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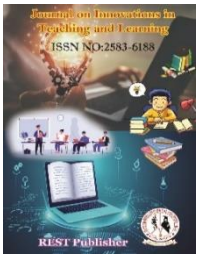

Influence of Technology on Communication in Contemporary Young Adult Literature (YAL)

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Abstract*: Young Adult Literature (YAL) is a growing field that serves both as a literary genre and an educational resource. While its popularity has increased over the past five decades, it continues to seek full academic recognition. To enhance its credibility, scholars suggest shifting research focus from textual analysis to its impact on student learning. Investigating how YAL influences student engagement and comprehension in the classroom can help establish its educational value. Furthermore, as high-quality YAL continues to emerge, it presents opportunities for professional development, enabling educators to better understand and relate to adolescent experiences. This article advocates for the integration of book review programs in schools, using YAL to facilitate discussions on crucial topics such as body image, relational conflicts, and sexual identity. These conversations not only enrich teachers' empathy but also create a supportive environment where students feel acknowledged and understood. Recognizing YAL as both literature and a tool for exploring adolescent development can help solidify its academic standing.*

In recent years, YAL has evolved to address contemporary issues, including technology, social media, and digital communication, which resonate with today's youth. Since the 1990s, young adult novels have increasingly incorporated themes related to computers and the Internet, reflecting the evolving ways teenagers interact. Notably, many of these stories blend digital elements with supernatural motifs, such as ghosts and otherworldly beings, symbolizing the paradox of virtual interactions—the desire for both freedoms from physical constraints and authentic human connections. These supernatural aspects metaphorically highlight the complexities of online relationships, where digital communication can distort reality while fostering meaningful bonds. Although some YAL narratives include dystopian themes, they often maintain an optimistic perspective, portraying technology as a tool for inclusivity, tolerance, and community-building. Despite its challenges, digital communication is depicted as a means of creating positive interactions and embracing the diversity of modern adolescent life.

Keywords: *Young adult literature, Digital communication, WASPAS Method*

1. INTRODUCTION

Engaging teenagers in reading can be challenging, especially in a time when visual media often dominates their attention. Alvermann & McClean (2007) and Beers et al. (2007) note that capturing adolescents' interest through books is difficult, as many prefer watching content over reading. However, teens do engage with literature, often at notable levels. According to the American Library Association (Goodnow, 2007; Kennedy, 2009), individuals under the age of 18 make up a significant portion of library visitors, demonstrating a strong interest in books beyond school settings. This trend is evident in the widespread popularity of series such as *Twilight*, *Harry Potter*, and *Gossip Girl*, which have deeply resonated with young readers and achieved cultural significance.

The limited research on Young Adult Literature (YAL) may stem from its relatively recent recognition as a literary genre, with scholars still in the early stages of exploring its significance (Kaplan, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010). This gap highlights the need for academic inquiry into the transactional nature of YAL within educational settings. Key questions arise, such as: What occurs during teacher-student interactions around these texts? How do students engage with one another in discussions? And what is the relationship between readers and the text itself? Addressing these questions is essential for understanding YAL's role in classrooms and its impact on adolescent development. As Moje & Hinchman (2004), Probst (2004), and Rugieri (2007) suggest, both teachers and students

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benefit from reflecting on their reading experiences. Gaining deeper insight into these interactions is crucial for ensuring that YAL continues to resonate with young readers and serve as a meaningful educational tool. Ultimately, examining the experiences of students and educators may be key to fully realizing the potential of YAL in academic settings.

integrating digital culture into printed Young Adult Literature (YAL) is an ongoing endeavor, with scholars like Dresang (1999) and Nikolajeva anticipating the influence of digital technology on the genre. Dresang's theory of radical change introduced a new wave of YAL that mirrors young people's engagement with digital media, suggesting that literature evolves alongside shifts in how they think and interact with technology. Similarly, Nikolajeva (1996) predicted the literary maturation of YAL, highlighting how certain works began experimenting with form and adopting a polyphonic aesthetic, signaling the genre's potential for structural and thematic growth. This transformation continued with Flanagan (2014), who coined the term *techno-realist* to describe a subgenre that directly explores digital culture within YAL narratives.

Building on these advancements, my own creative writing research investigates how digital culture can be textually represented within printed novels by employing multidisciplinary writing techniques, particularly screenplay format. Since digital culture is inherently multimodal, it challenges the traditional boundaries of written text. This has led me to explore screenplay as a means of incorporating visual and psychological dimensions into storytelling, reflecting the narrative style of moving image culture. The primary objective of this work is to develop an innovative approach that allows digital culture to coexist within print literature. By adapting screenplay conventions, I seek to represent the psychological depth and inner voice shaped by visual media within the protagonist, further advancing the study of multimodal writing in YAL's Digital Culture Writing program.

In recent years, research on Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) using deterministic approaches has expanded significantly, offering effective solutions for complex decision-making scenarios across multiple disciplines. MCDM serves as a structured framework for evaluating alternatives when multiple criteria must be considered. This study aims to review key trends in MCDM theory and practice, focusing on two widely used deterministic methods: SWARA and WASPAS. These approaches facilitate optimal decision-making by systematically weighing and analyzing various criteria to identify the best alternative.

