

ANIMALISTIC GENRE IN THE WORKS OF MICHAEL MORPURGO

Atkamova Sumanbar Askarovna

Doctor of Philosophy in Philological Sciences (PhD),

Associate Professor at the USWLU Tashkent

Abstract:

Michael Morpurgo is an English writer known for his works for children in which animals play a central role. This article studies the animalistic genre in the works of this writer, his usage of animals as metaphors and symbols reflecting important social and humanistic themes. It analyses how animal images in Morpurgo's works serve as a tool to convey moral lessons, empathy and understanding of human values, as well as the influence of the surrounding world on the fate of living beings.

Keywords

Animalistics, genre, works, animals, markers, expressiveness, characters, humanity.

Introduction

Animalistic literature occupies a special place in children's and teenage literature. Animals, as characters in the narrative, not only become carriers of symbolic meanings, but also help authors explore themes concerning man's relationship with nature, moral dilemmas, and social problems. Michael Morpurgo, one of today's leading writers, masterfully uses the animalistic genre in his works. His books about animals often deal with issues of war, friendship, loyalty, freedom, and the tragedies faced by both humans and animals.

The animalistic genre in Michael Morpurgo's works is characterized not only by the presence of animals, but also by their active participation in events, often with the manifestation of high moral qualities. Animals become not just objects for observation, but full-fledged participants in events with which readers can associate themselves.

One of the key features of Morpurgo's work is the anthropomorphizing of animals. In his books, animals often possess human traits, reasoning and experience, allowing them to be spokespersons for broader philosophical and moral ideas. In this aspect, Morpurgo's work is close to the tradition of classic animalistic works such as Yann Martel's "Life of Pi" and George Orwell's "Animal Farm".

Morpurgo's animalistic approach is exemplified in works such as "War Horse" (1982), "Billy and the Elephant" (2000) and "The elephant in the Garden" (2009). In each of these works, animals play a vital part and their fates are intertwined with those of humans.

The novel "War Horse" tells the story of Joey, a horse who becomes involved in the First World War, experiencing the horrors of battle, displacement and the loss of his owners. In this story, the horse becomes a symbol of loyalty and courage. Joey, through his affection for humans, shows how animals can be connected to human destinies and how they can serve as a moral guide amidst the brutality of war. The horse in Morpurgo's work is not

just an animal, but an emblem of human bravery and sacrifice. Its ability to survive despite the horrors of war also illustrates the idea of resistance to violence and suffering.

In the work “Billy and his Elephant” Morpurgo talks about an elephant that becomes a friend of the boy Billy. The elephant in this case serves as a symbol of loneliness and the desire for freedom. The animal represents the idea of wilderness and the need to protect the animal world from human cruelty. Through this image the writer touches upon such important themes as the protection of animals, their rights and the moral responsibility of people for living creatures.

In the work “Elephant in the Garden” symbolizes something unexpected, unusual and even absurd in ordinary, everyday life. In the work, the elephant appears in the most unexpected place – in the garden, which at first glance seems absolutely ridiculous and impossible. The story tells about the times of the Second World War, when against the background of horror and fear, small miracles, such as meeting an animal, become a source of comfort, hope and human kindness. The elephant hidden in the garden becomes a metaphor for the endeavor to find something light in the darkest moments of history.

Michael Morpurgo does not limit himself to creating images of animals through which he speaks of loneliness, fear and hope. He uses the animalistic genre to explore moral and humanistic values in a deeper way. Animals in his works often become a reflection of how one can be a good person – through showing loyalty, compassion, courage and forgiveness. One prime example is the image of the horse Joey of the work “War Horse”. This horse, despite the cruelty of war and many losses, retains the ability to love and trust a man. This image allows the author to touch on several key themes such as human relationships, sincerity, mutual trust, and fortitude. Joey, despite all the brutality and horrors of war, retains his capacity for love and loyalty, which contrasts with the violent events happening around him.

This work also raises the important question of how human beings can influence the world around them. Joey and his relationships with people – both soldiers and ordinary people – show that love and trust can transcend any barrier, be it war or the difference between species. These relationships feel like what makes us human: the ability to understand each other, to care, and to look for light even in the darkest corners of human history.

