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HUMANITY IS DIVINITY WHICH TEACHES TO BE KIND, CONSIDERATE AND COMPASSIONATE TO ANIMALS: A STUDY OF *BLACK BEAUTY* BY ANNA SEWELL

RITU HIRA¹, Dr.YOGESH CHANDER SOOD², Dr. RAM KRISHAN³

¹M.Phil. (English), Research Scholar, Indus International University, Bathu (Una) H.P.,

Email: rituhira13514@gmail.com

²Professor of English, Indus International University, Bathu (Una) H.P.,

Email: yogesh.chander1956@gmail.com

³Assistant Professor and HOD, Department of English, Indus International University, Bathu (Una)

H.P. Email: krishanram02@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Black Beauty (1877) is the novel written by Anna Sewell. Anna Sewell is the British author of the children's classic *Black Beauty*. It is the fictional autobiography of a talking horse. It was written in the last year of her life and is one of the favorite children books. This novel became the best seller. Anna Sewell died after five months publishing this novel, but having lived long enough to it attain great success. *Black Beauty* is such a masterpiece. The author wrote it "to induce kindness, sympathy, and an understanding treatment of horses". The readers will not only have sympathies with animals but also their perspective will change after reading this beautiful novel. *Black Beauty* is based on animal feelings. Traits of human behavior and Anthropomorphism, Personifications and Pathetic Fallacy are the themes of this novel. The real motive of this research paper is to make people aware of the greatness of Horses. The horse has its specific caliber in every Mythology. In this research paper, there is comparison between *Black Beauty* Horses with Mythology Horses. Anthropomorphism, a literary device effective in the novel, is used widely in children's literature in order to make moral stories further interesting, gripping and educative. Although researchers have discussed topics like slavery and animal rights on the basis of this novel, a pure moral perspective and the anthropomorphic angle have not been studied in-depth. It is describing the lives of these horses from their perspective that Sewell fights against the cruel treatment that they receive, the readers not only sympathize with the horses. But also learn moral and social lessons through them.

Keywords: Anthropomorphism, Animals Treatment, Autobiographical, Checkreins, Carriages, Cabs, Children's Literature.

Introduction

This article attempts to reveal the ideology of anthropocentrism and the theme of

mistreatment of animals. The autobiography of a horse is the unique novel by Anna Sewell and the first major animal story in children's literature. This novel

is often credited with popularity in the genre of the talking animal story. It's an animal autobiography unlike animal stories described in child's action and child's literature. Anna Sewell prefers horses as her subject because of her strong connection with them from her childhood. In *Black Beauty*, unlike in many animal fiction texts, horses are not used as 'symbolic humans', but as 'animal-selves'. Different from Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Sewell's animals do not represent humans; they are used as horses themselves. Even though horses are considered dull and in learned by many, Sewell proves that they do understand everything. Sewell establishes the point of view and tone of the story. This article focuses on anthropomorphism and extracts human values reflected through the anthropomorphism elements in the text. Another meaning of anthropomorphism is in this novel that is they are oriented to the interests of human beings, who are viewed as opposed to and superior to nature and are free to exploit natural resources and animal species for their purposes?

'I wish you to pay attention to what I am going to say to you. The colts who live here are very good colts, but they are cart-horse colts, and of course they have not learned manners. You have been well-bred and well-born; your father has a great name in these parts, and your grandfather won the cup two years at the new market races; your grandmother had the sweetest temper of any horse I ever knew, and I think you have never seen me kick or bite. I hope you will grow up gentle and good, and never learn bad ways; do your work with a good will, lift your feet up well when you trot, and never bite or kick even in play'. (1) (P-4).

We learn in the first chapter that mother is the first coach of her child, she instructs the little one life's lessons. Similarly. *Black Beauty's* mother teaches him the manner of living life and custom. Sewell describes *Black Beauty's* early life, we perceive him as a child horse. He spends his early childhood days in a beautiful meadow with trees and shade under his mother's love. His gentle image is broken up only by one incident, the hunting accident. However the young *black beauty* moves from

enjoying his mother's protection to witnessing death for the first time. With the rapid transaction from light atmosphere to dark, Sewell tries to highlight the importance of this experience of the rest of his life. Sewell establishes the point of view and tone of the story: the narrator is the *Black Beauty*, who is telling his own story.

Sewell demonstrates in this novel that the horses can understand everything and interchange accordingly. She does this by giving them a few human features such as thinking, talking, feeling and responding. Except for talking, the other features are natural to the horses. The most important part of this novel is that the reader correlates with the author's words. Sewell describes the horse's feelings, its emotions which we may have never seen before. Many people's perspectives towards the animals and horses may change after reading this novel. Just a few years ago, the horses were used for the people's false glory, comfort and outward pomp and show, people would cut off the tail of the horses just for fashion. But now their feelings have started to change.

