

Hermeneutic Circle in Anthropomorphic Perspective – *Panchatantra Tales*

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Abstract

This article is the result of qualitative research that follows how the hermeneutic approach from an anthropomorphic perspective in juvenile literature aids in teaching morality and ethics to interpret readers in Panchatantra Tales. This research also tries to grasp the notion of anthropomorphism and how this process aids readers in comprehending the concept of writers and why authors presented human beings as nonhuman, as well as how it has been depicted. Juvenile literature to children is not only to entertain but to enjoy and educate them. But intellectuals of literature do not recognize children's works for their investigative studies, nevertheless, in the last few decades, it has been considered and almost in the hands of popular universities all over the world. Though there is an increasing awareness of the field among Indian scholars, juvenile Literature has not been a major area of academic scrutiny in most departments in India. Hopefully, this study may fill a research gap and cheer extra research in this field in our nation. This research will try to re-interpret classical fables like Panchatantra to examine the Hermeneutic approach as 'asking new questions to older text'. This article has been broken into two sections, the first part will discuss the hermeneutic method and the second will discuss the literary device anthropomorphism.

Keywords: Hermeneutic Approach, Anthropomorphism, juvenile study, Indian literature

Introduction

Literature reflects human existence and transmits knowledge and wisdom. The term “*Indian English literature*” refers to works published in English by Indian authors, during the British administration in India, the English language was introduced. Authors use different kinds of literary devices and techniques to express their thoughts and feelings effectively to the readers, particularly youngsters. Children have a highly receptive minds and they deserve the best to feed on they are the solid pillars of the future. Children’s literature (juvenile literature or young adult literature) is like a deep ocean, it includes short stories, books, magazines, and poems. In the 18th century stories like fairy tales are the only first traced as children’s literature before printing was invented it is difficult to trace; this century aims to teach moral and religious messages to children as well as adult readers. The late 19th century and early 20th century are measured as a golden age of children’s literature because many classic juvenile books were published. “*Children’s literature has traditionally been written by adults for children*” (Reynolds 24). The foremost features of juvenile literature are straightforward, the major characters are animals and children, and express everything from a child’s viewpoint. According to S.K. Ghai (2009) “*The books that provide the wings that take children around the world*”. The power of friendship, loyalty, trust, dedication, honesty, family importance, value, courage, and bravery are the most common themes. So, this type of book is good for trade. John Newbery (9th July 1713-22nd December 1767) is the father of children's literature, he is the first writer to commercialize children’s books. Children should be trained for adult life believed by the Greeks and Romans, as they are actual creators of their optimistic future in their new world. Descartes, (2020) the great French philosopher in his book “*Philosophical essays and correspondence*” mentioned

“I knew that the languages learned there are necessary for the understanding of classical texts; that the charm of fables awakens the mind; that the memorable deeds recounted in histories uplift it, and if read with discretion, aid in forming one’s judgment; that the reading of all good books is like a conversation with the most honorable people of past ages, who were their authors, indeed, even like a set conversation in which they reveal to us only the best of their thoughts;” (Descartes 48).

Children’s literature refers to resources printed for children and young people. It is available in libraries and retailers from children’s book publishers. The extreme stuff is not too frightening, not too sex, yet it can be ambiguous at times. It includes everything from folktales, fables, ballads, and nursery rhymes in the general

perspective of most people but computer games, fan fiction, and e-book are the additional recently added ones. In early-stage juvenile literature was thought to be read only by young human beings between the age of 0 to 18, but it is appropriate for adults as well as scholars. *"Since all adults were once children"* (Reynolds 32). Writers of juvenile fiction will use different mediums to express various themes, cultures, and goals in different formats like oral text and video. The unfortunate reality is that children's literature is mostly focused on Western countries rather than Eastern countries. Today's children will be tomorrow's leaders, so it is the responsibility of every parent, teacher, and community to equip them with a sound education in consideration of their future. Our country and home will flourish by providing them with a good education. Every single story carries morals with it, which helps them to stay on the right track. Growing minds are like sponges, they watch or read stories with a high level of attention compared to adults. Because today's readers are tomorrow's leaders, they are the backbone of our country in the future.

The world's youngest Noble Laureate *Malala Yousafzai* in her famous quote about children *"They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world"* (Yousafzai 262) these lines give the suitable thoughtful of how and why education for children is important. The same story can appear in different arrangements with different styles of illustration. The appearance of children's stories in multiple formats such as picture books, moral storybooks, bedtime stories, cartoons on television, poetry, Animated film formats, and so on. Children's text is a great vehicle to have a fantastic future.

