

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Survival of the Fittest in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*

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Letter of Recommendation

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Approval Letter

This thesis entitled " Survival of the Fittest in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Mr. Tapendra Bahadur Singh has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

The Call of the Wild is a genuine depiction of the Darwinian concept of survival of the fittest which demonstrates the life full of struggle, competition and the hardship in the Canadian wilderness faced by the dogs that are forced to carry the heavy load in the extreme cold. The central story revolves around a dog that lives an easy and comfortable life in Judge Miller's estate and suddenly abducted by the gold hunters and faces a lot of tortures and pains. In the Canadian wilderness, Buck has to fight with the extreme cold, with the tortures of his masters, with the starvation and with other wild dogs. He has to struggle hard more with other wild dogs than anything else in the forest. Buck fights with the dogs to be adapted in the wilderness. He fits himself in the environment because his gene best suits the animalistic world. Because of the demonstration of the struggle and the extreme hardships of the dogs and the men in the Canadian wilderness this novel is the genuine presentation of the survival of the fittest.

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Chapter I: Examination of the Darwinian Adaptation

This project “Survival of the Fittest in Jack London’s *The Call of the Wild*” probes extremely into the theme of struggle in the way of Canadian forest made by a wild dog named Buck. It is a story of a dog that lives a happy and contented life in the companionship of human beings. At that moment he is a humble, quiet and trustworthy dog, but when he is kidnapped he becomes horrible and animalistic. On the surface level it is a story of an animal and his surrounding but in its deep level it is the analysis of how human beings and animals adapt themselves in the new and unfavorable environment. The pet dog Buck is a happy and loyal dog in the company of his masters. But when he is kidnapped he faces various kinds of troubles and hardships. He becomes violent and cruel to adapt himself in the new environment i.e. the Canadian forest. The weak and docile dog becomes successful to struggle for his survival in the presence of the cruel master and among the wild and violent wolfs.

This research tends to prove the hypothesis that the transformations of a pet dog to a violent dog and his struggles against the harshness of life in the forest where the life depends upon the act of killing or to be killed is a true example of the presentation of Darwinian Theory of survival of the fittest. The civilized and moral pet dog Buck is kidnapped from his master’s house to search gold in the Canadian jungle. He adjusts himself in the harsh reality of the north Klondike of Canada where survival is vital among the dogs. “For two days and night he neither ate nor drank, and during those two days and nights of torment, he accumulates the fund of wrath that boded ill for whoever first fell foul of him (17)”. The wilderness of Canada is so cruel and uncaring that the stronger can kill the weaker for the food. In order to survive he becomes barbaric and savage dog like the wild animals. As soon as Buck is kidnapped from Judge Miller's ranch, he learns that a new law applies to life; quite different from

the 'law of love and fellowship' he has known before. London calls this the 'law of club and fang', a brief phrase that describes in a nutshell the survival of the fittest. The law of the club is that man, having access to greater force, is the master of the dogs. The stronger wins and controls, and the weaker must submit and serve the will of the conqueror, or be killed. Buck understands this very quickly, after he is beaten by the man in the red sweater, and he adapts to it. Adaptation is a key to survive. He also adapts to the 'law of fang', which applies to the dog's world as well. He first sees this at work when his friend Curly naively tries to make friendly advances to the other dogs. She is torn to pieces within minutes. Buck realizes that to adapt in this strange environment he has to be strong and violent.

Exploring the harshness of life in the Canadian forest met by a pet dog and his endless effort to survive among the cruelty and dangerous situation, this project revolves mainly three areas of concern: exploring the theme of natural selection, exploring the innate savagery inherent in the so-called human beings and the demonstration of the struggle between savagery and the civilization. To explore the struggle and the harshness of life in the wilderness, this thesis has made a deliberate choice to view the text from the viewpoint of Darwinian Theory. As the main objective of this thesis is to excavate the reality of the so-called civilization it has incorporated Darwinian Theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest. In the Canadian forest, where the main character a pet dog named Buck has been taken, the law is the law of kill or be killed. In such a situation, the Darwinian Theory may be the best theoretical model for the better analysis of the text. So it will incorporate the theoretical model of natural selection and survival of the fittest developed by Charles Darwin.

The works of Jack London mainly offers the story of wild animals and their struggle in the wilderness. His works offers us the view of naturalism and the description of the nature. Animals, mainly dogs are the major characters of his works, which go around and find the real nature of human world. Through the activities of animals, his works offer the presentation of another side of human personality and the harshness of life through the struggle for their survival.

To Build a Fire (1902) is the story of a man in place called Yokyon in the cold winter in Canada. He comes there for a trip. It is his first time in that place. He struggles with the cold in that cold place with his loyal dog. The place is extremely cold. He travels there in spite of the warning of other people. He struggles with the climate for his survival there. The dangerous begins to affect him reversely. All his organs begin to be senseless because of the extreme cold. He attempts to build fire by collecting twigs from the pine trees to save him from that dreadful cold. But unfortunately the snow falling from the pine trees extinguishes the fire. He attempts to create fire more than few times but all his attempts turn into pieces. He thinks of his acquaintances advising him about the danger of cold in that place. He does not give up the desire of survival and makes the mind of killing the dog and making his hand warm by putting them inside the warm belly of the dog.

White Fang (1906) is the story of a hybrid dog. Two men and their other dog also have the major role in the central plot of the novel. This book has also presented the theme of the struggle and the harshness of life. Bill and Henry - the two men and their group of dog are captured by the group of wild wolves. All the dogs have been eaten along with Bill. Henry only survives. Later the tale turns to a She – wolf and her companion called One Eye She Wolf. The One Eye She-wolf gives birth to five little children and all of them are killed by starvation except one. A lynx is also murdering

one Eye She-wolf. The She Wolf kills all the lynx after the severe fight. The She Wolf becomes ruthlessly hurt. One man Grey Beaver recognizes the She Wolf as kiche, his brother wolf dog who left throughout a food crisis. He takes She Wolf and her child and Christianizes the dice as white fang. White Fang has to face difficulties with him as the other dogs observe him as a wolf. He grows to be savage and animalistic. After that White Fang is taken to Fort Yukon to buy and sell with gold seeker. The story ends with the ending of the clash between a bulldog and White Fang.

The Sea Wolf (1904) is the type of story of a male scholar in which the man named Humphrey Van Wyden forced to become dangerous and self-reliant by brutality and cruelty. The story starts with the smash of his vessel with another ship in the sea. He is set adrift in the sea and pulled out up by a captain of Seal hunting dinghy called Wolf- Larsen. Larsen takes care of Van Wyden and Wyden learns how to put aside himself from atrocious crew. The members of the crew attempt mutiny against Larsen. Larsen becomes able to save himself and Van Wyden is promoted as mate. This book deals with the theme of various kinds of struggles and fight in the sea. The story ends with the rescue of Van Wyden and a female poet by an American revenue cutter from the sea.

