

**George Orwell's *Animal Farm*: Boxer's Kindness and His Motto, "I Will Work Harder"**

*Received: 7/6/23 Revised: 17/7/2023 Accepted: 20/7/2023*

***Khomduen Phothisuwan***

English for International Communication Department, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Rajamangala University of Technology Tawan-ok, 43 Moo 6, Bang Phra, Si Racha District, Chonburi, Thailand 20110

Tel: +66 089 097 0667 Email: khomduenph@gmail.com

***Prapaipan Aimchoo***

Bachelor of Education Program in English, Faculty of Humanities, Srinakharinwirot University, 114 Sukhumvit 23, Bangkok, Thailand 10110

Tel: +66 089 523 4238 Email: prapaipan44@gmail.com

**Abstract**

This study discussed the horse Boxer's motto, "I will work harder" in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. The objectives were to point out how Boxer was portrayed and to analyze how the motto reflected his kindness. Theoretical ideas regarding kindness were focused on. The qualitative method was employed; the findings were reported in the form of a descriptive analysis. The study found that Boxer was portrayed to have an enormous body, contrasting with his limited intelligence. It also found that the motto reflected his kindness when he did physical hard labor. Furthermore, kindness was seen through Boxer's killing when he defended the farm animals from human intruders. The study argues that working hard is related to survival of the fittest. It also argues that working hard and kindness bring advantage not only to the community as a whole but to an individual as a personal gain.

**Keywords:** *Animal Farm*, Boxer, George Orwell, I will work harder, kindness

## Introduction

George Orwell (1903-50) or Eric Arthur Blair was a British author, a journalist, and a political essayist. Although born in Bengal, India, Orwell was raised in England and educated at Eton Collage, a public school, founded in 1440, in Berkshire. In the 1920s, the English man returned to Eastern Asia and became an Indian imperial policeman working in Burma, called Myanmar nowadays. Returning to Europe, Orwell earned a living as a writer and a teacher in London. As an author, he moved to Paris in the late 1920s and had lived there for two years before returning to London. His first novels are *Burmese Days* (1934) and *A Clergyman's Daughter* (1935). In the late 1930s, this British author became a soldier and fought in the Spanish Civil War. Meanwhile, his novels *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* (1936) and *Coming Up for Air* (1939) were published. Later on, Orwell experienced the bigger and more serious war, the Second World War, in which he did not fight but joined as a journalist. The war inspired him to write *Animal Farm* (1945) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). In addition, he produced works of non-fiction: *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933), *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937), and *Homage to Catalonia* (1938).

Of all Orwell's works, *Animal Farm* gains great success. In "Preface" of *Animal Farm*, Bradbury (2000) tells readers that "The sign of a good book is that it is endlessly re-read and, in a sense, endlessly rewritten. Today, around fifty years after its time of writing, *Animal Farm* retains its power. It has never been out of print" (p. 15). Until now, the novel has been constantly published. Various versions of the novel have been marketed via Amazon.com, an American electronic and cloud computer company, such as *Animal Farm: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition* (2004), *Animal Farm: Reader's Edition* (2011), *Animal Farm* (2012), and *Animal Farm: George Orwell* (2021). Also, the novel was adapted for two versions of movies: the 1954 and the 1999 ones. Even more, *Animal Farm* is included on Modern Library List of Best 20th-Century Novels and categorized as one of the 100 world

classics. In *The Book of Great Books: A Guide to 100 World Classics*, Campbell (2001) suggests the following:

The political message of *Animal Farm* is inspired by the events of the Russian (Bolshevik) Revolution (1917-21), when Russian peasants overthrew the monarchy in favor of socialism, a political system in which land, business, property, and capital are owned by the community as a whole. In *Animal Farm*, Orwell (a Socialist) shows the animals' efforts to overthrow human dictatorship and to establish a socialist community in which everyone contributes to common gain. (pp. 61-62)

Satirizing the political movements in the Russian Revolution in which the people have overthrown their tsar, the king of Russia, *Animal Farm* is presented in the form of an allegory of life in the rebellion. In the first scene, Major, the oldest male pig, has laid a solid foundation of the revolution, Animalism, and by then he dies. The core idea of Animalism is to form a sufficient society where all farm animals are treated as equals. Napoleon and Snowball, two young male pigs, lead the animals to revolt against Farmer Jones, their human owner. After the victorious rebellion, the two male pigs establish themselves as new leaders. The clashes between them arise. Snowball has been exiled before the farm is ruled under Napoleon's dictatorship. As the years pass, none of the animals can reach a better life except Napoleon and some pigs who, in the end, behave like humans.

