

**THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF ANIMALS IN RUDYARD KIPLING'S
“THE JUNGLE BOOK” AND “RIKKI-TIKI-TAWI”**

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Abstract

This article studies the role of animals in the life of Mowgli in Rudyard Kipling's novel “The Jungle Book” and the short story “Rikki-Tikki”, published as part of the collection of stories “The Jungle Book”, in which the main character is a mongoose named Rikki-Tikki and an analysis of the role and importance of cobras named Nagaina and Nag in the work is discussed.

Keywords: biocentrism, image of animals, human beings, kindness, loyalty, courage, teaching ability

Аннотация:

В данной статье рассматривается роман Редьярда Киплинга «Книга джунглей» и роль животных в жизни Маугли в рассказе «Рикки-Тикки», опубликованном в рамках сборника рассказов «Книга джунглей». Обсуждается анализ роли и значения мангуста по кличке Рикки-Тикки-Тави, а также кобр Нагайна и Наг в произведении.

Ключевые слова: биоцентризм, образ животных, человек, доброта, верность, мужество, обучающая способность

Annotatsiya:

Mazkur maqolada Rudyard Kiplingning “Jungli kitobi” romanidagi Maugli hayotidagi hayvonlar roli hamda “Jungli kitobi” nomli hikoyalar to'plamining bir qismi sifatida nashr etilgan qisqa hikoya “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” da bosh qahramon “Rikki-Tikki” nomli mongus hamda Nag va Nagaina nomli kobralarning asardagi roli va ahamiyati tahlili haqida so'z boradi.

Kalit so'zlar: biosentrizm, hayvonlar, insonlar qiyofasi, mehribonlik, sadoqat, jasorat, o'qitish qobiliyati

Introduction

In this article, the role of animals in the life of Mowgli in Rudyard Kipling's novel "The Jungle Book" and the short story "Rikki-Tikki", published as part of the collection of stories "The Jungle Book", the main character is the mongoose "Rikki-Tikki" and Nag and Nagaina. We aimed to analyze the role and importance of cobras in the work. In both works, the role of the mongoose named Rikki-Tikki, who played an important role in the life of the young boy Teddy, in the life of Mowgli in "Jungle Book", and in "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi" is analyzed. It is worth saying that there is only one feature, that is, Mowgli is the main character in "The Jungle Book", while in "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi" the mongoose animal under the same name is embodied as the main character.

Analysis

The theme of the image of animals is one of the literary trends in children's literature. Its elements can be seen both in folklore and classical literature. In the legacy of Joseph Rudyard Kipling, a well-known representative of English neo-romanticism at the beginning of the 19th century, books about animals take over. Kipling's book "Mowgli" is an educational and instructive tale. The amazing story of a boy raised by wolves reveals the first laws of nature and the values of human life. The main idea of the work is even if a person is raised according to the laws of the forest, his place is still among people, because a person always returns to people. The play tells about Mowgli, the adopted son of wild animals living in the forest. A two-year-old boy lost in the forest, a lame tiger Sher Khan wants to make him his prey. The child crawls to the wolves' den. The wolf parents take him into their family and protect him from Sher Khan. They call him "Mowgli", which means "frog". Mowgli grows strong, fearless, cruel. But at the same time, Mowgli had a kind and compassionate heart. This can be seen in the attitude of the boy who values himself very much to Akel the wolf, Balu the bear, and Bagira. Mowgli manages to understand the laws of the forest with his human mind. "We are of the same blood, you and me," he says to the inhabitants of the rainforest. And that's why love surrounds him. The amazing story of a boy raised by wolves reveals the first laws of nature, forces a person to think about the values of his life. A man's child who was left in the forest did not die, because he found loyal and reliable friends. These friends were animals. But Kipling does not give them human characteristics as in folk tales. All of them are thinking beings and act according to the conditions according to their laws. One of these laws is the care of offspring. Father and mother wolves became the symbol of this law. When the Wolf first sees Mowgli, he feels that he is just a defenseless "puppy". Therefore he protects him as he protects his own children, and all the animals recognize his right. In the play, Akela, Balu, Bagira represent the wisdom of the natural world. Thanks to them, you can see the uneasy balance of good and evil, life and death in the forest. The fairy tale contains beautifully illustrated images of animals with unique characters and customs. There are teachers of the forest: Balu, the gurgling and polar bear, the wise elephant Khati, Bagheera - the black panther, Akela - the noble leader of the wolf pack, Sher Khan - the fearsome and cunning tiger and others. The animals teach

Mowgli, in particular, Father Wolf, his craft, Baloo that honey and nuts are as delicious as raw meat, and how to hunt from Bagheera. Mowgli, in return, is kind to the animals: he helps the animals in difficult times of their lives: he takes the thorn from their cages. Mowgli grows up and feels his power over the animals. No one can resist his gaze, because only he subdues the Red Flower-Fire.

Bagheera: Bageera is a Black Panther who knows very well about the Law of the Jungle and can influence the wolf pack. As Mowgli grows, Bagheera continues to protect Mowgli and is patient in teaching Mowgli how to survive in the forest.

