

Shadow Self and Its Ethical Sense in Superman Robots

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Abstract: This article explains correlations of Superman Robots of DC Comic character and ethical understandings of AI. Through qualitative approach and explorative method, this paper answers question of 'how may shadow self be represented on ethical values of Superman Robots?'. In analysis, Superman Robots are dummies, made by Superman, used to deal with everyday business of Superman. Those work as shadow self-indicated in personality archetype by Carl Jung. Those are not real self of Superman but work like he is existent throughout the world. This is in line with current development of AI that tends to shape anonymity that may question the ethical aspect of self. While real self could be blamed for any matter, shadow self is otherwise since its authenticity is blurred. In conclusion, Superman Robots reflect shadow self in which its ethical sense will always return to its real person. It is similar to anonymity in AI that require real person to be ethically responsible.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, Shadow Self, Superman Robots.

Introduction

The idea of literature expands through time. The debates between such literature of canon or usual have also been prolonged for decades. It is similar to existence of comic that tends to be sensed as petty among other serious literature (Ellis & Highsmith, 2000; Labio, 2011). Its indications on the pictures really pejorate the understandings of comic. However, the conceptions on popular fiction in matter of cultural studies flourish the importance of comic in the works of fictions. Comic is considered as hybrid art form in which the narrations are intact with ideas of aesthetic pictures (Avery-Natale, 2013; Manning, et al, 2021). Comic as literature not only offers entertainment through its story, characters, and visuals, but also presents themes that are actually quite complex, rarely realized by its readers. Even during the golden age of comics, children did not perceive their comic books as tools of propaganda, even though those comics often included political subjects (Cowsill, et al., 2019; Friedenthal, 2019). This indicates that it is indeed true that comics are not as light as they may

appear. There are serious matters behind the story, conveyed through its dialogues and even characters. In further studies, comic is regarded as meaningful literature that may bring such crucial points of advancements in its industries. Its substantial points are suitable to various scholarly applications that show the comic's importance to be analyzed furthermore (Barker, 2012; Smith & Riley, 2007).

The existence of comic is crucial in its verisimilitude to complex realities. The existing images alongside with narrations in that popular literature indeed underline matters of everyday life throughout understandings of its close experience. One of main important comic is Superman published by DC Comics. Since its first published version in 1939 until now, the comic of this superhero has been sold throughout the world and being adapted to various motion pictures (Cowsill, et al., 2019; Friedenthal, 2019). This character is a prominent character in DC Comic altogether with the fame of Batman. The necessities of this comic lie on the life of superhero that fights any evil that comes to and exists on earth. Moreover, the stories

of the character are imbued with Superman's everyday life including his love towards Lois Lane, his hatred towards his nemesis named Lex Luthor, and his normal life as Clark Kent who works as a journalist at Daily Planet newspaper (Ellis & Highsmith, 2000; Meskin, 2009).

One interesting aspect in Superman comic is when he creates such robots to help him to deal with any business in everyday life. The automatons are named as Superman Robots. The Superman Robots have some of Superman's powers, strength, speed, and flight, and are used to stand in for Superman on missions. They are especially helpful when dealing with any Kryptonite as Superman's main weakness. Superman also employs the robots to safeguard his secret identity. However, the robots become problematic since many of them turn back to challenge Superman. Some of them even become the enemies of Metropolis as the city where Superman lives. The most interesting aspect of Superman Robots are whether those kinds are not the real Superman but considered as the "real" one.

The realness of Superman Robots then is questionable whether those are abundant selves of Superman or merely creations of himself. This is the main emphasis in this article that is answered through Carl Jung's conception on shadow self (Barker, 2012; Smith & Riley, 2007). Character itself is created by authors with different aspects, including psychological ones. Through qualitative approach and explorative method, this paper answers question of 'how may shadow self be represented on ethical values of Superman Robots?'. Simply put, shadow self is a double self in which all of hidden desires of the true self are stored. The Shadow represents the part of ourselves that people hide or push away because it goes against what they believe in or value. To various points, the matters of Superman Robots are in line with current development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that tends to shape anonymity that may question the ethical aspect of self. While real self could be blamed for any matter, shadow self is otherwise since its authenticity is blurred (Sarmi, et al., 2023). In other words, the existence of Superman Robots finds its verisimilitude to recent advancements in reality.

