

IAEPT Newsletter

The Sixth Element: Classroom to Cosmos

[Thoughts worth spreading. Smart, modern, global - From chalkboards to future tech]

VOL. 01, NO. 11

31 AUGUST, 2026

'The Death of the Author' Revisited: Liberation, Loss, and Authorship in the Age of AI



Introduction

Who is the author of a text? Traditionally, the answer seems simple: the person who writes it. Yet this idea has been challenged by literary theory, particularly by Roland Barthes in his influential essay *The Death of the Author* (1967). Barthes questioned the assumption that a text's meaning is determined by its creator's intentions, biography, or personal experience.

Instead, he argued that meaning emerges through language, culture, and, importantly, the reader.

More than half a century later, the rise of artificial intelligence has given this debate new relevance. AI can now generate essays, poems, stories, images, and other forms of creative work within seconds. If a machine produces the words, however, who is the author?

Does AI represent the final stage in the "death of the author," or does it make human authorship more important than ever?

The answer lies somewhere between liberation and loss. AI challenges traditional ideas of originality and authorship, while simultaneously forcing us to reconsider responsibility, creativity, and the value of human experience.

Barthes and the Death of the Author

Barthes challenged the traditional belief that a literary work contains one fixed meaning determined by its author. A text, he argued, is shaped by language and by the many cultural and literary influences that precede it.



Subscribe to our Newsletter



**Indgiants Association of Educators
& Professional Trainers - IAEPT**

(Registered under Telangana Societies Registration Act, 2001, Reg. No: 152 of 2023 - 80G & 12A Reg. No. AACAI594EF20231)

The Sixth Element Classroom to Cosmos

It captures IAEPT's living journey where educators ignite youth classrooms, evolve into hybrid constellations, ideas become action and every programme, fellowship and forum shapes minds to lead education from grounded purpose to global possibility.

As Barthes writes:

A text is made of multiple writings.

This idea is particularly relevant to AI. No human writer creates entirely in isolation; every writer uses an existing language, cultural references, literary traditions, and ideas inherited from others. AI makes this process more visible because it generates language by drawing upon patterns learned from vast amounts of existing material.

Barthes therefore shifts attention away from the author as the sole source of meaning and toward the reader. His famous statement makes this clear:

The birth of the reader must be ransomed by the death of the Author.

For Barthes, the **death** of the author does not mean the disappearance of writers.

Rather, it means the loss of the author's absolute authority over the interpretation of a work. Once a text reaches its readers, its meaning can develop beyond the author's intentions. AI makes this relationship between author, text, and reader even more complex.

AI and the Changing Nature of Authorship

Artificial intelligence disrupts the traditional model of writing. A person can provide a prompt, receive a complete text, revise it, and publish it. In such a situation, who is the author—the person, the machine, or both?

The answer depends on the degree of human involvement. Someone who publishes AI-generated material without reviewing it has a different relationship to the work from a writer who uses AI only for brainstorming and then develops and rewrites the material independently.

This suggests that authorship may no longer be a simple matter of who physically produces the words. Instead, it may involve choosing, shaping, editing, interpreting, and taking responsibility for the final work.

AI therefore encourages us to distinguish between generating language and being an author.

Liberation: Democratizing Creativity

The decline of traditional authorship can be liberating. AI gives people access to tools that were previously available mainly to professional writers, designers, and editors. Those who face language barriers or lack formal training can use AI to express and develop their ideas. AI can also encourage collaboration.

A writer may use an AI system to brainstorm possibilities, experiment with different styles, organize ideas, or improve a draft. In this sense, AI does not necessarily replace human creativity; it can become an instrument through which creativity takes new forms. The “death of the author” can therefore be understood as a challenge to the idea that creative authority belongs only to the traditionally recognized writer. AI potentially opens creative participation to a wider range of people.

Loss: The Threat to Human Creativity

However, this liberation also carries risks. If machines can produce polished writing instantly, people may become less willing to struggle through the processes of thinking, drafting, revising, and discovering their own ideas.





