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**Symbolism in  
Stephen king's the Green Mile (1996) and  
George Orwell's Animal Farm (1945)**

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## **Dedication**

- ❖ This dissertation is dedicated to my dear parents who have assisted me during this work.
- ❖ I would also like to dedicate this modest piece of work to :
- ❖ My beloved brothers: Essaid and Mohamed.
- ❖ My beloved fiancé Halim who provided me with moral support.
- ❖ My lovely sister Ghania and her husband Halim, and their children Malak, Rima and Mounouh.
- ❖ My lovely sisters: Katia and Samira.

Lynda

## **Dedication**

- ❖ I dedicate this piece of work to :
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- ❖ My paternal uncles Mokrane and Abdellah.
- ❖ My maternal uncle Hassan and his beloved wife Wiza.
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## **Abstract**

This dissertation is concerned with studying the way of using symbolism in Georg Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945) and Stephen King's *The Green Mile* (1996). To support our research paper, we have employed and identified two main theories : De Saussure' s theory of the Signifier and the signified and Northrop Frye 's Theory of symbolism. In the above mentioned novels, the two authors relied on the historical events that happened at the beginning of the twentieth century in both Europe and America (The Great Depression 1929). This research paper has been divided into three chapters: in which the two novels were analyzed according to different theories. From the analysis done in the three chapters, we have come to a result that the two novels are a great sample of the device of symbolism. We have deduced that the two novels share similar features and that both authors sought to give moral and social reforms even though each author belonged to different environments.

Key words: Inward phase, Literary device, Outward phase, Signified, signifier, Symbolism.

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## **I-Introduction:**

Literature had contributed a lot in forming nations from a generation to another, by transferring facts. It can be considered as the mirror of society. It reflects and presents the image of a society, exposes issues and tries to find a solution to dilemmas. Authors devote their proficiency to make their voice heard and their message read by using a specific way to mark their presence. Therefore, each writer uses a suitable figure of speech such as similes, metaphors, irony and symbolism according to their own choice. Authors use these expressions to create a distinguished space where they mark their own touch and launch their secret to attract their readers.

Figures of speech were divided into nine types.<sup>1</sup>These types are briefly presented in this paragraph. The first one is simile which is the explicit comparison that has a significant role in understanding the literary text.<sup>2</sup>the second one is metaphor, a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that it is not literally true, but helps to explain an idea or make a comparison. In metaphor, we can use a word to describe a person, idea or an object<sup>3</sup>. The third one is hyperbole. The latter is defined by Wren and Martin <sup>4</sup>as “a statement that is made emphatic by overstatement” which means that a word is used for exaggeration. The fourth one is personification which is to give the animal and the objects the role of a person or human characteristics. The fifth one is apostrophe, a speech made by a character that is addressed to a subject that does not exist in that literary work. The sixth one is antithesis which may be seen as the opposite meaning of a word or statement.

The seventh one is synecdoche; it is a figure of speech in which we use one part to talk about the whole, for example hired hand for worker. The eighth one is paradox which means an idea that is wrong or impossible but when it is given deeper analysis it is discovered that it can make sense. The ninth and the final device is a symbol which can be a sign or an

object that is used to represent something else. Our study is concerned with the last kind of these figures, which is “symbols”. Figures of speech or the stylistic devices have an effective role to reach a different meaning in a text. Symbolism is the most necessary and useful device that makes the reader like the story. This is what encouraged us to take this illustration.

Symbolism is among the earliest devices used in American and British literary works; it is used by prominent names in literature like W. Shakespeare in one of his well-known plays *Romeo and Juliet* (1597). Using symbolism in plays or text was a necessity for writers to assure an aesthetic part to their works, either for the external beauty of the text or an internal different sense.

To give more information about symbolism, we present here the time and place of the first outward show of this device. Symbolism initially developed as a French literary movement in the 1880s. It appeared as a reaction against rationalism and materialism that had come to dominate western European culture<sup>5</sup>. In one of Bonaventure’s book, it is highlighted how and why symbolism appeared.

As a literary trend, symbolism was heralded by Baudelaire and theoretically started at the end of the nineteenth century 1870- 1880, however it will truly cover second half of the nineteenth century. Symbolism highlighted a new epistemological paradigm; indeed it reacted against classicism, neoclassicism, romanticism, realism, positivism and naturalism because these literary schools were construed as exhausted, “breathless”, and accordingly incapable of expressing language, concepts and ideas.<sup>6</sup>

This indicates that the ancient schools were incapable of describing or expressing things, feelings and thoughts that is why symbolism appeared. In other words, men were either shy of expressing their feelings directly or were not allowed to express them, for that the appearance of this device meant a lot to writers specifically and people generally.

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Prominent figures like Pierre Purvis De Chavannes, Vilhelm Hamm Ershoi, Ferdinand Holder, Odilon Redon and other ones were behind the emergence of symbolism.<sup>7</sup> Authors are the actors of the literary stage, they always looked for something more effective to get in touch with the readers, and they aimed at giving information of quality and explain as near as possible their issue. Through symbolism, they create a different way to get in touch with the deep meaning of any novel. Symbolism inspired many writers from its appearance because it portrayed a different actuality from naturalism and realism. For that, authors enjoyed using this new device in their writings. They started to reflect an evolution in the techniques of narration and the idea of making art. At the time when naturalism expresses reality in details, symbolism On the other hand aspired imagination, dreams and the indirect truth, and this is what attracted writers.

It is also the chosen device by writers such as George Orwell and Stephen King in their respective works *Animal Farm* (1945) and *The Green Mile* (1996). The two novels are among the works that were written by using the figurative styles that is to say, symbolic device (symbolism), because both works carry a double meaning. The later enables the reader to be closer to the true meaning of the works and enlarge their background about the novels. Authors had a new decade, as the aesthetic wave arrived; symbolism had given area to many writers to show out of the traditional naturalism and realism. The shift attracted many writers to put new ways to express their feeling by using the device of symbolism; they sought to express individual emotional experience with the application of highly symbolized language. The reason why the rise of symbolism gave a new hope to the artists and mainly to authors, is that they use symbolism to produce an impact, which it accomplishes by attaching additional meaning to an action, object or name. Symbolism also permits to convey something to the readers in a poetic (indirect) way instead of saying it outright.

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## Review of literature

Stephen King's *The Green Mile* and George Orwell's *Animal Farm* are among the best known novels. The content of the two books and the important elements they carry about the portrayal of the corruption and hypocrisy in the Twentieth century in Europe and America, were the center of interest for many writers. In fact, the two novels have been studied by many critics from different perspectives. They have even compared them to a large number of other literary works.

Concerning *Animal Farm*, there have been many analyses about the political *side* of this novel. Many readers related *Animal Farm* to political issues at the period of its publication and put a great emphasis on the relationship between the novel and politics. In his article entitled "*The Dual Purpose of Animal Farm*" Paul, Kirchner said "after nearly sixty years, debate continues over the ultimate political meaning of *Animal Farm*, owing partly to its use as propaganda, but also to Orwell's original purpose, which was artistic as well as political"<sup>8</sup>. He gave space to show the influence of George Orwell the strong politician on George Orwell the author. He states that *Animal Farm* adopted his political thoughts.

Because of the severe crisis mainly between the East and the West, the cold war, some readers and critics focused only on the indirect clash against the Soviet Union. In this context, in an article entitled: "*All Propaganda Are Dangerous but Some Are More Dangerous than Others: George Orwell and The Use of Literature as Propaganda.*"(2015.149-161), Samantha, S. wrote:

Animal farm tells the story of a group of farm animals (Russians) that overthrow their bumbling, alcoholic farmer, Mr. Jones (Tsar Nicholas II), in order to achieve an idealistic vision of the future set down for them by the aging Old Major (Marx).<sup>9</sup>

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In this article, Samantha wanted to show *Animal Farm* as a work that contained propaganda in multiple forms. The article mentioned the propaganda that was set in *Animal Farm*. In other words, the article put emphasis on the fact that the author's aim of writing the novel was politics or more exactly propaganda. Moreover, it shed lights on the use of literature in politics.

After the publication of *Animal Farm*, lights were shed on the political satire, and the majority of critics and authors highlighted the fact that George Orwell made a political satire about the Soviet Union. However, there is another theme which is highlighted by one of the critics of this work which is the theme of corruption. Houcine, Nouasri devoted his dissertation entitled "*Theme of Corruption in George Orwell Animal Farm*" to say that "the corrupting effect of power is one of the central themes of *Animal Farm*" he adds that "the corruption of the principles of the revolution is illustrated by the changing seven commandments, which are misused over the course of the book."<sup>10</sup>

The diversity of themes in *Animal Farm* led this novel to travel all around the world, one more time. It is also given space by El Barbary, in the Kuwait University (1992), where he exploited his research to talk about language in *Animal Farm*. In his essay, he analyzed the use of language by each animal in the novel and he related language to the role of the character. For example, through his language analysis of the character of Napoleon, he said: "Malevolent, Napoleon, though in character not much a talker, still he adequately fits words and articulator dynamics to objects"<sup>11</sup>. This means that from the language analysis of the character of Napoleon, we can understand his role and position in the novel.