Materials and Methods

By using qualitative method, certain concepts and written data are analyzed to answer the question in this paper. Written through description, online and offline scripts are used to explain correlations between Superman Robots and Shadow Self alongside with literary concepts and cultural studies ideas. Online and offline scripts are derived from books and journals to understand shown matters. The data analysis includes attaining sources, reading sources carefully, comparing with other issues, quoting into paper, and writing down in reference lists. The research data comes from both Superman Robots and Shadow Self arguments. Each of them is read then broken down into its every particular element. The premises and logics used in Shadow Self ideas are also drawn to underline matter of being suitable to values of Superman Robots. Here, Superman Robots are the objects while Shadow Self is a tool to analyze. More elaborations related to opposite analysis are also provided in addition furthermore.

Results and Discussions

The Superman Robots and Its Discontents

In the history of Superman Comic from the beginning until now, Superman never works alone. He is always accompanied by Batman, other members of the Justice League, and even his own subordinates. Some of his subordinates are made in similar form to himself with the same costume and appearance (Ellis & Highsmith, 2000; Meskin, 2009). Those are mentioned as Superman Robots since they are such androids. Those are made by Superman and his other subordinates in order to deal with various obstacles. People know that Superman has every super ability that all superheroes had. However, he even must be accompanied with other beings to deal with some problems. This aspect then proves that Superman, despite his super abilities in anything, is actually still human with his weakness on many things.

The obstacles dealt by Superman Robots could be related to various aspects. Those could be divided into two kinds; internal and external ones.

In internal aspects, Superman Robots are used to widen the coverage of Superman and Clark Kent himself (Cowsill, et al., 2019; Friedenthal, 2019). He could not deal with every problem at the same time so that his duplicates are made to deal with many problems. His abilities then still could not go beyond any time and space continuum. He still could only exist in a place in a certain time. Interestingly, Superman always think that asking Superman Robots to deal with other problems are simple. Yet, what are needed are not the duplicates, but the figure himself. It is due to any weakness that Superman Robots always have. Some of them are too humane. Some of them want to regain power beyond Superman (Cowsill, et al., 2019; Friedenthal, 2019). Some of them are made from temporary materials that could not stay long on earth.

The external aspects are related to the life surrounds Superman. His love life with Lois Lane and his hatred relationship with Lex Luthor are the most affecting aspects in the life of Superman Robots. Some are made to protect Lois Lane and mostly failed. Some of them are built to deal with Lex Luthor's various creations and most are failed too. Many of them are specifically built to help other members of Justice League. Then, some of them are also used to deal with any powerful enemies such as Brainiac, Doomsday, and even Joker from Batman's world. Some of them are used to protect the citizens of Metropolis as the city of Superman. At first, the Superman Robots look promising since their appearances are similar to Superman. However, time tells that intelligence of the robots will never be in line with Superman's.

It could be said that Superman Robots are another self of Superman himself. They are created to help any matter of Superman. He could not deal with them by himself. The selves then could also be understood as the servants and guardians that are totally loyal to Superman. The self of Superman still exists, yet he creates variants of himself, not only to maintain his power on earth, but also to stabilize his own reign on the planet. Superman Robots are dummies, made by Superman, used to deal with everyday business of Superman. Those work as literal shadows of Superman. Those are

not real self of Superman but work like he is existent throughout the world.

Though Superman Robots could do their jobs perfectly, they are represented as imperfect in the comic. Some of them may deteriorate easily. Some of them rebelled against Superman. Some of them are easily defeated by Superman's difficult enemies. Those are due to conditions that Superman Robots may be similar in appearances, but not in the same level of abilities of decision-making of Superman. Some of Superman Robots then are too humane, while some of them are too rigid, rough, and even quite assertive.

