

‘You have Two Cows’: Animal Farm

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ABSTRACT

Literature engraves the manuscripts of the witnessed verities with ambivalent emotions from the blood as ink to lionize the novelty. Owing to the disturbances and imbalances of power, history witnessed in the twentieth century the most devastating political scenario but the most interesting literature of the world. One such masterpiece of the twentieth century is George Orwell’s ‘Animal Farm’ (1996), the most famous political allegory of unique animal symbolism and visual imagery contributing towards the debate of capitalism versus communism. The central motif of the manuscript is about the power exercised by the bourgeoisie towards the proletariat, manifested amidst defamiliarization. The qualitative method employed to reveal thematic defamiliarization indicates that animal symbolism, visual imagery, historical plot, artistic language, and character building were employed to make the defamiliarization of familiar entities for debating the tenets of capitalism versus communism.

Keywords: *Animal Farm*, Capitalism, Formalism, Communism, Defamiliarization.

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Introduction

Russian formalist Viktor Shklovsky proposes the concept of defamiliarization (ostranenie or estrangement) in “Art as Technique” (also “Art as Device”) published in 1917. He calls It is a transformational process in which language establishes its control to influence discernment (Shklovsky, 1917, 1925). It is that perspective that separates between standard utilization and idyllic utilization of the languages and confers a distinct identity to scholarly writing (Mambrol, 2016). Even though Romantic critic Coleridge (1817) pushed the notion of defamiliarization in the *Biographia Literaria* (or *Autobiographia Literaria*), the concept was conceptualized with the goal of the subject area and aesthetic oddity (Kuiper & Lotha, 2011).

Bertolt Brecht, the great dramatist, thought that defamiliarization is a technique for intentionally estranging familiarity and maintaining it at a distance. When the identifiable item changes, the subject feels and obtains modern knowledge of the known object (Makaryk, 1993). Bertolt Brecht agrees with Viktor Shklovsky on this issue. Viktor Shklovsky and Bertolt Brecht agree that defamiliarization is fundamental to all representations. However, the former considers verse to be the speculative point of entrance. The latter finds dramatization to be the hypothetical point of admission (Lemon & Reis, 1965). Shklovsky (1994) described defamiliarization as, “What is called art as the technique that exists to re-experience life, to feel things, to make stone to stone.”

Animal Farm (1996, 2021) by George Orwell is indeed an example of political satire, which Orwell himself said was planned to get a “wider application” in terms of significance (Dwan, 2012). In general, Orwell’s writing style and thought are particularly concerned with describing the revelation of reality. In the sense that his terms are mostly used in politics to trick and confuse, Orwell was committed to communication in a simple fashion. That is why, in *Animal Farm*, he is vigilant to ensure that the storyteller talks unbiasedly and uncomplicated (Muradian, 2016).

This novel, *Animal Farm*, is a complete debate between the tenets of capitalism and communism. The debate is about the war of the New World Order, where “Parable of the Isms” can serve as a fundamental understanding (Sherk, 2004, p. 162). Capitalism is of the view, “You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull.” On the other hand, communism believes, “You have two cows. You give them to the government, and the government gives you some milk.” This political satire of the “Parable of the Isms” used an allegory of cows to demonstrate the difference

between political and economic systems in the world (Strawn, 1938, p. 12).

Literature Review

Literature functions as an improved method of communicating the realities of those surrounding it towards its societal companions (Peck & Coyle, 1993, p. 178) through the innovative utilization of languages (Ullah et al., 2020). *Animal Farm* is based on similar emotional thematic patterns where a political satire is created in the themes of the novel utilizing a concept of formalism, namely defamiliarization. This section of the paper discusses the conceptual literature and the research literature.

The essence of the political establishment has evolved drastically throughout time. However, the effectiveness of democracy had a powerful influence in the past century for an unparalleled revolution. In addition, in the latter half of the twentieth century, the rise of mass democracy did the remainder. Political officials were the equivalents of torch operators who understood or led the way for a certain target. They gave directions to communities and countries fully consistent with autocratic or leadership systems. Their position was easy to understand, and their legacy inspired the earliest leadership paradigms in democracy (Teles, 2015, 2018).

Defamiliarization is an exegesis that transforms. The method of defamiliarization aims to revitalize the textual symbolism, rather than looking for significance, and letting symbols mean what they are about to convey. It seeks to undo, refuse to be attacked and mediate a constant, ever-deeper transformative relationship. In defamiliarization with scripture, scripture becomes unfamiliar, leading to some symbols being revived, which encourages an exchange of lives between text and reader, particularly for personal prayer, which empowers the faith community (Tran, 2015).

