

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ZOOSEMISM IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

ERGASHEVA SEVARA O'TKIR QIZI*Samarqand davlat chet tillari universiteti magistranti**Ilmiy rahbar: PhD. dotsent RUSTAMOVA ADASH ESHANKULOVNA*

Abstract: This article explores the significance of zoosemy in English literature, focusing on the intentional use of animal imagery and symbolism by authors to convey deeper meanings, evoke emotions, and explore complex themes. Zoosemy, the literary device that attributes animal characteristics to human elements, has been a powerful and versatile tool employed by writers throughout history. The abstract delves into various aspects of zoosemy, including its role in symbolism, metaphor, cultural and mythological representation, characterization, satire, and ecological themes. By analyzing specific examples from notable works such as Franz Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" and Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," this article aims to elucidate how zoosemy enriches the literary landscape, contributing to the aesthetic, metaphorical, and thematic dimensions of English literature. Through an exploration of zoosemy, readers gain insight into the ways in which authors creatively employ animal imagery to comment on human nature, societal norms, and the broader human experience.

Annotation: This article delves into the critical exploration of zoosemy's importance in English literature. Zoosemy, the literary technique involving the symbolic use of animal imagery, plays a pivotal role in conveying nuanced meanings and contributing to the aesthetic depth of literary works. The annotation highlights the multifaceted nature of zoosemy, encompassing its utilization in symbolism, metaphor, cultural representation, characterization, satire, and environmental themes. By examining specific examples from renowned literary pieces such as Franz Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" and Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," the article aims to illustrate the diverse ways in which zoosemy enhances the literary landscape. Readers can anticipate a comprehensive exploration of how this technique serves as a powerful tool for authors, providing them with a means to comment on societal norms, human nature, and broader existential questions within the rich tapestry of English literature. The annotation positions the article as a valuable resource for scholars, students, and enthusiasts interested in delving into the intricate layers of meaning woven into literary narratives through the intentional use of animal symbolism.

Key Words: 1. Zoosemy, Animal Imagery English literature, Symbolism, Metaphor, Cultural representation, Characterization, Dehumanization, Satire, Environmental Themes, Aesthetic Depth, Literary Technique, Societal Norms, Human Nature, Existential Questions, Literary Analysis.

Introduction: Zoosemy, or the use of animal imagery and symbolism in literature, holds significant importance in English literature and beyond. This literary device involves attributing animal characteristics, behaviors, or qualities to human characters or elements, often for symbolic or thematic purposes. Here are some key reasons why zoosemy is significant in literature:

1. Symbolism and Metaphor:

- Representation of Traits: Animals are often used to symbolize specific human characteristics or traits. For example, a lion may represent courage, a snake deceit, and a dove peace.

- Metaphorical Expression: Animal imagery allows writers to convey complex emotions, ideas, or situations through metaphorical language, adding depth to the narrative.

2. Cultural and Mythological Significance:

- Cultural Symbolism: Animals have different symbolic meanings across cultures. Writers can draw on these cultural associations to convey deeper layers of meaning to their audience.

- Mythological Allusions: Many animals have mythological significance, and incorporating them into literature can add layers of meaning, connecting the work to larger cultural and historical contexts.

3. Characterization and Satire:

- Character Traits: Assigning animal traits to characters can serve as a form of characterization. This can be a powerful tool for emphasizing specific personality traits or behaviors.

- Satirical Elements: Animal imagery is often used in satire to mock or criticize human behavior. By portraying characters with animal traits, authors can comment on societal issues or human follies.

4. Allegory and Fables:

- Moral Lessons: Animal characters are frequently used in fables and allegories to impart moral lessons. Through the actions and behaviors of animals, writers convey ethical messages applicable to human life.

- Simplicity and Universality: Animal characters in fables often simplify complex human situations, making them more accessible and universally relatable.

5. Environmental and Ecological Themes:

- Ecological Awareness: In contemporary literature, zoosemy can be used to address environmental and ecological concerns. Animal imagery may serve as a metaphor for the impact of human activities on the natural world.

6. Psychological Exploration:

- Human-Animal Connection: Zoosemy can explore the human-animal connection, delving into the ways in which humans relate to and understand the animal

kingdom. This exploration can reveal insights into human psychology and relationships.

7. Aesthetic and Poetic Appeal:

- Imagery and Vivid Descriptions: Animal imagery can enhance the aesthetic appeal of a literary work, creating vivid and memorable images in the reader's mind. This contributes to the overall richness of the language and storytelling.