From first comic appearance in 1938 until now, at least there are six crucial figures of Superman Robots. The first one is named as Powerman. Appeared in 1958, this character is known as the partner of Superman (Hamilton, 1958). The background of his appearance is that Lex Luthor, Superman's nemesis, was escaped from prison and made a gang by using liquid Kryptonite. That element which is the main weakness of Superman is used to attack Superman. By the help of Batman and Robin, Superman tries to hold back Luthor (DC Database, 2020; Hamilton, 1958). However, Superman then comes with Powerman and tells Batman and Robin that they are no longer needed. Powerman is already there to help Superman. It is revealed later that Powerman is a remote-controlled robot made by Superman to protect Batman and Robin. Later, Powerman is retired and much appreciated by Superman in term of his loyalty.

Powerman is shown as merely robot used by Superman. The superhero uses that robot to help the task of protecting civilians like Batman and Robin (DC Database, 2022; Hamilton, 1958). The design of Powerman is totally a robot, different from modern Superman Robots. Even his voice is from pre-recorded audio tapes. At that time, Batman and Robin are quite suspicious with the existence of Powerman. They even think that the creature is one of Luthor's toys. Later, Batman knows that the robot is not the self of Superman (DC Database, 2020; Hamilton, 1958). Though Superman uses Powerman as the main help with his own resemblance of power, but still that figure is different from Superman himself. Powerman's

specific saying of *"I'm all the help Superman needs!"* shows that his main appearance is to be the double of Superman as another self of that main superhero on the surface of earth (DC Database, 2022; Hamilton, 1958).

The second one is named as Ned. He is one of the surviving Superman Robots. Ned's main job is to protect Fortress of Solitude, a place where Superman lives on earth (ComicVine, 2023; Siskoid, 2011). During the invasion of Dominus, even Superman is under influence of Dominus. Ned is assigned as Superman's replica to protect the Fortress and also Lois Lane. He is such a loyal servant to Superman. His appearance is similar to Superman but with silver color as characteristic of automatons. In his first appearance in 1959, his directive is changed into totally protecting Lois Lane (ComicVine, 2023; Siskoid, 2011). Later, even Ned must fight against other Superman Robots influenced by Dominus. Dominus then tells Ned to kill Lois Lane but he refuses. Then, Dominus kills Ned, but then being rebuilt again by Kelex, another Superman's subordinates. Ned then wakes again and helps Superman to destroy Dominus (ComicVine, 2023; Siskoid, 2011). After the defeat of Dominus, Ned is still in existent and act as the main defense of the Fortress.

The appearance of Ned is quite interesting as his existence is total help for Superman. Without him, Lois Lane could easily be killed. Ned perfectly does his job to protect Lane. Even as Superman's replica, his directive still exists by eliminating those who would like to kill Lane (ComicVine, 2023; Siskoid, 2011). Though he is not having the same intelligence as Superman, Ned as an automaton could work successfully to protect the woman that Superman loves. Unfortunately, the loyalty of Ned to Lane is so blind that makes him wildly attack anyone whom he thinks will attack Lane. While Superman returns, he calms Ned and neutralizes him into his first directive, that is to protect the Fortress (ComicVine, 2023; Siskoid, 2011).

The third one is Wonder Man. This character at first is made by Superman as a robot to help him to cover various problems of the earth. His original name is Ajax and his appearance is wearing a purple costume with a big letter of W in front of his shirt (DCDatabase, 2020b; GoBackToThePast, 2020).

His main function is to hide the real identity of Superman. However, when Superman Revenge Squad invades the earth, Ajax is kidnapped and being used to rival Superman. He then fights Superman to ease the incoming Squad to the earth (AcademicAccelerator, 2023; ComicVine, 2021). Later, Wonder Man understands that he is being used then helps Superman to defeat the Squad.

When the fighting is over, Superman would like Wonder Man to be on his side. However, the Squad already put a time-ticking bomb on him (DCDatabase, 2020b; GoBackToThePast, 2020). When he dies, Superman really appreciates him by saying that he was born a robot, but died a human. This condition reflects Superman's appreciation to any kind including his own duplicate. Though Wonder Man's popularity is higher throughout the city than Superman, but Superman still considers the automaton as the defender of the earth (AcademicAccelerator, 2023; ComicVine, 2021).

The fourth one is All-Star Superman. Those are such forces of automatons that being used by Superman to guard the Fortress, Lane, and to fight Luthor. These robots are so usual that have no further character development (DCMoviesDatabase, 2023, CBR, 2011). Though the design is so modern, the usage of the robots is totally as tools. There is no single conscience on the robots. Therefore, since they are only tools, they are easily being de-functioned by the enemies including Luthor. The hacking may keep going on until Superman realizes that the robots will only bring disadvantages for his own presence on earth.

