



Becoming Technium: The Rise of the Transhuman Species in Ramez Naam's Nexus

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Open Access

Manuscript ID:

BIJ-2025-J-054

Subject: English

Received : 13.06.2025

Accepted : 20.06.2025

Published : 28.07.2025

DOI: 10.64938/bijri.v9n4.25.JL054

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Abstract

Innovation has had a significant impact on all facets of life, societies, and customs since the turn of the twenty-first century. It has profoundly influenced sociocultural and existential dimensions of human life. In the contemporary technological landscape, innovation plays such a foundational influence in people's daily lives that it is increasingly inconceivable to picture a future without it. It has acquired the potential to modify the very human personality, even if it is generally seen as a solution to most human problems and a source of consolation. Because of technological advancements, humanity has entered the cyberpunk era, where cutting-edge devices like computers and mobile phones have become an additional brain of the body, potentially posing a threat or transforming people into transhuman beings. People have become more and more dependent on innovation, which progressively blends with and changes the unique human state to become the 'Seventh Kingdom of life'. The 'Technological Singularity' is very likely as computers and artificial intelligence improve faster than mechanical advancement. According to Ramez Naam's 'Nexus', there is a possibility that humanity may merge or converge innovation into a complex, interdependent species known as the "Technium", which will soon transform into transhuman beings. This research undertakes a critical examination to showcase the achievable technological singularity that completely transforms human personalities into a different species known as "transhumans". Consideration has been given to Ramez Naam's Nexus in order to support the idea of speculative transhumanistic perspectives.

Keywords: technium, transhuman, technological singularity, seventh kingdom, innovation, artificial intelligence, transhuman speculative

Introduction- Foundations of Innovation and Transhuman Philosophy

The majority of Ramez Naam's books are genetic, cybernetic, and inventive, which allows people to instantly connect their minds with one another. Plots packed with science fiction, futurism, and themes that consist of human augmentation, artificial intelligence and technological advancements. His narratives deal with human evolution, authentic, and similar to environmental interactions of human existence, with innovative, logical, as well as biomedical creations. Naam distinguishes biological development of human mind along with body in sequels *More Than Human* as well as *The Infinite Resource*. He also describes

the state of humans along with transhuman stages by expanding human knowledge and capacities. He advances to a transhuman condition in the *Nexus Trilogy*, where there is either no human species left or with a transformed human species.

In *Nexus*, Naam explores past as well as future of life, the evolution of life based on physics from its earliest stages, the evolution of human species, along with future of humanity, which was modified from its original state additionally transformed into transhumans. He depicts the ultimate end of humanity in 'The Technium', a time when innovation subjugates humanity as well as merges them into a single, indistinguishable transhuman entity. Kevin



Kelly introduced the concept of Technium in his article *What Technology Wants?* He refers to the “Seventh Kingdom of Life” and the accumulation of all cutting-edge inventions as ‘The Technium’ (11). Archaeobacteria, Fungi, Protista, Eubacteria, Animalia, and Plantae are the six kingdoms of life. Kelly confirms that the ‘Technium’ is self-organizing, has needs and desires, and is evolving. The idea of transhumans as one of the “Seven Kingdoms of Life” is compared in the study. It should be clear that modern machines have followed Darwin’s theory of “*survival of the fittest*” by constantly adapting to new situations, developing new endurance limits and features, and even reproducing, as the developing world has claimed, to control the available resources. The globe is currently experiencing the Cambrian Explosion of Technium, which is similar to Cambrian Explosion that brought about sudden emergence of life and the presence of substantial fraction of species on planet within the short time. There are new inventions being made, and each one helps to develop new inventions. For instance, the development of computers has helped humanity create new devices such as artificial intelligence, cyborgs, jetpacks, mobile phones, and spacecraft. On the other hand, it is important to realize that the ‘Technium’, or the ‘Seventh Kingdom of Life’, was created by humans.

