

THE CONNOTATIVE MEANING OF THE STORY “UNDER THE LION’S PAW”

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Abstract *It is discussed the connotative meaning of lion through story. Article portrays the negative aspect of animal with the term of lion zoosemy. The term refers to Butler's metaphorical placement of Mr Haskins's paw as he appears to be kind to him. Butler's description as a lion with Haskins beneath his paw highlights an intriguing interaction in the natural world: both predators who take advantage of their prey and defenceless victims .*

Key words: *connotative meaning, metaphora, zoosemy, victim, predators*


Introduction

Connotation ¹²is conveyed over and above the conceptual content of the word, being based on the non-criterial characteristics of the referent. For the example, the word baby is defined by the dictionary as ‘an infant or very young child,’ and can be defined conceptually. However, mention of the word baby causes positive feelings in young mother, and negative ones in a person who is continuously can be carried visually or additively, too: the picture of a baby, or the sound of its cry, can induce the same reaction in the listener.

One of the greatest works of American realism is Hamlin Garland's "Under the Lion's Paw." It portrays the predicament and valiant fight for survival of the American farmer. After the Haskinses lose their farm, a man gives them another chance by offering them the option to rent his land in return for working the ground and making the necessary renovations to make it productive enough to produce crops. Haskins continuously makes sacrifices to keep the soil fruitful, pouring his blood, sweat, and tears into it. America's countryside is steeped with symbolic meaning. It's obvious that the Haskinses have already faced almost difficulties. Haskins and his wife are enjoying the land they have been laboriously working on for the past year. The title alone sums up the story's central premise, which is inequity or man vs man. The title "Under the Lion's Paw" alludes to a character in the narrative who is either strong-armed or imprisoned, exploited, and unable to

¹² Nurma Dwijanarti A paper AN ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING ON THE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN JAMES DASHNER NOVEL “THE DEATH CURE” Indonesia.,2019. Indonesia.





flee. This little narrative paints a vivid image of how difficult life may be in the prairie.

Main body

According to American writer, a man's existence is nothing. "Under the Lion's Paw" is a prime illustration of naturalism as nature triumphs over and destroys Mr. Haskins, a poor man, at least financially. Mr. Haskins describes as "just a puppet under the power of something or someone bigger than him, not a free man as he naively thinks". Farmers have always faced challenges from nature. But in the early 1800s, when work was done entirely by hand without the assistance of tractors, machinery, sprinkler systems, or even insecticides, time management became more of a problem.

Here some extract are taken from story in order to analyse the meaning of the lion.

"Why, about what you offered it for before, two thousand five hundred, or possibly three thousand dollars," he added quickly, as he saw the owner shake his head. "This farm is worth five thousand and five hundred dollars," said Butler, in a careless and decided voice.

"What!" almost shrieked the astounded Haskins. "What's that? Five thousand? Why, that's double what you offered it for three years ago."

"But you had nothin' t' do about that. It's my work an' my money."

"You bet it was; but it's my land."¹³

Poor Haskins is too naïve person that he easily believe to Butler's words without doubt. The theme of injustice is condemned in the story, and Butler's generosity to Mr. Haskins symbolizes his taking him under his paw. By doing nothing Butler wanted to take a lot money from poor. Injustice and inequality, the rich and the poor background of people is explained with doing exploitation. In certain ways, financial hardship and a lack of education and perseverance are like "lions" that impede people's growth and keep them in place like mice, but it is possible to get out from under the lion's paw.


"But I trusted your word."

"Never trust anybody, my friend. Besides, I didn't promise not to do this thing. Why, man, don't look at me like that. Don't take me for a thief. It's the law. The reg'lar thing. Everybody does it."

The law supports Butler. Haskins takes Butler at his word. However, Butler does not go back on his word. Since there was no formal signed agreement, he had

¹³ H. Garland Under the Lion's Paw . – US: Main-Travelled Roads, 2005. – 8 p





to put up with Butler's behavior. The depiction of Butler as a lion holding Haskins under his paw points to the dynamics of the world we live in: nature has exploitative predators as well as helpless prey. This is how it has always been in this world. Butler's evil and unjust behavior is a regular occurrence. Humans treat others unfairly: predators kill their prey in the most brutal ways.

"Well, what do you think of it?" inquired the cool, mocking, insinuating voice of Butler.

"I think you're a thief and a liar!" shouted Haskins, leaping up. "A black-hearted houn!" Butler's smile maddened him; with a sudden leap he caught a fork in his hands, and whirled it in the air. "You'll never rob another man, damn ye!" he grated through his teeth, a look of pitiless ferocity in his accusing eyes.¹⁴

Such injustice encourages working people to commit animalistic behavior. In the story, the farm is flourishing thanks to the hard work of the Haskins family, representatives of the American working class, and Butler wants to take advantage of it. The main theme or moral of the story is that Butler is lion and poor Haskins is in his under paw. Whom he can do every injustice of the society . They even involve their eldest son in the work. Mr. Haskins would have done anything to save his son from farming because it was a burden on the boy. However, it was impossible. It took a lot of work to make this place work. Lion zoosemy depicts unjust, liar, theft, greedy people.

Conclusion

In this story writer want to discuss about American farmers difficulties and obstacles during 19-century. The lack of knowledge, poverty lead the society to the cruel side of life. Lion connotative meaning can portrait the image of greedy, cruel and vicious people who want to take their prey under their paw .By this way they can take a lot of benefits and opportunities. Exploitation can play great crucial role in that time. By making work hard they gain a lot properties, but farmers have nothing. They have a lot labour instead of having money and good condition.

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