While the deep-rooted political ideas attract readers all over the world, researchers and reviewers examine the novel *Animal Farm* quite extensively. Phothisuwan and Aimchoo (2016) find that "[t]he animals are fixed into a servitude condition eternally because of their lack of the ability to acquire any form of knowledge. The animals keep on working hard within long hours and staying in miserable conditions" (p. 61). As a great example of how

creative allegory can be, Hasan, Muhammad, and Bahasin (2020) study the abusive practice of power in the novel and report some situations, as follows:

The writer used an allegorical style in the circumstance of his time, the animals looked like from the pigs to man externally, or from man to pigs, then the book is an insight into human behavior. They were trying to build the windmill, but disappear in front of their eyes, all this disappointment, fighting, and killing of their own life done by their leaders. (p. 13)

Among the farm animals, Boxer, a horse, is portrayed as a key character. Boxer is depicted as a cart horse who pursues working hard. Campbell (2001) describes this horse in terms of physical and mental abilities as well as a political aspect reflecting through his performances. It reads:

Cart horse of great size and strength; limited intelligence. Never masters more than the first four letters of the alphabet, but works hard, sets an example for others. When he is old and ill, pigs show no appreciation for his mighty efforts. Political symbolism: exploited member of the working class whose labor provides happiness for others, not for himself. Orwell's idea is that individuals like Boxer stand to benefit most from a true socialist system in which everyone in the community contributes to the common gain. (p. 56)

Apart from what Campbell describes, various findings about Boxer are reported. In *Why Orwell Matters*, Hitchens (2003) notices the following:

The clean honest world of Houyhnhnms of *Gulliver's Travels* is partly recreated in *Animal Farm*; the death of the stolid carthorse Boxer exceeds in its pathos—because of Boxer's massive gentle innocence—even the crashing majestic final agony of Orwell's real-life Burmese elephant. (p. 136)

Using figurative senses to report political aspects, a study suggests that “Boxer is the metaphor of the proletariat (unskilled labor class) in the Soviet Union who easily believed that their leadership policies are stated for the benefit of the country. Boxer was the type of a gullibility proletariat” (Fajrina, 2016, p. 87). In terms of a psychological aspect, Wermelin (2017) reports the following:

Considering that Boxer always looked forward to a brighter future and genuinely wanted to believe everything remotely positive, he was the perfect mark to manipulate. Because of his positive attitude and willingness to do manual labor, instead of putting down time in learning how to read, he was also extremely easy to fool. (p. 31)

From political and connotative to psychological sentiments, this key character is often analyzed in terms of personal quality. Boxer, as Lummack (2017) describes, “was the relentlessly faithful horse from Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, always willing to endure hardship and to redouble his effort for the collective goal. Without Boxer, the revolutionary work accomplished by the animals would not have been possible” (p. 104). The horse is also further studied in a more specific term *stupidity*. Pointed out in a study, “Boxer, a cart horse, Mollie, a female white mare, and a vulnerable animal are the three examples that portray stupidity in terms of an individual” (Phothisuwan, 2018, p. 338).

### ***Kindness***

Various aspects in *Animal Farm* have been studied seriously and extensively for ages, but it is rare to find a positive term *kindness* related directly to this novel or some of its characters or Boxer, the cart horse. The keyword *kindness* is the criterion for studying the horse in this study. It generally means the behavior showing that we care about other people.

