

Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*: Critiquing the Faith on Eugenics

Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake* critiques human quest to alter human or natural world and its law by creating new artificial world with the help of science and technology. This novel presents the realities of human thoughts and actions with the knowledge of science. Atwood captures journey of the two young boys: Jimmy and Crake with a lady Oryx from pre to the post apocalyptic world. Atwood's one of the major characters, Crake dares to create alternative human creature and a kind of medicine envisioned to replace the human or natural world that will be better than the real one. In the novel Atwood creates two opposite characters who have two distinct type of vision. Jimmy wants to preserve the nature and human whereas Crake wants to destroy nature to replace by perfect creatures having several positive qualities. Crake is presented as a boy different from others "Crake was different. More like an adult, in fact more adult than a lot of adults" (40). From Atwood's novel we can draw a hypothesis that science and technology is a medium to create new desired things on earth but if we cross the limit then there will be a wretched situation in the natural world. Therefore, the blind faith upon science is not good which does not bring good results after all where we need to be conscious and knowledgeable.

The present research work aims to critique on the anthropocentric viewpoint and high faith upon science and its products. The scientific and technological advancement that modern time is following on the basis of civilization or education provides us idea about the benefits of those technologies. But if we turn our eyes to its opposition then we see the worst part which is destroying the chain of ecosystem and environment. Every action we are performing on earth cannot be tolerated by the ecology on which we are surviving. To display human activities which are the ground for the ecological decline, Atwood presents her novel *Oryx and Crake* in the light of

the genre 'science fiction'. The novel's story revolves around the life story of three main characters; Crake, Jimmy and Oryx which centers upon their thinking, behavior, actions and upbringing environment. The story starts from the post-apocalyptic world and ends with the same issue where flashback technique is used. It points out many things about science: its uses, benefits and worst results because of the blind faith.

Canadian novelist, literary critic, essayist, and environmental activist Margaret Atwood was born on November 18, 1939 in Ontario, Canada. She has started her career as a literarian from 1961 and is writing till now who began writing plays and poems at the age of six. During her career she is very often inclined or motivated by science and she is raising ecological issue relating these two topics to warn or threaten human beings about the negative impacts of technologies. She has written sixteen novels with several poems, essays, children books, anthologies, Television scripts, and non-fictions. Because of her writings she has won several awards among them 'Governor General's Award' (1966, 1985), 'Arthur C. Clarke Award' for the best science fiction (1987), and 'Booker Prize (2000) are noticeable. *The Edible Woman* (1969) is the very first novel in her career and other well known fictions are: *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985), *The Robber Bride* (1993), *The Blind Assassin* (2000) and the trilogy *Oryx and Crake* (2003), followed by two others *The Year of Flood* (2009) and *Madd Addam* (2013). Thus, because of her works and contribution in literary field she has become famous in the world.

French science fiction writer Jules Verne was the inventor of the genre of science fiction before any other English writers that was against the grain at that time. Atwood is the follower of the same genre and the recent novel also falls under the same category. The critic David Seed in his article discusses about Atwood writing 'Science Fiction' (SF) and human imagination as "SF is central to the culture and

offers writers a unique means of speculative dramatization” (264). Science fiction in one way or the other speculates something and presents that in a novel by hypothesizing the future with dramatic scenes but not far from realities. Some hard science fictions are truly based on the fact whereas others are based on realities and progresses followed by human society and imagine the future on the ground of recent actions. Seed again presents the view as “Atwood’s concerns focus much on utopian writing and under the title ‘Dire Cartographies’ she includes material from an abandoned doctoral research project on ‘utopias’, her own coinage which combines utopias and dystopias” (265). This abstract presents the very motif of Atwood writing about utopian novels that generates idea about dystopia. According to Seed “*Oryx and Crake* reflected Atwood’s interest in the complex subject of genetic engineering” (265). So, this novel’s main focus is on genetic engineering and its result on earth.

Oryx and Crake is about the journey of two young boys: Jimmy and Crake where a girl is hired in the project to take care of Crake’s creatures called Crakers. It is divided into 15 sections and 53 chapters. Atwood creates characters such as Snowman (previously Jimmy) and Crake (Glenn) who were childhood friends. After their high school Crake joined at Science College and Jimmy at Art College. Crake was really genius and was used to work in a farm that creates different animals with the help of human tissues. Because of his high influence upon science he has created different creatures and medicine totally new in the world. Thus, the story starts from post apocalyptic world goes to the past and end at the same point that warns us about the misuse of science and technology.

The novel focuses on a post-apocalyptic world where Snowman, living near a group of human like creatures whom Crake has named Crakers. The flashback reveals that Snowman was once a boy named as Jimmy who grew up in a world in a

compound which were run by scientists by the money of rich people. Crake and Jimmy's parents used to work in those compounds for others so they both got chance to learn about computer programs and other technologies. The first scene of the text shows the bitter or tragic condition of Snowman. As the story starts "Snowman wakes before dawn. He lies unmoving, listening to the tide coming in, wave after wave . . . he would so like to believe he is still asleep" (Atwood 4). These lines give us idea about his unmoving condition who thinks he is still feeling sleepy.

In that kind of situation he shares strange relationship with "a group of the children, they must have been swimming, they're still wet and glistening" (5). Snowman is strange to them and they believe upon Snowman's words without any objections. For those children snowman is a "thick-skinned, resistant to ultraviolet he's a creature of dimness, of the dusk" (5). He has thick skin than those humanoid creatures so he is strange to them. He has got dysfunctional watch and single mango in his hand who says "now I'm alone" in the earth (7). So, he is the sole survivor on the earth who has those Crakers as his friends.