SWARA (Step-Wise Weighted Assessment Ratio Analysis) and WASPAS (Weighted Sum Product Assessment) have been applied in diverse fields, ranging from industrial planning to environmental management. This review examines the evolution of these methods, their integration, and their practical applications, emphasizing their flexibility and effectiveness. A total of 55 studies were categorized based on their use of SWARA, WASPAS, or a combination of both. By analyzing existing literature and trends, this review highlights the continued development of these techniques and their potential refinements. Enhancing and integrating these methods ensures that MCDM remains a valuable tool for optimizing decision-making processes in various domains.

2. TECHNOLOGY ON COMMUNICATION IN YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Over the past twenty years, multimodal writing and digital technologies have increasingly influenced traditionally printed books in creative ways. Jennifer Egan, a well-known American literary fiction author, brought significant attention to the incorporation of social media into literature with her novel Black Box (2012), which was initially published as a series of tweets. She further pushed narrative boundaries with her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel A Visit from the Goon Squad (2011), which features an entire chapter formatted as a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. This innovative approach allowed Egan to capture the voice of a young character in a visually distinct and impactful way, reflecting his perspective on family and life. Similarly, authors such as Canadian Sheila Heti and British Ali Smith have deviated from traditional prose by experimenting with alternative formats, including stage plays (Heti, 2013) and poetic language (Smith, 2005).

In children's literature—historically known for its integration of text and imagery through picture books—there has been a noticeable shift toward multimodal storytelling for older readers. Middle-grade books increasingly blend illustrations with text, while graphic novels have surged in popularity across all age groups. This evolution mirrors a broader literary trend that embraces a fusion of textual and visual storytelling techniques.

Over the last two decades, Young Adult Literature (YAL) has also undergone a major transformation, incorporating digital culture and new media into its storytelling methods. Some YA novels are entirely written in blog formats, such as Serafinaa67's Urgent Life (Day, 2008), while others utilize chat room dialogues, as seen in

Entr@pment: A High School Comedy in Chat (Spooner, 2009) and the Internet Girls series (Miracle, 2007–2014). More recently, printed YAL books have increasingly integrated digital elements like vlogging, photo sharing, playlist curation, and podcasting, reflecting the convergence of text, audio, and visual media.

YAL has emerged as a leader in adopting digital culture, even surpassing adult and children's literature in its embrace of new storytelling forms. Scholars such as Nikolajeva (1996) and Olthouse (2010) have highlighted the genre's innovative and experimental nature, noting its ability to merge traditional and digital narratives. Olthouse's concept of "mixed books" validates digital communication styles—such as blogging and chat-based storytelling—as legitimate literary tools in YA fiction, emphasizing their alignment with the creative and interactive writing habits of modern adolescents. Furthermore, Koss and Tucker-Raymond (2014) explore how digital communication technologies shape identity construction in YAL, positioning these novels as a unique literary form with significant narrative and aesthetic contributions.

Educators who advocate for the inclusion of young adult literature (YAL) in the school curriculum often require validation through a strong foundation of scholarly research to support their position. In the 1990s, the Commission on the Study and Teaching of Adolescent Literature was established by the National Council of Teachers of English to address this need. Its mission is to promote academic inquiry into adolescent literature, providing a framework for promoting acceptance of the genre in academic settings. Despite limited empirical research, analysis of studies from the first decade of the 21st century reveals that the existing body of work is diverse in terms of methods, topics, and demographics. This indicates that YAL is a rich and diverse field of study and worthy of further study. Although this body of research has been somewhat neglected, it demonstrates the potential of YAL to provide valuable insights into adolescent development, literacy practices, and academic engagement. The lack of significant empirical research in this area highlights a gap that needs to be addressed, and suggests that investigation may strengthen the case for incorporating YAL into the curriculum. As the field continues to grow, it is necessary to continue to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based argument for the value of YAL in education.

The twenty-first century has seen a significant renaissance in young adult literature, fueled by the success of blockbusters such as J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series revolutionized family reading. The widespread appeal of the fantasy genre proved that, given engaging content, boys would embrace reading as eagerly as girls. This shift was followed by the rise of Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series, which capitalized on the success of Harry Potter and ushered in a new wave of popular literature. Meyer acknowledged in an interview that Harry Potter paved the way for the mainstream success of young adult fiction, noting that Rowling's work encouraged both children and adults to pick up longer books. This event made a difference not only in terms of sales, but also in fostering a shared reading experience across generations. A notable consequence of this is the breakdown of the barrier that young adult fiction once faced – the lack of adult appeal. As the genre gained financial and critical success, educators were able to connect with teenagers through popular literature, using it to teach relevant topics such as digital literacy and ethics. The success of these works opened new doors for incorporating young adult literature into the academic context, ensuring that it resonated with a wider audience.

3. MATERIALS AND METHOD

Four years ago, inspired by the work of the Commission on the Study and Teaching of Adolescent Literature, we initiated an annual review to track and update peer-reviewed research on adolescent literature. Utilizing databases such as ERIC, MLA, and Academic Search Complete, we conducted searches specifically targeting studies related to adolescent and young adult literature. This process highlights the ongoing discussion within the field regarding the appropriate terminology for the genre.