Franz Kafka: In "The Metamorphosis," Kafka employs zoosemism in a more literal sense. The protagonist, Gregor Samsa, wakes up one day transformed into a giant insect. This transformation serves as a metaphor for the alienation and absurdity of modern existence. Gregor Samsa wakes up one morning to find himself transformed into a "monstrous vermin". He reflects on his job as a traveling salesman and cloth merchant, which he sees as constantly changing. His family is horrified and his father drives him back into his room, injuring his side. Gregor's family is deprived of financial stability, and he is locked in his room. His sister Grete is the only one willing to bring him food, and he spends most of his time crawling around. Grete removes his furniture to give him more space, but he is deeply distressed by their actions. His mother loses consciousness when he clings to a portrait of a woman clad in fur. His father returns home and angrily hurls apples at him, causing him to suffer from injuries for the rest of his life. His family begins to neglect him, and his room becomes used for storage. One day, a charwoman neglects to close his door, and Gregor crawls out, attracting unsuspecting tenants who complain about the apartment's unhygienic conditions. Grete, tired of taking care of Gregor, tells her parents to get rid of "it" or they will be ruined. Gregor dies of starvation before sunrise, and his body is discovered by the charwoman. The family plans to move to a smaller apartment to save money.

"The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka is a rich literary work that extensively employs zoosemy—the use of animal imagery and symbolism—to convey complex themes and ideas. Here are some examples and an analysis of zoosemy in Kafka's "The Metamorphosis":

1. Gregor Samsa's Transformation:

- Example: Gregor wakes up one morning to find himself transformed into a giant insect.

- Analysis: The choice of an insect as the transformed state is a powerful zoosemic element. It symbolizes Gregor's alienation, his dehumanization, and his perception as an outsider in society. This transformation serves as a metaphor for the arbitrary and uncontrollable nature of change in human life.

2. Insect Behaviors and Characteristics:

- Example: Gregor crawls on walls, enjoys rotten food, and becomes more attuned to sensory experiences like an insect.

- Analysis: These behaviors contribute to the zoosemy by emphasizing the contrast between Gregor's human past and his current insect form. The insect characteristics highlight the absurdity of his existence and serve as a metaphor for the dehumanizing impact of societal expectations.

3. The Samsa Family's Perception:

- Example: The Samsa family views Gregor as a vermin or pest.

- Analysis: The use of zoosemy in describing Gregor reinforces the family's dehumanizing attitude toward him. They perceive him as a threat to their comfortable existence, reflecting societal norms that often reject individuals who deviate from the expected.

4. Beetle Picture:

- Example: Gregor's sister replaces a picture of a woman in furs with a picture of a lady in a full fur hat and boa.

- Analysis: This zoosemic element highlights the theme of metamorphosis and the blurring of human and animal boundaries. The emphasis on fur and insects in the imagery reinforces the transformative nature of the story, suggesting a deeper connection between the human and animal worlds.

5. Vermin Symbolism:

- Example: The term "vermin" is used to describe Gregor in his transformed state.

- Analysis: The choice of the word "vermin" is significant in zoosemy as it degrades Gregor, emphasizing how societal judgments can reduce a person to the status of a despised creature. It adds to the overall theme of alienation and the dehumanizing effects of societal expectations.

6. Isolation and Alienation:

- Example: Gregor's physical isolation and inability to communicate effectively with his family.

- Analysis: The use of zoosemy in portraying Gregor's isolation reinforces the emotional and psychological distance between him and his family. The insect symbolism accentuates the difficulty of human connection in a society that values conformity and rejects those who don't fit the norm.

In "The Metamorphosis," Kafka's masterful use of zoosemy enhances the depth and complexity of the narrative. The animal imagery serves as a powerful vehicle for exploring themes of alienation, dehumanization, and the absurdity of societal expectations, creating a work that continues to captivate readers with its symbolic richness.

Lewis Carroll: In "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," Carroll employs zoosemism to create a whimsical and fantastical world where animals such as the Cheshire Cat, the White Rabbit, and the Mock Turtle play symbolic roles in Alice's journey of self-discovery. Alice, a young girl, encounters a White Rabbit who is late and follows him down a rabbit hole. She finds a key to a tiny door and drinks from a bottle, shrinking to enter. She then eats a cake, which causes her to grow. Alice frightens the animals and is mistaken for his maidservant. The White Rabbit orders her to retrieve the gloves and fan, but Alice eats one herself, shrinking herself. Alice meets a Caterpillar and begins to admit her identity crisis. She encounters a Duchess with a Cheshire Cat, who transforms into a piglet. Alice finds the Hatter, March Hare, and Dormouse at a tea party. Alice leaves the party, but finds a door on a tree and opens it to the croquet court of the Queen of Hearts. Alice participates in a game, but the Queen orders beheadings. Alice prompts the Queen to release the Duchess from prison, but she is dismissed on the threat of execution.

