

ABSTRACT

The goal of this monograph, *Pag-alagwa sa Hawla* (Liberation from the Cage), is to collect and give new meaning to Philippine literary texts that contain animal characters, symbols, and imagery, as well as representation of animality. Through an extensive search for these animal-bearing pieces, it will be revealed that there is a dominant tradition of suppressing animal representation by way of using animals and their animality as imagery, metaphor, stereotype, and tools of satire not just in Philippine literature but also literature from other cultures. This monograph will also establish that this caging of animal representation mirrors the plight of animals in the real world, and therefore, the stories in this collection must free the caged animal in literature.

To achieve this new understanding of animal experience, this monograph shall prove that fiction, particularly the short story, will create new representations of animals through world-building, perspective or point of view, and a glimpse of the interior lives of animal characters. Through the production of new animal fiction, the reader can now move past the long-held tradition of caging animals in conventional representations, and begin to see the animal and their experiences in the present.

Keywords: short story, fiction, animals, Veganism, Speciesism

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