In this way the story is told from the viewpoint of Snowman visiting his past becoming Jimmy to show how the apocalypse took place. He shows their compound life, his love towards an animal 'Rakunk', his mother who ran away from home with his pet and so on. The friendship between Jimmy and Crake was really noticeable when they were small children. They used to play computer games, watch porn sites, where Crake though he was small used to show a kind of behavior inclined by science and reasons. That habit developed into reality after his college life who later on becomes a genius scientist. Crakers are created by adding human tissues and programmed to live only thirty years without any diseases and difficulties. So, they are going to be perfect creature in the world to replace humans.

Moreover, there comes a twist in the story when Crake hires a girl named Oryx who was perhaps from Asia. They have seen her in the live child porn site in their childhood and Jimmy finds out that she was sold by her family to a rich man from English speaking country, maybe from USA. She was there to take care of Crakers – Crake’s children who fall in love with Jimmy. He loves her from his heart whereas his friend Crake uses her only for physical relationship. Crake by making master plan invents a project who gives a name for that as ‘Paradise Project’. For this project he uses his friend Jimmy and Oryx to take care of Craker and to distribute the medicine called ‘BlyssPluss Pills’. Those pills are distributed in the world by stating its benefits as this will prolong youth, protect from diseases, and reduces jealousy and violence. Therefore, Crake’s paradise project is regarded as a perfect plan to replace humans and their negative attitudes.

After sometimes Jimmy sees a Red death, a catastrophe in the Television screen and knows the real face of so called genius friend who was mad or ill fated person. According to the critic Snyder “the same mad scientist (Jimmy’s best friend Crake) who masterminded the pandemic also bio-engineered a small tribe of genetically improved trans-humans . . .” (471). Crake is the masterminded person who destroys the world violating the human race and environment. After the ‘Red Death’ Snowman tried to contact Crake but could not contact him. Then Crake enters in the building with Oryx where he slits her throat and in a grief Jimmy shots him there.

The story comes to an end which shows “zero hour, Snowman thinks. Time to go” (223). This very idea about zero hour proves the lack of official in the world which has lost everything. The real cause of the catastrophe is the Crake, his intellectuality has been used in a wrong way and our blind faith upon science has been proved as the worst part of our life. Obviously science and technology has made our

life easy, smooth, fast and so on. Using human tissue to create other creatures provides great benefit to us. But if we use that potentiality in a negative way then there come a bad outcome. So, one person's wrong belief, his/her upbringing environment, education and wrong motif or ego can destroy the whole world like that of the present novel. This provides us an argument that we need to be careful about the use and misuse of science and technologies. By implying the same idea Atwood is warning us and at the same time suggesting the whole human race needs to be conscious about the positive and negative traits of science which can swipe the whole world within a single second.

Furthermore, the main issues raised by the present research work is genetic engineering, blind faith upon scientific advancements, post-apocalyptic world or a new world after the great devastation, ecological disaster and so on. Genetic engineering and ecology is the main attraction of this novel which proves if we use the potentiality of science in a good way that can make our life perfect in the world whereas if it goes wrong then it can wipe whole human civilization without any mercy. In today's world genetic splicing has become a hot topic of discussion. We can use a single human tissue to generate thousands of humans or we can give birth to any kind of creature by collaborating two different genes. In this novel Atwood has provided us the very idea about cloning as the critic Humbuch states that "Atwood's focus rests on genetic engineering" (53). At the same time the medicine 'BlyssPlus Pills' which contain Juve virus that is the byproduct of science and is the real cause of 'Black Death'. It gives a lesson about the negative impact of such technologies in the ecology or human race in the existed world.

By creating such issues Atwood is showing our near future that is cataclysmic and devastative. She is proving this by creating a character who is motivated by

science from his early age. He wants to alter the human world who does not like humans, their behaviors, motives, diseases and so on. For this he creates new creatures first and to destroy human race he invents pills and distributes that by using two innocent characters, his friend and girlfriend. That pill swept the whole world by resulting catastrophe in the ecology. This kind of anthropocentric-one sided thinking and behavior of a mad, so called genius scientist destroys the whole world by bringing tragedy on earth. In a sense Atwood's two opposite forces nature lover (Jimmy) and science lover (Crake) collide where Crake uses Jimmy in a tricky way, who cannot save the world. Crake only used to think about the alternative human world that is better than this real world so he acts on the same ground in his life.

His intellectuality has diminished the world by resulting 'Black Death' on earth. So, we can draw a hypothesis that Atwood is showing or giving knowledge about our future and warning us about the negative impacts of technologies. To show this she uses those characters, their environment, education, thinking and actions with day to day life. Crake's family life, his father's mysterious death, mother's early marriage with another man, people's indifference nature towards him gives rise to the human ego who became man of no mercy. This is the reason behind Crake's invention of Crakers and BlyssPluss Pills. Another reason is his education and motivation towards science from his early age. He is ignoring the ecology where he is doing his activities and surviving on the same environment. Therefore, Atwood is satiring upon human race's behavior and warning us by arguing to be careful about the limited power of science and technology. Technological advancements do not bring positive results all the time. Human beings are following wrong path or easy way to get success in their lives which can lead into the world of hell.

Several critics have examined this novel from different perspectives.

Catherine V. Snyder in her article “Time to go: The Post-apocalyptic and Post-traumatic in Margaret Atwood’s *Oryx and Crake*” presents her idea about post apocalypticism post traumatic situation in the main character’s life. She argues that the novel has futuristic setting which is bleak, dark, dry and so on that covers story of a narrator who tells his story through flashback. For this Snyder argues “the futuristic setting of the novel suggests that we are at risk of coming to such a pass, though some readers may feel that this is already substantially, if not literally, the way we live now” (471). We are really at a great risk of collapsing our future because of our own deeds. Snyder presents post-apocalyptic view as: “*Oryx and Crake* opens with Snowman awakening to a bleak, post-apocalyptic world that makes the socio-economic disparities and biotechnological threats of his past” (471). The opening displays that Snowman awakes in a bleak post apocalyptic world that has lost everything from earth and presents threats of biotechnology as a part of science in the human or natural world.