In this novel a horse named Sir Oliver is an old age horse. He was also in possession of a lot of experience of life. Oliver had experienced a lot of suffering at his young age. When *Black Beauty* meets him, he is astounded to see his cut off tail, the tail is 4 or 5 inches only. He guessed that an accident would have happened with him. But the cause was a surprise for *black beauty*. He describes him his depressing story that how did all this happen to him? 'Accident!' he snorted with a fierce look, 'It was no accident! It was a cruel, shameful, cold-blooded act! When I was young I was taken to a place where these cruel things were done; I was tied up, and made fast so that I could not stir, and then they came and cut off my long and beautiful tail, through the flesh and through the bone, and took it away.(2)(P-43).

All the horses discuss how the masters usually act viciously towards their pets just for the sake of fashion. This novel's central point is to show the false glory of human beings and imperfect attempt to modify God's creation. They try to convert these animals for their own by cutting off their tails and ears and bridles for the sake of disgusting fashion. It's the man who strives to transform

everything that is created by God. This universe has been created by Divine God. A man has no right to damage it and cause harm to animals. The text represents the mistreatment of horses in the Victorian England.

We come across the character of Ginger in this novel. She is a mare who becomes a good friend of Black Beauty. She has been ill-treated by some of her old masters which have made her short-tempered and extremely aggressive by behavior. Most of the time she kicks and bites the people. She does not trust people. Black Beauty meets her on the very first time she was being alone in the shade. They both discuss about their upbringing and breaking in. Beauty learns about Ginger's past life wherein she was ill-treated by her previous masters. Ginger describes the physical effects of the Bearing Rein to black Beauty. Ginger expresses out the pain of her heart to Black Beauty. Her earlier owner had committed a lot of atrocities on her. They used to exploit her physically.

Bearing Rein is designed to keep the head of the horses in the desired position, a band used to pull a horse's head towards its chest to force appearance of a noticeable arch of the neck. A bearing rein, known today as an over check or a checkrein, is a piece of horse track runs from the point on the horse's back, over the head beyond fixed point. This was a highly desired look in aristocratic society, but it created severe pain and stress for the horses. The animals could not use their neck and chest muscles to pull weight properly or to breathe correctly. The unnatural arch weakened the horses and led to respiratory problems. Sewell strives to describe the animal abusing. In lesson eight, we perceive of Ginger's story. She remembers her first experience with the check rein, it was terrible experience for her. She exposes about her past master, rider Samson who was bitter and hard, and stylist and took no care of his horses, always driving her to exhaustion, often coming home drunk. She discloses how one day when she was being harnessed to the carriage, she managed to get herself loose. The motif is to expose man's imperfect attempts to modify God's perfect creation. The main point is that man attempts to modify these animals —by cutting off their tails and ears and so on—in the name of fashion and

appearance. When he does that he is not only harming the creature but also upsetting its natural balance. But we observe all time does not stay the identical, time switches. Ginger's critical time also spent. Now she got the new master John under the care of him Ginger's temper and behavior improved all over. Sewell describes how love-affection can change humans as well as animals.

The Victorian age is one of the most exceptional periods in the history of England. It was the era of material affluence, political consciousness, democratic reforms, industrial and mechanical progress, scientific advancement, social unrest, fashion, educational expansion, empire- building and religion uncertainty. As a symbol and primary means of transportation in 19th century, horses were essential to Victorian society. Throughout the 19th century, England horses had literary and social importance. The horses were charged with social significance. All things Austen: A concise Encyclopedia of Austen's world states, "*Horseback riding was considered to be exceptionally good exercise, especially for ladies.*" Fashion phase began from this time. This era was the world's most fashionable era. It was the time of world 1st Industrial Revolution, Political reforms and social change. Other works from other authors during this period were *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations*, *David Copperfield*, etc. among others. The horses had an important role. Also, people of the society used to do horse riding. In 19th century traveling was not easy, the roads were poor in this age. Highwaymen roamed and equipage was expensive, horses were perfect solution to transportation issues. The actual price of a carriage became huge. Which added the cost of horses. Feeding the horses, a place to keep the horses while one was in London, a coachman, outriders and grooms and the phrase, "he keeps his carriage" means he is the man with money. Since many members of the town lived in the country, spent the season in London, and drove all over London during the season, novels set in regency or Victorian times often mention the names of various carriages used by those who could afford them- Phaetons, curricule, Barouche, Landau, Town coach, Brougham, Gig, dogcart, hansom cab.

