

# Pragmatic view of George Orwell's Animal Farm

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## Abstract

This study examines the use of anthropomorphism in George Orwell's novella *Animal Farm*. It also emphasises the author's intention in using anthropomorphism. This explanation focuses on Orwell's novella's usage of anthropomorphism, as well as its meaning and application. Anthropomorphism is one of the figures of speech, and it is our primary concern in this inquiry. Theories and definitions of anthropomorphism are highlighted. *Animal Farm* analyses the novella as well as corpus-based anthropomorphism research to establish Orwell's intentions for employing this language technique. The linguistic trick is then employed in Orwell's novella *Animal Farm*, and a good method for teaching anthropomorphism in Orwell's *Animal Farm* is discovered. Orwell uses anthropomorphism in the novella *Animal Farm* to describe individuals in authority and ordinary people during the Soviet Revolution, as well as to show his feelings about it. In general, this research shows that this linguistic strategy has a significant role to play, and that the decorating outlook needs to be revisited.

**Keywords:** Anthropomorphism, George Orwell, *Animal Farm*, Characters and Politicians.

## INTRODUCTION

Pragmatic view of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

*Animal Farm* is a story about anthropomorphic farm animals that stage a revolution. Anthropomorphism is the practice of attributing human characteristics to nonhuman objects. *Animal Farm*, on the other hand, isn't your typical animal story. Because the author draws parallels between the tale and the Russian Revolution, this narrative is an example of an allegory.

According to Orwell, the book was written when the wartime organisation collaborated with the Soviet Union, and it reflects events leading up to and during the Stalin period exactly before the Second World War. Union was at its peak, and a number of British and American distributors first turned it down.

Furthermore, this novella was enthralling, challenging, and instructional. Farm animals are used to represent individuals of vitality and the mundane in George Orwell's novella. In the midst of the Russian Revolution, citizens Major begins the novella by revealing to everyone on the farm how the animals are neglected and can be abused.

*Animal Farm* is a humorous story about animals acting like people, for better or worse. At the beginning of the story, Old Major, a pig, encourages the other animals to revolt against the men who run the farm.

Anthropomorphism is a figure of speech that refers to the attribution of human characteristics to something that isn't human. As a result, the novella is a rare jewel in terms of humanoid identification and imagery. In light of the fact that Mr. Jones, the owner of the homestead, is in danger of losing his ranch, the

writer needs to educate the reader on socialism and various forms of government. People are causing the animals to form a resistance because they are mistreating them. The wisest and most experienced animal, Old Major, sorts out every last detail. When Old Major dies, Snowball, Napoleon, and Squealer lead the pack of everything in the wake of the death of Old Major. Then Napoleon is elected as the leader of the country.

Old Major created 'Animalism.' In certain ways, he resembles Marx, but he also resembles Lenin, communism's first leader. According to the book, Old Major has emerged under the guise of Willingdon Beauty, who is attempting to incite animals against humans by providing them with arguments and confirmations about the vileness of humans in order to sow strife among individual animals.

George Orwell's writings address political themes. In "Why I Write", Quinn states

"every line of serious work I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly against totalitarianism and for democratic socialism" (24). Orwell was a socialist, believing that everyone should participate equally in the rewards of their labour and effort. He says that he became a socialist because he was profoundly upset with the way the poor were treated in the foreword to the Ukrainian edition of *Animal Farm*.

The novel is a symbolic fiction based on historical events and individuals from Russia. Orwell's purpose in writing *Animal Farm* was to portray the 1917 Russian Revolution as resulting in a cruel, dictatorial, and murderous dictatorship. Orwell was inspired to create *Animal Farm* after witnessing a young country lad flogging a cart-horse. He claims that if humanity realised how powerful these animals are and how men treat them horribly, they would lose control of them, just as ordinary people in authoritarian governments are exploited by the government.

Napoleon, the pig, plays Stalin, the Soviet Union's second leader. *Animal Farm* bypasses Lenin's brief leadership, which appears to combine Lenin's charisma with that of Old

Major, and instead presents Napoleon as the farm's leader from the beginning of the revolution.

One Sunday morning when the animals assembled to receive their orders Napoleon announced that he had decided upon a new policy. From now onwards *Animal Farm* would engage in trade with the neighbouring farms: not, of course, for any commercial purpose but simply in order to obtain certain materials which were urgently necessary (Orwell, 71-72)

The animals in this place are supposed to entice human contact, and this type of medicine is used to negotiate deals or swaps between individuals or nations. Aside from that, trade is managed by rules, thus we see that the animals behave like humans, and Orwell's purpose is to demonstrate the Nazi-Soviet agreement. Napoleon solidified his dominance by employing his faithful attacking dogs as a military force to scare and subjugate the other animals. He's smarter than his Snowball doppelganger.