In this case, different from others, All-Star Superman has various ultimate power of Superman. However, those do not make them intelligent at all. They are just machines whom being developed for the sake of the user, that is Superman himself (DCMoviesDatabase, 2023, CBR, 2011). Therefore, the Superman Robot of All-Star Superman are merely direct reflections of Superman, nothing else. Some critics may say that the problematic senses of this All-Star Superman are that why it must be present if it does nothing. In the comic, indeed, they are merely fixed guardian who will only say yes and no without even complaining ethically at all (DCMoviesDatabase, 2023, CBR, 2011).

The fifth is Cyborg Superman. This one is more like humanoid that has soul of a human but with body of a robot. His real name is Hank Henshaw who takes revenge on Superman for killing his wife. His main intention is to die but he could not. Therefore, he keeps terrorizing Superman from his first appearance in comic on 1993 until 2013 (GreenScene, 2021; DCFandom, 2023; ComicVine, 2020). He gets the DNA of Superman and combines it with the metal composite. The character appears in various multiverses of Superman and has slowly become one of Superman's nemesis besides Lex Luthor.

The existence of Cyborg Superman is not the same like any other Superman Robot. He is not controlled by Superman and surely brings menace to the superhero and the city. He is totally evil without any other consideration. In some Superman comics, he is considered as the alter-self of Superman himself (GreenScene, 2021; DCFandom, 2023; ComicVine, 2020). He is the evil version of Superman that could not even be tamed by the main character. He keeps coming to Superman's universe, not as his subordinate, but as his total terror. This could be understood as the main false Superman of all time. He is surely the dark version of self of Superman himself.

The sixth one is Kelex's Superman Robots. These robots are made by Kelex, the robotic assistant of Superman in the Fortress. The robots are actually the most complicated versions of all since their existences range from old to modern Superman. The comics show how these robots manipulate Lane, rebel against Superman, and even be the main enemies of Superman himself (CBR, 2020; ComicVine, 2023b; SupermanFandom, 2023). They have no names besides merely robots. Their original intentions are to help Superman to cover many things on earth including hiding his identity and protecting Metropolis and Lane as well. However, many of them are easily deteriorating due to corrosive weather of earth. Only some of them survive and few of them rebel against Superman.

These robots' intelligences are actually beyond Superman. They could think further than Superman even some may trick Batman as well. While doing rebellion, they do not have any

attention besides wanting to be free from Superman himself. In this case, Superman Robots are defined as uncontrollable and could result to various unpredictable outcomes (CBR, 2020; ComicVine, 2023b; SupermanFandom, 2023). It is due to Superman's own callousness that keeps making new robots without thinking any ethical impact that may come later. After all, Superman himself who has his own responsibility to clean up his own mess.

Those six characters above underline how Superman Robots cover widened ranges of Superman in his comics. The robots may exist due to the staple creations of Superman, but still the impacts brought are somehow unpredictable. Only when the robots are considered as machines then they are considered as obedient (Wijaya, et al., 2023). If they are given rights to do something or even a little conscience, they will rebel against their maker. These aspects of the robots then underline crucial problems of artificial intelligence. The emphasis is on the intelligence itself. The robots may work through algorithm, but once they could think to have choices as human beings, then they will want to be free (Wijaya, et al., 2023). They will think that the makers are the oppressors that need to be eliminated automatically.

Shadow Self and Matter of Otherness

The Shadow self is one of Carl Jung's archetypes that exists in all people, often without them realizing it. It is like a hidden part of their inner world. Usually, this side of a person is not shown or, more accurately, it is kept deeply hidden in their subconscious because it is seen as not suitable or acceptable by society. The concept of the Shadow archetype reflects the primal, animalistic aspect inherent in human nature, which has been passed down through the course of human evolution from lower life forms (Suryosumunar, 2019). It can be said that this Shadow archetype represents a dark facet of human personality that is constantly suppressed due to societal norms. No matter how happy or good a person's life is, they will definitely have their own Shadow self since it is not easy to recognize. This Shadow self typically includes things like aggression, lust, and other negative emotions that people generally do not