However, the meaning that involves human beings and living life leads this term to be defined to be more complex than its general meaning. According to Buddha's teaching, it is named *loving kindness* and categorized to be an element of true love as Hanh (2009) suggests "Loving kindness and compassion contain clarity; they are elements of true love; they don't lead to attachment, but to freedom" (p. 34). In *Utopia*, kindness is related to good-nature as More (1997) states "And that kindness and good-nature unite men more effectually and with greater strength than any agreements whatsoever; since thereby the engagements of men's hearts become stronger than the bond and obligation of words" (p. 94). Muhammad (2019) defines kindness that it "implies a person's readiness, willingness, and promptness to extend his helpfulness to anyone who is in need expecting neither appreciation nor compensation" (p. 2). Pils (2022) expresses one of Mark Twain's quotes that "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see" (p. 4). Under these definitions and views, this study defines kindness as the intention and capacity to offer help to others and to care about them. The characteristic *kindness* is assumed to be possessed by Boxer and presented through his motto, "I will work harder." As a result, the two research objectives are: 1) to point out how Boxer is portrayed and 2) to analyze how the motto reflects kindness.

### **Scope of the Study**

The data are from both primary and secondary sources. Most of the sources are published in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, mostly within the last 7 years. The primary source is Orwell's *Animal Farm* (2000) published by Penguin Classics. The motto "I will work harder" stated by Boxer, a main character, is considered as the most important clue, together with the dialogues between him and other animals and the descriptions of events involving him. The secondary sources are not only the books and the documents offering theoretical ideas regarding kindness but the studies and the reviews relevant to Orwell, *Animal Farm*, and Boxer, the enormous cart horse.

## Methodology

A qualitative method is employed. First, the data relevant to Orwell, *Animal Farm*, and Boxer were gathered from academic articles and reviews. The concepts of kindness in terms of philosophical and humanistic aspects were collected and synthesized. After the term *kindness* had been defined, the research objectives were formed. Second, the motto "I will work harder" stated by Boxer, the dialogues between him and other animals, and the descriptions of events involving him were extracted for in-depth study. There were 20 excerpts selected. Third, the analysis of the motto was carried out in the mode of kindness to attain the two objectives of this study. Fourth, the findings were presented in the form of a descriptive report, followed by the discussion and the conclusion. Most importantly, the study argued that some humanistic aspects reflect from this motto.

## Findings

The study finds that before saying the motto "I will work harder," Boxer's distinctive characteristic is portrayed. According to Orwell (2000), "Boxer was an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together" (p. 2). Just in the first scene, it is obvious that this horse is not only enormous but very powerful. Furthermore, the phrase *as strong as any two ordinary horses put together* can be inferred that he is possibly the strongest of all. A horse that has strength equaling two horses is not usual. Throughout the story, no animals appear as strong as him. However, "A white stripe down his nose gave him a somewhat stupid appearance, and in fact he was not first-rate intelligence, but he was universally respected for his steadiness of character and tremendous powers of work" (Orwell, 2000, p. 2). Boxer's stupid appearance makes a sharp contrast with his enormous physical strength. The description shows that his power is high currency among the farm animals. On the other hand, it implies that he is prepared at the beginning of the story to do physical hard labor throughout it. The sentence *he was not first-rate intelligence*

and the description of his stupid look, raised to contrast sharply with the huge body, also imply that Boxer must do only physical hard work because he cannot think. Even more, it is not just working hard, but working harder than other animals or doubling labor because of his body equaling two horses. On the contrary, the phrase *universally respected* informs that Boxer's work is so helpful. This leads to further interpretation that while other animals cannot labor, Boxer can do it for them. That is to say, this cart horse and his work benefit the whole community; he is respected not only as a helper but as a fill-in.

In addition to that, the horse is portrayed to be much stronger. Boxer, as Orwell narrates, "seemed more like three horses than one" (Orwell, 2000, p. 20). In the first scene, Boxer is as strong as two horses, but at this moment, his strength is extended to equal three horses. The body which is three times the size of an ordinary horse is very unusual. This leads to thinking about the power of the body which is not usual as well. In general, more physical power signifies physical labor which is harder. In particular, such power added supports the sense of not only working hard but working harder. The power looks sensible when he affirms his motto, "I will work harder" (Orwell, 2000, p. 20). Throughout the story, Boxer expresses this motto five times. This means that he always believes in working hard, and even harder. For more interpretation, the extension of Boxer's energy is demonstrated after the farm has been changed from Manor Farm to Animal Farm. Although the human farm owner and his men are exiled, the cart horse is still prepared through his body to do more physical hard labor. The sheer size of Boxer symbolizes huge mountains of farm work. However, his larger size is advantageous in working for animals but not for humans. In other words, working for the animals is harder than working for the humans. Therefore, after the victorious rebellion, a sign of life without servitude, stated by Major and the pigs as the ultimate goal of Animalism, does not happen. Most of all, the harder the farm work is, the farther and farther apart the goal is.



