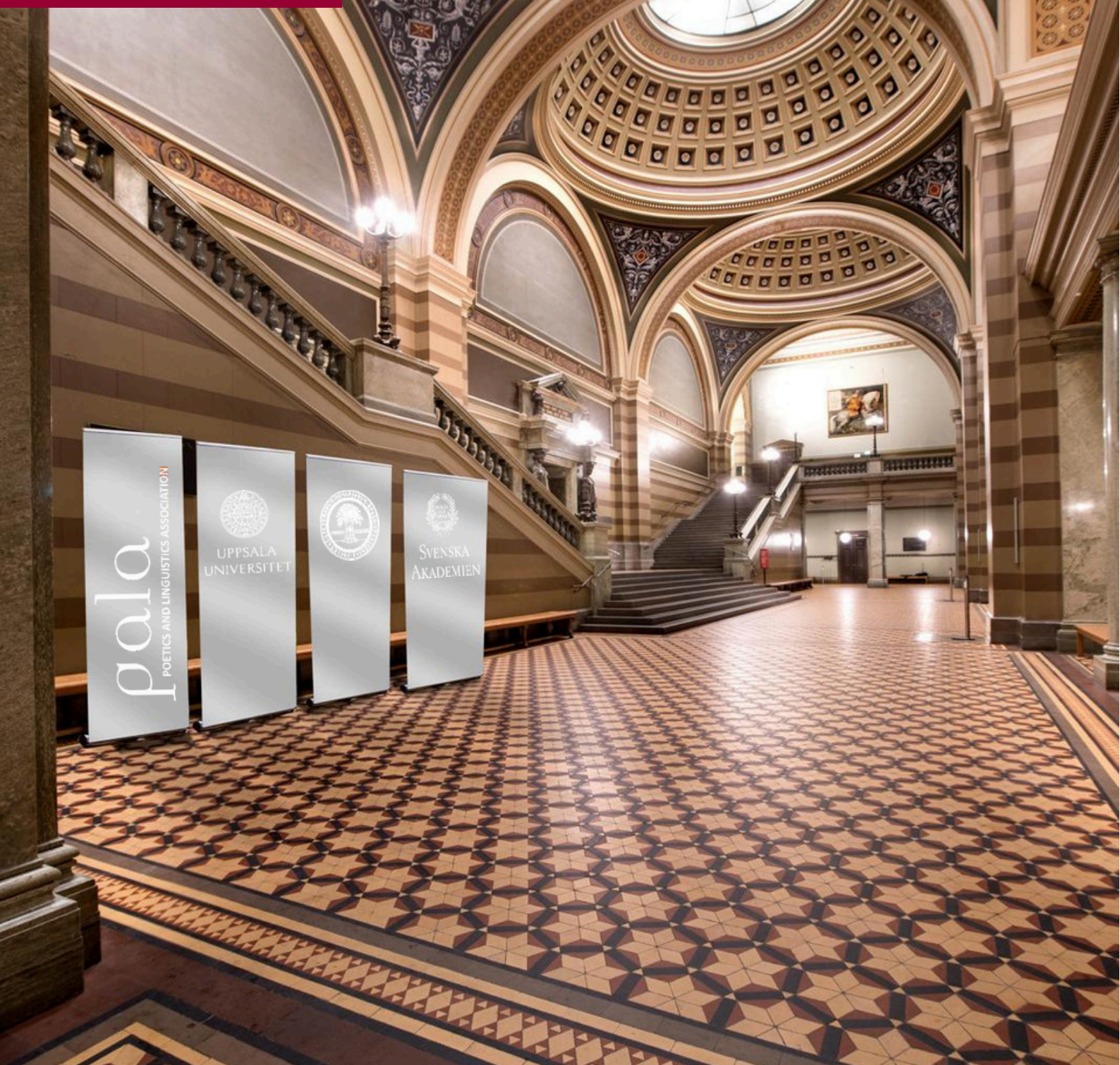




UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

PALA 2026
19-22 August



Book of Abstracts

PALA 2026

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Artificial (Poe)tics and human feeling: reader response to Poe and AI

Nika Marushchak (Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University, Ukraine)

This study seeks to answer whether readers can distinguish between a human-written work of art and a generated text by investigating differences in reactions to Edgar Allan Poe's original texts and their AI-generated versions. We report findings of an experiment in which we instructed ChatGPT to rewrite "Annabel Lee" into prose and "Morella" into poetry, following Poe's style. To reduce the potential recognition bias, the main characters' names were replaced with phonologically similar alternatives (Lauralee and Mariella). One of our concerns was that participants might rate the original texts more highly due to the author's canonical status (Van Peer and Fuchs, 2007) rather than report their genuine responses. Therefore, the author's name and text titles were removed from both questionnaires. At the same time, to eliminate possible negative bias toward AI authorship (Rospocher et al., 2026), we didn't mention using AI in text creation. Surprisingly, the results indicate AI-generated texts receiving slightly higher ratings in both cases, further raising concerns about the distinction between AI-generated and human-written texts. However, participants frequently recognised Poe's features in AI-generated texts, leading us to conclude that the author's style is so deeply embedded in his writing that it rivals AI manipulation.

Keywords

AI, Poe, poetics, reader response

References

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