Our analysis of academic journal research revealed that much of the existing scholarship on Young Adult Literature (YAL) focuses on textual analysis. However, our goal extends beyond this approach to examine other forms of empirical research. For instance, a 2019 qualitative study by Ivey and Johnson, published in Reading Research Quarterly, investigated students' perspectives on the outcomes and processes of engaging with YAL. The findings indicate that when students are granted autonomy in selecting their reading materials, they are more likely to engage meaningfully with the content. One student shared, "Before this year, we had to read the books they assigned us... but now they give us a test... I actually read it instead of pretending to read it" (Ivey and Johnson 261). This insight highlights the personal significance of self-selected reading materials.

The study further suggests that when YAL is presented in a format that aligns with students' digital experiences and provides them with reading autonomy, their engagement levels increase. These findings emphasize the need for educators to consider students' reading preferences, particularly by incorporating YAL with digital elements. Doing so can enhance student engagement and better equip them to navigate the complexities of the digital era.

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli: *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* is a coming-of-age novel that follows Simon Spier, a closeted gay teenager navigating high school, friendships, and a secret online romance. Simon's story unfolds when he begins exchanging emails with another anonymous student, "Blue," through a school messaging system. As they connect, sharing their struggles with identity and self-acceptance, Simon finds solace in their growing bond. However, his world is shaken when a classmate, Martin, stumbles upon his emails and blackmails him, threatening to reveal Simon's secret unless he helps Martin pursue his own romantic interests. The novel delves into themes of identity, belonging, and self-expression, illustrating both the ways technology can foster meaningful connections and how it can complicate personal lives. Through Simon's journey—his friendships, family dynamics, and his decision to come out on his own terms—Becky Albertalli crafts an uplifting and deeply relatable narrative for LGBTQ+ readers. With its heartfelt exploration of the challenges teenagers face in embracing their identities, the novel stands out as a poignant and authentic contribution to young adult literature.

Eliza and Her Monsters **by Francesca Zappia:** *Eliza and Her Monsters* follows Eliza Mirk, a high school senior who secretly leads a double life as the anonymous creator of the immensely popular webcomic *Monstrous Sea*. Online, Eliza is confident and admired by thousands of fans, but in the real world, she is introverted and struggles with social anxiety, preferring to remain unseen. Her carefully maintained anonymity is challenged when she meets Wallace, a devoted fan of her comic who is unaware that she is its creator. As their friendship deepens, Eliza grapples with whether to reveal her true identity. The novel explores the delicate balance between online personas and real-life relationships, shedding light on the impact of anxiety and mental health struggles. Eliza's journey highlights the complexity of managing both digital fame and personal well-being, particularly when external pressures mount. Her relationship with Wallace, who faces his own emotional challenges, underscores the importance of mutual support and understanding. Through a realistic and empathetic portrayal of mental health, Francesca Zappia's novel encourages readers to embrace connection, seek support, and practice self-acceptance in a world where internal battles often remain unseen.

Turtles All the Way Down **by John Green:** In *Turtles All the Way Down*, John Green delves into the mind of Aza Holmes, a teenager struggling with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Aza's intrusive thoughts make even the simplest aspects of daily life difficult, trapping her in spirals of anxiety and self-doubt. When her best friend, Daisy, suggests investigating the mysterious disappearance of a local billionaire, Aza reconnects with Davis, the billionaire's son and her childhood friend. As their relationship deepens, Aza's internal struggles create barriers to maintaining a sense of normalcy and connection.

The novel provides a raw and deeply personal portrayal of mental illness, capturing the relentless nature of OCD and its effects on relationships, self-perception, and aspirations. Through Aza's perspective, Green immerses readers in the complexities of living with an anxious mind, fostering empathy and awareness of mental health challenges. *Turtles All the Way Down* serves as a poignant exploration of self-acceptance and resilience, reminding young readers that they are not alone in their struggles and that healing begins with compassion for oneself.

One of Us is Lying **by Karen M. McManus:** *One of Us Is Lying* blends mystery and high school social dynamics to create a gripping tale of secrets, reputation, and justice. The story follows five students—Bronwyn, Nate, Addie, Cooper, and Simon—who find themselves in detention together. However, when Simon, the creator of a notorious gossip app that exposes students' secrets, suddenly dies, the remaining four become the prime suspects in what appears to be a murder.

As the investigation unfolds, hidden truths about each character emerge, revealing how their lives are more intertwined than they initially realized. The novel explores the power and dangers of social media, the rapid spread of rumors, and the immense pressure to conform to societal expectations. McManus delves into themes of bullying, stereotypes, and personal growth, showing how each character must confront their past mistakes and redefine their identities. *One of Us Is Lying* offers a compelling reflection on the complexities of high school life, illustrating how online gossip can spiral out of control and how the pursuit of truth can ultimately lead to self-discovery.

***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas:** The Hate U Give is a powerful and timely novel that confronts issues of race, police violence, and activism. The story centers on Starr Carter, a sixteen-year-old African American girl who navigates two contrasting worlds: her low-income, predominantly Black neighborhood, where systemic inequality is prevalent, and her wealthy, mostly white private school, where few understand her lived experiences.

