RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE COMMUNICATIVE POWER OF NARRATIVE: EMPATHY AND THE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Abstract

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Communication throughout human history reflects our natural desire to build communities utilizing sharing and connection. By considering the evolution of communication from the viewpoint of the year 2025, this paper shows the enduring relevance of storytelling by linking ancient methods with contemporary narratives. Set against the turmoil in Kashmir, Shenaz Bashir's novel The Half Mother is a major illustration of how literature can convey courage, uniqueness, and communal tragedy.The narrative elegantly shows how communication may empo wer underprivileged voices and highlight stories ignored in disaster areas. By combining historical research, literary criticism, and social perspectives, this paper explores the strength of narrative as a weapon for emotional healing and rebellion. Key results highlight the novel's capacity to foster awareness and empathy by showing how narrative may bridge gaps and sustain shared memory.The study also emphasizes how literature may challenge prevalent myths and advocate for social fairness.Although the research offers some good observations,it ackno wledges some restrictions, including the fact that it only examines one work of literature and the particular geographical context in which it was created. This weakness emphasizes the need for more thorough comparative research on literature from several conflict-affected locations to improve our understanding of the role of communication in fostering societal change. Future research should look at how new media could increase underrepresented viewpoints by closing the gap between digital storytelling's historical origins and its modern develop ments. The findings indicate that to understand how communication affects society, one must integrate literary and historical points of view. Utilizing an examination of The Half Mother, this study emphasizes the capacity of story to promote understanding, compassion, and open-mindedness, hence enabling a fairer and loving worldwide society by closing societal divides..

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Introduction:-

In particular in war zones, Shahnaz Bashir's Half Mother provides a potent prism through which to view how communication has changed and is still changing the formation of individual and group identities. Many people's voices have been muffled or muted due to the use of communication as a tool of control in historical contexts such as war, colonization, and state repression. Fear, governmental restrictions, and personal pain all contribute to Haleema's forced silence in Half Mother, which mirrors the wider constraints of communication during times of conflict. When speaking out is risky, the book shows that people find other ways to express themselves, like storytelling, rituals of grieving, or subtle acts of rebellion. Although it is possible to stifle communication, it is nevertheless a potent force. Through digital activism and alternative media, historically oppressed voices continue to reverberate, drawing inspiration from underground literature, oral traditions, and resistance movements. New forms of communication, power and constraints emerge in the 2025 digital and social media ecosystem. Internet blackouts, surveillance, and algorithmic suppression are ways that modern authorities use to stifle dissent, similar to how repressive regimes used to control narratives through propaganda and censorship. But there are new kinds of resistance that technology has made possible. In a 2025 setting for Half Mother, Haleema could follow in the footsteps of families of the missing by using citizen journalism, encrypted communications, or online activism to make her voice heard. While methods of communication may have changed, the novel's central conflict over who gets to tell the story has not. The power of speech in times of war is double-edged: it may shape not just personal loss but also group consciousness and the way the past is remembered.

"Deciphering the Past: The Origins and Study of Human Communication":-

Learn about the history of humankind's earliest attempts at communicating via rudimentary ways here. The ancient world's inhabitants communicated via nonverbal means, such as cave paintings, signs, and signals, rather than a written language or script. Dating back thousands of years, the cave paintings are among the earliest known means of communication. Rather than being only artistic expressions, these pictures conveyed stories, information, and possibly even religious ideas through depictions of animals, humans, and hunting situations. Smoke signals have a similar history of long-distance communication, employed by several tribes across the globe. Despite their simplicity, these signals served their purpose well in communicating danger, coordinating group activities, or locating neighboring tribes. These ancient customs show how our ancestors were creative in their attempts to overcome environmental barriers to communication and how fundamental it is for humans to want to connect. However, a theoretical paradigm shift toward cultural and critical perspectives, which tended to historicize communication as a practice and an increase in the number of historical studies occurred in the 1970s. Some of these pieces have their roots in the history of journalism and newspapers that stretch back to the 1800s.