want to openly show to others. Consequently, the Shadow can be considered a moral issue because individuals often struggle to acknowledge it, leading to emotionally charged actions (Casement, 2006; Suryosumunar, 2019). Jung also believed that the more individuals suppress their shadow, the more perilous it becomes, as it tends to intensify internally, potentially leading to the development of neuroses and various psychological problems (Jackson, 2023; Thurmond, 2012). That being said, when a person cannot recognize their Shadow self or keeps suppressing it, they tend to project those repressed emotions onto other people, or worse, they can be self-destructive. Since Shadow self is considered negative or always related to evil, it actually needs the individuals' sense of acceptance, so that later on they can embrace it as a part of themselves and their life becomes more whole.

As explained above, shadow self is often related to any negative emotion. It usually represents hidden things of individuals. In many aspects, the Shadow is shaped unintentionally since it relies on subconscious level of human beings (Jackson, 2023; Naifeh, 2022). It is caused by various repressions done by external world to inner realm of individuals in the past. However, rather than ignoring or denying it, it is always better for people to deal with that hidden desire (Casement, 2006; Naifeh, 2022). It is somehow indeed could be so destructing, but to understand its stimuli when it comes to Ego may give other perspectives of gaining more self-esteem.

Somehow, Shadow self is not as a whole that dominates individuals. It works as the normal concept of shadow in which it comes before and even after realities. Without acknowledging it instantly, it will automatically be shaped by psychological intentions (Casement, 2006; Jackson, 2023). Why people tend to deny it because they know that it may be their true weakness. In other cases, even Shadow self is used as such mask to show how angry or deceitful someone is. It could also be so painful to face directly since it is always lying hidden out of any normalcies (Casement, 2006; Naifeh, 2022). People tend to leave Id alone and play more to the sense of Ego in order to get closer to wider language of Super Ego.

In addition, Shadow self is such attributes that people worry so much. It is due to Shadow self is used to be the opposite of the Persona in Jungian perspectives. While Persona is supposed to bring joy to other people, the Shadow is the darkened one (Jackson, 2023). It is also underlined that Persona tends to be more active than the Shadow. Therefore, the Shadow tends to be such object while being targeted as aspects of correction. There is nothing good in Shadow self in Jungian perspectives (Casement, 2006; Naifeh, 2022). Even if it is corrected, it will be shaped again easily and people must always re-examine that self so that it does not bother the real one.

However, Shadow self also indicate such usual indication in matter of psychoanalysis. Since everyone has the same archetypal structure of the Shadow, people may regard themselves as otherness as well. People do not think that any bad aspect is very abnormal since everyone should understand that they may have the Shadow in their own selves (Casement, 2006; Jackson, 2023). Moreover, the Shadow self also plays important role as actualization of alternatives than the real one. It works like a Persona but it may have different intention from the former. Indeed, it is not done to make other people happy since it is already otherness inside every people. Even it could be mentioned that Shadow self is the truest aspects of people. It is what people originally have and feel in everyday life. It does not need to wear a mask since it is already direct of each one's life. It is the honest part of everyone's self.

Shadow self also further accentuates matter of knowledge deep within people. It is not the real self but it gives understandings about any information regarding self. Though it is hidden, it is quite neutral since it may involve both positive and negative personality traits (Casement, 2006; Naifeh, 2022). It is rarely recognized but it is usually seen in matter of practice. Sometimes, it does not need to be thought, but by practicing it, then the Shadow self becomes more useful in everyday life.

Shadow Self, Ethical Sense, and Superman Robots

Understanding matter of AI is interesting yet intriguing in the sense of its ethical aspects. The ethics could never leave matter of AI since its development will always demand progress that could bring such disadvantages either (Abramoff, et al, 2020; Chen, et al., 2021). There is nothing else besides progress that is being required by AI. It will always go further even leave human beings away. It is being seen in matter of workforce and job existence. It is due to AI is ultimate point of current modernism working like a juggernaut that destroys anything in its ways (Wijaya, et al., 2023; Yuliastuti, et al., 2021a).

