

Postcolonialism in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

K. Mythily, III B.A. English Literature

Abstract

George Orwell was an English novelist. His most famous work of the allegorical novella "Animal Farm" (1945), it was first published in England on 17 August 1945. According to Orwell, the book reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then on into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union. Well Animal Farm, or Manor Farm at the beginning of the book, symbolizes a society. Specifically, it represents the Soviet Union during communist rule. One of the important characters, Old major in Animal Farm represents Marxism in the Russian revolution. He is equivalent to Vladimir Lenin, who is the leader of the 1917 November Revolution, Napoleon, unlike old major represents the new revolutionary older. Snowball is like Leon Trotsky, the leader of the Red Army is the Russian Revolution. Animal Farm is an allegory for the evolution of communism in Russia, with each animal representing a different social class.

Post subsequent to after colonialism the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country occupying it with settlers and exploiting it economically. The political or cultural condition of a former colony. A theatrical approach in various disciplines that it conveyed with the lasting impact of colonization in former colonies.

In this paper I will make a short discussion about the theme of post colonialism in this novel Animal Form. According to the Postcolonial of the novel, this paper will discuss it from kinds of perspective.

Keywords

Post colonialism, Russian Revolution, corruption, Leadership, Control of Naïve working class.

Introduction

Post colonialism is the political or cultural condition of a former colony. A theoretical approach in various disciplines that it colonization in former colonies. Post colonialism or postcolonial studies is the academic study of the cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism, focusing on the human consequences of the control and exploitation of colonized people and their lands. The name post colonialism is modelled on postmodernism, with which it shares certain concepts and methods and may be thought of as a reaction to or departure from

colonialism in the same way postmodernism is a reaction to modernism .The ambiguous term colonialism may refer either to a system of Government or to an ideology or world view underlying that system in general post colonialism represents an ideological response to colonialist thought, rather than a system that comes after colonialism . The term postcolonial studies may be preferred for this reason.

Post colonialism encompasses a wide variety of approaches, and theoreticians may not always agree on a common set of definition on a simple level, it may seek through anthropological study to build a better understanding of colonial life from the point of view of the colonized people, based on the assumption that the colonial rulers are unreliable narrators . On a deeper level, post colonialism examines the social and political power relationships that sustain colonialism and neo colonialism, including the social, political and cultural narratives surrounding the colonizer and the colonized. This approach may overlap with contemporary history and critical theory, and may also draw examples from history, political science, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and human geography.

Postcolonial period

Post colonialism is the historical period. Post colonialism, the historical period or state of affairs representing the aftermath of western colonialism; the term concurrent project to reclaim and rethink the history and agency of people subordinated under various form of imperialism.

Postcolonialism in literature

In most literature, Post colonialism is generally written about certain countries that have previously been colonized. This type of critical lens would approach this type of literature by looking for what particular society or individual characters. Then interprets the challenges and changes of a previously colonized nation. Post colonial literature often address the problems and consequences of the decolonization of a country, especially questions relating to the political and cultural independence of formerly subjugated people, and themes such as racialism and colonialism has evolved around the subject.

Post colonial Novel the *Animal Farm*

Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903-21 January 1950), better known by his pen name George Orwell , was an English novelist , essayist by lucid prose , awareness of social injustice , opposition to totalitarianism and outspoken support of democratic socialism. Orwell wrote literary criticism poetry, fiction and polemical journalism. He is best known for the allegorical novella “Animal Farm” (1945) and the dystopian novel Nineteen Eighty- Four (1949).

Animal Farm is an allegorical novella by George Orwell, first published in England on 17 August 1945. According to Orwell, the book reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then on into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union.

There are several themes in Animal Farm, some including: Leadership and corruption, control of naïve working class, lies and deception, and dreams and hopes. The main themes in Animal Farm, Leadership and corruption. Animal Farm portrays the history of the Russian

Revolution by retelling the development of communism. Also this novel connected with the theme of Post colonialism.

There are many different ways we can analyze the Animal Farm through a post colonialism lens. These are two ransom examples from the novel.

Example 1: In the very beginning Mr. Jones is the owner of Manor Farm. He does what regular owners do. He cultivates the land and sells products that the animals make. He sometimes makes mistakes by forgetting to feed the animals. This is the way Mr. Jones runs his farm. The animals disagree with it and he takes things from them without giving anything in return. They end up deciding to form a rebellion because they want to be treated well. They run off the farm and take over it.

