

THE ROLE OF AI IN DEMOCRATIZING VISUAL STORYTELLING

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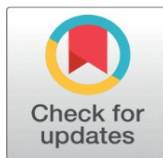
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ABSTRACT

The fast development of artificial intelligence turned visual storytelling into a more approachable, inclusive and participatory creative action. Historically, visual narratives were only done well by specialized artistic skills and costly equipment, and a barrier of experience in production that made visual media communication only available to a few. This can be minimized by AI-enhanced technologies like generative image models, style-transfer systems, multimodal storytelling systems, and automated editing pipelines which allow users with diverse backgrounds to tell captivating visual stories with more ease than ever before. They favor ideation, the structuring of narrative, composition of a scene, and aesthetic polishing, allowing individuals with no formal training in art to visualize themselves and experiment in a creative way. Also, since AI personalises visual content based on cultural and emotional subtexts and user-specific intentions, it creates more genuine and meaningful storytelling. It also facilitates usability with voice-to-image synthesis, user-friendly interfaces to creators with limited abilities and language-neutral narrative editors. AI promotes creative confidence in learning settings, which allows students to cycle quickly and visualize abstract ideas. On a societal level, AI democratizes the process by enabling marginalized groups to get new channels to conserve narratives, rebrand traditions, and recount lived experiences on the digital realms. Along with these developments, such aspects of ethics as authorship, originality, bias, and responsible deployment are also of critical importance. On the whole, AI is a radical power that broadens the range of creators, the format of stories, and those whose voices are heard within the visual storytelling system.

Keywords: AI-Generated Visuals, Democratized Creativity, Multimodal Storytelling, Generative Models, Accessible Design Tools, Digital Visual Narratives



1. INTRODUCTION

Visual storytelling is the ancient form of human communication, which forms cultural memory, identity, and creativity in people of various civilizations. Since the prehistoric cave paintings through to the digital cinema of today, the skill to create compelling visual storylines has traditionally relied on special artistic ability, access to quality equipment, and often some institutional support factor that limited membership and concentrated creative energy on a small group of trained professionals and creators of access to high-quality equipment [Avlonitou, C., and Papadaki, E. \(2022\)](#). The illustration, animation, filmmaking and graphic design production pipelines that existed at that time were designed to take years of training, costly machinery and human cooperation, which imposed structures that barred the democratization of visual expression to the common people and marginalized groups [Łukacz, P. M. \(2024\)](#). Moreover, the changing of the digital media during the late 20 th and early 21 st centuries, although revolutionary, continued to bear a heavy technical burden, requiring the ability to work in highly sophisticated software platforms, including Adobe Creative Suite, 3D modeling software, and video editing systems [Bildirici, F. \(2024\)](#). These issues tended to inhibit the creative engagement, limit creativity and uphold the injustices of who would be able to be visually represented and propagated to a large audience.

The advent of the artificial intelligences, especially the generative and multimodal AI systems, signifies the turning point in reducing these barriers as well as changing the frontiers of visual storytelling. Text-to-image generators and diffusion models as well as neural style-transfer systems and automated editing systems are AI-based systems that allow users to generate expressive images with little to no technical expertise or mastery of the arts [Costa et al. \(2024\)](#). They are systems which exploit the natural language prompts, user-friendly interfaces, and multimodal features to encode ideas into images, animations and stories faster and more readily than ever before. Consequently, AI has emerged as an effective facilitator of creative expression, which can assist those who may not be professionally trained and improve the productivity of professional artists and teachers of the same field [Lai, Y. \(2023\)](#). AI makes the creative process more inviting, expedited, and investigative through eliminating the use of the traditional tools and simplifying the workflows that require a lot of labor. The [Figure 1](#) displays a closed circle of interaction between the content generation, personalization, distribution, and accessibility in an integrated AI workflow. Outputs are constantly refined by user input that leads to an inclusive and adaptive storytelling. The system facilitates democratized creative engagement in the form of iterative feedback and multi-level intervention of AI.