*Animal Farm* is among the successful literary works that gives the reader useful concepts because it treats complex subjects and issues in an easy way and a simple language. It deals with several themes and incorporates a lot of devices. Meghouari had devoted her dissertation

to talk about personification within the novel. She asserts “It could be seen that personification is one of the most common and vivid stylistic devices which George Orwell uses in *Animal Farm* to beautify it.”<sup>12</sup>

Concerning *The Green Mile*, many scholars analyzed it, but the majority of them focused on the important themes that were analyzed in the novel, such as death and justice. In his work “*Rational of Punishment*” (1830), Jeremy Bentham, a British philosopher, discussed the theme of death by saying: “death is regarded by most men as the greatest of all evils; and that especially among those who are attached to life by the ties of reputation, affection, enjoyment, hope, or fear, it appears to be more efficacious punishment than any other”.<sup>13</sup>

The above quotation illustrated how death can be regarded cruel, specifically to those who enjoy life, and the contrary to those who suffer. It is evident that the evil is the source of all bad things which bring us pain. A person or a society can be a part or a cause of the decline of our situation and this is expressed in this novel, because what happened to the protagonist is the result of human deeds and not of evil deeds.

This novel is also criticized by the American politician Edward Koch in his essay entitled “*Death and Justice: How Capital Punishment Affirms Life*” (1985). He talked about death penalty and affirmed that the life of human being is very valuable. He stated that even though you kill the body of someone, you can never kill the soul because it still exists in the world. In his critical study, Koch talked about death penalty or capital punishment and he described it as barbaric. He said that an innocent man can be executed wrongly, so he opposed all acts of killing.<sup>14</sup>

In addition to these critics, we have Douglas, E. Coward, in his book entitled ‘*America’s Dark Theologian: The Religious Imagination of Stephen King*’. He affirmed that mostly all Stephen king’s books are full of fiction, and religious aspects are found throughout king’s

fiction. From this book, we understand that Stephen King is known for his scary and horror stories, which make the reader frightened.<sup>15</sup>

## **Issue and Working Hypotheses**

From these previous critical works, we can notice that both George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Stephen King's *The Green Mile* have attracted the attention of many scholars, the majority of these critics put emphasis on the political view and they related the novel's context to the author's characters and environment. On the other hand, some critics were attracted by the way propaganda was used in *Animal Farm*. Concerning *The Green Mile*, scholars focused on the theme of death and death penalty, and others extended their studies to analyze the issue of justice/ injustice and highlighted the problem of racism in this novel.

Therefore, in order to give more space to these two novels and reinforce these previous studies, we choose to open a new door through which we would highlight an important issue which is a study of the use of symbolism in these two literary texts. Throughout our research, we have noticed that this issue has not been given much importance and enough space to be discussed; that is why we want to explore this space and talk about it.

Our study will focus on how these two authors added a new and mysterious view to their pieces of literature by using symbolism. The two novels suggest a double meaning to the readers; which they (the readers) may discover by reading beyond the words and this is expressed by author and lecturer Hall, P. In one of his books: "symbolism is the language of mysteries, by symbols men have ever sought to communicate to each other those thoughts which transcend the limitation of language."<sup>16</sup>

The scholars, critics and even the simple readers of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Stephen King's *The Green Mile*, may experience a new style of writing with using

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symbolism, and may wonder about the author's use of symbolism in their pieces of works and their aim behind the use of the device in the novels. To discuss the ideas mentioned above, we provided here the following hypotheses: in the novels we can notice that symbolism is used both to make it beautiful and interesting, and that the authors provided another meaning to their novels by using symbols, each character, each event means something else than its literal meaning.

### **Methodological Outline.**

At the methodological level, our memoir will be conducted by using the IMRAD method. Our dissertation is divided into three sections. In the first section, we have started with a general introduction written about our themes, and then we have provided the reader with a review of the literature in which we have mentioned the works that have already analyzed *Animal Farm* and *The Green Mile*. The second section is devoted to methods and materials. This part includes summaries of both Northrop Frye's concepts of "Outward" and "Inward" phases in his theory of symbolism and Ferdinand De Saussure's dichotomies "the signifier" and "the signified". Furthermore, this part includes biographies of the authors and a brief synopsis of the two novels to help the reader understand the elementary and basic idea about the novels.

The result will expose and show the important and the final findings of our work that are included in discussion. The third section refers to discussion, the most important part of this work which will include two chapters. We tend to analyze the two novels by making reference to the two theories mentioned above. In the first chapter, we will examine the two novels from the perspectives of Frye's theory of symbolism. The second one will be divided into two parts. In the first one, the dichotomies of De Saussure are going to be applied on the two novels and in the second part, a comparison between the two novels specifically from the

way the stylistic device is used in the two novels is to be applied. Then, similarities and differences between the novels are going to be cited in order to widen our knowledge concerning the two novels. The dissertation will end with a conclusion that will mainly restate our findings.

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## End notes

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## II-Methods and Materials

### 1 Methods

This section of our dissertation contains the study of symbolism, in both novels: *The Green Mile* by Stephen King and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. To cover this study, we made use of two important theories in order to enlarge, widen and best explain our theme, which are the theory of Ferdinand De Saussure and the theory of Herman Northrop Frye that will be explained in the following lines. Before exposing the two methods, the meaning of symbolism, is going to be explained in order to facilitate its understanding to the reader.

#### a-The Definition of Symbolism

The definition of “symbolism” or “symbol” had been a center of attention for many researchers and scholars. It is defined as the use of something concrete to represent something abstract. In other words, symbolism is used to give another sense and value than the literal one expressed in the text. It is defined as follows:

A symbol is something used for or regarded as, representing something else. A symbol is a word, phrase or other expressing having a complex associated meaning, in this sense, a symbol is viewed as having values different from those of whatever is being symbolized...Many poets have used as a symbol of youth and a beauty, a flag is a piece of cloth which stands for is a symbol of a nation.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, one can understand that symbolism aims at representing something else. It means that the author expresses the meaning in a poetic way. This latter is indirect contrary to the traditional way of writing which was based mainly on reality and naturalism. By symbolism, a word can mean something beyond its real meaning. To understand symbolism, one should refer to its etymology “The root of the verb ‘symbol’ came from the Greek word ‘sumbolon’ which means sign or mark referring to the Greek verb”<sup>2</sup>

A symbol may refer to more than one explanation, for example the word red can refer to the color, as it can symbolize love or blood. In other words, “a symbol may be defined as something that means more than what it is”.<sup>3</sup> In fact symbolism is the act of using symbols in literature or poetry, in dreams or even in real life. In terms of literature, the major aim of symbolism is to create a new meaning, different from the literal one. Symbolists saw that the only way to tell the truth and convey reality is through the indirect way with using symbolism. Literature and writing in general had been a refuge to many artists, authors and a lot of people from the problems and complexities. Therefore, it was a way also to express feelings and emotions in a hidden and unclear way. In this context David Galens says:

They (symbolists) sought to convey very personal irrational and dreamlike states of consciousness, relying on metaphorical language to approximate or symbolize an eternal essence of being that, they believed, was abstracted from the scope of the five senses.<sup>4</sup>

For, symbolists using symbolism, is an aim to have the opportunity to express man’s inner life and feelings in a way that is different from the traditional ones. This time, human life is highlighted but in a secret way. It is undoubtedly that men were not free to express their feelings and emotions directly, for that, symbolism is the best way to express their needs.

### **b- Herman Northrop Frye’s Outward and Inward Phases.**

Herman Northrop Frye is a Canadian literary critic and a famous literary theorist in the 20<sup>th</sup>c, who made the concept of symbolism as the main aspect of his studies. According to him, the word “symbol” means any unit of a literary structure that can be isolated for critical attention<sup>5</sup>. Frye had a powerful international influence on modern critical theory. For him, literature constitutes an autonomous system, an order of works and words to be analyzed through a systematic approach.

Northrop Frye’s *Anatomy of Criticism* (1957) contains four essays. The first essay entitled Historical Criticism: Theory of Modes (pp. 31-64), the second essay entitled Ethical

Criticism: Theory of Symbols (pp.65-120), the third essay entitled Archetypal Criticism: Theory of Myths (pp. 121-224) and the fourth and last essay entitled Rhetorical Criticism: Theory of Genres (pp.121-224).Northrop Frye started his book with a polemical introduction where he claimed that there is a possibility of a synoptic view of the theory, and techniques of literary criticism, from the important aims of this book, making the reader believe in the synoptic view and provide versions of the later in order to convince the readers of that view.

