

Anthropomorphism in R.K.Narayan's A Tiger for Malgudi

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ABSTRACT

Anthropomorphism is the literary device, where animals and non-living things are attributed with human qualities like, speaking, analyzing and thinking. The main aspect of employing anthropomorphism in literature is to give life to the characters, though they are purely imaginative. This also enables the characters to talk about human beings and their behaviors. Anthropomorphic representation in the novels creates an additional interest among the readers to dive into it.

Keywords : literary device, analyzing and thinking. additional interest

I. INTRODUCTION

R.K.Narayan's *A Tiger for Malgudi*, is a novel, which revolves around the central character "A Tiger". The reminiscence of the tiger is effectively narrated by the author, where the reader experiences an emotional touch with it. The entire novel, clearly depicts, the tiger as a human being with aspiring human emotions.

In the introduction part of the novel, *A Tiger for Malgudi*, the author justifies the reason for choosing tiger as an important character. He clearly states that the animals do communicate and the statement is further justified with the reference from the words of Valmiki, the greatest of poets, in The Ramayana as "Man, the destroyer, who'll not let innocent creatures mate in peace..." (8) These lines state the agony of a bird whose mate was shot down by a hunter.

The novel commences with the reminiscence of the tiger, which is actually kept in a zoo. The tiger dreams that the master of the zoo will consider it and offer good food. In contrast, the master orders the subordinates to exhibit the tiger for the proper view of the public. Like the human beings, after listening to the order, tiger feels very bad, as his dream

has gone wrong. It is a common tendency of the human beings to ponder over their own appearance and admire the same. Same way, the tiger, looks at its own fierce appearance on the pond water and shuddered at its own reflections.

The love between the mother and the child is immortal and always praised to the sky. The child without the mother is really unblest. The tiger, when it was a cub, experiences the mother love from the tigress and leads a pampered life. The love of the tiger, towards its mother tigress is emotionally felt, when it disappears.

The tiger encounters with a tigress. Though Jackal witnesses the fight, comes forward with a suggestion for the welfare of the two. "If you cannot discover to be enemies, why don't you consider to be friends How grand you could make it if you joined forces – you could become supreme in this jungle and the next and the next; no one will never try to stand up to you,..." (20) Later, with advice rendered by the Jackel, the tiger and the tigress begets four cubs and lead a happy animal life in the forest. Being a responsible father, the tiger, cares for the mother tigress and the little cubs.

When the tiger steps into the village of Malgudi, hides itself behind a well and shifts its place often to be smarter to escape from the hands of the villagers. Like human beings, the tiger analyses the situation, and behaves in a tricky way, by choosing its prey from different stockades. Though the tiger is smart, a few days later, the villagers find the animals missing and plans to trap the hunter beast.

During the attack, the villagers encounter the tiger with fire. That collapses the tiger initially and with the presence of mind tackles the situation. When the tiger looks at the fierce attitude of the villagers, it feels that, the human beings are stronger than the animals. The tiger is terrified with the beastly approach of the villagers. "I had thought that there could never be any creature stronger than a tiger. I was mistaken. A human being may look small, without prominent teeth or claws, but he is endowed with some strange power, which can manoeuvre a tiger or an elephant as if they were toys". (28)

Once the tiger is taken to the "Grand Malgudi Circus", the tiger is given trainings by the Captain to grab the attention of the audience. Even the animals experience physical and sense the tiredness. The tiger is being trained for "Four-In -One Act" specially for the Jubilee show of the circus. The physical trauma of the tiger is display with its pain, as the human beings. As the trainings are heavy and challenging, the tiger, shares the bitter experiences of the training with the fellow animals. The tiger also longs at other animals in the zoo, which enjoys freedom, good food and a less number of training. During the training, the tiger feels shameful for receiving heavy whip from the Captain, as the scene is noticed by the animals in the zoo. "To my shame and dismay, this was being watched by other animals, beyond the enclosure. First time I was setting eyes on those odd, unfamiliar creatures." (49)

Thus, the author, effectively projects the character of the tiger with the humane in it. The entire narration emphasizes the anthropomorphic approach. This feel is being stressed with the climax of the novel, the spiritual transformation of the tiger with the Master. Therefore, R.K.Narayan, through the tiger, in the novel, *A Tiger for Malgudi*, reminds our own human qualities and tendencies at varied situation and environment.

II. WORKS CITED:

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