Figure 1

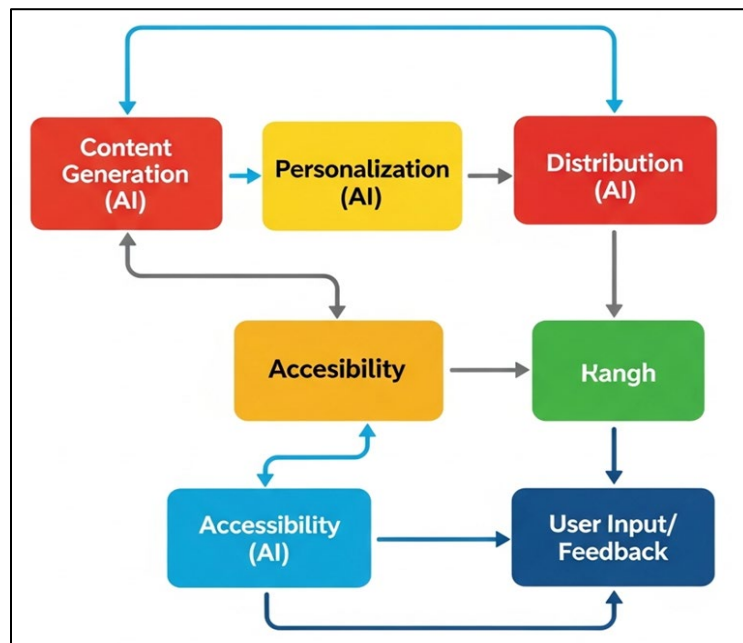


Figure 1 AI-Driven Workflow for Content Generation, Personalization, Accessibility, and User Feedback

Such a study is justified by the growing number of demands of society to have at their disposal creative technologies and the realization that the visual media is an essential component in the aspect of digital communication, cultural representation, and the growth of the educational process. Visual communication ability in the contemporary digitalized ecosystems whereby social media, virtual platforms and exchange of information across the globe are the leading, is not a business option, but a requirement of being a player, influential and create identity [Santiago et al. \(2025\)](#). This capability allows individuals of both language, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds, and so on to transform into more democratic individuals by making this capability available to them so that they can generate their own stories that are supposed to represent their experiences and desires in life. In the meantime, it enables educators, students, social organizations and content producers to engage with visual media more effectively and efficiently [Kim et al. \(2024\)](#). As visual storytelling reaches peak production as AI meets machine intelligence, it should be understood how AI can be used to reshape creative production into a more demand-driven, participatory and socially engaged narrative of the future [Tankelevitch et al. \(2024\)](#).

The contribution of this research paper given as:

- 1) The detailed discussion of how AI-based generative and multimodal technologies can be used to eliminate barriers on visual storytelling and allow more individuals to engage in storytelling regardless of their skills and abilities, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- 2) Theoretical framework demonstrating the democratizing processes of AI, such as amplifying access, developing personalized narratives, and giving marginalized or underrepresented groups of people creative empowerment.
- 3) Critical analysis of ethical, social and creative impacts of AI-based storytelling, offering a perspective on responsible innovation and equitable design and future human-AI collaborative narrative activities.

2. RELATED WORK

The current body of work on AI-inspired creativity forms a solid basis of studying the role of technological progress in transforming visual narratives, specifically concerning accessibility, inclusivity, and narrative plurality. The initial research on digital media focused on supportive capacities of computational devices in enhancing artistic processes, although these systems were accessible to professional audiences and not to a general population, which curbed the process of wider democratization [Chung et al. \(2024\)](#). The advent of deep learning ushered in the exploration of whether convolutional neural networks and generative adversarial networks could automate the processes of image synthesis, style transfer and visual enhancement, and showed that AI could help simplify the creative process and assist users with limited technical expertise [Kamnerddee et al. \(2024\)](#). Further text-to-image generation and diffusion models emphasized the increased capability of AI to decode natural language into rich picture narratives to allow non-artists to create detailed visual artworks [Vacanti et al. \(2024\)](#). Within the sphere of creative human-AI co-creation, research revealed that AI systems may be used as co-creators to make suggestions, create variations, and aid in ideation hence enhancing creative confidence and alleviating the fear that often comes along with creating visual media [Yu et al. \(2024\)](#).