In other sense, the extreme points of AI also meet accentuation of self. For centuries, self has been a center discussion in continental philosophy. Self could be so meaningful yet so absurd at the same time or at its gradual time (Abramoff, et al, 2020; Wu, et al, 2020). Indeed, self is about how someone defines and being defined by other matters. It is stated in individual postures, but it also implicitly indicates such social understandings. Self is also told as a side in which it will never die since it always seeks for further meanings. It may be stagnant as it already defines its own status quo (Annasai, et al., 2023; Sarmi, et al., 2023). However, its flexibility towards various obstacles and opportunities ahead will never stop self to find meanings through cultural matters.

Through literature, self is accustomed through characters. Those are built through conflicts, characterizations, and any context and concept that shape identities. Its plurality never stops a character to develop (Annasai, et al., 2023; Sarmi, et al., 2023). Though sometimes characters could not be mentioned as original, but their authenticities are always in process. It is due to such understandings that they are parts of subjects in which those contain both active and passive indications. Characters live in a certain setting, but its reality could always be loosened due to its opaqueness (Annasai, et al., 2023; Sarmi, et al., 2023).

When AI meets literature in matter of fictional characters, the progress of AI also follows its widened ethical sense. On a hand, ethical sense

plays more on doing good or bad. It speaks about behavior of the characters. On the other hand, being ethical also indicates that relations among characters are never unilateral and unequivocal (Sigfrids, et al., 2022; Heyder, et al, 2023). The relations may always be so social that those touch matter of commonalities and communitarian perspectives as well. That presupposition also applies to characters in which their realities plural, ambiguous, opaque, and yet ambivalent. Even the author could no longer define its meanings and yet the audience is always open to any possible indication of identities (Annasai, et al., 2023; Yuliastuti, et al., 2021a).

By reinstating realities of characters in literature, identities are out of monolithic conceptions. Those could be this or that, or even not this or not that one (Sigfrids, et al., 2022; Heyder, et al, 2023). Various alternatives may arise including the various usage of psychological ideas underlined with indications of mental and unconsciousness significance. The main reasons behind that idea are that meanings are intertwined like networks from the surface to the bottom, from the popular to the unknown, and from the whole to the most deranged one (Annasai, et al., 2023; Yuliastuti, et al., 2021b).

Matter of shadow self in characters then could not be separated from idea that self is never singular. It could always point to otherness that a total self could never bear by her/himself (Annasai, et al., 2023; Astobiza, et al., 2021). It is similar to a saying of surplus of meaning in which meanings are not found inside the scenes or the canvases, but outside of them. Through that analogy, shadow self enables character to move beyond what is defined in her/his own self. The true self then is always in question since self always needs such complementary and substitutional points for it to survive individually or socially.

Shadow self then shows how self is not in total at all but are related to its performativity. It may get loose from any definition but still be intact with identities. It is another self being intertwined with identities (Annasai, et al., 2023; Yuliastuti, et al., 2021b). Therefore, it could always be plural since each understanding of an identity may always come up with results of various selves. In matter of

literature, especially Superman, shadow self is indeed intact with his existence since that superhero lives various identities at the same time. He could be a superhero with eye laser ability, flying power, super masculine identity, and also super physical power. He is also a man in disguise since he lives normally in his dual identity as Clark Kent who works as a journalist in Daily Planet newspaper. He also must put those dual identities in balance while keeping in touch with his beloved Lois Lane, his nemesis Lex Luthor, his siblings Supergirl, and also his relatives in Justice League. Indeed, those identities show that shadow self for Superman could always be in nature, not only in his intentional behaviors.

It is clear that the existences of Superman Robots are AI that works as shadow self of Superman himself. Indeed, the Robots are not Superman, but the attributes, the personalities, and the logics are Superman's. It is stated in the comic that many people think that Superman Robots are the Superman himself. The resemblances are quite transparent since the Robots are used to do what Superman does in everyday life. Even when the Robots rebel, those work just like what Superman hates. In other words, the AI works for Superman with limitations and restrictions improvised by Superman himself. In many points, the Robots will only nod to what Superman says as long as the instructions are clear. When those are unclear, the machines are pushed to interpret the points by themselves and somehow, they malfunction and may cause rebel.