Fiction is any creative work, event, or place in an imaginary way that is not strictly based on history or facts. It applies to written narratives in prose and often, especially novels as well as novellas and short stories. These formats are not only in writing but also in live theatrical performances, films, television programs, radio dramas, comic plays, role-plays, and video games, *"non-fiction is in contrast to fiction"* (Lynch-Brown and Tomlinson). Fiction can be divided into three types based on length, they are short story (approximately 7500 words), Novella (between 17500 to 40000 words), and finally Novel (40000 to more). According to *Manfred* (2005) *"A story is a sequence of events which involves characters"*. Hence, a narrative is a form of communication which presents a sequence of events caused and experienced by characters". According to *Cox. A.* (2005) *"Short stories differ from novels because they are restricted to a limited time frame and to just one or two characters"*. There are six major elements in fiction-plot, characters, setting, theme, style, and point of view. (*Melinamani*, 2016) stated that *"storytelling is an ancient art in India, along with The Panchatantra, Jataka tales, Hithopadesha are found as the oldest surviving texts of fiction"*.

Panchatantra – Sanskrit

Sanskrit is the primary religious language used in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, it holds an important place in India like Greek and Latin in Europe. The name of the language speaks for itself: *Samskritam* which means polished. It is also the official language of two Indian states Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. This language is still practised in the form of hymns and mantras. “*Sanskrit is the mother of all Tamil words*” (Monius, 2013). Both Panchatantra and Hitopadesha are well-known children’s fables in Sanskrit literature. The Sanskrit Panchatantra has a collection of beast fables, divided into five divisions (treaties) during the period of 200 BCE-300 CE, although the stories are likely much older, both animals and humans play the major character. The author of this work is unclear but however, but it has been credited to *Vishnu Sharma* in certain recensions and *Vasubhaga* in others, both of which might be false pen names. “*The author of Panchatantra is a storyteller of hoary antiquity and almost legendary figure like Vyasauthor of Mahabharata*” (Rajan xi). An Oral narrative is a form of a spoken story, the forms of oral narratives are much more ancient than writing. The traditional way of oral narratives is stories told by adults to children like passing information from one generation to other. Now a day’s most stories are converted into written format. But we could only trace the translation rather than the real text. Taylor (2020) stated that “*there is no single authoritative text of the Panchatantra*”. Listeners can learn history, science, land, culture, economics, politics, and ancient traditions from prehistoric times. Speaking skills and listening skills play a vital role compared to writing and reading. It is a process of recollecting memories from the past.

The art of oral narration is as ancient as the earliest civilization, the preliminary way of traditional oral narration is started as a rock painting in caves. After language came to begin, oral narration in a form of art, music, dance, and drama. Every single narration supports getting unique information about their specific areas, but nowadays story narration is a dying art. Storytelling art requires creativity, vision, skill, and practice; it is not learned in one sitting or after course completion. The roles of oral narrators and teachers help to educate new minds and unschooled humans. But at present, the number of artists and teachers is extremely reduced due to the development of technology and digital media and storytelling apps like Voice Thread., Story Kit, Toontastic, Xtranormal, Little Bird Tales, My Story Book Creator School Edition, Puppet Pals HD, Story bird. It has “*still a notable place in world literature, especially in the comparative literature*” (Shamsuddin et al. 2013). At first, Panchatantra was originally written in the Sanskrit language but later it has been translated into several

languages. “*Panchatantra has been the second most translated book after the Bible*” (Rani, 2017). The main purpose of this short fiction is to teach skills towards life to the readers. It is also referred to as “time machines” because it informs us about our history and forewarns us about our future, they serve as a guide for us in the present.

Nitisastra is a term referred to Panchatantra, allegorical tale collection is suitable for readers of all ages “*niti applies to all person (Rajan1993)*”. Why this tale is especially for children. maybe the three young princes named Vasu Sakthi, Ugra Sakthi, and Ananta Sakthi, a son of Amar shakti. *Shamsuddin et al.*, (2013) in his article, he mentioned that “*Panchatantra was most renowned, in that it had a great influence on the world*”. We could not trace - how old is the Panchatantra? The actual fact is it “*was not written for children but its stories are widely translated and read to children all over the world*” (Shinde, 2015), the eighty-four stories are gathered into five books.