Further, Snyder views the setting of the novel as “near-future world that both approximates and projects forward from the political, socio-economical, technological and climatological givens of our present moment” (470). The story is Snowman’s present days and our near future which envisions the future situation of our actions we are doing at present. If we do not concern about this the world definitely won’t have any future after all. For Snyder this is “the difference between a human future and no future at all” (471). After the great devastation the world does not have any future to come so there will not remain any difference between human future and world without any future. In the same article the critic puts her idea about post apocalyptic novel as “post apocalyptic fiction serves as rehearsal or preview for its readers, an

opportunity to witness in fantasy origins and endings that are fundamentally unwitnessable” (479). Things that are impossible to watch are there in these kinds of post apocalyptic scientific novel that imply creative and imaginative base in the story.

Another critic Called Dunlap in the journal *The Journal of Ecocriticism* critiques the effects of science and technology in this world – basing on the novel *Oryx and Crake*. He presents his view in the article as “*Oryx and Crake* highlights the complexity of knowledge production and cautions the reader against sweeping plans for the elimination of suffering, regardless of whether those plans are driven by economics, science, or environmentalism” (1). Human society has several complexities or problems and our knowledge to reduce those difficulties should be used in a positive way. He further examines the novel as “at the heart of *Oryx and Crake* is a tension between capitalist science’s tendency to minimize human/animal differences and its simultaneous insistence upon maintaining human exceptionalism” (3). This novel presents the dispute between the science run by higher class people and its benefits in human life that needs proper balance. Science is a kind of stream or field which needs great knowledge and reason. On the same issue Dunlap argues “science occurs not in a vacuum of objectivity but in a world driven by economics, politics, culture, emotion, bias, racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, and other forces” (12). This human world has many features both positive and negative. Thus, science does not happen in an empty world whereas it develops in a world run by several subject matters such as: economics, politics, sexism, culture and so on.

Moreover another critic Doris Hambuch from Arabia in the article “Arab World English Journal” analyses Atwood’s style and story in *Oryx and Crake*. He argues that “Atwood represents an obvious reality concerned with contemporary threats for sustainability” (44). Atwood as an environmentalist talks about the very

hot issue related to the sustainability of things which may go wrong because of the blind use of science. The threat science is raising in human world is not easily acceptable and that also cannot be controlled in an easy way. Science fictions can have several issues related to the technological advancement and our acceptance of that whereas “Atwood’s focus is primarily on genetic engineering” (45). In the novel Crake creates Crakers with the help of human tissues that is the part of science as genetic engineering. The scientific progresses do not go well all the time if our intension is wrong. Therefore, Atwood relates “the present situations of cultural and socio-political crisis to the abuse of scientific knowledge and ultimately to the kind of politics which render this abuse not only possible but to a certain degree even support or encourage it” (47).

Furthermore, Jayne Glover as another critic examines the novel through the eyes of ecological philosophy. He states that “Margaret Atwood’s 2003 novel, *Oryx and Crake*, speculates on what the near future maybe like considering the realities of contemporary environmental, social, and political issues” (50). *Oryx and Crake* in one way or the other imagines the near future environment based on recent time’s socio-political, economic and scientific factors. Atwood is “both uneasy and ironic” and is satiring upon so called advanced human world guided by technology (51). On the other side, Glover discusses the novel as “*Oryx and Crake* engages with the debate about the divide between culture and nature and questions how the environment around us affects human nature” (51). So, the debate between nature and culture raises a question about the potentiality of natural resources or environment with human culture which can be developed, changed or modified.

Moreover, the critic Valentina Adami in the journal “Polemos” critiques the novel from different perspectives. Adami argues *Oryx and Crake* “deposits a dreadful

future where uncontrolled techno-science has led to ecological destruction and to the creation of a new, post human race” (250). The above lines give idea about the novel which exhibits a fearful future that is run by science. Science on the one hand helps to create new species whereas it also destroys ecology or environment on the other. To prove that Adami gives her idea as: “Atwood expresses her environmental concerns by highlighting the relational interdependence of all living things on earth and describes the progressive destruction of the environment caused by humans’ disrespect for nature, warning us against the potentially dreadful impact of technology on people, animals, plants and land in general” (253). Most science fictions either display positive sides or negative impacts of using these technologies in human world which create a devastative or dreadful situation. Human’s disrespect to nature is going to be the worst thing so Atwood is suggesting us about the bad impact of technology on land, plant, animals and people living in this world.

In the same way J. Brooks Bouson from United States of America analyses the novel which raises an issue of ‘bioengineering’ which is the great achievement done by science. Atwood is not showing the effects in a direct way but she is creating a story and displaying the devastative world in her imaginative plotline. Bouson views *Oryx and Crake* as “a deadly serious and darkly satiric novel” (140). It really raises a serious issue and satires upon the dark side of humans’ activities that bring bleak results. She is satiring those who are on the way to destroy the world. In the same article Bouson quotes Atwood’s remarks about the disagreement with one sided people who only see benefits of biotechnology. Atwood argues “if you’re going to do gene splicing, you’re going down a very strange path indeed. If you’re going to do it on humans, what you have to ask yourself is, do you want the human race to remain human?” (qtd. in Bouson 140). Gene splicing or cloning is strange part of technology

and wonderful achievement but this act is not going to save human for long.

Therefore, we need to be conscious about our activities behaviors which are radical in nature.