Martin Eden (1908) is a narrative of a waged people called Martin Eden who struggles to go up from his deficiency to increase a position in the middle of the literary elites. He struggles to mount on top of to attain the love of Ruth Moses who is from bourgeois' family. However, he becomes victorious and Ruth loses her endurance and discards him in a melancholy letter: "if only you had settle down and attempted to make something of yourself" (Kepos 123). When he becomes successful, he has become already upset because of unreturned labor and love. As a substitute of becoming happy and enjoying his success, he becomes sad and wants to

bestow all his property to labor people and acquaintances. The story ends with Martin Eden committing suicide by drowning.

The works of Jack London can be divided into two categories. One is the story of harshness and difficulties in the nature and the obstacles on the way towards the survival. His works offer the idea that the so-called civilized human beings behave like animals being cruel and barbaric to save them and to survive. When the matter of survival is concerned, human beings even become animalistic and barbaric to save themselves particularly in hard and dangerous circumstances, human beings reveal their inborn animalistic character hurriedly.

The Call of the Wild has been adapted as humorous books, TV series, radio play and additional similar stories. This book has provoked existing authors and existing fictional tendency particularly those who discover human being's characteristics through association with natural world. Both booklovers and reviewers accept it very positively. The credit of inaugurating the literary tendency of dealing with beast and investigating human psychology connecting with animalistic character goes to Jack London.

The Call of the Wild has been blatantly reproduced by aspiring writer in the field constantly. *The Call of the Wild* takes us into the celebration of the alteration of an honest, elegant and loyal pet dog to brutal and cruel wolf dog. Buck, a good pet dog, goes into the backwoods because of the brutality and cruelty of human beings. He lives a satisfied existence until human beings find gold bars in the Canadian tropical forest. He is forced to bear all kinds of barbaric behaviors because of the human being's love for the yellow metal and their pleasure-seeking tendency. He is abducted by the gold hunters and given suffering. "But he was thrown down and chocked repeatedly, till they succeed in filing the heavy brass collar from off his neck

(16)". This terrible experience makes him competent to fight with the unfavorable circumstances around him. Ultimately, he wins his new kingdom in to the Canadian wilderness struggling with the wild wolfs. He is an animal but, becomes more human in many cases. In front of him even the so-called human beings seem uncivilized and savage.

A critic Charles Watson relating the text with naturalistic perspective argues that the novel is the process of returning to the savagery, animalistic instinct and primitiveness. He says that the novel is the detail picture of degeneration. How human being degenerate in the animal's civilization from their so-called human civilization in the critical time. The terrible fight and struggle between Buck and the wild wolf is the fight for survival and existence. The novel is about the society which is turning into its primitiveness. He says the novel is "about a society as well as about the wilderness or rather, it is about the conflict between the two" (92). He deals with the dispute concerning the novel's naturalistic idea. He says, "It embodies both naturalism and a reversion to savagery, a process of degeneration and romantic primitiveness. By conveying the forward movement of an initiation rite, through which Buck attains maturity and even apotheosis as a mythic hero" (98). So, Charles Watson relates the text with naturalism by demonstrating the element of changing of a society to the primitiveness.

Earle Wileox relates the text with romanticism. He sees the romantic tendency in the novel. Romanticism has developed in America in the mid nineteenth century at that time it was in its peak. Exploring the romantic tendency in the text he argues:

The novel [*The Call of the Wild*] is a "mythic romance" because the call to adventure, departure, initiation, the perilous journey to the mysterious life centers transformation and apotheosis: these are all

present in Buck's progress from the civilized world through the natural and beyond and beyond to the super character. Buck is transformed into the mythical "Ghost Dog" of Yeehat legend: the setting of the northland begins as a real region and ends up as dream like, mythical realm. (78)

From the remark of Earl Wilcox it is clear that the changed dog Buck is the example of the hero who has won the battle of survival in the nature. The transformation of Buck is the transformation of a docile dog to a violent dog. The natural environment and the unfavorable situation made him cruel. He becomes violent in the new environment to adapt him with the terrific and harsh situation of life.

Another critic Paula Kepos argues that there is the distinction between human nature and animal nature in the text *The Call of the Wild*. He argues that the book clearly shows the distinction between human being and the animals. He says:

A bookish reader might considerably read it as a sort of allegory with a broad human application; but its face value as a single minded study of animal nature really seems to be sufficiently considerable. The author too must be allowed to stand upon his own feet, though one understands why he should have been called the American Kipling. His works has dealt hitherto with primitive human nature; this is a study primitive dog nature. No modern writer of fiction, unless it be Kipling has presented so clearly the distinction between animal virtue and human virtue. The further reverts from the artificial status of a man-bounded domestic creature to the natural condition of the "dominant primordial beast" the more strongly (if unwillingly) we admire him. (12)

Though Kepos relates the text with allegory and the distinction between human being and animal, he clearly admires the struggling nature of Buck with the unfavorable situation. The diversion of Buck from the pet dog to the savage dog is the compulsion of the animal to fight with the environment to survive. He says the previous status of Buck is artificial. The reality is the reality of struggle.

John Hedrick says that there is the reflection of Jack London's own biography. He argues that the work of fiction bear a resemblance to the life of Jack London. The return of the dog into the wilderness resembles the return of Jack London to his past. Through the transformation of Buck from a civilized pet dog to a violent dog, London recalls his own past where he had to face a lot of battle with the situation for survival. As he says,

“London had consciously closed the book on his working class past. The self dwelt in block and slippery pit to be recalled only in dreams. But in this novel, London had return to the sense of his past, and having got touched with them to imagine a different future” (103). It is clear that London wants to recall his past by the story of the dog. He is comparing his struggle and the dog's struggle and wants to say that not only animals but also human beings have to struggle for existence, through the life history of the dog. He wants to be in contact with his history. He does not want his present, which is connected by the connection of culture. He wants all the pleasure and happiness, which he has got in his past.

Basically Jack London creates contrast between the world of human beings and the world of the animals in his works. He depicts the picture of the life of the animals and their struggle for life. He shows how humans and other animals have to do some kind of struggle for their survival. He shows a dog's life-and-death struggle to adapt himself to a hostile environment. He has clearly depicted that the life is full

of struggles and harshness. Through the relationship between dog and men, he excavates the dark side of human civilization, which is the battle and struggle for the life. To live in this world both human beings and animals have to fight with various things. His works offer the analysis of brutality, cruelty, barbarism, animalistic nature and cannibalism practiced by human beings, in various forms which are happened especially in seas, wilderness and jungle.