- The opening book is about *Mitra-bheda*: Estrangement of Friends (Lion and bull). Major concept of this book about how friendship may get you into problem.
- The next book is about *Mitra-labha*: Winning of friends (The Dove, Crow, Mouse, Tortoise, and Deer) Moral of most of the tales is about how friendship can get you out of trouble
- The third book is about *Kakolukiyam*: The War of Crows and Owls (War and Peace) maximum morals of this book are about how to keep your wits and find your place in the world.
- The fourth part of the book is about *Labdhapranasam*: Loss of Gain (The Monkey and The Crocodile) Help to recognise the actual meaning of life.
- The concluding part of the book is about *Apariksitakarakam*: Rash deeds (The Brahman and The Mongoose). This tale aids readers for how to avoid making hasty decisions in life that will cost you with regret.

The ancient collection of fables Panchatantra has been translated into different regional language all over the world and are still kept on being translated. Why this book is still translated? Because writers and translators believe that this collection of tales will help to shape human characters. The translation is the transfer of text or words, prints, or verbal forms from the source language (one language) to the target language or receptor language (another). Translating text is not a mechanical process where you replace one term with another. The English word Translation is derived from the root word of the Latin language. It aids to shape a reader's understanding of the world, their present and past, philosophy, and politics, and further, it may consider as a medium of how the problems of cultural values, power, gender, and

moral ethics affect the act of translating. Many of them have been translated into a variety of languages, ranging from fiction and non-fiction to sacred literature and comic literature. The four most common types of translations are Literal translation, Translation by professional, Administrative, and literal translation.

James S. Holmes, an American researcher residing in *Amsterdam*, invented the term “*Translation studies*” in 1972. Children’s stories and religious books are, unsurprisingly the most numerous novels on the list of translated versions. The Bible has been translated into more than 3350 languages all around the world, not all books can be read in the language in which they are written so most people preferred to read translated versions (Spoken language) if the original book does not receive sufficient attention. In India, translation plays an important role because the country is home to individuals who speak 22 recognized languages and hundreds of mother tongues and dialects.

Main Objectives

1. To analyze whether the text has anthropomorphic as a literary device.
2. To apply the hermeneutic circle for a better understanding of readers.
3. To detect the role of beasts and their status in the literary text and the real world.
4. To examine whether the animals that appear in text will communicate with humans.

Methodologies

This paper is qualitative research about anthropomorphic perspectives. How animal characters help to illustrate principles of life in the selected classical Indian fable *The Panchatantra* by *Vishnu Sharma*.

The Hermeneutic Circle Animal Studies

The etymology of the word “*hermeneutics*” is the Greek world. The word “*hermeneutic*” means interpret and “*hermeneus*” means interpreter, then the technical term “*Hermeneia*” means interpretation. Aristotle was the first one who wrote about *harmonious or hermeneutics* in his work “*Peri hermenias*”. On the other hand, the folk etymology of the word “*Hermes*” means messenger of the god. Hermeneutics (focuses on verbal and non-verbal communication) and Exegesis (focuses on word and grammar of text) are sometimes both used interchangeably.

The great Western philosopher *Friedrich Schleiermacher* is the founder of modern Hermeneutics. The goal of hermeneutic research is to provide context and stimulate thought. It is a cyclic process, read the text and then write your interpretation, reread the text and then rewrite your interpretation so on and so forth. Hermeneutics is all about interpreting and conveying messages. This approach is mostly used in religious texts Bible called Biblical hermeneutics, as with any holy book whether it's *Quran*, *The Agamas*, *Kojiki*, *Torah*, *Avesta*, and so on. As believers or scholars interpret the religious text to common people to explain the real meaning of the text it is the guidance in life because those books are usually complicated (to explain the small verses in the larger context of the complete holy texts). According to *Rajan (1993, p: liii)* in the book he mentioned: "*Panchatantra is a work known in Sanskrit as Champu, written in a mixture of Verse and Prose*". As a result, ordinary people and youngsters were unable to comprehend the true meaning of the book, and translators and scholars were called upon to assist them.