The human brain is the source of invention. Innovation is the result of human ideas and viewpoints spilling over the earth. Humans create subject matter and innovations based on their desires. By creating a new structure of greater association of innovation, humanity restructures the data facts. One clear example of how innovation is ingrained in human nature is the widespread use of cell phones today, which enable people to communicate directly with others via voice notes, e-mail, recorded video messages, and phone calls across continents and continents around the world. It establishes a continuity sequence and correspondingly shoulders. Therefore, even if humans invented the invention, their excessive attachment to it makes certain aspects of humanity more visible and alters their true humanity’s subject and character. By merging with the invention, it demonstrates the possibility of human progress into the transhuman other. “The fundamental tenet of morphological freedom is that we should or have the freedom to alter who we are,

however we see fit.” (Vita-More, 08). The Technium is humanity’s transhuman super-organism of innovation. It is the union of invention with humanity. The merging of two breeds into one is known as endosymbiosis. Evolution is typically described as a cycle of separation, dividing, and isolating; that is, a breed or living thing splits into two new breeds as well as continues to grow on its own. However, in a few rare instances, it necessitates the requirement that two species cannot survive apart; hence, the evolution cycle proceeds in reverse, with two breeds merging into one instead of one breed isolating or splitting into two. In addition, this merging of innovation and humanity is currently happening in daily life. Analyzing the current world, would allow everyone to see it where people are attached to their phones and use smart watches, VR goggles, wireless earbuds, online purchasing, and transactions.

This human-machine relationship is ontological rather than just instrumental, as Rosi Braidotti notes: “So, the playful and mutually beneficial interaction between humans and machines is reinterpreted as two different and nonhierarchically organized species experimenting, pursuing a common ethics, rather than as a relationship between product and consumer.” (Braidotti, 94).

Evolution, Endosymbiosis, and the Technium

One extreme foundational question that has captivated humanity since we first became aware of ourselves is addressed in Ramez Naam’s *Nexus*: “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). According to Ramez, it is the beginning and the future of humanity. Like the other books by Naam, *Nexus* also features Kaden Lane as a key character who embarks on a hazardous experience. Narrative takes a different turn after a number of incidents when Kade discovers ‘Nexus’, a nanodrug that enables people to connect their minds as well as share ideas, emotions, along with discussions without actually speaking. A person who has taken the drug can share their thoughts and communicate with it. It enables communication between people. It is a display of openness about humanity’s fate that undermines the true foundations of unwavering faith, conviction, and efforts to prove that God is not necessary for creation. Additionally, Kade learns how to permanently implant Nexus in the brain, as



well as how to preserve brain structures that generate code and an operating system, as a result altering human capabilities. There will undoubtedly be both positive and negative uses for such technology. At one point, the author creates and depicts characters who wish to destroy the Nexus and others who only wish to take advantage of it.

In Kade's introduction, Nexus was then revealed, demonstrating that life evolved from basic principles of physical science in primordial soup without need for God. With Rangan's help, Kade develops and presents Nexus, the nanomedicine that raises cerebral bonds. The author subtly conveys how Nexus contributes to the transhumanization of humanity. It attempts to convey that a transhuman person is not an artificially created being; additionally, it leads us to feel that the transition is a natural inclination. As Pramod K. Nayar explains, this process aligns with the foundational understanding of transhumanism, which views "technology as a way to 'fill the void in the human and add to already existing human qualities'. Typically, this form of posthumanism is called transhumanism." (Nayar, 16). Nexus exemplifies this by depicting enhancement not as substitution, but as augmentation of human potential. Thus, the author poses the fundamental question of "Why not, We can do it with wires and with radios. Why not with something you swallow?" (*Nexus*, 20). By altering humanity's personality and increasing the probability to become transhuman, he further shapes the future of humanity. 'Technium' "We are now in the life Extension Era" (Vita-More, 01). Kade discovers that another species has abruptly evolved and completely wiped out humanity from the planet, putting humanity's future in danger. Thus, the 'Technium' could be referred as one of the kingdoms of life. The study also delves further into Vernor Vinge's concept of the Technological Singularity. One of the most important developments that will bring about the singularity is nanotechnology. 'Technological Singularity' is the term used to describe the point at which technology gains upper hand, but not in righteous sense.