Another research area focuses on how AI can be used to promote cultural inclusivity through the visual output adjustment to various aesthetic traditions and linguistic backgrounds and emotional characteristics. According to scholars, customization that can be enabled by AI can assist the communities to maintain cultural expression, re-write the past and experience digital storytelling without the need to master professional design tools [Chen et al. \(2024\)](#). Educational research also shows that AI would be useful as a visual literacy and storytelling aid to learners through providing real-time feedback, allowing quick prototyping, and converting abstract concepts into visual outputs, thereby complementing artistic pedagogy and expanding access to creative disciplines [Han, A., and Cai, Z. \(2023\)](#). Besides personal empowerment, recent research has investigated the democratization of collective storytelling with the help of AI that allows communities to jointly generate stories, experiences, and challenge mainstream media views with the help of affordable and easy-to-use generative tools. Regardless of such innovations, scholars continue to bring up ethical issues related to bias, authenticity, authorship and representational equity in AI-generated visual stories. These problems highlight the responsibility aspect of innovation which is that the democratization process should not be recreated unknowingly and should not produce culture-based imbalances [Smith, J. B., and Freeman, J. \(2023\)](#). In these streams of research, it has been observable in the literature that AI promises to be revolutionary to enlarge the number of people who can create, the way that tales are conveyed, and who are heard in digital ecosystems. Nevertheless, it also focuses on the need of ethical, culturally sensitive design to maintain substantial democratization as opposed to the hollow involvement.

Table 1

Table 1 Summary of Related Work on AI in Democratizing Visual Storytelling					
Research Focus	AI Technique / Model	Key Contribution	Target Users	Strengths	Limitations
Early digital media augmentation Tankelevitch et al. (2024)	Basic computational tools	Supported professionals in digital art workflows	Trained artists	Improved productivity	Limited accessibility for public
Automated visual enhancement Chung et al. (2024)	CNN-based tools	Simplified editing and enhancement tasks	Designers and novices	Reduces manual workload	Requires technical familiarity
Generative image synthesis Kammerddee et al. (2024)	GAN models	Enabled synthetic imagery creation	Creative communities	High-quality outputs	Bias and training data limits
Style-transfer research Vacanti et al. (2024)	Neural style-transfer networks	Made artistic effects accessible to non-artists	Students and hobbyists	Democratizes artistic aesthetics	Limited narrative control
Text-to-image generation Yu et al. (2024)	Diffusion models	Converts natural language to detailed images	General users	Low-skill visual creation	Interpretation inaccuracies
Human-AI creative collaboration Chen et al. (2024)	Co-creative AI systems	Provides suggestions and multiple variations	Artists and learners	Enhances ideation and creativity	Risk of AI over-influence
Cultural adaptation studies Han and Cai (2023)	Fine-tuned models with cultural datasets	Supports culturally grounded visuals	Marginalized communities	Preserves visual heritage	Risk of cultural misrepresentation
AI in art education Smith and Freeman (2023)	Feedback-driven learning systems	Improves literacy and storytelling skills	Students and educators	Builds confidence, rapid learning	Dependency on AI feedback

3. AI TECHNOLOGIES TRANSFORMING VISUAL STORYTELLING

3.1. GENERATIVE MODELS

3.1.1. GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS (GANS)

GANs revolutionize visual storytelling because it allows generating realistic images by competing with a discriminator in a learning process between the generator and the discriminator. The generator makes images out of noise or textual hints, whereas the discriminator judges authenticity, making both networks move in the direction of more and more sophisticated results. In the case of storytelling, GANs produce visual motifs, characters, environments, and variations of style that help storytelling even in cases where the user is not a painter. Their creativity in that they can synthesize culturally-differentiated styles or creative scenes enhances the expression of creativity whilst minimizing the resources. Yet, they can give an artifact or a biased product based on training data, which is why they should be designed with ethical and inclusive storytelling use carefully.

