

**The Struggle against Anthropocentrism in the Select Works of
Lawrence Anthony**

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Chapter V

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Summation

Literature is the mirror of life. It depicts the society's structure, rules, attitudes, values, human happiness, sufferings, pain, sorrow, development and the like. From the fourteenth century, writers like Chaucer, Shakespeare, John Donne, Christopher Marlowe and several others portrayed the sociological problems taking place in the society through their literary works. In this way, literature plays a significant role in bringing out nobility in the society. Earlier writers concentrated on writing problems raised due to race, class, and gender. The post-modern era has a major change, earlier there were problems between the family, then society and now the problem involves danger to the earth due to the activity of men. In this postmodern age, there is a complete contradiction in writing style. It is the time for the literary writers to highlight the problems that our environment, faces today and is threatened with. It is vital to note that the earth has entered the sixth phase of extinction much of the flora and fauna will be wiped out from the face of the world.

Environmental concerns are mounting up like never before. Most of the writers became eco-conscious. This is due to the environmental degradation caused by two ways, one is by humans and another by nature itself. There is a belief that above all technological development and manpower, there exists a heavenly power because of which there are floods, famine, hurricane, tsunami, earthquake and such mammoth disasters which take place because of the irresponsible and reckless act of man. Man thinks himself to be superior to other natural things and takes undue advantage over it. The result is the depletion of the ozone layer, global warming, deforestation, poisoning of sea water, overfishing, desertification, industrial accidents, high usage of chemical fertilisers on land, poaching,

garbage disposal and so on. Man has exploited animals for their meat, skin, bones and other parts, that it has driven away many species to the brink of extinction.

Lawrence Anthony, one of the great conservationists, has done more than perhaps anyone else to raise global awareness about the high value and great capability of huge mammals, especially elephants and rhinos. He has spent much of his life in his reserve, separated from much of civilisation, and devoted his life to saving animals from wild trafficking. He believes that animals and humans have an emotional bonding which is spiritual. He finds the journey exciting and invites the readers into his adventurous experience with the wild. He loves to care for the animals and is aggrieved by their suffering.

Anthony's three books voice his concern and well-being of animals. The first one, *Babylon's Ark*, endeavours to spare animals at the Baghdad Zoo amid the Gulf War, the second one, *The Elephant Whisperer*, records his exertions to tranquil, and thereby save a herd of belligerent elephants at Thula Thula and the third, *The Last Rhinos*, portrays his extremely individual war on rhino poachers in 2007. All the three books depict the suffering of animals due to human greed to control or utilise the whole ecosystem. Hence the dissertation aims to analyse the man-animal strife that emerges because of anthropocentrism or human-centrism.

Earlier hunting was very normal and creatures were relentlessly being utilised by the people for their own various points of interest. Sudden population increase worldwide changed the climatic condition and resulted in biodiversity misfortunes. With the assistance of literary studies, qualities of animals, some of the incidents with animals, tremendous developments, transformations, animals love towards humans, awareness programmes and through expanding training, the states of mind towards creatures is

changing partially. The relationship between the humans and animals transformed into significantly more extensive. It is due to the extinction of a few animal groups that stimulated the distinctive fascination in the information of the animals, through various mediums. Some of the books like *A Sand County Almanac*, *A Political and Animal Politics*, *Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil*, *Zodiac* and several others really worked well to bring interests among the masses to acknowledge the importance of animals and their attitudes towards the humans.

Apart from literary studies, further, numerous opinions were raised to comprehend and fathom ecological and wildlife issues for preserving environment that proceeds through various educational projects, the foundation of natural life asylums and national parks and promoting the protection of the species. Diverse wildlife channels like Animal Planet, Discovery, Nat Geo Wild and National Geographic assumed the most communicative roles in introducing the awareness and tender demeanours towards the animals and the ecosystem. The most astonishing through films like the Planet of the Apes, Ice Age series, Jurassic Park, Shark Water, The Messenger, Anaconda, King Kong and such other films aroused the interest and curiosity of people about animals.