As Paul Tillich expresses that the symbol does not represent a random sign unless it has a representation of the thing it points out. The symbol as a metaphor connects the viewer, reader, and listener to the reality of society. Symbols are often based upon culture. Symbols die when the party, where they initially find speech, “no longer produces an answer.” Prophets and writers discover new means of using ancient symbols and, in a certain manner, protecting symbols (Jaeger, 2018; Tillich, 2020, pp. 42-43).

The philosophy and reality of representative democracy are changing, influencing how we

think about political policy and electoral representation. Modern democratic ideas undermine the conventional understanding of what it is to serve the public. A mushrooming of new political engagement destabilizes perceptions of the citizen's role in democratic decision-making. An immersive leadership turn is no panacea. It causes elected officials fresh dilemmas and problems, as happened in *Animal Farm* (Sørensen, 2020).

Animal Farm (1996, 2021) is Orwell's allegorical novella. It tells the story of an animal community that revolts against its human farmer to establish a world that can equally, freely, and happily treat animals. However, eventually, the insurrection is abandoned, and the farm is in a condition that is just as bad as before, courtesy of the dictatorship of a pig named Napoleon. According to Orwell, the fable represents developments that led to the 1917 Russian Revolution and, subsequently, the Soviet Union's Stalinist period (O'Brien, 2019).

The current study establishes its significance because it investigates a more focused approach towards the literary exploration of defamiliarization in the novel. This particular theoretical aspect is explored by using different techniques the writer has employed in the novel. The study's main focus is symbolism and imagery, which were less focused on the previous research. Instead of focusing on the textual analysis, the study is more inclined towards a thematic approach towards the theoretical perspective of the novel.

Research Methodology

This section explains the theoretical framework that is to be followed in the research along with the methodology of the research. This section shows how the data was collected and analyzed using the theoretical approach of defamiliarization. This particular section delimits the study to a focused point. It informs readers about the data collection and analysis processes followed in the research.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

Defamiliarization, according to Shklovsky, can be achieved through the use of unique and difficult language (Newton, 1997), so *Animal Farm* can be considered an example of defamiliarization because all the characters of the novel are animals. The maxim of Nasrullah Mambrol (2016) leads the way stating, "Literary language is ordinary language deformed and made strange. Literature,

by forcing us into a dramatic awareness of language, refreshes our habitual perceptions and renders objects more perceptible.” Defamiliarization, not just powers the readers to consider *Animal Farm* as artwork, yet permits the writer and readers to separate themselves from the seriousness of the subject, enabling the work to somehow be recognized as literary criticism and not turn out to be simply a political tirade (Torabi, 2010).

3.2 Materials and Data Analysis

The data was collected from the novel by analyzing it thematically by keeping in view the perspective of defamiliarization. The qualitative data were analyzed descriptively utilizing the theoretical approach to the novel, which is defamiliarization. In the progression of the study, a more focused approach was carried out by delimiting the study to the aspects of animal symbolism, visual imagery, historical plot, metaphoric expressions, and character building. The study is qualitative in nature and has validity and reliability as a thorough thematic analysis of the novel carried out.

Results and Discussion

In Orwell’s (1996, 2021) *Animal Farm*, different techniques of defamiliarization are employed during the novel’s progression. He has utilized the techniques of animal symbolism, visual imagery, historical plot, metaphoric expressions, and character building to make a defamiliarization of familiar entities. All these techniques have significance and an association with the novel’s plot. The results show how defamiliarization is employed to practically progress the debate between the ideologies of Capitalism and Communism. The results obtained utilizing descriptive thematic analysis are penned down in this section.

4.1 Animal Symbolism

The narrative portrays a “Political Insurgency” against people from the perspective of a bunch of animals. The human owners of the critters are being pushed off their estates by the pig expert, and an alleged “Libertarian” animal society comes to fruition. Thereupon, quick pigs seize the items of the insurgency, getting more dictators than their human specialists. Political composing habitually conjures hypercritical rages; however, Orwell figures out how to humanize the animal. Orwell, in this novel, basically depicts the negative images of the pigs and relates them with selfish,

deceitful, and cruel human beings like Napoleon. Pigs in Western traditions are symbols of similar traits. The animal symbolism is supported by the animal imagery, where pigs are sketched in three dimensions with reinforcement of negative humanized symbolism. Moreover, the pig is taken as a leader and a dictator in this novel which adds a sense of distance.

