

Q1.

The movie focused heavily on the relationship between robots and humans and how each other interacts with each other. It had a very Uchi-soto vibe to it with how both groups interacted with each other. In public humans are expected to behave superior to robots and treat them as nothing more than tools, while the robots are expected to ignore anyone and everyone aside from their owners and do their bidding without question. To go against these social rules is considered very abnormal and would cause any human person breaking the rules to at minimum be ridiculed and at worst arrested. Robots breaking these rules are broken, reconfigured, or even dismantled.

Even though the society in the movie expects obedience to these rules, it is evident throughout the movie that there are many people that yearn for closer relationships between the two groups of people in the movie. One example would be the android Kouji and his master who has forsaken the human world and only wants a relationship with her android now. Despite his reluctance and thought process that a human partner would be better for his master, Kouji's master insists solely on him and thus Kouji tries to do whatever he can for his master to give her a meaningful relationship and be the best partner he can be.

The Robots are also shown to develop romantic feelings outside of human influence as well for their human owners. Rina, another android who frequents the cafe in the movie dedicated to closing the gap between robots and humans, falls in love with Kouji for his kindness and understanding without knowing that he too is an android. Sammy, the main protagonist's android, also falls in love with her master and changes subtle things in her daily life and care for his family in order to try and garner praise from him. These actions all are done to show that there is little to no difference between Human and Robot and that they all experience the same wants and needs.

The idea of there being no difference between Human and Robot is tied very closely to the Shinto belief in Kami spirits and how Kami dwell in everything in life, from the smallest pebble, to the largest human, and even into the most sophisticated Robot. All beings on the planet have a presence and desire and should be shown respect as one would for a fellow human being. Robots have their own desire to protect what's important to them in life, and those desires need to be shown respect and reverence the same as if a human had stated it. The line between human and robot is blurred very deeply in the movie to illustrate that Kami dwell in everything and to remind the audience to be respectful no matter who you're addressing and take their emotions into account.

Q2.

Throughout the movie robots were treated as something beneath human and not worthy of thought or consideration. When it rains the robots were shown having to walk in the rain without an umbrella dripping wet while their owners were safe under protection because the common thought was that they have no feelings. The robots are also expected to show a stone face without emotion when around humans in the movie to prevent people from sympathizing with them or thinking they might have emotions. The stark contrast between the android characters when they have to play their role, and when they're free to express themselves is very striking and I think a great way of displaying Uchi-soto in the movie. It helps the audience to understand much more what kind of society the people live in and its different expectations for both humans and robots.

The movie also tends to show memory flashbacks of the older robots during the times when they were taking care of their owners when they were young as way of displaying how

they're precious memories even to the robot and how even they like to remember fonder times. The robots, for example Kataron, want to be remembered by someone, either their family or even complete strangers, and go to great lengths to try and be remembered in the same way a human would want people to know of their existence.

The way some of the older robots were drawn also is done to remind people of their own emotions and just how similar they are to humans. Even TEX, the secondary protagonist's robot, is drawn in a subtle way to show emotion. TEX is less anthropomorphic than some of the other robots and androids in the movie, and also far older than many of the robots in the movie, but a great way to show its age and also its human characteristics is that TEX is drawn with lines leading from its eye sockets almost as if it had been crying very often over the years and the tears had left a stain on it. By subtling implying tears, the artists were able to convey the years of internal strife TEX went through when faced against an order placed on it by the father of its owner to prevent it from acting human near the secondary protagonist and prevent it from interacting with him any longer. The drawing style is done excellently to give subtle cues of all of the robots human nature and implication of Kami dwelling in everything.