Anthropocentrism is the conviction that individuals exercise an incomparable and dominant control over every one of the elements in the universe. It is seriously implanted in numerous modern human societies and cognizant acts. Even though eradications are a common part of evolution, human changes to the planet did not start over the most recent couple of hundreds of years, yet maybe even centuries, have significantly quickened the rate at which extinctions happen. Man, being anthropocentric, wants nature to be under

his control. At first, he starts controlling other men, then animals and at last nature, and the result is he fails in it. At present, it is an ideal opportunity to make vital strides against natural peripheral.

The first chapter consists of, Introduction, outlines the blossoming of ecocriticism, its improvement, and its theories, about the writer, Lawrence Anthony who committed his entire life to animal conservation, ensuring the world's jeopardized species, his works and contribution by contemporary authors.

The second chapter is entitled 'Intrinsic Value of Animals'. Using Tom Regan's theory of Intrinsic value of animals, the book *Babylon's Ark* is dissected. It is the genuine story of the wartime rescue of the Baghdad Zoo animals. The state of the zoo animals is stirred because of man's wrong demeanour towards nature. Man's eagerness and pride over the neighbouring countries made him take up arms against his own species, which has harmed the entire ecosystem. Nobody knows with conviction how many people and animals have been killed and injured in Iraq since 2003 United States intrusion.

The fierce death of Iraqi civilians and animals have happened through suicide assaults, aerial bombing, gunshots, shelling, and shoot began by besieging. Hundreds of animals and birds had kicked the bucket, got away or had been stolen for sustenance by people. Anthony thought it is important to instruct civilians about the risk of unlawful and unregulated chasing. The manipulation of natural resources that often leads to animal extinction is firmly connected to a monetary advance of the nations where this procedure happens. Consequently, he tended to the issues which were an overwhelming test to him.

Anthony mentioned about two types of poaching, one who kill zoo animals, or others who do to fulfil their hunger, sometimes which has turned the common people into

poachers. Whereas, the second type are the poachers who kill or smuggle the animals just for the sake of money. Animals are assassinated for body parts utilised as a part of customary drug or ornamentation, and some are caught alive to be sold as pets. From ancient days, individuals have been hunting wild animals and still, the trend is continuing. But, today specialised improvements like weapons, guns and mechanised transportation have made expansive scale hunting simpler than ever before.

Anthony, throughout the book, has depicted his struggle to rescue the zoo animals but not about the people. Because he felt there are governments, various organisations, and media to voice out the struggles and sufferings of the people and sometimes people themselves protest against governments to get their rights or to find a solution. But, in case of animals very few concerns related to them. They do not know what is happening around them. They do not have the ability to think and manipulate the environment as skillfully as the humans do. They do not expect anybody to solve their problems. Hence Anthony voices the cries of voiceless animals of the Baghdad Zoo.

In the third chapter 'The Interconnectedness of Humans and Animals', using the deep ecology theory, the book *The Elephant Whisperer* is analysed. It tells the story of his adventures and connection with a rescued herd of African elephants. Deep ecology states eight principles, using these eight principles the book is analysed. Anthony was solicited to acknowledge a group of maverick wild elephants on his Thula Thula game reserve in Zululand. In the previous reserve, the herd was tormented deeply, the elephant's matriarch and her calf were shot to death, in the presence of other elephants which turned the group fierce against people. After the incident, the herd was transported into the new reserve. In the beginning, they were extremely forceful and brutal against

people who endeavoured to get close to them, which delineates the herd's loss of confidence in mankind. Anthony had demonstrated that great contemplations and genuine care towards the animals changed the attitude of the tremendous warm-blooded animals towards mankind.