Writing is not simply a means of communicating thoughts; it is also a way of developing them. Students, in particular, may lose opportunities to develop independent reasoning and a personal intellectual voice if they allow AI to perform the entire process of writing. The danger, therefore, is not simply that AI will replace writers. The greater danger is that people may gradually surrender the intellectual and creative activities through which they become writers and thinkers.

Originality in the Age of AI

AI also forces us to reconsider originality. The traditional image of the author suggests that a creative work comes from an individual's unique imagination. Yet, as Barthes suggests, writing is always connected to previous writings, languages, and cultural traditions.

AI makes this dependence on existing material particularly visible. It generates new combinations from patterns found in enormous bodies of human-created language.

This raises difficult questions about originality and intellectual ownership. From this perspective, the human author remains important. AI may generate possibilities, but humans decide which possibilities are meaningful and what purpose they should serve.

The Importance of the Human Voice

Despite the power of AI, human experience remains central to many forms of meaningful expression.

A machine can generate a poem about grief, but it does not experience grief as a human being does. It can write about childhood, love, loneliness, migration, or loss, but it does not possess a human life from which these experiences arise. This does not mean that AI-generated writing can never move readers. Meaning ultimately depends partly on how readers encounter a text. Nevertheless, people often value the connection between a work and the life behind it. A personal letter from a loved one, a memoir,

or a testimony carries significance because a human being stands behind the words.

The author's identity may not determine the meaning of a text, but it can influence why the text matters.

Authorship as Responsibility

The most useful way to rethink authorship in the age of AI may be to understand it not simply as ownership but as responsibility.

Instead of asking only, "Who wrote these words?" we should also ask:

- Who shaped the argument?
- Who verified the information?
- Who decided to publish it?
- Who is responsible for its consequences?
- Whose experiences or perspectives does it represent?

These questions are particularly important when AI-generated content contains errors, bias, misinformation, or harmful claims.

Even if AI produces the words, a human who chooses to publish those words cannot simply avoid responsibility by saying, "The machine wrote it." The "death of the author" may weaken the author's control over meaning, but it cannot eliminate the need for accountability.

This distinction is crucial. Authority over interpretation and responsibility for publication are not the same thing.

The Reader in the Age of AI
Barthes's emphasis on the reader becomes even more important in an AI-driven world. When text can be generated almost endlessly, the challenge is no longer simply producing information but determining which information deserves trust and attention.

Readers must increasingly ask: Is this accurate? Who produced it? What evidence supports it? What assumptions does it contain? What has been left out?

The AI era therefore requires a more critical and active reader. Literary interpretation must be accompanied by technological and media literacy.

In this sense, Barthes's theory takes on a new significance. If the authority of the author declines, the responsibility of the reader increases.

Toward a New Model of Authorship

The future is unlikely to consist of a simple opposition between human writing and machine writing. Instead, we will see many forms of human-AI collaboration.

A novelist may use AI for brainstorming. A journalist may use it to organize information while independently checking facts. A poet may deliberately incorporate machine-generated language into a creative experiment. A student may use AI as a tutor while writing an independent final paper. The author of the future may therefore be less like a solitary creator and more like a curator, editor, director, or collaborator.

What matters most is not whether every word originates directly from a human mind, but whether a human being exercises judgment over the work and accepts responsibility for it.

This leads to a third important insight from Barthes. He argues that:

The author is a modern figure.

The idea of the author as the ultimate source of a text is historically constructed rather than timeless. AI gives us an opportunity to question that construction once again and develop a broader understanding of creative production.

Conclusion

The death of the author in the age of AI is neither entirely a liberation nor entirely a loss. It is a transformation.

AI challenges the traditional image of the author as a solitary genius whose intention determines the meaning and value of a work. It demonstrates, in an unprecedented way, that texts are produced through networks of language, culture, technology, and previous forms of expression.

At the same time, AI raises serious questions about originality, responsibility, education, and human creativity. The answer is not to reject AI or to surrender completely to it. Instead, we need to redefine authorship.