Our study is related to the second essay entitled “Ethical Criticism: Theory of Symbols”. Frye affirms that when reading a text, someone concentrates or gives attention mainly to two things to two directions. The first one is “outward”, in which the readers have a superficial reading, while the second direction is “inward”, which means that the readers go deeply into the meaning and try to appreciate.<sup>6</sup>

Northrop Frye wanted to imply judicial evaluation of the moral element of literature. He also wanted to give space to the connection between art and life which makes it close to the readers. Frye’s theory about symbolism had offered an important analysis to the previous mentioned works.

### **C-Ferdinand de Saussure’s Signified and Signifier:**

Ferdinand de Saussure, a Swiss linguist, semiotician and philosopher, known as the founder of modern linguistics, in his “Course in General Linguistics”. A book summarizing his lectures to his students at the University of Geneva, He explained the relation between speech and the progression of language. De Saussure viewed a linguistic unit to be a “double entity”. According to him, there are two important components in the “symbolism system” which is: the signifier and the signified.

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De Saussure created the terms in order to break down what a sign was. For him, the signifier is the sound associated with or the image of something, for example, a book. However, the signified is the idea or the abstract concept of that thing represented, referring to the idea that comes to mind when we say a “book”. In addition, de Saussure affirmed that these two elements are inseparable. It means that you can’t have one without the other, and he affirmed that the relation between these two is arbitrary. In other words, there is no logical connection between them.<sup>7</sup>

Moreover, the sign is the object that combines the signifier and the signified into a meaningful unit. It presents one of the concepts introduced by De Saussure in his linguistic theory. He sees language as a system of arbitrary signs. The sign is defined as a relationship between two characteristics: le signifié (the signified) and le signifiant (the signifier). The first refers to an idea or concept while the second one refers to a form or an acoustic image. The sign (the object/ thing) is divided into two concepts the first one is “the signifier” which is the physical existence (sound, word, image). The second one is “the signified” which is presented as the mental concept.

To conclude, the signifier and the signified are terms used in linguistics to describe the components of a sign, De Saussure says that linguistic signs are by nature linear because they represent a span in a single dimension. So, he also changed the way language is understood. According to him, meaning is created inside language and he viewed a society as a system of institution and social norms that forms a collective system.

## 2Materials

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### a- Biography of George Orwell.

George Orwell is the pseudonym of Eric Arthur Blair. His pen name is derived from the River Orwell in East Anglia. He was born on June, 25<sup>th</sup> 1903, in Motihari, Bengal in India. His strong political point of view made him a famous English novelist, essayist and critic. His father was a minor British official in the Indian civil service and his mother Ida Mabel Blair grew up in Moulmein, Burma. After moving to England, he was sent to preparatory school in 1911 in the Sussex Coast.

He was rapidly distinguished among his mates by his teachers for his brilliance and intelligence. The truth is that he grew an eccentric, morose and a withdrawn boy with an unusual behavior. Orwell won a scholarship to two leading schools in England, but he chose to go to Eton where he published his first writing in college. He was hugely influenced by his master Aldus Huxley. In 1922, he went back to Burma as it was a family tradition and worked as an assistant district in the Indian imperial police. Later, he was to recount his reactions to imperial rule in his novel *Burmese Days* published in 1934 and also In his two biographical sketches.

In 1930, Orwell had begun to consider himself as a true socialist. He had always been against communism and Stalinism (anti Stalinism). From 1941 to 1943, George Orwell worked on propaganda for the BBC, and in 1945, Orwell's *Animal Farm* was published. This novel opened for him the door of fame and made him known over the world by his unique political fable. At this period, he became financially comfortable for the first time in his life. His first book *Down And Out in Paris and London*, was published in 1933. His career was marked by two hugely influential novels *Animal Farm* and *1984*. Orwell's life started to

deteriorate after being diagnosis of tuberculosis, at the age of 46 years old. He died in 1950 at the University College Hospital, London.

George Orwell is among the prominent writers who influenced many other writers. He has been a source of impression for a lot of the beginners in writing and literature lovers. Thus, the Orwell Foundation, situated in the United Kingdom, created the Orwell Prize. This prize is given every year by this foundation to the writers who write texts which are close to Orwell's political writing. This prize is an encouragement to writers.<sup>8</sup>

### **b- Summary of *Animal Farm***

*Animal Farm* is an allegorical novel written by the English writer George Orwell, in England in 1945. The original title was *Animal Farm: A Fairy Tale*, later it was changed to *Animal Farm*. The novel was written between November 1943 and February 1944 that is in a period when England was in a war alliance with the Soviet Union against the Nazi Germany. During this time, Joseph Stalin (a Soviet politician) had a high esteem from the British people, a fact that Orwell had never been pleased with.

*Animal Farm* covers or carries a history of a group of animals living in a poor farm called Manor Farm, somewhere in England. According to Orwell, there are two different classes in this farm: the first one is the owner of this farm named Mr. Jones, a harsh and a controlling man always drunk (alcoholic). The second one is the animals that live a really hard life with extremely bad conditions. The animals of the farm decide to shape a new planning to their life because of being tired of their miserable life. They decide to end their sufferance and live in dignity and liberty. So they decide to rebel against the farm owner in order to have a better life, to live in justice and freedom. They dream of a society where all animals are equal and free. Unfortunately, they do not realize that because of betrayal.

Instead, they end up in a situation even worse than the first one that is a situation of dictatorship.

What makes this novel important and famous is its allegorical sense. We cannot talk about this novel without relating it to the Soviet Union. According to the author, the fable reflects the events that led to the Russian revolution and then to the Stalinist period of the Soviet Union. In his novel, Orwell satirizes Joseph Stalin that is what makes this novel controversial. *Animal Farm* had been chosen as one of the one hundred best English language novels from 1923 to 2005 by Time Magazine. It is also included within the great books of the western world selection.

### **C- Biography of Stephen King:**

Stephen Edwin King is an American author of horror fiction. He was born on September 21<sup>ST</sup>, 1947 in Portland Main. He is considered as one of the most popular writers. His parents Donald Edwin King and Nellie Ruth divorced when he was young. In January 1959, King started his writing career, and then in 1963, he published a collection of 18 short stories. King studied at the University of Maine at Orono. There, he graduated from Lisbon Falls High School in 1966.

After his graduation with a degree in English in 1970, he tried to find a job as a teacher. At the beginning, he found difficulties and did not succeed. Then, he started working as an English educator at Hempden Academy. In 1971, he was married to Tabitha King. His first published book *Carrie* (1974) was considered as his best novels. The book has brought a huge success and this led King to win fame and fortune.

Stephen King's second novel "*The Shining*" was published in 1977 and was in the bestseller lists. In addition to these books, he had sold more than 350 million copies, and

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many of them were turned into well-known films. This made him a popular writer all over the world .In 1996, King published his famous novel *The Green Mile*, which succeeded to win public interest not just at the national level, but went beyond the boundaries to reach the international level.

The novel won Bram Stoker Award in 1997. Moreover, King was awarded with precious awards such as the National Book Award Medal in 2003 for his distinguished contribution to American Letters. King had also received World Fantasy Award. Stephen King was considered to be among the best American writers and was often described as the king of horror.<sup>9</sup>

#### **d- Summary of The Green Mile**

*The Green Mile* is a novel written in 1996. It tells the story of death row supervisor Paul Edgecombe's encounter with John Coffey, an unusual inmate who displays inexplicable healing abilities. It was first published in six paperback volumes, and then it has been republished as a single volume with 465 pages. This fictional novel is based on a true story. The story is narrated by an old man called Paul Edgecombe, who works as the block supervisor of the cold mountain penitentiary death row, named *The Green Mile*. It is given this name because of the color of its linoleum floor, where the inmates wait for the day of their execution.

In 1932, a black man called John Coffey is brought to the death row (Cold Mountain). He has been convicted of raping and murdering two young white girls. During this period on the Mile, John Coffey encounters with a rapist and murderer prisoner Delacroix (Dell) and William Wharton (wild bill).Paul and other guards deal with the prisoners with kindness and respect except Percy Wetmore, who is disliked by everyone because of his bad behavior in dealing with his prisoners due to his administrative position. Edgecombe allows Wetmore to

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prepare the execution of Edward Delacroix who is spending his days playing with a little mouse (Mr. Jingle) which gives him pleasure.

When John Coffey is brought into E. Block (it is the block where they are executed), he is unable to remember where he comes from and he seems to be quiet. Though John Coffey is a strong and a giant man, Paul Edgecombe is surprised by his request to let the light on in the night because he is afraid of the dark. Over time, Paul realizes that John Coffey owns magical healing abilities. He cures Paul's Urinary tract infection and he succeeds to revive Mr. Jingle (the mouse of the inmate Edward). Once again, he cures the Warden's wife Melinda from a brain cancer. He also succeeds to pass the disease from Melinda to Percy and pushes him into madness.

At the end of the novel, Paul discovers that John is innocent and he proves that it is Wharton who killed the two white girls, and Coffey was just trying to revive them. However, the cruel world does not seem to fit John Coffey. So, he is ready to die in the electric chair because he wants to escape from the horror of the world. After his death, Paul explains that those healed by John Coffey will live an extra ordinary long life. At the end of the novel, Paul is 108 years and the mouse Mr. Jingle is 64 years old.

