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**Technology With A Human Face: A Reading of G. R Indugopan's Nano Novel, *Ice-196 C*.****Shemeena Fauzia***Assistant Professor (English)Govt. Polytechnic College, Punalur, Kollam. Kerala,  
India*[shemeenafauzia@gmail.com](mailto:shemeenafauzia@gmail.com)**Abstract**

*It is the first of its kind as a perfect Science Fiction the first Malayalam Medical Thriller, in Technological field may be the first in India – Ice-196 c is outstanding in this respect. Same human beings are leading same lives in same life time, two births – it is the tale of unique and bewildering revenge. The backdrop of the novel is the treasure of knowledge, the powerful knowledge of science – destructive and constructive at the same time in the time span from 2003 -2050. Malayalam literature is not dared 'enough to wish for such 'a big dream'. The novel gives a vanity fair/carnival of imagination and fancy but the reminder of ultimate truth and destiny. Resmidharan and Bindusaran were once thick friends but now they turned as fiends, who try to win by hook or crook. They seek the help of Cryonics- the technology which helps the rebirth of people who died only to reborn as enemies again. The inventions of Science can do good as well as bad things. It can create and destruct. It is up to the human beings to decide whether it should be used to kill or to regenerate. The novel Ice-196 c tells the tale of revenge and enmity between the characters Resmi and Bindu. Atlast,the machine becomes enlightened with good qualities to teach the morality to human beings.*

**Keywords:** Science, Novel, Fiction, Medical Thriller, Technology, Cryonics, Science fiction

Whether Technology is good for human beings? is a probing question. Do we need a Technology with a human face is another important query when we think about its evils. The knowledge in the fields of Electronics, Biotechnology and Neuroscience gave the 20<sup>th</sup> century an outstanding place in the World history. This century may be memorable with nanotechnology Cloning, Neuro Science and research, Gene therapy etc. Cryonic technology which helps to give life / preserve dead bodies to those with their heart dead and with a static brain. If ever a convenient technology is developed the people in Cryonics will arise to a

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‘Brave new World’ to a new time like Rip Van Winkle. We must not wait for the realization of this dream for time immemorial – within fifty or hundred years it may happen. The making of artificial hands are now in practice.

In Malayalam literature, the Science Fiction is not developed as in the case of English literature. Science and its study is meant for a job – whether it is Engineering or Medicine. We are now turning our interest to false science. In other words, the situation is the growing up of science fiction is not at all welcoming. In these adverse situations, it is challenging to enter in a Scientific creative world. It needs experience and literary talent related to modern science. The writers of this genre need appreciation in this respect.

It is no wonder when we think about our brain – a super computer. There are as many neurons in one’s brain as the stars in a galaxy. The proper functioning of our body, emotions and feelings are the duties of neurons. The signalling of neurons is called firing. Some can fire but others may not. Positron Emission Tomography (PET), a unique technology, can be used for identifying a group of neurons. PET picture denotes the areas in which they reside. Every neuron may be responsible for the actions of the body. There may be a technology to control the neuron message and to inscribe and read them. It may be followed by achievements like transplanting heads to old or newly cloned bodies and to lead a new life.

Like in Thomas Mann’s *Transposed Heads*. Robert Penrose opines that, the source of consciousness are micro tubes found in cytoskeleton and they arise out of the process Quantum Coherence. The writer discusses about this in his book *Shadows of the Mind*. If the detecting of mind happens then it is helpful for authorities to read the thoughts and feelings in common man’s mind.

The contributions of Nano Technology can only be viewed with wonder and fear. In America, there are Cryonics Institutes like Aleor Life Extension Foundation and Cryonics Institute which work meticulously. Tissues like ovum, semen, skin, bone, blood cells, etc can be kept in deep freeze covered with Glycerol and they can sustain their existence/ growth when it is heated.

G.R Indugopan is familiar to Malayali readers with the novels like *Manaljeevikal*,

*Muthalaiyani* and *100% Muthala*. There is no such novel like *Ice-196 c* in technological field. If one thinks about the drastic changes that will happen in near future one may be in wonder like ‘*Alice in wonderland*’

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Novelist tells about the lives of Bindu Saran and Remidharan – the intertwined and complex lives of two friends –now born enemies. Familiarity breeds contempt as Shakspeare said,in the case of these two friends. Now-a-days, it is a common sight – enemy among thick friends or neglecting the friends forever. Resmidharan and Bindusaran have their own reasons for their life long or death long enemy. Once cannot judge who is the culprit. Their enemy leads to a revenge which even ages cannot wither. Bindu became a prey to his fiend Resmi thinking that he can take revenge on him with the help of Nanoelectronics means taking revenge after thousand years. When Resmidharan realized the truth that Bindu arises from the liquid nitrogen bath to kill his whole family Resmi commits suicide to reach near Bindu. His plan is coming together face to face and taking revenge. The helping hands were Dr. Johns Hopkins who is money-minded and his assistant Dr. Syam. When the heads of these born enemies began to communicate, their enemy is at its height with its fury. Though the body was in deep freeze for many years, the fire of enemy was there without a change. One may suspect whether technology is nourishing the enemy among the individuals. This enlightenment is happening to Dr. Syam who served Dr. John Hopkins, for money and fame. He crushes the chips which recorded the secrets of brains of Resmi and Bindu and throws it, to the sea thus by creating a feeling that ‘Goodness will over power Evil’ at any cost.

When analysing the role of technology one can find many things which are shocking and unpalatable. Technology is always with authorities. It is remarkable that whenever the technology is developed new weapons, system, situations which are threatening to man will also be there – Man cannot eat, sleep, think, feel without the supervision of authorities. The freedom of mind and body will be lost forever at the cost of comfort. Technology has two sides – good and evil but do they balance or whether the second one overshadows or over powers the first one is the ultimate question.

There are hints of an era which is full of dangerous situations, in the story. Lastly, Syam, the scientist comes to his parents, to the old moral values and receives his old identity as Ramakrishna Pillai to embrace peace and calmness. To receive a peaceful mind and life one must return to the age-old truths as Gandhi said. The most outstanding and touching part in the novel is done by the machine which is spying on Syam. The machine changed and expresses the cause of this new avatar with a thought-provoking statement,

the thousands and thousands of moral stories, Vedas, or epics, or their interpretations that It

received give it inspiration to become a good machine.

The conventional machines do not have any difference between good and evil. But ‘Intelligent machines’ have possibilities for such an ‘enlightenment’ when man becomes a machine who cannot identify good and evil, machine becomes a man who can live up to the moral standards. Novelist is endorsing the idea that good values have significance whether it is in the past, present or in the far future. It is an eye-opener to our age which is like a ‘blind assassin’ in operating technology for one’s own personal entertainment or misuse.

‘Technology with a human face’ must be the slogan, practice and way of life.

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