Oryx and Crake raises a serious issue about scientific innovations and products of twenty first century which foresees or forecasts its effects on human as well as ecology. First world countries which are known as western world are practicing and following such land of exploration and innovations with several researches to gain the supreme position all over the world. Atwood by applying the very issue about science and technology wants to show the positive and negative effects. Crake could not get success in his life because his mission itself was faulty. Human deeds have destroyed and brought enormous changes in humans' and animals' world. Such actions are threatening the whole world and at the core the main concern of the novel is science (eugenics) and ecology (environment). Thus, this research interrogates the anthropocentric viewpoint of human world which needs a lot of revision and changes to keep human and ecology in the good position.

Eco-criticism is the combined term of 'ecology' and 'criticism' which came in the late 1970s whereas people were talking about it when human civilization existed in the world. Basically we can define ecology as the science that studies the relationship between living creatures and environment. Human beings as the rational creature on earth need to balance the relation between nature and humanity (humans). Cheryll Glotfelty as a eco-critic defines eco-criticism in his text *The Ecocritical*

Reader as:

What than is ecocriticism? Simply put, ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and physical environment. Just as feminist criticism language and literature from a gender conscious

perspective, and Marxist criticism brings an awareness of modes of production and economic class to its reading of text, ecocriticism takes an earth-centered approach to literary studies. (XVIII)

These above lines explore that eco-criticism is an approach which concentrates upon the awareness of ecological world through the means of literature. Human beings are called the genius creature on earth but according to the pace of time they are trying to go against nature's rule.

Environment is something out there what we see and where living creatures along with humans survive or run day to day lives. In the article "New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society" edited by Tony Bennett, Lawrence Grossberg, and Meaghan Morris the writer defines environment in a simple term as "environment is something out there within which humans live, to which they respond, and over which they have control" (108). We have power to control over nature and natural elements where power is provided by the knowledge and science or technology. We respond to the place where we live at the present. To address the eco-friendly nature the writer puts view as "eco-friendly product lends a sense that one is contributing responsibility (even scientifically) to saving the planet when purchasing a product" (108). Eco-friendly products do not destroy nature whereas they help to converse that. Thus, science, scientific products, technologies are not bad issue but in what way we treat or take that becomes the most important thing.

Next, Aaron Gillette as a theorist and critic defines eugenics and critiques its positive and negative aspects along with other factors like environment and heredity. Firstly, he defines 'eugenics' in his text *Eugenics and the Nature – Nurture Debate in the Twentieth Century* as: ". . . eugenics could be dressed up as an apparently humane solution to a variety of social and medical problems" (2). At first it clarifies that

eugenics is a process which solves the medical or pathological and social problems of human beings by copying the genes. Eugenics is totally scientific process based on technology which needs lots of intellectuality or knowledge. Gillette defines science as “science is not a divine mystery found among the crystal spheres; it is an intellectual process that cannot entirely free itself from the society in which it operates” (5). Human beings have done so many progresses according to the pace of time and need of our community by using the rational and academic mind. Thus, eugenics is a part of science which needs greater knowledge or intellectual power.

On the other hand, science has power to rule over natural and human world. According to the movement of time, science has reached its pinnacle and it has compelled us to raise a serious question about morality or rationality of its works. Gillette argues “of course the scientist’s own ethnicity, culture or gender may be an influential factor. In this view, science is not an expression of rationality and objectivity. It is non-rational or even irrational” (5). Science should have objectivity on its base or ground but it goes wrong when the creator emphasizes upon his/her own cultural practices, upbringing, gender, class, knowledge and so on. Eugenics is the great achievement of science in the twenty and twenty first century but if wrong intention comes in the developmental process then there comes the worst result replacing the good one. So, eugenics needs objectivity in its developmental process where other factors do not affect.

Science has provided us such a great power to rule over the natural world. We can take example of robotic world or computerized world which we are following in the twenty first century. To prove this view Gillette puts his idea as “one undeniable product of science in the modern world is the increased power it has given humankind over nature” (5). Science is a tool to develop different devices and methods to

increase the power and potentiality to do something new in human world. We as humans want to rule all over the world but nature itself has its own system and power which defuse human's act and produces worst result. Here science raises a serious question about scientist where he/she is free or not to develop any kind of products what he/she thinks is the best one. Therefore, science is a subject which goes in whatever way we like to develop.

Stephen Wilkinson and Eve Garrard in their article write an essay about the topic "The Language of Eugenics" where they define 'eugenics' and critique the sides of it. They start their essay by quoting Ruth Chandwick's definition "[E]ugenics is the attempt to improve the human gene pool" (qtd. in Wilkinson and Garrard 2). Human beings have some flaws or problems which need to be improved or changed so that we can give better results to the world. Based on the very issue scientists are doing their best but some bad intentions give us worst results like in the novel *Oryx and Crake*. For Wilkinson and Garrard liberal methods on eugenics don't become the real eugenics at all. They argue, ". . . using authoritarian coercive methods can really be classed as eugenics, so that if there's free parental choice (so-called liberal eugenics) that won't be eugenics at all" (3). There is also certain terms or conditions to restrict the free parental choice in cloning. Therefore, every scientific deed needs boundaries to get rid from certain unexpected flaws.

In one way or the other the best aim of creating another generation by using some genes is to create best result in the created group. Almost all living creatures on the earth have certain flaws, drawbacks, or problems which are diseases or disabilities. And scientists want to reduce or resolve that by using their best ability and knowledge. For this view Wilkinson and Garrard argues "the practice of eugenics is divided into two different categories – positive eugenics aiming at enhancement and

negative eugenics aiming at the elimination of disease and disability” (3). Positive eugenics tries to make better genes than the former and negative creates worst production than previous one. So, it depends upon the creator’s motive whether to bring good results or bad one. The two theorists make a neutral definition of eugenics as “. . . a neutral definition of eugenics is that it leaves room for discussion about whether or not any form of eugenics can be morally right” (3). Thus, eugenics is an open topic for discussion or debate and we can define or take it in the way as we like.

