

# **Animal Symbolism in Selected Literary Poems: A Multicultural Approach.**

**By**

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## **Abstract**

**Keywords: Disempowerment, Hughes, Mythical, Symbolism**

Animal and bird symbolism has been used in literature widely and in poetry in particular. One of the themes that are taken in this thesis is how animal and bird symbolism has been used to represent disempowerment through the ages. Disempowerment has many fields to be practiced as the way men treated women in patriarchal societies, the way some countries have controlled others, and the new colonization that has appeared since 2010 through the use of smartphones to be connected with the world and follow international trends, even between animals.

Disempowerment in this thesis is represented through history and how it is accepted to be .applied these days

Ted Hughes is one of the poets that uses animal imagery a lot in his poetry, so he is called an animal poet, and he has lots of poems given animal names. Some of Hughes' poems are chosen in this thesis which have a certain animal or bird symbolism. Other poems from different cultures

are chosen to highlight the cultural differences in dealing the same animal or bird symbol between cultures or poets.

People in the past believed in mythical animals. Poets use them in their verses as a part of their beliefs and culture. Some mythical animals are believed and used in certain times and certain cultures, while others are used in all places around the world. Mermaids, Sphinx, Phoenix, and Bogymen are examples of mythical animals. Each mythical animal symbol has its role and is used positively or negatively, depending upon the culture of the poet. A historical view, in general, is represented and in some fields of literature in particular.

Considering insects as one of the animal world, many poems are selected to represent the meaning of the same insect in different cultures. The same insects with the same meaning in all cultures are discussed and analyzed as what is mentioned in the famous story *The Ant And The Cricket*