Harold Innis and Marshall McLuhan laid the groundwork for the seminal field of media history in Canada, which others have built upon. As a tradition devoted to seeing ideas as byproducts of historical processes and social practices inscribed inside specific social formations, Marxism was also greatly influential. Communication history was also fueled by the rhetorical branch of speech communication, which had long made historical speeches a primary focus of research. Studies of communication, such as the printing press and conversation, were also popular among historians in the 1980s and 1970s. A more cohesive and clearly defined area of research, communication history, has emerged in the past decade. Another angle to consider is the history of implicit communication, which functions even in the absence of fully formed conceptions of communication. Everything that has ever been done to study or depict historical concepts, methods, tools, organizations, events, or means of communication is part of it. From this vantage point, we can see the vast and culturally diverse history of communication, which encompasses practices like depicting human speech, divine pronouncements, and migrations from bygone eras. The history of implicit communication is deeply rooted in the European rhetorical tradition, which emerged from Greek and Roman antiquity and expanded across European empires through colonization. Historiography was considered a rhetorical genre in and of itself, and there was a long history of re-creating speeches for academic or historical purposes. From the indigenous peoples of the Americas to ancient China and India, there are comparable, though less organized, traditions of reenacting speeches from bygone eras (Kennedy, 1998).

"Echoes of Silence: Communication, Grief, and Resistance":-

Throughout history, and especially since the 1960s, the ability to remain silent has been crucial to effective communication. Hymes posits that there are three components to linguistic competence: knowledge, ability, and practical application (1967; 1972). Silence may allow for the building of information and skill, but it is not always

indicative of real language use. Because of internalization and private discourse, the line between silent and spoken communication is not always black and white. Silent self-talk, whether in the form of a whisper or more overt forms of verbal and written regulation (John, 1997), can be a valuable tool for future interactions. Although silence is known to play a part in language monitoring, its precise role in communication strategy development is yet unknown. Research on second language acquisition has mainly ignored strategic competence, which is the capacity to compensate for verbal communication difficulties and make plans for conversations through self-directed speech and silent observation (Canale & Swan, 1980; Bachman & Palmer, 1996). Shahnaz Bashir's Half Mother brilliantly reflects this intricate relationship between speech, internalisation, and silence. Silence, for the novel's heroine Haleema, is more than simply the lack of sound; it is also a potent tool for navigating loss, strength, and self-discovery in the violent terrain of Kashmir. Forcible stillness becomes a place of resistance and survival for Haleema, just as it does in the invisible but crucial process of learning a language. Her questions and pain that she does not ask illustrate the purposeful use of silence in communication, whether as a defense mechanism, a means of contemplation, or an obstruction to the truth. Silence, like speech, is never really empty; rather, it is an active and complicated kind of communication; much as second-language learners absorb speech before externalizing it, Haleema's inner monologue and unspoken problems build her narrative.

The Price of Silence: From Orwell's Dystopia to the Tragedy of Kashmir:-
The idea of "Newspeak," a Party-created language meant to stifle free speech, was first established in Orwell's 1984. Newspeak successfully limits the kinds of thoughts that people can contemplate by making language simpler. It becomes increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for individuals to express disagreement because words connected to rebellion or critical thinking are systematically removed from the vernacular. Take the erasure of the word "freedom" and the idea of liberty as an example. Because it discourages individuals from considering alternatives to Party ideology, this linguistic manipulation is a potent instrument in the Party's control over the populace. The fact that Orwell delves so deeply into the link between language and cognition is evident in his investigation of language management. His claim that "if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought" emphasizes how influence and control can be cyclically maintained through language manipulation. Orwell shows the internal conflict between wanting freedom and the stifling power of language that limits even that potential through Winston Smith and other characters.

At the heart of Orwell's critique of totalitarianism is this power dynamic, which allows censorship to go well beyond the stifling of speech and the banning of books and instead shapes reality itself. Half Mother, by Shahnaz Bashir, examines a comparable issue of control through suppression and quiet; the heroine, Haleema, fights against a distinct but no less oppressive force: the stillness brought about by political strife and grief. Similar to 1984, the oppressed populations of Half Mother's Kashmir are forcibly silenced, reducing the power of words. Winston Smith's fight against a system that controls what can and cannot be uttered is mirrored in Haleema's desperate hunt for her vanished kid. The institutional brutality in Haleema's universe promotes quiet as a tool of control, just like Orwell's Party limits words to stifle thought. This makes resistance difficult, grieving invisible, and justice unachievable. Authoritarian authority flourishes not just via physical oppression but also via the manipulation of language and the silencing of voices, as the erasure of reality in both tales demonstrates. Bashir emphasizes Orwell's warning through Haleema's anguish: when language is controlled, reality is changed, and people are locked in a world where even expressing their grief is outlawed.

