

[Review] *Estudios de Zoopoética. La Cuestión Animal en la Literatura / Studies in Zoopoetics. The Animal Question in Literature*. Edited by Pilar Andrade Boué, José Manuel Correoso Rodenas, and Julia Ori. Peter Lang Group AG, 2024. 186 pp.

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In ancient literary texts, the presence or prominence of animals is an essential element in certain narratives. This presence may generate crucial meaning or symbolism, according to each author's objectives. *Estudios de Zoopoética. La Cuestión Animal en la Literatura* presents a perspective on this through the prism of ecocriticism, ecofeminism, and zoopoetics, adding new value to re-readings where animals appear. In other words, the work presents interconnections between species as an enriching element of narrative from the perspective of new ecological materialisms.

The work is structured in four blocks or sections, preceded by an introduction that presents the justification of the research presented in this book. In this section, the authors' committed attitude towards the current environmental crisis is highlighted.

The first section, 'Propuestas teóricas. Animales, escritura e ideologías', provides a theoretical framework for zoopoetics, new ecological materialisms, and vegan (eco)feminism. It analyses both prose and poetry, including *Genesis* and Homero Aridjis's poem 'El Arca' ('The Ark').

Section 2, 'Diálogos interespecies' explores two narratives. There is Sylvain Tesson's travel diary, *La Panthère des Neiges*, about a team tracking the snow leopard in Tibet. We also find the study of a collection of stories about famous people and their experiences

with wild animals. These include the relationship pop singer Madonna has with pheasants and that of Thomas Edison, with the elephant Topsy. In this context the work under investigation is *Love in Infant Monkeys* by American writer Lydia Millet, and it pursues an ecocritical and zoopoetic reading of interspecies dialogue, addressing topics such as violence toward animals used in entertainment, sport, and science.

The third section consists of four chapters focused on the symbolic world and animals, providing various examples in works such as Lilia Hassaine's *L'Œil du Paon* (*The Eye of the Peacock*) and Flannery O'Connor's writings, the latter from its medieval context. One chapter, dedicated to anthropomorphism and theriomorphism, introduces us to certain figures that appear in popular oral stories in the French-speaking archipelagos of Guadeloupe and Martinique. Fables and legends are enriched with characters deeply rooted in Antillean folklore, where sometimes the ontological boundaries between the animal and the human are blurred. This third section concludes with a chapter that examines the work of French writer J.M.G. Le Clézio, who envisions a world in which animals live on equitable terms with humans and a sense of community exists between them.

The final section of the book, 'Relatos de la Sexta Extinción', allows us to imagine dystopian or futuristic worlds. For example, Agustina Bazterrica's *Cadáver exquisito* presents a horrifying story that depicts an extreme situation where humanity becomes dehumanised in a world without animals. The last chapter is written as a science fiction piece. Its title, 'Do Androids Dream of a Better World? Relationships Between Replicants and Alter-Human Animals', allows us to explore alternative realities based on scientific advances and the mysteries of genetics. Several texts are analysed in this chapter, such as Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* and Rosa Montero's trilogy about Bruna Husky. There is a connection between these authors' works, as Montero was inspired by the world created by Dick. The focus and the common thread of this chapter are the replicants or androids. In both cases, the worlds created suffer the consequences of human actions.

In conclusion, the presence of animals in narratives or poems is a constant in world literature, providing unique nuances that enable stories to be read within the framework of new ecological materialisms. This book inspires the readers to reflect on the scope of zoopoetics. The stories presented provoke an experience that engages our critical thinking and makes us question various ethical issues. This book analyses the works of authors that offer a more comprehensive view of the role and study of animals in literature, whether from a more realistic or symbolic perspective. This reading invites us to broaden our perspective on both the literary world and the world around us. It formulates questions that encourage reflection on possible solutions to current problems, to those we can already anticipate, and even to others we might not have imagined prior to reading this book. In addition, the bibliographic references make it easier for us to further investigate theories and other works if we intend to gain a deeper understanding of zoopoetics. As well as being an enjoyable read, this book opens a door, bringing us closer to the authors' comprehensive view of the role and study of animals in literature.