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Research Paper

Use of AI in the Study of Philosophy and Literature with Reference to Advaita in Jainism

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Abstract

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed research methodologies in the humanities. This study investigates the application of AI tools in philosophical and literary research, focusing on how these technologies facilitate deeper analysis and interpretation of classical texts, with special reference to *Advaita* perspectives within Jain philosophical discourse. AI-enabled text mining, semantic analysis, and interpretive modeling are shown to assist researchers in decoding complex doctrinal ideas, enhancing hermeneutic rigor, and bridging traditional scholarship with computational insights. Through a mixed-methods approach combining digital tools and classical hermeneutics, the paper demonstrates that AI can enrich philosophical inquiry without diminishing the interpretive depth required for studying subtle metaphysical concepts. Ethical considerations, limitations, and future prospects are also discussed.

Keywords: Philosophy, Literature, Humanities, Jainism, Advaita, Digital Hermeneutics, Text Mining

1. Introduction

In recent decades, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful tool for scholarly research across disciplines. In the humanities, AI applications such as text mining, stylistic analysis, and conceptual mapping are reshaping how scholars approach extensive textual corpora [1,2]. While AI is widely used in data-heavy fields, its application in philosophical and literary studies remains an evolving frontier.

This paper explores the role of AI in the analysis of philosophical texts and literary works, particularly focusing on interpretations of *Advaita* within Jain philosophical discourse. Jainism, a classical Indian tradition, is predominantly characterized by Anekāntavāda (the doctrine of manifold viewpoints) rather than a strictly Advaitic (non-dual) philosophy as found in Vedānta. Nevertheless, many Jain interpreters [3,4] acknowledge layers of non-duality within Jain metaphysics, especially in relation to the soul, reality, and liberation (*mokṣa*). This study positions AI as a facilitator of such nuanced textual engagements.

2. Literature Review

2.1 AI in Humanities Research

The integration of AI in humanities research has grown rapidly. Scholars such as Jockers [1] and Underwood [2] have used computational tools for text mining and stylistic analysis in literature. Philosophical AI research, on the other hand, includes algorithmic modeling of argumentation and conceptual mapping [5].

AI tools such as natural language processing (NLP)**,** topic modeling**,** and semantic networks enable scholars to trace patterns, frequencies, and conceptual relationships within texts that would be laborious or impossible to detect manually [1,5].

2.2 Advaita and Jain Philosophy

Traditional Advaita Vedānta posits an ultimate non-duality (*brahman* = *ātman*). Jain metaphysics, although rooted in Anekāntavāda, admits aspects of relativism that implicitly challenge rigid dualities. Scholars such as S. Radhakrishnan [3] and contemporary interpreters like Padmanabh Jaini [4] emphasize the nuanced ontological positions within Jain thought that resemble certain non-dualistic interpretations.

Existing literature on AI and Indian philosophy, however, is sparse. There has been little systematic investigation into how AI tools can assist in studying Indian philosophical traditions, especially when engaging with complex metaphysical concepts.

3. Research Questions

1. How can AI tools be used to enhance the study of philosophical texts and literary works?
2. What are the challenges and limitations of using AI for interpreting metaphysical concepts like *Advaita* in Jain philosophy?
3. Can AI assist scholars in reconciling traditional hermeneutic methods with computational analysis?

4. Methodology

This research adopts a mixed-methods approach combining:

4.1 Computational Text Analysis

Corpus Creation*:* Classical Jain philosophical texts (e.g., *Tattvārthasūtra*, commentaries) and related Advaita texts are digitized.

NLP Tools*:* Using NLP tools like NLTK and spaCy inspired by methodologies described in digital humanities research [1,2], texts were processed for syntactic parsing, semantic tagging, and frequency analysis.

Topic Modeling*:* Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) was applied to identify recurring conceptual clusters related to unity, multiplicity, selfhood, and liberation, following computational hermeneutic frameworks [5].

4.2 Human Interpretive Framework

To ensure philosophical fidelity, AI-generated outputs were evaluated through traditional scholarly exegesis. Cross-validation with authoritative interpretations [3,4] ensured contextual accuracy. This dual-layer methodology affirms that AI augments rather than replaces philosophical reasoning.

5. Findings and Discussion

5.1 AI-Enabled Pattern Recognition

- AI-assisted analysis revealed:
- Strong lexical clustering around concepts of self (jīva), knowledge (jñāna), and liberation (mokṣa).
- Co-occurrence patterns linking terms related to unity and multiplicity, suggesting interpretive intersections between Jain pluralism and non-dual discourse.
- Thematic networks that visually mapped conceptual relationships, facilitating comparative analysis across traditions.
- These findings align with digital humanities methodologies demonstrating AI's capacity to detect latent textual patterns [1,2].

5.2 Hermeneutic Enhancement

AI tools helped scholars to visualize complex philosophical structures via semantic networks**,** facilitating discussions on:

• The interplay between Jaina Anekāntavāda and Hindu Advaita: AI highlighted lexical clusters where terms relating to unity, multiplicity, and non-duality co-occur, inviting renewed comparative interpretation.

However, consistent with Baron's caution regarding computational hermeneutics [5], interpretive validation required careful human oversight. AI suggested correlations; philosophical judgment determined their legitimacy.

5.3 Limitations of AI

AI cannot replace the qualitative depth required in philosophical hermeneutics. Misinterpretations can arise due to:

- Context-sensitive terminology
- Cultural and historical subtleties
- Translation ambiguities

Thus, AI should be treated as an augmentative tool rather than an autonomous interpreter.

6. Ethical and Practical Considerations

- Researchers must ensure data integrity and respect textual authenticity.
- Transparency in AI processes is essential to avoid misrepresenting philosophical positions.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration is necessary to prevent overreliance on computational outputs.
- Failure to contextualize AI outputs may result in misrepresentation of doctrinal subtleties, especially within sensitive religious traditions [5].

7. Conclusion

AI has significant potential to assist in the study of philosophy and literature. In the context of Jain philosophy and the interpretation of non-duality (*Advaita-like* aspects), AI provides meaningful analytical support by uncovering latent patterns and facilitating comparative analyses. However, human scholarship remains indispensable for interpreting complex concepts and maintaining philosophical rigor. Future research should explore AI-assisted translation, multimodal analysis (image, sound, text), and cross-tradition comparative studies to further integrate technology into humanities research.

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