In many reserves and zoos, animals are tormented deeply. Zoos are created specifically to exhibit animals and to create a healthy knowledge about it to the public. These days most of the zoos gather animals, taking into consideration preservation needs, the potential for logical research and which species attracts the public or likes the best. Indeed, even zoos purchase, offer, exchange, obtain, credit out and breed animals. Animals must be enabled to meander several miles and carry on with their life as in the wild but whereas in a zoo, they go insane, become ill frequently, assault the handlers and are compelled to eat what is given to them just so they can be exhibited as an attraction. Numerous animal welfare supporters trust that zoos, even those with scientific and enlightening intentions, exploit animals by keeping them in imprisonment and exhibiting them to the public.

Habitat loss remains the principal driver of extinction, yet to keep them from annihilation it is important to keep them in well-reserved habitat. The issue with nature reserve was that it still had the chance to accomplish poachers and individuals who need to ensure it yet does not have the labour, cash or assets to stop illicit poaching. Extensive bodied and uncommon species and habitat experts are especially inclined to annihilation due to quick human alterations of the planet. As human beings, even animals require time to acclimatize to the pristine environment. That is what Anthony provided to the troublesome herd in his reserve and in years, they were connected and followed him, he

became a part of the herd's family. Dissimilar to different zoos and reserves he did not consider the animals in the reserve as an instrument to acquire cash. His private concentration was the recovery of the traumatised African elephant and this automatically paved respect to each animal in his zoo.

In some of the zoos, the guards or the keepers purposely tortured the caged animals to grab the attention of the visitors. Zoos are trade industries that capitalise on breeding, purchasing, and marketing animals. Their main precedence is income, not animal welfare. In case of reserve animals, it is shoddier than the zoos, because the lives of reserve animals are endangered by poachers. Anthony too underwent serious traumatic pressure, to save their lives from the previous reserve owner as well as from the poachers. And as he engaged to create a bond with the elephants, he came to comprehend that they had a prodigious pact to teach him about life, faithfulness, and liberty. Anthony's remorseless efforts at animal protection and his extraordinary connection with nature proved his humanness.

In the fourth chapter 'The Combat to save the Last Rhinos' deals about the true story of his inclusion to save the enduring Northern White Rhino in the DRC Congo. When Lawrence Anthony discovered that the northern white rhino, living in the war-desolated Congo, was on the very verge of elimination, he knew he needed to act. If the world lost the sub-species, it would be the biggest land warm-blooded creature since the woolly mammoth to be wiped out.

In *The Last Rhinos*, Anthony describes his endeavours to protect these remarkable animals. The interest in rhino horns in the Far East has transformed poaching into a perilous underground market that debilitates the lives of not just these rare species, but

also the rangers who secure them. People in rich nations are one of the reasons for the dwindling of animal population. It is important to create an awareness among developed and developing nations to include in the issues, for example, increment punishments for poaching and unlawful trafficking while at the same time extending living space assurances for threatened animals, elucidate people about property rights for legitimate wildlife users in societies that advantage the presence of wildlife.

Despite inactive government administration, Anthony made an unsafe trip profoundly into the wilderness to attempt to discover and persuade the LRA, to help spare the rhino. In the Congo region, poachers with programmed weapons and helicopters shoot the animals with sedative darts, then hack off their horns while they are yet breathing. The activity of the poachers is so heartless they even booby-trap the bodies with projectiles as the reprisal against the people, like Anthony, other conservationists, and park rangers, who try to save the animals from the evil hands. The illegal exchange which jeopardized species is an overall issue that includes animals as well as plants, and it enhances troubling factors such as organised crime and in addition further decreases world's natural atmosphere. Anthony tried to console, provided knowledge and sought attention from the LRA soldiers to help him to protect the remaining northern white rhinos from the bush. But finally, he could not save the creature singlehandedly from the highly trained poachers hence the species had become extinct.

