The Modernization of Animal Farm Leads to Social Hierarchy

The novella *Animal Farm* brings up an interesting question “Does equality can exist along with modernization?” Traditionally, modernization creates an imbalance of social hierarchy. People change their mindset to be adaptive into the modern world. Selfishness, individualism and privileges over others are the factors causes changes. George Orwell reveals this through one of his best novella, *Animal Farm,* to reflect what happens when modernization exists. At the beginning of the novella, the intention to run the farm is to make all animals equal and work less. However, it transforms to the farm that is unequal and governed by social hierarchy that privileges the pigs.

Once Napoleon commandeers Animal Farm, he initiates the changes of 7 commandments, which cause inequalities, exist to other animals. The pig changes the 7 commandments slightly to suit them, which leads them to get privileged. Nevertheless, other animals are not able to question about the 7 commandments because they couldn’t fully remember the commandments. So, this makes the pigs remain in power. From the beginning, according to Snowball’s idea, the 7 commandments are construct to keep equality and make Animal Farm’s production benefits to all animals. Moreover, these commandments guide Animal Farm to be classless even though each animal has different abilities and intelligence. Afterwards, in the quote of John Rodden, “To Squealer’s blasphemous tamperings with Animalism’s commandments, culminating in his reconstruction of the Seventh Commandment: ‘All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.’” (Rodden, 2010, p.332) According to John Rodden, he states, Squealer discourage Animalism and does not follow old Major’s idea by added more words to change the commandments. The way the pigs change the commandments destroys animalism and causes social classes in the farm. The changes of commandment a bit makes the pigs able to continue holding the privileges without acting against those commandments. So, it will be fine for the pigs to work less and give the command to other animals. As what the pigs have added, the words “But some animals are more equal than others” in the quote does not make any sense since there is no more or less equal in terms of equality. However, the pigs did that just only to suit them. Besides this, the original version for the sixth commandment was “No animal shall kill any other animal”(p.25). The commandment is set to establish peace to all animals and preventing animals to kill their comrades. It makes all the animals unite together with no violence towards them. Afterwards, when Napoleon becomes the leader, the pigs change the commandment into “No animal shall kill any other animal without cause” (p.91). The pigs add the words “without cause” to make them have excuses of killing other animals in both direct and indirect way. It makes the pigs can makeup the causes to kill other animals if they want to. For instance, Napoleon makes the hen to lay more egg. When the hens look don’t follow his order, he makes other animal to feed few food to them (p.76). As a result, many of them died. So, this shows that Napoleon kills the hens even though it is a non-direct way of killing

Furthermore, the ability to convince and lies of Squealer makes other animals become under ruled by Napoleon. Napoleon commands other animals through Squealer by trying to convince them to agree with Napoleon’s ideas. He also indoctrinates them to make them love Napoleon and think that he is good. As in the story, Squealer said:

“I trust that every animal here appreciates the sacrifice that Comrade Napoleon has made in taking this extra labor upon him. Do not imagine, comrades, that leadership is a pleasure! On the contrary, it is a deep and heavy responsibility. No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only too happy to let you make decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be?”(p.55)

Squealer tries to make animals think that it is better to have Napoleon to guide them as a leader and the ways Squealer talks to other animals are very convincing. Additionally, he tries to build an image for Napoleon that he sacrifices himself to make equality exist in animal farm. However, this is not true. Napoleon does it only for himself not other animals. Then, he uses the goal of equality to make the animals have expectations on Napoleon. Moreover, he explains the condition that would happen such as “but sometimes you might make wrong decision” to show how important to have a leader. Conversely, this is the beginning of social hierarchy to an animal. Napoleon does not sacrifice himself to be a leader but to hold the power and get privileges in the farm is the real purpose. Additionally, in the quote:

“On Sunday mornings Squealer, holding down a long strip of paper with trotter, would read out to them lists of figures proving that the production of every class of foodstuff had increased by two hundred per cent, three hundred per cent, or five hundred pre cent, as the case might be.”

Squealer tells that to animals to make them trust Napoleon. He wants to make the animals think Napoleon is great and will make all the animals have better production compares to Jone’s time. Conversely, what he tells the animal is a lie. He tells this in order to increase the loyalty of the animals to obey Napoleon. No animals know about the production and food apart from the pigs because the pigs are the only animals to access to the amount of production. According to this, it shows that the pigs have more power to access to these kinds of things without allowing other animals right to access. As what Annie Hamilton stated, “Another way of looking at class is as a hierarchy of access to money and power (2016).” As in the quote, pigs are considered to stay at the top of social class pyramid according to their ability to control and use the money. Even though, the social class in the story did not clearly separate but other animals just follow what the pigs command them.

Thirdly, the construction of windmill is another factor that leads to the creation of social hierarchy because the division of the work. In the story, pigs do brain work and they make other animals to do the labor work according to their ability and they have to rely on the pig’s command. Furthermore, Napoleon uses the dogs to make other animals fear and obey him. He uses the dogs to be as his guard and command other animals as much as he wants. Consequently, the dogs frighten other animals. So, Napoleon makes other animals do more work because he knows that other animals are now under his command. As in the quote, “Throughout the year the animals worked even harder than they had worked in the previous year. To rebuild the windmill, with walls twice as thick as before, and to finish it by the appointed date, together with the regular work of the farm, was a tremendous labor”(p.92). It can be seen that Napoleon overuses the animals as a labor. Further, the animals have to do both regular work and the windmill construction while Napoleon just orders them. The word “tremendous” in the quote reveals how much loads of work Napoleon orders them. Apart from that, Napoleon does not do any extra work. He works less than other animals but he always have an excuse on him that brainwork is a harder job. Additionally, in the quote, “Once again it has to be emphasized that as far as Orwell was concerned the pigs had become as bad as, indistinguishable from, not worse than, the humans.” (Newsinger, 1996, p.1265) After Napoleon controls the farm, the animals’ lives are no better than when Jones controls the farm. The way Napoleon commands them is not different than the way Jones did. The animals still work hard and have less food while the pigs are privileges and have comfortable lives. The pigs use other animals to work for their benefit without caring them at all.

All in all, this novella *Animal Farm* reveals how the pigs implement the modern form of government. The pigs govern and command other to work as a labor while they do brainwork. It reflects through the society that there is a class who rule others and the class who is under ruled. The inequality of power, work and intelligence are clearly shown. Additionally, a small group is directly benefit over other large groups. The pigs, which are more educated and have more wealth, are able to stay in power on top of the others through the changes of 7 commandments, lies and the way they make others as a labor. In that case, other animals could not rebel against the pigs because other animals have too little power and got indoctrinated by the pigs.

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