

# The Stupidity of the Farm Animals in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

## ความโง่ของสัตว์ในฟาร์ม ใน แอนนิมอล ฟาร์ม ของ จอร์จ ออร์เวล

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### Abstract

The study aimed at investigating 1) the stupidity of the farm animals in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*; and 2) how the stupidity was portrayed. The qualitative method was used, and the results were presented in a form of a descriptive analysis. The study found that the farm animals displayed stupidity. It was portrayed through the exact words based on the word *stupid* such as *stupid* itself, *stupider*, and *stupidest* as well as *stupidity*. Also, such stupidity could be noticed from the description of the animals' mental limitation and stupid actions. The study also found that this characteristic was presented through both individual and group levels. Particularly, in each individual, it was characterized differently. With stupidity, those animals were fixed into a servitude condition and kept on working even harder and harder under the iron heels of the pigs—the leaders of the farm, or in other words, were dominated by the pigs throughout the story.

**Keywords:** stupidity, *Animal Farm*, George Orwell

### บทคัดย่อ

งานวิจัยนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อศึกษา 1) ความโง่ ของสัตว์ต่างๆ ในฟาร์ม ในเรื่อง แอนนิมอล ฟาร์ม ของ จอร์จ ออร์เวล และ 2) ความโง่นั้นถูกแสดงออกอย่างไร วิธีวิจัยใช้การวิจัยเชิงคุณภาพ และเขียนแสดงผลการวิจัยแบบบรรยาย พบว่า สัตว์ต่างๆ ในฟาร์มแสดงความโง่เห็นได้จากคำว่า โง่ โง่กว่า และโง่ที่สุด รวมทั้งคำว่า ความโง่ ทั้งนี้ความโง่ยังได้ถูกนำเสนอผ่านความจำกัดของสมอง และการแสดงออกของสัตว์เหล่านั้นด้วย ความโง่พบได้ทั้งรายตัวและเป็นกลุ่ม งานวิจัยยังพบด้วยว่า สัตว์แต่ละตัวแสดงความโง่ที่แตกต่างกัน ด้วยความโง่ หมูสัตว์ถูกจัดวางเป็นผู้รับใช้และทำงานหนัก ขึ้นภายใต้กฎเหล็กของหมูซึ่งเป็นผู้นำของฟาร์ม กล่าวได้ว่าสัตว์เหล่านั้นถูกครอบงำโดยหมูตลอดทั้งเรื่อง

**คำสำคัญ:** ความโง่, แอนนิมอล ฟาร์ม, จอร์จ ออร์เวล

## Introduction

George Orwell or Eric Arthur Blair, a real name, is an English author who was born in Bengal, India in 1903. He is also known as a journalist, political essayist, and critic. He was educated at Eton College in Berkshire, England. Between the years of 1922-1927, Orwell worked for the Indian Imperial Police in Burma, called Myanmar today. After he had returned to Europe, he worked in the Spanish Civil War between the years of 1936-1939. His works were published around the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century such as “Down and Out in Paris and London” (1933), “Homage to Catalonia” (1938), and “Nineteen Eighty-Four (1949). He died on January 21, 1950.

George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* is accepted as one of modern world classics. It is popular among readers and has been assigned in classroom and analyzed by literary researchers over the world. *Animal Farm* was published in 1945. Later on, a book series of it has been constantly published in 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, and up to the present. *Animal Farm* was also made into a film in 1954 and 1999. Recently, the two latest versions are marketed in *Kindle*, a series of e-readers designed by Amazon.com which is known as an American electronic and cloud computer company. One version entitled as *Animal Farm: Reader’s Edition* is produced by Wildside Press and marketed via the kindle on October 5, 2011. Another one is entitled as *Animal Farm* produced by Kaf Publishing and marketed on June 19, 2012.