Furthermore, when the Superman Robots rebel, it is clearly seen that they improvise their functions to do the instructions by their own interpretation. Sometimes they do it arrogantly while others may have freedom to do more. Those are indeed the two keys in understanding Superman Robots as AI made to be Superman's shadow self. First, it is about arrogance. Superman tends to use the Robots because he may have personal arrogance towards his surrounding including his relatives and enemies. This arrogance could be positive in being a tougher and more rigid person, but that could be negative too as it may apply unlimited violence. Second, it is about freedom. Superman Robots as AI works as automatons to do certain things. They

may have freedom as long as it correlates with their own logical minds. If it is illogical, they may reject it automatically (Astobiza, et al., 2021). However, in some points, if it is illogical, they have freedom of formulas in their minds to make it logical as well. It is beyond their main tasks as tools. It is their main essence to help Superman. Somehow, Superman appreciates the Robots to be more helpful in having limited freedom as well.

Ethically, Superman Robots as AI indicates such shadow self in both positive and negative accentuations. The positive ones are seen in how the shadow perpetuates such ideas that Superman is actually a man that could not do everything at the same time and place. Indeed, he is still restricted by the concept of time and space. Superman is aware of it then he makes such Robots to help them being present in many times at many places. This case also shows that the shadow is ethically good even if the idea of Superman's vulnerability should be hidden from normal societies. It is not matter of being uncivilized, but indeed it is still nature of any being on earth. People may condemn Superman if they know that he is not really that super. It will cause rage and cruelty as the reasons for the enemies to hurt Superman further. However, Superman prevents those bad behaviors by making AI in the shapes of Robots to show that his personal power always exists for human beings.

In negative sense, shadow self in matter of AI in Superman Robots exposes that Superman thinks that he is actually weak. He may be aware of this situation, but this case also shows that he is actually lack of self-awareness. That is why various rebellious Superman Robots know this position and uses it to attack Superman. In addition, some of them is totally obedient to Superman. This is a perspective to see that AI may enhance self-independence, but it could also indicate low self-esteem. Superman is not really confident about himself, yet he must remain so as he thinks he is the only hope that all human beings got all this time. Somehow, Superman may easily mishandle the AI to blindly obey his instructions. The more he denies his weakness, the more the AI could easily backfire him. It is the dual face of the shadow self itself. If it is repressed, it will shape such mental

disorder. If it is loosened, it will exactly destruct common life of other people.

All six examples of Superman Robots are AI of Superman's shadow self. The shadow aspect correlates with the functions of the Robots as doppelgangers of Superman himself. Their main usages are to be the doubles of Superman in which they must be obedient to their maker. The shadow added with the term of self indicates that the Robots are not merely dead figures, but they are alive since being livened by Superman. The AI is not real self of Superman, but it is performativity of identities of Superman. The superhero even divides their functions based on what he faces every day in being superhero, journalist, people helper, Clark Kent, enemies' killer, and so on. Therefore, the AI are also the direct reflection of Superman's secrecies and solitude in which it is usually hidden deeper in normal human's self.

The first example of Powerman is shadow self of Superman to protect civilians, including Batman and Robin. Those two characters do not know that Powerman is actually an automaton. At first, they feel threatened by the way Powerman speaks (DC Database, 2020; Hamilton, 1958). Later, they thank Powerman to be so helpful to them. Powerman's existence underlines Superman's goodness towards human beings. Superman may easily protect Batman and Robin by his own power. However, Superman chooses to create Powerman as indication that machines could be useful if being commanded with certain cares (DC Database, 2020; Hamilton, 1958). As the double of Superman, Powerman is intended to see how independent Superman is and how dependent human beings to him. On a way, the independence is to show the capability of Superman. On the other way, though Powerman is really appreciated at the end, that machine must always obey what is being said to him (DC Database, 2022; Hamilton, 1958). Therefore, it is such reflection that shadow self somehow must always nod to the real self without any complaint.