4.2 Visual Imagery

The uniqueness of visual imagery of political allegory by incorporating animal characters as symbols secures the work from turning out to be simply one more conservative outlet on communism's indecencies and the debasement of intensity and transforms everything into masterful writing of defamiliarization (Lambe, 2015). The storyline of the novel stages a war against humans as a political revolution by use of animals, and thus, creates a Utopian world of so-called Egalitarian animal society. It makes the foundation of the novel *Animal Farm* as Dystopian fiction and Formalist prose with political allegory, particularly "Napoléon," "Boxer," "Republic," "Snowball," "Precepts," and "Benjamin." Visual imagery successfully creates defamiliarization through political allegory by incorporating anthropomorphized Animalia instead of conjuring up the didactic tirades of great politics.

4.3 Historical Plot

Bertolt Brecht's dramatic theory appears to enhance feelings' difficulty and time by historicizing events by utilizing the artistic conception phenomenon and the constructive appreciation process. Bertolt Brecht's theory states that the presentation of events as history comes under defamiliarization. According to Russian formalism, defamiliarization makes things more complicated. Historicization is evident in *Animal Farm* when pigs convert the principles of their former leader into seven precepts. These seven precepts can be considered the basis for revolution as they can maintain their identity by following them. With the help of political allegory, it is depicted how Napoleon started demolishing the seven precepts that were the base of their revolution. When Mr Jones was ousted, creation and sudden change of destruction of seven commandments provided foundations for defamiliarization through the historicization of animals allegory.

4.4 Artistic Language

George Orwell deviates from the standard literary approach and considers making the text artistic

by defamiliarizing language. When the animals succeed in taking charge of the farm, then some members start behaving like humans. Snowball was hectic “setting up egg-laying committees for chickens, a clean-tail coalition for cows, and a wild-life re-education committee.” Human bureaucracy is grafted into animal life which is of great importance. When the republic was announced, the only presidential candidate was Napoleon. It was a powerful dictatorial attack, and the reader started judging more realistically. The use of literary techniques for literariness produces novel effects on defamiliarization by making a standard language. Language is unified as real as well as imaginative criticizing totalitarianism. It is evident through the selection of pigs (Napoléon) because being the only presidential candidate without any question built foundations for the so-called republic system.

4.5 Character Building

There were two types of characters in the novel: Human characters and animal characters. Both these types of characters contributed significantly to the novel’s defamiliarization. There were four human characters; the significant animal characters were pigs and equines. These characters, with their allusions, calories, and symbolism with their defamiliarization aspects, are explained in detail in the following section.

Human Characters

Mr Jones is a hard drinker who is Manor Farm’s original master, a farm that is not restored with hands who mostly loaf at work. Mr Jones is a parody of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. He abrogated following the Russian Revolution in February 1917. He was assassinated on 17 July 1918.

Mr Frederick was the rough owner of the adjacent farm, Pinchfield Farm, which breaks into an association with Napoleon. *Animal Farm* maintains the land borders with the two blackbirds on the one hand Pinchfield and the Foxwood on the other. Friedrich’s animals are frightened that he is being rumored to abuse his animals and be entertained by cockfighting. It is an allegory for Adolf Hitler’s human rights violations.

Mr Pilkington was a fine, simple but handy owner of the Foxwood Farm, a big, adjacent, weeded field. Pilkington is richer than Frederick and has more ground. However, his farming is more diligent than Frederick’s small but productive Farm. At the same time, Pilkington is anxious

about the animal revolt, which deposed Jones, on bad terms with Frederick, worried that might also happen to him.

To sell Pilkington's surplus wood, Napoleon allies with Frederick but is angered that Frederick is paying it for counterfeit gold. Shortly after that, Frederick invaded *Animal Farm* and slaughtered numerous cattle and the windmill. The Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact and Operation Barbarossa alluded to this short-lived coalition and the subsequent war.

Mr Whymper was a man employed by Napoleon to connect *Animal Farm* to the citizens. He was used to purchasing essentials, like paraffin wax, dog biscuits, which cannot be produced on the field, and luxuries like wine for the pigs.

Pigs

Pigs are among the important characters of the novel. Old Major was an old prize-core white pig that sparked the revolt. When he showed up, he was often referred to as Willingdon Beauty. He was an extended mix of Karl Marx as well as Vladimir Lenin. The former was one of the fathers of communism. At the same time, the latter was the Russian Revolution's communist dictator and the early Soviet republic. Lenin, whose embalmed corpse had been displayed, was reminded of his skull placed on a respected public stage. The skull was buried at the end of the novel.

Napoleon was not much of one talking but had a reputation for choosing his course. He was a great, fearsome Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire at the farm. Napoleon is the head of *Animal Farm*, an allegory of Joseph Stalin. After Jones' uprising, Snowball is the competitor of Napoleon, and the farm head is original. His life goes hand and hand with Leon Trotsky; however, he can also mix the characteristics of Lenin.

