

Analysis on the Satiric Art in Animal Farm

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Keyword: Satiric art, Animal Farm, struggle analysis

Abstract: *Animal Farm* is a famous novel written by the British writer George Orwell. This work creates a war world about animals with a lot of satirical art by using various rhetorical techniques such as irony, metonymy, simile and so on. It has experienced the uprising of animals, the rehabilitation of animals, and the final ending of destruction, which reflects many uprising stories in human history. The root cause of the ultimate destruction is due to the most fundamental weakness of human nature, that is, human inferiority. It is caused by people who will eventually be swallowed up by their own desires and greed. His works have cruel satirical intentions, such as Napoleon, snowball, boxer and animalism and so on. And this series of intentional expressions ultimately point to defeat, which is enough to show that the author's discussion of the deep-seated "satire uprising" in *Animal Farm* also satirizes the Soviet class struggle implied by it to a certain extent and communist revolutionism.

1. Introduction

The great British writer George Orwell who has a rich perspective and a keen vision on social issues as a social activist often conducts investigations and studies. By observing these, the dual integration and development of both details and phenomena can always be achieved so as to promote the development and upgrading of the overall literary phenomenon.

Animal Farm was written in 1945 and is a novel in the style of political allegory. The whole story has been held to bear uncanny parallels to the Soviet Union, and even the entire humanist movement of the 20th century was directed by later mentors. What the author wrote at that time was later verified by history. The concept of totalitarianism did not exist at the time, but Orwell warned of the possible consequences of totalitarianism.

2. The significance of Animal Farm

Animal Farm tells the story of animals who could not bear the oppression of the farmer, struggled and resisted under the leadership of two little pigs. After fierce struggles, they finally got rid of the plantation owners and established a family to manage themselves. In the farm, the principle they pursue is "all animals are equal", and they put forward some slogans to criticize those bad behaviors. But the good times don't last long, and the pigs in the pig farm gradually become superior, encroaching on the fruits of labor of other animals, and enjoying the joy of the pig farm.

While other animals cannot enjoy material things and take it for granted, another struggle is

unfolding.

There were two leading wild boars called Napoleon and Snowball respectively and each had their own stands. Napoleon slandered Snowball as a traitor, who betrayed the country in order to keep his own rights and maintain his own rule. Napoleon carried out a bloody purge of Snowball including those animals backing him. As a result, many other animals under the oppressive rule of Napoleon began to assemble and establish an autocracy. The principle of the farm was also changed from "all animals are equal" to "certain animals". It comes to the tragic situation that some animals are more equal than other animals. The novel satirizes the totalitarians by describing the fables of animal life, reflecting the international social reality at that time.

The significance of *Animal Farm* is far more than that. *Animal Farm* has strong satirical artistic characteristics. The language of irony hits the nail on the head and is vividly expressed. The irony in this book is worthy of our in-depth study. In *Animal Farm*, Orwell combines a variety of writing skills he is good at, showing readers a kind of cold and ironic art. He satirizes the common problems of human society throughout the ages. With distinct personal opinions, it conducts an intuitive analysis of totalitarian rule, and describes how totalitarianism may cause huge damage, which is worthy of everyone's deep thinking.

3. Irony Intention Analysis

Irony is an expression of one's meaning by using words that mean the direct opposite of what one really intends to convey. Irony always involves a contrast, a disparity between the expected and the actual. When the irony implies a discrepancy between what is said and what is meant it is verbal irony, the most familiar kind. Stories often contain other kinds of irony besides verbal irony. Storytellers are sometimes fond of irony of fate (or a cosmic irony)---developments that reveal a terrible distance between what people deserve and what they get between what is and what ought to be.

A contrast or an incongruity between what is stated and what is really meant, or between what is expected to happen and what actually happens. Three kinds of irony are (1) verbal irony, in which a writer or speaker says one thing and means something entirely different; (2) dramatic irony, in which a reader or an audience perceives something that a character in the story or play does not know; (3) irony of situation, in which the writer shows a discrepancy between the expected results of some action or situation and its actual results. [1]

In *Animal Farm*, Orwell used a lot of ironic artistic techniques. This enhances the literariness, deepens the theme and highlights the irony of the work. This paper explains how Orwell uses irony to create the ironic objects in the novel through the analysis of different complex characters in this article, and how Orwell vividly shapes the characters to tell the general moral criticism of reality.