Relating eugenics with environment can provide us broader knowledge about scientific world followed by human on which all living creatures survive. In the article “New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society” where the writer has defined environment or ecology by relating it with human culture and community. The writer argues that ‘environment’ was “first used in the 1300s with a variety of meanings that depict that which surrounds the (human) subject, ‘environ’ designated what was physically or naturalistically round about, in the neighborhood, or the surroundings” (106). It clearly defines that our surroundings or the place where we live is called an environment. The same article defines “in the 1960s, ecology responds to the widespread sense that the environment has been seriously compromised by humans, technology, and industry as the science to both explain and repair this condition” (107). From 1300 to the half of twentieth century ecological definitions and views emerged, changed, modified and now it covers the whole human parts and deeds done around the natural world. Thus, science is based on the environment we are living where eugenics is the byproduct of environment itself.

The story of the novel *Oryx and Crake* starts from the description of Snowman's working activity where his watch does not work and he has a blank, pale face. The line “out of habit he looks at his watch . . . no longer works” (4) clearly

means his watch has already stopped to work. Again the line adds “[A] blank face is what it shows him: zero hour. It causes a jolt of terror to run through him, this absence of official time. Nobody anywhere knows what time it is” (4). Here ‘Zero hour’ gives us idea about the new world after the great catastrophe that gives terror, horror. None of the human knows what the exact time, the absence of official or real time gives the meaning as bleak, infernal world after the devastation. On the other hand, there is nothing left with Snowman except “Single Mango” (4). So, the beginning of the novel gives us the idea about the catastrophic world.

The story in the novel is presented from the viewpoint of Snowman from pre to the post cataclysmic world, in Snyder’s word “pre-and post- are its main temporality” (472). The story starts from the destructive world, goes to flashback and presents how the world came into that position. The reason behind that is the human appetite for something great or better which is not tolerated by the nature's capacity. This led the world into the great disaster. One genius scientist with high vision of great world wants to alter the nature which goes wrong and great devastation takes place with the help of eugenics. In this way, Snowman's past (good past) becomes traumatic in his present days which are the near future days of all humans. Thus, the story covers pre to the post world of novel's character through flashback technique.

The issue centers upon characters such as Snowman, Crake- Snowman's friend, a genius and mad scientist and Oryx- a girl who is hired to care Crakers by Crake in his bio-form. Snowman is a character who loves and cares nature with natural resources and has different vision, characteristics than others characters of the novel. We know about Snowman and his condition from the very beginning of the novel who feels sad being alone human on earth. His features as presented in the text are “the abominable snow existing and not existing, flickering at the edges of

blizzards, ape-like man or man-like man, stealthy, illusive, known only through rumor and through its backward-pointing footprints” (6). What is the exact feature of Snowman after the world's devastation that is not fixed because either he is existing or not and either he is like an ape or like a man. Then, he has become alone and says “now I am alone . . . All all alone. Alone on a wide, wide sea” (7). In the present day almost everything from this world has been swept away and he is all alone “who is roaming near the sea that is big” (7). Snyder presents this view as “Snowman believes himself to be the sole survivor of a global pandemic that has extinguished the rest of humanity” (471). Therefore, he is the only human on earth who has seen the global catastrophe through his eyes.

Moreover, Crake is the childhood friend of Jimmy who was genius and has devoted in science. Jimmy's mother would say about Crake with Jimmy as “your friend is intellectually honorable” and “he doesn't lie to himself” (7). Crake's vision and intellectually was really appreciable who used to feel truths. Aaron Gillette as a theorist argues “science is not a divine mystery found among the crystal spheres; it is an intellectual process that cannot entirely free itself from the society in which it operates” (Gillette 5). At the same time “he had his doubts about Crake's honorableness, intellectual or otherwise” but Jimmy “knew a bit more about Crake than his mother did” (Atwood 40). From the very beginning of Crake's adult life he has a kind of infatuation towards science. After college Jimmy had doubts about his intellectuality, definitely he will do something great but that may turn into the genius scientist for a bio-form who does bioengineering or cloning to create new species on earth. Thus, science provided him a kind of power to rule over the world.

Further, in the comparison of Jimmy's college called Martha Graham Crakes Science College was really great. The line proves the very thing as “compared with

Martha Graham, Watson – crick was a palace . . . the main application nowadays was bulletproof vests” (117). Watson crick was like palace or heaven which means this college used to run by several advance things. Even in the college a palace where we provided and get education there was the use of bulletproof clothes. It shows science has done progress in every field which cannot be replaced by normal mind/ knowledge or innovation. But, it also has raised a serious question about its effects, as Gillette asks “indeed, is objectivity a goal of science at all? How can we know when a scientist is or is not objective?” (4). So, we cannot believe or follow almost all research programs or inventions regarding their outward objective motto.

Martha Graham used to teach humanities not science which emphasizes on the “performing Arts- acting singing, dancing and so forth” (110). People give great value to the science but not for the social science which is related to the world not as the reasons of science. Martha Graham was not so good according to the products that have produced. Jimmy says “Martha Graham was notoriously about scorekeeping and plagiarism was a cottage industry” (115). It shows that this college is not very careful about students' record file, results and their copied papers that has become like an industry to produce things which have not got any value. But, Watson crick was really great regarding the matter of term papers, examinations and results “because of the high percentage of brilliant weirdoes that strolled and hoped and lurched through its corridors” (114). Thus, from the college life Crake was influenced by science, reason and innovations whereas Jimmy was a word boy.

On the other hand, Oryx is the third character of the novel that was once sex slave child now is in Crake's bio-forms as teacher/ mother of Crakers. She does not know exactly where she is from “a village in Indonesia or else Myanmar . . . it was not India though Vietnam?” (66). Her village “was a place where everyone was poor

and there were many children, she herself was quite little when she was sold” (67) the wretched human activity as buying and selling humans in the society for different purposes is not good which is alive in poorest countries of the world. Later on Crake brought her in his bioform from the place where she was working to survive. Oryx is natural or animal lover who cares the new creature in the novel.