Snowball has been compared to Leon Trotsky, a Marxist theoretician who participated in a number of revolutionary activities and protests. They are masters in assessing circumstances and devising efficient strategies. Snowball, like Trotsky, believed that a series of general revolts were necessary to realise the core goals of a revolution. Snowball's designs for a windmill are similar to Trotsky's thoughts on putting Marx's ideals into practise. Trotsky, Lenin's Red Army's leader, was eventually ousted from the Soviet Union. Snowball, the leader of the animal army against Jones, is also expelled from the farm by Napoleon. Snowball, like Trotsky, is chastised and accused of being a traitor, and blamed for any failure to achieve a goal.

Snowball takes on the role of Trotsky in the novel. Trotsky established the progressive movement's foundation. As Stalin rose to power, he may have been one of Stalin's most irritating foes, and he was eventually ousted from the Politburo in 1925, one year after Stalin took control. In the novella, Snowball is fired from the ranch, much as

Trotsky was in 1929. In any case, Trotsky was exiled from the Russian people's minds as well as their bodies. Images of the unrest's leaders were chopped off of his face, and his visible portion was changed. In Russia, he was reviled as a con artist and a backstabber, and he was killed in Mexico City by a Stalinist agent in 1940.

In the preface to the Ukrainian edition, published in 1947, Orwell explained that he planned to write the book in simple English because he wanted to demonstrate ordinary English people, who had a centuries-long record of justice and liberty, what a totalitarian dictatorship looked like. His stay in Spain had taught him an important lesson, "how easily totalitarian propagandacan control the opinion of enlightened people in democraticcountries" and he wrote the book to destroy the 'Soviet myth'that Russia was a truly socialist society" (20).

Boxer is a symbol of the working class. Boxer is shown as a dedicated specialist, but with less than average understanding. Boxer expresses sorrow in the next passage after inflicting bodily harm on a person while protecting the farm from an impending attack. The dogs serve as mascots for the military or the police. The dogs in *Animal Farm* are mainly presented as indiscriminately devoted, with little emphasis on how the puppies' personalities evolve during the storey. In any case, the next section personifies the dogs in a way that demonstrates their willingness to read as well as their intellectual advantages and disadvantages.

When they had once got it by heart the sheep developed a great liking

for this maxim, and often as they lay in the field they would all start

bleating 'Four legs good, two legs bad! Four legs good, two legs bad!' and keep

it up for hours on end, never growing tired of it. (Orwell, 49-50)

The great majority of those on the loose are sheep. In terms of their visually impaired conformity to the pigs, they are

compared to horses; yet, their innocence is emphasised more owing to their straightforwardness of mind. The next item shows their capacity to recall an expression as well as vocally assess the information they have recalled.

The friendly crow who tells stories of the mystical Sugar Candy Mountains, an after-death sanctuary for animals. Although Moses plays a tiny role in *Animal Farm*, Orwell uses the raven to show how the communist regime exploits religion to appease the oppressed.

Napoleon is the Soviet Union's Stalin. Both want power and remained uninterested in arguments and ideas. In their usage to destroy dissent, Napoleon's dogs are similar to Stalin's secret police. He is described as having "a reputation for getting his own way"(Orwell, 35).

He is comparable to Stalin in this regard, since they both have the capacity to brainwash and manipulate others, create propaganda, portray themselves as capable of doing anything, and surround themselves with bodyguards. In order to gain authority, Napoleon feigned to help the animals by promising them a nice existence. This is similar to Stalin's attempts to portray himself as a visionary seeking to better people's lives through extensive propaganda. In most stories, especially in children's literature, there is a cooperative relationship between the farmer and the animals. The relationship is depicted as manipulative in *Animal Farm*. The farmer abusing the animals in this image represents the Russian people's suffering under Napoleon's reign. Orwell attempted to portray the modern ruler via Napoleon.

To construct Napoleon, Orwell blends characteristics of both Stalin and Hitler. The animals make enormous sacrifices to build the windmill since Snowball promised it would make their lives easier, but they later realise that it is used for something else: grinding corn for trade. He "denounced such ideas as contrary to the spirit of Animalism. The truest happiness, he said, lay in working hard and living frugally" (Orwell 121). This appears to be an irony to the Nazi motto, "Work liberates."