*Animal Farm* is the story about the farm animals that possess stupidity, living in Manor Farm. It is this characteristic that causes them to be manipulated, or in other words, exploited by the pigs, the farm leaders, throughout the story. Unlike the animals, the pigs are portrayed to have intelligence. Major, an old male pig, manipulates the animals to revolt against human farm owners. After Major has died in the first scene, Snowball and Napoleon, two young male pigs, lead the animals to exile humans while giving them a hope of good life living in a free and self-sufficient society in which the animals will be treated as equals. After the victorious rebellion, the name Manor Farm is changed to be Animal Farm to promote the concept of Animalism. Later upon, the clashes between Snowball and Napoleon have arisen because of the different views of controlling the animals and managing the farm. After Snowball has been exiled, the farm turns into

dictatorship under greedy Napoleon. At the end, the animals still present much stupidity as well as being exploited by the pigs whose much intelligence are always seen.

The main theme of *Animal Farm* is about communism, a political theory laid by Karl Marx, a German philosopher, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The novel satirizes the political events of the Russian Revolution (1917-21) when the proletariat overthrew their tsar, the king of Russia, with the hope to avoid being exploited and live happily within a peaceful society. The best-known political words in the story are “All animals are equals” (Orwell, 2000: 17). This means that everything has to be shared, or the leaders (the pigs) have to treat all animals as equals. This statement reflects Animalism which is put forth by the pigs as the core of the rebellion at first. Later on, Animalism is twisted to be the Seven Commandments to serve the pigs to command all animals more easily. Throughout the story, the changes in some words of the Commandments indicate the pigs’ movement towards human status. At the end, the pigs behave like humans they used to classify as their enemies. On top of that, the animals’ dream of equality in a peaceful society never comes true.

The summary brings about the question why the animals still have hope although its propitious sign is never noticed. This question causes the researcher to assume that the animals possess stupidity.

Stupidity is behavior or an action that displays a lack of thinking and learning ability as well as the ability to understand and consider. It also refers to a performance that reveals a lack of good sense or good judgment. Often, people with stupidity reject any complicated or imperative tasks and are willing to live without real responsibility. Also, they are found rejecting to think, but on the other hand, they accept being idle. Moreover, most prefer living with laziness. As a result, the stupidity causes those people to be fixed as followers, staff, and workers and, moreover, labeled as the inferiors or the vulnerable ones in a place in which they belong. In addition, when the stupid ones work, the work is found involving physical hard labor of which benefits of productivity does not belong to them. Therefore, people with stupidity are often found being trapped in hunger, difficulties, and poverty. Finally, in the face of these situations, they are

exploited by the ones with intelligence, the ability to learn and understand complicated things. In terms of the meaning, it is consistent with Khomduen Phothisuwan and Prapaipan Aimchoo's view on the farm animals in an article entitled "Knowledge: A Sufficiency Economy Condition Obstructed in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*". The article discusses the animals' lack of the ability to acquire any form of knowledge, "On the contrary, the 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. Meanwhile, they are depicted without the capacity to absorb knowledge" (2016: 61).

Under these definitions and the review, this study aims at proving that the animals possess stupidity and pointing out that such stupidity is portrayed in different ways by different animals.

Eventually, the findings and the study itself result in various benefits as follows. First, the findings help readers to become well aware that stupidity cannot bring good things or good life, so they should try to accumulate knowledge, skills, and experience to avoid such stupidity. Then, the findings provide an understanding of life in this globalized world. For the study, it helps readers to appreciate the value of literature and promotes reading it. Also, it confirms that analyzing literary works is an intellectual activity that should be practiced.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To identify the stupidity of the farm animals in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.
2. To investigate how such stupidity is portrayed.

### **Scope of the Study**

This study uses the data in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* to analyze the stupidity of the farm animals, the supporting characters. The study also analyzes the ways such stupidity is portrayed both in group and in each individual.

## Research Methodology

The qualitative method is conducted through the steps as follows. First, the data is collected from the descriptions of the farm animals and the pigs, the situations they involve themselves in, and the dialogues of the farm animals as well as the pigs. Second, the data is analyzed by exploring the stupidity of the animals presented both in each individual and among group. Also, the study finds out how such stupidity is displayed. In this step, the analysis is presented in the form of descriptive analysis. Third, the discussion and the conclusion of the analysis are drawn. Finally, the study gives some recommendations for further studies.

