

A Compare and Contrast in Children stories of Rudyard Kipling and Ruskin Bond

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Abstract: Animal stories always have been a center of attraction in children literature. These stories not only open the doors of excitement for children but also present the supreme examples for brotherhood fraternity and compassion for others. It's not a new genre of literature yet still grasps the attention for readers as well as writers. Even centuries ago, when no record found of any literature, some fables and moral lesson were found in civilizations to be sung or acted before the audience on festivals and on other happy occasions. There are many writers who got fame by writing animal stories and became popular among children throughout the world.

Rudyard Kipling is one the famous writers for children literature; who earned a vivid place by writing *Jungle Book*. *Jungle Book* is ever green gems among all of his stories written for children. The character, **Mogli**, has always been in the mind of readers because of his unordinary situations to survive in a forest among animals. His picaresqueness of dealing with Mogli's adventure with animals in forest, presents amazing world of animals. Another selected writer for this research, **Ruskin Bond**, also has the same friendliness and affection in the mind of readers for his children stories. Mr. Bond shares an unusual experience with animals in his writing. Bond has always been a lover of nature and sometimes seems to have an extraordinary gift by god to understand the language of silent wide spread nature. Bond's stories present an extra ordinary world where soft and mild animals breathe in the lap of warmth and loving earth bursting with all qualities of motherhood which nourishes them and gives them space to live. In his stories readers may encounter stories of a very simple and regular incident which happens with almost all of human beings as all existing human are surrounded with a lot of living insects, birds, and animals; but, most of the time these incidents and these living beings are ignored by humans but Bond make them interesting and fascinating and fills the heart of his readers with love and sympathy towards them. Bond's stories present the warm and caring side of animals as a partner which is sometimes better than the company of human beings.

This paper presents a compare and contrast between the animal stories written by these two soft hearted, brilliant and most loving authors among kids. *Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling and Animal stories by Ruskin Bind will be taken as the center of the research. In the end of the paper a critical analysis of the moral lessons presents by both of the writers will be discussed which not only would be helpful for the upcoming writers to write on the same theme but also would enhance the importance of children literature.

Key words: Children Literature, Rudyard Kipling, Ruskin Bond, Animal Story

Children literature not only includes short stories yet poems, drama, and novellas are also part of it. In 17th and before mid 18th century generally children stories were written for moral teaching and for their local respective challenges which children would have to face in future. At the era of renaissance, publication of children stories took place, some of the existing literature such as Book of Martyr and Pilgrims progress are one of them, although it was not written for children yet children were presented dealing with adventures for the readers of all age group. In later 18th century Lewis Carroll, Robert Louis Stevenson became the leading writer for children literature, slowly people of all ages start reading and liking children stories, however, now children stories has its own place in literature, because of the advent of new technologies, many stories have adapted to be broadcasted on TV. Fairy Tales, folk tales, fables, school stories, poems, legends, comics, graphic novels, animal stories, are the most known types of stories for children.

Anthropomorphism is a remarkable way to present a moral lesson in very interesting manners, in anthropomorphism human traits and their emotions are attributed to animals and to non human entities. This is an ancient tradition which still appeals to the readers especially to the early age of children, because their eagerness to explore the world and excitement towards uncommon things make them love to rhymes, children stories and other academic activities through their favorite characters which may be in the form of animals or any other non human entity such as clouds, air, sun, moon, stars, mountains etc.

Jungle book, published in 1894 by Rudyard Kipling, is based on the story of a child who is lost in forest and wandering in search for the protection. Most of the characters in the story are animals which are given Indian names such as Shere Khan, a tiger, is presented violent and rule breaker in forest, while Baloo, a bear has shown a helping and loving while the most affectionate character full of motherly love is the family of wolves who take care of the lost child Mogli, and allow him to be the part of their family among their cubs. The story is set in the forest of Seonee, somewhere in Madhya Pradesh in India, where mogli faces a number of challenges to survive in the jungle. Rudyard Kipling has good knowledge about the geography of India as first five years of his life, he spent in India with his parents in colonial era.