Baloo: Baloo helps to bear Mowgli. He teaches all the wolf cubs the law of the forest and the languages of all the animals. Baloo gives his opinion on Mowgli's first Council of Rock meeting when they decide whether Mowgli should stay or be kicked out.

Sher Khan (Shere Khan): Shere Khan is a tiger who tries to convince a pack of wolves to let him eat Mowgli. The play analyzes the role of animals in Mowgli's life. Many roles of animals are shown in the novel "Jungle Book". The general view that humans always have a higher status than other species on earth is consistent with the anthropocentric view that sees humans as the king of all living things. However, "The Jungle Book" is different, it tries to question the general view of people and reverses the position of animal and man. In our research, we can come across interesting information about the state of the animal in this work. It can be seen that animals are placed in a higher position than humans. This is contrary to the common view of people, that man is a super being. People value themselves and do not consider other lives, the value of things. This is very dangerous because the influence of this view leads mankind to do what they want without regard for nature. However, this work shows a different point of view. It is rarely seen by humans. This makes an animal as valuable as a human being.¹ This is consistent with the concept of biocentrism, as Bogle puts it. "Biocentrism" is a way of thinking that places a unique value on all living things.² His statement implies that not only human beings but also other living beings have value. The work emphasizes the role of animals in relation to Mowgli and shows that they are a living community on earth. The novel makes man think that he is not superior to any other living creature. Nevertheless, this does not mean that a person should be inferior to other creatures. In this context, Mowgli seems inferior because he is still a boy and he is the only person who lived in the forest because he is superior to the animals. In The Jungle Book, animals play a central role in conveying a message, showing that they are equal to humans and that they also have value. This evidence shows that animals play the main roles in "Jungle Book". In the work, animals can be seen in different ways. The work shows the reader that animals play the main role as saviors, and that animals can also do what is usually done by humans. As Thomas Peter said: "...nature is not for human use only for eating. This shows that there is another species among many people."³ This

¹ Bogle R. Is biocentrism dead? Understanding the Universe and Nature. - Speedy Publishing LLC, 2014. -P.32.

² Thomas P. Understanding biocentrism: The true nature of the universe revealed. - Speedy Publishing LLC. - .P 4

³ Thomas. P. Understanding biocentrism: The true nature nature of the universe revealed. - Speedy Publishing LLC. - P.1.

view emphasizes that nature is not a means of satisfying human needs, but rather human greed. Nature has another important role in human life. Thomas's statement also states that man is a part of nature and therefore man is not superior to other living creatures. There are many passages in the novel *The Jungle Book* to show that animals are important and man is not superior to them, they include the main roles played by animals. In one of these roles, animals appear as saviors.

As a rescuer: in the play, animals save Mowgli from danger several times, and play a central role in being Mowgli's savior. The savior is higher than the living being being saved. In other words, Mowgli as a human is not superior to the animals because he is a living soul being saved. So he is weaker than animals. That is why he always saves animals when he is in trouble. This is consistent with Thomas's fourth biocentrism ethical perspective. "Humans are not superior to other living creatures".⁴ Here are some parts where you can tell that the animals are Mowgli's saviors.

Black Panther: Bagheera - when Sher Khan finds baby Mowgli in the forest after Mowgli's father is killed, instead of killing the baby or making dinner, Bagheera rescues the helpless human child and finds people to raise him. Without Bagheera's participation, Mowgli would not have been able to survive. This issue proves that man is not superior to other living beings. Bagheera sympathizes with baby Mowgli and so she saves Mowgli. Bagheera not only saves Mowgli from danger, but also worries about how he will survive. Bagheera continues to worry about Mowgli's life, so she tries to find people who can raise Mowgli. Bagheera plays the main role as Mowgli's savior. This is expressed in the following monologue: "When I found him many years ago, he was just an infant abandoned in the woods. If he was going to survive, I knew he needed people. That's why I entrusted him to the wolf."

On the other hand, Bagheera risks Mowgli's life to save him from Sher Khan's attack. Bagheera fights Sher Khan. Lion Khan, among the tigers, does not accept Mowgli's existence, but instead tries to kill Mowgli. The reason Sher Khan doesn't accept Mowgli's existence is because Mowgli's father burned his face a long time ago when he tried to attack Mowgli and his father. When Sher Khan attacks Mowgli, Bagheera fights him. He puts himself in danger to fight Sher Khan. Thanks to Bagheera, Mowgli is able to safely escape from Sher Khan. There is another animal who is Mowgli's savior, his name is Baloo. In this play, Baloo saves Mowgli several times.

As a teacher: In *The Jungle Book*, the animals teach Mowgli some moral lessons that make life worth living. This work wants to tell the reader that by dominating the animals, humanity does not have a higher position than the animals. As Senge defines a teacher: "a teacher is an expert capable of imparting life knowledge that helps students form, identify, and acquire problem-solving skills."⁵ Based on this statement, it can be said

⁴ Bogle R. Is biocentrism dead? Understanding the Universe and Nature. - Speedy Publishing LLC, 2014. - P.32.