Alice meets a Gryphon and a Mock Turtle, who dance to the Lobster Quadrille. The Gryphon drags Alice away for a trial, where the Knave of Hearts is accused of stealing the Queen's tarts. The Queen commands Alice's beheading, but Alice scoffs. The guards swarm around her, and Alice's sister wakes her up from a dream. She leaves her sister on the bank to imagine the curious happenings.

Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" is a classic work of children's literature known for its whimsical and fantastical elements. Zoosemy, or the use of animal imagery and symbolism, is prevalent throughout the novel, contributing to the surreal and symbolic nature of Wonderland. Here are some broader examples of zoosemy in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland":

1. Cheshire Cat:

- Example: The Cheshire Cat, with its ability to appear and disappear at will, often leaving only its grin behind.

- Analysis: The Cheshire Cat embodies the enigmatic and elusive nature of felines. Cats are traditionally associated with mystery and independence. The Cheshire Cat's grin, which remains even when the rest of the cat disappears, serves as a zoosemic representation of the cat's ability to control and manipulate appearances.

2. White Rabbit:

- Example: The White Rabbit, who leads Alice into Wonderland with his pocket watch.

- Analysis: The White Rabbit, as a zoosemic element, symbolizes the passage of time and the urgency that often accompanies it. His rabbit nature contributes to the sense of unpredictability and chaos in Wonderland, where time and reality operate differently.

3. Mock Turtle

- Example: The Mock Turtle, a hybrid creature with the body of a turtle and the head, hooves, and tail of a calf.

- Analysis: The Mock Turtle's appearance is a zoosemic fusion of different animals, emphasizing the absurd and fantastical nature of Wonderland. The use of multiple animal characteristics in one creature adds to the overall whimsy of Carroll's creation.

4. Mouse's Tale:

- Example: The Mouse's tale of the three sisters, Elsie, Lacie, and Tillie, who live at the bottom of a well.

- Analysis: The Mouse's tale serves as a zoosemic element with its anthropomorphism of the three sisters. The use of animals to represent human traits and behaviors adds a layer of satire, as well as a sense of absurdity, reflecting Carroll's penchant for playful and nonsensical storytelling.

5. Caterpillar:

- Example: The Caterpillar smoking a hookah and offering cryptic advice to Alice.

- Analysis: The Caterpillar's appearance and behavior are zoosemic, drawing on the image of a caterpillar as a creature that undergoes metamorphosis. The hookah and the slow, deliberate manner of speaking contribute to the surreal atmosphere of Wonderland.

6. Pig and Pepper:

- Example The Duchess and her baby who turns into a pig.

- Analysis: The transformation of the baby into a pig is a zoosemic representation of the absurd and chaotic nature of Wonderland. It challenges traditional expectations and adds a layer of social commentary, questioning the norms and behaviors of the characters in the story.

7. Mad Hatter and March Hare:

- Example: The Mad Hatter and the March Hare hosting a never-ending tea party.

- Analysis: The zoosemic elements in this scene include the anthropomorphism of animals (the Hare) and the absurdity of a never-ending tea party. The Hatter's behavior, as well as the Hare's involvement in the tea party, adds to the whimsical and nonsensical nature of Wonderland.

In "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," Lewis Carroll employs zoosemy as a central tool to create a fantastical world filled with anthropomorphic creatures, each contributing to the novel's playful and satirical exploration of logic, language, and societal conventions. The use of animal symbolism enhances the sense of wonder and absurdity that defines Wonderland.

Conclusion: In summary, zoosemy in English literature is a versatile and powerful tool that authors use for symbolic, metaphorical, and thematic purposes. It adds layers of meaning, cultural richness, and aesthetic appeal to literary works while providing a means for exploring human nature and society through the lens of the animal kingdom.

References:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice%27s_Adventures_in_Wonderland
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Metamorphosis
3. <https://www.iejrd.com/index.php/%20/article/view/1877/1704>
4. http://nauteh-journal.ru/index.php/2/2021/%E2%84%9603/2/8832e43a-a037-473f-84f0-4137dc0e377d?lang=en_EN