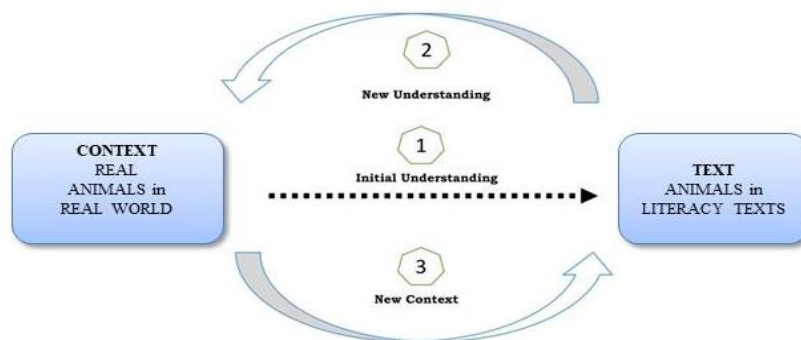


FIGURE: 1
HERMENEUTIC CIRCLE IN ANIMAL STUDIES - PANCHATANTRA

Similarly, animals in the literary text as a text and actual animals in the reality as a context. The context will shape our approach to and understanding of the animal in the literary text; what we know about actual animals in the real world will shape our approach to and understanding of the animal in the literary text. In the second phase, our encounter with the literary animal in the literary text will alter our background; it will inform our knowledge of actual animals or lead to a new engagement with them. A variety of viewpoints on the value of animals in relation to humans can be supported and suggested by literary work. It leads to a rejection of animal slaughter for nourishment. "*There is a hermeneutic circle that operates in animal studies*" by *Dr. Anu Pande Animals in Literature*. Animals carry messages, can communicate and are stress relivers, by reading this kind of literary text will help us all to approach animals positively. These interconnected stories depict a wide range of creatures, from rodents

to elephants. It is “*the most significant and interesting work in the branch of India*” (Sachdev 2007). Animal in human, Human in animal – the shape of non-human creatures eventually becomes a literary typescript.

Animals in Traditional Allegories

The classical fables are not just fables for children but will teach us moral values to readers. Panchatantra is a rare book because readers can find philosophy, psychology, politics, music, astrology, human relationship, and as well as animals, it has been translated and retold by multiple authors to teach social and religious values, “*it is an example of the second of Goethe’s translation categories*” (Rafieisakhaei2021). The story narrations are like “*Russian Doll*” one story may lead to another, and there may be three or four in all (Nadwi 2013). In this collection, the birds-eye view of animals, birds, and inanimate objects as narrators and performers were created to convey life lessons and morals to readers. This retelling of stories still benefited readers and listeners for the last two thousand two hundred years, these didactic tales offer a way to express both practical and moral judgments without naming specific individuals, it is considered ethical tales in Indian literature. The goal of this study is to figure out how animals in Indian literature are depicted with human attitudes, this is one of the most ancient collections of animal fables mostly for children. In these fables, animals can talk and behave like human beings. The best part is to highlight human faintness and foolishness. Animals serve as healers, stress relievers, and therapists in addition to being pets and friends.

Animals continue to be an important part of literature; they feature prominently in the mythology of ancient civilizations and are frequently referenced in folk songs and mythological plays by Greek, Roman, and Indian writers such as the Vedas and Puranas. Animals are intertwined with all of the characters. “*Children also anthropomorphize animals*” (DeMello 2012 P330). From Aesop’s tales to Homer’s Odyssey in Western countries and Panchatantra tales, The Ramayana, to a few, animal characters are frequently used in children’s literature to teach morals and desirable attributes such as gentleness, compassion, and sympathy. “*The books for older children are the most realistic and are often to teach readers about the instincts, habit and life cycles of wild and domestic animals*” (Vogl 1982).

Wild animals and birds, in general, played a major role in most classical fables. Such as lion, tiger, elephant, crocodile, rabbit, fox, donkey, buffalo, and birds like a crow, crow, parrot, and so on. Writers employed anthropomorphic approaches to not only transmit their thoughts and ideas to their readers but also to entertain them. Children

are naturally drawn to animals and are beneficial to child development as well, they serve as a bridge between teaching and entertainment. On the other hand, "*Primitive storyteller used animals as antagonists to dramatize man's ceaseless struggle against the forces of nature*" (Rajora 2017).

Animal stories had been divided into two categories: Animals dress and act like people, animals talk or think elaborately, but otherwise remain the same (Rajora, 2017). In recent times it may be seen in films and television shows. Hundreds of notable virtual animals and cartoon creatures have graced the screens of television and movies throughout history (viewers). Animals would also used in Hollywood films nowadays. Moreover, reality programs are popular all over the world. The most important role of animals in the text is to help to mould the young brain with morals, tradition, and culture. (Bhattacharjee, 2021) clarified that "*In line with the animal right activity, the power of language is an essential tool in shaping human being perception of animals*". The inclination to evaluate beasts by human standards is aided by Anthropomorphic creatures. This literary tactic is far too prevalent in modern writing, not only in children's literature but in adults' as well. Juvenile animal Fables will have a positive influence on their lifestyle.

