



Pristine Animal World v/s Degenerated Humanity

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Abstract

This research scrutinizes the intricate relationship between humans and animals, investigating the evolving dynamics shaped by their interactions. The protection and welfare of animals are intertwined with human perceptions, influenced by biological and behavioral resemblances. Positive human-animal interactions contribute to well-being, but the modern era's progress is marred by the exploitation of animal resources, raising ethical concerns. Focusing on Jack London's works, especially "To Build a Fire" and "The Call of The Wild," reveals the stark disparity between man and animal, emphasizing resilience and instincts. Mark Bennet Feldman's insights highlight the overlooked connection with animals, pivotal in human evolution. This research advocates for a paradigm shift, urging consideration of the consequences of human actions on the animal world to unravel destructive dominator cultures, economic disparities, and political power structures.

Keywords: Human-animal relationship, Jack London, Animal welfare, Exploitation of animals, Evolution.

INTRODUCTION

The intricate relationship between humans and animals has fascinated and concerned us, delving into evolving dynamics shaped by their interactions. Protection and welfare, increasingly intertwined with human perceptions, contribute to both parties' well-being. However, the rapid progress of the modern era relies on the exploitation of animal resources, prompting ethical concerns. This research focuses on Jack London's portrayal of the human-animal relationship, notably in "To Build a Fire" (London) and "The Call of The Wild". (London, The Call of The Wild) These narratives vividly illustrate the disparity between man and animal, accentuating the latter's resilience and instincts in harsh conditions. London's writings serve as a critical lens for scholars and policymakers addressing contemporary animal welfare issues.

Mark Bennet Feldman's insights enrich the discourse, emphasizing the significance of animal representation in modern, urban culture. He contends that our often-overlooked connection with animals played a pivotal role in human evolution. Understanding the world from the animal perspective offers insights into biological and social evolution, challenging aggressive, exploitative dominator cultures. The animal standpoint sheds light on species extinction and the interconnectedness of human dominance over animals and each other. This research advocates for a paradigm shift, urging consideration of the consequences of human actions on the animal world. By understanding and acknowledging our connection with animals, we may unravel the roots of destructive dominator cultures, economic disparities, and political power structures.

Jack London's Exploration of Human-Animal Dynamics:

London's exploration of human-animal dynamics, exemplified in works like "To Build a Fire" (London, To build a fire) and "The Call of The Wild" (London, The Call of The Wild), portrays a profound contrast between the resilience and instincts of animals and the stark vulnerability of humans in harsh conditions. London's narrative lens serves as a gateway for scholars and policymakers to delve into the complexities of the human-animal relationship, prompting a reevaluation of ethical considerations in the treatment of animals.

Response to Accusations and Two-Way Argument:

President Theodore Roosevelt's accusation of writers as "nature-fakers" for ascribing human characteristics to animals prompted London's thoughtful response in "The Other Animals" (London, *The Other Animals*). London engages in a nuanced two-way argument, both agreeing and condemning writers who humanize animals. He defends his own writing by emphasizing that his dog-heroes are not directed by abstract reasoning but by instinct, sensation, emotion, and simple reasoning—traits he believes are common but not exclusive to humans.

Alignment with the Theory of Evolution:

London strategically aligns his perspective with the Theory of Evolution, asserting that while dogs may lack the means for abstract reasoning, they are capable of reasoning and learning. Drawing on examples from his own experiences with dogs, London refutes the notion of purely mechanical and instinctive behavior in animals. However, it's crucial to acknowledge London's bias, as his socialist interpretation influences his work, shaping the lens through which he views the human-animal relationship.

Socialist Interpretation and Irony of Situation:

London's socialist interpretation introduces an additional layer to the discussion, revealing an aspect of his work influenced by socio-political beliefs. The irony lies in humankind voicing themselves as subalterns yet failing to recognize the plight of animals. London's realization that animals endure lives worse than humans, incapable of expressing their pain or emotions verbally, underscores the need for a deeper ethical consideration of human actions on animals.

Comparison with Marginalized Human Groups:

Furthermore, London compares the conditions of non-human animals with marginalized human groups in the fight for freedom and equality. He cautions against viewing the struggles of these groups through a paternalistic lens, emphasizing the importance of understanding them through a lens of human liberation.

This concern forms the basis of the research question, delving into the predicament of animal life in relation to their coexistence with humans.