Significant of Animals in Indian Mythology

Animals hold an important place in Hinduism. Hindus firmly believe that animals own souls and are in different states of physical and spiritual development. Horses are related to Hindu mythology. We address ASHVA as Sanskrit a word for horse. Horses symbolize in every culture, for example, white horses stand for the balance of wisdom and power. In this research paper, the central theme is to examine the 19th-century horses in the light of Hindu mythology. However, in all epics and various religions, horses have been considered as an auspicious sign.

The gods and goddesses in Hindu mythology are flying in accelerated speed on animals and birds. Various gods have their separate Vahanas (animal vehicle), the literal meaning of the word Vahanas is that which pulls. Mesopotamian god and goddess were all associated with Vahanas. For example, the Surya is the name of the Sun-god in Hinduism, associated with horses. He rides a chariot drawn by seven horses mounts on a golden chariot, pulled by seven white Horses, Surya travels through the sky on a seven horses twelve spoked chariot, drives by Arun (*brother of Garuda*). Surya was Married to Sangna (*daughter of Vishvakarma, cloud Goddess*) who after giving him three children, was so depressed with his brightness and glory that she was compelled to leave him. Before her escape, she arranged with Chhaya (shadow) to take her place as the wife of Surya. For Years Surya did not notice the change of wife. Surya wanted his actual wife back and went looking for her in the forest. Through the power of meditation, Surya discovered Sangna in the forest in the form of mare. The Sun god also transformed himself into a Horse and mated with his wife. They produced the Asvins Twins, the horse drivers. They made way for the sunrise and sunset. Their names of the Asvins are Natsatya and Dasra. The Asvins twins (Horses) represent Strength and Energy. They drive a three-wheeled chariot drawn by horses. In Hinduism, anthropomorphic theory has been used like Surya Devta Deities has seven white horses carriage, it's a vehicle of God Surya, various Indian deities, as well as Greek deities used horses as cart and carriages cab.

Sewell's foremost objective is the Anthropomorphism theme -when animals or non-human characters are given human characteristics. Anthropomorphism is slightly different from personification, which is describing an object using human characteristics. Anthropomorphism is actually having the animal or object behave as if it is human. Prominent authors have written on Anthropomorphic Themes such as *The Adventure of Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi (1853), *The Jungle Book* (1894) by Rudyard Kipling all employing anthropomorphic characters. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter (1901), *Winnie the Pooh* by A.A Milne (1926), *Watership Down* by Richard Adams (1972), *Beauty and the Beast* by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot Villeneuve 1740), *A Song Ice and Fire* written by George R.R Martin (2014), *Warriors Series* by Kate Cary. *Cherith Baldry* (2003 to 2019), *Red wall where Legends Are Made* by Brian Jacques (2011), *The Lion, the Witch and the wardrobe* by C.S Lewis (1950), *Cinderella* by Daisy Fisher, *The Lion king* (2019), *The jungle Book film* (2016) fantasy and adventure film produced by Walt Disney Pictures. It is a story of the boy whose name is Mowgli who trusts in his new friends. He introduces his friends in the book. He has multiple animal friends who do communicate with him as, like a human, his extremely close friend is Balloo (bear) and the Black Panther (Bagheera) and Sher Khan (Tiger). George Orwell's *Animal Farm: A Fairy story* is full of all the anthropomorphic characters. It is an allegorical novella, he depicts rising revolt among the animals, who wish to take over the humans, and the author wrote one of the best satires of the era. George Orwell was an English essayist, critic, novelist and journalist. His main motto is awareness of social injustice and democratic socialism, while he was in opposition of dictatorship. A character is anthropomorphic if they are *not* human but behave like a human being.

Conclusion

Sewell expected the reader to see the world from a horse's point of view and so *Black Beauty* narrates his own story in these pages. His wise observation and unvarnished sincerity reveals much about both human nature and animal suffering. The authors demonstrates the horses' emotions are different from humans. Sewell represents Victorian

England. 19th century was the fashionable age. Several horses faced the awkwardness, trouble at that time. No one understood the sentiments of the animals in that age. Sewell was the solitary author who described the emotions of animals as perspective of horse autobiography. People came to perceive the animal feeling after reading her novel. Everyone praised her work. Subsequently, various authors had written on the same theme. If we discuss horse riding, multiple varieties of equipment had to be used for racing horse such as horse Shoe, Bridles, Checkrein. Literally, equipment plays a crucial role in a race horse's performance. An excess of equipment is needed in horse racing, and just the basics of Saddles and Bridles, Ear plug, like the hoods, are used to muffle noise that may startle a horse. Anthropomorphism is related to, but distinct from personification, in which things are described figuratively (rather than literally) as having human characteristics.

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