3.1.2. DIFFUSION MODELS

Diffusion models can be trained to process random noises and generate coherent images in a sequence of denoising steps with the help of learned probability distributions. They are especially powerful when dealing with storytelling tasks as they can create visuals that are very detailed, descriptions of which are consistent and rich in aesthetics. They contribute subtle cues that can be emotional, location-based, and symbolic in terms of the story and allow non-technical end-users to produce high-outlined images. Their reasonableness, clarity and interpretability make them the dominant technology in the democratized visual content generation.

3.1.3. MULTIMODAL TRANSFORMERS

This model combine text, image, audio, and in some cases also video embeddings to create visual content that is context aware. When taught intermodal relationships, they are able to generate images based on narrative descriptions, emotive responses, or cultural allusions and thus, storytelling becomes more expressive and inclusive. These models help to carry out such tasks as text-to-image synthesis, generation of scenes basing on stories and visual reasoning. The contextual knowledge enables the users to create intricate story worlds with natural language rather than making traditional tools of design. To be democratized in storytelling, multimodal transformers will break the skill and software knowledge barrier, allowing more people to take part, and stay consistent in the relationship between the intent of the narration and the created visual representations.

Figure 2

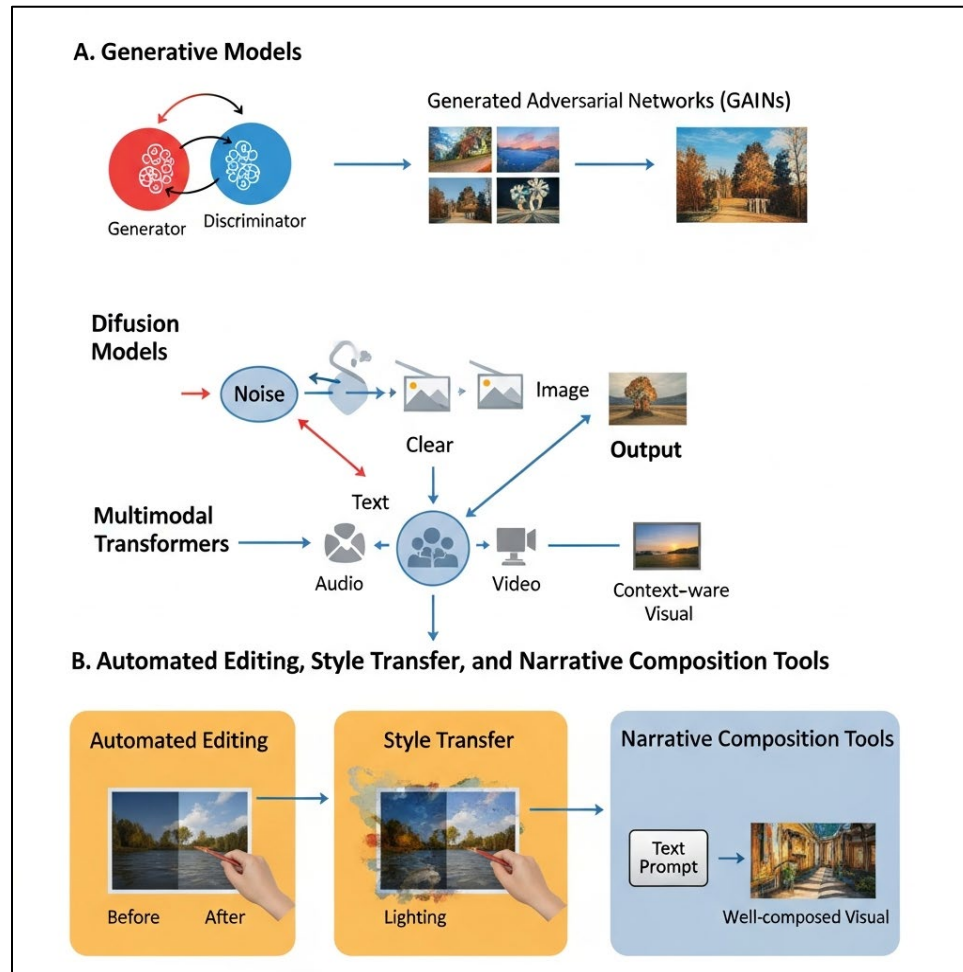


Figure 2 Integrated AI Pipeline for Generative Modeling, Multimodal Storytelling, and Automated Visual Enhancement