The Two Pigs: There are various animals in the story who play a major role in every event of this novel. They are the main leaders of *Animal Farm*. The two of them led the animals to successfully rebel, occupied the entire country, farms, and built their own homes. However, the personalities and destinies of the two pigs are completely different.

Napoleon is not only a political leader, but also familiar with the operation of power and rules. In the end, he broke the original ideal and became the autocratic leader of Animal Farm. However, Snowball is an idealist. At the beginning, he had lofty ideals and dedicated everything to the so-called animals, but because he had different opinions with Napoleon, he was finally purged by Napoleon. Orwell used a lot of symbolism when describing the two pigs.

Squealer: This is a very interesting figure in the novel, and he can be seen at the forefront of all kinds of speech. He successfully disguised himself through the rhetoric of common animals, made statements on various public affairs, and talked good things for every speech of the leader. But in fact, he is a propaganda machine of Napoleon. Orwell applied comparative irony to the creation of

Squealer, which was vividly expressed.

Boxer: Boxer plays a grassroots character in *Animal Farm*. Whether under the leadership of Farmer Jones, or later under the leadership of Napoleon, animals similar to boxers were in a position of exploitation. Maybe they can never get up on their feet. They are the embodiment of courage, honesty and hard work, but this cannot change the reality that they are exploited, and in the end they cannot escape the tragedy of being completely betrayed. They symbolize diligent but cowardly laborers.[2]

4. Irony Techniques Analysis

In this novel, various ironic techniques were used to describe the characteristics of each character. Through a large number of description techniques, the novel vividly shows the different personalities of each character. I think this novel mainly uses those irony techniques such as contrast, symbolism, exaggeration and so on.

In this part, I will focus on the symbolism of *Animal Farm*. As an allegorical novel, symbolism is what the author wants to convey to readers, and each animal in the novel has different and strong symbolic meanings. First of all, the image of Napoleon symbolizes the dictator. In the animal revolution, Napoleon showed its strong character, it was arrogant, seldom spoke but very insidious. It is good at deceiving subordinates with rhetoric, for example, the pigs at home are eating apples and milk, but they are shouting. It symbolizes the despotism and nakedly reveals the reality of the international community through the words and deeds of a pig. The behavior of Napoleon in *Animal Farm* implies the behavior of some autocrats under autocratic rule, which has a strong irony.

For this part, I will focus on the comparison techniques in *Animal Farm*. This novel uses a lot of contrast methods, such as the comparison before and after the revolution, and the comparison of different characters, reflecting the true meaning of the animal revolution and the real purpose of authoritarian leader hidden in the real life. For example, the basic idea of "all animals are equal" were shifted to "all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others", and the Seven Principles stipulated the revolution was finally was rescinded or tampered. And these changes directly highlight the contradictions of leaders from beginning to end, and the contradictions of leadership theory are essentially "unruly".

The changes in the thinking of an authoritarian leader can be seen through the ideology that masks these changes in leadership centralization either from a leader or a subservient. Through the comparison of Snowball, Squealer and Boxer, Napoleon and the farmer Jones in the original work, it reveals the activities of psychology in different periods of the novel and the complex relationship between them. In such a huge group, each character has a different personality.

The different purposes of these animals will also be related to the characteristics of each. Some held high positions, some were oppressed and enslaved, and some even died. All of this is a reflection and submission to the social reality at that time.[3]

5. Conclusion

The author provides a comprehensive description of a small animal society through *Animal Farm*. It allows us to see the ugliness of autocratic rule, and many weaknesses of human nature. The author is actually expressing people's thoughts through the description of animals. There are good and evil in human nature, longing for ideals and rights, as well as pure dedication and greedy desires. These are our own deep analysis. Through fiction, we can see ourselves more clearly. Only by knowing the existence of shortcomings can we find ways to correct them. Through irony we can attack the ugly, and celebrate the beauty as well.

This paper mainly discusses the application of irony art in *Animal Farm*, analyzes the main characters and the irony art used by the author when describing various related characters in the novel.

This article attempts to reveal the thoughts behind the writing through the analysis of the irony art in *Animal Farm*, hoping it can bring some reflections to modern people. From another perspective, the reason why *Animal Farm* is successful is that it is a novel not only with a distinguished description technique, but also very expressive.[4]

The most important aspect is that the novel reflects the real phenomena and problems of an era. Only when literature is combined with real life or social environment can it become an excellent art.

References

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