

*Correction of the Exam Paper : Etude et Critique de la Littérature
Anglaise / 2021 – 2022*

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Exercise 1

Five English literary works with their authors:

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Aunt Helen by T.S. Eliot

Hard Times by Charles Dickens

The Black Boy by William Blake

Einstein's Monsters by Martin Amis

Exercise 2

Topic: Discuss Egotism and corruption in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* on a semiotic perspective.

In George Orwell's "Animal Farm," egotism and corruption are depicted through a semiotic lens, employing various symbols and allegorical representations to convey the complex interplay of power dynamics, manipulation, and moral decay within a political context. The narrative employs semiotic elements to underscore the underlying symbolism and deeper connotations associated with the characters, events, and symbols in the story, shedding light on the complex nature of egotism and corruption within totalitarian regimes.

1. **The Pigs as Symbols of Egotism and Corruption:** In "Animal Farm," the pigs, led by Napoleon, serve as symbols of egotism and corruption, representing the ruling elite who exploit their positions of power for personal gain and self-interest. Through their actions and manipulation of semiotic symbols, such as the alteration of commandments and the distortion of historical narratives, the pigs symbolize the deceptive nature of egotism and the corruption of moral principles within a totalitarian society.

2. **The Semiotic Significance of the Farm and its Structures:** The farm and its structures serve as semiotic symbols that reflect the hierarchical power dynamics and the stratification of society within the allegorical narrative. The manipulation of semiotic elements, such as the barn, the windmill, and the farmhouse, underscores the pigs' appropriation of symbols of power and authority, highlighting the semiotic transformation of these structures from communal resources to symbols of elitist privilege and corruption.
3. **Language as a Semiotic Tool of Manipulation:** The manipulation of language and semiotic symbols in "Animal Farm" highlights the pigs' exploitation of rhetoric and propaganda to manipulate the beliefs and perceptions of the other animals. The semiotic significance of slogans, propaganda, and rewritten commandments underscores the pigs' control over the narrative and their ability to shape the collective consciousness of the farm, emphasizing the semiotic manipulation of language as a tool for perpetuating egotism and corruption.
4. **The Transformation of Semiotic Symbols of Revolution:** The transformation of semiotic symbols of the initial Animalist revolution, such as the anthem "Beasts of England," and the guiding principles of equality and justice, underscores the pigs' distortion of revolutionary ideals for their own egotistical and corrupt ends. The semiotic significance of these symbols highlights the pigs' appropriation of revolutionary rhetoric and the subsequent betrayal of the original values of the revolution, symbolizing the erosion of ethical principles and the triumph of egotism and corruption within the political system.

Through its use of semiotic elements and symbols, "Animal Farm" serves as a powerful allegory that critiques the corrupting influence of egotism and the manipulation of symbols within totalitarian regimes. Orwell's narrative underscores the significance of semiotic manipulation in shaping societal narratives and perceptions, highlighting the dangers of unchecked power and the erosion of ethical values within political systems marked by egotism and corruption.