When Starr becomes the sole witness to the fatal police shooting of her childhood friend Khalil, she faces immense pressure from her community, the media, and law enforcement—forcing her to decide whether to speak out or stay silent. The novel delves into themes of systemic racism, identity, and the power of one's voice in the fight for justice. Starr's struggle to honor Khalil's memory while coping with the consequences of her choices mirrors the real-life challenges faced by marginalized communities. Angie Thomas uses Starr's journey to emphasize the significance of activism and resilience, shedding light on the trauma of witnessing violence and the courage required to challenge oppression. The title references Tupac Shakur's "THUG LIFE" acronym—"The Hate U Give Little Infants F*cks Everybody"—which underscores the cyclical nature of injustice and its impact on society. The Hate U Give is a groundbreaking contribution to YA literature, fostering critical conversations about social justice, equality, and the fight for change.

Benefit Criteria

1. **Identity Exploration:** Technology plays a crucial role in identity exploration for young people, offering them spaces where they can express themselves more freely than in their offline lives. In Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda, Simon relies on anonymous online interactions to explore his sexual identity, allowing him to develop self-awareness and confidence before coming out to his friends and family. This protected space enables him to process his emotions without immediate external pressure.

   Similarly, in Eliza and Her Monsters, Eliza's online presence as the creator of a popular webcomic provides her with a sense of belonging and validation that she struggles to find in her offline world. Through her digital persona, she embraces her creativity and forms meaningful connections with others who appreciate her work, even as she hides her true identity from those around her.Both novels illustrate how technology can serve as a transformative tool for self-expression, fostering personal growth and empowerment. These digital spaces offer young people the opportunity to explore different facets of their identities, build supportive communities, and gain the confidence to navigate their real-world challenges.

2. **Character Relationships:** Technology often acts as a bridge to relationships, enabling connections that might not otherwise develop in traditional social settings. In Eliza and Her Monsters, Eliza's relationship with Wallace grows through their shared passion for her webcomic. Her introverted and anxious nature makes real-world interactions difficult, but online connections allow her to form deep, meaningful relationships where she feels understood and supported. This digital space becomes a refuge where she can express herself more openly.

   Similarly, in One of Us Is Lying, technology plays a pivotal role in uncovering hidden truths. The characters' interactions through social media expose secrets and aspects of their personalities that ultimately bring them closer together. Despite the tension and suspicion surrounding them, these revelations foster a deeper understanding and force them to confront their personal struggles. Both stories illustrate how technology facilitates relationship-building, allowing characters to connect in ways they might not have in face-to-face interactions. By providing a space for communication and self-expression, digital platforms help young people navigate complex social dynamics and develop meaningful bonds beyond their immediate environments.

3. **Social Activism:** Young adult literature highlights how technology empowers characters to engage with social issues, serving as a catalyst for activism and change. In *The Hate U Give*, Starr Carter leverages social media to shed light on police brutality and systemic racism. Through digital platforms, her message reaches a wider audience, rallying support beyond her local community. This online activism enables Starr and her peers to participate in social movements, demonstrating how technology fosters awareness, strengthens social connections, and drives real-world change. Such narratives showcase the transformative potential of technology, allowing young people to actively influence and shape their societies.

Non-Benefit Criteria

1. **Privacy Concerns:** While technology facilitates exploration and connection, it also poses privacy risks that complicate characters' lives. In *Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda*, Simon's private online conversations are exposed, leading to blackmail and forcing him to confront his identity prematurely. Likewise, in *One of Us Is Lying*, Simon's gossip app invades students' privacy, revealing secrets with serious consequences. These stories highlight the challenges young people encounter when their personal information becomes vulnerable online, often resulting in conflict, mistrust, and unintended repercussions.

2. **Isolation and Loneliness:** While technology fosters connection, it can also lead to isolation, especially when characters become overly dependent on digital interactions. In *Eliza and Her Monsters*, Eliza's success as a webcomic creator distances her from those around her, worsening her anxiety and making real-life socialization challenging. Her online world provides comfort but ultimately deepens her isolation. Similarly, in *Turtles All the Way Down*, Aza's struggles with mental health are intensified by her online research, which fuels her obsessive thoughts and heightens her sense of loneliness. These stories highlight how technology, despite its benefits, can contribute to emotional barriers and social withdrawal.

3. **Authenticity Challenges:** Many young adult novels portray the struggle of maintaining authenticity while navigating both online and offline identities. In *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, Simon finds comfort in his anonymous online interactions, where he can express parts of himself that he feels unable to share in real life. However, this separation creates a sense of duality and internal pressure. Likewise, in *Eliza and Her Monsters*, Eliza grapples with balancing her online persona as a famous artist with her real-life struggles, leading to fears of rejection and self-doubt. These stories highlight the tension between carefully curated digital identities and genuine self-expression, showcasing the challenges of staying true to oneself in a world that often demands conformity.