Consequently, Michael Morpurgo, through the image of Joey the horse, reminds the reader that in a world full of violence and destruction, it is important not to lose one's humanity, to remain true to one's inner values, and to maintain sincerity and love for those around us. In “Billy and his Elephant”, the elephant acts not only as a symbol of brotherhood, but also as a guide through the difficult life lessons that Billy has to learn. Billy's relationship with the animal becomes a kind of metaphor for human bonds, their interdependence and the importance of caring for those around him.

The elephant in this context is not just an animal, but a creature with a rich inner world that is endowed with the same qualities as a human being: loyalty, kindness, tolerance. He helps Billy to overcome his own fears and doubts, becoming a kind of mirror for his emotions

and inner world. Along with this, the elephant teaches Billy an important lesson about the importance of caring for those who are weaker or more vulnerable. This caring, in turn, becomes a catalyst for the boy's growth and personal development. Along with this, the elephant teaches Billy to find ways to solve problems in the most difficult situations.

In moments of difficulty and danger, the elephant becomes a reliable partner for Billy, with whom he can rely on intuition and wisdom. Their interaction develops in Billy not only courage, but also the ability to trust his instincts and find a way out of dead-end situations. Over time, Billy realizes that the elephant is not just his friend, but an important part of his journey, a symbol of how important it is to appreciate living things, how important it is to work as a team and protect those who need protection. And through this experience he comes to realize that brotherhood, mutual help and caring are the foundations on which all strong and genuine relationships are built.

The work "Elephant in the Garden" symbolizes several important themes, among which special attention is paid to the theme of loneliness, sincerity and care for others. Through the image of an elephant that unexpectedly appears in an English garden, the author raises questions about how humans perceive the unusual and the unknown, as well as about the power of kindness and humanity.

The elephant, far from its natural environment, surrounded by human civilization, becomes a symbol of vulnerability and the need for protection. In this context, the animal can also be seen as a metaphor for anyone who feels isolated or rejected by society, making the work relevant for reflecting on human cruelty and misunderstanding.

It should be noted that this work also symbolizes the connection between humanity and nature. Mankind is not only an exotic creature, but also an important element in a world that often forgets its responsibility towards animals and the environment. The story of the elephant reminds us of the need and importance of caring for the defenseless and how kindness and mutual help can make a difference to humanity and the environment.

The elephant in the garden can also be seen as a symbol of the unpredictability of life, of those moments when something or someone radically changes the usual order of things. Morpurgo's work shows that we need to be prepared to face this 'unusual', to learn to accept the unknown and to take care of what we can change.

Thus, "Elephant in the Garden" is not just a story about an encounter with an exotic animal, but also a profound symbol of human empathy, the willingness to accept the challenges of life and to be responsible for all living things.

Analyses of the works show that in Morpurgo's works animals often appear not only as symbols of human experience but also as carriers of socially and ecologically significant themes. Thus, in a story about war and destruction, as in "War Horse", or in a book about animals in a zoo "Heroic animal", the writer often touches upon the issues of animal protection, human responsibility for their activities and ecological consciousness.

Animals in Morpurgo's works become markers of the global issues that humanity faces, such as cruelty, ecological imbalance and the threat of extinction of certain species.

Through animal stories, he draws attention to the importance of respecting nature and all living beings.

Thus, the animalistic genre in Michael Morpurgo's works occupies an important place, fostering in readers empathy and responsibility towards the animal world and the environment. By using animals as central characters, Morpurgo skillfully raises important moral issues such as loyalty, friendship, the struggle for freedom and the preservation of peace. In his works, animals become not only metaphors for human qualities, but also spokespersons for humanistic values, reflecting the subtle connection between humanity and nature.

Consequently, through his works, Morpurgo teaches us not only respect and love for animals, but also an awareness of our shared responsibility for the world in which we live. The animalistic genre thus becomes a powerful tool for building values in young readers and educating society about the importance of protecting animals and nature.

REFERENCES

1. Atkamova S.A. Features of animalistic phraseological units in different system languages. Foreign Linguistics and Linguodidactics. Journal home page: <https://inscience.uz/index.php/foreign-linguistics>
2. Korte B. (2017). Animal Narratives in Literature: A Study of the Role of Animals in Children's Fiction. Routledge.
3. Morpurgo M. (1982). "War Horse".
4. Morpurgo M. (2000). "Billy and the Elephant".
5. Morpurgo M. (2009). "The Elephant in the Garden".
6. Rachael S. (2015). Animals in Children's Literature: Moral and Ethical Representations. Oxford University Press.