## End notes

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<sup>1</sup>Elaheh, F. 'Symbols, metaphors, simile, in literature: a case study of Animal Farm'. English ad. Vol2.(2011)Literature,19-26.Viewed on October 2020. Available from:

<https://www.academicjournals.org/jeIISSN2141-2626academicjournals>

<sup>2</sup>Bonaventure, B. 'Symbolism, synesthesia and semantics, multidisciplinary approach'. Bloomington, in xilibrispublishing corporation, (2012), 19.

<sup>3</sup>Lawrence, P. 'literature: structure sound and sense'. Harcourt Bracre Jovanovich, New York (1974), 628.

<sup>4</sup>David, G. 'literary movement for students presenting: analysis context and criticism on literary movement. De droit gale. USA (2002), 15.

<sup>5</sup>Northrop, F. '*Anatomy of Criticism*'. Princeton University, New Jersey USA. (1957), 71

6 Ibid 73

<sup>7</sup>Ferdinand,de, S. Trans. Wade Baskin. Cours de linguistique General. Eds. Charle Bally and Albert Sechalye.1916, chapter 2, 16.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid 66

<sup>9</sup>Celona, T. '1984'. Lit charts LLC. 2013 Viewed on November2020, availablefrom<http://www.litcharts.com/lit/1984>

<sup>10</sup>Mary, S. '*It*'.Litcharts. 2018. Accessed on December2020. Retrieved from <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/it>

### III- Results

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Through the analysis of both George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Stephen King's *The Green Mile*, and working with two of important theories which belong to Ferdinand De Saussure and Northrop Frye, we have come to a conclusion that these two works are different from the superficial reading but in reality there are some links that gather them.

In the first chapter of our work, entitled "Northrop Frye: Outward and Inward phase", through applying this theory on the two works, it is found that both novels have a superficial meaning, which is delivered to all the readers. On the other hand, we have the undersurface meaning, which is delivered in a hidden way (deep meaning) this one is delivered to the category of readers who deepen their reading.

In the second chapter, the theory of De Saussure is provided. In this part, we have analyzed the two works according to de Saussure's dichotomies and we come up to the conclusion that both works have the two dichotomies of De Saussure. When reading the works carefully, we can find that there is a signifier and a signified in both novels.

We have also tried to provide a simple comparison between the two works, in which we have mentioned their similarities and differences. Though the works come from different backgrounds and have different central themes, we come to a conclusion that these two works are similar or are linked by the use of the same device (figurative style) which is symbolism. The works as we have already mentioned, fit the study of symbolism.

The figure of speech (symbolism) is widely used in the works we are dealing with in this research paper; the two novels are a great sample to study this device. In other words, each event is mentioned for a purpose, there is no act without a symbol, each act, every character mentioned is a symbol of another one than its literal meaning.

## IV-Discussion

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In this part of our work, we shall discuss and analyze the two works *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and *The Green Mile* by Stephen King by making reference to Northrop Frye's concept "the outward and the inward phase" and De Saussure's dichotomies "the signifier" and "the signified." In the first chapter, we will study the novels from Frye's perspective. In the second one, we tend to study these works by referring to de Saussure's concepts and present the similarities and the differences between the two novels.

### Chapter One: Northrop Frye's Outward and Inward Phases

Symbolism is a device which helps the reader gets in touch with the deep novel. Therefore, authors and linguists have devoted their time to explore and discuss this device such as Northrop Frye. Symbolism is used in the novels we are dealing with. Therefore, we will try to highlight some examples of symbolism in these two novels by relating them to Frye's theory. The outward phase is a concept used by Northrop Frye in his *Anatomy of Criticism*. In his second essay entitled *Ethical Criticism: "Theory of Symbols" (1957)*, he introduced the outward phase which can be understood as the literal meaning of the novel (the superficial meaning). And in the following lines a literal meaning of both novels is conducted.

#### 1- The Outward Phase in *Animal Farm*

*Animal Farm* is a novella that had a great impact on the readers and society as well. It is one of the Britain's most popular novels. George Orwell has succeeded by using a simple comprehensive language to impress a lot of readers. As a novel full of symbolism, *Animal Farm* has two different meanings. We put between the reader's hands a double sense novel. In this part, a superficial study of the novel is to be provided.

When reading *Animal Farm* for the first time without any deep analysis, one may refer to a farm which is situated in England, under the control of an alcoholic man called Mr. Jones

who is irresponsible, careless and an incautious person. The irresponsibility of the farm's owner has made the animals willing to get rid of him and of the life they were living inside that farm. They did not find the care, safety and protection that they need to survive.

They are even put in a dangerous situation which is expressed in the very first page of the novel. We find for instance "Mr. Jones of the manor farm, had locked the hen houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the pap-holes". In this passage, it is depicted to what extent the owner of the farm neglects the animals. He even forgets to shut the door for their security, simply because he returns home drunk.

The animals of the farm including the three pigs Napoleon, Snowball, Squalor, the carthorse boxer, the boar old major and the donkey Benjamin are not happy with their owner. For such reason, they want to expel him from the farm. They want to improve their living situation. The first step to change is initiated with a meeting which is organized by the wise and the old boar named Old major (he is living his last days). Old Major makes a speech to the other animals in which he starts to describe the worse conditions the animals are living. He says:

Now, comrades what is the nature of the life of ours? let us face it, our lives are miserable, laborer and short, we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our bodies, and those of us who are capable of it are forced to work to the last atom of our strength: and the very mistake that our usefulness has staggered with hideous cruelty, no animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure, after he is a year old, no animal in England is free, the life of animal is misery, slavery that is the plaid truth.<sup>1</sup>

From this passage, one may understand that the wiser and the older of the animals gather them to discuss the bad conditions in which they are living. He also tells them that they are not happy and free as they should be. The meeting is as an awakening for the animals to show them the poor situation they are in. They are also reminded of the abuse and mistreatment of the human being.

Through his speech, he suggests that the animals should take a serious action to improve their living conditions. Old major informs the animals about the sad reality in which they live. To encourage them, he adds that the man is the one who produces less in society but still he is the only one who controls, he says that “Man is the only creature that consumes without producing, he doesn’t give milk, he doesn’t lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast to catch rabbit, yet he is the lord of all animals.”<sup>2</sup>In his meeting, Old Major explains that the man is the one who does not work but he is the one who controls everybody in the farm.

Few days after his speech, Old Major dies and his advice is applied. The pigs have taken his place, they keep talking about the worse conditions and they have convinced the other animals to rebel. The animals make a revolution aiming at a better life. They put Mr. Jones out of the farm and destroy all the things that remind them with that man. They even change the name of the farm from Manor Farm to Animal Farm.

However, few days later things become out of control, as the pigs take control of the farm and start to do exactly what the man did before. The pigs act like owners of the farm and the animals worked hard. Thus the pigs are rarely seen, they are the ones who control and give orders. They are never seen working like the other animals. They even build a school only for the piglets. In short, the pigs replace the man.

The basic amendment written at the beginning of their revolution “All animals are equal” is changed to “All animals are equal but some are more equal than others”. The pigs take the place of the man and even start to wear clothes and play cards. The animals find themselves looking from the window exactly as they used to do with Mr. Jones. It is difficult to distinguish the pigs from the man because they were doing exactly as him and this is highlighted in this passage “twelve voices were shouting in anger, and they were all alike. No

question, now, what had happened to the faces of the pigs? The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again: but already it was impossible to say which was which”<sup>3</sup> That is to say, later on, the pigs do exactly what the man did, and the animals are exploited again, this time, by the pigs and not by the man.

In this part, George Orwell’s novel *Animal Farm* is analyzed by making reference to Frye’s outward phase. Thus, the novel is viewed from the superficial meaning. The ideas that can be extracted from the first reading are conducted in the analysis. That is to say, the first impression of reading the novel will help us come up with the outward sight.

## **2-The Outward Phase in *the Green Mile***

Like George Orwell’s novel, *The Green Mile* has also a double meaning. In this part, we will highlight the novel’s outward meaning. When reading *The Green Mile*, one can understand that the story is about a black giant man John Coffey, who is condemned for killing two white girls. He is brought to jail to be executed in an electric chair by the death row supervisor Paul Edgecombe.

The story is set up in Cold Mountain in 1932 which is revealed in the first lines of the first and second chapter. Stephen King says “this happened in 1932, when the state penitentiary was still at Cold Mountain and the electric chair was there too, of course.”<sup>4</sup> The novel is called so because the floor of the block E where the prisoners are executed is green. It is also called the “last mile” as it represents the last walk of the prisoners. It is explained by Paul Edgecombe when he says: “the wide corridor up the center of E block was floored with linoleum the color of tired old times, and so what was called the last mile at other prisons, was called the green mile at Cold Mountain.”<sup>5</sup> the citation’s words explain the reason for which the prison was called green mile.