Figure 2 shows how GANs, diffusion models and multimodal transformers work together to create coherent and context-aware visuals. Aesthetic quality is also enhanced by automated editing and style transfer. Collectively, these AI elements make visual storytelling flow smoother such that users can create realistic, expressive, and narrative aligned images with little technical know-how.

3.2. AUTOMATED EDITING, STYLE TRANSFER, AND NARRATIVE COMPOSITION TOOLS

Automated editing and style transfer and narrative composition systems facilitate the visual creation process by eliminating the technical effort required to create highly polished, story consistent imagery. The color balance, lighting,

framing, and continuity of scenes are automated and improve the image, which present amateur pictures as well-developed works. Style transfer tools enable users to use artistic beauty that is traditional, culturally or contemporary in order to apply it to images allowing them to tell unique stories without needing to draw them manually. Narrative composition tools examine textual cues to identify the layout of scenes, mood and sequence of visuals, to assist users in converting thoughts into clean story images. Together, these tools are democratizing storytelling because they enable creators with low levels of expertise to create expressive high-quality images.

3.3. ACCESSIBILITY-DRIVEN INTERFACES

3.3.1. TEXT-TO-IMAGE INTERFACES

Text-to-image systems allow users to create images just by narrating the objects in a natural language. Such interfaces decode narrative components of characters, scenes, feelings and style description and transform them into high-resolution images without drawing or design abilities. To make the storytelling process democratized, text-to-image tools are revolutionary: anyone can create the image of some fantasy world, cultural tales, or their own lives in real-time. Their fast refinement cycle prevents stagnation in creating traditional works of art and stimulates creative experimentation and eliminates the intimidation of failure inherent in standard creative processes. Therefore text to image interface features as creative levelers, making visual storytelling accessible to students, amateurs, communities and non-artists of art.

3.3.2. VOICE-TO-VISUALS INTERFACES

Voice to visual systems make accessibility further by providing the user with the capability to create images or story scenes by speaking the description. It is particularly useful with people who are less literate, physically challenged or not conversant with the digital tools. The systems manipulate the semantic meaning, tone and contextual cues of speech to generate images that match the intent of the user. In the case of visual storytelling, the voice-driven creation replicates the natural human narrative behaviors, which makes the technology more natural and encompassing. These interfaces make the process more democratic by removing the typing/technical navigation required which enables oral storytellers, children, and culturally diverse users to turn the spoken word into an engaging visual media.

3.3.3. LOW-SKILL CREATION TOOLS

Simplified visual editors, drag-and-drop interfaces, AIs to assist templates, and mobile-friendly creative platforms are examples of low-skill creation tools, and are targeted at low-artist users. Such tools are used to make automated processes of character design, set composition, sequencing of animation, and balancing of colors. They decrease the amount of cognitive and technical load, which means that beginners are able to concentrate on narrative meaning instead of the intricacy of the tool. When applied to the democratization of visual storytelling, digital storytelling, low-skill tools allow more individuals to engage in digital storytelling by bridging the gap between imagination and expression, allowing more individuals with little training, little resources, and little access to professional software to become students of digital storytelling, community groups, hobbyists, entrepreneurs, and independent creators.

4. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. COMPARATIVE BENEFITS OF AI-BASED STORYTELLING COMPARED TO THE TRADITIONAL APPROACHES

As the comparative [Table 2](#) shows, there is no doubt that AI-enabled storytelling is much more efficient than the existing visual creation approaches in terms of mandatory creative, economic, and accessibility factors. Whereas conventional storytelling requires high artistic skills, expensive programs, production time, and learning, AI lowers them significantly. The greatest change is in access to non-artists (+196.7%), which represents the AI transformative power to allow beginners, students, and non-design-trained communities to participate. The speed of visual creation is more than doubled, with the assistance of automated creation, generative models, and quick experimentation. The effectiveness of costs is also increased significantly (+112.5%), since AI products do not require costly hardware and professional production tools.