Jack London creating his own brand of naturalistic stories depicts the conflict inherent in this world among the species. He, through the narratives of animals and the wilderness depicts the bad aspect of this world. He has shown that the world is not as beautiful as we perceive it outwardly. The life is not so much smooth and easy as we see it from the surface. But the world is full of struggles and hardship. To survive in this world we have to fight against the surrounding and our own species.

The Call of the Wild is a novel by Jack London which has its setting in the Canadian forest where the wild animals and human beings are struggling for their better life and struggle. They have to suffer for food and for life. In the Canadian wilderness they face the problem of starvation and the scarcity of food. The animals start to fight with each other. Human beings begin to be cruel and violent towards the animals. The dogs that are taken to carry the gold in the wild forest are facing the trouble of cold, hunger, cruelty, and violence. As “ For two days and nights this express car was dragged along the tail of shrieking locomotives; and for two days and nights Buck neither ate nor drank (17)”. Buck the pet and weak dog that was loyal towards his master, becomes violent and strong enough to fight with the extreme circumstances. He fights with the wild dog and kills some of them. To adapt himself in the gruesome environment, he becomes savage and violent.

The Call of the Wild, on the surface, is a story about Buck, a four-year old dog that is part Shepherd and part St. Bernard. More importantly, it is a naturalistic tale about the survival of the fittest in nature. Throughout the novel, Buck proves that he is fit and can endure the law of the club, the law of the fang, and the laws of nature. Buck had been raised in California, on the ranch of Judge Miller. There he had the run of the place and was loved and pampered by all. Unfortunately, one of the judge's workers had a gambling problem and stole Buck to sell him for fifty dollars. Buck fights being tied, caged, and beaten, but his efforts go into pieces. He struggles and struggles for his survival in the hostile scenarios among the torture and pain given by the so called civilized human beings. "Buck did not cry out. He did not check himself, but drove in upon Spitz, shoulder to shoulder, so hard that he missed the throat (40)". He eventually sheds the veneer of civilization altogether and instead relies on primordial instincts and the lessons he has learned to become a respected and feared leader in the wild.

Buck becomes able to gain all his power and position. It means he is able to overcome the harshness and the bitter reality as:

From then on, it was war between them. Spitz, as lead dog and acknowledged master of the team, felt his supremacy threatened by his strange southland dog. In addition, strange Buck was to him, for of the many southland dogs he had known not one had shown up nothing in camp and on trail. They were all too soft, dying under the toil, the forest and starvation. Buck was the exception. He alone endured and prospered, matching the husky in strength, savagery, and cunning. Then he was master full dog, and what made him dangerous was the fact that the club of the man in the red sweater had knocked all blind

pack and rashness out of his desire for mastery. He was pre-eminently cunning and could bide his time with a patience that was nothing less than primitiveness." (5)

His main rival is the dog named Spitz in the Canadian wilderness. He struggles against the other wild dogs, against the starvation and against all the unfavorable circumstances.

Jack through the story of Buck gives the idea that the world is full of struggles and hardship. The struggle for existence, the primitive law is not only in the world of wild dogs but also in the world of human beings who are the so-called advocate of humanity and civilization. His most of the writings are concerned with the theme of naturalism. He through his writings has created his own brand of naturalism and animalism. He has given the outline of the theory of primitiveness in his works of arts. Through the use of anthropomorphism, Jack London enables us to realize the key to success is adaptability, not only in the animal world, but also in the human world. Students realize that in order to survive in any environment or society, one must adapt to the rules and regulations, whether they are written or unwritten. Along with the elements of fiction, we are able to predict actions and outcomes use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words, and evaluate and make judgments based upon the innate instinct for survival and the differences between primitive and civilized behavior.

This thesis will incorporate Charles Darwin's theory of Natural Selection and struggle for existence. Natural selection, in evolution, is the process by which environmental effects guide to changeable amount of reproductive achievement among individuals of a population of organisms with different hereditary characters, or traits. The characters that inhibit reproductive success decrease in frequency from

generation to generation. The resulting increase in the proportion of reproductively successful individuals usually enhances the adaptation of the population to its environment. Natural selection thus tends to encourage adaptation by maintaining constructive adaptations in a steady surroundings or improving adaptation in a direction appropriate to environmental changes. Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace first proposed this concept in 1858. Charles Darwin, in *The Origin of Species*, developed a theory that life on earth evolved through a process of natural selection. Those creatures that were strong and were able to adapt to their environment were the ones that survived. "Those that have lost in struggle for existence have disappeared" (Gaarder 422). The process as seen by Darwin was ruthless and amoral; there was no beneficent God overseeing it and ensuring justice or tempering it with mercy.

The struggle for existence takes place within a web of ecological relations. Above an organism in the ecological food chain, there will be predators and parasites, seeking to feed off it; and below it are the food resources it must in turn consume in order to stay alive. At the same level in the chain are competitors, which may be competing for the same limited resources of food, or space. An organism competes most closely with other members of its own species, because they have the most similar ecological needs to its own; other species, in decreasing order of ecological similarity, also compete and exert a negative influence on the organism's chance of survival.

Thus, *The Call of the Wild* is a genuine presentation of the experiment of Darwin's concept of survival of the fittest. Buck is forced to survive and adapt to conditions in Alaska and the Yukon and becomes the leader of the sled team after defeating Spitz in a battle. Finally Buck returns to the wild and becomes the alpha male of a wolf pack he met a few days after the death of Thornton. To depict all these

theme and idea this research has adapted the theoretical model of Darwinism. The very first chapter of this project is the introduction, which has incorporated the hypothesis, objective and the literature review. The second chapter will analyze the text deeply with the theoretical model of Darwinism in embedded form. The final chapter will be the conclusion of the whole thesis that will briefly summarize the overall concept of the research.

Chapter II: Survival of the Fittest in *The Call of the Wild*

In *The Call of the Wild*, Jack London depicts the theme of struggle and hardship the living beings have to face in this world to survive. He has depicted the theme that the world is full of struggles and hardships. The living beings have to pay the cost of difficulties and struggle to survive in this world. Here through the analysis of the novel *The Call of the Wild* London clearly demonstrated the theme of Darwinian Theory that the struggle is among the same species. *The Call of the Wild* is one of the masterpieces of Jack London. Jack London, who was regarded as one of the greatest naturalist novelists in late 19th and early 20th century, expressed his philosophy of naturalism in *The Call of the Wild*. This project attempts to explore Darwin's theory of "the big fish eat up the small, the fittest survive" in *The Call of the Wild* by analyzing the characterization of Buck's attitude and London's philosophy of naturalism, and to find out the influence of adaptation of the principles and methods of natural science, especially Darwinian view of natural science which has clearly shown that the world is full of struggle and hardship. The novel is concerned not only with dogs but with their changing relations to humans. How the human beings become cruel and violent in the critical time of their life. If human beings have to struggle with life they forget their civilization and human quality.