WASPAS Method: The WASPAS method integrates the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and the Weighted Product Model (WPM) to enhance decision-making accuracy in multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) problems. It follows a structured approach: first, the optimal performance rating for each criterion is identified, followed by normalizing the values to ensure comparability across different criteria. Then, the relative importance of each alternative is calculated using WSM by multiplying normalized values with their respective weights and summing the results. Similarly, WPM determines relative importance by raising normalized values to the power of corresponding weights and multiplying them. Finally, the results from WSM and WPM are combined to generate a comprehensive ranking, ensuring a balanced and reliable evaluation. By leveraging the strengths of both models, the WASPAS method improves decision-making efficiency and enhances the robustness of the final selection.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1. Data Set

Book Title	Identity Exploration	Character Relationships	Social Activism	Privacy Concerns	Isolation and Loneliness	Authenticity Challenges
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda	8	9	5	4	3	6
Eliza and Her Monsters	9	7	4	5	7	8
Turtles All the Way Down	6	5	3	8	9	7
One of Us is Lying	7	8	4	7	6	5
The Hate U Give	9	8	9	3	4	5

The dataset in Table 1 examines key themes in popular young adult literature (YAL) titles, evaluating their intensity across six thematic categories on a scale from 1 to 10: "identity exploration," "character relationships," "social functioning," "privacy concerns," "loneliness and isolation," and "authenticity challenges." For instance, Becky Albertalli's *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* scores highly in "character relationships" (9) and "identity exploration" (8), reflecting Simon's journey of self-discovery and relationships. Francesca Zappia's *Eliza and Her Monsters* highlights struggles with authenticity (8) and online identity (7), portraying Eliza's difficulties in balancing her digital and real-life personas. John Green's *Turtles All the Way Down* strongly addresses "loneliness

and isolation" (9), focusing on the protagonist's mental health struggles. Karen M. McManus's *One of Us Is Lying* blends mystery with "privacy concerns" (7) and "character relationships" (8), showcasing how secrets shape interpersonal dynamics. Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give* places significant emphasis on "social activism" (9), as Starr navigates racial injustice and advocacy. These variations in thematic intensity highlight the depth and diversity of YAL, reflecting different aspects of adolescent experiences.

TABLE 2. Performance value

Book Title	Identity Exploration	Character Relationships	Social Activism	Privacy Concerns	Isolation and Loneliness	Authenticity Challenges
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda	0.88889	1.00000	0.55556	0.75000	1.00000	0.83333
Eliza and Her Monsters	1.00000	0.77778	0.44444	0.60000	0.42857	0.62500
Turtles All the Way Down	0.66667	0.55556	0.33333	0.37500	0.33333	0.71429
One of Us is Lying	0.77778	0.88889	0.44444	0.42857	0.50000	1.00000
The Hate U Give	1.00000	0.88889	1.00000	1.00000	0.75000	1.00000

Table 2 presents normalized performance values for thematic elements in selected young adult literature (YAL), enabling a comparative analysis of their thematic significance. Each theme is normalized on a scale from 0 to 1, with 1 representing the highest intensity of that theme within the dataset. In *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, the strongest theme is "Character Relationships" (1.00000), highlighting the novel's emphasis on personal connections, followed by "Authenticity Challenges" (0.83333). *Eliza and Her Monsters* excels in "Identity Exploration" (1.00000), capturing Eliza's journey of self-discovery, but scores lower in "Social Functioning" (0.44444) and "Loneliness and Isolation" (0.42857). *Turtles All the Way Down* places significant weight on "Credibility Challenges" (0.71429) while scoring lower in "Social Functioning" and "Loneliness and Isolation" (0.33333 each). *One of Us Is Lying* achieves a perfect score in "Credibility Challenges" (1.00000), emphasizing its focus on truth and deception in relationships, with moderate values in other themes. Finally, *The Hate U Give* scores 1.00000 in "Social Activism," "Privacy Concerns," and "Authenticity Challenges," showcasing its strong engagement with social justice, personal integrity, and privacy issues. The table highlights the thematic strengths of each book, offering insights into the diverse ways YAL explores adolescent experiences.

TABLE 3. Weight

Book Title	Identity Exploration	Character Relationships	Social Activism	Privacy Concerns	Isolation and Loneliness	Authenticity Challenges
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
Eliza and Her Monsters	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
Turtles All the Way Down	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
One of Us is Lying	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
The Hate U Give	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17

Table 3 presents the uniform weight values assigned to each thematic category for all book titles. Each theme—identity exploration, character relationships, social functioning, privacy concerns, isolation and loneliness, and authenticity challenges—receives an equal weight of 0.17. This balanced distribution ensures that each theme is given the same level of importance when evaluating the overall thematic performance of each book. By applying equal weight, the model assumes that all themes contribute equally to the reader's experience and the depth of the narrative. This approach ensures an unbiased evaluation, allowing for an objective comparison based solely on the normalized performance values from Table 2.

TABLE 4. WSM Weighted normalized decision matrix

	Identity Exploration	Character Relationships	Social Activism	Privacy Concerns	Isolation and Loneliness	Authenticity Challenges
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda	0.14756	0.16600	0.09222	0.12450	0.16600	0.13833
Eliza and Her Monsters	0.16600	0.12911	0.07378	0.09960	0.07114	0.10375
Turtles All the Way Down	0.11067	0.09222	0.05533	0.06225	0.05533	0.11857
One of Us is Lying	0.12911	0.14756	0.07378	0.07114	0.08300	0.16600
The Hate U Give	0.16600	0.14756	0.16600	0.16600	0.12450	0.16600