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In *The Green Mile*, one can notice that the author developed several issues. Racism is among the issues raised in the novel. Through the physical appearance given to John Coffey, the reader directly notices that the protagonist is a black man, who is condemned to death because of killing two white girls even though his innocence is clear from the description given to him in the first lines of the book. For instance, when he is described as a giant man but afraid of darkness.

The question to be asked is the reason behind accusing a black man as being the murderer of the two white girls. The existence of the word “white” is already a sign of racism. Thus, the issue of racism is deduced and noticed. Racism in *The Green Mile* is an issue which is studied by many critics to claim that racism is often used to show that blacks are cruel and make them viewed differently from the white people.

Justice is among the problems raised in *The Green Mile*. From the first reading of the novel, one can notice the unbalance in the judicial system. The first lines of the novel uncover that the system of justice is not working the way it should, since an innocent man is put in prison. The judicial system is not always accurate, since it can condemn innocent people to death and take their life even if they have no relation with the crimes committed. It is the case of the protagonist of this novel John Coffey. Thus, it is shown through the novel that justice sometimes causes the sufferance of some people. Stephen King demonstrated that justice sometimes fails because it cannot make distinction between innocent and guilty people.<sup>6</sup>

When reading *The Green Mile*, one can notice that a new idea is formed about death. For most people death is something bad as it is the worst thing that human being is exposed to. In the novel, however death appears as something wanted to happen since the protagonist John Coffey chooses to die in the electric chair even though he is declared innocent and free. King through the novel gives a new understanding of the word death since for John Coffey’s life is

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not always the happiest thing that a man can have. Even death can be a refuge for some people to rest from the sufferance of the cruel world.<sup>7</sup>

At the end of the novel, John Coffey seems to hate the life he is living and sees the world as meaningless. The prison guard could not convince him to stay alive and chooses to die on the electric chair, because he considers death as a rest from the unjust life he is living. This is the outward reading and the basic ideas that we might get from the superficial reading of Stephen King's novel *The Green Mile*. In this part, the outward reading of the novel is conducted and the ideas that the reader can get from its first reading are mentioned above.

### **3- The Inward Phase in *Animal Farm***

In this part of our work, a new view is formed about Orwell's novel because when we have analyzed it, we have found that it is a satirical novel about the political regime of Russia or the Soviet Union. In this part of the first chapter, we intend to show that George Orwell mirrors events that happened in Russia, and that the animals of the farm represent other characters that existed in the Soviet Union

After reading the novel deeply, it is found out that the central and important issues may attract us more to the novel. In the outward phase, we have seen the themes and the issues discussed and got from the superficial reading of novel. In this part, we are concerned with the analysis of the novel. Each character and each event in the novel has a double meaning and a symbolic sense which is related to the political regime in Russia. Orwell's *Animal Farm* satirizes the Russian political regime. It depicts the Russian revolution and the rise of Stalin, Each animal character in the book is a symbol or a key character in the Russian revolution.<sup>8</sup>

To understand the way George Orwell depicts the Russian revolution, one should have prior knowledge about it. The later is one of the most important historical events that have

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drawn the historical map of Russia, it is also called the October revolution, and the causes of this revolution encompass Russia's political, social and economic situations. The Bolshevik war took place in 1917, when the peasants and working class in Russia revolted against the government of Tsar Nicholas II. They were led by Vladimir Lenin, the new communist government created the Soviet Union. Before the revolution, Russia was ruled by a powerful monarch (Tsar Nickolas) who had a total power in Russia. He commanded the army, owned much of lands and even controlled the church which was the main cause of his rejection by the working class.<sup>9</sup>

One can say that *Animal Farm* was based mainly on the Russian revolution. The novel is based on the betrayal of the Russian revolution by Joseph Stalin and each event was extracted from the political regime of Russia, even the characters were derived from the famous political figures of the Russian government at that time. As it is mentioned previously that *Animal Farm* is a satire that mirrors the unequal and unjust behavior of the society, therefore this study aims at illustrating the use of symbols, characters and events. And the following are some of the symbols employed in this novel.

### **a- Characters as symbols:**

Mr. Jones the owner of the farm is reported as a cruel chief who controls all the farm exactly like Tsar Nickolas was. Mr. Jones applies authority and power over his animals, that work hardly and without taking a break whereas he relaxes comfortably doing nothing. He gives the animals little food just to prevent them from starvation and death. The animal's life can be compared to proletariat's life (the working class) in the Soviet Union.<sup>10</sup> In addition, Old Major is reported as being Karl Marx as both of them want a change. Old Major is tired of the miserable life the animals live and hence calls for a meeting where he gathers all the

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animals to encourage them for a rebellion, exactly as Karl Marx with his Communist Manifesto which tried to end and drive out the existence of capitalism.<sup>11</sup>

Snowball as another character, is compared to Trotsky. He is known as being a good and smart speaker. Snowball is Napoleon's friend. The two pigs are exactly like Trotsky and Stalin. Trotsky is the friend of Stalin (a Soviet Union politician). The pigs' friendship does not last for a long time because Snowball wants to build a windmill in the farm but Napoleon opposes harshly which leads to the exile of Snowball. This tragic end is exactly the end of Trotsky when being exiled when Stalin became the first man in Russia. (Ibid)<sup>12</sup>

Furthermore, Napoleon is like Stalin who is ambitious and strong. Both of them aim at achieving a higher position. Stalin used all the means to be the first man in Russia. The same for Napoleon who aims endlessly to control the farm and became the animals' leader. Both of them are known for being extremely dictators.<sup>13</sup>

The last character to consider in Orwell's novel is Squealer, who was frail and fragile, but intelligent and a good talker. Therefore, he is used by Napoleon as a reporter of his ideas and orders. Napoleon then exploited him to convince his comrades that he is the best leader, exactly like Pravda (a Russian broadsheet newspaper) who is used by Stalin to spread his new policies. Boxer is presented as the proletariat, because of being exploited and working all the time to satisfy Napoleon.<sup>14</sup>

### **b-Other Symbols**

In *Animal farm*, not only characters symbolize other figures, but even actions and events are a symbol of other events that happened in the Russian regime. First, the windmill represents the development, infrastructure, the construction project and the modernization that the Soviet Union leaders made and built after the Russian revolution. It refers to Stalin's five

year plan. The condition in which this windmill is built (the animals stayed hungry) also mirrors the authority of Napoleon (pigs) over the other animals.

The windmill is built to enrich and serve Napoleon and the other pigs whereas the other animals suffer from starvation.<sup>15</sup>the commandments (the seven commandments of animalism) presented a symbol to another issue at that period. All the commandments which are written on the barn wall in order to be remarked and read by all animals represent the massive existence of propaganda at that time.<sup>16</sup>

The rebellion in *Animal Farm* is the symbol referring to the Russian revolution against the authority of Tsar Nickolas II, which is the case of the rebellion that the animals of the farm have done against the irresponsible farm owner Mr. Jones. “That is my message for you, comrades: Rebellion! I do not know when that rebellion will come, it might be in a week or in a hundred years, but I know, as surely as I see this straw beneath my feet, that sooner or later justice will be done.”<sup>17</sup>

In this passage, it is mentioned the way the animals are invited to rebel by Old Major. For them, it is the only solution to change their situation, exactly like the Russian proletariat who rebelled against Tsar Nickolas II, because of the degraded situation in the entire domains, politically, economically, socially and also military. Thus, the rebellion of animals is a symbol of the rebellion of the proletarian class in Russia.

#### **4- The Inward Phase in *The Green Mile***

In this part of our work, the novel is analyzed by referring to Frye’s inward phase that is the inner side of *The Green Mile*. In the outward phase, Stephen King’s novel seems to talk about some issues and problems that the society suffers from, such as racism and the absence of justice. Symbolism is a stylistic device relied on in this research. In this part, we will

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highlight the other view and the deep understanding of this novel through studying the symbols that are included in it. As it is known, in literature any event, any character is a symbol of another character or another event than its literal meaning.

### **a-Characters as Symbols**

John Coffey, the protagonist of the novel and the giant black figure, who is condemned for killing two white girls, represents the majority of symbols contained in the novel. He owes several resemblances with Jesus Christ as his charity, his life, his actual life and his given name. He was reported as a symbol of Jesus Christ. First, his existence is like a miracle like the birth of Jesus, it seems like he came to life unexpectedly and surprisingly. Second, John Coffey is just like Jesus who has the ability to perform supernatural deeds.

John Coffey is not an ordinary man. His magical abilities characterize him among all the other characters in the novel. He has the power to remove bad things from people's bodies and can cure them from diseases. The example for this ability is when he releases Melinda from the brain tumor, and heals Paul Edgecombe from his bladder infection. He has the ability to bring the dead back to life as shown when he brought back to life Mr. Jingle, the mouse. He is able to know what the people around him are thinking about.

