

## DEFINITION AND EXAMPLES OF ZOOMORPHISM

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**Abstract:** this article is about the attribution of animal characteristics to humans. It is a literary technique in which animal attributes are imposed upon non-animal objects, humans, and events and animal features are ascribed to humans, gods and other objects. It is the representation of animal forms in decorative art or symbolism, art that imagines humans as non-human animals, the ability to shape shift into animal form, the tendency of viewing human behavior in terms of the behavior of animals, contrary to anthropomorphism, which views animal or non-animal behavior in human terms, the related attribution of human form and characteristics to abstract concepts such as nations, emotions.

**Keywords:** zoomorphism, literary device, animal, feature, human, object, characteristics, event, form, non-human, anthropomorphism.

## ОПИСАНИЕ И ПРИМЕРЫ ЗООМОРФИЗМА

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**Аннотация:** эта статья посвящена атрибуции характеристик животных для человека. Это литературная техника, в которой животные атрибуты накладываются на неживые объекты, людей, а события и признаки животных приписываются людям, галеем и другим объектам. Это представление животных форм в декоративном искусстве или символизме, искусство, которое воображает людей как не человеческие животные, способны формировать смещение в животную форму, склонность рассматривать поведение человека с точки зрения поведения животных, вопреки антропоморфизму, который рассматривает поведение животных или не животных в человеческих терминах, связанную атрибуцию человеческой формы и характеристик с абстрактными понятиями, такими как нации, эмоции.

**Ключевые слова:** зооморфизм, литературное устройство, животное, особенность, человек, объект, характеристики, событие, форма, не человек, антропоморфизм.

**Zoomorphism.** There are many literary devices in English which are examples of zoomorphism. Zoomorphism is a derivate of the Greek words *zoon*, which means “animal” and *morphe* which means “from” or “shape”. It is a literary technique in which animal attributes are imposed upon non-animal objects, humans and events and animal features are ascribed to humans, gods and other objects.

Like in this instance: “A couple of customers that had been heading for my slot began to knock against each other, like scared pigs in a chute.”[1]

Here pigs are meant to be intelligent animals and have been used as a simile to show how people were behaving.

**Function of zoomorphism.** Zoomorphism is a literary technique, examples of zoomorphism are often found in short stories (used to effectively provide detailed descriptions about the characters in stories). Records show that it has been used as a literary device since the times of the ancient Romans and Greeks. It is a very helpful tool for the effective description of different characters. The purpose of using this technique is to create a figurative language and provide a comparison. Zoomorphism is when animal characteristics are assigned to

humans. This is the opposite of anthropomorphism (when animals are described as a human). [2] A special class of zoomorphism in which a human is able to shape –shift into an animal is called therianthropy. Anthropomorphism involves the attribution of human characteristics and qualities to animals or deities , while zoomorphism does the reverse by giving animal qualities to humans. There are some examples:

**Brief content of Zarbulmasal.** There was an old city , suspended by king Kaykubad in Fergana valley. Brown owl and barn-owl were living there. They had a daughter, and she was very beautiful. Her name was Kumushbonu. And there lived Kulankir Sultan also. Eagle owl was going to marry Kumushbonu to his son Kulankir Sultan and Blind-bird to Brown owl's house for matchmaking. Brown owl told he was going to deliberate and then answer , for knowing this Blind-bird had to come again . Blind –bird accepted his answer cordially and delivered it to Eagle owl. This news became evident to bird's king Malikshah . he sent his servant Kardan and Turumtay, to brown owl's house for accurate wedding expenses. There was long discussion between them. Brown owl demanded a thousand four –walled. At last , Blind-bird went again and told that they pleased to give a thousand four-walled from Mavaraunnahr country. Then there was a wedding. Gulkhanly criticized , in the images of Brown owl, Eagle owl and Kulankir , some officials who lived in palaces , and were guilty and supporters of ruin , strived to increase their wealth. [3]

**Common examples of zoomorphism.** Many superheroes are examples of zoomorphism because their superpower is that of an animal. Here are just a few examples:

- Spiderman - Batman
- Ant man - Cat woman
- Black panther

There are also many common idiomatic phrases in English which are examples of zoomorphism. Here is a short list :

She was barking up the wrong tree by questioning him.

He was champing at the bit at the beginning of the negotiations .( A. Richards, “Metaphor “, and “The Command of Metaphor”, 2000) Zoomorphism has held an important place in many different fields such as mythology, folklore, religion, classical literature and modern genre fiction, such as science fiction , fantasy, and comic books. Many gods were represented in animal form in several different religions such as the deity Ganesha, the elephant- headed god Hinduism, or the Holy Spirit in Christianity represented with a dove. In classical literature, the sphinx played an important role in the play Oedipus the King by Sophocles as he posed the riddle that Oedipus solved successfully.

In conclusion , zoomorphism is perhaps most common though in simple examples of comparing a person's features, movements or characteristics to an animal . This is a popular device in describing a new character so that the reader gets a more complete understanding of the character.

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