

# A Study of Artificial Intelligence in Gibson's Novel *Neuromancer*

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**Abstract:** *In today's society, the phrase "artificial intelligence" (AI) is used all that frequently. With the technology that we have available today, we have not yet discovered a means to enable someone to leave their physical body while allowing their mind to continue to exist within a computer. Would such a thing even be possible? Perhaps in the future, but for the time being it's simply a thought experiment. The concept of artificial intelligence is discussed at length in William Gibson's novel Neuromancer, which features prominently. He characterizes it as a universe in which everything and everything is feasible. Just going on to the computer gives us access to a world that is beyond our ability to understand. In the universe of William Gibson, the options are virtually limitless. Cyberspace is the term used to refer to the environment that exists within a computer. This is the location where Case logs in, and it provides a description of the environment that he observes. "Cyberspace, as the card presented it, had no specific relationship with the deck's physical whereabouts. William Gibson's Neuromancer (1984) draws on worries surrounding humanity's standing in a world shared with artificial intelligences; in particular, Gibson asks what habits of thought such intelligences might adopt from their makers. Gibson is committed to the idea of creating kinship between people and A.I.s, yet he recognises human tendencies that may possibly defeat this objective. From early religious beliefs through cyber spatial dreams of transcending the body, Western culture has often displayed scorn for fleshly life. Gibson's self-destructive hacker, Case, provides an opportunity to reassess this disdain; counter-intuitively, his climactic suicide crisis enables a new, embodiment-friendly connection. Gibson's concept of kinship also affects the novel's formal experiments; Neuromancer anticipates hyper linking technology and engages readers in an emulated version so that they could participate, to some degree, in a new type of hybridised intelligence.*

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Cyberspace, Neuromancer, embodiment, kinship