

50. Looking at the Chemocratic World: A Dystopian Reading of "The Futurological Congress" by Stanislaw Lem¹

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Abstract

The concept of dystopia or anti-utopia goes beyond what is imagined as an ideal world; it is used to describe works that include the chaos, political problems, despair, and impossibility that humanity is dragged into. Stanislaw Lem, who was influenced by the changing life patterns after the Ukrainian invasion and the Nazi occupation, discussed the concept of dystopia together with the drug theme in his work *The Futurological Congress* (1971). As humanity's expectations from technology increase, the contents of dystopian works have also become richer. As a result, a universe focused entirely on living with drugs was depicted in his work. Greed and careless consumption of resources have led to the disruption of world order and population explosion. This article aims to examine the chemocratic universe of Lem's work *The Futurological Congress*, by focusing on the effect of drug-centered government on the characters, in line with the characteristics of dystopian works. In this research, the hallucinatory journeys of the character named Ijon Tichy and the problems he encounters are examined. Tichy, who hallucinates due to the drugs, and those in the sewer where he hides find themselves in a grotesque adventure. By examining the characteristics of dystopian works, the effects of drugs and benignizers reaching the social lives of the characters are examined. The article focuses on examining the efforts to adapt to the so-called utopian but dystopian life depicted in the novel, which has many drug problems.

Keywords: Dystopia, grotesque, chemocratic, The Futurological Congress, Ijon Tichy

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Kemokratik Dünyaya Bakış: Stanislaw Lem'in "Gelecekbilim Kongresi"nin Distopik Bir Okuması³

Öz

Distopya veya anti-ütopya kavramı ideal bir dünya olarak hayal edilenin ötesindedir; insanlığın sürüklendiği kaosu, siyasi sorunları, çaresizliği, imkansızlığı içeren eserleri anlatmak için kullanılır. Ukrayna işgali ve Nazi işgali sonrasında değişen yaşam kalıplarından etkilenen Stanislaw Lem, *Gelecekbilim Kongresi* (1971) adlı eserinde distopya kavramını uyuşturucu temasıyla birlikte ele almıştır. İnsanlığın teknolojiden olan beklentisinin artmasıyla distopik eserlerin içerikleri de zenginleşmiştir. Sonuç olarak Gelecekbilim Kongresi (1971) eserinde tamamen uyuşturucuyla yaşamaya odaklı bir evren resmedilmiştir. Hırs ve dikkatsiz kaynak tüketimi dünya düzeninin bozulmasına ve nüfus patlamasına sebep olmuştur. Bu makale, Lem'in *Gelecekbilim Kongresi* adlı eserinin distopik eserlerin özellikleri doğrultusunda uyuşturucu merkezli yönetimin karakterler üzerindeki etkisine odaklanarak demokratik evrenini incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bu çalışmada Ijon Tichy adlı karakterin yaşadığı halüsinatif yolculuklar ve karşılaştığı problemler incelenmektedir. Kullanılan gazlar nedeniyle halüsinasyon gören Tichy ve saklandığı kanalizasyonda bulunanlar kendilerini grotesk bir maceranın içinde bulur. Distopik eser özellikleri irdelenerek uyuşturucunun karakterlerin sosyal yaşamına kadar ulaşmasının etkileri incelenmektedir. Makale, romanda tasvir edilen sözde ütopyik fakat gerçekte birçok uyuşturucu problemi olan distopik hayatın içinde uyum sağlama çabalarını incelemeye odaklanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: distopya, grotesk, demokratik, Gelecekbilim Kongresi, Ijon Tichy