Squealer was a little white pig who was a fat propaganda minister and second-in-command of Napoleon, with a rank close to that of Vyacheslav Molotov. Pinkeye was a pig of minority status, listed only once, about rumors of an attack on Napoleon. Pinkeye is a taste tester who tests Napoleon's cuisine and ensures the food is not poisoned. The piglets were Napoleon's offspring and were the first animal generation subordinated to his notion of animal injustice.

Minimus was a literary pig who, after a ban on the chant of "Beasts of England," authors the second and third patriotic songs of *Animal Farm*. The poet Vladimir Mayakovsky was associated with Minimus by Rodden. Four young pigs were killed in a gathering at Napoleon farm who

protested Napoleon's invasion. They were soon silenced and killed and may be based on Grigori Zinoviev's Great Purge, Lev Kamenev, Nikolai Bukharin, and Alexei Rykov.

Equines

Boxer was a very loyal, kind-hearted, and committed cart horse, even though he was extremely strong and hard-working. Boxer made a significant part of the farm's manual work. He showed that Napoleon was right. Boxer was contrasted with Alexei Stakhanov. The Stakhanov movement's a committed and passionate role model. Benjamin was a donkey, one of the property's oldest, wisest, and most readable animals. He is skeptical, cynical, and tempestuous. There was a strong touch of Orwell himself in Benjamin.

Mollie was an auto-centered, self-indulgent, and narcissistic young white mare who left Russia just after the defeat of the Tsar, soon after the revolution, to take a farm. Clover was a sweet, loving mare, especially interested in Boxer, who sometimes forced himself too heavily. Clover could read all the alphabet letters but couldn't "say the words." She appeared to be capturing Napoleon and Squealer's clever tactics and plans.

Other Animals

Muriel was a wise old donkey who mates with the other animals. Muriel is one of the few creatures who could read on the farm, similar to Benjamin, and both were not pigs. Jessie's puppies were Bluebell's descendants. Napoleon took away the puppies at birth and trained them to be his strong protective force. At the outset of the revolt, the hens were promised to keep their nests, robbed by Mr Jones. But they will soon take their eggs from them on the presumption of obtaining products from outside *Animal Farm*. When Napoleon's army arrives, the chickens are one of the first to rebel, but without success.

Moses was a raven. He was the unique pet of Mr Jones, a spy, and a storyteller, but he, too, was a smart speaker. After Ms Jones went into exile at first, he resumed his job of speaking but did not perform for several years. He has livestock farmers with stories of a magnificent location above the Sugarcandy Mountain cloud. It was a happy country where we poor animals would all rest. Orwell depicts faith created. His preaching to the animals encourages them, and Moses will live on the farm, much as Stalin took the Russian orthodox church back after the Second World War.

They displayed no comprehension of animalism and the political culture of a farm. However, they are nevertheless the voice of blind obedience because, during his lectures and discussions with Snowball, they bleed their love for the ideas of Napoleon. Their endless bleeding of “four decent beings, two bad legs” was used to cover all critics or opposing viewpoints from Snowball, much as Stalin used hysterical masses to drown Trotsky. Squealer was the propaganda outlet that encouraged the sheep to change their motto, “four legs good, two legs better,” as they do for their duties toward the latter portion of the novel.

The cows are cherished by promises that their milk is not robbed nor can be used for producing their veals. Pigs that manage to breastfeed them, then steal their milk. The cream is transferred every day into the swine’s mash, and luxuries are withheld from other species. It has never been shown where the cat does something, and the cat has been gone for a long time. It is forgiven because the reasons are so compelling that it could not believe in her goodwill. She had little experience in farm politics, and it was discovered that she had genuinely voted for both sides on the only occasion that she was registered as a candidate at an election.

Conclusion

Orwell broke the traditional writing style in his well-reputed novel *Animal Farm* by producing the effects of defamiliarizing ordinary to artistic language. He made the novel's subject, storyline, expressions, and language an artistic beauty of interest. The most famous political allegory of unique animal symbolism and visual imagery contributing towards the formalism theoretical perspective of defamiliarization was achieved using animal symbolism, visual imagery, historical plot, and metaphoric expressions. Orwell has changed the familiar feelings of the avid reader by creating a change in form achieved by the aspects mentioned above. He retained sensibility by changing the form of traditional expression. Defamiliarization in the novel *Animal Farm* generates questions and doubts about the familiar ideas but is achieved beatifically by prolonging the artistic emotions of the readers by pondering over the existing ideas again. Defamiliarization is the most prominent theme and is the cause of the most notable success of *Animal Farm*.

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