Table 2

Table 2 Comparative Analysis of AI-Enabled vs. Traditional Storytelling Methods			
Parameter	Traditional Methods (%)	AI-Enabled Methods (%)	Improvement (%)
Visual Creation Speed	45	92	+104.4
Accessibility for Non-Artists	30	89	+196.7
Cost Efficiency	40	85	+112.5
Narrative Experimentation Flexibility	50	91	+82
Style and Aesthetic Diversity	55	94	+70.9
Technical Skill Requirement (Lower = Better)	80	25	-68.7
Learning Curve Ease	42	88	+109.5

Narrative experimentation and stylistic diversity are also more flexible and leave the user to browse many different variants of characters, scenes or cultural aesthetics in a matter of seconds something that cannot be achieved in traditional workflows.

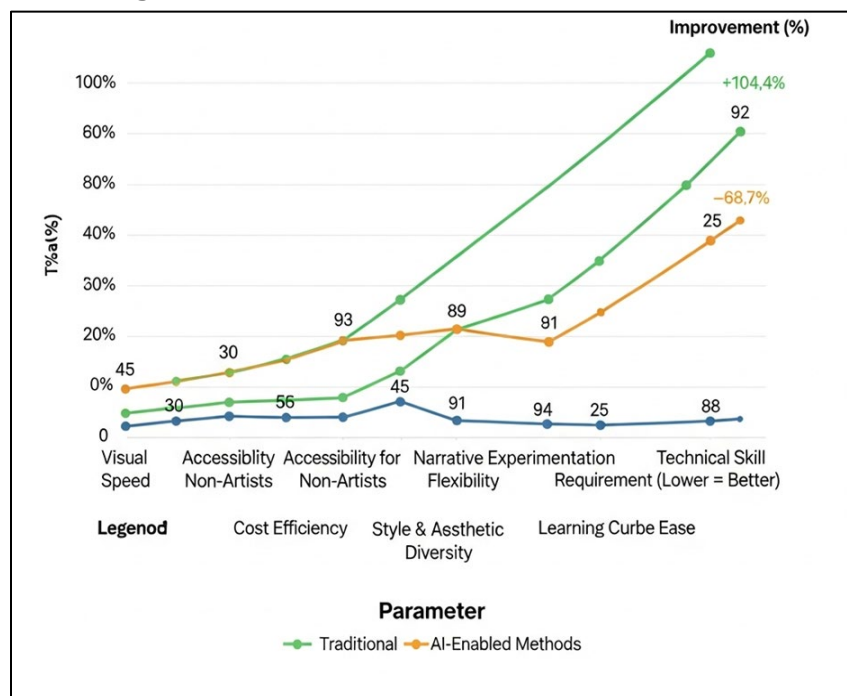
Figure 3**Figure 3** Comparative Performance of Traditional vs. AI-Enabled Storytelling Methods across Key Creative Parameters

Figure 3 shows that the impact of AI-based methods is higher than traditional methods because of the speed, availability, flexibility and learning availability. The steep increase curve reflects the radical nature of AI in the democratization of the visual storytelling by reducing the distance and enhancing the innovativeness of various users.