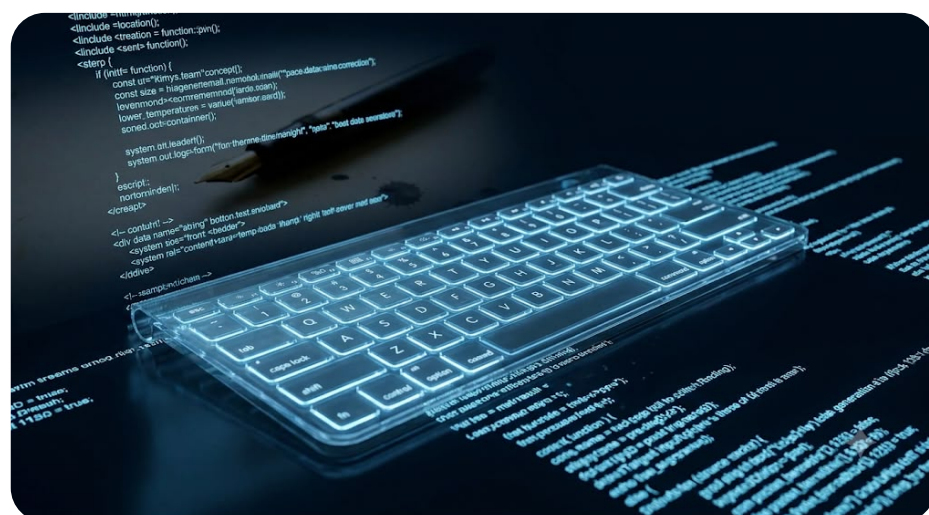
The author of the future may not be the person who produces every word. The author may be the person who chooses, shapes, interprets, verifies, and takes responsibility for the work.

Barthes imagined the death of the author as connected to the birth of the reader. In the age of AI, we may need to go one step further: from the death of the traditional author to the emergence of the responsible human collaborator.

The real question, therefore, is not whether AI will kill the author. It is whether human beings will continue to take responsibility for what they create.

Barthes, Roland. "The Death of the Author." In *Image-Music-Text*, translated by Stephen Heath, pp. 142–148. New York: Hill and Wang, 1977.

**Compiled & edited by
Prof. G. Madhavi, President, IAEPT.**



Indgiants Celebrates India's 80th Independence Day



15 August 2026

Indgiants celebrated the 80th Independence Day of India with patriotic fervour and a renewed commitment to the values of freedom, responsibility, education, technology and nation-building.

The National Flag was ceremonially hoisted by Ms. Varsha and Mr. Jahangir, members of the Indgiants Team, in the presence of the Chairman, Prof. Siva Prasad Peddi, and Director, Dr. Madhavi Godavarthy. The celebration brought together members of the Indgiants family in a moment of pride and reflection on India's remarkable journey as a nation.

The flag-hoisting ceremony was followed by an inspiring Independence Day address by Professor Siva Prasad Peddi, Chairman. Extending his greetings to colleagues, educators, professionals, young friends,

partners, well-wishers and members of the Indgiants and IAEPT family, he paid tribute to the courage, sacrifice and vision of those who secured India's freedom.

Professor Peddi observed that independence is not merely freedom from the past, but also the confidence and responsibility to design the future. He emphasised that, for India in 2026, the meaning of true independence must extend to freedom from educational inequality, digital exclusion, unemployment anxiety and limited opportunity. A strong nation, he noted, is one in which knowledge reaches every classroom, skills reach every young mind and opportunity reaches every deserving citizen.

He described India's next freedom movement as a movement of knowledge, technology, enterprise and responsible citizenship,

and highlighted the importance of the digital transformation of education in achieving this vision.

Speaking about Indgiants, Professor Peddi reiterated its mission of 'Digital Transformation of Our Education System'. He explained that the organisation seeks to help educational institutions move from fragmented processes towards connected, technology-enabled ecosystems through practical Education



Software-as-a-Service initiatives. Its guiding philosophy, he said, is simple yet transformative: Digitalise, Optimise & Transform.