## Findings

In George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, the farm animals present stupidity. The study finds that all animals in the farm, except the pigs (the farm leaders) and the dogs (the pigs' guards), are characterized to possess stupidity. First and foremost, the stupidity is presented through the exact words such as 'stupid', 'stupider', 'stupidest', and 'stupidity'. In the first scene, Boxer, a cart horse, is characterized to have a stupid look with the word *stupid* although he has great size and strength, "Boxer was an enormous beast, nearly eighteen hands high, and as strong as any two ordinary horses put together. A white stripe down his nose gave him a somewhat stupid appearance" (Orwell, 2000: 2). It is notable that Boxer's stupid appearance is depicted to draw a sharp contrast between the stupidity and the physical strength he has. Boxer can do physical hard labor because of his distinctive strength, "Boxer with his tremendous muscles always pulled them through" (Orwell, 2000: 20). Nonetheless, he cannot think or learn or organize his thoughts because of his stupidity, "Even Boxer was vaguely troubled. He set his ears back, shook his forelock several times, and tried hard to marshal his thoughts; but in the end he could not think of anything to say (Orwell, 2000: 40). For more interpretation, it can be interpreted that the one with an undesirable trait like stupidity can maintain his or her existence if he or she has physical power. In Boxer's case, the status to which he belongs is a member of the inferiors keeping on doing farm works and struggling in a servitude condition. When his brain cannot be developed, Boxer fulfills his ambition to live on in such

condition with his distinctive strength. Furthermore, with this unique physical strength, Boxer has full and genuine confidence to work not only hard but also harder, “His answer to every problem, every setback, was ‘I will work harder!’—which he had adopted as his personal motto” (Orwell, 2000: 20). Until he dies, Boxer still works hard and even harder to serve the pigs, including the farm as a whole, or in other words, he has kept on being exploited by the pigs, that possess brain abilities, throughout his hard life.

Mollie, a female white mare, is also described to possess stupidity through the exact words based on the word *stupid*. In fact, this female animal is depicted as the stupidest of all farm animals that are characterized to have names and take certain roles in the story. With the word *stupidest*, Mollie is demonstrated to ask a very simple question which, at the time, reflects her much stupidity. This can be seen just in the first time she speaks, “The stupidest questions of all were asked by Mollie, the white mare. The very first question she asked Snowball was: ‘Will there still be sugar after the Rebellion?’” (Orwell, 2000: 11). This characterization shows not only Mollie’s stupidity but also her absolute nonsense. It is because sugar does not look serious. It is the food without nutrition and can be counted as an additive of a lot of junk food which is not beneficial to health. Eating a lot of it even ends up getting very poor nutrition. As a result, sugar is not good to eat to live and too trivial to feel worried about. With much stupidity, Mollie does not become well aware that, in a life and death situation, she has to think about something that looks more serious than sugar such as the existence, the status, or the survival of all farm animals.

Like Mollie, just a vulnerable animal in the farm is demonstrated with much stupidity through the word *stupidest*. It is found while all farm animals are being taught by Major (the old male pig who is one of the three main characters) to sing the song Beasts of England. At that moment, one animal is demonstrated with the word *stupidest* when it is unable to sing the whole song, “Even the stupidest of them had already picked up the tune and a few of the words” (Orwell, 2000: 9). The animal cannot sing the whole song because of much stupidity; nonetheless, it can catch a few words and pick up the tune. At first glance, it is notable that even the stupidest of all is trying to sing and can sing just a little. In fact, the word *stupidest* conveys the message that mental ability never belongs

to not only this animal but also other farm animals. With a closer look, this implies that all animals are manipulated and united by Major. Although the animals have limited brain, they have to show the ability to sing the song. In this case, it is too hard to sing the whole song, but the only thing they can do is singing just a few words. It is because singing the same song together is a key sign of being united. On top of that, this performance symbolizes the readiness of all to start to rebel against human farm owners as Major states that it is a sound path of having good life. In addition, the portrayal discriminates not only that vulnerable one but also other farm animals from Major, who is teaching all animals to sing. Major presents his unique ability to remember, recall, choose, and sing the song which means that he possesses thinking ability. On the contrary, the animals cannot do so, and even worse, they show much stupidity. Therefore, Major, whose distinctive ability is thinking, deserves to be a reliable one or a thinker or a leader. Unlike Major, all farm animals, whose stupidity is portrayed obviously, have to be placed as followers or workers.