Buck, a dog who lived a contented life in a big house in the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley, which is called Judge Miller's estate. Judge Miller's estate is a place where everything is perfect and easy. Nice and delicious food is served to Buck. His bed is comfortable and warm. The owner of Buck treats him like his sons and daughter. Beautiful gardens are there inside the estate of Judge Miller. The masters are polite and humble toward Buck. They are civilized human beings. Good rules and regulations are there. Buck can play freely and in a friendly manner with the lovely

children of Judge Miller. There are other dogs also in Judge Miller's estate but they cannot be counted. Buck has not to do with other dogs. They are countless in comparison to Buck. He has nothing to do for his survival. There is no any kind of competition and he has to struggle with his own species.

Buck has lived a luxurious and contented life. Such a dog has been abducted and taken to the wilderness for forced labor. He is abducted by the servant of Judge Miller who is greedy and for the money he handed Buck to a man's hand who takes buck to the tough journey toward the Canadian forest where he will not get anything pleasant and comfortable. There is nothing more than harshness and difficulties. There is fight among the dogs themselves. "From then on it was war between them. Spitz, as the lead dog and acknowledged master of the team, felt his supremacy threatened by this strange southland dog (35)." For the first time he receives the gift of club in his life. The whip makes him subconscious and weak. In the Canadian forest there are starvation, pain, extreme cold, difficulties. Buck has to do a painful labor i.e. to pull the cart of the people filled with their luggage.

In Santa Clara Valley there is the rule of love and affection, but in the Canadian forest there is the rule of the club and the cruelty. But Buck becomes able to adapt himself in this strange and unfavorable situation. He becomes able to fight and struggle with the harshness and the difficulties of life into the wilderness. He fights not only with the extreme nature but also with his own species. We can get the glimpse of natural selection and survival of the fittest in the struggle of Buck. As: "Those who survived to grow up – and perpetuate the race – would therefore be those who come out best in the struggle for survival" (Gardner 414). In this extreme environment other dogs die with cold. Some die by the extreme torture given by their masters. But Buck becomes able to be winner. He becomes the fittest in the strange

environment in the Canadian jungle. He fights with the other dogs and with the wild animals also. At last he not only overcome his living but also becomes the leader of his companion. He becomes the leader among other dogs into the wilderness. Buck's struggle for his existence into the Canadian forest reflects Darwinian Theory of survival of the fittest. Into the wilderness there is the rule of kill or be killed.

The Call of the Wild, on the outside, is a narrative about Buck, a four- year old dog that is being reared by the civilized human being who loves and cares the dog like their children. More prominently, it is a naturalistic story concerning the endurance of the fittest in natural world. All through the novel, Buck proves that he is fit and can bear the rule of the hit, the rule of the dagger, and the laws of natural world. Buck had been raised in California, on the ranch of Judge Miller. There he had the run of the place and was loved and pampered by all. Unluckily, one of the judge's employees had a betting problem and stole Buck to put up for sale him for fifty dollars. Buck struggles being attached, imprisoned, and beaten, but his labors only upset him. He is put on a coach and a yacht, being shipped to Alaska to be used as a sled dog. Although he is unhappy on the voyage, Buck studies an important lesson - the law of the club. As:

More tormentors, Buck decided, for they were evil-looking creatures, raged at them through the bars. They only laughed and poked sticks at him, which he promptly assailed with his teeth till he realized that that was what they wanted. He did not mind the hunger so much, but the lack of water caused him severe suffering and fanned his wrath to fever pitch. (17)

If he does not follow, he will be packed down. In Alaska, Buck is sold to become a sled dog. Intelligent and hard working, he quickly learns to adapt to his new life. He

becomes a good sled dog, working as part of the team; he also learns how to protect himself from the miserable cold, burrowing under the snow, and how to find food, stealing if necessary. He also learns he must always be alert, for there are dangers everywhere.

Additionally, Buck learns the law of the whip, for if he does not obey the driver or do his fair share of pulling, he will be popped. Throughout Buck's journey there were many key turning-points which forced him to adapt to the rules of the wild. When the story first begins Buck is cozy in his carefree environment which is a farm owned by a man named Judge Miller. As:

There were great stables, where a dozen grooms and boys held forth, rows of vine-clad servants' cottages, an endless and orderly array of outhouses, long grape arbors, green pastures, orchards, and berry patches...there was the pumping plant for the artesian well...over this great demesne Buck ruled. Here he was born, and here he had lived the four years of his life. It was true, there were other dogs. There could not but be other dogs on so vast a place, but they did not count. (5-6)

Here buck is a kind of animal who has everything in his place. He is neither a wild dog nor a pet dog. The owner of Buck has reared him as his children. He has everything. He is like the king in his area among other dog. Such a dog has to face the harsh reality of life in the wild scenario of north Klondike of Canada.

The novel *Call of the Wild* by Jack London, which is an astonishing tale of adventure, set in the year 1897 during the Klondike gold rush. The narrative is told through the eyes of the major character who is a St. Bernard/German shepherd dog named Buck. Within the first section Buck is unexpectedly kidnapped from his pampered life in the warm Santa Clara Valley and forced to adjust to the harsh

realities of being a sled dog in frosty Alaska. It was there where he learned that knowledge shapes what we are.

Throughout the book Buck's experience proves that when our environment changes, so do we, thereby making Darwin's understanding of evolution and adaptation relevant to this novel. As Jostein Gaarder quotes Darwin in his book *Sophie's World*, "The result of this natural selection is that the one best adapted to a particular environment- or a particular ecological niche- will in the long term perpetuate the race in that environment. But what is an advantage in one environment is not necessarily an advantage in another" (416). Buck adapts to circumstances until finally he strikes against Spitz in a fight for the dominant position. By killing Spitz, he gains a supreme air, and in turns an adaptation against the law of the fang. A third example surfaces during Buck's leadership. The fledgling dog, to Francios and Perrault, cannot work up to par for the lead. So Buck conducts himself as a master sled dog, reaching Francios and Perrault's goals, conforming to the team. The group plows through snow reaching at least forty miles a day. The dogs spend at most two weeks in the wild Klondike. In a way Buck heightens the safety of each person and dog. He adapts to the environment and new position. Within *The Call of the Wild*, Buck must have a part to justify Darwin's theory.

