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**FROM CANON TO FANON: GENRE-FORMING PATTERNS  
IN *HARRY POTTER* AND *NARUTO* FANFICTION****Daryna Stanko** *Uzhhorod National University**Uzhhorod, Ukraine***Received:** 13.08.2024 **Reviewed:** 9.09.2024 and 26.09.2024**Similarity Index:** 1%**Bibliographic description:** Stanko, D. (2024). From canon to fanon: A comparative study of fanfiction in *Harry Potter* and *Naruto*. In *Lege artis. Language yesterday, today, tomorrow*. Trnava: University of SS Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, IX (2), p.91-105. ISSN 2453-8035 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34135/lartis.24.9.2.06>**Abstract:** The article deals with the study of interaction between canon and fanon elements in "Harry Potter" and "Naruto" fanfiction selected from the popular fanfiction platforms Archive of Our Own and FanFiction.net. The work establishes the correlation between these elements and identifies recurring themes and narrative strategies through thematic analysis. Community feedback reveals how fanfiction readers perceive fanon, which is viewed as an essential extension of the narrative, enabling fans to explore, reinterpret, and reimagine their beloved characters and worlds in different ways.**Keywords:** canon, fandom, fanfiction, fanon, narrative strategy.**1. Introduction**

Fanfiction is a unique cultural phenomenon in which fans create their own stories using existing characters and universes, often seen as a form of virtual mass literature, similar to popular literature (Hills 2008). It typically features familiar characters, dramatic plots, and happy endings (Zoriana 2018).

As for fanfiction research, it deals with the structure of fanfiction or the broader literary landscape (De Kosnik 2009; Samutina 2017). Berkowitz (2013) explores fanfiction as a youth subculture influencing media literacy, while Black (2007) examines its role in digital media spaces. Leavenworth (2015) considers paratextual elements, and Rosenblatt and Tushnet (2015) discuss fanfiction from a gender perspective. Schiller (2018) highlights transmedia storytelling practices.



There are also psychological dimensions to fanfiction. Rodríguez-Fuentes and Ulloa (2022) study the cognitive motivations behind fanfiction, while Vinney and Dill-Shackleford (2018) show that personal fulfillment and complex emotions drive fanfiction authors, who often offer positive resolutions for characters.

Fanfiction is a derivative text that expands and transforms original works through adaptation, parody, and remixing (Weitin & Werber 2023). Fan works range from retellings and imitations to more creative distortions (Bronwen 2011), with fanfiction typically falling into the latter category (Knight 2016). Historically, derivative works are borrowed from others without the need for familiarity with the source (Ling & Hongwei 2012).

I have explored various critical aspects of fanfiction, particularly in relation to its linguistic, cultural, and technological dimensions. I have traced the historical development and diverse forms of fanfiction, offering insights into its evolution and current trends (Stanko 2021); examined the impact of AI on creative processes within specific fandoms, highlighting how technology is reshaping narrative creation (Stanko 2024a); addressed the various discursive functions that fanfiction plays, such as its contribution to identity formation and community building within fan groups (Stanko 2024b). However, a significant gap remains in research on the correlation between canon – the original content – and fanon, fan-created elements that are not part of the official story. In fanfiction, canon refers to the original source material, such as books, movies, TV shows, or games, encompassing the core facts, storylines, characters, and other aspects that the fanfiction must adhere to or expand upon. Fanfiction authors can build upon the canon by expanding plots, developing characters, adding new episodes, or exploring alternative scenarios.

## **2. Aim, materials and methods**

The article **aims** to fill the above-mentioned gap by exploring the intricate relationship between canon and fanon within fanfiction, offering new insights into how fan communities reinterpret and expand upon original works. This topic is crucial for a deeper understanding of narrative dynamics and community perceptions within fan cultures. To explore the correlation between canon and fanon in fanfiction, this study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative analyses (Donaldson & Pope 2022). The materials and methods used in this research are outlined as follows.

### ***Stage 1 – Data collection***

A representative sample of fanfiction was selected from popular fanfiction archives such as Archive of Our Own (AO3) and FanFiction.net, namely, two popular fandoms of "Harry Potter" and "Naruto". "Harry Potter" is a fantasy series by J.K. Rowling, centered on a young wizard, Harry, and his journey to defeat the dark wizard Voldemort. Set in a magical world, the series explores themes of friendship, bravery, and the battle between good and evil, and spans seven books and eight films.