The Battle for Truth: War, Missing People, and Voices in the Dark:-
Throughout human history, there has been a complex and interdependent connection between technological progress and war. The effects of technological advancements on warfare have been extensively studied by military historians and strategists; for example, the stirrup, gunpowder, machine gun, tank, nuclear bomb, and so on are all well-known. On the other hand, developments in communication technology have had an equally revolutionary impact, shaping the nature of conflict and deciding relative advantage. As an example from the 20th century, the interplay between the telephone system and the armies during World War I helped bring about the impasse in the trenches. In addition to facilitating coordinated operations, the subsequent sclerotic fights were exacerbated by the practice of running telephone wires along the trenches. Radio and radar were revolutionary tools in World War II, the first wireless war, and countermeasures like the code-breaking machines Ultra and Enigma gave the Allies a significant advantage that may have determined the war's result. Along with the military's move to the airwaves came a shift to maneuver warfare, and this was no accident. However, these were only communication assets that fleets and armies could employ; they were not revolutionary in the sense that they threatened to topple the existing government. They switched the advantage from one side to the other but mostly helped the state's military and bureaucracy run more

smoothly. Throughout the Cold War, studies of the impact of television on the Vietnam War, the West's massive information campaign against the Soviet bloc, and other related topics began to shift focus to broader social notions of "communications" and the strategic implications of these ideas. Interestingly, when looking at the connection between communications and warfare towards the close of the twentieth century, the majority of American military analysts failed to grasp the wider consequences of communications democratization and instead focused on the tactical strengths and weaknesses of the side with more advanced technology. American military planners shifted their focus to transformation and the so-called "Revolution in Military Affairs" in the 1990s as they became more conscious of the profound changes occurring in information technology. According to the many interpretations of this term, "net-centric warfare" refers to the use of modern communication technologies to conduct combat in a "cleaner," more accurate, and more efficient manner. Netcentric operations were developed to integrate military operations, drawing inspiration from the massive changes happening in the global marketplace. This would allow every level of command, all the way down to the individual soldier, to have a clear view of the battlefield. The objective was to avoid confrontation with the opponent by using superior technology from afar and delivering it through sophisticated channels, ideally before the enemy knew he was being targeted.

There would be fewer casualties and the use of force would be more precisely targeted and discriminated in this form of combat. It was designed to be the pinnacle of contemporary just war theory, with pinpoint discrimination serving as a defining feature of swift, effective, and even "clean" triumph. Drones are still widely used today, which supports this idea. As Shahnaz Bashir's Half Mother demonstrates, however, conflicts persist under the veneer of scientific progress and precision combat. The novel by Bashir provides a terrifying depiction of the mental and emotional toll that war has on people, especially those who are left behind, while military planners argue about who is more efficient and has better technology. Half Mother depicts the quiet, grief, and erasure felt by innocent bystanders in the Kashmiri conflict zone, where both the military and political unrest have left their mark. The Kashmiri people in Half Mother are just like the soldiers in netcentric warfare: cut off from their reality and unable to speak up about their pain because of political repression.

Like modern combat, which avoids confrontation, the novel's forced disappearances make the repercussions of violence seem impersonal to the powerful while being very personal to the victims on the ground. Like the way communication tools are often used to restrict narratives rather than liberate them, our protagonist Haleema symbolizes this silent agony as she searches for her son in a world where information is controlled, access is denied, and voices are purposely hushed. War, no matter how advanced technology gets, is never "clean" or compassionate, and her struggle serves as a sobering reminder of this. The use of digital intelligence or drones to conduct war from a distance does not negate the human cost. The film Half Mother provides a stark contrast to the precise warfare language by showing the ugly truths behind the efficiency jargon. It emphasizes that for individuals impacted, war is not about tactics or improvements in communication, but rather about surviving, grieving, and a never-ending quest for truth when silence is the only option.

"Communication in Transition: A Multidisciplinary Perspective on the Historical and Digital Development of ":-

Although communication has been around for a very long time, studying it as a historical process is something of a recent invention. Researchers in the field of communication history have used theoretical frameworks from critical theory, media studies, and history to examine the development of the medium. This development can be better understood with the help of Emanuel Kulczycki's (2014) categorization of communication history into explicit and implicit forms. The development of communication as a framework for understanding the world, which has ancient roots in different civilizations but reached its full potential in the twentieth century, is crucial to the study of explicit communication history. The growth of communication studies as an academic field, especially in the decades following World War II, is consistent with this outlook. The 1970s saw a sea change as theoretical frameworks that prioritized cultural and critical viewpoints and historical studies of communication came to the fore. This change framed communication as a communal activity with deep roots in the past.