Table 4 presents the weighted sum model (WSM) weighted normalized result matrix, which evaluates thematic components across selected young adult literature titles. Each value in the matrix is derived by multiplying the normalized performance values from Table 2 by their corresponding weights from Table 3, ensuring a balanced assessment across six thematic categories. In *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, the highest weighted values appear in "Character Relationships" (0.16600) and "Solitude and Isolation" (0.16600), emphasizing these themes' significance in the novel. *Eliza and Her Monsters* reaches its peak in "Identity Exploration" (0.16600), reflecting the protagonist's self-discovery journey. *Turtles All the Way Down* scores highest in "Credibility Challenges" (0.11857), aligning with its focus on mental health and self-awareness. *One of Us Is Lying* ranks high in "Character Relationships" (0.14756) and "Credibility Challenges" (0.16600), reinforcing themes of relationships and truth in its mystery-driven narrative. Meanwhile, *The Hate U Give* maintains consistently high scores across all themes, particularly excelling in "Social Activism," "Privacy Concerns," and "Credibility Challenges" (0.16600 each), mirroring its strong emphasis on justice and integrity. This matrix provides insight into the thematic strengths of each novel, facilitating a comparative analysis of their narrative focus.

TABLE 5. WPM Weighted normalized decision matrix

	Identity Exploration	**Character Relationships**	**Social Activism**	**Privacy Concerns**	**Isolation and Loneliness**	**Authenticity Challenges**
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda	0.98064	1.00000	0.90704	0.95337	1.00000	0.97019
Eliza and Her Monsters	1.00000	0.95914	0.87405	0.91870	0.86879	0.92495
Turtles All the Way Down	0.93491	0.90704	0.83329	0.84975	0.83329	0.94568
One of Us is Lying	0.95914	0.98064	0.87405	0.86879	0.89131	1.00000
The Hate U Give	1.00000	0.98064	1.00000	1.00000	0.95337	1.00000

Table 5 presents the weighted product model (WPM) weighted normalized result matrix, evaluating thematic significance across selected young adult literature titles. The WPM approach involves raising each normalized performance value (from Table 2) to the power of its respective weight (from Table 3) and then multiplying them to compute a total score. Higher values, closer to 1, indicate a stronger thematic presence relative to other works. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* maintains high values across all themes, peaking at "Character Relationships" (1.00000), highlighting its focus on relationships and identity exploration. *Eliza and Her Monsters* scores prominently in "Identity Exploration" (1.00000) and "Character Relationships" (0.95914), emphasizing the protagonist's self-discovery and social interactions. *Turtles All the Way Down* achieves its highest score in "Credibility Challenges" (0.94568), aligning with its deep exploration of mental health. *One of Us Is Lying* reaches a perfect score in "Believability Challenges" (1.00000), reinforcing its thematic focus on truth and deception. *The Hate U Give* stands out with the highest possible score (1.00000) across multiple themes, including "Identity Exploration," "Character Relationships," "Social Functioning," "Privacy Concerns," and "Believability Challenges," reflecting its comprehensive engagement with issues of justice, identity, and personal integrity. This WPM matrix offers a nuanced comparison of thematic strengths across these novels, showcasing their varied narrative emphases.

TABLE 6. Weighted Product Model

	WSM Weighted Product Model	**WPM Weighted Product Model**
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda	0.834611	0.82272
Eliza and Her Monsters	0.643382	0.61891
Turtles All the Way Down	0.494377	0.47317
One of Us is Lying	0.670587	0.63661
The Hate U Give	0.936056	0.934908

Table 6 presents the overall scores for each book based on the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and Weighted Product Model (WPM), offering a comparative measure of thematic richness in selected young adult literature titles. These scores, derived from the WSM and WPM weighted normalized result matrices (Tables 4 and 5), summarize each book's thematic performance. The Hate U Give ranks highest in both models, with scores of 0.936056 (WSM) and 0.934908 (WPM), emphasizing its strong engagement with social activism, identity, justice, and personal integrity. Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda follows with scores of 0.834611 (WSM) and 0.82272 (WPM), highlighting its balanced focus on character relationships and identity exploration. One of Us Is Lying scores moderately (0.670587 WSM, 0.63661 WPM), reflecting its focus on credibility and privacy concerns

within a mystery-driven narrative. Eliza and Her Monsters scores lower (0.643382 WSM, 0.61891 WPM), emphasizing identity and loneliness as key themes. Turtles All the Way Down has the lowest scores (0.494377 WSM, 0.473170 WPM), reinforcing its strong but more niche focus on authenticity and mental health. These rankings showcase the varying thematic priorities among the novels, with The Hate U Give leading in depth and complexity, followed by Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda, and the other titles displaying distinct yet comparatively narrower thematic explorations.