In the novel London uses Mercedes, Hal, and Charles, a group of very inexperienced and even less equipped city goers, to portray the likely doom of those who do not become accustomed. These characters are those who are unfit in this world which is full of struggles and harshness. They are the representative of the unfit according to Charles Darwin's Theory. While in Skagway the three have no idea what the Klondike holds. They do not know that the area is a place where the unfit will have to face a terrible doom. The well dressed well fed team wants nothing but riches

and fame. In their effort for time they purchase the now exhausted dog team, which Buck leads, to take them to Dawson. Even during the beginnings of their journey they show their inevitable doom. Mercedes, the most hardheaded of the bunch parks load after load on the sled. Observers express amusement at the view, telling the crowd that the sled will lean. In their arrogance the warning goes without notice, soon to find the now moving sled strewn across the street. The next incident proves their stubbornness to adapt to the environment. After many weeks of toil Charles, Hal, and Mercedes reach White river, where they find Thorton, a mail courier with frost bite. The team drops dead in the traces. Hal's philosophy pertains to the use of the whip. Beating after beating occurs but the team does not get up. Buck, the lead dog, gets the brunt of the attack until Thorton steps in. He fights Hal and wins Buck. So the beaten Hal moves on, not heeding Thorton's warning of thin ice. Their doom arrives in a tumult of ice and water. All of the team dies in the cold murky lake. These three characters show a second side of adaptation that is very true. But Buck proves that he is the really fittest in this strange scenario.

In the very first chapter, 'Into the Primitive', Buck first learns the distinction between the "cold" world to which he is being taken and the "warm" world from which he comes. He has not been accustomed to harsh treatment, but being an exceptionally wise dog, he quickly adjusts. In fact, his adjustment and his adaptability become his salvation. Buck's first reaction to rough treatment is in a spirit of rebelliousness. But, London tells his reader before he has gone a dozen pages into the narrative; Buck recognizes a new "law" when he sees it:

He saw, once for all, that he stood no chance against a man with a club.

He had learned the lesson, and in his entire afterlife he never forgot it.

That club was a revelation. It was his introduction to the reign of

primitive law, and he met the introduction halfway. The facts of life took on a fiercer aspect; and while he faced that aspect uncowed, he faced it with all the latent cunning of his nature aroused. (21)

The club in the Canadian forest has introduced him with the new law the law of might is right. He knows for the first time the wild law of the club. After this time he has to learn the new law of might is right.

Darwinism is a scientific theory propounded by Charles Darwin, about the origin of species. Newly observant facts like natural and sexual selection, heredity, variation, descent, struggle, adaptation and environmental determinism give a true profit of humanity and it's way of adaptation in this world. It explains the realities and significance, cause and consequence of man's violent nature and other animal's cruelty and arrogance in the critical situation when there is the matter of life and death. It describes the violence of animals to survive in this strange world especially when they are struggling hard with their own species. It clearly explains man's instinctual behaviors along with heredity and environmental contributions. Darwinism declares that there is no prior intelligent causal force to plan the events in evolutionary nature which is a continuous process; autonomous and self regulating where chance and coincidence play the determining role. As E Royston Pike comments about Darwin's natural selection:

Natural selection is introduced by Charles Darwin as an explanation of life on earth adapting itself to exist in the environment where it began and gradually change to become better suited to the surroundings. It would progressively encounter as it travelled to other locations in search for the necessities for survival. . . His theories of common ancestor, species variation, evolution and eventual extinction have

paved the way through whole discipline of science to a transforming brilliance of creative purpose. (407)

Fierce battle between the close ecological rivals is the ultimate truth in nature.

Biblical notion of sin, guilt and fall become inescapable human legacy that denounces redemption but accept the merciless elimination in the battle for existence.

We can find the theme of natural selection, struggle, adaptation, variation and decent in the novel *The Call of the Wild*. Buck's adaptation to the north Klondike region of Canada is the prime example of the theme of adaptation. He can adapt himself in the extremely cold environment even though he has grown up in a cozy and warm environment. He never has to face the problem of cold when he is in Judge Miller's estate. He used to have cozy bedroom and warm and delicious food. Such a dog comes in the extreme environment where he has to face the trouble of extreme cold. But he can easily manage and adapt himself in this strange surrounding. He fights with the extreme cold, the hard labor, the tortures given by his masters and becomes the leading dog among the other dogs that have been taken there to carry the luggage of the gold hunters. He fights with his other mates; he fights with hunger and takes part in each and every competition in this strange environment. As:

A dainty eater, he found that his master, finishing first, robbed him of his unfinished ration. There was no defending it while he was fighting off two or three; it was disappointing down the throats of the others. To remedy this, he ate as fast as they; and, so greatly did hunger compel him, he was not above taking what did not belong to him. He watched and learned. When he saw pike, one of the new dogs, a clever malinger and thief styly steal a slice of bacon when Perrault back was turned, he duplicated the performance the following day, getting way with the

whole chunk. A great uproar was raised, but he was unsuspected; while
 dup, an awkward blunderer who was always getting caught, was
 punished for Buck's misdeed. (28)

Here Buck is fighting with the hunger. In the forest there is not sufficient ration. He fights with other companions. While he is struggling with his own species he at the same time has to fight with the hunger. He becomes able to fight with it by competing with other dogs. To be the first, he eats quickly. Here he has to be the first among his companion to survive in the starvation. He has to eat rapidly at any cost. If he does not do so then the fate of death will be in front of him.

Buck's behaviors clearly show Buck's capabilities to adapt him in the strange and hostile environment. He shows his capacity. In course of the travel several dogs die there because of various reasons. The main reason is they are unable to adapt themselves in the strange and hostile surrounding. That's why Charles Darwin's Theory always says that if one cannot compete in the hostile environment he/she has to face the fate of doom. "Those who survived to grow up – and perpetuate the race – would therefore be those who came out best in the struggle for survival" (quoted in Gaarder 414). The plot of the novel concerns mainly about a previously domesticated and even somewhat pampered dog Buck, whose primitive instincts return after a series of events, finds him serving as a sled dog in the deceitful, frigid Yukon during the days of the 19th century Klondike Gold Rushes. Principles of survival are frequently illustrated in *The Call of the Wild*.