On another hand, Ruskin bond not only writes animal stories but also live with them in every phase of his life in his own imaginative world. Most of his childhood was spent among the hills of Dehradun and Musoorie in north India which has dense forest, a good protected place for animals. Ruskin Bond is never out of material to write on it as he can create a story by watching an ant who is always full of responsibilities if the world or by watching an elephant who generally use to roam on the road as if there is nothing in the world worth doing. Ruskin Bond writes in his autobiography "One seldom ran short of material. There was a stream at the bottom of the hill and this gave me many subjects in the way of small (occasionally large) animals, wild flowers, birds, trees, insects, ferns. The nearby villages were of absorbing interest. So were the old houses and old families of the Landour and Mussoorie hill-stations."

Ruskin Bond is considered as the pioneer of children literature in India, he wrote many stories blending fiction and reality. In his stories he creates the character which he always sought in his life as it is seen in one of the research papers, which gives the account of his personal life, published in *Barnolipi*, an interdisciplinary journal “Many of Bond’s stories display his love of nature. They show how man is associated with nature, and how nature is being disrupted by modernization and scientific revolutions. In “All Creatures Great and Small,” Bond describes a grandfather’s love for animals and nature. While this is not a true story, because in reality he never got the love of his grandfather,” (1) Grandfather’s Privet Zoo is one of the story written in the same search by imagining a world with his grandfather in which he has many pets in his house. Protagonist of the story is probably the writer itself who is a teenage boy living with his grandfather as his parents are away from the place. Boy is very fond of having monkey, named Toto, who is always to take hot bath, and a python, who is full of self love, always admire his own beauty by seeing mirror, and another interesting animal is hornbill who is fond of playing tennis with another pet Ceaser, a crow. All animals are kept at home as if they are the part of the family. These characters are mentioned in the story doing different activities sometimes creating disastrous situation for the boy. Story is full of the entertainment for the kids having different moral lessons presented by each of the animal characters in the story.

Ruskin Bond use to read stories written by Rudyard Kipling from very early age. Ruskin Bond writes in his autobiography about his fondness toward Rudyard Kipling, Ruskin Frenk Buck and other contemporary writers of his age. Since sharing the same situations in their lives both of them have some of the common points in their writing. Aloofness, shy, reserve nature and unhappy childhood turned them toward nature to fulfill the vacant place in their life. A research thesis which studies about the various impressions on Ruskin Bond’s life as a man and as a writer explains the similarities between both of the writers stating “James S. Lee, Ruskin Bond is influenced by James S. Lee, Frenk Buck, Rudyard Kipling, C.H. Donald and Charles D Robert. Ruskin Bond also wrote thrilling, moving stories which are usually true.” Kipling and Bond both are Anglo- Indian writers who witnessed colonial era in India. Kipling as well as bond spent their adulthood with some of their cruel relatives which is observable through the violent characters in their animal stories. Ruskin Bond as Rusty, in most of his work, and, Kipling, as Mogli, echo as in their own real lives. It seems through their characters they represent their own struggles which they have to go through in their lives although the reason of a separated childhoods are different as Kipling has to go back to England as the per the rule of colonial India that every British child whose parents are in government job has to go back to their country for further education so Kipling had to live with one his distant relative who never liked by Kipling because of his aggressive attitude while Bond has different reason of this aloofness. After the death of Bond’s father his mother married to an Indian man, bearing the loss of his beloved father, and ignorant behavior of his own mother and step father turned him into lonesome person. This feeling of being abandoned pulled him toward nature where every human and non human has their place. Kipling’s *Jungle* book also has the setting of a forest yet there is an appeal for

rule- regulations and freedom, mentioning the importance of being in a group or a family. Mogli's helplessness for being different from wolf's cubs and also for not being the part of the forest compares with the feeling of Kipling when he struggled in England to be accustomed to the western culture as he was born and brought up in India and all his care taker, friends and visitors were Indian, so his feeling of strangeness was similar to Mogli. On the other hand Bond's cruel uncle never let him go to meet his Indian friend. Sometimes he used to close Rusty in one of his room so that he could not be able to talk to his Indian gardener, Dukhi, who became one of his good friends because Dukhi was an ocean of old stories and also having an adequate amount knowledge about plants, trees, hills, and animals living around. Bond writes in his autobiographical work *The Writer on the Hill* "Clock Tower lay the bazaar and in the bazaar lay India. On the other side of the Clock Tower began life itself. And all three-the bazaar, and India and life itself-were forbidden"

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