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Introduction

The twentieth century is known as the century in which innovations took place in many areas such as industrialization, war and technology. With the Nazi and Soviet occupation, there were significant changes in the lifestyles of many countries. This century has enormous progress in many fields such as science, health, literature and industrialization, along with the important events that took place. The permanent effects of the occupations on people caused changes in the understanding of society. Such significant problems have been the subject of literature for centuries. Authors who have observed all these recent developments have made predictions for the future and included these predictions in their works. Other science fiction and futurist writers, such as Stanislaw Lem, also gave importance to work in this field. Even though the works in these genres were written many years ago, they have details that can be traced in today's society. Lem's *The Futurological Congress* (1971) also addresses important issues concerning society from a different perspective. We come across dystopian works that deal with societies that are governed by oppression and restriction, and societies that have become isolated with technological developments. George Orwell's *1984* and Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We* convey a strict order caused by technology in an oppressive but developed society. Works that deal with the negative aspects of future life and the negative effects of technology on human life can be called dystopias. When looking at the origin of the concept, it would be more accurate to examine the concept of utopia. Utopia is a term used to describe the perfect life in an imaginary place. Thomas More developed this concept in his work *Utopia* (1516) and presented the promised ideal and perfect life in detail. With the development of literature over the years and the creation of fictional works, the concepts of anti-utopia and dystopia have emerged. In *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (1999), M. H. Abrams asserts that the term 'utopia' "designates the class of fictional writings that present an ideal but nonexistent political and social way of life" (p. 327). In fact, the concept of utopia emerged from the idea of humanity wanting another life that it imagines might be lacking or better. He also states that the term 'dystopia' ("bad place") has recently come to be applied "to works of fiction, including science fiction, that represent a very unpleasant imaginary world in which ominous tendencies of our present social, political and technological "orders are projected into a disastrous future culmination" (p. 328). Innovations in many areas of life were eventually reflected in literature. These evolutions in life have resulted in changes of works. As such, Mariya S. Zhurkova and Elena A. Khomutnikova in *The Genesis of Dystopian Meaning Structure and its Relation to Utopian Literary Tradition* (2019) stated that twentieth-century dystopian literary tradition indicated the ideas that differed from those that were the subject of the previous ages. They continued by claiming that: "Now they were mostly waking the human to the danger of removal from the historical process, wide dehumanization and an uprising consumer society" (p.1). With the developments in every aspect of life, society seems difficult to manage. That is why state administrators and important people are pushed to find different ways to govern the people.

In most dystopian or anti-utopian works, different impositions are preferred for the management of the people. In George Orwell's *1984*, "Big brother is watching you." Its slogan depicts an imposing society in which every movement of people is recorded. In Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, the management of society is provided by the drug "soma". As population density increases, reaching and managing the masses becomes more difficult. Science fiction writers saw the use of drugs as more possible to prevent possible unrest and mass uprisings. There is a similar restriction program implemented by the management in Stanislaw Lem's *The Star Diaries*. With the process called "betrization", bad habits in people are restrained. A procedure similar to circumcision is applied by society to all segments of the population in order to calm the rebellious spirit within them. With such procedures as chipping, sedation with narcotic gases, sedation with frequencies, heavy penalties and surveillance, efforts are

made to ensure that people live together in an orderly manner. As works of fiction were followed by sci-fi works, concepts were quickly adapted to literature. According to Uddin (2020), "an anti-utopia may be defined as a depiction of a society in which an attempt to realise a utopian project has been made but where the results of this project have proven disastrous or oppressive in some notable respect". In Stanislaw Lem's *The Futurological Congress* (1971), which is the subject of this study, it will be discussed what kind of dystopia they found themselves in when the facts were revealed, although initially they were about a utopian universe. In order to direct this change in life, some concealing elements are used to calm the public or embellish the truth. The resulting image is a picture of the damage caused by human beings to nature. As a result, the order of nature is disrupted, humanity is seen suffering as it comes to an end, or all its resources are exhausted. In science fiction literature, authors make predictions about the future and convey their own views of a universe they have created. As his work that is the subject of this article, Stanislaw Lem introduces us to a world with many problems. As a result of the hallucinatory journeys experienced by the hero of the novel, it depicts a utopian world. It describes a genuinely perfect life, free from serious problems such as hunger, famine, and housing shortages, where everyone is pleased, and has risen to universal disarmament. However, the author who wants to emphasize the impact of technology and population explosion on human life surprises us. *The Futurological Congress* (1971), which has become a dystopian work, deals with all social stages of how far humanity can go and what a life where the form of government consists of drugs will look like. Whether it is moral particularism or distorting the magnitude of a social problem, the descriptions of dystopian societies presented in novels matter because they may arouse powerful emotions in readers and thereby motivate political action to achieve or prevent social evils from being realized (Paden 225). Like Orwell's *1984*, Zamyatin's *We*, *The Futurological Congress* (1971) also has a different linguistic direction through society. Futurolo-linguists make different kinds of words for a new generation. This shows that the author skillfully handles the life we are likely to encounter in the future from many aspects.