Buck, a pet dog leads a contented and combatable life on judge miller's land in California's Santa Clara valley. When men find out gold in the Klondike region of Canada he is abducted by a gardener and sold to the gold hunters to work as a sled dog in the extreme cold environment of North Klondike. When he does not follows

the rule of the gold hunters he is beaten severely by the gold hunters. He tries his best to free himself from the claws of the gold hunters, but he cannot. To tame buck the man beats him with the club. When buck realizes that it is impossible to be free from there he starts to learn the method of adapt himself in the hostile environment to save himself from all this difficulties. Here for the first time he knows the true nature of human psyche and the nature of primitive law. He is surprised seeing the cruelty around him. He sees a dog is killed by a pack of huskies. Up to this time, he is sold and bought many times by various masters. Working as a sled dog, he recovers the instinct of his wild ancestor. He starts to learn to fight, scavenge for food, and sleep beneath the snow on winter nights. His recovery to a tamed dog to a wild dog is the manifestation of the animalistic instinct. To struggle and adjust into the new situation he learns to be bold and transforms himself to a violent wild dog.

Charles Darwin developed the theory of evolution and made a great contribution to science when he put forward this theory. Darwin saw the evolutionary process as a series of adaptations. Plants and animals differ from one another in their hereditary qualities. Those variants, which endowed an organism to meet the needs of the environment, will be preserved in the "struggle for existence". Darwin used the term natural selection for this process of discrimination. The mechanism of evolutionary change was suggested by Darwin in 1858. This theory asserts that evolution occurs because those individuals of a species, whose characteristics best fit them for survival, are the ones who contribute most of the offspring to the next generation. These offspring will tend to have the characteristics, by virtue of which their parents survived, and in this way, the adaptation of the species to its environment will gradually improve.

Natural selection is an attempt to suggest that the development of life on earth did not require any kind of supernatural explanation such as a divine creator.

Darwin's theory suggested that every species was the most useful biological adaptation to that environment, was most likely to survive and produce offspring also possessing these useful characteristics.

The dogs in the forest have to carry heavy load of the food. When Buck becomes the leader of the dogs, he has to lead the team of the dogs to the destination. The dogs in the forest have given task, limited ration and strange environment. In this situation they should have to adapt themselves in that scenario. All the dogs are helpless. They should carry the load at any cost. If they do not carry the load, they have to have starvation and strong punishment by their masters. All their masters are inexperienced in keeping dogs; they face a lot of tortures. The masters do not know how to manage the ration of the dogs. Their inexperience nature is also a kind of challenge and hardship for the dogs in the North Klondike region of Canada. The masters beat the dogs violently. So the dogs there have to face more difficulties over the extreme environment. Buck. To be adapted to the hostile environment of the Canada does not require any supernatural power and might. As every creature is struggling hard to survive in this strange world where there are difficulties everywhere to live, Buck also struggles to live as much as he can. He uses all his might to adapt himself in the hostile environment of the Canadian forest. He has to go miles to miles to carry load of their masters. He faces the challenges of the extreme cold and the lack of food and sufficient water. He has given a strange and hostile environment and the climatic difficulties to live in the strange environment. He uses all his might to survive in the hostile scenario. There is no any supernatural power and the grace of the god upon Buck.

Jack London clearly presents the theme of survival of the fittest in *The Call of the Wild*. Buck lived a contented life in the sun-kissed Santa Clara valley. Suddenly he is abducted by the gardener and sold to the gold hunter in the North Klondike region of Canada. The environment is hostile to the dogs in the region. They get severe punishment by their masters. The environment is extremely cold which is beyond the capacity of any animals. The dogs fight with each other. It means there is the hostility among their own species. As Gaarder quotes Darwin in *Sophie's World*:

Darwin further proposed that the struggle for survival is frequently hardest among species that resemble each other the most. They have to fight for the same food. There – the slightest advantage – that is to say, the infinitesimal variation – truly come into its own. The more bitter the struggle for survival, the quicker will be the evolution of new species, so that only the very best adapted will survive and the other will die. (415)

But Buck survives in this hostile environment. As Darwin and Herbert Spencer's theory of 'survival of the fittest' says that an organism or group that is better suited to an environment will have a better chance for survival than an animal or group that is less suited. Here Buck survives and most of the other dogs don't live because he is genetically more suited to that environment than many of the other dogs who were there.

The plot of *The Call of the Wild* is so familiar, because of its widespread popularity. It becomes popular because London has merged the widespread view of Darwinism. Since he is ostensibly concerned with dogs in the naturalism here, however, a brief statement of the plot may be helpful. In simplest terms, Buck, a magnificent dog, lives on Judge Miller's ranch in California. He is kidnapped and

taken to Alaska where through numerous hardships and encounters with the “wild” he recognizes his affinity to it and reverts to his primordial state. Buck is finally sold to two Frenchmen who take him into the Klondike. There Buck learns a corollary law of the club, the law of fang. Buck’s “primitive” ancestors lived by these laws. And Buck’s own translation is succinctly noted: “He had been suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization and flung into the heart of things primordial” (25). Contrasted with the soft world from which Buck has come, in the primordial “all was confusion and action . . . There was imperative need to be constantly alert; for these dogs and men were not town dogs and men. They were savages, all of them, who knew no law but the law of club and fang” (25).

Naturalism is used to describe those works which give a harsh, realistic view of nature, with mankind at its mercy. In naturalism, only the strong will survive. Since naturalism is basically post-Darwinian, it inclines towards an evolutionary view of life, stating that the fittest will survive to have descendent who are even more fit. In the novel, London relies upon all three philosophies in telling his story about Buck, who has evolved into a near perfect creature to withstand the harsh realities of the naturalistic world of the Arctic wild.

A secondary theme in the novel is man's desire to have an adventure or a quest in which the struggle for life is hidden. Every culture has stories of heroes going in search of the unattainable. They undergo trials, overcome hardships, and finally succeed. Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* is based upon a quest. The story of Buck and his adventures, his transformation from ranch pet to magnificent dog of the wilderness, is his quest to answer *The Call of the Wild*. In a similar manner, each of his masters in the Yukon is on a quest, all of them searching for gold. Francois and Perrault are in the Klondike to make a living for themselves; Charles, Hal, and

Mercedes are greedy, seeking to get wealthy from the gold. Thornton goes after gold for a sense of adventure; he wants to go where no other man has gone and returned. He loves the natural world, as Buck does, and understands *The Call of the Wild*.