The erection of the windmill was a point of contention between Napoleon and Snowball. At first, Napoleon mocked Snowball's plans, but later adopted them as his own. This refers to the debate between Stalin and Trotsky about whether agriculture or industry should be prioritised in the Soviet Union's formation. Both concepts were finally included in Stalin's original five-year plan. The dispute between Stalin and Trotsky about whether the revolution should spread to other countries or if they should stay in Russia to build a socialist state is comparable to Napoleon and Snowball's deliberations. The former feels that the animals must prepare in order to keep their leadership, while the latter believes that it is vital to spread the news about the revolution.

Napoleon and Snowball each retain the milk and apples for themselves rather than sharing them with the other animals, stating that studies have shown that they help them think properly. According to Orwell, communists and fascists are dictatorial and self-serving. Many different types of regular people are represented by the afflicted animals. Boxer symbolises the uneducated, working-class masses who were fooled and humiliated by the Stalinist regime's false rhetoric. The deceit of Boxer and his encouragement to board the waggon and be transported to the slaughterhouse is reminiscent of the deportation of Jews to concentration camps and the use of mobile extermination vans to round up and murder small groups of individuals.

Clover, a motherly mare, is plain and afflicted. She softly inquires about some of Napoleon's decisions. At the conclusion of the book, she realised that man and pig are really similar. Molly, a bumbling horse, stands for the white Russians who rejected the revolution and fled the country. The secret police that keep Stalin in power are represented by the hounds bred by Napoleon and deployed as his guardians. The sheep, who mindlessly obey the pigs, represent uneducated citizens who repeat false information without thinking. Benjamin, the donkey, is pessimistic about the revolution and doubts that it will have a positive outcome. When there was a dispute over the windmill,

Benjamin was the lone animal who remained neutral.

After driving their owner away from the property, the animals set up their own farm. They have their own set of rules and regulations. Napoleon, a self-centered leader, wants complete authority, so he raises the animals in order to compel Snowball to leave the farm. During Napoleon's reign, the pigs began to resist and change the rules that they and the other animals had established following their conquest. They gradually start acting and looking like humans. Animal Farm progressively loses power after that, and Mr. Jones reclaims authority. The narrative concludes with Napoleon's victory against the pig. They ruled Animal Farm with far more tyranny and efficiency than the farm's late human owner, the dissolute Mr. Jones. This serves as a warning to all English readers about the perils of accepting the Soviet narrative, as Orwell strives to explain that the system built by the Russian Revolution leaders, notably Stalin, is worse than the previous one. He seeks to persuade people to reject the political regimes he has witnessed. Both powerful and common people are represented by the animals. Soon after his victory, Napoleon proceeded to treat the animals even more cruelly than their previous vicious ruler, Mr. Jones. Orwell believes that tyrants and their terrible beliefs will continue to rise if people do not become more politically informed.

Anthropomorphism is utilised for a variety of objectives, including changing people's perspectives, raising awareness of deficient systems, exploring disenchantment with political issues, and avoiding difficulties during reasonable times. Orwell laments the many varieties of bleak totalitarian governments that oppress and terrorise their own people in order to force them to submit. Animal Farm is often seen as a critique of the communist regime in the former Soviet Union as a whole. He composed the novel with the intention of depicting events during the Russian Revolution as well as demonstrating how animalistic tyrants like Napoleon's behaviour might be without really utilising those events or persons.

Anthropomorphism, as defined by George Orwell in *Animal Farm*, is the attribution of human characteristics to any inanimate object, dynamic idea, or impersonal creature. Furthermore, this figure of speech communicates in a unique way with the goal of beautifying or opening up, instructing or clarifying, pushing or managing, exposing the reason or averting consideration far from a weak framework, or a mixture of the above.

The novella contains only one storyline. *Animal Farm* is a fascinating, challenging, and educational storey. Orwell uses farm animals in the novella to depict individuals in authority as well as common citizens during the Russian Revolution. Mr. Jones, the owner of the farm in which the storey takes place, is the tyrannical human figure, and the animals plan to overthrow their oppressors while growing more human-like in the process. Major begins the novella by describing to all of the farm animals how they are being treated unfairly and how they may defeat Mr. Jones, their master. They ultimately irritate their owner, and he leaves the land. At that time, they create their own ranch with their own set of principles.

Despite the fact that the animals cannot talk, write, plan, read, or drink wine, they behave like humans, which adds to the story's intrigue and vividness. Critics point out that Orwell is emphasising a fundamental human instinct: some will always exist who are more motivated, cruel, and eager to gain power than the rest of society, while those inside society would sacrifice authority for security and structure. In that way, *Animal Farm* might be seen as a wake-up call, warning readers of the dangers of being agitated (encyclopedia, 2008). In this novella, anthropomorphism is a crucial element of tone and thought. Almost every character is a depiction of a particular person in the world.

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