Except for these individuals, group of the farm animals are also portrayed with stupidity through the words based on the word *stupid*. It is seen just in the beginning of the story when Snowball and Napoleon, Napoleon and Snowball, the two young male pigs, that are awakening the animals to fight against human farm owners, “At the beginning they met with much stupidity and apathy. Some of the animals talked of the duty of loyalty to Mr. Jones, whom they referred to as ‘Master’, or made elementary remarks such as ‘Mr. Jones feed us. If he were gone, we should starve to death’” (Orwell, 2000: 11). When the animals are demonstrated with stupidity, the lack of thinking ability is seen. With the word *apathy*, they show the lack of any interest about what they are listening to, too. That is to say, while Napoleon and Snowball are awakening and uniting them to revolt against humans, the animals never understand and even never try to become aware that what the outcome of the insurrection will be. Also, they never realize that their life will be better or worse or what a real reason of the rebellion is. On the other hand, when some animals talk about the loyalty to humans, it is just the concern about food that is seen. This can be interpreted that the only thing the animals can think of is food, fed by humans. This also implies that the animals lack the capacity of finding food by themselves as well. Furthermore, this signifies the animals’ laziness because they



never show any attempts to find food by themselves. After the human owners have been exiled, it appears that the animals still cannot live independently. They keep on living under the help, or in fact, the iron heels of the pigs, the new farm leaders.

Apart from the word *stupid* and its derivatives, the animals' stupidity is portrayed in different levels. The scene in which the animals are studying the alphabets, taught by Snowball reflects different degrees of their stupidity. Boxer, for example, is demonstrated to have very little ability of learning. It is seen through a small number of the alphabets he can memorize, "Boxer could not get beyond the letter D. He would trace out A, B, C, D in the dust with his great hoof, and then would stand staring at the letters with his ears back, sometimes shaking his forelock, trying with all his might to remember what came next and never succeeding" (Orwell, 2000: 23). With little capacity to memorize, Boxer portrays his serious attempt to remember some more alphabets by trying to remember what comes after these four letters. However, after he has used a lot of effort, he cannot do it. Although the effort reflects Boxer's diligence, the inability to remember represents the limitation of his brain which cannot be developed by trying very hard. Later on, Boxer has to stop learning. Moreover, he has to accept his own limited ability, and decide to practice just four letters—A, B, C, and D, "Finally, he decided to be content with the first four letters, and used to write them out once or twice every day to refresh his memory" (Orwell, 2000: 23). Although he can remember some letters, it can be concluded that Boxer lacks the ability to learn. On one hand, the everyday practice means that Boxer is a good student who keeps on paying attention to what Snowball has taught him. On the other hand, the practice reveals that Boxer, without any sign of mental ability, will forget all if he does not practice these alphabets every day.

Compared to Boxer's stupidity, Mollie's limited brain seems much worse than his. When studying the alphabets, Mollie does not show any attempts to learn them. However, the study finds that there is one thing interests Mollie. The thing is a group of five alphabets, m-o-l-i-e, used to spell her own name, "Mollie refused to learn any but the five letters which spelt her own name. She would form these very neatly out of pieces of twig, and would then decorate them with a flower or two and walk round admiring them" (Orwell, 2000: 23-24). This extract can be interpreted that Mollie has

not only stupidity but also laziness and selfishness. At first glance, Mollie portrays stupidity because she stops herself from becoming literate by not trying to learn and even paying attention to what everyone is doing. Her lack of any interests to learn can be interpreted that she lacks both thinking and learning ability which, of course, results in the inability to understand and consider. Also, when Mollie leaves herself lying idle, it reveals her laziness. Often, the laziness is seen when someone rejects to work and do any physical activities, or make any effort to do anything. With a closer look, remembering just five letters used to spell her own name depicts Mollie's strong sense of selfishness. It is because this action reveals the concern only about personal benefits rather than common interests. That is, while Mollie is described to be stupid, the description reflects other characteristics such as selfishness and laziness. Not all animals are demonstrated to have much stupidity, however. Clover, a female horse, can learn all alphabets, yet, she cannot form any words, "Clover learnt the whole alphabets, but could not put words together" (Orwell, 2000: 23). Of the three animals (Boxer, Mollie, and Clover), Clover portrays stupidity less than others. Mollie is stupider than Boxer because she lacks both attentions and attempts to learn. In other words, she refuses to learn any alphabets. As a result, Mollie is the stupidest of all.