Various organisations and conservationists have roused to save nature from loving overexploited. Some of the fundamental reasons for animal extinction in latest circumstances has been, with no sensible uncertainty, human demand, either for animal properties specifically or for the natural properties constituting the animals'

environments. Notwithstanding that, there are other circuitous causes which are in any case evolved by human exercises like fur exchange, domestic trade, bushmeat exchange, body part exchange, trade for biomedical research. “In one of the most outrageous cases of simultaneous drug and wildlife smuggling which occurred at Miami Airport in 1993, 312 boa constrictors that arrived from Colombia were found carrying inside them 39 kilos of cocaine. All of the snakes eventually died” (Bright). Demonstrations that wildlife not only kept as domestic but also for tranquilliser transaction purpose.

Animals such as jaguar, Guadalupe, and leopards were highly favoured for their attractive furs and were hunted for their coat and the same goes to tigers as poachers slain them for their body parts which are utilised in customary medicine. Not only the tiger was hunted for this purpose, but rhinoceros and elephants as well were chased for their tusks and horns. All these items were sold for a high price in the black market. Every one of these animal valuables was sold for the excessive cost in the underground market. Whale meat is prominent among the Japanese and it is one of their most cherished dishes, hence to meet the needs in Japan, each year whales are hunted amid whaling season. Monkeys are often seized for research purpose especially in well-developed countries. They exchange to the biomedical lab with the certain cost and these biomedical labs will utilise them as research in discovering the cure for certain ailments. An example of monkeys that are often used in this field is chimpanzees. Even though they are not yet wiped out, they have delegated the imperilled species since they are utilised as a part of research as well as turn into the objective of the bushmeat seeker.

From the ancient times, chasing has been a critical human activity as a method for survival. There is an entire history of overexploitation through overhunting. Every single

living being expected resources to survive. Overexploitation of these resources for extended periods can exhaust common stocks to the point where they cannot recoup inside a passing time span. People have dependably reaped nourishment and different resources. Prior human populaces, were little, and strategies for accumulation restricted to little amounts. With an exponential increment in the human populace, extending markets and expanding request, joined with enhanced access and procedures for capture, are causing the misuse of numerous species beyond sustainable levels.

Ever since mankind began hunting to survive, it transformed into over-hunting and fishing and this has been a large and dangerous problem. Of all the species who became extinct due to interference from mankind is the dodo, Steller's sea cow, great auk, passenger pigeon, and Tasmanian tiger are some of the more well-known examples; with the grizzly bear, Eastern timber wolf, bald eagle, American bison, northern white rhino and sea turtle have been chased to close elimination. If humans neglect to comprehend this misfortune, evidently the animals themselves do. Extinction of animals affects the food web; hence it automatically affects the entire ecosystem.

In all the three books, Anthony has portrayed the sufferings of animals which arises due to anthropocentrism. Using ecocriticism's three theories the books have been analysed. Anthony states that people are the main species among the various living beings, to think and act with moral sense with the assistance of their intuition. Hence it is their responsibility to take care of other living beings and treat them equally. Humans are at once superheroes for all animals have now turned into an insatiable, remorseless and cold-blooded because of their changing attitude towards nature, the best instance being Anthony's portrayal in his works. In *The Last Rhinos*, the extinct of northern white rhino

is a disgrace to mankind and this concept is depicted effectively. Human's demonstration of killing an entire lot of a generative process by making the species wiped out is unforgivable. Some of the endangered species should be preserved in a well-secured place to avoid extinction, hence, the need for saving the environment must be confirmed.

The current rate of extinction of species is estimated at one hundred to one thousand, ten times higher than normal rates. The action of man will advance the Holocene extinction, generally alluded to as the sixth extinction or Anthropocene extinction. It is the continuous extinction occasion of species amid the present Holocene age. The enormous number of extinctions traverses various groups of plants and animals, including warm-blooded ones, fowls, arthropods, reptiles, and amphibians. With the widespread degradation of highly biodiverse territories, for example, coral reefs and rainforest, and different regions, by far most of these eradications is believed to be undocumented. Extinction can disturb essential ecological procedures, for example, tsunami, earthquake, environment fall, and a higher extinction rate overall.