Furthermore, the new creature created by Crake named as Crakers are the humanoid or human like creatures. They are launched from the project called ‘Paradise Project’ who says “At first we had to alter ordinary human embryos” (179). From the very beginning of his career Crake was thinking about some better world than this existing human world. So, he has programmed better creature than man. He said “they are programmed to drop dead at age thirty – suddenly, without getting sick. No old age none of those anxieties. They will just kill over. Not that know it; none of them has died yet” (180). Crake always wants world of heaven which is far from diseases, anxiety, thirst of negative things, old days and so on that is opposite of real world. Again, Aaron Gillette’s argument regarding the issue of science is as “a fundamental tension exists between the creators and the process of creation” (Gillette 4). This is related to Crake and his action eugenics which brought several changes in the world. At the same time, Hambuch critiques “*Oryx and Crake* is twisting and speculating with reality in a more satirical way” (46). Therefore, *Oryx and Crake* is a satire to the human world.

If we follow what Crake has advised us, we will be able to select the quality of baby in the heavenly world which is the most traceable benefit of eugenics. He says “they would be able to create totally chosen babies that would incorporate any feature, physical or mental or spiritual . . .” (180). Crake’s chosen baby will be perfect with almost all features related to human bodies. The Crakers’ society “did not register skin

color. Hierarchy could not exist among them” (181) Crakers are designed it to eat grass whereas humans use lots of things that are grains which may extinct lack of scarce in the human world. At the same time, Crake expresses “you’d be surprised how many would like a very beautiful, smart baby that eats nothing but grass” (181). We do not think about such humanoid character on earth which eats nothing but grass. Thus, in one way or the other Crake wants to generate perfect human world by using his intelligence which later on turns into the worst thing because of wrong intention on eugenics.

The compounds or bio-forms are the places where biomedical engineering takes place or alternative humans and animals are created with the help of human tissues. Jimmy’s father tells about the compound as “there was too much hardware around . . . too much hardware, too much software, too many hostile bioforms, too many weapons of every kind. And too much envy and fanaticism and bad faith” (17). This clearly gives us idea about computer system in hostile activities done inside the firms because of blind faith upon science and wretched competition of human. Jimmy says it’s a “bioterrorism” that replaces natural creatures with artificial one. In a mocking way, Jimmy’s father says “Daddy’s a monster once again” with Jimmy but its reality that he also works in compound and his activities are like monsters (12). Thus, Gillette says “. . . human were after all animals” (2) which exhibits the animalistic nature of human beings.

Jimmy's mother does not like the job of her husband as he works in hostile bioforms. She says “it’s wrong, the whole organization, it's a moral cesspool and you know it . . . you are interfering with the building block s of life” (32). It is not good to work and construct something extra that is not suitable for humans on earth. Creation of alternative worlds is the activities of forming problem in natural process

(ecosystem) but Jimmy's father is involving in the same kind of job. So, Jimmy's mother says "it's immoral. It's . . . sacrilegious" (32). Human beings blind faith upon science is immoral no one can replace natural world but they can bring little changes only. She becomes really furious and asks her husband "why can't you get a job doing something honest? Something basic" (32). It shows the man is doing wrong deeds and the question of morality about eugenics comes here. So, according to Gillette ". . . science does not always follow clear paths illuminated by reason" (Gillette 2) for this Hambuch adds "Atwood's focus rests on genetic engineering" (Hambuch 53).

Moreover, there is an internet game developed by Crake called "Blood and Roses" on which players take either blood or rose side to have a competition. In the blood side "individual rapes and murders didn't count, there had to have been a large number of people wiped out. Massacres genocides, that sort of thing" (Atwood 45). This is played with human atrocities which resemble wretched human world going to destroy everything from the world. At the same time Roses side brings "Artwork scientific breakthroughs, stellar work of architecture and helpful inventions" (46). This is totally opposite of atrocities which resembles human achievements or positive sides where Crake used to take Blood and Jimmy Roses side all the time.

Furthermore, the story goes back and forth by presenting the thing to exhibit how the apocalypse took place and shows features of newly created world after that time. In the very beginning of the novel, the apocalypse is presented as "the sea is hot metal, the sky a bleached blue, except for the hole burnt in it by the sun. Everything is so empty, water, sand, sky, trees, fragments of past time. Nobody to hear him" (8). Jimmy is the sole survivor character in the novel who is in post apocalyptic world-where most of the things of nature have been cleared and he has no one to listen or give company. The story moves back with the help of flashback technique and

presents “if there was going to be a catastrophe some final collapse, he needed to witness it” (3). It is almost sure that catastrophe is going to take place where people who are involving in these kinds of collapse. The critic Hambuch talks about the opening as “Atwood’s novel opens with a description of what seems the only survivor of the pandemic, not counting Crakers” (48). As the story moves back that really presents the process of down fall of human world which is chaotic in its situation:

The people in the chaos were full of chaos themselves and the chaos made of them does bad things. They were killing other people all the time. And they were eating up all the children of Oryx against the wishes of Oryx and Crake. Every day they were eating them up. They were killing them and eating them and eating them. They ate them even when they were not hungry. (Atwood 60)

It is a chaotic scene where people eat humanoid character and kill other humans of the world which brings disgusting situation because of flesh eating humans run from wretched hunger that is the worst part of techno-scientific human world.

The city of United States of America called San Francisco “was a chaos, filled with people and cars and noise and bad smells and a language that was hard to understand” (74). Advanced cities around the world are moving into the chasm which is full of noise and bad smell that cannot tolerate by human body but at the same time those are the outcome of human activities where language also does not work.