According to Hayles (1990), Lem thinks that "language itself means that expressing an idea changes the context, and changing the context affects the way the idea is understood." This leads to another idea, where text and context constantly evolve together in a changing cycle of interaction and feedback. It means that the regulatory structures have found a way to control this interaction and use it constructively. According to Reuel K. Wilson (1977):

Initially Lem satirizes the pompousness and sterility of academic gamesmanship. The congress has convened at the Hilton Hotel of Costaricana (a fictitious Central American republic) in order to discuss the pressing question of overpopulation. The debate has little chance to begin, however, for a revolution, Latin American style, causes the delegates to take flight. The novel's structure-based on a series of drug-inspired dreams-recalls *Memoirs Found in a Bathtub* with its circular development. The satire ridicules movements that advocate "liberation" through drugs and sex; academia, luxury hotels, the military and the medical profession also get some hard knocks in this very funny novel.

In this context, the main character in Lem's "The Futurological Congress" tries to survive the different hallucinatory journeys he experiences. The hallucinations he sees are so realistic that they push Tichy to question his own reality. The problem of incompatibility between his experiences, reaching the level of psychosis, appears. Just as modern people have difficulty adapting to life, they try to be accepted in society without questioning every adventure they experience. Most of his journeys come to an end when he thinks about questioning. As a result, in this novel, Lem examines the impact of the dystopic and chemocratic universe, where society is governed by drugs, on humanity by touching on every aspect of life.

The dystopian approach, which has reached significant audiences with science fiction, forms the theoretical basis of this study. In dystopian studies, the way democracy, that is, democracy carried out with chemicals, affects the way society is governed has been examined. Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* is initially considered one of the first and most important works of dystopia. Swift's fantastic work criticizes society and government from various perspectives. Some dystopian works present a fantastic world, while others represent a possible life in the future. Dystopian works have been discussed in all aspects that may cause problems such as war, famine, health problems, economy and technological developments. Writers were generally influenced by the war and the difficulties it brought in the 1930s and 1940s, and took their views of the world forward. According to this point of view, the world is already in an undesirable position. With many events, humanity has come to a point where it cannot continue its former peaceful life. These damages, done by human arrogance and hands, are transmitted in a way that will cause main problems in the future. Stanislaw Lem also conveys the problems facing society in his works, sometimes in a humorous way and sometimes through space travel. Peter Swirski (2006) *The Art and Science of Stanislaw Lem* emphasizes that "Today Lem is recognized as a literary grandmaster, a provocative and thought-provoking literary critic, and, not least, a sophisticated philosopher, diagnostician, and prognostician of science" (p.3). Stanislaw Lem can be considered one of the productive and important writers of science fiction literature. Lem was inspired by the Soviet occupation during his youth and wrote his work *The Futurological Congress*. Roman Krzanowski and Pawel Polak (2021) in their article "The Future of AI: Stanislaw Lem's Philosophical Visions of AI and Cyber-Societies in Cyberiad" assert that "Lem's works explore the frontiers of science and technology, as well as the functioning of imaginary societies of robots, which are in fact humans that have had their nature transformed into machines" (p.40). There are many types of robots that Ijon Tichy encounters throughout the work. Some of these robots are people who think they are robots due to high levels of drugs. Human beings have moved far away from humanity as a way of life. The government has tried to take various measures to manage this society that has lost its essence. The subject of the futurology congress that Tichy came to attend is these crucial changes that the world is experiencing. The place where leaders from many countries gather for the congress is the Hilton Hotel in Costa Ricana. The reader may initially think of Tichy as a participant and the country where the congress will be held as a place with a high level of development. However, the protagonist's description of the environment, such as free sex coupons, genital-shaped foods, and the plan to assassinate the pope, shows that chaos and absurdity coexist. According to Etelka de Laczay and Istvan Csicsery Ronay's (1981) article:

In Lem's view, the dialectic between chaos and order occupies a central place in all writing. Far from seeing it as an idiosyncrasy peculiar to him, he believes it is intrinsic to language. On the one hand, language is "the instrument of description," operating to bring order and stability to perception; on the other hand, it is "also the creator of what it describes," caught in a self referential loop whose lack of ground leads to radical indeterminacy. (p.62)

This work in a dystopian setting, Lem reflects change in every aspect of life. Language, which is one of the most important element of expression, is also included in this. The author internalized and conveyed the concepts of utopia and dystopia with the character of Ijon Tichy. Humanity, which has lost its essence with technological developments, has changed in every field. *The Futurological Congress* allows the examination of a dystopian life order dominated by drugs to ensure chaos and order in society. The novel sheds light on the problems that humanity will experience as a result of the high dose of drugs and the destruction of nature to which Tichy is exposed. The hallucinations experienced by Tichy convey the most effective methods to be used to manage society in the oppressive state order. This work, which is the subject of the article, shows how it is possible to rule a dystopian world with drugs. The most critical

problem of the congress that Tichy attended was the population explosion. They gathered to plan the course of a world where technology knows no boundaries and resources are consumed by unplanned reproduction. The dystopian elements encountered in the later parts of the novel provide an opportunity to examine the way the state is governed, the intense drugs people are exposed to, and the consequences they experience. This study aims to read a society governed by drugs in *The Futurological Congress* from a dystopian perspective. Details on basic issues such as management, technology, health, population explosion and housing observed in dystopian works are also available in this study.

Dystopian Perspective of Chemocratic World in *The Futurological Congress*

The Futurological Congress addresses the problems that are likely to be experienced in the world in the future and draws attention to how far technology and state administration can push the limits through dystopia. In his article *Stanislaw Lem: Socio-Political Sci-Fi*, Carl Tighe (1999) explains Lem's point of view comes from his experience of pre-war 'capitalist' Poland, the Nazi and Soviet occupations, and the post-war years in Poland made him deeply aware of the fragility of all human systems and the impossibility of predicting human behavior under pressure (p. 760). Lem, who writes about the pressure that wars and occupations put on society in his work, manages to advance this in a fun and stupid way. The drug intervention to the crowd gathered for the congress is an act that will completely change Tichy's perspective and the world. Rushing from one hallucination to another, Tichy fights not to lose his sense of reality. In *Reflections of Political Ideologies and Changing Political Systems on Science Fiction Literature: Comparing Utopian and Dystopian Novels*, Özlem F. Şeran asserts that "In dystopia, human nature is regarded as bad and mean, the political system is repressive and authoritarian, freedom is abolished. The system of order and harmony generates an environment of fear and desperation" (p.54). Society is stuck in its bad and unpromising situation. Academically qualified people gather for a congress in the fictional Costa Ricana, considered the most populous region in the world. But this meeting does not serve its purpose. Population growth and resource shortages are discussed in the congress, where there is a great deal of nonsense and waste. But in this environment, there is an assassination plot, sex coupons in the hotel corridor and a lot of food prepared to be wasted. These excesses attract the attention of the protagonist Tichy. But the details of the hotel, which has been transformed with the latest technology, attract his attention. While talking about the items in the room, he encounters the following situation: "... and on the door was a card which I first noticed when I went to triple-lock the super-yale. It read: "This Room Guaranteed BOMB-FREE. From the Management." (Lem, 1976, p.8) This type of warning sounds scary when you think about it. But even though Tichy does not understand it, he does not really care. After using the tap water in the room, he begins to experience completely different situations. The reason for the extreme emotions such as love and divine love are the drugs added to the tap water.

The government had decided that morning to nip the developing revolution in the bud, so it put into the municipal water tower about 700 kilograms of bromo-benignimizer, mixing equal parts of Felicite, Placidol and Superjubilant. The water to the police and military barracks had been shut off first, of course. Except that without the proper experts this plan was doomed to failure—the phenomenon of filter overload in the masks was not taken into account, for example, nor the fact that different social groups would consume the drinking water in radically different amounts. (Lem, 1976, p.34)

Here, Lem began to create unique situations by combining various forms of drugs with behaviors. The emotions that are intended to be experienced are dominant in the essence of substances such as Hedonidol, Euphoril, Felicite, Empathin, Furiol, and others. Stanislaw Lem combined the knowledge of chemistry with his fictional world, which he created by taking advantage of the flexibility of language.