In addition to those three individuals, all animals also show the stupidity in different levels. Like Boxer, Mollie, and Clover, such stupidity is seen when all animals learn the alphabets, too. The study finds that none of them can reach beyond the letter A, "None of the other animals on the farm could get further than the letter A" (Orwell, 2000: 24). This description can be interpreted that while the three individuals are being portrayed with different degrees of stupidity, other animals are also being described to be stupider than those three. In other words, when compared to the three animals' ability, other animals' thought has never existed. Moreover, in one scene, some animals such as sheep, hens, and ducks are described to be stupider than others. It is the scene in which they try to learn the Seven Commandments, the rules formulated by the pigs used to control and manipulate all farm animals, by heart, "It was also found that the stupider animals such as the sheep, hens, and ducks, were unable to learn the Seven Commandments by heart" (Orwell, 2000: 24). It is obvious that the sheep, the hens, and the ducks cannot learn the commandments because they cannot read

and even learn by heart. This means that they do not understand those commandments as well. As a result, they never become aware of how to behave and follow the farm rules. For more interpretation, these animals do not have names, so they are unable to take any important roles in the story like Boxer, Mollie, and Clover. Even worse, they are not recognized as farm members as well. In fact, while the sheep, the hens, and the ducks are being characterized as the animals without names and with much stupidity, they are also fixed as the most inferior ones, without any signs of power, among all farm animals.

Despite the exact words and the limited levels of brain, the animals' stupidity can also be caught by their actions. It is seen notably, after the rebellion, when the animals' behavior is demonstrated together with the pigs' actions, "Here the work of the coming week was planned out and resolutions were put forward and debated. It was always the pigs who put forward the resolutions. The other animals understood how to vote, but could never think of any resolutions of their own" (Orwell, 2000: 22). According to the extract, the only thing the animals can do is raising their hands to show their support, but they cannot think of any plans or any decisions. In general, when the meeting is held, the members have to discuss and decide matters together. In this case, the animals coming in this meeting have nothing to do but just raising their hands to show the performance of voting. It is the act that they do without thinking or participating in discussions because it is the only choice for them to do. For the pigs, it is their main duty to put forth the plans, the work, and the resolutions of the farm. On one hand, the presentation of voting reflects only the animals' limited ability to think. On the other hand, the thinking, planning, and making formal decisions are unlimited abilities of the pigs. From this moment onward, the animals are forced to do only hard physical farm work while the missions of managing as well as ordering and controlling the animals and the farm as a whole are the pigs' work. Therefore, the stupidity is presented to be one of the important characteristics of the animals, the farm workers. On top of that, when it is shown together with the thinking and decision-making abilities of the pigs, the animals are shaped to be the disciples of the pigs.