Apart from the huge body, another characteristic of Boxer is also easy to recognize. The characteristic is visible when the pig Snowball educates the farm animals. The horse, as Orwell (2000) describes, "could not get beyond the letter D. He would trace out A, B, C, D, in the dust with his great hoof" (p. 23). People know that there are 26 letters in the English alphabet. Nevertheless, 4 letters are all that he can reach. This can be interpreted that this horse cannot understand any written words. If he understood, there would be not more than a few words formed through these 4 letters. All pigs, the new farm leaders, can read, learn, and practice some knowledge gained from human books. Some animals can learn some words. Others can learn letters more than Boxer. On one hand, the horse is a beast of the least limited intelligence. On the other hand, he cannot have an education which is generally believed to be a way that anyone can move up. It can be said that the limitation of the brain leads Boxer to be fixed into a servitude condition forever. Even more, the way a clear-cut distinction between the little capacity for learning and the huge power for working encapsulated in Boxer's portrayal is seen. As a result, physical power is the only ability this horse possesses.

Despite the limitation of the brain, Boxer can make full use of his huge and strong body. When he faces problems as a farm beast, "His answer to every problem, every setback, was "I will work harder!"—which he had adopted as his personal motto" (Orwell, 2000, p. 20). Although he cannot remember more than the first four letters of the alphabet, the cart horse can use his labor to solve problems. The motto, "I will work harder" demonstrates not only using a lot of effort, energy, or attention to work but also continuing to work with a greater degree of his labor. The constant repetition of the motto can be traced in the words *every problem, every setback*. Practice makes perfect. As a result, the frequency of using the motto implies that Boxer can do physical work so well that he has no difficulty with it. Moreover, such frequency can be interpreted that working harder brings about good results. If

its results are not effective, it is not repeated. It can be assumed that the motto is practical, active, and effective.

The sentence "I will work harder" is repeated by the horse as a basic rule of working. This indicates that it can solve problems and can help the farm animals survive setbacks if believed and practiced. On the other hand, the motto signifies tolerance, the ability to accept something unpleasant or difficult. This shows the ability as well as the degree to which the horse can manage the problems and the setbacks the farm animals face without presenting any pain or difficulties.

At the core of the farm work, kindness is presented through Boxer's motto. The following scene shows that the horse works very hard. Furthermore, the work is much harder under the pig's control. It reads:

Boxer and Clover would harness themselves to the cutter or the horse-rake (no bits or reins were needed in those days, of course) and tramp steadily round and round the field with a pig walking behind and calling out "Gee up, comrade!" or "Whoa back, comrade!" (Orwell, 2000, p. 19)

Boxer and Clover, the two giant beasts, fastened together to do the cutter or the horse-rake. Only one normal beast cannot do it, so this work presents the necessity of using unusual power to operate. The words *tramp steadily* also signify the hard work through the action of heavy walking. The words *round and round* indicate not only the constant repetition of the same movements but also a lot of time spent because of the repetition. The phrase *the field* shows the picture of the horses doing the outdoor work. Through this scene, a lot of physical strength and effort are portrayed when the two horses are working while walking abreast. Most of all, the phrase *gee up* defies the work that is not just hard but harder than ever. It is because, when doing it, the two horses are encouraged to continue working harder

by a pig, whose work is telling the horses to do the work rather than doing it himself.

It is obvious that the pig's work is speaking while the two beasts' work is doing hard and harder labor. Nevertheless, kindness is presented. When Boxer and Clover harness themselves, they are close. If someone is close, they like or love each other very much. Love is a strong feeling of caring about someone, so it cannot be separated from care. According to this study, kindness means the intention and capacity to offer help to others and to care about them. In this scene, the acts of kindness reflect through the two horses' intention to work together, walk abreast, and spend the day together. All are done in order to help and care for each other. Therefore, the actions of Boxer and Clover present kindness.

The study also finds that Boxer's many acts of kindness are shown throughout the story. As kindness is the desire to offer help to others and to care about them, the evidence of it is taken when Boxer stays with others.