Communication studies were influenced by journalism and newspaper history traditions that originated in the 19th century. The idea that communication technologies impact social structures was further supported by Canadian media theorists like Marshall McLuhan and Harold Innis, who were trailblazers in the field of media history. Communication history was also impacted by the Marxian school, which considers ideas to be byproducts of social and historical processes. One way the rhetorical tradition helped was by studying speeches from the past. This was particularly true in the field of speech communication. Historians in the latter part of the twentieth century

broadened the field of communication history to include investigations into the printing press and the power of speech to influence public opinion. Derived from classical Greek and Roman rhetoric and carried on through the European colonial empires, the European rhetorical tradition is among the most significant in the history of implicit communication. Reproducing speeches for academic purposes and recording pivotal moments in history through narratives of rhetorical analysis were also part of this practice. Rhetoriké was the old name for theories of communication that saw human development over time. The function of rhetoric in differentiating civilized (e.g., Athenians) from so-called barbarian (e.g., non-Athenian) peoples was highlighted by the Greek philosopher and educator Isocrates in Antidosis (353 BCE). Subsequently, Aristotle established rhetoric as an art form, defining persuasion as an innate human ability that could be honed through practice. These concepts had an impact on the Romans, particularly Cicero, whose 55 BCE work De Oratore advocated for the ideal of eloquence as a means of integrating speech and knowledge. Humanists of the Renaissance era continued to debate whether the ancients or the moderns were more skilled rhetoricians, tying the study of communication history to larger narratives about the rise or fall of civilization. These historical events shed light on the intersections of communication studies, rhetoric, media history, and social institutions from an interdisciplinary standpoint.

Due to a lack of documentation, the field of communication history is constantly striving to broaden its scope to include non-Western rhetorical traditions. But the fact that cultural narratives and genesis stories concerning speaking are universal indicates that the history of communication is profoundly ingrained in human civilization regardless of time or place. Digital communication stands as a paradigm shift in human interaction, in contrast to more traditional forms of rhetorical expression. To communicate digitally is to engage in the practice of facilitating engagement through digital networks using digital technology, including but not limited to computers, mobile phones, and other digital devices. All sorts of media, from text and voice to video and images—and even 3D animation—are capable of conveying messages. From a human communicator's point of view, though, digital communication encompasses much more than data transmission. Digital communication technologies, which may convey information in a variety of formats, moderate this relationship (Tagg, 2015). She stresses that the behavior, rather than the technology, is what defines digital communication. With this view, building relationships, networks, and interactions takes precedence above content creation.

As more and more platforms incorporate text, video, and interactive components, it becomes more difficult to separate digital communication from particular media types. The media and journalism are only two of many industries that have embraced digital technology to keep up with the rapidly expanding tide of online communication. To narrow the "digital divide"—the disparity between people who have access to and are proficient with digital technologies and those who do not—the public and corporate sectors are funding programs to teach digital skills. Two major issues in modern discourse on communication are digital inclusion (making sure everyone has access to digital technologies) and digital safety (keeping users secure when using the internet). Important cross-disciplinary topics emerge from a comparison of digital and historical communication. Understanding the development of communication as an art form and an academic field is greatly aided by studying media history, critical theory, and media studies. Harold Innis and Marshall McLuhan are two prominent figures in media history who have written extensively about how communication technologies have shaped human society. Many types of media impact how societies are structured and how long they last, according to Innis's "time-biased" and "space-biased" media theories. McLuhan's well-known claim that "the medium is the message" exemplifies how digital platforms and oral traditions both influence the structure of human interactions.