There are other actions reflecting the animals' stupidity, too. Throughout the story, the study finds a lot of actions that reflect such stupidity and even the stupidity that is much more than ever. In one scene, the animals display much stupidity through the action of not being able to distinguish between right and wrong. Also, the inability to make a judgment is seen when they show their trust in the one who is speaking and immediately forget it. Furthermore, they change that trust after another one has just spoken, "The animals listened first to Napoleon, then to Snowball, and could not make up their minds which was right; indeed, they always found themselves in agreement with the one who was speaking at the moment" (Orwell, 2000: 37-38). Later on, the stupidity can be captured in a tragic scene in which a life sentence sends them to sheer panic. In this scene, the animals cannot survive that life sentence and do not know what to do better than lying. With much stupidity and fear, they lie to avoid a death sentence by telling Napoleon that Snowball orders them to do bad things although they never meet him, "Then a sheep confessed to having urinated in the drinking pool—urged to do this, so she said, by Snowball" (Orwell, 2000: 62). Moreover, some say that they meet Snowball in a dream, "The three hens who had been the ringleaders in the attempted rebellion over the eggs now came forward and stated that Snowball had appeared to them in a dream and incited them to disobey Napoleon's order. They too were slaughtered" (Orwell, 2000: 62). The animals let the fake confessions but real executions go on rather than doing something else to save their life, "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: 62). It is notable that the most terrible stupidity is transcended when the animals confess their crime although they are innocent. Even worse, after the executions, Boxer still thinks that the tragic deaths are the animals' fault. He also believes that the only thing they should do is working harder, "I do not understand it. I would not have believed that such things could happen in our farm. It must be due to some faults in ourselves. The solution, as I see it, is to work harder" (Orwell, 2000: 63). From this extract, the only thing the animals can think of is hard work. Also, the only solution they can think of is that hard work.

The animals' stupidity can be found although years pass. In the last scene, the study finds that the new generation of the farm animals keeps on being very stupid and even becoming much stupider than the old one. Unlike Clover, Boxer, or even Mollie, none of the animals of the young can catch more than the alphabets A and B, "They were fine upstanding beasts, willing workers and good comrades, but very stupid. None of them proved able to learn the alphabet beyond the letter B" (Orwell, 2000: 93). In addition, the animals in this generation believe in everything they have just listened to even though they have never seen it. Moreover, when they do not understand what they have just heard, they choose to accept it, "They accepted everything that they were told about the Rebellion and the principles of Animalism, especially from Clover, for whom they had an almost filial respect; but it was doubtful whether they understood very much of it" (Orwell, 2000: 93). Although there is a little good sign showing that they choose to believe in the one who is reliable like Clover, this can be said that they are stupid. It is because when they accept things even though they have never seen them, the animals display not only the total lack of the ability to think and consider but also the lack of paying attention to the things. Therefore, it can be said that the new generation of the farm animals has stupidity which has never been developed to be better. On top of that, less and less of the animals' capacity to think, learn, and understand is portrayed when the stupidity passes down from generation to generation.

## Discussion

Stupidity of the farm animals in *Animal Farm* reminds readers of other characters who have physical strength but do not have brains. Like the farm animals, Lennie Small in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* is characterized to be very stupid. He is so mentally retarded that his life has to depend upon George Milton, the main male character, who is his only company. While Lennie is presented without the ability to think, his look is described to be a large heavy-featured body. As a result, the only thing that supports his existence in this world is his extreme strength which, of course, is necessary when doing hard labor. This distinctive large body even causes his labor to become harder than others', however. Furthermore, it poses some serious threats to him. That is, it causes

him to be attacked by Curley, the male character, who appears very aggressive and really likes to fight with a large man. The large body also attracts Curley's wife, a naïve young woman, to form a close relationship with him. Later on, Lennie's tremendous strength causes him to kill her. Eventually, the worst tragedy is that Milton, his only friend, has to kill him. It is because Milton has to stop Lennie from having a chance to cause any terrible trouble eternally. In *The Book of Great Books*, John W. Campbell summarizes Lennie's characteristics with these words: "huge, powerful, mentally retarded field laborer" (2000: 582). In Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth*, O-lan, the main female character, is characterized to be a servant with no beauty and intelligence. Although O-lan has a spouse, her husband marries her because she has physical strength which is useful to do physical work as a match-maker says, "She will work well in the field and drawing water and all else that you wish. She is not beautiful but that you do not need. Only men of leisure have the need for beautiful woman to divert them. Neither she is clever" (S. Buck, 2005: 19). Two centuries before S. Buck's *The Good Earth*, a story of a master and a slave was made up, too. Daniel Defoe wrote *Robinson Crusoe*, and it was published in 1719. Like Orwell's *Animal Farm*, Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, and S. Buck's *The Good Earth*, stupidity is attached with a character portrayed in a servitude condition. In *Robinson Crusoe*, stupidity belongs to a savage called Friday, who is the only friend of Crusoe, the main male character, a British shipwreck survivor who has been stuck in a remote island for years. In the place that Friday belongs, Crusoe teaches him English; the first word Friday has to understand is 'Master' which refers to Crusoe. These stories strongly affirm that those who possess brains govern the others, but on the other hand, those who do not have brains are governed by the intelligent ones.