"Naruto" is a Japanese manga and anime series created by Masashi Kishimoto, following Naruto Uzumaki, a young ninja with dreams of becoming the strongest ninja, or Hokage, in his village. It explores themes of perseverance, friendship, and self-discovery across a vast world of ninjas and complex battles. The sample included fanfiction from these fandoms, ensuring diversity in both genre and source material. The selection criteria focused on stories with significant engagement, including high numbers of reads, likes, comments, and recommendations within their respective communities. Canonical elements were identified based on the original works. Fanon elements were determined through an extensive review of fan discussions, commentaries, and meta-analysis within fan communities, focusing on recurring themes, character interpretations, and plot developments that have become widely accepted among fans.

### ***Stage 2 – Quantitative analysis***

To explore the relationship between canon and fanon elements in fanfiction, a comparative analysis of two prominent fandoms was conducted: "Harry Potter" and "Naruto." By examining a sample of 10 fanfiction stories from each fandom, the study aimed to quantify the presence of canon versus fanon elements and assess their correlation with the popularity of the stories.

*Frequency analysis.* The frequency of canon versus fanon elements within the selected fanfiction works was calculated. This involved tagging specific scenes, character traits, and plot points as either canon or fanon, and then analyzing their occurrence across the sample.

*Correlation analysis.* Statistical methods were used to determine the correlation between the presence of fanon elements and the popularity of fanfiction stories. Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to assess the strength of the relationship between these variables (Turney 2024).

### ***Stage 3 – Qualitative analysis***

*Thematic analysis* was conducted on a subset of fanfiction stories to explore how fanon elements are integrated with or diverge from canon. This involved close reading to identify recurring themes,

character dynamics, and narrative strategies that illustrate the interaction between canon and fanon. A narrative strategy is understood as a deliberate approach or technique used by an author to structure and present a story. It involves decisions about how the narrative is constructed, including the choice of point of view, the organization of events (chronological or non-linear), character development, the tone, and the use of literary devices such as symbolism, foreshadowing, or irony. Narrative strategies are employed to shape the reader's experience, convey themes, and evoke specific emotions or reactions (Fischer-Appelt & Dernbach 2022). A narrative strategy in fanfiction refers to the specific techniques or approaches fan writers use to structure their stories, integrate canon and fanon elements, and develop characters, plotlines, or settings. These strategies guide how fanfiction reinterprets, expands, or transforms the original source material, allowing writers to explore alternate scenarios, deepen character development, or introduce new elements such as non-canon relationships, alternative universes, and enhanced world-building. Narrative strategies help shape the creative direction of a fanfiction story, offering a framework for innovation while maintaining connections to the original work. The contextual-interpretative method (Yablonska 2020) was applied for studying the material at this stage.

*Community feedback.* Fan comments and discussions were analyzed to understand how readers perceive and react to the blending of canon and fanon in fanfiction. This provided insight into the broader fan culture and its role in shaping fanon.

### **3. Canon and fanon correlation in the *Harry Potter* fandom**

Once the sample is selected, the first step is to identify canonical versus fanon elements. Canonical elements are derived from a thorough review of the original works, including novels, films, or TV series associated with the chosen fandoms. This involves extracting key character traits, plot points, settings, and other canonical aspects that define the original story. For example, in the "Harry Potter" fandom, canonical elements would include Harry's scar, his relationships with other characters, and the rules of the wizarding world. Fanon elements, on the other hand, are identified through an extensive review of fan discussions, commentaries, and meta-analyses within fan communities. This involves delving into platforms such as Reddit, Tumblr, and dedicated fan forums to observe recurring themes, character interpretations, popular ships (relationships), and narrative tropes that have been widely accepted by fans but are not officially part of the canon. For instance, in the "Harry Potter" fandom, Draco Malfoy's redemption arc is a common fanon trope that is frequently explored in fanfiction but is not part of the original narrative.

In the "Harry Potter" fandom, canon elements – those directly derived from J.K. Rowling's original books – were found to occur at an average frequency of 60 instances per story. These elements included well-established plot points, character traits, and settings, such as Harry's experiences at Hogwarts, his relationships with key characters like Hermione and Ron, and the overarching battle against Voldemort. Fanon elements, which represent fan interpretations or expansions not present in the original canon, such as alternate character pairings or imagined backstories, appeared at an average frequency of 30 instances per story.