Anthropomorphism is derived from the Greek word *Anthropos*, which means "human," and *Morphe*, which means "shape." In 1753, this phrase was first used. Humanlike, anthropoid, anthropomorphosis, hominoid, mythical, and so on are alternative terms for anthropomorphism. It is a very powerful literary device. The word Anthropomorphism was used by Xenophanes to describe how God and other supernatural forces tended to exhibit a striking physical likeness to their believers (Rajora 2017), and it is an effective strategy for writing a great short story in literature. In anthropomorphism, a character is not human but acts like a human so it can be found in a variety of stories, including folktales, fantasy, children's stories, mythology, and religious texts, and "it is a powerful literary device" (Agarwal and P.M 2017).

Animals, like people, are magnificent creatures of God, so it has an essential role in literature for children, particularly in children's literature. Literal anthropomorphism, Metaphorical anthropomorphism (personification), Anthropomorphic analogies, and Symbolic anthropomorphism are the four main types of anthropomorphism. In the 19th century, "*it referred to the practices of attributing deities with human-like characters or bodily form*" (Parkinson, 2020). As a result, authors in literature use their books to convey the value of animals' functions to their readers. According to Daston and Mitman,(2005) explain that "*Anthropomorphism is the word used to describe the belief that animals are essentially like humans*".

Panchatantra Tales

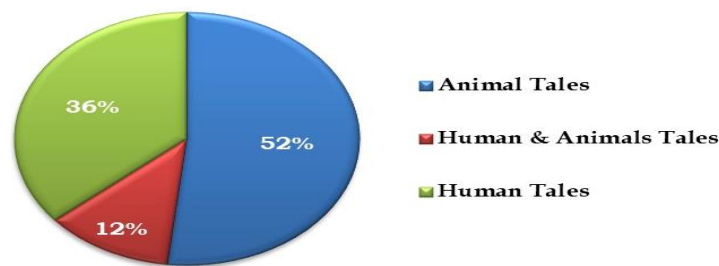


FIGURE: 2

THREE CATEGORIES OF FABLES IN PANCHATANTRA (Rajan1993)

Panchatantra is a collection of 83 tales, divided into three categories there are Tales between animals (43), Tales between Humans and animals (10), and finally Tales about Human beings (30).out of 83 stories 53 stories are based on animal tales. Out of 83 tales, Vishnu Sharma penned 53 that were inspired by animals, at most he wrote animal stories rather than human stories. The following pie chart depicts the amount of anthropomorphized tales in Panchatantra, with a reference to Chandra Rajan’s 1993 translation. This article focussed solely on anthropomorphized stories. As a result, below is the discussion of moral narrative through animals and humans.

Morals Taught Through Animals

The jackals are Wary and wily, and Tawny the lion are the narrators of most of the tales. The first book's theme is how friendship may get you into difficulties and complicate your life. "Crow, cowardly, deer, these three, will ne'er quit their house," says a crow in "The Crow and Snake," who protected his eggs from the serpent with the assistance of his wise buddy jackal. The maximum narrators in the second book are a crow, mole, tortoise, and deer; his book focuses on how one may be free of worries and make their life simpler with the support of friends. Because friends may make or break our lives, it's all about who we choose as our pals. Reading animal-to-animal story narration can help us know that humans can interact with one another. "The Mice that Freed the Elephant" describes how an elephant gets into difficulties and is rescued with the assistance of tiny small mice. "The herd of elephants was liberated by tiny mice". Reading a story like this can help readers to see how animals may support each other.

Morals are Taught Through Humans and Animals

We, humans, serve as readers and translators of the animal world, yet the stories told in animal tongues obscured the fact that animals can communicate, recent research

proves that humans and animals have a delightful connection and they are wonderful forecasters they can interact to warning with each other's and with human beings. *"Animal communication is an evolutionary framework"* (Bradbury 1998). There are a few more insects like ants, grasshoppers, and animals like monkeys, dogs, elephants, and aquatic animals like dolphins and whales, Koko: the gorilla, Paul: the octopus, and so on. In Panchatantra, there are three categories of animal stories: animals as animals, animals as animals but talking, ourselves in fur (Arbuthnot 1957, 1969 cited in More 1984, Pg1) likewise these texts have also had the same types of stories wuth it. The concept of friendship is explored in Panchatantra from three different perspectives, they are human-animal friendship, predator-victim relationship, and friendship amongst lesser animals. Moreover, the relationship between humans and animals is portrayed as vital.

