

# Hazards of Anthropocentrism in Jill Culton and Roger Allers's Open Season

K. Nithya <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> II M.A English Literature, V. O. Chidambaram College.

**Abstract-** In general, the whole world experiences various hazards now and then in diverse ways. In another point, unknowingly and sometimes knowingly it moves towards those hazards to meet its own end. Here also, the paper revolves around such ongoing hazardousness of our whole world. It deals with the much uncomplicated film Open Season to expose the very hazardous acts and impacts of the philosophical viewpoint Anthropocentrism. The Open Season is an animated buddy comedy film about an odd couple of buddies that contains the story of a pampered pet grizzly, Boog and wild antler deer, Eliot. In the film, Boog is reared as a pet with all comforts; but in course of time, the situation takes it to the tough wild life where it struggles to adopt its life with a company of Eliot and finally gets the realization from the question what is its real home? So it fights along with the group of wild animals against the people who come to harm them and their home like forest to save their lives and home. Therefore, in the paper, I interpret it is the film of hazards at the ground of anthropocentric views and acts.

The paper entitled "Hazards of Anthropocentrism in Jill Culton and Roger Allers's Open Season" focuses on an unfussy animated buddy comedy film Open Season to explore one of the hazards of our world. In nutshell, the story is about a pampered pet grizzly, Boog and wild antler deer, Eliot. In the film, Boog is reared as a pet with all comforts; but in course of time, the situation takes it to the tough wild life where it struggles to adopt its life with a company of Eliot and finally gets the realization from the question what is its real home? So it fights along with the group of wild animals against the people who come to harm them and their home like forest to save their lives and their home. Here, the main characters undergo self-realization and give worthy messages to the society.

The film gives us a pathway to learn 'how to and how not to treat a non-human organism'. Here, the pet grizzly bear, Boog is reared as domesticated animal by the character Beth, a forest ranger. Beth takes the stand of a mother-like character and she treats it like a baby. She gives all the comforts to it like good foods, fine couch with quilt, spacious garage, refrigerator, television, sophisticated restroom, special place in a jeep and toys such as small bear and dug to play. Even she sings songs to it in the time of sleep. In the way she treats it as soft as possible. Of course, she does not hurt it anyway. But in her domestication, it loses its intuited beary skills. Being as the breed of world's largest grizzly bear, it has no skills of a grizzly bear. Even it does not know to climb on a tree. So it depicts the bad impacts of a pet system. Mostly, the pet system ruins the basic characteristics of an animal. It makes the domesticated animals to depend completely upon its human masters from here the effects of Anthropocentrism

take its roots in the film. And mainly, this film exhibits the concept of anthropocentrism through another major character named Shaw, a cruel hunter who has a strong belief in this concept.

Anthropocentrism is one of the famous philosophical concepts. Here, 'anthro' means humans and centrist means center; so it is a human-centered concept. According to this concept, the humans are the central part of the earth and are the most important living organism among the whole organisms. It values them more than non-human organisms. Because, it believes that human beings are the most primary entities of the universe. So it interprets or regards the world in terms of human values and experience. In the way, it is also called as Humanocentrism. And it regards humans as separated from and superior to non-human organism; so it holds a view that unlike non-human organism, human life has intrinsic values. Thus, it argues that without intrinsic values, non-human organisms are the just resources for human entity; so, for the benefits of humankind, they can exploit it justifiably. Thus, it supports even the negative activities of human beings over the non-human organisms.

Many critics discover the roots of anthropocentrism in the story 'Creation of All Things' from the book of Genesis wherein the humans are created in the image of God and are mentioned as the superior creations over all other living creatures such as flora and fauna. It implies the meaning that in all the creations of God, human beings are the 'crown of creations'. And it indicates that humans are the superior beings over all the creations. So, it makes the belief that the non-human organisms are created only for their benefits. It opens the doors to anti-humanist activities. Therefore, it is an opposite concept to Ecocentrism. It is because of that unlike

ecocentrism, it takes the much narrow down view point of the world that sees individual humans as more valuable than all other organisms. In the way, it is the human-centered concept.

Even in the very opening of the film itself, the anthropocentric action is depicted by Beth who controls her pet bear only with her loud voice to show her mastery weight. Though she is a caring mother-like owner to the bear, she violates the pet system by using her pet to mint money through Bear Show. In the Bear Show, she uses it as a tool to earn money where the bear dances to her tune. So it seems like a puppet in her hands rather than a pet. Because, a pet is mainly a companion animal kept primarily for a person's company, protection rather than as a working animal, livestock or laboratory animal. But Beth works in an opposite direction to the pet system due to the materialistic thought. Though she treats her pet in a good way at first, she thoughts that "other entities including animals . . . are resources that may justifiably be exploited for the benefit of humankind" ( Boslaugh).