In addition to all these resemblances, the most important point which shows John Coffey as a symbol of Jesus Christ is the execution the crucifixion (to condemn someone to death). John Coffey, an innocent man accused of killing two white girls exactly like Jesus who was incriminated of being the king of Jews in a state of the Roman Empire. So, both John Coffey and Jesus Christ live the same bad conditions and are accused of something they did not do<sup>18</sup>. For that, John Coffey is one of the symbols that push the reader to discover the inward meaning of the novel

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William Wharton is among the characters that marked The Green Mile, the one who is responsible for the death of the two girls, the Dettrick Twins. From this, we can say that if John Coffey is a symbol of Jesus, then William Wharton is the symbol of evil, Wharton has done dreadful and shameful deeds like robbing banks, murdering men and women etc, for this he is presented as a symbol of evil. In other words, the inward image of this character resembles evil.

The third character presented as a symbol is the mouse named Mr. Jingle. The little mouse makes its home on the green mile is a symbol of the human kind standing in judgment before God. The little mouse sits in front of the duty desk, as if it is waiting for an appointment, the desk appears impossibly tall to the little mouse as exactly God seem to us, that is to say, the mouse symbolizes the way human kind will confront God the day of judgment.

### **b- Other Symbols**

First, *The Green Mile* in the novel is the name of the Block E which is the block where the prisoners are executed, it is also called the death row, where the inmates are executed on an electric chair. It is called so because of the color of the strips in the long corridor leading to the electric chair. The mile itself is a symbol of life and all the sufferings, and the trials that men have during their life till death. In other words, the inward image of the green mile is the men's experiences during the life till their death.

Second, after John Coffey uses his supernatural powers to cure Melinda Moores from a brain tumor, she gives him a medal which highlights the forces done by him to help humans survive. John Coffey is compared to Saint Christopher, a Christian martyr who serves and helps human just like Coffey does with the dettrick twins and with Melinda when he cures her. John Coffey also serves God by saving human lives. So the Christopher medal is a gift

for the forces he did to endure as a servant of God. The inward phase of the medal given to John Coffey is the one given to Christopher.

At the end of this part, one is able to understand the literary works from the two different phases (inward and outward phases). This chapter offers two different views of the two chosen novels besides the multiple meaning that is provided. In the outward phase, we have analyzed superficially, whereas in the inward phase we have presented the symbols that each novel restrict to form a new and deep study. For instance, the symbols of the characters in *Animal Farm* who represent the characters of the Russian revolution and also the symbols presented in *The Green Mile* such as the protagonist's symbol who is Jesus Christ. The protagonist's outward image is that he is a huge savage human but when reading the novel, one can discover his inward image of his being an innocent healer.

## End notes

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<sup>1</sup>George, O. *Animal Farm*. Secker and Warburg. London. 1945, chapter 1, 3-4.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid, chapter 1, 4

<sup>3</sup>Ibid, chapter10, 102

<sup>4</sup>Stephen,K. *The Green Mile*. New American Library. 1996, part 1, chapter 1, 91.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid, part1, chapter1, 106

<sup>6</sup>Ibid

<sup>7</sup>Ibid

<sup>8</sup>Elahah, F. *Symbols, metaphors, similes, in literature: a case study of animal farm*. English and literature. Vol 2(2) 2011, 19-27 Viewed on September 2020 available from: <https://www.academicjournals.org/jelISSN2141-2626academicjournals>.

<sup>9</sup>Nelson, K. *World War I: Russian revolution*. Duckster technological solutions (INCS)viewed on September 2020 available from: <https://www.ducksters.com/history/world-war-I/russian-revolution-php>.

<sup>10</sup>Fadjrina, D. *Character metaphor in George Orwell Animal Farm*. Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia. 2014, 84

<sup>11</sup>Ibid 85

<sup>12</sup>Ibid

<sup>13</sup>Ibid 86

<sup>14</sup>Ibid

<sup>15</sup>Ben, F. *Animal Farm themes and symbols: the windmill*. Lit chart LLC. Viewed on September 2020, available from <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/animalfarm/symbols/thewindmill>.

<sup>16</sup>Somers, J. *Animal Farm themes and symbols*. Thought Co. 2019 Viewed on September 2020. Available from <http://www.thoughtco.com/animalfarm-themes-symbols-4587867>.

<sup>17</sup>George, O. *Animal Farm*. Secker and Warburg London. 1945, chapter1, 6

<sup>18</sup>Course, H. *The Green Mile study guide*. Course Hero. 2018. Viewed on September 2020 available from <https://www.coursehero.com/lit/thegreenmile>

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## **Chapter II: De Saussure Dichotomies (the Signifier and the Signified) and a Comparison Between the Two Novels**

### **1- De Saussure Dichotomies**

The present chapter is devoted to study Ferdinand de Saussure's dichotomies "the signifier" and "the signified" in both novels. Stephen King's *The Green Mile* and George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. As it is mentioned previously, Symbolism is among the important stylistic devices that enable the reader not only understand the story, but also reach multiple meanings. It helps the reader achieve the hidden meaning of the novels. Many authors employed this device in their writings. In this part of our dissertation, we will try to relate De Saussure's theory to the two novels.

The signifier is a concept introduced by Ferdinand De Saussure. It is well explained in his book "course in general linguistics (1916)" in which he called the signifier as a "material"<sup>1</sup> which is something that can be seen or touched. This can clearly be understood in the two novels.

#### **a- The Signifier in *Animal Farm***

*Animal Farm* has two different meanings. In this part precisely, we will put emphasis and try to highlight the signifier concept, or if we can say, the superficial meaning of the novel. When reading *Animal Farm* from the first sight without analysis we understand that the story is about a group of animals who live in a small farm in England called the Manor Farm under the rule of an irresponsible and alcoholic farmer Mr. Jones who imposes hard work on the animals.

The signifier concept maintains its own value in this novel as it is considered as the basic element that carries and determines the subject and its superficial meaning. So, in this part we

are applying and explaining the signifier concept through studying the superficial outlook of the novel. In his novel, George Orwell portrays the situation of the animals of the farm, in which they experience a lot of misery in that farm. They are like slaves that are controlled by the owner of the farm, Mr. Jones, who represents the signifier.

The signifier concept is also provided when the animals of the farm raised a rebellion against Mr. Jones, and get support from Old Major the old pig in his last days. He makes a speech in which he tells the animals about the bad reality they live. He says “why, work night and day, body and soul, for the overthrow of the human race!”<sup>2</sup>. The signifier concept is highlighted, in this passage when old major wonders in his speech why the animals are working very hard, without break to satisfy the human being.

After the death of Old Major, the animals succeed to put Mr. Jones out of the farm, and manage to replace him with the pigs (Napoleon, Snowball, Squealer). They took control of the farm and adopt the seven commandments that state “first, Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy, second, Whatever goes upon four legs, or has Wings is a friend, third, No animal shall wear clothes, four, No animal shall sleep on bed, five, No animal shall drink alcohol, six, No animal shall kill any other animal, finally seven, All animal are equal”<sup>3</sup>.

In addition, George Orwell illustrates the signifier element, when the pigs start acting like humans. They start to wear clothes, drink alcohol just like Mr. Jones. The situation of the animals worsens than before. To conclude, all what is mentioned above is related to the study of *Animal Farm* relying on the concept of the signifier which can be understood as the superficial reading of the novel and this is one of symbolism aims which is to deliver multiple meaning to the word, text or novel.

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## **b- The Signifier Concept in *The Green Mile***

Similarly to *Animal Farm*, *the Green Mile* is meant to be full of symbolism as it has also a double meaning. It makes the reader have the chance to understand the novel from two different sides. In this part, we will try to clarify the signifier concept that allows the reader to comprehend the novel from its different sides. When reading and analyzing *The Green Mile*, from the superficial meaning or by making reference to the signifier concept, we notice that the novel is told about an African American black man called John Coffey, who is taken to E. Block for execution. To explain more, John Coffey is the signifier concept who is described by Paul Edgecombe, the prison guard of the E. Block as follows:

John Coffey was black, like the most of the men who come for a while in E block before dying in old Sparky's lap, and he stood six feet eight inches, tall. He was not all will away like the TV basketball fellows; through-he was broad in the shoulders and deep through the chest laced over with muscle in every direction<sup>4</sup>.

From this passage, the signifier concept is highlighted. So when reading *the Green Mile* from the superficial sight or from the signifier reference, we come to understand that the novel carries a story of an innocent man (John Coffey), who is charged with a crime and accused of killing two white girls (the Detterick twins). Although he is not the killer and is just trying to save them, no one believes or listens to his witnessing. To clarify the signifier concept, John Coffey says:

I am rightly tired of the pain I hear and feel, boss. I am tired of being on the road lonely as a robin in the rain. Never having any body to go on with or tell me where we had coming from or going to or why. I am tired of people being ugly to each other. It feels like a piece of glass in my head. I am tired of all the times I have wanted to help and could not. I am tired of being in the dark. Mostly it is the pain. There is too much. If I could end it. I would. But I cannot<sup>5</sup>.