To determine the impact of fanon elements on the popularity of fanfiction, Pearson's correlation coefficient was calculated. In the "Harry Potter" fandom, the correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) was 0.65, indicating a moderate positive correlation between the presence of fanon elements and the popularity of the stories. This suggests that while canon content remains central to fan engagement, the introduction of fanon elements also plays a significant role in attracting and retaining readers.

The following graph (Fig. 1) shows the correlation between fanon elements and fanfiction popularity for "Harry Potter". The dashed line represents the influence of fanon elements with a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.65, indicating a moderate positive relationship between fanon content and story popularity.

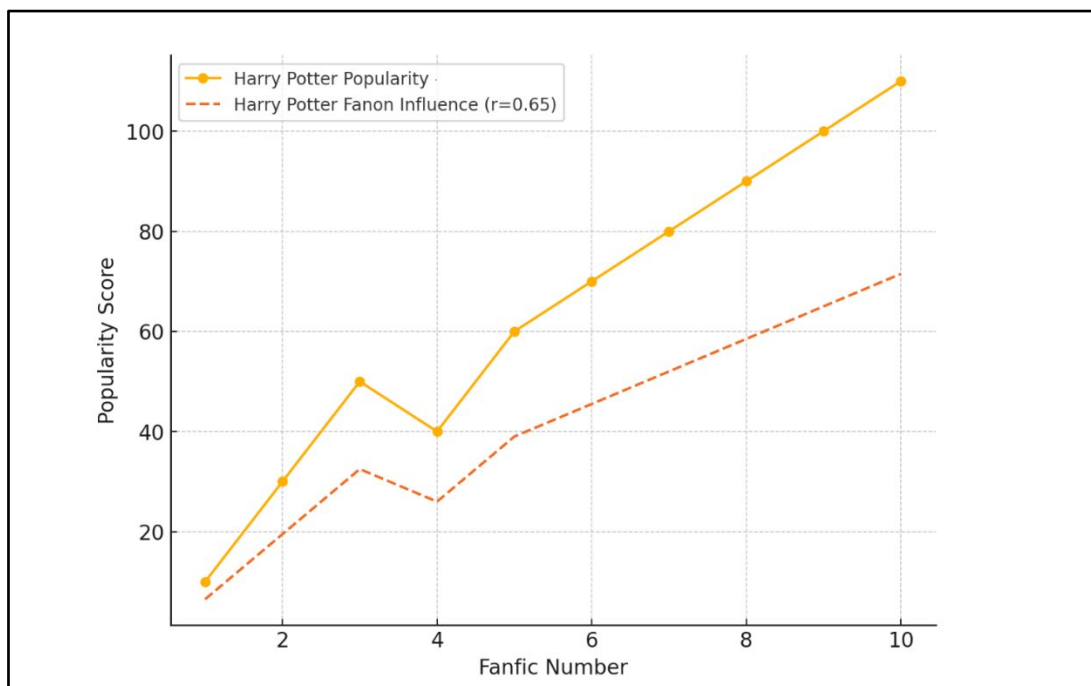


Figure 1. The correlation between fanon elements and fanfiction popularity in the "Harry Potter" fandom. Source: Own processing

To conduct the thematic analysis of "Harry Potter", I followed a structured approach that involved a close reading of selected fanfiction stories to identify recurring themes, character dynamics, and narrative strategies, as well as an examination of community feedback through fan comments and discussions. The aim was to explore how fanon elements are integrated with or diverge from canon and to understand how the fan community perceives and reacts to this blending.

In the "Harry Potter" fandom, a thematic analysis was conducted on a subset of fanfiction stories selected for their popularity and the richness of their fanon content. The stories were read closely, and specific themes were identified. A recurring theme in the "Harry Potter" fanfiction is the exploration of alternative romantic pairings, commonly known as "ships." These fanon pairings often involve characters who were not romantically involved in the canon, such as Draco Malfoy and Hermione Granger (commonly referred to as a blend "Dramione"). This theme highlights a significant departure from the canonical relationships established by J.K. Rowling, where Draco and Hermione had minimal personal interactions.

Another prominent theme is the reimagining of characters' moral orientations and backstories. For instance, Severus Snape is frequently portrayed in fanon as a more sympathetic figure, with a deeper exploration of his tragic past and unfulfilled love for Lily Potter. This interpretation often diverges from the canon, where Snape's complex character is portrayed with more ambiguity.

