



AUTOMATIC CAR IN ISAAC ASIMOV'S "SALLY"

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ABSTRACT

In the modern world we need advanced technology to survive in this ultra modern world. Every field is undergoing lot changes due to the development of technology. Science fiction writer effectively predicts the need of the future world and they invent some imaginary inventions. Later, those imaginary inventions are really created by the scientists in the real world. Thus imagination paves way for the creation. So we can not neglect the imaginary inventions or predictions of the science fiction writers. Isaac Asimov is considered as the one of the Grand Masters of Science Fiction. He predicted lots of technologies in his short fiction a and long fiction. He creates three laws for his fictional robots. His short Story Sally portrays a robot car and this car has the sense of gratitude and responsibility. The twenty first century witnessed this type of real car in the world. Thus the paper portrays that the writer's imagination induces the scientists to create valuable things for the society.

Keywords: Three Laws of Robotics, Robot, Technology, prediction, invention, transhuman theory

Asimov wrote a wide variety of works, including mystery, poetry, science fiction, non-fiction, humour, horror, literary criticism, mythology, and even Bible and Shakespeare guides. Science fiction writers imagined a far-future world in which there would be planets, or fictional planets, in outer space. Asimov's science fiction served as an example for aspiring authors. From his two passions, learning and writing, he has accumulated his vast and incredible knowledge. Asimov possessed the storytelling ability to effectively explain scientific issues in a way that even a layperson could understand. Asimov taught science fiction readers about astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, ecology, cybernetics, and electronics. Asimov's earnest endeavours have earned him numerous awards such as Thomas Alva Edison Foundation Award, for *Building Blocks of the Universe*, Howard W. Blakeslee Award from the American Heart for *The Living River*, James T. Grady Award of the American Chemical Society, Nebula Award

for best novel for *The Gods Themselves* Hugo Award for Best Novelette for *Gold*, Hugo Award for best non-fiction for *I. Asimov: A Memoir* and so on.

The short story "Sally," published in 1953, outlined the world of the future when only the robot cars on the highway were allowed. These vehicles had a positronic engine and no human driver needed it. They required automatic cars to avoid accidents. This robot car can not speak, but can communicate via horns, doors and light. The vehicles on the farm had titles, and Jake was in charge of keeping the old positronic vehicle. Jake had a special interest in Sally. Sally was one of the cars in the house.

A scrupulous businessman, Raymond Gellhorn, came to see him communicate his plan to steal and recycle old cars, "You're an expert automobile mechanic, Jake. You must be. You could unhook a motor and place it in another car so that no one would know the difference" (Asimov,

Robot Dreams 118). He pressured Jake to do this illegal work, but Jake wasn't willing to compel.

Jake intrigued Gellhorn, who took him to the gunpoint in a taxi. Sally pursued the bus and tried to rescue Jake and other cars from the estate. This type of post-car assault was not anticipated by Gellhorn. Jake has been rescued from Gellhorn by Sally and other cars. Jake was strongly convinced that positronic brains would never damage the individual but the climax was transformed into an anti-climax. As Jake read the news report the next morning, he learned that Gellhorn had been killed. Jake thought this assassination was conducted by the positronic brain engines. He then discovered that when there was need, no legislation can damage vehicles. Intimate and protracted contacts with Sally and other cars were therefore avoided.

In reality Asimov mistakenly used Zeorth Law in this novel. There was no ambivalent conclusion to that story. According to the Law of Zeroth, robots became involved not to save the whole of humanity. The wicked man Gellhorn tried to cheat the company. In relation to the welfare of the whole of civilization, individual life was not so significant. Sally and other automobiles have therefore decided to kill

Gellhorn. The Zeroth Law is entirely different from the other three laws. This law gives importance to the whole human society. 'The Three Laws of Robotics' are introduced by Isaac Asimov in his short story "Runaround" are:

1. A robot may not injure a human being, or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot must obey the orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law. (Asimov, *Robot Visions* 8)

The driverless car's dream was achieved in 2008. In Pilbara iron ores mine, Western Australia, Rio Tinto launched this self-regulating vehicle. It could be a threat to this driverless car so that the Government postponed approval for the automobile. Nevada Motor Vehicle Department Legislature approved a regulation on autonomous vehicles in 16 June 2011. Niculus Benney Kuk discovered in March 2012 a new autonomous car and this car features technologies with similar features in the short story "Sally" mentioned by Asimov. The short story "Sally" in figure 26 depicts the Sally robot car and the first real driverless car on the road is demonstrated in figure 27.

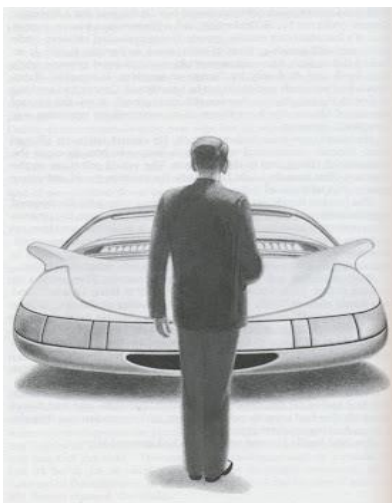


Fig. 26. Sally an Autonomous Car in Fiction

Such latest, automated new vehicles often interact via some signals, as was the case with Asimov's Sally.



Fig. 27. The Real Autonomous Car

The lights swivel to look at you when the sensors detect you, and blue LEDs flash to indicate the car has seen you. Directional speakers swivel toward you, too, and the car tells you it's safe to cross. The

system can also flash bright white LEDs to get your attention. Sonar sensors can detect if a pedestrian is too close to the side of the car. If they do, LEDs in the wheels to turn from green to orange and red—getting redder as you get closer—to warn you, and let you know the car knows you are there. (Bullis n. pag.)

These techniques were available in Sally and other robot vehicles and Jake told Gellhorn about the advance techniques in the vehicles, “But it works by itself, Mr. Harridge. It scans the road, reacts properly to obstacles, humans, and other cars, and remembers routes to travel” (Asimov, *Robot Dreams* 116). In “Sally,” Asimov thus examined the potential of future technology. The most popular technology in the future world would be the autonomous driverless vehicle with its ability to analyze the driving environment more quickly and safely.

The world expect that Tesla the world number one advanced automobile company will change the future transporting system. The artificial intelligence and the highly advanced electronics field will make the man to travel around the universe within a stipulated time. Asimov’s future vision comes true by the attempt of Telsa Company. Tanshuman theory is applied to find out the merits and demerits of implying human senses to the artificial humanism. Once the senses or exact intelligence is implemented then the robots or any other artificial intelligence turn against humanity. Thus the transhuman theory explain the shortcomings of the empowering technology.

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