Buck, a dog is the “main character” of the novel. Buck’s father was a huge Saint Bernard, and Buck’s mother was a huge Scotch shepherd dog. The central concern of *The Call of the Wild* is Buck’s transformation from a civilized dog of the South to an animal capable of coping with the most adverse conditions in the Far North. Buck is used to illustrate London’s idea of the “survival of the fittest” and the retreat to the potential primitive or primordial beast which lies within each animal or individual. This is also a magnification of the philosophy of naturalism, a philosophy which London was often concerned with in his writings. Spitz is the dog which kills Curly; not unexpectedly, Spitz becomes Buck’s most bitter enemy. Later, Spitz is killed by Buck in a dog fight incident which is central to the novel. Buck’s victory entitles him to take over the commanding power position, which once belonged to Spitz. Buck’s fight-to-the-death with Spitz illustrates Buck’s ability to survive among even the most primitive elements.

Jack London’s understandings during the Klondike gold rush in the Yukon are the inspiration for *The Call of the Wild*. He sees the way dogsled teams behave and how their owners treat (and mistreat) them. In the book, the dog Buck’s comfortable life is upended when gold is discovered in the Klondike. From then on, survival of the fittest becomes Buck’s mantra as he learns to tackle and survive the cruel realities of his new life as a sled dog.

London clearly makes use of the idea of “survival of the fittest” in *The Call of the Wild*. By chance, Buck’s environment undergoes a marvelous change - he is kidnapped and taken from a “sun-kissed,” easy existence to the wilds of the Klondike.

Buck survives because he was genetically more suited to that environment than many of the other dogs who were there. He did not need to learn much of anything - the instincts for survival were handed down by his ancestors -- a more poetic version of genetic inheritance.

In California, Buck supposed he was very controlling, for he was the most significant dog in Judge Miller's family. He ruled over all of the other dogs, and he even believed that he ruled over the people. In the Klondike, he learns what a hierarchy really is, and he understands that power is truly the power over life and death. All of the dogs either have power, and must exert it in order to survive, or they give up their power to a bigger and stronger dog and can merely hope that that dog will protect them.

Once Spitz fears Buck's power, Buck realizes that he must exert it. The appearance of power must lead to the assertion of power. The only other option is death. Buck quickly learns one of the most important laws of Club and Fang. As London writes

He was glad for one thing: the rope was off his neck. That had given them an unfair advantage; but now that it was off, he would show them. They would never get another rope around his neck. Upon that he was resolved. For two days and nights he neither ate nor drank, and during those two days and nights of torment, he accumulated a fund of wrath that boded ill for whoever first fell foul of him.(64)

When Curly is killed for making a friendly advance to another dog, he recognizes that he is in a world where it is kill or be killed. He without delay begins to see the world in terms of who he has power over and who has power over him.

The issue of authority lives both in the relations of the dogs among themselves and in the relation of the dogs and the men. Slowly over the course of the novel Buck

learns that human beings do not have intrinsic power over dogs. They have the intense competition as “In his anger he had met the first advances of the express messengers with growls, and they had retaliated by teasing him”(36).When he asserts his right to leadership of the sled, he imposes his will on Francois, even though Francois has a club. When he kills the Yeehat Indians, he consciously acknowledges that he need never fear human beings again. In this world, he is more powerful than a human being. In light of this view of power, London suggests that a wild, natural existence is not as free as the reader might imagine. Buck is free because he is the most powerful, but he must never for a moment let down his guard. The natural world is dominated by rules and codes just as the civilized world is, and in this world, Buck can read and understand the subtlest of controls.

The Call of the Wild is one of the work of arts of the great American writer Jack London. The plot concerns a earlier disciplined and even rather pampered afflict named Buck, whose primeval character return after a series of events finds him serving as a sled dog in the unfaithful, cold Yukon throughout the days of the 19th century Klondike Gold Rushes. Main beliefs of survival are often illustrated in *The Call of Wild*. Jack London, who was considered as one of the greatest naturalist novelists in late 19th and early 20th century, expressed his idea of naturalism in *The Call of the Wild*. This thesis attempts to discover Darwin’s theory of “the big fish eat up the small, the fittest survive.”(Darwin 445) in *The Call of the Wild* by analyzing the writing background, the description of Buck’s way and London’s philosophy of naturalism, and to discover the power of adaptation of the principles and methods of natural science, especially Darwinian view of natural world.

The theory of evolution always advocates about the way of adaptation of the animals and species. When their habitat is changed the species undergo a certain difficulties which may take their life and lead them to death. Those species who are able to cope with the new environment will survive and those which are not able to be adjusted cannot survive we call this theory the theory of evolution and the survival of the fittest. Dr K Sharma in his book entitled *A Guide Book of Science* defines adaptation as:

All structural, physiological and behavioral peculiarities of an animal which enable it to in its changed environment may be known as adaptation. Adaptation thus refers to some sort of harmony between an animal and its environment. The properties of an organism which enable it to adjust itself to some new environment condition is called adaptability. (163)

So, Buck has taken to the Canadian jungle where he should have to face a lot of new law and new environment. The Canadian wilderness is totally new for him and hostile also. To bring harmony to the new environment he has to fight a lot. He not only fights with the other species but also to the extreme cold and the harsh environment.

Men should be adaptable with the new environment because they cannot make new kind environment. K Sharma's point is also that he since men cannot make new environment adjustable to them they should create harmony to the new environment whatever the new environment becomes hostile to them. The men and animal in *The Call of the Wild* are in the process of creating a good harmony with the new environment. Dogs are fighting with the cruelty of their masters and the masters are fighting with the strange and hostile environment. They are taking the support of the

dogs to fight with the extreme cold and the hostile environment. They are compelling the dogs to carry the heavy load. They are taking the dogs where they cannot fight with the nature. If they cannot carry the heavy load the dogs are their vehicles. To be adapted to the new and the changed environment and to bring a kind of harmony as Dr Sharma argues they are making the dogs their slave compelling them to be starved and by giving them extreme tortures as:

They told us up above that the bottom was dropping out of the trail and that the best thing for us to do was to lay over,” Hal said in response to Thornton’s warning to take no more chances on the rotten ice. “They told us we couldn’t make White River, and here we are.” This last with a sneering ring of triumph in it. “And they told you true,” John Thornton answered. “The bottom’s likely to drop out at any moment. Only fools, with the blind luck of fools, could have made it. I tell you straight, I wouldn’t risk my carcass on that ice for all the gold in Alaska.” “That’s because you’re not a fool, I suppose,” said Hal. “All the same, we’ll go on to Dawson.” He uncoiled his whip. “Get up there, Buck! Hi! Get up there! Mush on!” (75-76)

So, all the characters in the novel are the characters who are struggling hard to be survived in the hostile and strange environment. They say that they cannot make river so they should be careful about the violent environment.