Many fanfiction stories blend canon and fanon by filling in gaps left in the original narrative. These gaps might include untold stories about secondary characters or unexplored magical elements, which are expanded upon in fanon to enrich the world of Harry Potter. This approach often involves detailed world-building that both adheres to and extends the canonical universe. For example, "The Life and Times" by Jewels5 delves into the Marauders' era, focusing on the lives of James Potter, Lily Evans, and their friends during their time at Hogwarts, filling in many of the gaps left by the original series, particularly regarding the backstory of secondary characters such as Remus Lupin and Sirius Black, and blending canon events with fanon interpretations to create a richly detailed narrative.

"Harry Potter and the Methods of Rationality" by LessWrong reimagines Harry Potter's story with a focus on scientific reasoning and logic, expanding on the magical elements of the original series, exploring them in greater depth, and offering new interpretations of how magic works in the wizarding world, filling in gaps and building on the canon in a way that stays true to the original while adding layers of fanon creativity.

"Wide Open Sky" by ShayaLonnie focuses on the character of Luna Lovegood, expanding on her background and personality in ways that the original books only hinted at, filling in gaps in Luna's story and exploring her relationships with other characters, blending canon elements with fanon interpretations to create a fuller picture of her life.

"Dumbledore's Army and the Year of Darkness" by Thanfiction explores what happened at Hogwarts in the seventh book when Harry, Ron, and Hermione were on the run, filling in the narrative gap by focusing on Neville Longbottom, Ginny Weasley, and other members of Dumbledore's Army as they resist the Death Eaters' control of the school, weaving fanon interpretations into the canon timeline and providing a more detailed account of events that were only briefly mentioned in the original series. These fanfics are excellent examples of how fan writers blend canon and fanon to fill in narrative gaps, expand on secondary characters, and explore unknown aspects of the Harry Potter universe.

To gain insight into how readers perceive and react to the blending of canon and fanon in these stories, an analysis of community feedback was conducted by examining fan comments and discussions on popular fanfiction platforms such as Archive of Our Own (AO3) and FanFiction.net.

In the "Harry Potter" fandom, fan comments often highlight a deep appreciation for the creativity involved in fanon elements, especially when these elements offer fresh perspectives on familiar characters. For instance, many fans are drawn to "what if" scenarios in which characters like Draco Malfoy and Hermione Granger are romantically linked, despite their limited interaction in the canon. These "Dramione" fanfictions are praised for exploring potential dynamics between these two characters, sparking debates about the plausibility of such pairings within the context of the original narrative.

Another popular fanon element involves rewriting significant events from the series, such as imagining what might have happened if Harry Potter had been sorted into Slytherin instead of Gryffindor. Such stories are valued for their creativity and the new character development they propose, leading to discussions about how these changes could have altered the entire storyline.

Fans also frequently engage in discussions around the redemption of characters such as Severus Snape or Tom Riddle (Voldemort). These stories often explore alternative paths for these characters, and fans debate whether the fanon interpretations of their potential for redemption are consistent with

their portrayals in the canon. For example, while some readers may argue that a redeemed Voldemort conflicts with the original characterization, others find it an intriguing exploration of his backstory.

Fanon also breathes new life into minor characters who are not fully developed in the canon. Stories that delve into the lives of characters like Regulus Black or Andromeda Tonks before the events of the books are celebrated for adding depth to the "Harry Potter" universe. Readers discuss the believability of these portrayals and how they complement or diverge from the canonical depiction of these characters.

Additionally, some fanfictions expand on the magical world by introducing new magical theories or exploring the history of ancient magical families. These fanon elements often lead to discussions about their feasibility within the established magical laws of the "Harry Potter" universe and whether they are consistent with the canon.

In these examples, fan comments typically revolve around the creativity and believability of fanon elements, with readers frequently debating whether these interpretations enhance or conflict with their own understanding of the characters and world based on the original "Harry Potter" canon. Some fans express a preference for stories that stay closer to the canon, valuing consistency with the original material, e.g., *"I prefer stories that stick closely to the canon. This one was great because it felt like it could seamlessly fit into the Harry Potter world without altering the established lore."* (FanFiction.net), while others actively seek out fanon-rich stories that offer fresh and unexpected takes on the Harry Potter universe, e.g., *"I'm always on the lookout for fanfics that bring something new to the table. This story's take on Harry's life post-Hogwarts was unexpected and refreshing – it's what makes fanon so exciting!"* (Archive of our own). This split in preferences highlights the diversity of the fan community and its role in shaping the acceptance and popularity of fanon elements.

