

It could look at first sight like Mary Shelley's famous novel *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*, published in 1818 is **too fanciful** to be relevant. Indeed, today's **oversight of the scientific community** should be **an efficient safeguard** against such a reckless and unethical experiment. In addition, the latter appears completely **implausible** now. One could hardly imagine a scientist attempting to sew dead human limbs together and bring them back to life.

However upon closer scrutiny, it can be argued that the first example of science-fiction in literature is still relevant even today. Indeed it works as a powerful **reminder for scientists to consider the moral implications** of their research, and even more broadly as **a cautionary tale against overlooking the consequences of one's actions**. As such, it could be applied to more **contemporary technological breakthroughs**, for instance in AI or bioengineering.

Expressing interdiction and moral condemnation

- 1 - *You had no right to tamper with forces you did not understand.*
- 2 - *What you did must never be repeated.*
- 3 - *Your actions are morally indefensible.*
- 4 - *You deliberately ignored every ethical boundary.*
- 5 - *No human being should ever claim the power of a god.*
- 6 - *By abandoning your creation, you committed an unforgivable act.*
- 7 - *We cannot allow such reckless ambition to go unpunished.*
- 8 - *You should have foreseen the consequences of your experiment.*

Which sentences clearly **forbid** an action? Which express blame?

Expressing interdiction and moral condemnation

INTERDICTION (2, 5, 7) is often expressed through:

- Use of modal verbs (*shouldn't, mustn't, cannot*)
- "*forbidden*" + infinitive
- Generalising structures and negative imperatives

In order to express MORAL CONDEMNATION (1, 3, 4, 6, 8) one can use:

- Verbs of judgment: to condemn, to blame, to accuse, to hold responsible/ accountable
- Strong evaluative adjectives: *immoral, reckless, monstrous, indefensible, unforgivable*

Expressing interdiction and moral condemnation

Rephrase the following sentences to make them **stronger and more condemnatory**

You may change the structure, add modal verbs, or use stronger vocabulary.

1. *What you did was wrong.* *what you did was morally indefensible*
2. *You shouldn't do experiments like this again.* *You should never do such a reckless experiment again.*
3. *It was a mistake to create a being and leave him alone.* *It was an unforgivable mistake to abandon this sensible being alone.*
4. *People must be careful with science.* *It is of the utmost importance for scientists to always be very careful with science.*