



# Techno human Relationship in Android Kunjappan and Alone

## Together - A Brief Study

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### Abstract:

This paper explores the comparison between the movie Android Kunjappan 5.25 with the book Alone Together by Sherry Turkle. This research focuses more about how people are addicted and controlled by technology. The digital connections modify the landscape of our emotional lives and fill it with illusion and artificial intelligence (AI). The tendency of AI is to create an area of technology which is wholly dedicated to the creation of human like artificial creature, i.e. robots. This paper further focuses on how the present generation loses their ability to interact with others in person. From time to time, much of our present day leaves us less connected to humans and more to technology. So it is difficult to survive in reality which leads to illusion. Both the movie and the book examine the psychological and sociological dimensions of technological advances in the modern world.

### Keywords:

Technology, Digital connections, Emotional lives, Communication, Artificial Intelligence, Illusion.

### Introduction:

Sherry Turkle, a renowned psychologist and lecturer is famous for her work on social studies of science and technology. Her famous book Alone Together was published with the goal of educating its readers on how to handle their own difficulties and also examines how modern technology is altering how one interacts with another. Her other works include The Second Self (1984), Life on the Screen (1995), Falling for Science (2008). She is a recipient of Guggenheim Fellowship, Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship, Harvard Centennial Medal All her works are devoted to the psychology of how individuals interact with technology, particularly in context of computational objects. She is an expert on mobile technology, social networking and sociable robotics. Her current interests are in psychoanalysis and human technology interaction.

Android Kunjappan 5.25 is a comedy science fiction drama written and directed by Ratheesh Balakrishnan Poduval in the year 2019 in Malayalam. This movie received political acclaim and was one of the successful movies released in the year. This movie has won three Kerala State Film Awards. This movie was inspired by the American movie Robot and Frank which was released in 2012.

### **Glimpse of the book:**

The book *Alone Together* is divided into two parts, the first of which discusses how people engage with social robots, and the second of which examines how people connect online through social media and virtual worlds. Turkle then uses *My Real Baby*, a doll that can mimic many of a baby's movements, to examine the emerging field of robotics. Turkle labels this frame of view as the "behaviorism of the robotic movement"(web). Turkle then meets Cog, a robot with both facial and vocal features. She focuses on "always-on" communications, like texting and social media, in Part two. She believes that these means of communication have the potential to increase human isolation in some ways. She then examines privacy and how much young people who use these technologies consider their privacy; the majority is happy to put it out of their minds. Turkle concludes by speaking with her daughter, who is currently a student in Paris. She laments the passing of a time when travelling abroad might be an exciting experience and one could entirely cut oneself off from one's home. They start writing letters to one other after Turkle proposes it since they are sick of how infrequently they text each other.

### **Glimpse of the movie:**

Android Kunjappan narrates the story of a 70 year old man Poduval and a robot named Kunjappan . Poduval is very reserved, conventional and patriarchal. His son, Subramanian is a 34 year old man who is very hardworking and passionate. He gets a job offer at Russia and his stubborn father does not allow him to move away abroad and forces him to find a job in his hometown. Subramanian anyway decides to move abroad to his high paid job by going against his father. The main concern of the old man is that he wants his son to care for him and be with him always at his old age. Subramanian is also concerned about his father and finds a way out by bringing a humanoid robot to take care of him and to fulfill his needs. Initially, Poduval ignores the robot completely and continues to do all his works by himself though he is old and weak. Eventually, he develops a liking towards the robot and starts using it. He then names the robot Kunjappan. He is amused by the way the robot works and completes all the household chores in the same way a human does. Poduval then considers the robot as his own son and creates an emotional attachment with him. In the climax, another man attacks the robot due to which the attack mode of the robots gets activated and it starts attacking Subramanian by mistake. After this incident, Poduval with his son destroys the robot in order to save themselves. Then Poduval realizes that a robot can never replace a human. Even though, he destroys the robot he still has an illusion that robot is with him and calls his son as Kunjappan.

### **Illusion:**

The book *Alone Together* states that technology has revolutionized society, making life both simpler and more challenging at the same time. Smartphones make us always accessible, which can be helpful but also increases stress that leads to illusion. For instance, one 82-year-old woman, occasionally neglects her granddaughter Gail to care for her *My Real Baby* robot. Gail receives all of her grandmother's attention when the robot is absent. However, while the "baby" is present, Edna's focus tends to go to it, occasionally neglecting Gail's cries for attention. As the grandmother neglects her granddaughter Gail and gives her complete attention to the robot, she is in illusion of technology. We've even reached the stage where some people would choose artificial relationships over real ones.

The movie *Android Kunjappan* portrays the influence of technology on humans and how technology makes human beings to experience illusion. It explores the relationship between humans and robots. This illusion can be seen in the character of Poduval when the robot is brought by his son. Poduval cannot differentiate between robot and his son and replaces his son by the robot. Since Poduval is in illusion, he fails to understand it and treats the robot as his own son even when his son reminds him that robot is only a machine without any feelings and emotions.

## Robots and Human Relations:

The book *Alone Together* states that while robots can be a great aid to the elderly and lonely but, some people use them to the detriment of their interpersonal connections. With so much new technology automating our lives, it's simple to feel overwhelmed. However, by reestablishing connections with one another, we can find peace. Robotics has a lot to offer our society, but it's simple for individuals to sacrifice real connections in favour of these manufactured ones. One needs to reconnect with people in person to relieve oneself from all the overwhelming that technology causes. Like smart phones, some people who use robots for entertainment or companionship frequently forget their interpersonal connections.

In the movie, Poduval tries to substitute his son by the robot and ultimately fails. The connection with technology can no way replace the human connections. Though the robot fulfills all the needs of Poduval, the robot does its encoded work, proving that it does not have human feelings and emotions. When the attack mode gets activated, the robot just does its job as a machine and does not act with humanity. Poduval develops feelings for the robot.

## Conclusion:

New technology is useful in our present lives but while connecting people together with technology, it leads them into destruction. Though people lack communication with each other and feel alone, they create their own world and leave in illusions. Illusion is a misinterpreted perception of a sensory experience. It is possible for people to extract the positive things out of technology but rather people will fall for its trap and land up with problems mainly especially emotional lives. Hence it would be better if people can get to learn about technology and artificial intelligence and its usage to use it in efficient way.

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