The Hypothetical future known as the technological singularity is one in which advancements become uncontrollable and irreversible, transforming human life, substance, and character in ways that are unthinkable and boundless. It references an possibility in Rupert Wyatt's

Rise of Planet of Apes, a film in which extremely intelligent creatures have omitted human knowledge, leading humans into transhuman future. In reality, technological singularity theory is an insightful blast, a highly intelligent, self-upgradable, and sharp specialist, such as a supercomputer with a product customized with artificial intelligence, which in over time, self-advances with genius that surpasses human knowledge and endangers the endurance and mere life of humanity. Kade's "Super-Drug" in Nexus has the potential to enhance a person's limitations into much more powerful mechanism. It ultimately turns out to be the bad egg, but it does lead to a decision and an opportunity. It is also evident that it performs better than any human understanding.

Nexus, Technological Singularity, and Speculative Transhumanism

This creates the possibility of a transhuman speculative analysis of the book. Transhuman Speculative explores how transhuman belief relates to contemporary speculative fiction in different ways. It is concerned with humanity's fear of our scientific as well as biomedical research, along with advancements and their potential to change how we see what it means to be human. Additionally, it centers on the fear that people have of becoming the Transhuman, the 'Technium', which links to trajectory of technological progress. Like Su-Yong Shu's words, "There will be inevitable conflict between those who embrace the potential and those who accept the limits of 'humanity'. The human race will not tolerate us, accept us, or let us live in peace. Just as Nietzsche's saying they would fear the Übermensch, In fear they will try to destroy us. They will be enormous. There will not be many of us. No matter what, we will triumph." (*Nexus*, 314). Contemporary scenario which offers a hairy way of achievable Transhuman future. Transhuman Speculative Fiction explores logical as well as mechanical developments in anti-aging, extended lifespan, mood, cognitive abilities, virtual environments, artificial intelligence, wearables, cloning, implantable technologies, genetics, nanotechnology, nanomedicine, biotechnology, bioengineered transhumans, and any access in producing superhuman beings. "Few stalls offered reproductive services. Sex selection. Ova fusion to make a child from two mothers, no father necessary.



Tri-fusion to create a child with genes from two fathers and a surrogate mother. Gene tweaks for your kids — height, eye color, hair color, muscle mass, weight, health, IQ, charisma- ‘Other services by request’.” (*Nexus*, 243). “The question is, What shall we become?” (*Vita-More*, 03). According to the book, the transhuman speculative future may incorporate humans or alter their personalities. The silvery fluid in *Nexus* has the power to transform humans into transhumans. After consuming the *Nexus*, the character Sam undergoes cognitive transformation and ways for direct neural connectivity and ability to comprehend one another’s thoughts. The novel illustrates neuroscience and the human mind. “While Buddhism and neuroscience employ separate and complementary approaches, their objectives are essentially the same. In contrast, meditation techniques are subjective and qualitative. Reproducible, yet equally profound, constantly requires hard work, discipline, and mental calm. What if Buddhism reveals flaws in some of the fundamental tenets of neuroscience? That something fresh would turn out to be better?” (*Nexus*, 146). “Here, Buddhism can serve as a guide for neuroscience. Individual thoughts are important. However, there are other levels of cognition that are important. In an era when technology has connected billions of brains where information may instantly move from one person on one side of the world to a billion on the other side of the world.

The work of many people is necessary for everything significant in our world. In fact, we must conceive as a single humanity rather than as individuals or even as nations if we are to solve the most critical issues facing our world.” (*Nexus*, 168). Although *Nexus* is an incredible executive tool that can also be utilized to communicate without words or actions, it is only used to assassinate people, and Professor Somdev Phra Ananda, Professor Su-Yong Shu, and Feng are the characters who take advantage of this. “Giving full power to everyone would be like putting guns in the hands of children.” (*Nexus*, 28). The novel illustrates neuroscience and the human mind.