Connection between Socialism and Animal Welfare:

While London's insights provide a valuable perspective, it's essential to acknowledge that there is no empirical evidence establishing a direct ideological relationship between socialism and animal rights activism/protection. The connection between socialism and animal welfarism, London argues, lies in the shared affinity towards subalterns and the opposition towards capitalism. Exploring these connections becomes crucial in understanding the motivations behind advocating for the welfare of non-human animals and unraveling the ideological underpinnings that link socialism with animal rights activism and protection.

Social and Ethical Implications of Human-Animal Interaction:

Jack London's exploration of human-animal dynamics extends beyond the literary realm, delving into the social and ethical implications of these interactions. His narratives underscore the reciprocal nature of the human-animal relationship and prompt a reevaluation of societal attitudes towards animals. London's portrayal challenges prevailing norms that often consider animals as mere resources for human exploitation. The narratives emphasize the potential benefits of positive human-animal interactions, contributing not only to animal welfare but also fostering a more compassionate and sustainable coexistence.

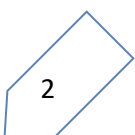
London's Ethical Stance and the Call for Empathy:

London's ethical stance becomes evident as he advocates for a paradigm shift in our treatment of animals. He urges a departure from exploitative practices ingrained in modern progress and calls for a more empathetic approach. The narratives act as a mirror, reflecting the consequences of our actions on the animal world. London's call for empathy resonates with contemporary discussions on environmental ethics and the need for a more sustainable and harmonious relationship with the natural world.

Mark Bennet Feldman's Urban Animal Representation:

Building on London's narrative exploration, Mark Bennet Feldman's insights bring an urban perspective to the discourse. Feldman argues that animals' representation in modern, urban culture is often overlooked but crucial to understanding our connection with them (Feldman). Urban environments, with their diverse human-animal interactions, shape and reflect societal attitudes towards animals. Feldman's ideas prompt us to consider how our urban lifestyles impact animals and their welfare, challenging us to reevaluate our role in the broader ecological system.

Species Extinction and Interconnectedness:



The research delves deeper into the impact of species extinction, a theme illuminated by both London and Feldman. London's narratives implicitly depict the consequences of human dominance, illustrating how the exploitation of animal resources contributes to the disruption of ecosystems. Feldman's insights further emphasize the interconnectedness of human dominance over animals and each other. The extinction of species is not merely a loss for the animal kingdom but also disrupts the delicate balance of nature, affecting human societies in unforeseen ways.

Human Dominance, Economic Disparities, and Political Power Structures:

London's narratives and Feldman's insights converge in shedding light on the intricate web of human dominance, economic disparities, and political power structures. The exploitation of animals is intertwined with broader societal issues, reflecting and perpetuating power imbalances. This recognition prompts a critical examination of the deep-rooted systems that have characterized human history. Understanding this interconnectedness becomes imperative in addressing not only animal welfare concerns but also broader issues of social justice and equality.

Empirical Evidence and Ideological Relationship:

While London's observations provide a rich literary perspective, the research acknowledges the need for empirical evidence regarding the ideological relationship between socialism and animal rights activism/protection. Scholarly investigations into the affinity towards subalterns and opposition towards capitalism as driving forces behind the connection between socialism and animal welfarism are essential. This calls for interdisciplinary research bridging sociology, political science, and animal studies to offer a more nuanced understanding of the ideological underpinnings.

Contemporary Relevance and Policy Implications:

The extended exploration underscores the contemporary relevance of the research findings. In a world grappling with environmental crises, the ethical treatment of animals is not only a moral imperative but also crucial for environmental sustainability. Policymakers can draw on the insights from London's narratives and Feldman's urban perspectives to shape legislation that promotes responsible and compassionate interactions with animals. The research calls for policy measures that address not only the immediate concerns of animal welfare but also the broader systemic issues that perpetuate exploitation.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research has navigated the intricate relationship between humans and animals, as portrayed in Jack London's works. London's narratives offer a critical lens through which scholars and policymakers can reevaluate contemporary issues of animal welfare. Mark Bennet Feldman's insights enrich this discourse, emphasizing the overlooked connection with animals as pivotal in human evolution. The call for a paradigm shift urges scholars and policymakers to consider the consequences of human actions on the animal world. This exploration opens a gateway to fostering a more harmonious coexistence between humans and animals, emphasizing the importance of empathy and ethical responsibility in shaping our shared future.

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