Snowman does not know the thing what is going wrong in his life. “He does not know which is worst, a past he can't regain or a present that will destroy him if he looks at it too clearly” (86). Either past is wrong or the present, he does not know the reality of his dilapidated condition. The line “time to face reality crudely put he’s slowly starving to death” (87) presents the condition which is near to death because of the

collapse of natural world but Crake says “I don’t believe in nature either, or with a capital N” (123). Thus, these two characters are two opposite poles of the novel where Snowman is attached to nature and wants to save it whereas Crake is the destroyer and does not believe in the nature where he is dwelling.

Moving forward, the main cause behind the apocalypse is Crake's second invention "BlyssPluss Pill" a kind of medicine that is designed to control human desires. The line “the first- the BlyssPluss Pill- was prophylactic in nature, and the logic behind it simple: eliminate the external causes of death and you were halfway there” presents idea about death (173). Human beings are mortal but BlyssPluss Pill works as a medicine against death which is the end of life. Crake as the creator of the medicine, points out the benefits of medicine that works “not only on society but on the planet” (174). Again, Crake says “with the BlyssPluss Pill the human race will have a better chance of swimming” (174). Crake in one way or the other promotes the pill by stating its features with the help of Oryx and Jimmy that makes human better in different issues.

The pill is specially designed for the purpose of getting benefit in human body to control diseases, prolong youth age and to develop sexual power. Crake presents three benefits of the pill as:

- a) would protect the user against all known sexually transmitted diseases, fatal, inconvenient, or merely unsightly;
- b) would provide an unlimited supply of libido and sexual prowess, coupled with a generalized sense of energy and well-being, thus reducing the frustration and blocked testosterone that led to jealousy and violence, and eliminating feelings of low self-worth;
- c) would prolong youth. (174)

These three features are the selling points of the medicine but the real working capacity was unknown to everyone except Crake, master of the invention.

Further, Crake presents the fourth selling point behind their advertisement as “the BlyssPluss Pill would also act as a sure-fire-one-time-does-it-all birth-control pill, for male and female alike, thus automatically lowering the population level” (174). This medicine would control the growth rate of population which is really high in its level. It was plan to distribute all over the world and “it was going to be global. It was all upside. There was no downside at all” (174). With the great excitement Crake was convincing his two friends and staffs to distribute the pill to make that a global one which brings upside results only. At the same time Jimmy comments Crake as “I didn’t know you were so altruistic” (174). Jimmy may have seen the future and is imagining the destructive world after the use of medicine so he is responding Crake in this way. In the process of scientific innovations Ruth Chandwick says “some are among the worst crimes that can be committed” (4). Same is the case of BlyssPluss Pill in this novel which is the byproduct of science.

Paradise Project designed by Crake and his inventions in the project are linked together with each other. He states that “they were inextricably linked – the Pill and the Project. The Pill would put a stop to haphazard reproduction; the project would replace it with a superior method. They were two stages of a single plan” (181). Crake’s two works in a single plan spread in a rampant way after he launches the medicine from his project itself. At the same time he presents a world of Crake as:

. . . there would be no family trees, no marriages, and no divorces.

They were perfectly adjusted to their habitat, so they would never have to create houses or tools or weapons, or, for that matter, clothing. They would have no need to invent any harmful symbolisms, such as

kingdoms, icons, gods, or money. Best of all, they recycled their excrement. (181)

These lines mention the perfect world in the society of Crakers who do not have idea about family, marriages, divorce or weapons and clothes. In Craker's society "hierarchy could not exist" which have potentiality to alter the human hierarchical world, really sounds good (181).

After sometime there comes unexpected result in the world which is first seen by Jimmy in the television screen along with the news of world facing great devastation. The news is broadcasted on TV screen and radios which says "the symptoms were high fever, bleeding from the eyes and skin, convulsions, the breakdown of the inner organs, followed by death" (194). The real threaten comes there because of the medicine that contains "JUVE Virus" which was unknown to all users. Jimmy expresses the thing as "it's a worldwide plague! It's the Red Death!" (195). He knows that was the plague which is far from human control followed by death on the process of wiping all the things and human civilization from earth. So, in Gillette's word "eugenics has been called a modern way of talking about social problems in biologizing terms" (11).

The story ends at the same point where it has started by exhibiting the apocalyptic world and new unsettled world after that. The line "the riots in the cities as transportation broke down and supermarkets were raided; the explosions as electrical systems failed, the fires no one came to extinguish" (203). Gradually everything has started to go down or destroy the thing. Atwood in her word presents Jimmy's idea as "why hadn't the moon turned to blood? Pundits in suits appeared on the screen; medical experts, graphs showing infection rates, maps tracing the extent of the epidemic" (203). Everything is going to be destroyed by the pill which brings

great devastation on earth. Even there is the use of Pundits which shows the belief upon religion or god that is still alive and there is hope for betterment but in reality that does not work at all.

Similarly, on the television screen there comes a documentary about the cause of global epidemic cataclysm. The line “documentaries were hastily thrown together with the images of virus . . . They’d given the virus a name to make it seem more manageable. Its name was JUVE, Jetspeed Ultra Virus Extraordinary” (204) presents the idea about the virus that spreads in a jet speed and cannot be controlled. There comes “Black Death” and the city has been declared as “New York a disaster area” (204). The great disaster in the advanced city has spread and the city is in the process of collapse. Thus, the real cause behind this cataclysm is the Juve Virus which brings 'Black Death' later on.

Furthermore, different cities from the world are transferring into the state of desert. The epidemic managers call those cities as “field clinics, isolation tents; whole towns, then whole cities quarantined” (204). Most of the cities where people used to live or do their activities have turned into useless and lifeless places. The apocalypse is presented as “England closes ports and airports. All communication from India has ceased. Hospitals are off limits until further notice” (204). Cities of England to India have been ceased where most of the parts of the world have stopped working though they used to run by highly equipped tools or materials. At the same time Jimmy says “the end of a species was taking” in front of his eyes (205). Here ‘end’ gives us idea about the final end or collapse of the species along with the natural world.