Taking this group of drugs together with the tap water poisoning he experienced caused extreme emotions in Tichy. Tap water is perhaps one of the easiest and most basic needs to access. In order to control the world in which Tichy lives, it was preferred to reach the society through water, which provides easy access to every house and every building. The emotions that drugs from different groups make people feel are also different. The author tries to persuade the reader to trust the perspective of his knowledgeable, academic character by reminding us of the article he read in the magazine. While Lem depicted a world that is distant from today and full of major problems, he adapted humanity's problems to the environment in which he lived. It can be thought that people find a trouble-free utopian life unrealistic in their environment. His French friend Mauvin explains the reason for the strangeness of the situation with the following words: "'The water! The drinking water! Great God, for the first time in history ... cryptochemocracy!" (Lem, 1976, p. 31). It has been understood that serious problems such as population explosion and famine, which need to be addressed at the congress, cannot be solved by talking. The government takes both humanity and technology to the next level by mixing drugs into tap water and air. Tom Moylan claims that in the following:

This century, filled with exploitation, oppression, state violence, war, genocide, disease, famine, ecocide, depression, debt, and the steady depletion of humanity through the buying and selling of everyday life provided more than enough fertile ground for his fictive underside of the utopian imagination (2018, p.11).

As Tom Moylan mentioned, such dystopian works transfer the crucial issues of the period to the future by acting as a bridge. Mass disarmament and population explosion at the same time are very difficult in terms of management and restraining society. The police threw an LTN (Love Thy Neighbor) bomb in an area close to where the congress was held, which was interrupted by chaos and fighting. The author has made a specific choice for the name bomb. The use of the bomb with this name by the police reflects that religious feelings are also effective in governing people. "Love thy neighbor" is a phrase that comes from the Bible, especially from the book of Matthew in the New Testament. It is part of the commandment to love others as oneself. The main idea is to treat others with kindness, compassion, and respect, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances. It encourages people to show empathy and care for those around them, encouraging a sense of community and goodwill. As a result of bomb, the congress participants, who feel unconditional and divine love, go through strange stages instead of harming each other. People are begging to be kicked, holding out sticks and saying they want to be beaten, and many more. Those who did not wear masks as directed by the police were most affected by the bomb. Mauvin, who is close to the area where the bomb was dropped, states that although he lost a few of his organs, it is not a big deal, and he does not use them much anyway. Tichy tries to understand and accept this absurd situation. What seemed like a simple poisoning at first became a lifestyle with chaos. After the bombing of the hotel, Tichy begins hallucinatory journeys due to an overdose of drugs. A noble mission is assigned to the sewer where they hide. As he begins to lose his perception of reality, he sees this place as ground zero or a sacred place like the mother's womb. Drugs have been used as both medicine and recreation in every human society and are consumed by some non-human animals (Diamond 192-204; Pollan 116-120). In any case, the speed with which modern medicines were created and introduced in later decades presents modern social orders with unusual benefits and challenges. Tichy, who experiences these difficulties firsthand, finds himself in a mess far from his normal life. It is possible to see the dystopian side of the novel more through these imaginary journeys. Stanislaw Lem reflected Tichy's mood in his adventures as absurd and unquestioning. This kind of perspective shows the extent to which the side effects of drugs cause destruction. According to Better Health Channel (2017), drug use makes you feel relaxed and happy, but when used excessively, it can also cause drowsiness, anxiety, paranoia, and psychosis. It has a bad 'low' that causes depressed mood and feeling

