



DELINEATION OF AUTOMATIC CAR IN ISAAC ASIMOV'S *SALLY*

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Abstract:

We need advanced technology to survive in this ultra modern world. Every field is undergoing drastic and sudden changes due to the development of technology. Science fiction writers effectively predict the need of the future world and they invent some imaginary inventions. Later, those imaginary inventions are really created by the scientists in the real world. Thus, imagination paves way for the creation. So we can not neglect the imaginary inventions or predictions of the science fiction writers. Isaac Asimov is considered as one of the Grand Masters of Science Fiction. He predicted lots of technologies in his short fiction and long fiction. He creates three laws for his fictional robots. His short Story *Sally* portrays a robot car and this car has the sense of gratitude and responsibility. The twenty first century witnessed this type of real car in the world. Thus, the paper portrays that the writer's imagination induces the scientists to create valuable things for the society.

KEYWORDS: *Three Laws of Robotics, Robot, Technology, Prediction, Invention.*

"Sally" is a science fiction short story by Isaac Asimov. It was first published in the May-June 1953 issue of *Fantastic* and later appeared in the Asimov collections *Nightfall and Other Stories* (1969) and *The Complete Robot* (1982). It outlines the world of the future when only the robot cars on the highway were allowed. These vehicles had a positronic engine and no human driver needed it. They required automatic cars to avoid accidents. This robot car can't speak, but can communicate via horns, doors and light. The vehicles on the farm had titles, and Jake was in charge of keeping the old positronic vehicle. Jake had a special interest in Sally. Sally was one of the cars in the house.

The story portrays a future in which the only cars allowed on the road are those that contain positronic brains; these are autonomous cars and do not require a human driver. The story takes place in 2057. Fifty-one old cars have been retired to a farm run by Jake, where they can be properly cared for. All have names, but only three are identified by Jake. Sally is a



vain convertible, possibly a Corvette (the only convertible US-made sports car at the time the story was written), and one sedan, Giuseppe, is identified as coming from the Milan factories, where Alfa Romeo was headquartered. The oldest car on the farm is from 2015, a Mat-o-Mot that goes by the name of Matthew, which Jake had once chauffeured. The cars in the farm communicate by slamming doors and honking their horns, and by misfiring, causing audible engine knocking.

Raymond Gellhorn, an unscrupulous businessman, tries to steal some of the cars in order to 'recycle' the brains. He forces Jake at gunpoint to board a bus he has poorly wired up to control the vehicle, trying to get away from the farm with Jake as a hostage. Jake describes the bus as suffering the positronic brain equivalent of perpetual migraines. The cars chase and eventually surround the bus, communicating with it until it opens a door. Jake falls out, and the bus drives off with Gellhorn. Sally takes Jake back to the farm; Gellhorn is found dead in a ditch the next morning, exhausted and run over. The bus is found by the police and is identified by its tire tracks. The story ends with Jake losing trust in his cars, thinking what the world will become if cars realize that they are effectively enslaved by humans, and revolt. A scrupulous businessman, Raymond Gellhorn, came to see him communicate his plan to steal and recycle old cars:

You're an expert automobile mechanic, Jake. You must be. You could unhook a motor and place it in another car so that no one would know the difference (Asimov, *Robot Dreams* 118).

He pressured Jake to do this illegal work, but Jake wasn't willing to compel. Jake intrigued Gellhorn, who took him to the gunpoint in a taxi. Sally pursued the bus and tried to rescue Jake and other cars from the estate. This type of post-car assault was not anticipated by Gellhorn. Jake has been rescued from Gellhorn by Sally and other cars. Jake was strongly convinced that Positronic brains would never damage the individual, but the climax was transformed into an anti-climax. As Jake read the news report the next morning, he learned that Gellhorn had been killed. Jake thought this assassination was conducted by the positronic brain engines. He then discovered that when there was need, no legislation can damage vehicles. Intimate and protracted contacts with Sally and other cars were therefore avoided.

In reality Asimov mistakenly used the Zeorth Law in this novel. There was no ambivalent conclusion to that story. According to the Law of Zeroth, robots became involved not to save the whole of humanity. The wicked man Gellhorn tried to cheat the company. In relation to the welfare of the whole of civilization, individual life was not so significant. Sally and other automobiles have therefore decided to kill Gellhorn.

The driverless car's dream was achieved in 2008. In Pilbara iron ore mine, Western Australia, Rio Tinto launched this self-regulating vehicle. It could be a threat to this driverless car so that the Government postponed approval for the automobile. Nevada Motor Vehicle Department Legislature approved a regulation on autonomous vehicles in 16 June 2011. Niculus Benney Kuk discovered in March 2012 a new autonomous car and this car features technologies with similar features in the short story "Sally" mentioned by Asimov. The short story "Sally" in figure 26 depicts the Sally robot car and the first real driverless car on the road is demonstrated in figure 27.

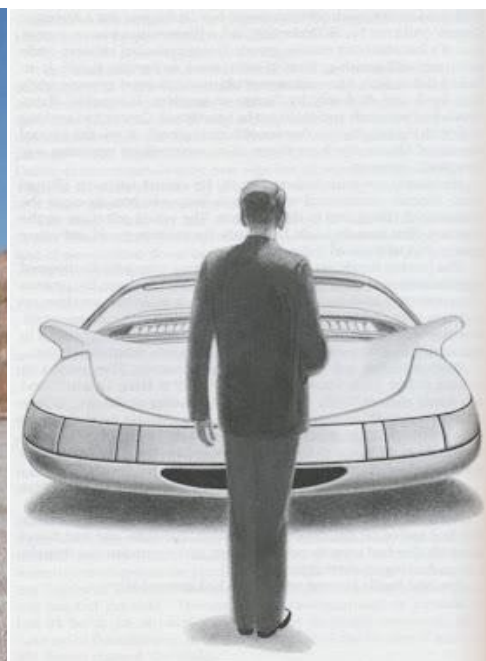


Fig. 26. Sally an Autonomous Car in Fiction

Fig. 27. The Real Autonomous Car

Such latest, automated new vehicles often interact via some signals, as was the case with Asimov's Sally.

The lights swivel to look at you when the sensors detect you, and blue LEDs flash to indicate the car has seen you. Directional speakers swivel toward you, too, and the car tells you it's safe to cross. The system can also flash bright white LEDs to get your attention. Sonar sensors can detect if a pedestrian is too close to the side of the car. If they do, LEDs in the wheels to turn from green to orange and red—getting redder as you get closer—to warn you, and let you know the car knows you are there. (Bullis n. pag.)

These techniques were available in Sally and other robot vehicles and Jake told Gellhorn about the advance techniques in the vehicles, “But it works by itself, Mr. Harridge. It scans the road, reacts properly to obstacles, humans, and other cars, and remembers routes to travel” (Asimov,



Robot *Dreams* 116). In "Sally," Asimov thus examined the potential of future technology. The most popular technology in the future world would be the autonomous driverless vehicle with its ability to analyze the driving environment more quickly and safely.

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