The Holocene extinction is a life-threatening issue which incorporates the vanishing of huge land animals known as megafauna, which is mentioned by Anthony when he details the extinction of the northern white rhinos. Tradition on International Trade in Endangered Species, a legitimately restricting arrangement that has been signed by numerous countries and worldwide initiatives is important to spare the threatened species. It helps to focus public attention on what he sees as an existential threat to hundreds of the world's mammal species. Nobody has the answer, but one of the foremost goals of the thesis is to enlighten people on the significance of the problems.

Until people become aware of the magnitude of these problems, there would not be any kind of strong global resolution.

The arrival of people on various continents harmonises with megafauna extinction. The most well-known theory is that over-hunting of species by humans added to existing anxiety conditions. As per a worldwide investigation stated by Oregon State University biologist William Ripple, hunting is pushing many warm-blooded animal species nearer to annihilation. Ripple and his fellow researchers examined information on more than one thousand one hundred earthly well-evolved creatures effectively recorded as undermined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Their conclusion: hunting is a primary menace for three hundred one species, including rhinos, gorillas, chimpanzees, and tigers. While the list includes several types of deer, pig, and antelope, it also includes a staggering one hundred twenty-six primate species and twenty-seven types of bats.

The issue happens almost exclusively in developing countries like Latin America, Africa, and Asia, where survival hunting tends to play an important economic role and environmental protections that are often negligent, and it is mainly associated with illegal and unfettered hunting. Madagascar, home to a vast assortment of endangered lemurs and other primates, has the greatest number of vertebrate species jeopardised by hunting, followed by China, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Brazil, India, and Indonesia. While enormous numbers of the creatures are murdered by survival seekers frantic to put food on the table for their families, others are out on the open market for amusement, or bushmeat as it is generally known.

Coupled with widespread habitat loss, global warming and other pressures on wildlife throughout the universe, unconstrained hunting could be enough to push some of these species over the brink. Another aspect to consider: some of the over-exploitation of threatened species is driven by organised cliques and terrorist organisations that use the earnings to fuel their criminal actions. Many of the most imperiled mammals are large herbivores and carnivores, this sort of animals can play perilous roles in sustaining ecosystem firmness. Losing some of those species could have far-reaching environmental consequences, devastating some of the world's most iconic landscapes, from the plains of Africa to the Amazon rainforest.

Annihilations of species have happened on each land mass and sea, with numerous renowned cases inside Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, North and South America, and on littler islands through literary writings. Generally, the Holocene termination can be portrayed by the human effect on the earth. The Holocene elimination proceeds into the twenty-first century, with meat utilisation, overfishing, sea fermentation and the amphibian proficient emergency being a couple of more extensive cases of a practically all-inclusive, cosmopolitan decrease in biodiversity. Human overpopulation (and proceeded with populace development) alongside reprobate utilisation are thought to be the essential drivers of this fast decrease.

Anthony speaks of how the rescue inspired the formation of The Earth Organisation a grassroots worldwide non-profit, conservation and environment organisation, with new arrangements, focused on the inventive dependable recovery of planet earth and the plant and animal kingdoms. He underlines that if chasing and poaching can be controlled then there can be an enormous change in the quantities of the jeopardised species.

People have abused the world for a long time and the outcomes and consequences of doing so are everywhere. As everything is identified with everything, no one has no privilege to encroach on the livelihood of some other species. In fact, the intellectual capacity and comprehension of nature oblige to keep up the uprightness of the earth. Subsequently, it is important to change how individual impacts the land. Various organisations, literary works, media, seminars, and workshops must be conducted to make the world understand how cruel is humanity. It is not only necessary to educate the tribes but also the people who live in cities.