Example 2: After the rebellion, the animals take over Manor Farm and make it Animal Farm. The pigs eventually become the leaders and set out rules. They make sure the animals do all the farm work. The pigs make money off of the animal's work and things they produce so, the farm starts to get rich. The pigs keep all the money and leave the animals in worse living conditions than before when Mr. Jones was there. The animals work way harder than before and are also getting fed way less. Despite the problems, the animals always have a little thought of but then it is brainwashed out of their heads . Many more animals are also getting killed than before because Napoleon's dogs attack them if they disagree with him. By the end of Animal Farm , pigs are walking on two legs , seven commandments have become one, and the pigs insist to the other human that all they wanted all along was to "To live at peace and in normal business relationship". No wonder the animals can't tell the pigs and humans apart.

The seven commandments of Animal Farm

- Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
- Whatever goes upon four, or has wings is a friend.
- No animal shall wear clothes.
- No animal shall sleep in a bed.
- No animal shall drink alcohol.
- No animal shall kill any other animal.
- All animals are equal.

Well Animal Farm, or Manor Farm at the beginning of the book, symbolizes a society. Specifically, it represents the Soviet Union during communist rule. Animal Farm begins after a revolution, like the Russian Revolution, and it quickly develops its own form of Government and structure. The comparisons between George Orwell's allegorical novel and Russian Revolution , The Old major in Animal Farm represents Marxism in the Russian Revolution . He is equilent to Vladimir Lenin, who is the leader of the 1917 November Revolution. Napoleon, unlike Old Major, represents the new revolutionary order. Snowball is the Leon Trotsky, the leader of the Red Army is the Russian Revolution.

Animal Farm is allegory for the evolution of communism in Russia, with each animal representing a different social class.

George Orwell fashioned Old Major on two historical figures: Karl Marx, the German philosopher and political economist, and Vladimir Ulyanov (political alias Lenin), the Russian revolutionary leader. Like Lenin, Old Major calls for “Rebellion” from “tyranny of humans” because humans consider only their own desires and needs. “Man serves the interest of no creature except himself”. He calls for unity among the animals and perfect comradeship. He instructs the animals that they must never tyrannize other animals or kill any other animal.

***“All animals are equal
But some animals are more than others”***

Old Major, he who teaches the other animals a “stirring time” called “Beasts of England”. Orwell next he portrayed the character in this novel, Snowball- The pig who challenges Napoleon for control of Animal Farm after the Rebellion. Based on Leon Trotsky, Snowball I intelligent, passionate, eloquent, and less subtle and devious than his counterpart, Napoleon. Snowball seems to win the loyalty of the other animals and cement his power.

Napoleon the cunning character in the Orwell’s novel Animal Farm, the pig who emerges as the leader of Animal Farm after the Rebellion. Based on Joseph Stalin, Napoleon uses military force (his nine loyal attack dogs) to intimate his power. In his supreme craftiness, Napoleon proves more treacherous than his counterpart, Snowball.

Boxer is described as a hardworking, but naïve and ignorant horse in George Orwell’s Animal Farm. He is shown as the farm’s most dedicated and loyal laborer as well. Boxer, who is the backbone of the animals. Boxer serves as an allegory for the Russian working class who helped to Oust Tsar Nicholas and establish the Soviet Union but were eventually betrayed by the Stalinists.

“I will work harder.”

which he had adopted as his personal motto. The death of Boxer, the most loyal and most hardworking of all the animals, marks the climax of the novel. In ch.1 Old Major had prophesied that Mr. Jones will sell Boxer once he is of no use. His death represents the end of the ideals for which all the animals had fought for and sacrificed so much for.

By the end of Animal Farm, pigs are walking have become one, and the pigs insist to other humans that all they wanted all along was to “to live at peace and in normal business relations”.

Conclusion

At last the ending in the Animal Farm “No question now what has happened to the faces of the pigs the creatures outside looked from pig to man and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which. In this novel Orwell mostly shows the Russian Revolution (1917) through to the allegorical novel Animal Farm. In England the politics is not favourable to all classes, while the novel was written. There was a dominating class frequently dominating the lower class people, and the upper class continuously discriminating the lower class. Hence Orwell conveys the discrimination of lower class by

Napoleon. This way he compared the sufferings of lower class, hence he combined his message with Post-colonialism.

References

- <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/postcolonialism>
- <https://www.britanica.com>
- <https://prezi.com>
- www.sparknotes.com
- George Orwell, *Animal Farm*. New Delhi: A.I.T.B.S. Publishers, India.

K. Mythily, III B.A. English Literature
St. Joseph's College for Women, Tirupur