In the "Harry Potter" fandom, fanfiction writers blend canon and fanon through strategies like canon divergence, missing moments, character reinterpretation, non-canon pairings (ship fics), crossovers with other universes, and fan-made world-building to create engaging, layered narratives that resonate with readers. One common approach is canon divergence, in which writers take a pivotal moment from the original story and explore a "what if" scenario, altering the course of events while maintaining the fundamental framework of the canon. For instance, stories may imagine what would have happened if a different character, like Neville Longbottom, had been chosen as the Chosen One instead of Harry.



Another popular strategy involves filling in the "missing moments" that are not explicitly detailed in the original books. These stories flesh out events that occurred off-page or delve into the backstories of secondary characters, enriching the narrative without disrupting the canon. By doing so, fanfiction authors add layers of complexity and depth to the original text while staying true to its core elements.

Character reinterpretation is another notable strategy, in which writers offer alternative portrayals of established characters. For example, characters like Draco Malfoy or Severus Snape are often depicted in a more sympathetic or complex light, allowing for a deeper exploration of their motivations and personalities. This adds nuance to the original characters while providing a space for fanon interpretations to flourish.

Romantic pairings, especially non-canon ones, play a significant role in the "Harry Potter" fanfiction. These "ship fics" explore relationships that are not part of the original storyline, such as the popular Draco/Harry or Snape/Harry pairings. These fanon-created relationships open up new emotional dynamics and interpersonal conflicts that were not present in the source material, and contribute to the creative output of the fandom.

Some fanfiction writers also introduce crossover elements, merging the "Harry Potter" world with other fictional universes such as "Marvel" or "Percy Jackson". This allows for a unique blend of magic and adventure, creating stories that go beyond the limitations of the original setting while still appealing to fans of both worlds.

Finally, fan-made world-building, such as the development of headcanons or fanon interpretations of aspects such as Hogwarts houses, magical creatures, or wizarding society, plays a significant role in how fanon is integrated. Writers build upon the established lore, adding details or expanding on themes that provide a richer, more personalized experience for readers. These strategies create a narrative space where canon remains the foundation, but fanon becomes an essential tool for exploring and reimagining the world of "Harry Potter".

#### **4. Canon and fanon correlation in the *Naruto* fandom**

In contrast to the "Harry Potter" fandom, the "Naruto" fandom exhibited a slightly different distribution. Canon elements, rooted in Masashi Kishimoto's manga and anime, appeared with an average frequency of 55 instances per story. These included pivotal events like the Chunin Exams, Naruto's interactions with the Nine-Tails, and the dynamics among Team 7 members. Fanon elements were more prevalent in the "Naruto" stories, with an average frequency of 35 instances per story. This

suggests that the "Naruto" fanfiction community might engage more actively in creating and exploring alternate narratives, such as non-canonical romantic pairings and character development.

In the "Naruto" fandom, the correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) is 0.72, reflecting a strong positive correlation between fanon content and story popularity (Fig. 2). This indicates that fan-created interpretations and expansions are even more influential in the "Naruto" community, generating a stronger reader response and contributing more significantly to the success of fanfiction.