In terms of an individual, the kindness can be seen through the relationship between Boxer and Clover. On Sundays, "Nevertheless, without openly admitting it, he was devoted to Boxer; the two of them usually spent their Sundays together in the small paddock beyond the orchard, grazing side by side and never speaking" (Orwell, 2000, p. 2). The pronoun *he* refers to Clover. The description demonstrates the close relationship between Boxer and Clover who stay together on Sundays at the same place although they don't say anything. Sundays are generally the days when people do not work. Sundays are the special times for friends or members of a family to be together. Sundays are the moments working people look forward to, to be relaxed, to catch up in the lazy, easy-going atmosphere. Staying together on Sundays, the two beasts regularly give each other a significant friendship. They are described as devoted friends who enjoy each other's company. This means that Clover cares about Boxer, and so does Boxer. Although it is not the scene of doing hard labor together, kindness is tremendously strong in the two horses' personal relationship.

In terms of a member of the community, his kindness is presented as well. Among the farm animals, Boxer is described, as follows:

Boxer was the admiration of everybody. He had been a hard worker even in Jones's time, but now he seemed more like three horses than one; there were days when the entire work of the farm seemed to rest on his mighty shoulders. (Orwell, 2000, p. 20)

Every farm animal is full of great admiration for Boxer's hard work. Having power like three horses means that his work triples as a result of such power. Also, the sentence *He had been a hard worker even in Jones's time* makes it clear that the giant horse has worked hard for ages, or he is in the habit of working hard. When the motto "I will work harder" becomes his own ideology, carrying the burdens of other farm animals is his usual task. To fulfil his belief, Boxer does the hard work, even harder and harder. The attention to take the responsibility leads to assuming that no one can lift the farm burdens other animals must do from his shoulders. Presenting himself as a long-time hard worker and carrying out the duties of other animals are so well intertwined that Boxer has earned the animals' admiration. When people repeatedly do something with no one forcing them to do it, it can be said that they feel pleased to do it. Furthermore, when someone takes on the responsibility of others, the person shows something more than diligence or the love of working hard. In terms of kindness, Boxer shows his care and attention to help others through his responsibility for the entire work of the farm. Possessing this feature, the cart horse becomes the most helpful and powerful beast of the farm.

Although it is a positive sense, kindness is presented through killing. Orwell (2000) narrates, "But the most terrifying spectacle of all was Boxer, rearing up on his hind legs and striking out with his great iron-shod hooves like a stallion. His very first blow took a stable-lad from Foxwood on the skull" (p. 30). Many people accept that violence is not a way to

solve a problem. Also, murder is illegal. However, if the worst happens, all have every right to defend themselves to protect life. The stable-lad from Foxwood, together with other men, intrudes into the farm to take control of it. The men attack the farm animals. Boxer is the strongest of all. As a result, it is his prime function to patrol his territory against these intruders, or in fact, to fight against them. The horse kills the stable-lad because he is responsible for keeping security in the farm. It can be said that the security force leads Boxer to kill. When he strikes these men, the horse defends not only himself but others. Boxer, the most powerful member of the farm, helps the farm animals in terms of mutual defense against intruders and cares for them, even their offspring. Therefore, Boxer's kindness appears as a sharp contrast of taking life.

In this situation, kindness can be traced from Boxer's statements, too. As he mourns, "He is dead," said Boxer sorrowfully. "I had no intention of doing that. I forgot that I was wearing iron shoes. Who will believe that I did not do this on purpose?" (Orwell, 2000, p. 31). Kindness is seen through sorrow, a feeling of great sadness. His own words provide clues about the killing without intention. The death occurs because he wants to protect the farm animals from being attacked. If he had realized that he wore the iron shoes, he would not have kicked the human, or the kick would not have been so hard.

In the 7 commandments formulated under the core of Animalism, the first commandment affirms "Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy" (Orwell, 2000, p. 17). The fact that it comes first means that it is the most significant. It also tells all animals that the two legs are the animals' major concern. Men have two legs, so they are categorized as enemies.