Everyone must esteem the natural order of things and treasure a way to live consequently. This requires a universal effort to evaluate the association with nature and modify it as required. Through universal environmental education programmes, it is conceivable to galvanise people into framing new thoughts and the future of the world and to comprehend their place inside it. To prevent animal extinction and animal endangerment in the future, one ought to unquestionably learn the lessons of the past and endeavour to eliminate as many causes of animal destruction as just conceivable. Everybody should strive to locate a balanced harmony amongst human and creature welfare – that is the main path forward towards the harmony of man and nature.

To discuss Anthony's usage of literary devices, he composed (with brother-in-law Graham Spence) three books which are told from the first- person point of view. Anthony's views and reactions to the animal abuse that is going around the world and human atrocities revolving around it is elaborated. For this reason, the first-person point of view is an ideal one. All the three books are in the present tense. Each book unfolds realistic incidents in the same way that it unfolds for the reader, although there is

flashback technique in the book. In *Babylon's Ark* and *The Last Rhinos*, during his adventurous effort to save animals from suffering and extinction, he was reminded of his reserve, especially the traumatised elephants which he sheltered. The flashback technique is used to create a background to the present situation. This technique incorporated by Anthony sometimes breaks the monotony of the story but it helps the reader to understand about his concern for animals.

All the three books of Anthony and Graham Spence are a memoir of the former's experience in rescuing the wild. His writing style is very simple and straightforward in all the three books. His narrating of an event creates visual effects wherein the reader is ensnared and absorbed mesmerisingly. From the titles itself, one can understand the theme of the books. It deliberates about the present scenario of the wild animals. Each book introduces the reader to one of the main problems that pestilence conservationists in Africa – poaching. The chapters follow a chronological order. The setting plays a significant role in his works. In *Babylon's Ark*, he depicts the Baghdad Zoo as it is situated in the city center and is caught in the war's crossfire, resembling an apocalypse world. In *The Elephant Whisperer*, he establishes the evidence of the story and describes the unblemished bush of his game reserve Thula Thula, in South Africa which is home to many animals. *The Last Rhinos*, is about his adventure to save northern white rhinos, living in an area of the Congo and he also describes the dense forest.

Anthony also uses the authorial intrusion technique which creates a connection between the writer and the reader where the writer is currently a dynamic character in the story's account. The fundamental thought process of the three books is to create an awareness in the society through his writings. He is already in action and found out few

to hold hands with him. But he needs much more to board with him to make a real difference in the environment. Consequently, all through his books, he specifically passes on his message to the pursuers to spare animals from sufferings.

In *The Elephant Whisperer* and *The Last Rhinos*, Anthony uses bilingual technique. “The technique produces a synthesis of cultural attitudes, values, beliefs, and perspectives. One may argue that bilingualism in literature is a powerful way of maintaining a community’s identity within a larger culture” (Bilingualism). He combines English and rural Zulu language. In the story, the author at many places uses Zulu- in some cases without translation or else the author repeats it in English and hence, it is easily understood by the reader. The story is set in Zululand and therefore it is obvious that Anthony has a knowledge of both English and Zulu. Some of the frequently-used words like *amakhosi*, *induna*, *muthi*, *boma*, *moersa*, *Mkhulu*, *Sawubona*, *amagweragwer*, *Siafu* which are unfamiliar to the reader has been used in both the books.

In all the three books there are several common themes used such as conservation, poaching, man-animal conflict, child labour, supernatural elements, unemployment, global terrorism and so on. If there is one theme that emerges throughout the books it is that of conservation and saving endangered species from extinction. Anthony cherishes animals of all depiction including everything from brilliant elephants and splendid lions to poisonous snakes and tiny creepy crawlies. That he consented to go up against a herd of immense and disturbed elephants exhibits his undying admiration towards them and his devotion to their protection. In Baghdad, he saves the wounded bear, starving lions from Uday’s palace and some of the caged animals from the nearby zoo. In his journey to

Congo, he pleaded with the LRA to help him in conserving some of the animals from edging into extinction, like Congo giraffe known as okapi and the gorillas.