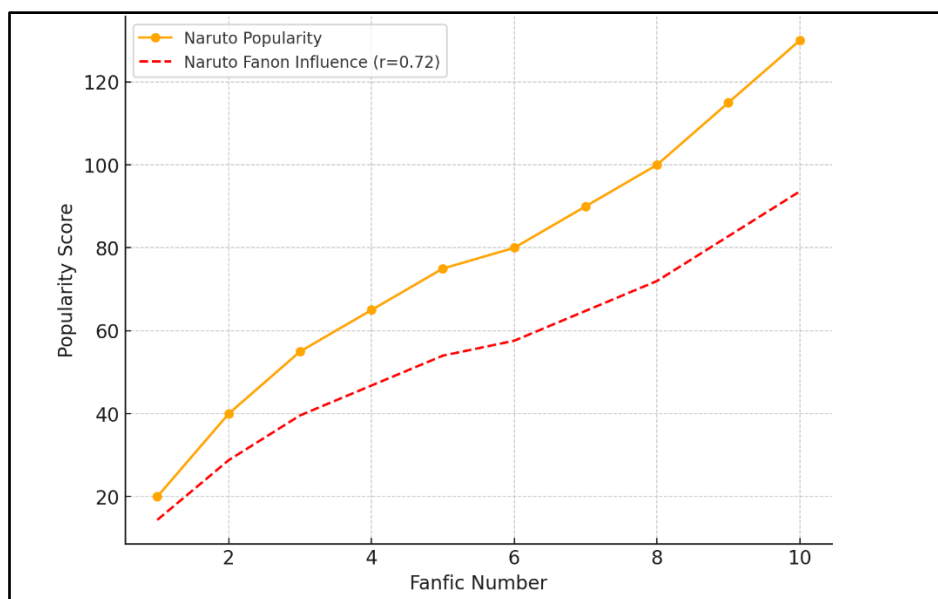


Figure. 2. The correlation between fanon elements and fanfiction popularity in the "Naruto" fandom.  
Source: Own processing

Here is the graph representing the correlation between fanon elements and fanfiction popularity in "Naruto", based on 10 analyzed fanfics. The dashed line shows the influence of fanon elements, with a strong positive correlation coefficient of  $r = 0.72$ , indicating that fan-created interpretations significantly affect the popularity of the "Naruto" fanfiction.

In the "Naruto" fandom, the thematic analysis revealed a different set of recurring themes and narrative strategies. One prevalent theme is the reimagining of key relationships, particularly those between Naruto and Sasuke. Fanon often explores the deep bond between these characters, sometimes extending it into a romantic relationship that is not present in the canon. This theme demonstrates a significant fan-driven narrative that both aligns with and diverges from the original material, where their relationship is complex but not romantic.

Another major theme in the "Naruto" fanfiction is the development of alternate universes (AUs). These AUs allow fans to place the characters in entirely different settings such as high school, modern-day cities, or even other fictional worlds, while retaining their essential personalities and relationships. This strategy allows for a creative exploration of characters outside the constraints of the original ninja world, showcasing the flexibility of fanon in transforming canon into new and varied contexts.

A narrative strategy frequently observed in the "Naruto" fanfiction is the expansion of lesser-known characters' backstories. Characters who played minor roles in the original series, such as Shikamaru or Hinata, are often given more depth and significance in fanon, with new abilities, relationships, and story arcs that were not explored in the canon. For example, "Shadows and Wind" by NeonZangetsu focuses on Shikamaru Nara, expanding on his character beyond what was shown in the original series, exploring his growth as a leader and strategist, delving into his thoughts, motivations, and relationships, and giving Shikamaru new challenges and abilities that further develop his character in ways that the canon series only touched upon.

"Catching the Sun" by Leafygirl centers around Hinata Hyuga, providing a detailed exploration of her life and growth as a ninja, expanding on her backstory, her struggles with her family, and her journey to overcome her insecurities, and giving her new abilities and a more prominent role in the narrative, deepening her character beyond her portrayal in the original series.

"Shikamaru's Battle" by Rogue Tomato offers a deep dive into Shikamaru's character, focusing on his inner struggles and the development of his strategic mind, exploring his relationships with other characters and his role within Konoha, giving him new challenges that highlight his growth and the importance of his character in the broader narrative.

SilverShine's *The Hyuuga's Blossom* delves deep into Hinata's character, crafting a rich backstory and showing her transformation into a more confident and skilled ninja, giving her a more central role in the narrative, expanding her relationships with other characters, and introducing new abilities that make her a more significant figure in the "Naruto" universe.

In the "Naruto" fandom, community feedback demonstrates significant support for fanon elements, especially in stories that delve into character relationships. For example, fans often express their appreciation for fanfiction that explores the complex dynamics between characters like Naruto and Sasuke, often adding emotional depth and new layers to their relationship that may not have been

fully developed in the canon: *"I love how this story deepens the bond between Naruto and Sasuke. The way their friendship is explored here adds so much more emotion than what we see in the original series. It feels so authentic and true to their characters!"* (Archive of our own). These stories are praised for their ability to add nuanced interpretations and explore 'what if' scenarios that fans find compelling, e.g. *"I never thought about this 'what if' scenario before, but it totally makes sense! The author's take on how things could have been different between Naruto and Sasuke is both heartbreaking and beautifully written"* (FanFiction.net).

Discussions in the "Naruto" fan community often focus on the plausibility of fanon scenarios within the context of the original series, with some readers valuing how well fanon elements can be integrated into the established rules and world-building of the canon. However, there is also a large segment of the community that embraces fanon for its ability to break free from these constraints and offer entirely new experiences.