The sixth commandment states "No animal shall kill any other animal" (Orwell, 2000, p. 17). According to the commandment, the right to life belongs to the animals; however, it does not belong to humans. Humans are enemies, so they deserve to be killed. Because of

having the most significant power of all, it is Boxer's duty to kill the man who is the intruder. It is his kindness that leads him to keep the farm animals safe from trouble caused by humans' actions. As a result, Boxer attacks the man.

Kindness, on the other hand, leads the horse to avoid following the rules of the commandments. It is clearly seen that "I have no wish to take life, not even human life," repeated Boxer, and his eyes were full of tears" (Orwell, 2000, p. 31). Killing is opposite to any kind behavior he always performs. At this moment, his eyes being full of tears present emotional tears which indicate sympathy or moral feelings. The tears suggest that Boxer feels really sorry for the stable-lad from Foxwood who dies. The tears also tell us that the horse feels a pang of remorse for the murder. These imply that Boxer cares what he has done. Most of all, the sentence *I have no wish to take life, not even human life* can be inferred that the strongest horse cares about someone's life, even the enemy's life. As a result, in this serious situation, kindness is presented.

The study suggests that Boxer's motto "I will work harder" is a useful motto. To make a firm initial step of farm labor, the motto inspires the horse to keep on working hard, and even harder. While it gives him the opportunity to practice his laborious tasks, the belief develops him to be a labor of endless patience. The motto also fulfils his role as the most powerful beast of the farm who can work without fears of obstacles. This is seen in "His answer to every problem, every setback, was "I will work harder!"—which he had adopted as his personal motto" (Orwell, 2000, p. 20). Furthermore, the motto helps increase strength when he, "seemed more like three horses than one" (Orwell, 2000, p. 20). As a member of the farm, Boxer intends to help other animals in farm activities; the motto encourages him. According to the description, "Boxer was the admiration of everybody. He had been a hard worker even in Jones's time" (Orwell, 2000, p. 20). The admiration of every farm animal proves that this giant horse is always perfectly willing to help. The time passes when the

owners are changed from humans to animals. Yet, the motto is still helpful for the farm animals.

Apart from the suggestion, the study redefines the mainstream concept of kindness. Initially, this study defines it as the intention and capacity to offer help to others and to care about them. To present kindness is to look after someone, or to help him or her do something. It is akin to making someone feel better or reducing his or her load. For example, when he is generous to the farm animals or helps them to labor, Boxer is showing kindness. On the other hand, after he has helped other animals, the giant horse feels better and stronger. This can be proved through his iron will to work harder. It can be said that kindness-related relationship benefits both Boxer and the farm animals. Eventually, the study points out that kindness also means the helpful people's capacity for making themselves feel better and sense more physical power, as well as encouraging their deep thirst for work to help others. Most of all, the study notices that kindness is a peaceful means or the glue that holds and brings individual members together.

The study argues that working hard is related to survival of the fittest, the situation in which only the strongest ones continue to exist. In this case, the strongest refers to the most powerful strength of the body rather than mind. Initially, Boxer is portrayed to have a very strong energy, closely intertwined with his own motto "I will work harder." The body which is mingled with the motto results in working hard. When kindness and the motto fulfill each other, working hard reflects his awareness of common benefits. Orwell (2000) narrates "His twelfth birthday was approaching. He did not care what happened so long as a good store of stone was accumulated before he went on pension" (Orwell, 2000, p. 86). This portrayal indicates that the cart horse lives at the age of twelve. The sentence *He did not care what happened* is the sign of ill health caused by doing hard labor. In fact, it is normal for a hard-working one who has worked for years to possess physical problems. Accepting that a

physical problem is usual and believing in working hard, Boxer does not feel worried about his health. Moreover, the phrase *before he went on pension* can be inferred that he has worked hard for a long while. The period of working is long enough to think about retirement pension. Pension means an amount of money gained when someone does not work anymore because they have reached the retirement age or because they are ill. Even though a horse has a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years, this twelve-year-old horse can be regarded as old or older than many animals.