In *The Last Rhinos*, Anthony depicts global terrorism. He has portrayed how lives of innocent people and animals were vulnerable because of fear mongering in that region. When compared to the common people, the terrorists are more intelligent. They are well versed in latest technological development and know the world better than anybody else. They even know about the problems that arise due to the usage of highly toxic substance, it not only kills the group of people but also damages the environment. Despite knowing everything, they volunteered to engage themselves in destroying nature. Their abominations and the governments' lethargic disposition was additionally one of the main reasons for the extinction of northern white rhino.

Unemployment is another theme which is not discussed in the earlier chapters. Anthony was long involved with programmes to involve remote African tribes in conservation on their own traditional land, an activity he considered essential to the future well-being of conservation in Africa. He had formed two new Game Reserves in South Africa. The Royal Zulu Biosphere in Zululand, which is growing to join the world acclaimed Umfolozi Hluhluwe reserve, and the Mayibuye Game Reserve in Kwa Ximba. In the book, *The Elephant Whisperer* he provided jobs for the local tribes in constructing fencing and employs them as rangers too. In *Babylon's Ark*, he seeks the help of the local people to save the animals from suffering, instead of wages he provides them food, which makes several people join his initiative.

The aim of the thesis is to outline the issues of the environment that is portrayed in the books of Lawrence Anthony. He must be considered as the man of animals.

Through his lifestyle, he has educated several people about how to maintain a healthy relationship with the environment. To lead a better life in an eco-friendly society, it is possible only when people join to support the society, they must realise the responsibility and the potential success outcomes from it. Ultimately, the nation needs some superpower, human or superhuman to stop all these natural exploitations. Sometimes, man fails to realise that he need not search for the super powerful man because he is within him.

If everyone is ready to fight against these greedy exploiters of nature and make them stop using things which exploit nature, then the future can be saved. Anthony and several others have already laid the foundation to conserve and preserve nature and animals, it is time for everyone to wake up to wipe out the tears of Mother Earth. And also aims at creating awareness on love towards fellow creatures from the grassroots level. Young children should have it in their syllabus. The total mind set of the people must change to appreciate God's unique creation of every kind. The general public should develop concern for meak, dumb, voiceless wonderful lives. At last books of Lawrence Anthony may be recommended as for extra reading in high school level.

A case study has been undertaken to analyse the condition of animals in the nearby forest. An interview with forest range officer M. Nazeer regarding the Mettupalayam wildlife provided insight into its biosphere reserve. He shared some interesting information and steps taken by the government to protect wild animals. Mettupalayam is situated on the banks of the Bhavani River closely nestled along the foothills of the Nilgiri Mountains. It is richly endowed with hills, forests, river, and wildlife. Animals like chital, sambar, gaurs, elephants, wild pigs, black napped hair, peacocks, monkeys, bison are the habitats of the forest. The thick forest and density of

the animals are important to balance the ecosystem. The government has implemented several precautionary measures to save the life of animals.

One of the significant issues which the forest ranger faces is due to wild animals meandering outside the forest area and marching into the nearby villages and farmlands, which creates a great loss to the farmers. Monkeys, elephants, wild boar, deer, peacock are the main threat to the farmers. The impact of the crop damage due to these wild animals creates conflicts between man and animal. Mettupalayam elephants typically use three corridors, particularly, the Jaccanari-Vedar Colony corridor, Kallar-Jaccanari corridor, and Kallar- Nellithurai corridor. Elephants use corridors of their transit routes among habitats because of the technological improvement and increasing populace level, the anthropogenic view which is aroused by the people. The development of the forest area reduces the useful resource availability to elephants, which in turn leads to crop raiding and wide-spread and different human-elephant conflicts on the forest fringes.