Importantly, he stressed that technology should not replace the teacher. Rather, technology should amplify the teacher, empower the institution and expand the learner's possibilities.

Prof. Peddi also spoke about the role of the ****International Association of Educators and Professional Trainers (IAEPT)**** as a voluntary and purpose-driven community committed to improving educational quality, promoting hybrid education and contributing to a Global Academic Renaissance. He emphasised that educators must remain at the heart of transformation through continuous professional development, knowledge sharing, collaboration, events and the meaningful adoption of technology.

Highlighting the role of the IAEPT Community platform, he referred to the importance of building a connected ecosystem that enables chapters, members and educators to collaborate through announcements, events, resources, meetings, Civic Consensus, referrals and recognition. His message to educators was particularly inspiring: they must not merely deliver content, but ignite curiosity, character, competence and confidence. When educators connect,

collaborate and continue to learn, he observed, classrooms can become powerful engines of national transformation.

Turning to the aspirations of India's youth, Professor Peddi said that the country's demographic strength can become a true dividend only when young people are equipped to create value. He encouraged young people to move beyond the narrow question, "Where is my job?", and instead ask, "What value can I create, whom can I serve, and what opportunity can I build?"

He underlined that entrepreneurship need not necessarily begin with a factory, substantial investment or a risky loan. In the digital economy, he said, an entrepreneurial journey can begin with knowledge, skills, relationships, credibility, available time and, above all, the courage to act.

On this Independence Day, Prof. Peddi placed special emphasis on INDGIGS — The Gig-Entrepreneurship Movement, whose core idea is **DON'T BORROW. BECOME.** The initiative encourages aspiring youth and employed professionals to leverage what they already possess—their knowledge, skills, networks, relationships and available time—to create genuine value and explore additional opportunities.

INDGIGS, he explained, is envisioned as a non-disruptive entrepreneurial pathway through which individuals can promote useful SaaS solutions within their circles while building an additional income stream through authentic value creation. Its operating rhythm reflects this vision: **CONNECT • COLLABORATE • CREATE • EARN • GROW.**





Professor Peddi was equally clear about the responsible nature of earning and enterprise.

The objective, he said, is not instant wealth, but disciplined, ethical and sustainable entrepreneurship. **Income must follow value. Referral must follow trust. Growth must follow service.** Every connection, he emphasised, is a relationship rather than merely a sales lead, and every recommendation carries personal credibility.

The larger purpose of enterprise, he noted, goes beyond earning. It is about solving problems, creating access, empowering others and growing together.

Painting a vision of a future-ready India, Professor Peddi invited the gathering to imagine an India where even budget institutions can access modern digital systems, teachers are supported by technology rather than burdened by

administration, students learn beyond the limitations of walls and timetables, and professionals can create additional sources of income without abandoning their primary careers.

He also envisaged a future in which thousands of micro-entrepreneurs take useful educational technology to every district, town and community, contributing to an India that is digitally capable, educationally empowered, economically confident and socially connected.

The Chairman concluded with an Independence Day pledge, calling upon everyone to use technology with purpose, respect teachers as architects of the nation, help institutions become future-ready, encourage youth to become creators of opportunity and promote enterprise without compromising ethics. He urged the gathering to transform connections into collaboration, collaboration into value,

and value into shared growth, while ensuring that digital transformation remains inclusive and reaches the last classroom and the last learner.

The celebration thus became a meaningful reflection on the journey from freedom to the future—transforming freedom into responsibility, education into empowerment, connections into opportunity and dreams into enterprise.

As the National Flag fluttered proudly, the occasion inspired everyone present to reaffirm their commitment to a shared vision of ****Digital Institutions, Empowered Educators, Connected Learners, Enterprising Youth and a Future-Ready India**



Published by IAEPT for Indgiants Pvt. Ltd, from IAEPT, St. 14, Somasunder Nagar, Hyderabad -13, TG, IN.
Contact: +918142570199