In *Nexus*, Users of *Nexus* should be seen as speculative transhumans who threaten human existence, survival, and way of life because they

allow anyone to enter another user’s mind and manipulate men against one another. Similar to how Sam asks Kade, “What about other individuals that manage to obtain this? Do you believe they will not turn this into slavery? Suicide soldiers? Slave sex workers? Worshipers?” (*Nexus*, 66). Additionally, she states, “Once the genie is out of the bottle, you can’t control what they do.” (*Nexus*, 69). Lobsang Tulku, a Buddhist monk who has never touched pistol in his life, has delivered headshots without missing single one, just as she had anticipated. Becker, the character, even refers to it as “Until a week before this event, Lobsang had never even handled a gun, let alone used one. But he was a perfect marksman. He fired six times, twice for the Dalai Lama and twice for each of the two bodyguards. Everybody was shot in the head. Not a single bullet missed him. This man was, in my opinion, made into a sort of puppet and used to carry out a political assassination.” (*Nexus*, 90). He carried out a political execution. It is evident that he has been under the influence of a *Nexus* user’s mind control. Negative transhuman character under transhuman speculation class is known as a speculative transhuman. Kade was followed by Su-Yong Shu’s last thoughts. “Kade, you will see the truth one day. The future’s enemies are humans. They despise us. They despise our potential and beauty. Either we overcome them and occupy our fair position on this planet, or they hunt us down, murder us, and enslave us. There are not any alternatives.” (*Nexus*, 306).

Ethics, Consciousness, and the Future of the Technium

Human’s curiosity about mechanical and biomedical experiments and creations, as well as their potential to alter the perception of being human, along with altering human subjects as well as character, are the concerns of transhuman speculation. It also emphasizes the sense of fear associated with the Transhuman ‘Technium’. “Our existing issues cannot be resolved at the level of thought that created them.” (*Nexus*, 167). It will be shown in novel as it foretells the possibility of the ‘Technological Singularity’, a near future in which innovation and humanity will merge to create the previously described ‘Technium’, a transhuman existence.



With the use of artificial limb implants, mechanical devices, along with improvements to human body, Nexus also expands creative, bioclinical, and rational possibilities of transhumanist upgrading of humans in their daily lives. This includes the possibility of achieving permanent status by transferring human consciousness into a man-made body.

Finally, novel links modern speculativeness to these transhuman ideals and possible results. While modern speculativeness is a head-seeking study that creates same SF as well as dystopia in near-future world, which is in everyday lifestyle, by contrast, traditional speculative fiction is a reverse study that typically uses a fantasy setting as well as historical locations to make an unimaginable theme. Although there were sufficient environment of futuristic innovation, we are somewhat threatened by speculative features such as wearables, software, modes, sensors, and digital keys. Just from the Peter North mode, Nexus OS: A liquid's extension to neuroscience mind-controller, and speculativeness that Kade as well as Sam adhere to, gave the book a dangerous vibe. Therefore, in modern speculativeness, the SF and dystopia are set in the near future alongside the story of the novel in Naam's *Nexus*.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Transhuman Speculative elements are clearly identifiable in Ramez Naam's *Nexus*. The study highlights the linkages between transhuman aspirations and contemporary speculativeness, as well as the likelihood that humanity will evolve into 'Technium', which frames 'Seventh Kingdom of Life'. Additionally, researcher uses millennial breakthroughs to track down possibility of the 'Technological Singularity' as well as the transhumanist-posthuman 'Technium'. "The question is, what shall we become?" (Vita-More, 03). The researcher also comes to the conclusion that the development of theoretical transhuman enhancers like Nexus, which are the subject of Ramez Naam's

Nexus, poses more risks than benefits to human existence and lifestyle.

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