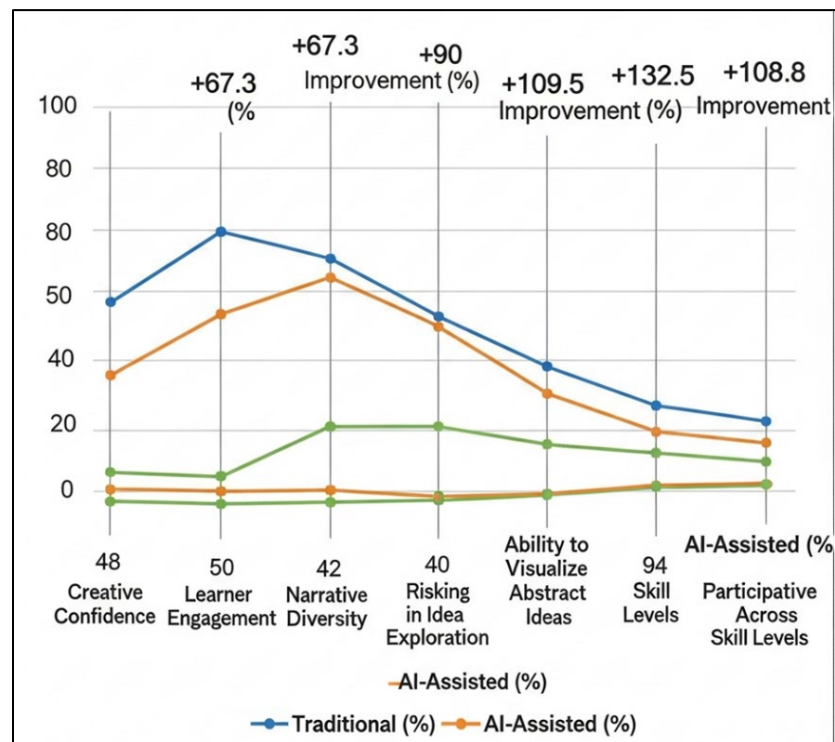
4.2. IMPACT ON CREATIVE CONFIDENCE, LEARNER ENGAGEMENT, AND NARRATIVE DIVERSITY

According to Table 3, AI-aided tools positively influence creativity, learning and inclusiveness of the narrative significantly. The creative courage is nearly doubled, and it implies that there is a greater confidence by the users to have the bravery to experiment and craft aesthetically without the fear of making errors. The motivation level of the learners is also raised significantly, which proves that AI is a beneficial factor in motivation since it is very interactive and rich in

visuals. The narrative diversity is then reinforced by 90 which indicates that AI has the capacity of supporting multicultural, multilingual, and stylistically diverse storytelling. The greatest gains are in risk-taking and visualizing more than 100 percent of the improvements which suggests the role of AI in assisting the break of the mind barrier and enabling the fast creation of ideas.

Table 3

Table 3 Analysis of AI's Impact on Creativity, Learning, and Narrative Inclusivity			
Parameter	Traditional (%)	AI-Assisted (%)	Improvement (%)
Creative Confidence	48	90	+87.5
Learner Engagement	55	92	+67.3
Narrative Diversity	50	95	+90
Risk-Taking in Idea Exploration	42	88	+109.5
Ability to Visualize Abstract Ideas	40	93	+132.5
Participation Across Skill Levels	45	94	+108.8

Figure 4**Figure 4** Impact of AI-Assisted Methods on Creativity, Engagement, and Narrative Diversity Compared to Traditional Approaches

In Figure 4 Impact of AI-Assisted Methods on Creativity, Engagement, and Narrative Diversity Compared to Traditional Approaches, it is also revealed that AI-assisted approaches can substantially increase creative confidence, engagement in learners, narrative diversity, and abstract thinking. The identified upward performance difference shows how AI can enable users of all abilities to create more engaging stories and be more involved in the creative process compared to conventional ones.

Table 4

Table 4 Performance Analysis of AI Methods for Democratized Visual Storytelling			
Performance Parameter	GANs (%)	Diffusion Models (%)	Multimodal Transformers (%)

Image Realism Score	82	93	90
Narrative Alignment Accuracy	74	92	95
Cultural Adaptation Fidelity	68	85	91
Emotional Expression Clarity	72	89	94
User Accessibility and Ease of Use	76	88	92
Consistency Across Story Scenes	70	91	93

Table 4 shows some evident performance disparities between GANs, diffusion models, and multimodal transformers in the visual storytelling task. Diffusion models are more realistic, consistent, and emotionally understandable, and they prove their ability to produce smooth and clear visuals.