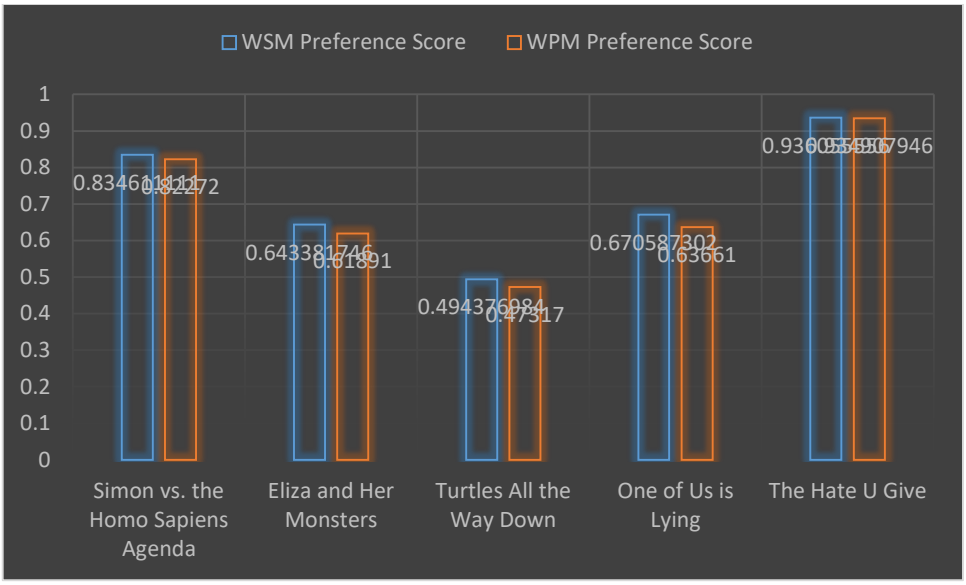

FIGURE 1. WSM and WPM Weighted Product Model

Figure 1 presents the results of the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and Weighted Product Model (WPM) in evaluating the thematic richness of selected young adult literature books. *The Hate U Give* ranks highest in both models, reinforcing its strong overall thematic depth, particularly in areas such as social activism, identity, and justice. In contrast, *Turtles All the Way Down* scores significantly lower in both WSM and WPM, suggesting a narrower thematic focus, primarily centered on authenticity and mental health. The comparison highlights the varying thematic emphases among the books, demonstrating how different narratives engage with adolescent experiences to differing degrees.

TABLE 7. WASPAS Coefficient

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda	0.82866
Eliza and Her Monsters	0.63114
Turtles All the Way Down	0.48378
One of Us is Lying	0.65360
The Hate U Give	0.93548

Table 7 presents the WASPAS (Weighted Aggregated Sum Product Assessment) coefficients, offering a comprehensive evaluation of thematic richness across the selected young adult literature books. By integrating the strengths of both the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) and the Weighted Product Model (WPM), the WASPAS method provides a balanced measure of thematic significance. *The Hate U Give* achieves the highest WASPAS coefficient (0.93548), reinforcing its strong thematic engagement with social activism, identity exploration, and authenticity. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* follows with a coefficient of 0.82866, reflecting its emphasis on character relationships and identity. *One of Us Is Lying* receives a moderate score of 0.65360, indicating a strong focus on authenticity and privacy concerns. *Eliza and Her Monsters* and *Turtles All the Way Down* score lower, at 0.63114 and 0.48378, respectively, suggesting a more focused thematic approach—*Eliza and Her Monsters* primarily addressing identity and loneliness, while *Turtles All the Way Down* explores authenticity challenges and mental health. The WASPAS coefficients offer an integrated perspective on each book's thematic presence, confirming *The Hate U Give* as the most thematically comprehensive, while *Turtles All the Way Down* maintains a more specialized focus.

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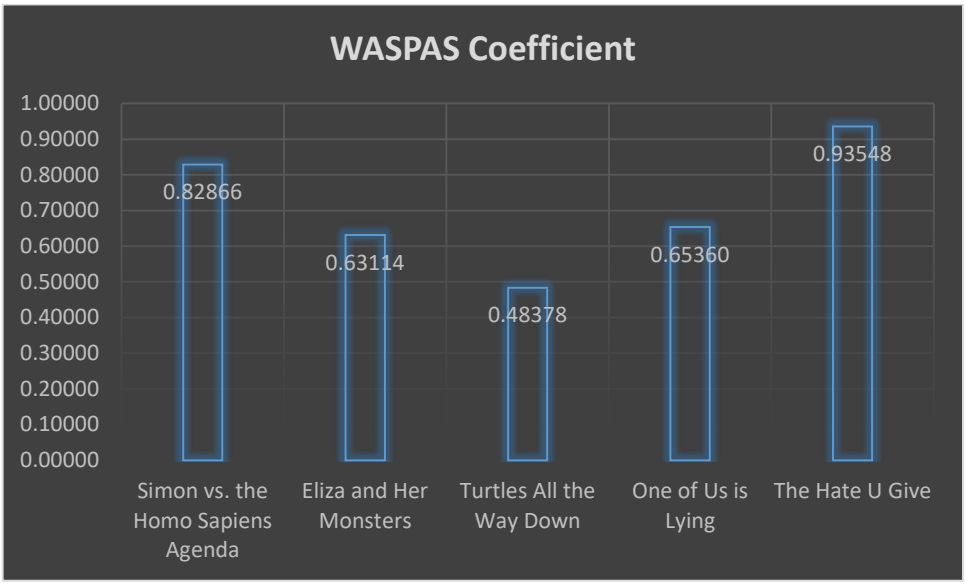

FIGURE 2. WASPAS Coefficient

Figure 2 visually represents the WASPAS (Weighted Sum and Weighted Product Sampling Aggregation) coefficients for the five selected young adult literature books. *The Hate U Give* leads with the highest coefficient (0.93548), reinforcing its strong thematic presence across multiple evaluation criteria. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* follows with a coefficient of 0.82866, reflecting its balanced thematic strengths. Conversely, *Turtles All the Way Down* has the lowest coefficient (0.48378), indicating a more limited thematic scope in comparison. *One of Us Is Lying* (0.65360) and *Eliza and Her Monsters* (0.63114) occupy middle ground, showing moderate thematic engagement. This figure highlights the comparative thematic depth of each book, with *The Hate U Give* emerging as the most comprehensive in its thematic exploration, while *Turtles All the Way Down* focuses on a narrower thematic range.