In one of the shows, Beth proves her rude behavior towards her own pet bear when it does not obey her words where her anthropocentric domination outbursts into rage. When the situation goes ahead her hands, she does not want to keep it as pet anymore in her home. Because, after that, she is not able control it anymore; and as a result, she has no way to earn money anymore by using it. So she leaves it in the woods without thinking much about the possibilities of its survival in the woods. In her home, it has lived a much comfortable life without knowing the life of bear in woods; so to it, the survival in woods matters a lot. However, she feels for it but she gives primary importance to her anthropocentric values than her baby-like bet. Therefore, the problem is bear's life not the life of Beth. Because, she has reared it with all comforts when it is useful, but when it becomes complicated, she just left it alone even without training any beary skills. But she has trained it for Bear Show for her own purpose. Anyhow, she is not an ardent follower the anthropocentric concept like Shaw.

Shaw is an ardent believer of Anthropocentrism. In all over the film, he wants human beings to be the master to non-human organisms. He is the character who loves to hurt animals and wants to suppress them to the core. Being as a follower of anthropocentric values, he has the superiority complex over the other non-human organism. And by profession also, he is a hunter. So he is the whole replica of anthropocentrism. He is an antagonist of the film who creates more problems to the non-human organisms. His introduction in the film, tells a lot about his brutal character. Because, in his introduction, he hits and breaks the horn of Eliot, an antler deer while driving his hunting jeep in the sides of wood, and ties it in front of the jeep brutally. He keeps on carrying his

hunting gun within him to hunt any animal. Even he does crime by hunting in the hunting restriction time also. In the way, he hoards many animal products in his home by killing huge animals. And he advises others to follow the same anthropocentric values that he follow. According to him, non-human organisms are the mere products of nature. So he hunts huge uncountable animals for his own benefits without considering anything. And he believes that non-human organisms have no intrinsic value in it. And he fears that in the future, the world will be in the hands of non-human organism, if the human beings do not control it or take the charge of master. But Beth is not as brutal as him and she has the motherly kind heartedness also.

The pampered bear screams in shock when it finds itself in the woods. It immediately utters that "where is home? Where is car? Something is missing what is it? My garage is missing and my life is missing on whole" (Culton and Allers). It tries to go back to its home because it is the 'open season' for hunting in their place in which situation it does not believe the forest as its safety home to survive. But it fails in his trial and undergoes many turbulent; and the other animals of the forest also do not help to it to survive in woods. Because, all the animals of the forest are busy in safeguarding its own selves and its places from hunters; and all the animals of the forest are in the fear of limitless hunting. It clearly indicates the violence of anthropocentrism. In the forest, two dabbling ducks narrate their tragic story that happened in the last 'open season' in which except the two is remaining among their thousands of companions; they were shot by the hunters while they flying in the sky. After that incident, they fear a lot to fly in the sky. It is the situation of many animals in the world. Moreover the humans exploit the forest also. So the animals struggle a lot to live.

The film is a social satire. Because, in the world, the foresaid things are happening in reality continuously. We people are the reason for the things. But Culton and Allers give a warning in the final part of the film to the people who follow the anthropocentrism. In the final part, the animals no more fear for the hunters and poachers but pots against the people who come to harm them and their domicile. So it implies the meaning that if we are not ready to give up the hazardous concept of anthropocentrism, then the non-human organism will take the charge at once. Thus, it is better to leave that ism; because it affects both human and non-human organisms. So, it is much better to live with the concept of 'Ecocentrism' in this concept ecosystem is the center and human beings are the parts in it. In this concept, both entities have intrinsic values. So it does not create any crisis. In the short story, *The Man Who Planted Trees*, Jean Giono describes a man who valued and followed the ecocentrism as "He was one of the God's

athletes” (5). So, it is fruitful for any human being to be an athlete of God by practicing the ecocentrism.

Some people think that the western influence and its Christianity are the base for the hazardous anthropocentrism. But it is not God who teaches one to follow the anthropocentric ideology. It is the ideology of human beings who centre on his ego that is egocentrism. From the same hands, human beings as well as the non-human organisms are created. There is no wide discrimination between the two creations. According to the Christian myth, god has created the flora and fauna before human beings. So they are the superior creations than human beings. Trying to suppress, overrule and ill-treat the non-human organisms leads us to the more crises and calamities. If it is hard to worship or celebrate the natural ecosystem and geological system, then one should try to live without harming them for the selfish purpose. But it is true that anthropocentrism is the ideology of anti-humanism that will not enrich one’s life at any point. And it is the major reason for the ecological and geological fluxes. So it is the hazardous ‘ism’ to the human race.

Thus, the simple film explores the great meaningful message to the contemporary corrupted society. It satirizes the typical characters of contemporary world through the characters like Beth and Shaw. And it also exhibits the bad impacts of pet system. The major matter is the warning that creates some awareness about our own actions. In the way, it serves as a tool to display one of the hazards of the contemporary world.

#### **Works Cited**

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