⁵ Senge P. et al. Schools that learn. - New York, Nt, 2000.

that the criteria of the teacher can already be seen in the animals in the work. Because they transferred their knowledge to Mowgli so that Mowgli could continue living. The animals teach Mowgli many moral lessons to help him survive in the forest. When the first Bagheera taught him how to survive, he told Mowgli how he managed to survive the wolves. Since Mowgli survived the wolves, he will have to follow their path. This can be seen in the following dialog:

Bagheera: - You must be the worst wolf I've ever seen.

Mowgli: - Yeah, but if that branch didn't break, I would have made it.

Bagheera: Crossing upwind, breaking from your numbers. If you can't learn to run with the pack one of these days, you'll be someone's dinner

Mowgli: It was higher ground

Bagheera: Wolves don't hide in trees

Mowgli: I can't keep up with them Bagheera, I tried. I just picked the wrong tree.

As a defender:

Mowgli is raised by animals, which means that the animals accept Mowgli's presence among them. As Thomas said: "every living thing, including man, is a part of a living community." Based on his words, it can be concluded that a man and an animal are equal. Although the animals in the forest do not accept Mowgli, they accept Mowgli into their pack. In addition, Mowgli is directly protective of animals, he cannot protect himself from a tiger that is trying to hunt him. This corresponds to the words of Thomas that "every living species on earth is an integral part of an interdependent system."⁶ In other words, every living thing depends on each other for survival. Here you can see that animals are playing the role of defenders. Because even though Mowgli is a man, he is not able to protect himself without the help of animals. It can be said that the fairy tale teaches us to be faithful, brave and honest in friendship, to appreciate the friends who gave us life and the education received from them. It also allows us to understand that nature is the home of man. The main idea of the work is great love for nature, preservation of nature and love for the animal world.

In this practical part of our research, we are talking about the importance and place of animals in children's literature. We analyzed its role and importance. This work is part of Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book anthology based on character and theme. The main character of the story, Rikki-tikki-tavi, is a young, inquisitive person who saves his adopted English family and the animals in their garden from Nag and Nagaina cobra snakes. Although the story is short, despite the seemingly small chances of victory, it shows that the good always wins over the evil, one of the main ideas of the work. In addition, the main character of the work, Rikki-tikki-tavi, a small mongoose represents courage in the face of evil. The conflicts that drive the story of Rikki Tikki Tavi are classic. As deadly as cobras are, Ricky's bravery triumphs over fear. Her driving force is

⁶ Thomas, P. Understanding biocentrism: the true nature nature of the universe revealed. – Speedy Publishing LLC p1.

her loyalty to Teddy and his family, whom she has befriended, and she has a duty to protect herself. The characters, as in all other Jungle Book stories, are anthropomorphized and have human characteristics and unique temperaments.⁷ The determination and courage shown against the odds leads to the ultimate victory over the forces of evil, and courage forms the main theme of the story. Through the character of Rikki-tikki, Kipling aims to inspire readers, especially children, to imbibe the qualities of courage, selflessness and indomitable spirit, willpower and self-belief. With its detailed imagery, vivid dialogue, intricately developed characters, and varied shades and personalities, Kipling delivers a captivating work that is guaranteed to keep us hooked until the end. The animals in Rudyard Kipling's story Rikki-Tikki-Tawi use rational thinking to achieve their goals. First, Ricky the mongoose uses logic to protect his human friend Teddy and his family. Next, Darzi leaves behind his wife, the evil snake Nagaina. Finally, Nagaina makes the smart decision to kill Rikki-Tiki-Tavi's human friends and save her eggs.

Conclusion:

In short, these animals think like humans to achieve their goals. First of all, Ricky protects his human friends by thinking logically like a human. Ricky hears Nagaina's husband saying that Nag will kill humanity. Ricky knows he must kill the snake to save the family. He says, "If I don't break his back on the first jump, he might still fight." Cobras are difficult creatures to fight. Ricky realizes that he cannot win over the snake. It should paralyze the cobra. In his opinion, the only place to attack a snake is its head. Otherwise, the cobra can still fight. Another example of how Ricky uses logical thinking is when he kills the cobra eggs. He says: "He saw baby cobras wrapped in skin, and he knew they could kill a man from the moment they were born. He bit off the top of the eggs and crushed the young cobras." Rikki Tikki is a brave and loyal character in this story. In a word, Rikki-Tikki is depicted in the work as a symbol of loyalty. For example, Ricky fights and manages to kill a dead Karaito to keep Teddy from getting hurt. So there's a lot of dedication and bravery evident here, as Rikki Tikki is willing to fight a snake that could kill him at a moment's notice, all for the safety of the child. This devotion and love for his family made Ricky courageous. It is worth saying that although Mowgli is the main character in "The Jungle Book", and the mongoose animal of the same name is embodied as the main character in "Rikki-Tikki-Tawi", the distinguishing feature of both works is that however, the animals in the work show care for humans and rescue them, this is their unifying feature. The kindness, loyalty, courage, teaching ability and redeeming features of the animals in the works prove that the role and importance of animals in English children's literature is incomparable.

⁷Esposito J.L. (ed.).The Oxford dictionary,of Islam. – Oxford University Press, 2004.

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