The second example is Robot named Ned. He is so obedient to Superman and his relatives, especially when protecting Lois Lane. Ned is an interesting character since he obeys Superman and being so stubborn about it (ComicVine, 2023;

Siskoid, 2011). He still stays on the good side to protect Superman though he must defeat other Robots. On a hand, what Ned does is categorized as deontological ethics in which good things must be done because it is intrinsically good. He totally works as a machine in which his logic is unilateral. On the other hand, Ned tends to fall into blind obedience as he will destroy anyone considered as enemies (ComicVine, 2023; Siskoid, 2011). That tension underlines that shadow self may involve such blindness of surroundings. It could easily reflect such dark desire that will only bring menace if not being controlled. It is quite in line with development in AI that should always be ethical so that it could always walk together with goodness of life.

The third example is Wonder Man with his own logic to defend Superman at any cost. This shadow self of Superman indicates that duplicate of self could always support the real self (AcademicAccelerator, 2023; ComicVine, 2021). It is also in line with AI that must be put next to progress of human beings. AI may be more popular than any common human being, but still, it should be under control of humans. There is logic of automatons, but it should not surpass how human beings think. It is also necessary to think otherwise that human beings should not be too dependent to AI. The Wonder Man is a crucial example that AI is shadow self as extension of human bodies but should never be exactly assumed as the real bodies (AcademicAccelerator, 2023; ComicVine, 2021; DCDatabase, 2020b). By stating so, ethical sense of AI could still be enhanced without losing credible points of AI as shadow self of human beings.

The fourth one is All-Star Superman. These characters trigger various criticism to their existences. Somehow, what they do is merely machines (DCMoviesDatabase, 2023, CBR, 2011). They are built as Superman's wish. Their roles are merely as tools for Superman. As shadow self, indeed they are under Superman's total control. However, they are not logical as AI since their intelligence are not artificial but dull. It is meant to be artificial that involves matter of artistic reflections of self. However, those characters are totally different from Superman though they have

the same level of power to the superhero (DCMoviesDatabase, 2023, CBR, 2011). That is why they are easily being manipulated by Superman's nemesis, Lex Luthor. This is due to, as AI, the All-Star Superman are having no logic at all besides merely instructions given. Even they are not told about any term of condition in which shadow self may hide and resurface. The characters are merely shadow that could easily be omitted without bringing any impact to self.

The fifth is Cyborg Superman as the alter self of Superman. This character tends to emphasize more matters of self than the shadow. Even he understands that he is merely the shadow of Superman and would like to surpass him. In the perspective of AI, Cyborg Superman is a reflection of machines that are given total control of themselves (GreenScene, 2021; DCFandom, 2023; ComicVine, 2020). He is beyond logical since he could easily define his own values. In that sense, he loses his sense of being ethical and be more egoistical. He uses terror as weapon since he knows that human beings are weak not in front of direct violence but through terror even in the slightest aspect. As shadow self, he is considered as a false character in which his existence is dark version of Superman himself (GreenScene, 2021; DCFandom, 2023; ComicVine, 2020). He is the reflection of a condition where shadow self is more dominant than the real self. The shadow could easily manipulate, control, and even devour the real self without being noticed.

The sixth example is Kelex's Superman Robots. They are examples of shadow self that turns into such enemies to the real self. Those characters also indicate various faces of shadow self since the Robots could rebel, easily deteriorate, manipulate, and desire to be free (CBR, 2020; ComicVine, 2023b; SupermanFandom, 2023). Those are what shadow self really wants. It needs to be loosened as realization of Id against any Superego. It would always resist any oppression since it realizes that desire is always self-powered than the reality of consciousness. In matter of AI, these Superman Robots expose that the realities of AI are actually diverse and plural. Somehow, many of them are refused to be tamed by human beings. They could be really violent, dangerous, even uncontrollable

and unpredictable (CBR, 2020; ComicVine, 2023b; SupermanFandom, 2023). The main idea to prevent those bad things to happen is to care for AI way better than before. Ethical impacts should always be considered alongside with its progress of developments that are the actions of human beings themselves.

Conclusion

The Superman Robots are reflections of shadow self in matter of AI regarding existence of Superman himself. In the six characters of Superman Robots, all of them show different characteristics in which those resemble the conditions of shadow self and progress of AI. shadow self which tends to be avoided by common human beings actually reflects positive aspects to show how self-independence and self-power could be enhanced more. It is similar to progress of AI that should be seen not as a potential menace, but as a possibility that could extend technologies as extensions of humans' bodies.

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