From this quotation, we can notice that, John Coffey is sentenced to death wrongly. He is also tired of this unfair world. He is sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. He is lonely in a brutal and cruel world. The fact that he is black is detained against him and no one wants to believe his innocence in a world characterized by racism. This is the reason behind his

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desire not to live anymore. To conclude, we have highlighted and explained the signifier concept and how it is employed in *the Green Mile* and how from the first sight, the reader comprehends the signifier element

### **c- The Signified Concept in *Animal Farm***

The signified is another essential element presented by De Saussure's theory of symbolism. It is the concept, the meaning or the thing indicated by the signifier. It may be understood from Saussure's book *Course in General Linguistics* as "a mental concept". (De Saussure, 1990). In this book, De Saussure cites that the signified is related to the concept. The signified tends to be defined as the content to which a sign refers.

*Animal farm* has a double meaning and in this part of our research, we try to shape a new outlook. A new meaning is provided, when studying *Animal Farm* from the inner side, or in other terms, from the concept of the signified, one can realize that the novel is a satirical one about the Soviet Union and totalitarianism. So here, we are referring to the signified. When reading and analyzing the novel profoundly, we find that the signified sense of *animal farm* can be the political allegory and satire about Russian revolution 1917, where the Bolsheviks overthrew the Tsar in order to establish a communist regime that Orwell has mirrored through his novel.

The signified concept of this novel is understood after the analysis and the deep reading of it. The novel raises a political allegory about the Soviet Union and about the revolution and corruption of power, which is the signified of *Animal Farm*. To highlight more, the signified concept, Orwell introduces his novel to criticize the Russian political regime of 1917, and its main leaders mainly Joseph Stalin, who is the signified of Napoleon, the pig in the novel.

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In *Animal Farm*, each character and, each event has a signifier and a signified concept, that is to say that each character and each event in the novel is a symbol of something else, which means that many characters of Orwell's novel are parallel of those of the Russian revolution. Many of the characters and events of Orwell's novel parallel those of the Russian revolution. So, the rebellion of the animals represents the signifier of the Russian revolution of 1917, which is a political and social transformation. It was one of the most explosive political events of the twentieth century. It was against an authoritarian ruler called Tsar Nickolas II, who took control of Russia exactly like Mr. Jones, who represents the signifier.

George Orwell wrote his novel *Animal Farm* to reflect his experience, and respond to the important events that took place in Europe. This is from the signified sense, as it is a satirical story about the betrayal of the revolution by the dictator of Russian government Joseph Stalin. From this, we can understand that the rebellion is the signifier and the Russian revolution is the signified, Mr. Jones is the signifier and Joseph Stalin is the signified. The animals of the farm are employed as a signifier of the social classes of Russia. Furthermore, we can say that the farm is a signifier and the Russian political regime is the signified. In this part, a deep analysis of the novel is provided, and a view from the signified concept of *Animal Farm* is explained.

#### **d- The Signified Concept in The Green Mile**

As *Animal Farm*, *the Green Mile* also has a deep meaning. In this part the novel is viewed from another sight, in the sense that it is studied in terms of religious aspect that makes you look at life in a different way. When reading and analyzing deeply the novel, one can notice that Stephen king explores the presence of Christian element in which biblical features take particular place in his work. So the signified concept of De Saussure is applied and highlighted in employing the character of John Coffey as the Christ figure.

The novel is rich of symbolism, absolutely, John Coffey, who is the signifier symbolizes Jesus Christ and the greatness of God, which is the signified. To clarify more, the signified concept of John Coffey is highlighted in possessing supernatural abilities. So, John Coffey is the signifier and his mysterious healing power is the signified, and this is demonstrated in curing the prison guard Paul Edgecombe from his urinary tract infection. He says “well, I could say I have this urinary tract infection, and John Coffey put his hand on me and healed it. The man, who raped and murdered those little girls, did that. So I wondered about him, of course any one would”.<sup>6</sup>

Moreover, Coffey could revive Mr. Jingle the Mouse that is adopted by the prisoner Edward Delacroix. This little mouse symbolizes human being and their conditions. We deduce that the mouse is the signifier and the human conditions are the signified. Furthermore, after John Coffey practices his extraordinary healing on someone. Large amount of flying insects (flies) come out of his mouth which represents the diseases or injury. In other words, the flies are reported to be the signifier, and the diseases are the signified.

William Wharton, who is the real murderer of the two little girls, is the personification of the devil which means that Wharton is the signifier and the devil is the signified. Without any doubt, *the Green Mile* is loaded with symbols. Through reading the novel, one can understand that the title itself is a symbol. So *the Green Mile* is the signifier and the green corridor, where the prisoners walk for their last time to the electric chair to be executed, represents the signified concept.

To conclude, we have explained and highlighted to the reader the signified concept of De Saussure in this novel, through studying it from the inner side. At the end of this chapter, we deduce that the two novels are discussed from a new perspective, which is the use of the two dichotomies of De Saussure’s theory of symbolism, “the signifier” and “the signified”. We

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come up to the conclusion that both novels have the two concepts within them. Our objective is to reveal the two concepts and explain how they exist within the two novels.

## **2-Comparison Between George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Stephen King's *The Green Mile***

To compare any works, we have to consider two important elements: first, the similarities which are the common characteristics shared by the two novels, that is to say the elements that exist in both novels *Animal Farm* and *The Green Mile*. Second, the differences which are concerned by the elements that are unequal and different between the two novels. This part will help the reader to better understand the symbols found in the two novels.

### **a- The Similarities Between The Two Novels.**

This comparison shows that the two novels do not have many similarities as they have differences. The major similarity between the two pieces of literature is the authors' use of some figurative style which is very remarkable. It serves to the aesthetic beauty of both novels. Here are some elements:

First, foreshadowing is an element used in both works, foreshadowing that is defined as follows: the technique of arranging events and information in a narrative in such a way that later events are prepared for, or shadowed for the beforehand for instance, a well constructed novel will suggest at the very beginning what the outcome may be, the end is contained in the beginning and this gives structural and thematic unity.<sup>7</sup>

This means that events and actions are predicted from the beginning that they will happen at the end of the novel.

This literary element exists in the two novels; when reading *The Green Mile*, from the first pages, we are told somehow that John Coffey is an innocent man. To be more explicit, from the beginning, the innocence of John Coffey is foreshadowed. This might be understood

in one of the novel's passage "He looked like he could have snapped the chains that held him as easily as you might snap the ribbons on a Christmas present, but when you looked in his face, you knew he was not going to do anything like that".<sup>8</sup> In this passage, Paul Edgecombe explains that even if John Coffey looks savage and huge, when looking into his face, one can realize the opposite.

In *Animal Farm*, foreshadowing helps us understand from the beginning of the novel that the rebellion of the animals will not get a good result and that it is not the right solution. This can be understood by the hesitating decisions of some animals about the rebellion when saying "If this rebellion is to happen anyway, what difference does it make whether he work for it or not?"<sup>9</sup> From this passage, we understand the hesitating questions of some animals about doing the rebellion and this can be seen as a foreshadowed act about the failure of the rebellion.

Second, from the elements shared, by both novels, we have Personification, which can be defined as "the impersonation, embodiment of some quality or abstractions. The attribution of human qualities, to inanimate objects".<sup>10</sup>, that is to say, to give objects, animals and phenomena the characters of a human. In *The Green Mile*, Stephen King uses personification when he gives the mouse a name (Mr. Jingle) which gives it a human character. The same thing is found in *Animal Farm* as George Orwell gives all the animals of the farm human characters (names), for example Snowball, Napoleon.

Third, in addition to the use of figurative style in both novels, there is another similarity which is morality that allows us to distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong. It is generally deduced from the novels, specifically at the end. It comes like an advice to the readers. Morality is a common point that exists in both novels. Both of them offer advice to the readers because they treat issues and problems from society. In *The Green Mile*, we are given

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advice not to be racist. Secondly, the novel incites us to apply the real justice and make sure not to condemn innocent people. In *Animal Farm*, George Orwell highlights the problem of social classes that exists in our society and the reader may understand that rebellion is not always the only solution. When reading *Animal Farm*, one can also understand that the betrayal of treaties can make the situation worse than it is and this is the case of the animals when the pigs betray them.

In addition to the above mentioned similarities, there is also the use of one of the literary devices “symbolism” which is used by both George Orwell and Stephen King in their novels. In both novels, symbolism is used to enrich their content and give a clear meaning to the readers. To give a new and significant meaning to their novels, the two authors choose this indirect approach. Symbolism is also used to give the story a greater complexity, depth and overall impact that cannot be reached without using such device.

In *The Green Mile*, the author symbolizes John Coffey to Jesus Christ, he gives him the same abilities as Jesus, in the sense that Coffey possess a magical gift that is, both mysterious and miraculous. His supernatural gift is what introduces the relation between Coffey and Jesus Christ. Another similarity between the two characters is their Initials. So we notice that both of them begin with the same letters, there is a connection between JC, Jesus Christ, and John Coffey.