Besides those writers, philosophers also view stupidity as a certain feature of a slave. Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), a German philosopher, presented his perspectives about master morality possessed by the ones who are capable of thought and slave morality possessed by the ones who are not capable of thought. Nietzsche defines master morality with the word *good* and slave morality with the word *bad*, "The master morality made a distinction between 'good' and 'bad'. 'Good' applies to those who are united, noble and strong. 'Bad' refers to the slaves who are weak

and base” (qtd. in Jackson, 2010: 67). According to Nietzsche’s views, master and slave morality is not a real moral. As ‘good’ is the characteristic of a master, ‘bad’ belongs to a slave. In terms of the word *bad*, it is related to stupidity Nietzsche explains by using the word low-minded, having a little capacity of thinking, “This notion of ‘good’ and ‘bad’ therefore is not moral. ‘Bad’ merely meant to be one of the herd, the ‘low-minded.’ ‘Good’ meant the noble and intellectual” (qtd. in Jackson, 2010: 67). On the other hand, ‘good’ is connected with noble and intellectual characteristics that are always mentioned when the limitation of the brain is defined or classified. It is clear that the stupidity is displayed as a binary opposition of intelligence to show a clear-cut distinction and express the limited position of anyone who possesses it. In *Animal Farm*, the pigs are the masters who use their intelligence to lure the animal slaves in order to replace humans and maintain their dominance after that. On top of that, such stupidity is the requirement of the exploitation that gives birth to discrimination against the animals. For the animals, a low-minded feature causes them to believe in the existence of better life in the future. Also, it makes them accept their role as slaves who are willing to follow what the pigs order and formulate as well as being pleased to feel the sense of such slave morality.

In addition to that slavery, stupidity causes death to the animals in *Animal Farm*, and it is the death no one cares about. The most tragic scene that the animals confess crime with innocence and are sentenced to death reflects a completely worthless life of them. Because they do not have the ability to think, the animals do not know what to do and are selected to die by powerful Napoleon, the leader of the farm. It is Napoleon who takes advantages of the animals while they respect him for his leadership. Like the farm animals, O-land in *The Good Earth* dies at the end of the story without enough interest from her husband. Also, Lennie in *Of Mice and Men* is murdered by Milton, his only friend he really loves and respects. Friday in *Robinson Crusoe* is shot by a white man who shares the same look and the same job, a slave trader, with Crusoe, his closest companion on the lonely island. These four examples prove that stupidity and death are so well intertwined and mingled.

## Conclusion

The farm animals, except the pigs (the farm leaders) and the dogs, present stupidity in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. First, the stupidity is described through the exact words based on the word *stupid* such as *stupid* itself, *stupider*, *stupidest*, and *stupidity*. 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. Groups of the animals also show stupidity through these words as well. Also, the study notices that different animals have different levels of stupidity. When Boxer, Mollie, and Clover, a female horse, are analyzed together, Clover portrays stupidity less than the others: Mollie is the stupidest. In Mollie's case, the selfishness and laziness are seen, too. Furthermore, the animals without names have much stupidity. When compared to those three individuals (Boxer, Mollie, and Clover), other animals can be classified as the stupidest of all. Meanwhile, stupidity can be caught by the animals' actions as well. It is found through the animals' acts of raising their hands to show the performance of voting and of not being able to distinguish between right and wrong. Stupidity is also found in the animals' act of trust in the one who is speaking, and they change that trust at once when another one speaks. Moreover, stupidity is presented through the animals' telling lies as well as confessing their crime with innocence. Although years pass, the new generation still keeps on being stupid.

## Recommendation

The researcher recommends those who are interested to study the farm animals in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* that there should be further studies on some sense of happiness although they possess much stupidity. Also, there should be a research reporting a comparison of the characters portrayed as the stupid ones in other stories such as Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, and Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth*.



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