# MANIFESTATION OF CYBER POSITIVISM IN TIMONS ESAIAS AND BRUCE BOSTON'S SELECT CYBER SONNETS

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Cyberspace, an internet space, serves as the site of computer-mediated communications. The origin of the term 'Cyberspace' can be traced to a Greek word 'kubernetikos' which means 'pilot, ruler or government' and an Old French word 'espace' meaning 'period of time, interval or stretch of time'. As a stand-alone noun, 'cyber' is extensively used in Greek language to signify 'the gift of governance' and is found in the Greek translation of the *New Testament:* "And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, … then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance (κυβερνήσεως), and of different kinds of tongues" (1 Cor. 12:28). This word, 'cyber', of Greek origin is morphed in French as 'cybernetique' to mean 'the art of governing'. Later, in 1990s, its usage turned transdisciplinary, to mean all the innovative ideas related to internet.

The arrival of Pop Culture in early 1990s, aided by the intricate interweaving of culture with technological and digital advancements, has brought the prefix 'cyber' to the limelight. According to Thomas Nagel, an American linguist, 104 words are formed by having 'cyber' as its prefix. One of the earliest neologisms formed with the prefix, 'cyber' is 'cyberspace'. The term Cyberspace was first coined by William Gibson, an American - Canadian science fiction writer. He combined the two words 'Cyber' and 'Space' to form 'Cyberspace' and introduced it as a noun in his short story collection named *Burning Chrome*, published in 1982. Gibson, in his cyberpunk novel, *Neuromancer*, developed this coinage and defines cyberspace as,

A consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate
operators, in every nation, by children being taught mathematical concepts…        A graphic representation of data abstracted from banks of every computer in        the human system. Unthinkable complexity. Lines of light ranged in the non-        space of the mind, clusters and constellations of data. (51)

Gibson radiates the same in all his artistic endeavours that include numerous science fictions. He has borrowed this concept from Norbert Wiener's notion of 'Cybernetics', which is described as the science of control or communication, in the animal and the machine.

'Cyberspace', as a notion, connotes multifaceted meanings and references. The National Institute of Standards and Technology defines Cyberspace as, "The complex environment resulting from the interaction of people, software and services on the Internet by means of technology devices and networks connected to it, which does not exist in any physical form" (2). Don Slater, an American Sociologist uses this term as a metaphor to represent a sense of a social setting that exists purely within a "space of representation and communication ... it exists entirely within a computer space, distributed across increasingly complex and fluid networks" (533). Nicholas Negroponte, a Greek American architect and the founder of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, outlines the infinity of cyberspace as the beginning that has no limits.

Michael Bruce Sterling, an American Fiction writer describes Cyberspace in his work *The Hacker Crackdown* as,

The 'place' where a telephone conversation appears to occur. Not inside your actual phone …but a vast flowering electronic landscape. Since the 1960s, the world of the telephone has cross-bred itself with computers and television, and though there is still no substance to cyberspace, … it has a strange kind of physicality now. It makes good sense today to talk of cyberspace as a place all its own. (23)

The profound metamorphosis of this e-phase has led to the evolution of various studies based on cyberspace. Each of such studies has provided an array of research projects, articles and writings on cyber. One such new area of specialisation is Cyber Positivism Theory.