bad. It may also increase the risk of mental health problems such as anxiety, paranoia, and psychosis. It also has nauseating properties. In moments when he is unaware that he is fighting against chemocracy, he only focuses on understanding and adapting. While trying to get to know the environment, he cannot realize its reality. But when he comes out of the drugs and returns to the sewers, he realizes what the truth is. Drug-induced hallucinatory journeys offer a dystopian perspective on the problems that await the world in the future. The amount of gas Tichy ingests is so intense that he becomes more disconnected from his perception of reality with each journey. For example, while at first he sees that he is just trying to get out of the sewer, in later hallucinations he sees that his brain has been surgically transferred to another body. As the situation progresses, it becomes inextricable. Seeing the human body as worthless can be considered a criticism in terms of overpopulation. Lem explains Ijon Tichy's situation throughout most of the novel as follows: "A caveman would also resist a streetcar." (Lem, 1976, p. 64) Tichy tries to adapt to the society he has been separated from for a long time. He indulges in such thoughts to accept what he sees and to convince himself that he does not find it strange. He tries not to reflect that he does not understand what is said in the environments he is in. Despite this, he sees himself as a "caveman" and cares about being accepted in society. Using this expression, Lem talks about what resistance looks like for future societies in dystopian works. In order not to be seen this way, Tichy always tries to adapt and live his life without question. This is one of the significant issues in such works. Life is taking a big blow because of people's attitudes that are far from questioning and accepting what is imposed. The author used simple language when describing Tichy's situation. Despite the many adventures he went through, he did not reflect the character's tense or sad mood to the reader. When the work is examined from beginning to end, it is seen that Tichy encounters many difficult and frightening situations. However, the author's style treats the situation from a grotesque angle, leaving the reader in an almost meaningless comedy scene. Analyzing Tichy, the narrator seems as if he has experienced all the hallucinatory journeys and has been exposed to a lot of drugs. In his work, Lem conveyed the war and occupation society he saw through life in different times and different places. Tichy loses his body during one of his hallucinatory journeys. They say that bringing him back to life is only possible by transplanting his brain into another body. The nurse says "A transplant. There was no other way. "We had to save your life, and saving your life meant—well, your brain!" (Lem, 1976, p.51). The nurse talks about a warranty document filled with many types of procedures. An attempt is made to prove with official documents that the procedures performed in the hospital are carried out in a very natural and orderly manner. It is understood from the nurse's reaction that this situation is considered usual. This bureaucratic document seems fantastically futuristic. According to Robert Philmus (1986):

By contrast, "Operation P" and the barbarism of Costa Ricana's political kidnappers might by now easily be mistaken for the kind of deliberate fictionalizing of contemporary history that the government of Futurological Congress's "banana republic" exemplifies in its policy towards its opponents.

Drugs, which are present in every aspect of chemocratic life, have taken over the government so much that they reveal the concept of "banana republic" mentioned by Robert Philmus. Chaos plays a leading role in this life where management and administration are out of the hands of humanity and adorned with desires, drugs and greed. The events have taken on a very different dimension. The body transformation, the way the doctor expresses this, and Tichy's expectations of accepting the situation are a very futuristic approach. The reader want to connect with Tichy and feel sorry for his situation. However, as the number of hallucinations he experiences increases, the situations to combat also increase. According to Emrah Atasoy (2020),

... conflict between some characters and the dominant system, manipulation, dominant discourse, use of propaganda, surveillance society, various control mechanisms, processing different

dimensions of the use of power, punishing those who go outside the dystopian order, normalizing these individuals in line with the desired norms and reintegrating them into society, and discussing the relationship between individuality and collectivism can be counted among other features of dystopia.