Boxer's longer existence can be proved through his appearance until the last scene. Compared to many characters' appearance, the horse's existence can be counted as longer. In Chapter 5, Snowball, one of the pigs who uses brains to work, is exiled from the farm when he is still young. Another one is Mollie, a pretty white mare. Narrated by Orwell (2000), "She was late for work every morning and excused herself by saying that she had overslept, and she complained of mysterious pains, although her appetite was excellent" (p. 33). It is obvious that Mollie doesn't want to work; nevertheless, she wants to live well. She also disappears from Animal Farm in Chapter 5. A lot of unnamed animals are forced to commit suicide or disappear, too. In Chapter 7, "They were all slain on the spot. And so the tale of confessions and executions went on, until there was a pile of corpses lying before Napoleon's feet and the air was heavy with the smell of blood" (Orwell, 2000, p. 62). However, in Chapter 10, the final chapter of the novel, Boxer still stays alive. He is not forced to kill himself or exiled from the farm. Nor does he disappear with or without out a trace. Eventually, the very hard-working horse can exist, even in various serious situations. It can be said that hard work brings about having a longer life.

The study also argues that the motto "I will work harder" directly benefits the one who believes in it. It attributes Boxer's living long to working hard and harder. Working hard promotes existence. Most importantly, the study argues that working hard as well as kindness



bring advantage not only to the community as a whole but to an individual in terms of personal gain. In other words, working hard and kindness play a large part in helping people exist longer than others.

## **Discussion**

The study discusses the similarities between research findings. It agrees with Phothisuwan and Aimchoo (2016) that the farm animals possess little brains which cause them to be fixed into a status of oppression and slavery forever. While most of the farm animals want to work less, Boxer accepts the status and always works hard. Similarly, the study views everyone in the farm, including Boxer and other animals, as the exploited; surely the pigs enjoy their status as the exploiters. In terms of allegory, Hasan, Muhammad, and Bahasin (2020) report disappointment, fighting, and killing caused by the farm leaders. This study sees these situations as typical circumstances. The animals face the problems under the iron heel of the pigs, reflecting both slavery and involuntary servitude people face under the increasingly dictatorial regime over the world.

In Boxer's case, the study finds something supporting other findings as well. Like Campbell (2001), who gives a description of him, the study finds that the horse has limited intelligence with a very strong, huge body; the physical strength is used to benefit others. The study also views the giant horse as an example of the proletariat, the class of workers who have no property and work for food or money. This is like what is reported by Fajrina (2016). As Wermelin (2017) reports the hope and positive mind causing Boxer to be manipulated, the study confirms that these features are shown as well. According to Phothisuwan (2018), the study accepts the findings as to the horse's stupidity.

Notwithstanding similarities, there are some differences between the findings of this study and those reported previously. Campbell (2001), Phothisuwan and Aimchoo (2016),

and Phothisuwan (2018) report stupidity or limited intelligence; however, this study notices that, without a brain, Boxer can make full use of his enormous power through working hard. His intention to do hard work draws the admiration of the farm animals. The good intentions and the mutual admiration meet each other among the stupid ones. Nevertheless, the pigs who present intelligence significantly never touch these positive senses. Fajrina (2016) and Wermelin (2017) express the terms *manipulated* or *exploited* in their studies, but this study expresses the term *kindness* which is practiced by Boxer who is willing to work hard and be responsible for farm duties, including others' work. Among the serious conditions suggested by Hasan, Muhammad, and Bahasin (2020), it is found that Boxer's motto "I will work harder" gives rise to kindness which has prevailed over everything else.

In addition to that, the study yields some results. The findings report a well-known fact that kindness is important. They are put forth for replacing native aspects such as anger, hatred, and insanity with kindness. On the other hand, the study can be used as a pedagogical tool. Literary teachers can use it to teach students to look at good things in the so-called poor qualities in the views of mainstream people. This is indeed a good addition to the existing literature studies of this classic satirical fiction.

## **Conclusion**

The study discusses *Animal Farm* (1945), a novel by George Orwell, a British author. The novel satirizes the political movements in the Russian Revolution. Major, the oldest male pig, has laid a solid foundation of the revolution, Animalism. The core idea of Animalism is to form a sufficient society. Napoleon and Snowball, two young pigs, lead the animals to revolt against Farmer Jones. After that, they establish themselves as new leaders. In terms of literary studies, researchers examine *Animal Farm* quite extensively, but it is rare to find a term *kindness* related directly to it. The term means the intention and capacity to offer help to others and to care about them. The research objectives are to point out how Boxer, a main

character, is portrayed and to analyze how his motto reflects kindness. The primary source is *Animal Farm* (2000). The motto "I will work harder" stated by Boxer is considered. The secondary sources are books, documents, studies, and reviews relevant to the objectives. A qualitative method is employed. The findings are presented in the form of a descriptive report.