At the last step there remains nothing but the worst world where Jimmy says “finally there was nothing left to watch.” (206). All the things from this world have been wiped away then in this kind of world nothing remains to watch. In the same

way there was Happicuppa coffee plantation in one of the cities of USA where riots took place. The lines are as:

Riots broke out, crops were burned, Happicuppa cafes were looted, Happicuppa personnel were car-bombed or kidnapped or shot by snipers or beaten to death by mobs; and, on the other side, peasants were massacred by the army. Or by the armies, various armies; a number of countries were involved. But the soldiers and dead peasants all looked much the same wherever they were. They looked dusty. It was amazing how much dust got stirred up in the course of such events.

(105)

These lines show the tragic reality behind the front scenes of our society where the security forces turn as murderer or thief that should care people. Thus, the reason behind such riots and death is the worst competition between genius humans.

Talking about Crake, who is regarded as the eugenicist in the novel follows different paths and move the way of life in a great speed. For the theorist Gillette “to become a eugenicist one had to believe that application of knowledge of evolution and genetics to social engineering could ultimately improve human life and accelerate social progress” (10). The first priority of eugenicists is to bring different improvements in human’s life; in their bodies as well as social sides. On the other the negative side of eugenics as chaos and hopeless stage is presented in the novel as “when they reached the Rejooven Esense compound proper, the evidence of destruction and death lay all around” (210). Rejooven Esense is a compound where Crake designed his project, created the Crakers and invented the pill which clearly shows the evidences of destruction and death. One can find out the cause in an easy way because physical environment and the condition of tools used by the scientists in

the lab. The destruction or “the chaos smells very bad” (211). So, the destructive world obviously does not provide good smell or impression for us.

In the last part of this textual analysis the researcher argues that the catastrophic world presented in the text is the real warning for the human society. The apocalypse is presented as “more plagues, more famines, more floods, more insect or microbe or small mammal out breaks, more droughts, and more chickenshit boy-soldier wars in distant countries” (150). Crake used to see this kind of apocalyptic world in news who later on brought same kind of situation in his real world. In this real world “there were the political assassinations out there in the plebes, the usual strange accidents, the unexplained disappearances. Or there were sex scandals . . .” (150). The world is full of negative actions that bring same results in human life. The murder, accidents which are mysterious and unknown, disappearances of things are strange and worst results of the world brought by human envy, anxieties, and so on are the real causes of global cataclysm.

Moreover, after the apocalyptic world there is new unsettled, wretched world where Jimmy is alone, who passes time in a great pain. The line shows the critical condition of Crake as “he was drinking alone now, at night a bad sign. He shouldn’t be doing that, it only depressed him but he had to dull the pain” (154). Human beings are social creature and live in a society but here Jimmy is all alone - only human on earth as survived in the apocalyptic world or in the great devastation. To forget his good past he is drinking alcohol or to heal the trauma at least for some time given by the destruction. There is not any good thing in this world and in the language too “there was no longer any comfort in the words. There was nothing in them it no longer delighted Jimmy . . .” (155). The comfort or solace need to bring by the words to console human in the great problem does not work in this moment because almost

all the things have gone from earth. So, everything has lost its way of working in natural process and “perhaps he was the danger, a fanged animal gazing out from the shadowy cave of the space inside his own skull” in the place of human (155).

The nightmarish situation in Jimmy’s life gives great trouble to him. Narrator explains as “something’s wrong the time’s wrong, he can’t tell what it is, he’s paralyzed with fright” (156). The horror or terror makes paralyzed person who cannot tell the reality of the world and his life because the whole mechanism has stopped to work or has been shot. In the same way the chaos period brought fire in the crowd. The line is as “during the period of chaos the guards probably fired on the crowd . . . No one of this high tech stuff is working now, of course” (158). None of the highly advanced technologies are working in the present day. Because of the massacréd and rape the world has turned into hopeless state and Jimmy is in traumatic state who has lost his good past. Therefore, the blind faith upon science – eugenics is not good after all.

In conclusion, Atwood’s *Oryx and Crake* presents the burning issue that is the use of bioengineering related to science and technology. The invention of the pill named BlyssPlus and alternative humans, Crakers are the byproduct of scientific innovations on which we cannot rely fully. The developments or progresses in these fields according to the pace of time is expected but the blind faith upon those inventions motivated by some genius, mad scientists is not good after all which cannot bring better results. Atwood is showing this through Crake’s actions, behaviors, dialogues and so on. She is arguing that only the conscious use of such innovations is good for humans and environment. Therefore, she is warning or threatening human society, do not rely on every progresses done by few scientists who may put us in a great illusion and we need to be conscious about its limitations.

The modern concept about the eugenics as the part of science and technology is changing day by day and has reached at its peak. What we are following in recent days is beyond our imagination or dream. Scientists have done really great job that has provided humans greater opportunity to grab every kind of situation under their palm. But science does not bring good results only, the most wretched things can happen on the earth. Eugenics is the central point of the novel where Crake creates Crakers by using human tissues and Pig (animal) tissues to replace humans on earth envisioning the better species. Crakers are like blank sheet of paper where Crake can write anything he wants so as to replace the humans he first makes plan to destroy humanity. For the very reason he invents a kind of medicine called BlyssPlus Pills that can wipe out all the human races and civilizations that has virus for the real cause of black death. After all Crake is successful enough to destroy humanity and replaces the human world with his new creatures and loses his life from his friend's hand. Therefore, *Oryx and Crake* is a novel that provides us an opportunity to view our near future days which threatens human's unintelligible faith upon science that can cross moral values. She is suggesting us that everything has limitation so we should not try to avoid that whereas we should try to follow nature and natural rules or processes to save the human world.