Using these concepts as a foundation, digital media academics examine how communication practices have changed recently, including the influence of social media on public debate. Human contact is deeply rooted in history, as seen in the growth of communication from ancient rhetorical traditions to digital communication. Modern digital communication reconfigures engagement through virtual platforms, while classical rhetoric defined speech as vital to society. How communication methods have evolved and remained constant throughout history highlights the impact of history on modern discourse. Ideology, social ramifications, and power dynamics are the focus of critical communication techniques. Communication, according to Marxism, is a byproduct of social formations in the past; media and speech mirror larger political and economic systems. Similar worries about digital capitalism, surveillance, and the commercialization of online exchanges also arise with digital communication. Academics have voiced concerns about the influence of digital platforms on public discourse, highlighting problems with data privacy, disinformation, and corporate censorship. Communication studies are multidisciplinary because of the progression of communication from classical rhetoric to digital contact. Media studies examine how communication has evolved due to technical advancements, while historical viewpoints shed light on rhetoric's enduring impact on

society. Whether we're talking about new platforms or old rhetorical traditions, critical theory always finds power structures ingrained in communication practices. Scholars can gain a greater understanding of how communication changes due to cultural, technical, and political transitions if they combine these methodologies. Interdisciplinary study is crucial for understanding the ramifications of digital communication's ongoing transformation of human interaction. To better understand the evolution of rhetorical traditions and the current state of digital media, scholars in the subject of communication studies often consult other disciplines. One can gain a thorough grasp of communication as a dynamic and ever-changing practice by examining how media history, rhetoric, and critical analysis come together.

"Echoes of the Missing: Interaction and Recollection in Half Mother":-
Half Mother is Shahnaz Bashir's poignant tale of a mother's search for her kidnapped son in Kashmir, a region torn apart by violence. In addition to being a deeply personal story of loss, her journey eloquently illustrates the dual role of language in oppression and resistance throughout history. Internet blackouts in Myanmar and Iran are only the latest example of a long history of administrations trying to stifle dissent and dispel realities, which includes Nazi Germany's censorship. Underground networks, literature, demonstrations, and digital activism have all shown how communication, although restricted, may be used as a tool of resistance against injustice. This paradox is exemplified by Haleema's fight, which demonstrates the historical interconnectedness between the suppression of voices and their subsequent fight for redress. To control narratives and create terror, authoritarian regimes have always exploited communication. While the relatives of Gestapo detainees remained in the dark, Joseph Goebbels maintained strict control over the German media during the Nazi era (Kershaw, 2008). Stalinist Russia followed a similar pattern, with individuals seen as potential dangers to the system sent to gulags and their families ordered to remain silent (Applebaum, 2003). The goal of these limitations was to limit people's capacity to resist, not merely to limit their access to knowledge.

This historical pattern is echoed in Haleema's frantic quest for Imran, as she is silenced, refused answers, and left to negotiate a system meant to obliterate her son's existence. Suppression was also a tactic used by apartheid South Africa, which regulated the media and made it illegal for activists to communicate with one another (Biko, 1978). Subterranean newspapers and clandestine radio transmissions, however, provided a means of resistance that allowed the anti-apartheid movement to persist. In a similar vein, resistance groups in Pinochet's Chile overcame media control to spread their messages through coded letters, graffiti, and worldwide advocacy (Dinges, 2004). This is reflective of the resiliency witnessed in Kashmir, where the relatives of the missing make use of art, demonstrations, and oral storytelling to keep their loved ones' names in the public eye. This act of rebellion is exemplified by Haleema's pursuit of truth in the face of state-imposed silence; her insistence on remembering Imran is a type of resistance in and of itself. Governments still limit communication in the modern period to silence criticism. Following the revocation of Kashmir's special status by the Indian government in 2019, the region had one of the longest internet shutdowns in democratic history, separating families and making it difficult for journalists to cover the story (Gettleman et al., 2019). To quell pro-democracy demonstrations, the military in Myanmar has implemented internet blackouts on multiple occasions; likewise, during revolts in Iran, the government has also blocked digital communication (Freedom House, 2022).

However, resistance evolves in tandem with communication restrictions. Users in Kashmir have circumvented government restrictions by using virtual private networks (VPNs), encrypted texting, and handwritten notes. Internet activists in Myanmar and Iran have also used blockchain and satellite networks to disseminate information in defiance of official crackdowns. Bashir portrays the profound emotional toll that enforced disappearances take on societies as a whole and individuals like Haleema in Half Mother. Fear and a lack of answers cause her to remain silent, which reflects her own and others' collective trauma. In war zones, silence can speak louder than words; it can be a symbol of loss, injustice, and erasure. Silent sit-ins, holding photographs, and black bands are common ways for families of the vanished in Kashmir to express their anguish to a world that doesn't seem to care. The "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" campaign in Argentina, which sought justice for their vanished children who had been disappeared by the military dictatorship, exemplified how symbolic gestures and silence can be a language of pain and resistance (Feitlowitz, 1998). Countering imposed silence in 2025 will be largely accomplished through digital communication, especially in politically oppressed regions.