The study finds that Boxer is not only enormous but also very powerful. His stupid appearance makes a sharp contrast with his enormous physical strength. This horse and his work benefit the whole community. The extension of Boxer's energy is demonstrated after the farm has been changed from Manor Farm to Animal Farm. A sign of life without servitude does not happen. Moreover, a distinction between the little capacity for learning and the huge power for working encapsulated in Boxer's portrayal is seen. Without a brain, Boxer can make full use of his huge and strong body. The frequency of using his motto "I will work harder" implies that Boxer can do physical work so well. Most of all, kindness is presented through Boxer's motto. It can be seen through the relationship between Boxer and Clover. The feature is presented among the farm animals, as well. Nevertheless, kindness is seen from killing. It leads Boxer to keep the farm animals safe from humans' attacks.

The study suggests that Boxer's motto "I will work harder" is a useful motto. Also, it argues that working hard is related to survival of the fittest. Hard work brings about having a longer life. It also argues that the motto directly benefits the one who believes in it. Most importantly, working hard and kindness bring advantage not only to the community as a whole but to an individual as a personal gain.

The study discusses both the similarities and differences. It agrees with Phothisuwan and Aimchoo (2016) and Hasan, Muhammad, and Bahasin (2020) as to the stupidity of the farm animals. It also agrees with Campbell (2001), Fajrina (2016), Wermelin (2017), and Phothisuwan (2018) that Boxer is taken advantage of because of his limited intelligence. On

the other hand, this study views Boxer as the one who can make full use of his enormous power through working hard. It also expresses that kindness is practiced by Boxer who believes in the motto "I will work harder." The motto gives rise to kindness which has prevailed throughout the story.

### **Recommendation for Further Studies**

Further research may be conducted to demonstrate why the pig Snowball and the white mare Mollie disappear. It should also be discussed why the pig Napoleon can enjoy his absolute power. Furthermore, researchers should draw attention to some positive features: happiness, loyalty, unity, longevity, and so on.

### **References**

- Bradbury, M. (2000). Introduction. In G. Orwell, *Animal Farm* (pp. 5-17). London: Penguin Classics.
- Campbell, J. W. (2001). *The book of great books: A guide to 100 world classics*. New York, NY: Barnes & Noble.
- Fajrina, D. (2016). Character metaphors in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. *Studies in English Language and Education*, 3(1), 79-88.
- Hanh, T. N. (2009). *Beyond the self: Teachings on the middle way*. Berkeley, CA: Parallax.
- Hasan, M., Muhammad, L., & Bahasin, G. (2020). Abuse practice of power in Orwell's *Animal Farm*: A historical approach. *CaLLs (Journal of Culture, Arts, Literature, and Linguistics)*, 6(1), 1-16. <http://dx.doi.org/10.30872/calls.v6i1.3504>
- Hitchens, C. (2003). *Why Orwell matters*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Lummack, R. (2017). Don't forget about Boxer: Teaching systems thinking, complexity and design to NCMs. *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies*, 17(4), 103-121.
- More, T. (1997). *Utopia (Dover thrift editions: Philosophy)*. Mineola, NY: Dover.

Muhammad, I. A. (2019). The role of kindness in making your life and the world a better place. Proceedings from *The ICT Conferences, FCT Abuja, Nigeria*.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3489003>

Orwell, G. (2000). *Animal Farm*. London: Penguin Classics.

Phothisuwan, K. (2018). The stupidity of the farm animals in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. *Rommayasan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 16(1), 323-339.

Phothisuwan, K., & Aimchoo, P. (2016). Knowledge: A sufficiency economy condition obstructed in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. *KKU International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 6(2), 48- 62.

Pics, H. (2022). *801 quotes from Mark Twain: Witty and creative sayings (Wise people quotes)*. Seattle, WA: Kindle Direct.

Wermelin, J. (2017). *'I will work harder': A psychoanalytical study of Boxer—the horse, in Orwell's Animal Farm* (Unpublished bachelor thesis). University of Gävle, Sweden.