In Panchatantra: storybook 1 *"The Grateful Beast and Ungrateful Man"* due to his poverty a Brahmana named Yajnadatta had to find something to feed, so he enters the jungle on his way he hears loud noises and looks down into a well, where he finds a tiger, a monkey, and snake and a goldsmith. Initially, he refused to assist, but in the end, he assisted everyone with one core and everyone vowed to assist him in return. However, all of the animals cautioned him against saving the man down in the well.

*What tiger, monkey, snake advised,
I did not follow: and therefore
have I now been brought to this pass
by the tricks of this scurvy fellow". (Rajan 98).*

These poetic lines will provide us with a great understanding of recent circumstances that happened in America, in which the legendary Gorilla Koko, *"has learned more than 1000 words... comparable to that of a 3-year-old human child"* (Morin, Roc. 2015). Her final plea to humans in gesture was *"Help Earth Hurry": ("Koko the Talking Gorilla")*. In book 5 in the story *"The Ape's Revenge"* Once a group of monkeys as a pet in the king's palace. Unfortunately, the king ordered the killing of all monkeys. But the leader monkey leaves the place with his prediction and intelligence. Then a few months later he decided to take revenge on the king. Once the king asked questions and the monkey *"the monkey-chief replayed"*, from this tale readers could understand animals are good predictors and communicators.

*"You have done well, my monkey-friend
Drinking water through hollow lotus stalk". (Rajan 421)*

It is now obvious that animals, rather than predators are indeed a great predictor and they can communicate with human beings by using sign language. In the next story from book 1 “The Lion and The Chariot-Maker”, once a chariot maker named Devagupta saw a lion name Spotless by chance, he confidently approached and offered to eat his meal. Initially, the lion hesitated to eat, but after agreeing with the human food. Days passed “*Soon gave up hunting*” (Rajan 126).

In the story “The Twin Parrot” once, a fowler captured two parrots, but one of them managed to flee and was educated by a hermit. By accident, a king came across a fowler parrot in a cage, which screamed: “*Kill him, kill him*” so he away from the place then he found a hermit parrot in a cage, who welcomed him with “*come, o, king*” (Rajan 177). According to *Dr. Pepperberg Alex*, a grey Parrot had the same intellectual capacity as a five-year-old child. The final words Alex to his master “*you be good I love you see you tomorrow*” (*Carey*). In book 3 of the story “*The Serpent Who Paid in Gold*” One day a Brahmana in his field saw an anthill then offered a bowl of milk and went home. The next day the snake offered a gold coin nestling in the clay bowl. By mistakenly cobra bit Brahmana's son but still he offered milk to the cobra but the snake shouted toward the human “*you have come here for gold again*” (*Bansal 2022, p 211*).

We completely addressed it in a different way we approached living organisms like animals, birds, and insects were created by God like humans, but We, the illiterate, we're unable to detect and anticipate creatures in the same way that humans could. Reading literary works with interpretations of animals might help us to have a better knowledge of them. Nowadays people are more conscious of animal rights and health care.

Conclusion

In this 21st century, moreover, children saw the image of animals in the form of picture books, animated movies, and video games rather than experiences in the wild or another natural setting. So, writers including most of the animal characters in the fables had to carry powerful emotions that speak to the children's unconscious minds that's why the majority of children's fiction is occupied with animal characters; it could speak to the psyche of children as profound. According to *David and Krueger* in 2018 defined that animal stories do not only have the gift of depicting the beauty and abundance of inner life but also illustrate the beauty of external life. Their stories are filled with love, lie yearned, hate, giving, and stealing. A maximum of the story's characters in these fables are animals rather than humans. Human beings are only

portrayed only as a king, merchants, and hunters. But whereas animals become an agency to convey their weakness, faults, and strengths. Extreme stories will teach children how to resolve conflicts in real life. Animals in many stories are often personified them in attributing human qualities to them, they are the messengers for which knowledge is communicated. Animal development is now on the verge of greater extinction than in the previous period. The translators of this fable discussed almost everything in such a simple and elegant style. Animals are wonderful creations created by God just like humans. So, in literature authors express the importance of the animals' roles very simply through their books to the readers. Animals play an important role, especially in children's literature, because children are naturally able to approach easily with animals without fear. "Be generous to all lives" (Ryder 338) so be kind to all living beings and amazed to treat them with love.

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