AI has evolved to a level that threatens its creator, the human intelligence. The most remarkable case is the Go match between an eighteen-time world champion Lee Sedol and AlphaGo developed by Google DeepMind played in 2016. In this ‘Match of the Century’ the human intelligence was defeated by the artificial intelligence: AlphaGo won all but the fourth in the five-game match. Human beings were astonished at this result but they gave meaning to the one victory that Lee made, praising it as ‘the triumph of humanity.’ A newspaper reported an article entitled, “Human Challenges AI!” This title suggests something meaningful. The human champion is just a challenger to AI, and that is our current position in the face of AI. To quote a newspaper article, “it’s time for humans to test their own limitations against artificial intelligence.”

Dr. David Silver, who led the AlphaGo team, said, “our goal is to beat the best human players, not just mimic them.” As he said, we are living in an age where humans and AI coexist, and even when humans compete with AI that is more capable than humans. Faced with this reality, humans have to seriously think about survival: to degenerate and go extinct; or to evolve stronger; or to co-exist with AI, recognizing it as a partner of mankind? Humans are at a crossroads of challenge. And we must choose because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, and one we are unwilling to postpone. This is where our human beings are now, at the beginning of the new millennium. Humanities, the product of human intelligence and mental activity, especially literature, language, and education are facing the same challenges and choices. Just as AlphaGo tested the limits of human intelligence, the three domains of human intelligence and mental activity—literature, language, and

education—are seriously tested and challenged for the role and ability by ‘Machine Translation,’ the product of AI. This is why this year’s International Conference of ELLAK asks the question: “The Age of AI and Machine Translation: What Can Language, Literature, and Education Do?”

At this critical juncture, 2020 ELLAK International Conference aims to diagnose the present and future of humanities in the age of AI and Machine Translation. More specifically, ELLAK attempts to find the answer to the rather straightforward and urgent question of “what can language, literature, and education do?” in the face of the new environment mentioned above. First of all, the current status and prospects of AI and Machine Translation will be diagnosed. Then, various issues derived from AI and Machine Translation—digital humanities, virtual/augmented reality, hyper-connected society, cybernetics, post-humanism, and more—and their correlation with English studies will be explored: how the issues have changed the paradigm and discipline of English language, literature, and education?; how the issues have been reflected and addressed in each discipline?; how the issues act as threats in each field?; how the issues can be positively utilized and housed in each field? Finally, the future prospects of English language, literature, and education in the age of AI and Machine Translation will be discussed and looked out.

The 2020 ELLAK International Conference organizing committee invites scholars, educators, students of all specializing disciplines in English language, literature and education, to submit papers that are directly or indirectly connected to the issues we have mentioned. In addition, we would like to invite experts in the fields of AI and Machine Translation, web portals and translation services, public libraries and educational institutions. To the ‘field experts,’ it will be an opportunity to exchange and share the needs of their own fields. At the same time, language/literature/education scholars will be given the opportunity to listen and learn from the field experts. Finally, and most importantly, the 2020 ELLAK conference is expected to provide solutions to the challenges of humanities in the age of artificial intelligence and machine translation by exploring the potential for mutual understanding and collaboration between industry and academia.

Since AI and Machine Translation are the environments facing the humankind in the world, the above results are expected to spread globally. Likewise, the 2020 ELLAK International Conference will serve as a platform for gathering and spreading thoughts and insights to overcome the current humanities crisis brought about by the new environment. We look forward to the interest and participation of scholars, educators, students, and field experts at home and abroad.

Paper topics may include, but are not limited to, the following areas or subjects:

- AI: history, current status, prospect
- AI and language/literature/education
- Machine Translation: history, current status, prospect
- Machine Translation and language/literature/education
- Cognitive science/narrative and language/literature/education
- AI, Machine Translation, and digital humanities
- Cybernetics, science fiction, dystopia
- Virtual/Augmented reality
- Hyper-connected society
- Posthumanism

To apply for participation, submit your abstract and CV to [2020ellak@gmail.com](mailto:2020ellak@gmail.com) by **July 31, 2020**.

Proposals may be submitted for either individual papers or sessions.

- Individual paper proposals should include an abstract of no more than 250 words and a one-page abbreviated CV, along with a short bio.
- Session proposals should include a one-page proposal with a title and topics for a session of three

to four presentation papers, along with individual abstracts and short bios.

Delivered in either Korean or English, each presentation will be no longer than 20 minutes, followed by discussions and Q&A sessions.

Graduate students are also welcome to submit proposals and to participate in the conference. All proposals should be sent to the Organizing Committee at **2020ellak@gmail.com** by **July 31, 2020**. Applicants will be notified of the acceptance of their proposals by **August 15, 2020**.

For further inquiry, please contact the Organizing Committee.

**Important Dates:**

- Deadline for submitting abstracts: **July 31, 2020**
- Notification of acceptance of papers: **August 15, 2020**
- Submission of papers for the conference proceedings: **October 31, 2020**

**Registration Fees:**

- Standard: 50,000 KRW (USD 50)

**Registration Fee includes:**

- Reception and dinner banquet (December 18, 2020)
- Three daily refreshment/coffee/snack breaks
- Conference program and proceedings
- Conference bag and name tag