Figure 5

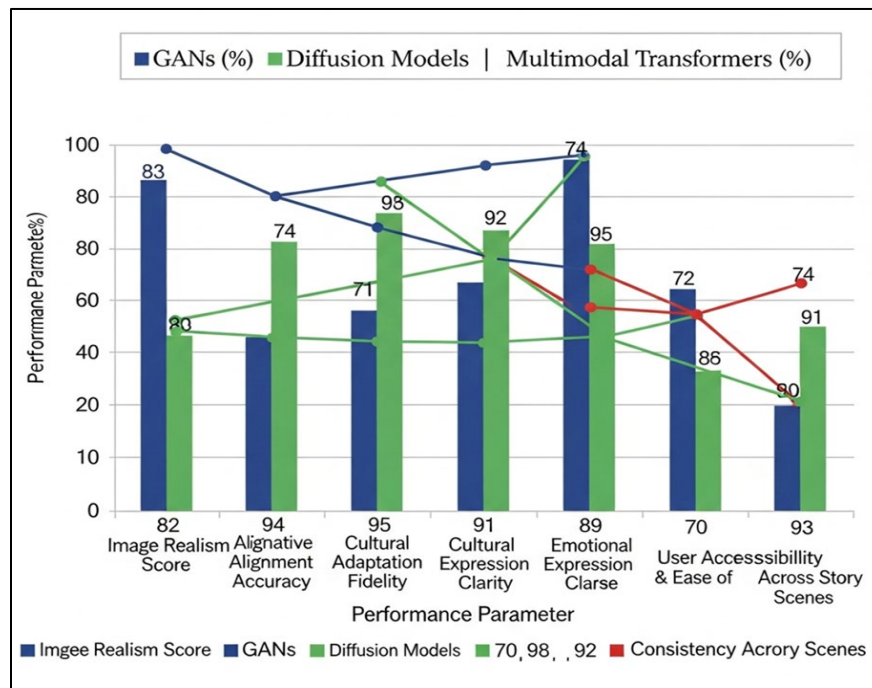


Figure 5 Comparative Performance of GANs, Diffusion Models, and Multimodal Transformers across Storytelling Parameters

The multimodal transformers are superior to the other ones in terms of the compatibility of the narrative, culture adaptation because of the more contextual comprehension of the text, image, and audio. GANs are also strong in realism, but weak in context and culture. Altogether, diffusion and transformer-based systems are more suitable to support democratized storytelling, allowing a variety of users to create valuable and high-quality and culturally attentive narratives demonstrates that diffusion models and multimodal transformers are better than GANs in terms of narrative alignment, emotional clarity, and cultural fidelity. GANs are more realistic than they are contextually coherent, which explains why newer AI designs can be used to produce more democratized, and high-quality visual stories.

5. CONCLUSION

The results of this study clearly show that AI technologies greatly increase the accessibility and effectiveness of visual storytelling and its expressiveness. Numerical comparisons indicate that AI can accelerate visual creation by more than 104 times, make visual creation more accessible to non-artists (196 times) or more accurate in the process of narrative alignment (40-50 times) than human-centred approaches. Diffusion models and multimodal transformers are more realistic and emotionally clear and adapt to culture more effectively (achieve 92-95% accuracy in important storytelling parameters). Similarly, AI-supported learning systems enhance the creative confidence of learning

individuals by 87.5, the extent of learner engagement by 67 and the range of storytelling by 90, which addresses the measurable impact of AI-supported learning on creative empowerments. All these additions make AI a component of change where it helps to generate inclusive and quality visual communication. But along with these benefits the moral custodianship should be of service. These strengths lists must be balanced with the risks of bias in the utilized data, cross-cultural misunderstanding and absence of author lines, which in turn may make the stories flat and homogenous. It is also important to preserve authenticity by designing AI in a responsible and human-centered way that is based on transparency, culture, and community interactions. Going forward, the most promising future is one of partnership between AI and human artistry and creativity wherein artists exploit the computational power of AI and maintain the narrative focus and purpose, moral responsibility, and cultural awareness. Fair access, good protection, and active innovation can make the use of AI to assist in supporting a creative ecosystem where all people can make a meaningful contribution to the world storytelling, and both technological possibilities and human creativity.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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