Another strong quality that is shared between Coffey and Jesus is that despite being strong and powerful, John Coffey is gentle and respectful, and even asks for forgiveness and forgets the pain. The same thing for Jesus who was hated by all his society, but through his strong heart, he takes up all the pain. So John Coffey is considered as a true Christ figure that possesses miraculous power. Thus this novel is a great depiction of Jesus Christ and his deeds.

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*Animal Farm* on the other side is full of symbols. It is a representation of a society and how it is run. It is also told to be an allegory which means it reports events that happened to the Russian government. The story gives the reader a better understanding of what kind of society is being represented in the novel. As *The Green Mile*, *Animal Farm* is also an example of symbolism as the farm represents Russia, the animals are the symbol of the proletariat and the workers and the pigs represent Tsar Nickolas. So, we deduce that the two novels use symbolism as a device.

The movie adaptation is one of the similar points that is shared by both novels. They are both turned into movies. *The Green Mile* is a basic idea of an American fantasy drama film, directed by Frank Darabont. The movie adaptation of the novel released after three years of the novel's publication (1999). It was nominated several times to Academy Award. *Animal Farm* is also the basic idea of many movies.

In this chapter, we have dealt with the similar elements shared by the two novels, to tell the readers that the choice of novels (*Animal Farm* and *The Green Mile*) is not just accidentally but it is because they share a lot of similar points and the most important one is "symbolism". In the following part we are going to deal with the differences.

### **b- The Differences Between The Novels.**

To compare works or novels, it is necessary to mention their similarities and differences in order to notice the points in which they are similar, and the points in which they differ. In this part, we are concerned with the differences between the two works. Here we have stated the differences or the divergent points that exist when comparing the two works.

From the above mentioned information, one can notice that both *Animal Farm* and *The Green Mile* share a wide range of similarities. But also have differences. The first difference

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that can be noticed by the reader is that the novels are written by two authors that come from different countries. *Animal Farm* is written by the British author George Orwell, while *The Green Mile* is written by an American author. This leads the novels to come from separated and different historical backgrounds. *Animal Farm* is written during the last year of World War II and thus discusses issues that have a relation with that period. *The Green Mile* on the other hand tells the story of death row supervisor, Paul Edgecombe who encounters an extraordinary man with supernatural abilities. So, the historical background of the novels is completely different.

The two novels are from different genres of literature. According to Christine, L.<sup>11</sup> *The Green Mile* belongs to horror and magic realism, whereas *Animal Farm* has completely another genre. *Animal Farm* is said to be an allegorical novel and a satirical work<sup>12</sup>. One can notice that the novels have other differences. After reading *Animal Farm*, one can notice that the novels are different from their use of characters. In *Animal Farm*, all the characters are nearly animals except two or three appearance of a human character. That is there is a massive existence of animals in the novel. However, in *The Green Mile*, King used humans as characters and the existence of animals is rare except one character (the mouse).

From the previous analysis of Orwell's *Animal Farm* and King's *The Green Mile*, one can understand that the novels differ in terms of the themes that are treated in them. In *The Green Mile*, King focuses on the social problems and issues that can be summarized in racism, death, horror and injustice. In *Animal Farm*, Orwell exploits his novel to explore political issues, which are related to communism. His novel is a direct explanation of the events leading to the Russian Revolution and the Stalin era. So, one can say that the novels covered different themes and issues.

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Finally, from the study conducted in the previous chapters of this dissertation, it is noticed that the device of symbolism is from the shared similarities, but the way this device is used is different from one novel to another. In *Animal Farm*, symbolism is used nearly in all the characters and all the events. Each event and each character refer to a specific element whereas *The Green Mile* uses symbolism differently from *Animal Farm*. One can notice that contrary to *Animal Farm* in which symbolism is used in all characters and events, *The Green Mile*, is limited to John Coffey and Percy Wetmore. From this, it is deduced that the way symbolism is used differs from one novel to another.

To conclude, this part is concerned with conducting the readers with the similarities and differences that can be deduced when reading and studying these two works. We have put in front of the readers all the points that can be used to make a comparison between these two novels, either the similarities which present them as similar works or the elements that differentiate them.

## End notes

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<sup>1</sup>Ferdinand, de Saussure. Trans. Wade Baskin. '*Cours de linguistique general*'. Eds Charles Bally and Albert Sechalye. 1916,66.

<sup>2</sup>Orwell, George. '*Animal Farm*'. Secker and Warburg. London. 1945 chapter 1, 5.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid, chapter 2, 15.

<sup>4</sup>Stephen, King. '*The Green Mile*'. New American library, 1996, part 1, chapter 2, 121.

<sup>5</sup>Stephen, King. '*The Green Mile*'. New American library, 1996, part 6, chapter 1875.

<sup>6</sup>Stephen, King. '*The Green Mile*'. New American library, 1996, part 3, chapter 4, 818.

<sup>7</sup>J, A, Cuddon. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. '*Literary term and literary theory*'. 1991, 350.

<sup>8</sup>Stephen, King. '*The Green Mile*'. New American library. 1996, part 1, chapter 2, 121.

<sup>9</sup>Orwell, George. '*Animal Farm*'. Secker and Warburg, London. 1945. Chapter 2, 11

<sup>10</sup>J, A, Cuddon. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. '*Literary term and literary theory*'. 1991, 702.

<sup>11</sup>Chritine, Legros. '*The Green Mile*'. Lit charts LLC. 2018. Viewed on November 2020, available from <https://www.com/lit/the-green-mile>

<sup>12</sup>Ben, Florman. '*Animal Farm*'. Lit charts LLC. 2013. Viewed on November 2020, available from <https://www.com/lit/animal-farm>

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## General Conclusion

*Animal Farm* and *The Green Mile* had been widely read and studied by readers and critics as well. They awaken humanity and morality in people because there is a message sent by these two stories to deny some actions and bad deeds like racism at that time. By using simple language, George Orwell and Stephen King have stunned the literary public. Literature is characterized by creativity, every work written comes to clear up something and show an element for us. There is no literary work written for no purpose. The two literary works have definitely a purpose to demonstrate to the readers.

This dissertation is concerned with the use of symbolism in the two pieces of art *Animal Farm* and *The Green Mile*. We have put emphasis on this figure of speech (symbolism) including its appearance, definition, and a brief outlook to its use in other books and works in general. Besides, we have illustrated its use in these two novels by making reference to two prominent theorists. The two novels highly contain one of the literary devices that clarify more the author's motivation for writing them. Through "symbolism", the authors provide double meaning novels that are the superficial and the hidden meaning. The two authors made use of symbolism to enrich and strengthen their literary works.

In this work, we have examined symbolism in *Animal Farm* and *The Green Mile*, this study has permitted us to make comparison between these two novels despite being different at the first sight. The two novels develop different themes, present different cultures, and come from different backgrounds, they are connected due to the use of the same device "symbolism". *Animal Farm* and *The Green Mile* are not just stories in which symbolism is used but they are a perfect example of good advice and morals to the reader. These two novels treat several subjects, which are the problems and the complexities from which every society suffers such as Racism, class struggle, rebellion and authority.

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The present investigation of the use of symbolism in the corpus chosen is done with the application of Ferdinand De Saussure's and Northrop Frye's theories. These theories are the basic methods chosen to complete this work. By this critical investigation, it seems that *Animal Farm* is an allegory about the Soviet Union, and *The Green Mile* protagonist symbolizes Jesus Christ. In addition, the present study has attempted to give a general survey on the use of symbolism as an object, character or event. Within the novels, the symbols are discussed whether they are humans, animals or objects. The most important element is to focus on what or who they symbolize.

At the end of this analysis, one can notice that the authors use symbolism for two functions. The first one is the aesthetic function, to make the text appear beautiful and attract the reader. The second one, which is the most important, is to make the text important, full of sense and interesting to read in terms of meaning. To give more information about the section of discussion we present here some important details that help the reader understand the analysis. Northrop Frye theory consist of studying both novels from "the outward" and "the inward" phases. These concepts demonstrate the existence of symbols in the pieces chosen, and Ferdinand de Saussure's dichotomies which consist of studying "the signifier" and "the signified" concept which shows that animal farm is a signifier and the political regime of Russia is the signified, and also it came up with John Coffey as a signifier and Jesus Christ as a signified.

In short, George Orwell and Stephen King use symbolism to provide significance to their novels. In this research paper, we have focused on the important symbols and explained their meaning. Each work may have a surface meaning that is understood by all the readers and an undersurface meaning which might be deduced after an analysis or an exploration of the text or the novel.

Eventually, we tried to collect and consider the symbols and their possible meanings that may be conducted within these novels. Finally, the use of symbolism in these two novels may give the reader a great impact about the way they see symbolism. We invite them to explore these two novels by using other significant figures of speech.

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