

## Preface

Literature helps everyone to grow, both personally and intellectually; it provides an objective base for knowledge and understanding; it links everyone with the broader cultural, philosophic and religious world of which everyone is a part. It teaches moralistic lessons and relationship between animals and human beings. A short story uses many stereotyped images of animal to show a harmonious relationship with human beings. Joseph Jacob and Grimms' Tales have common ideas and themes in the fairy tales. The literary theory Magic realism is the blend of reality and fantasy so that the distinction between the two is erased. Anthropomorphism is one of the key terms of Magical realism. Many fairy tales employ anthropomorphized animals to illustrate principles of life. Many of the stereotypes of animals that are recognized today, such as the wild cunning fox and the proud lion, can be found in *Aesop's Collections*, *Panchatantra* and *Jataka Tales*. Being an ardent lover of Fairy Tales, I developed harmonious relationship between animals and human beings. The dialogue conversations between animals and human beings make me to show my passion on Children Literature to find out some hidden truths.

I believe in the supremacy of the Almighty that drives my life, giving me the strength to face the hurdles and the patience to taste the fruits of success. I humble myself unto His feet, for leading me, guiding me and being with me in all my endeavours.

I am indebted to my mentor and research supervisor, Dr. Suresh Frederick, Associate Professor & UG Head, Department of English, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, for his patient guidance, constant support, stimulating inspiration and scholarly suggestions throughout the period of my research work, paving the way to various other academic enrichments too.

I thank Dr. Mohammed Rafiq, Associate Professor of English, Jamal Mohammed College, Trichy and Dr. K. Prem Kumar, Assistant Professor of English,

Bishop Heber College, Trichy who refined my thoughts through their suggestions and motivated me at various levels, being the Doctoral Committee members.

I am very much grateful to Dr. D. Paul Dhayabaran, Principal, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, for the strenuous support and motivation that he has rendered throughout the period of my research and especially in the completion of my thesis.

I thank Dr. S. Sobana, Head, Department of English, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, for her motivation and support throughout this research. I extend my thanks to Dr. R. Roopkumar Balasingh, former Head, Department of English, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, for his benevolent support and valuable suggestions in undertaking my research.

I owe my gratitude to Dr. Suresh Frederick, Associate Professor of English & UG Head, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, my guide for sowing in me the concept of Magic Realism and being my inspiration to take up the teaching career in college. I duly acknowledge that my inspiration on Magic Realism is from Dr. Suresh Frederick, Dean of IQAC & Associate Professor, Department of English, Bishop Heber College, Trichy.

I express my hearty thanks to Dr. K. Kaviarasu, Assistant Professor of English, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, whose observations and corrections enhanced this thesis. My esteem and gratitude are due to my teacher, Dr. J. Baby Eliammal, former Lecturer (SG), Bishop Heber College, Trichy, and Dr S. Samuel Rufus, Associate Professor, Madras Christian College, Chennai who serves as a moral support and a pillar behind my efforts, guiding and helping me through his expertise.

I deem it a great pleasure to thank my precious friends, Mr. C. Manikandan, Assistant Professor of English, Government Arts College for Men, Kumbakonam, Ms. V. Poorani, Assistant Professor of English, VLB Janakiammal College, Coimbatore, Mr. G. Ravi Kumar, Assistant Professor of English, Imayam Arts and Science College, Thuraiyur,

Mr. R. Madhiyarasan, Guest Lecturer in English, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, Ms. K. Muthulakshmi, Ms. S. Dharshini and Mr. S.M. Pagalavan for their constant support and tireless motivation throughout the period of my research work. I acknowledge the moral support of their family members too. I owe my thanks to Dr. Abdul Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Associate Professor of English, Jamal Mohammed College, Trichy for his support.

I wish to place on record Mr. Edwin Moses, Assistant Professor of English, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, for taking up my academic responsibilities and assisting me during my research work.

I thank the Librarians of Bharathidasan University, Bishop Heber College, and Bharathiar University Library, Coimbatore, who facilitated me with ample resources pertaining to my research area and for their excellent help and permission given to me for collecting the necessary data.

I take this opportunity to recall the love and support of my family members, and thank them all for their encouragement in all my endeavours and in particular, in completing the thesis. The paramount of my life, my Father, Mr. K. Vembadian's ardent affection, absolute care and unstinted support has instituted in me the desire to take up this research work. His patience and motivation to make me a complete whole are rewarded here. The unconditional love and persistent prayers of my beloved Mother, Mrs. V. Jeevaratnam, sustains throughout my life and has never let my spirit down. I thank God the Almighty once again for blessing me to be a member of this family. I also thank my brothers for their zealous support and help with this thesis.

I extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all my relatives, friends, colleagues, students and well-wishers, who supported and contributed either directly or indirectly throughout my research work.

The Fairy Tale, the Hero's Quest, and the Magic Realism of Baseball. Baseball is probably the sport most written about by fiction writers; indeed, as David McGimpsey notes, "baseball has in fact gained a highbrow, literary mythical elements of the fairy tale and quest story, as well as metafictional techniques (blending elements of the real world into the fictional narrative), to portray baseball as a spiritual phenomenon."