While Lem depicted the future, he considered not only technological and medical aspects but also all the details needed in life. On his last hallucinative journey, Tichy finds himself in a very happy and beautiful life. But in this life straight out of a fairy tale, two details caught Tichy's attention: The first was that everyone was constantly smiling, and the second was that everyone was breathing intermittently. With the changing world, printed works such as books and newspapers have also begun to change shape. If too much of these works, which are available in drug form, is consumed, the information density causes stomach ache. Now information is edible, not comprehensible. With the change in life, there have also been great changes in language. The difference in the words used made the adaptation process difficult for Tichy. He spends a long time in this world surrounded by the latest technologies. He meets the people around him. He meets his neighbor Symington and initially believes him to be a good person. Lem conveyed his criticisms from many aspects throughout the work. Just as he criticizes religion with the LTN bomb, he also refers to Greek mythology with the name Symington. Britannica (2011) states that Procrustes, is a robber in Greek legend. And his father was said to be Poseidon. Procrustes had an iron bed (or, according to some accounts, two beds) on which he compelled his victims to lie. Here, if a victim was shorter than the bed, he stretched him by hammering or racking the body to fit. Lem associated this character with Greek mythology and created him as someone interested in mechanical materials such as electric saws and lathes, just like his modern version. As we approach the end of the novel, Tichy becomes more central. He finds himself in the future of 2089, where many forms of drugs are used and the truth is hidden with lies and masks. Queues have formed due to people's intense exposure to drugs. Tichy has a hard time coming to terms with what he's learned. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states as a signs of psychosis "suspiciousness, paranoid ideas, or uneasiness with others, trouble thinking clearly and logically, unusual or overly intense ideas, strange feelings, or a lack of feelings, difficulty telling reality from fantasy, anxiety and difficulty functioning overall. Considering the effects experienced, it is possible to say that Tichy was in a severe psychosis state, as just explained. Realizing the situation, Tichy goes to visit his friend Professor Trottelreiner. Tichy, who uses the drug Mascon he gave, is forced to confront another dimension of the truth. He sees that there is a birdcage and hangers in place of his friend's body. While the work becomes quite funny, Tichy finds himself in the sewer again at the end of all these hallucinatory journeys. While writing *The Futurological Congress*, Lem also showed how strong his bond with language was. He created many details himself, such as invented drugs, the profession of futuro-linguists, and their creation of new words. Ijon Tichy and his universe took him to a different point with each hallucinatory journey. There are many examples such as people's eyes being blinded by gases and not being able to see real life, and people living in a fake world presented to them. Human beings have moved so far away from everything to do in life that they begin to define themselves as robots. Edible tablets were the reward for every knowledge and action. Knowledge and intelligence no longer cause headaches but stomachaches. He addresses many significant problems, such as avoiding production, creating a consumer society, misuse of resources, and unplanned reproduction, in his own style and in other lives by consuming drugs. While his friend Professor Trottelreiner introduces Tichy to his new profession, he asks him to think of a word. The first word that comes to Tichy's mind is trash, which suggests that he is a little bit purified from the effects of drugs and is feeling his surroundings. Trottelreiner believes that by deriving many words from here, he has created new concepts and inventions for the so-called future generations. Tichy's perception mechanism has been damaged so much throughout his life - his hallucinatory journey - that it takes time for him to examine the reality of space and events. Stanislaw Lem's work *The Futurological Congress*,

can be considered from a grotesque and dystopian perspective, where the people are governed by chemocracy.

Conclusion

In Stanislaw Lem's work *The Futurological Congress*, the management of society with drugs and the handling of an anti-utopian/dystopian work were analyzed together with the opinions of many authors. In this context, the main character in Lem's "The Futurological Congress" tries to survive in the different hallucinatory journeys he experiences. The hallucinations he sees are so realistic that they push Tichy to question his own reality. The problem of incompatibility between his experiences, reaching the level of psychosis, appears. Just as modern people have difficulty adapting to life, they too try to be accepted in society without questioning every adventure they experience. Tichy goes through various stages to get rid of the situation he is in. The desire and hope for salvation within human beings are skillfully depicted through Tichy. The main character even experiences freezing, thanks to advanced technology, after various stages such as bombings, brain transplants, and falling from a plane. The feeling of loneliness discussed in dystopian works is seen from different angles in all journeys. Even though he forces himself to adapt to the society he finds himself in, he feels different every time. Most of his journeys come to an end when he thinks about questioning. In his last hallucinatory journey, it ends as a wake-up call to himself. He learns much later that they are even ahead of the year when he wakes up in a new technological world. As a result, in this dystopian novel, Lem clearly expresses the impact of the chemocratic universe, where society is governed by drugs, on humanity by touching on many areas of life. With each journey, he shows that time progresses and the changes experienced by his environment and technology. While adapting to his environment, he experiences distressingly absurd events. Although we, as the reader, feel sorry for the situation he is in and his efforts to keep up, the author eventually shows that all these moments are a hallucination at the level of prediction, but how difficult it is to live in a dystopian world with a population explosion.

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