TABLE 8. Rank

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda	2
Eliza and Her Monsters	4
Turtles All the Way Down	5
One of Us is Lying	3
The Hate U Give	1

The rankings from Table 8, based on the WASPAS coefficients, offer a clear perspective on the thematic strength of selected young adult literature books. The Hate U Give secures the top position with the highest thematic intensity, excelling in social activism, identity exploration, and authenticity. Following closely in second place is Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda, which strongly emphasizes character relationships and identity development. One of Us Is Lying ranks third, balancing themes of authenticity and privacy concerns, while Eliza and Her Monsters takes fourth place, highlighting identity struggles and loneliness. Finally, Turtles All the Way Down ranks last, reflecting its narrower thematic focus on authenticity challenges and mental health. These rankings highlight the varying depth and scope of thematic exploration in each book, with The Hate U Give emerging as the most thematically robust, while Turtles All the Way Down concentrates on a more specific thematic range.

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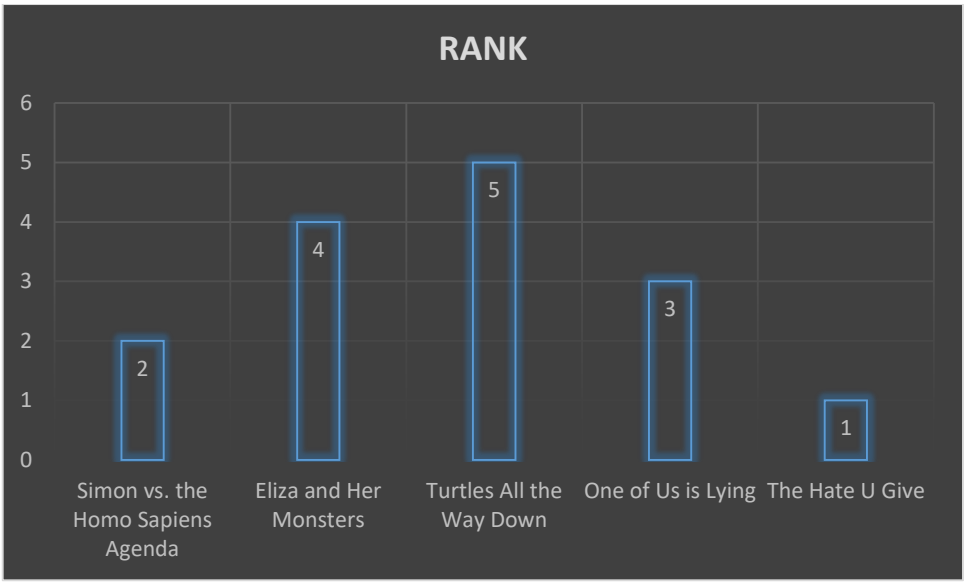

FIGURE 3. Rankings

Figure 3 visually represents the overall ranking of the selected young adult literature books based on their thematic performance. The Hate U Give secures the top position, reflecting its strong thematic depth across multiple dimensions. Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda follows in second place, emphasizing character relationships and identity exploration. One of Us Is Lying ranks third, balancing themes of authenticity and privacy concerns. Eliza and Her Monsters takes fourth place, focusing on identity struggles and loneliness. Finally, Turtles All the Way Down ranks last, indicating its narrower thematic focus on authenticity challenges and mental health. This ranking highlights the varying thematic scope of each book, with The Hate U Give emerging as the most thematically comprehensive, while Turtles All the Way Down remains more focused on specific themes.

5. CONCLUSION

Young Adult Literature (YAL) has evolved significantly, deepening its thematic complexity and narrative approaches to reflect the multifaceted realities of adolescent life in the digital era. This transformation—from traditional prose to multimodal and techno-realist storytelling—demonstrates YAL's responsiveness to the shifting cultural landscape of young readers. Popular series like Harry Potter and Twilight have transcended generational boundaries, affirming YAL's relevance beyond its intended audience. As digital communication becomes integral to adolescent experiences, YAL increasingly incorporates blogging, vlogging, and other digital formats, fostering deeper connections with readers. This alignment between narrative techniques and contemporary youth culture enhances engagement and personal identification with literary themes. Despite its growth, further empirical research is needed to assess YAL's impact on adolescent development, literacy, and critical thinking. Studies suggest that granting students autonomy in selecting YAL texts—particularly those mirroring their digital experiences—enhances engagement and comprehension. Educators and researchers recognize YAL not only as a pedagogical tool but also as a medium for addressing contemporary social and ethical issues relevant to young audiences. Looking ahead, the integration of YAL into academic curricula will require continued exploration of its role in fostering literacy and analytical skills. Its ongoing evolution underscores its unique capacity to resonate with adolescents, preparing them for a world increasingly shaped by digital and multimodal communication. YAL's significance lies not only in storytelling but also in its ability to reflect, validate, and engage the lived experiences of young readers, solidifying its place as an essential component of contemporary education.

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