Nazeer splits the elephants into two categories. One is wild, which would not emerge out of the forest regions whereas another one transgresses for migration. The latter creates man-animal conflict, snaps out from the forest and wanders in the nearby villages and harvests their cultivation and damages their livelihood. That is why it gets the name crop raider. Nobody can be blamed for the situation. The elephant would not sojourn in one place; it will always follow the migratory pattern. Due to increase in human population many of the elephant's corridor is occupied, using the land for cultivation purposes, building houses, scarcity of water, drought, increase in wild animal population, road extensions which propel the animal in the wrong direction, habitat loss, ecotourism,

variation in climate, human interference inside the forest area, are some of the predominant issues for the animal which enters human dwelling.

Nazeer stated some of the initiatives taken by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department to control the animals straying out of the forest areas and to avoid man-animal conflict. Due to the scarcity of water, the elephants started entering the village in quest of drinking water which creates anxiety to local people. To avoid this problem, solar pumps have been laid in the forest, which automatically fills the water tanks and few others are filled with the support of tanker lorries which is filled once in three days. A handful of elephant deaths are due to starvation in Coimbatore and the Nilgiris districts. To evade animals hunger, especially during summer, the forest department has implemented a project to planting saplings to enrich greenery in the forest.

The demise of wild animals has increased in number recently and this has raised concerns among wildlife and environmental activists as there could be more deaths due to accidents on roads which is due to the migratory habits of the elephants. It is also not good for humans because many people take walks in the early morning during which the elephants usually cross the roads, creates chaos among the public. Sometimes elephants also meet with accidents with heavy vehicles or trains. Hence the forest department has taken many initiatives to confine the elephants inside the forest. One such initiative is the electric fence. It is a hindrance of electric stun to control animals from intersecting at the boundary. The voltage of the stun may have impacts extending from distress to death.

As everyone knows, elephants are intelligent animals, they know how to handle the electric fencing, they easily break it and walk out of the forest. The fence proves effective for a few months and later due to little or no maintenance, the elephants have

learned to break in. Indeed, even a few elephants discovered that their tusks do not lead to power and utilise them to break electric fencing. To discourage further fence-breaking, Nazeer informed that they had introduced hanging fences which the elephants cannot break and when compared to normal electric fencing, hanging fence is more effective and comparatively less expensive. The agricultural and farmland owners have been asked to implement the hanging fences to avoid man-animal conflicts.

Nazeer narrated an incident which took place on 17th January 2017, involving Palanisamy, a farmer from Thasampalayam who owns more than five acres near Nellimalai Reserve Forest area where he had grown more than three hundred coconut trees. Elephant crowds recurrently struck his farm for sustenance. To keep them away from his crop, he had illegally connected an electric fence enclosing his farm. Because of the electric shock, a thirty-year-old elephant and its six-year-old calf were electrocuted. The forest officials have visited the spot and filed a case against Palaniswamy. Usually, the forest department removes both the tusk of the dead elephant and burn it in front of all the officials, to avoid smuggling. Some elephants die due to worms in the intestine. The forest department has taken initiatives like implementing the deworming drive for wild elephants. They arranged camps near Mettupalayam and Sirumugai where the necessary medical aids were provided to the elephants and their actions were monitored through cameras.

Thus, all this information makes one feel satisfied because Tamil Nadu Forests provide the basic life support system for all living things. The public too has joined hands with the forest department to preserve the environment. These well-organised and prudently employed initiatives have promoted to conserve nature, including mankind.

This is just a minor example of the many instances that take place the world over to conserve and preserve animal and plant species. Even this does not seem to be ample. Such efforts must be undertaken on a war footing and this alone will enable the prevention of many species of animals from being pushed into extinction. Hence as Lawrence Anthony stated it is a universal issue, the governments, several organisations, public and common people are doing their best to ensure the welfare of Mother Earth.

The books authored by Anthony can also be studied using other ecocriticism theories. The resemblances between the behaviour of humans and animals can also be used as an attempt to study the evolutionary significance of animal behaviour and their psychology.