Even though governments still block access to the internet and social media, journalists and activists have discovered new means to report the news. Even though some states have restricted real-time communication, innovations like blockchain-based journalism, encrypted messaging apps, and satellite internet access have made it

possible. Activists in Kashmir are preventing the loss of history by archiving testimonies and launching digital memory initiatives on decentralized platforms, even if authorities there still monitor and censor narratives (Freedom House, 2024). Finding no information about her kid, Haleema exemplifies a bygone era when people had little choice except to keep quiet. Nevertheless, in this day of technology, even when oppressed, the voiceless are able to be heard, preserving the memory of trauma and inspiring fresh forms of resistance. At the end of the day, Half Mother shows that silence creates resistance and repression, and that the battle to be heard is about justice, memory, and identity just as much as it is about being heard.

"Striking a Balance: Ethics and Innovation in Digital Communication":-
New ethical and technological concerns have emerged alongside the dissolution of geographical barriers brought about by the development of communication in the digital age, which has drastically changed human contact. Conventional means of communication, such as letters, phone calls, and television broadcasts, were the only options before the advent of digital technologies. Since then, the advent of the internet and social media has greatly increased the accessibility and speed of communication, paving the way for the rapid dissemination of information and the promotion of global discourse. The development of AI has also altered the nature of online discourse by standardizing the processes of content creation, data filtering, and news consumption. Chatbots and recommendation algorithms, which AI drives, improve efficiency but also promote echo chambers and filter bubbles by showing users mostly stuff that supports their current views (Pariser, 2011). Such biased reporting has the potential to widen existing gaps in understanding and prevent the open dissemination of alternative viewpoints. Ethical questions about data security, surveillance, and privacy arise when AI is used in communication. Questions about digital rights and individual freedom have arisen as a result of governments' and businesses' growing dependence on analytics powered by artificial intelligence to track online activities, frequently without users' knowledge or permission (Zuboff).2019 The capacity to create deepfake content and control digital interactions calls into question the veracity of human expression, even while AI has enhanced customized communication and corporate engagement.

Emojis, acronyms, and algorithm-driven communications have all become ubiquitous, and this has changed the way people convey nuanced feelings and ideas. Although these tools streamline communication, they run the risk of reducing the complexity and depth of human contact. This means that it becomes more difficult to express genuine emotions and nuanced nuances in digital settings (Turkle, 2015). To prevent technology from being used for manipulative and misleading purposes, it is crucial to critically examine the ethical implications of AI-driven communication. Notwithstanding these obstacles, digital platforms nonetheless provide unparalleled chances for social participation and global connectivity. Through democratizing the flow of information and promoting cross-cultural encounters, social media has provided individuals and marginalized populations with a voice that was previously ignored by traditional media (Utami & Nurhayati, 2019). But everyone—individuals, businesses, and lawmakers—must do their part to keep online discourse ethical. Protecting the veracity of online discourse requires media literacy, accountable AI governance, and stronger anti-disinformation laws. To make sure that digital innovations improve the quality of human connection rather than diminish it, it is important to find a middle ground between efficiency and ethical responsibility as technology keeps changing.

Conclusion:-
The difficulties of communicating, especially during times of separation, grief, and emotional upheaval, are strikingly depicted in Half Mother. The book delves into how silence, broken stories, and lack of dialogue mold individual and communal pasts. The story shows how people deal with emotional and/or physical constraints on their expression through the protagonist's journey. A larger historical truth is that individual narratives are frequently erased or distorted, and this fight for acknowledgment and voice is a reflection of that. In the communication scene of the year 2025, these issues are still very much alive and well. Although there are new avenues to share tales on digital platforms, there are also new challenges like digital erasure, algorithmic bias, and misinformation. Similar to how Half Mother shows how silence can be both a constraint and a strength, modern society also struggles with the dichotomy of being seen and unseen, being controlled and resistant, speaking out and keeping quiet. As we traverse new forms of storytelling and information exchange, the novel's examination of limited communication remains relevant. The impact of AI on storytelling and the amplification or underamplification of certain voices might be the subject of future investigation. Deplatforming, shadowbanning, or algorithmic decision-making that drowns out individuals or communities—the modern form of erasure known as "digital silence"—also needs further research. Researchers can learn more about how digital technologies are changing the fights for agency, memory, and voice by delving into these questions.

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