



# Animalism: Revelation Of Exploitation Of Animals In The Works Of George Orwell With Special Reference To ‘Animal Farm’

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## Abstract:

The significance of this study is to probe and reveal the exploitation portrayed on animals in the works specially written by George Orwell. He was a prominent British writer and journalist of the 20th century. He adopted the pen name George Orwell, which would become synonymous with his piercing and powerful works. Orwell's works comprise a number of genres which crafted a diverse body of work that encompasses essays, novels, memoirs and journalism, delving into themes such as Animalism, Anthropomorphism. Through his eminent work 'Animal Farm', the different characters are portrayed by animals depicting the exploitation. It reveals the true feelings of the animals very effectively and their intense emotions that they go through in their lives while dealing with human beings, how they are being exploited and mistreated by the humans. 'Animalism' is an analytical and moral bearing that highlights the value of a conscious being or sentient being. Sentience is the dimension to be affected positively and negatively. It is about having experiences, not just mere perceiving stimuli but also the action taking place after that. It means how a being who is conscious in itself experiences all the pain and feeling after perceiving a stimulus and how it is affected with that, the positive and negative aspects, the pros and cons related to the stimuli which is perceived by the organism and how it functions after that; basically, what is the reaction taking place in it and how it functions after that.

This study throws light on the various aspects of 'Animal Farm'. The pros and cons or the enjoyment and suffering perceived through various stimuli by a conscious being. Another thing highlighted in 'Animal Farm' is Anthropomorphism, in which the animals are given human-like qualities and abilities, allowing them to communicate and act in ways that mirror human behaviour. This technique serves to enhance the allegorical elements and make the story more accessible to readers.

Keywords: Animalism, Anthropomorphism, stimuli, sentient, perceive, conscious, emotions, reactions, foreshadowing.

## Introduction:

*“My starting point is always a feeling of partisanship, a sense of injustice. When I sit down to write a book, I do not say to myself, ‘I am going to produce a work of art’. I write it because there is some lie that I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention, and my initial concern is to get a hearing. But I could not do the work of writing a book, or even a long magazine article, if it were not also an aesthetic experience.”*

### *George Orwell, Why I Write*

Animalism is like communism in today’s world. In ‘Animal Farm’ written by George Orwell, animals were tried by human beings. The animals converted all the teachings of old Major into a complete system of thought and gave it the name ‘Animalism’. It is about the reaction that they go through and how they take it as a challenge and drive away the humans from their world and how there is a rebel against the totalitarian form. Totalitarianism means when a large number of people, in this case it would be animals, are typically headed by a single leader or a small ruling elite which has absolute authority and there are no check or balance on their power. The concentration of power is often achieved through suppression of political opposition, censorship, and manipulation of elections. Totalitarian states promote a specific ideology or belief system that is enforced upon the population. This specification serves as a justification for the government's actions and policies, and deviating viewpoints of the others are suppressed or eliminated by the authoritarian or the higher authority.

Totalitarian governments tightly control and manipulate the flow of information throughout. They use propaganda, censorship, and state-controlled media to shape public opinion, disseminate their ideology; and suppress dissenting voices and deviating viewpoints. Totalitarian regimes employ extensive surveillance systems and maintain a pervasive police state to monitor and control the activities of their citizens. Surveillance technologies, informants, and secret police are often used to identify and suppress any perceived threats to the regime. Totalitarian governments actively suppress and eliminate any form of political opposition or deviating views. This can involve imprisonment, torture, forced labor, and even execution of political opponents or individuals deemed as enemies of the state. Totalitarian states exercise control over economic activities and often implement centralized economic planning or state ownership of key industries. The government may dictate employment, housing, education, and social activities, seeking to mold society according to its ideological vision. Examples of historical totalitarian regimes include Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany, Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union, and Kim Jong-un's North Korea. These regimes exerted control over all aspects of life, suppressing individual freedoms, manipulating information, and maintaining absolute power. "Animal Farm" is a scathing critique of totalitarianism, illustrating how revolution can be corrupted by those who seek power for themselves. Totalitarianism represents an extreme form of authoritarianism where the state seeks to dominate and control every aspect of society. It stands in stark contrast to democratic systems that prioritize individual freedoms, civil liberties, and a separation of powers. George Orwell has contributed a lot by writing in many different issues which have great significance in the present world.

Anthropomorphism is a way in which the animals behave like human beings. They mirror human beings in their day to day work and habits. They work and think like humans. This is one way of depicting the human nature through animals. Anthropomorphism is one way of morphing through which the shaping up of human traits is done through various animal characters, through the roles they play in and perform their duties, how they drive away all the human beings and acquire their traits in them and run their farm without letting any human intervene in between even for their day to day activities which sometimes require human like brains. They intend to do it on their own using their own ways, uniting themselves, avoiding totalitarianism and functioning on their own. They become independent and started studying alphabets and theorems and the wise one produce graphs for the others to follow. The other animals follow the instructions given by a wise animal and this is how their farm becomes fully functional through various techniques and procedures without any intervention of human beings in between. The animals say in between the novel, **‘FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BAD’**.

This was the most significant principle of Animalism which they diligently followed. The story ‘Animal Farm’ is more of an allegory where the characters of the story are depicting or symbolizing the idea such as truth, evil, death etc. It is conveying the hidden meaning, basically a political one where animals are symbolizing the true characters of a human nature. George Orwell made use of various animal characters and depicted rebellion. An allegorical novel is a work of fiction in which the characters, events, and settings are symbolic and

represent abstract ideas, moral concepts, or historical events. In an allegory, the narrative operates on two levels: the surface level of the story and the deeper level of symbolic meaning. The author uses these symbols to convey a moral, political, or philosophical message to the readers.

In an allegorical novel, the characters and their actions are often representative of broader concepts or archetypes. The events and plot developments carry symbolic significance beyond their literal interpretation. By employing symbolism and metaphor, the author can explore complex themes and convey deeper meanings in a more indirect and imaginative way.

Allegorical novels have been used throughout the history to convey moral or political messages, critique societal norms, or explore philosophical ideas. George Orwell's "Animal Farm" is another famous allegorical novel. Through the use of anthropomorphic animals, Orwell tells the story of a farm revolution that represents the events and aftermath of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Stalinism. The novel uses the animals and their actions to symbolize political ideologies, power struggles, and the corruption of ideals. In allegorical novels, the characters and their actions typically embody universal human qualities, virtues, voices, or philosophical concepts. They may represent historical figures, religious or mythological figures, or archetypal characters. The events and settings within the story can also carry symbolic significance, reflecting societal or cultural issues, political ideologies, or philosophical concepts. Allegories are used throughout the book to show moral dilemma using animals and Animalism.

George Orwell uses Foreshadowing in 'Animal Farm'. Through this he hinted to the real world what could happen in the near future as a part and parcel of what is happening currently in the world. For instance, he portrayed through the ideas of Old Major that the animals will be undergoing a rebellion due to the teachings of the Major. He implanted in the minds of the animals- what is right and trustworthy and educated the other animals as to what could happen in the future. This is foreshadowing, used by Orwell in 'Animal Farm'.

By employing these techniques, George Orwell effectively conveyed his message to the real world condemning Totalitarianism and depicting Animalism. He provided a powerful critique of political systems and human nature.

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