In the "Naruto" fandom, fanfiction writers often prioritize fanon content, using various narrative strategies to expand on the original universe and characters in ways that deviate significantly from the canon. One prevalent strategy is character modification, in which writers drastically change key aspects of a character's personality, abilities, or backstory, to allow for fan-favored reinterpretations. For example, Naruto might be depicted as much more mature or powerful from the start, reshaping the dynamics within the story.

Another common strategy is Alternative Universe (AU) settings, where characters are placed in completely different environments or timelines, such as high school settings, modern-day scenarios, or fantasy worlds that are unrelated to the ninja world. These AU fanfics often strip away canon elements, allowing for more creative freedom in character development and interactions, which resonates strongly with fan preferences.

Expanded romances, particularly involving non-canon pairings, play a significant role in the "Naruto" fanfiction. Popular ships such as "SasuNaru" (Sasuke/Naruto) or "NaruHina" (Naruto/Hinata) are explored with detailed emotional depth and complex relationship dynamics, often going far beyond what the original manga and anime depicted. These romantic subplots, enriched with fanon tropes, draw a significant amount of attention and engagement from readers.

Exploring side characters is another common fanon-focused strategy, where minor or background characters are given a more central role, often reimagining their stories or personalities to make them

more integral to the plot. Fanfiction that focuses on characters such as Itachi Uchiha or Sakura Haruno often transforms them into more complex or powerful figures, which appeals to readers seeking fresh perspectives.

Crossover fanfiction also plays a strong role in the "Naruto" fandom. Similar to *Harry Potter*, characters are frequently integrated into other fictional universes, blending the ninja world with popular franchises such as "Dragon Ball", "Avatar: The Last Airbender", or "Marvel". This type of fanfiction allows writers to experiment with unique abilities and storylines, offering readers entirely new narrative experiences.

These narrative strategies – character modification, alternative universes, expanded romances, exploration of side characters, and crossover fanfiction – allow the "Naruto" fanfiction to thrive, with fanon often taking precedence over canon to meet the fandom's desire for originality and depth.

## **5. Discussion and conclusions**

The comparative analysis of the "Harry Potter" and "Naruto" fandoms reveals slight differences in how canon and fanon elements impact fanfiction. Both fandoms indicate that fanon elements positively influence the popularity of fanfiction, though the degree of this impact slightly varies. In the "Harry Potter" fandom, canon elements remain predominant, with fanon serving as a creative avenue that enhances reader engagement. The moderate correlation in this case suggests a balanced appreciation for both staying true to the original material and embracing fan-created innovations. The "Naruto" fandom shows a stronger preference for fanon content, with a higher frequency of fanon elements and a more pronounced correlation with popularity. This suggests a fan community that is particularly keen on exploring alternative storylines and character dynamics, making fanon an important aspect of what resonates with its readers.

In both fandoms analyzed, fanfiction writers employ similar narrative strategies to blend canon and fanon elements, offering creative expansions and alternate interpretations of the source material. In both cases, fanfiction often focuses on *reinterpreting characters*, either by altering personalities or expanding backstories to provide more depth or emotional complexity. *Alternate universes* are widely used in both fandoms, placing familiar characters in entirely new settings or circumstances to explore different narrative possibilities. *Expanded romances*, especially non-canon pairings, are central to fanon in both fandoms, allowing writers to explore new emotional dynamics between characters. *The exploration of secondary characters* is another common strategy, with fanfiction giving less prominent characters more significant roles and backstories, enriching the overall narrative.

These similar strategies, including character reinterpretation, alternate universes, expanded romances, deeper explorations of secondary characters, and enhanced world-building, reflect genre-forming patterns across fandoms. They demonstrate how fanfiction in both the "Harry Potter" and "Naruto" communities reimagines the source material, using fanon as an essential tool to enrich the original narrative and create stories that resonate deeply with readers.


Overall, the integration of fanon with canon in fanfiction reflects the dynamic and collaborative nature of fan culture. Both fandoms show that fanon is not just a deviation from the original but a vital extension of the narrative, allowing fans to explore, reinterpret, and reimagine their beloved characters and worlds in ways that resonate deeply within their communities. While canon provides the foundation, fanon enriches the narrative possibilities, allowing fans to engage more deeply with the source material and each other. This dynamic interplay between canon and fanon is a testament to the creativity and collaborative spirit that defines fanfiction as a genre.

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