London was a strong supporter of Charles Darwin’s theories of evolution and survival of the fittest. *The Call of the Wild* is a complete illustration of this idea. Again and again, Buck, the big St. Bernard-shepherd dog mix, outlasts those weak-minded, weak-willed, weak-tempered sled dogs. He is the essence of everything good a dog should be – he and his offspring will last and future generations of wild dogs

will be changed by his exemplary genes. Relating the story in a human framework London not only is showing the adaptability of the animals but also the struggle of the human beings with the strange environment. But to see Darwin's laws played out by these dogs, which London makes easy to look upon with the same significance as humans, is a delight. At the end, London gives a warning that even now, in our current environmental collapse, is potentially true: a love between humans and the natural world triumphs over any system of survival or hierarchy that exists, but eventually nature will overcome humans. John Thornton, in all his goodness, is killed by humans and Buck joins the wild – his world ultimately prevailing over a more 'civilized' one as:

At the last of the story, Buck becomes a leader of the wolf dogs. Buck here responds to the calling of his inside instinct, which is totally barbaric and uncivilized. He listens to *The Call of the Wild* and totally emerges into it. He becomes a legendary figure among other dogs into the wilderness. After his entrance into the wilderness befriends the wild wolfs and haunts the mosses. When the Indian Yeehats attack and kill his master he attacks the Yeehats and kills several. He becomes the leader of wolfs. He becomes the legendary figure, a ghost dog. He fathers countless cubes. Every year he returns to the place where his master Thorton died, to mourn the death of his master. There is always the constant conflict among species and the cruel nature.

(127)

In *The Call of the Wild*, the protagonist gains new knowledge which allows him to adapt to his surroundings. Adaptation in this novel is necessary for survival. When our protagonist is tossed into a new world of harsh conditions and unforgiving men,

he needs to learn how to do his job, how to coexist with the other dogs, and how to live while many others die from the conditions. The adaptation we see is physical, mental, and spiritual as Buck is toughened and strengthened by the world around him. Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* is such a story which gives light on the struggle in the environment for the adaptation and survival. Each and every character in *The Call of the Wild* is struggling for the survival in the hostile and harsh environment. Buck's masters are struggling with the dogs, making them compelled to live in the cold and unfavorable climate. They are searching gold in the extreme climate of Alaska.

To be fitted in that extreme climate, they take the help of the innocent and poor dogs which are not accustomed to live in such a hostile and extreme cold environment. They make the compelled to carry the heavy loads. Buck, a pet dog should learn countless lessons to survive in the extreme climate. He should learn the lesson of primitiveness. He should be accustomed to the law of the club of his masters. He should be able to fight with the wild dogs to adapt himself into the strange environment. Spitz is his main rival with whom he has to fight regularly. The dogs and the human being have to face a lot of trouble in huge and heavy jungle of Canada. This is a sort of struggle in *The Call of the Wild*. While the human biker the dog began to starve, and the weaker animal begins to die. Only an original team of fourteen, only five are still alive when they limp into John Thornton's camp, still some distance from their destination. Thornton warns them that the ice over which they are traveling is begins to fall.

Darwin's theory claims that there are endless effort and struggle in this world for the survival of the species. To be adapted in this strange and hostile world, the species struggles to death. The one who is power and the one who has the capacity to adjust himself in this hostile environment can survive. The one who fit in this

environment will survive in this world. The one who cannot be fitted cannot survive. The one who cannot struggle cannot survive. The looser will die. He has to face the doom. As Darwin claims:

Individual having any advantage however, slight over others would have the best chance of surviving and procreating their kind [. . .] any variation in the least degree injurious would be rigidly destroyed. This presentation of favorable individual difference and variation and destruction of those which are injuries. I have called natural selection, or the survival of the fittest. (54)

The individual who have the capacity of charging against the other has the best chance of survival in comparison to the individual who only adapts the method of defense. The one who attacks upon the other readily has the best chance of surviving and best chance of fitting in any kind of unfavorable environment. Buck remains weak and fragile when he was passive and weak enough to fight with other wild dog and rebel against his cruel masters. Buck for the first could not be rude and crude. But when he realizes that he should be rude and violent, he behaves like that. When he becomes bold and strong, and starts attacking the other dogs and being upon the other he not only survive but also becomes the leader.

When Buck undergoes various troublesome experiences, he becomes stronger and ruthless. Here to resist and revolt the animalistic behaviors of human beings he becomes a real animal. Here human beings are guided by their desire of gold and money, and become loveless and sentiment less. They become irrational and immoral. They reduce Buck to nothing, beat, kick and force to pull sled to Canadian wilderness. The celebration of primitive life in the wilderness and even the savagery clearly shows the animalistic instinct of human beings. Buck's journey from a civilized pet

dog to a fierce, bloodthirsty, violent wolf dog clearly proves how much the so-called human beings demonstrate their primitive instinct to the poor and helpless dog.

As soon as Buck is kidnapped from Judge Miller's ranch, he learns that a new law applies to life; quite different from the "law of love and fellowship" he has known before. London calls this the "law of club and fang," a succinct phrase that describes in a nutshell the survival of the fittest. The law of the club is that man, having access to greater force, is the master of the dogs. The stronger wins control, and the weaker must submit and serve the will of the conqueror, or be killed. Buck understands this very quickly, after he is beaten by the man in the red sweater, and he adapts to it. Adaptation is the key. He also adapts to the "law of fang," which applies to the dog world. He first sees this at work when his friend Curly naively tries to make friendly advances to the other dogs. She is torn to pieces within minutes. Buck realizes,

So that was the way. No fair play. Once down, that was the end of you. Well he would see to it that he never went down. Spitz ran out his tongue and laughed again, and from that moment buck hated with a bitter and deathless hatred. Before he had recovered the shock caused by the tragic passing of Curley, he received another shock (23). He resolves never to go down. This sets the pattern for the rest of the novel. Buck proves himself to be the strongest, the most resourceful, and the bravest. Since he is the fittest, he is the one who lives in the "ruthless struggle for existence" (24).

The ancient laws of the survival of the fittest also are relevant to the human world. Perrault and Francois, Buck's first owners, are clever men who have adapted to the demands of their environment. They are a match for whatever challenges they encounter. In contrast, Charles, Hal and Mercedes, who have recently arrived in the

north from the more civilized south, fail to adapt to its demands, and as a result, they perish.

Though human beings are trying their best to make Buck like human who is bounded to civilization, Buck does not fit in the human civilization. His genes do not fit with men but with the wild animals. As E Royston Pike quotes Darwin:

In considering the origin of species, it is quite conceivable that a naturalist, reflecting on the mutual affinities of organic beings, on their embryological relation, their geographical distribution, geological succession, and other such facts, might come to the conclusion that species had not been independently changed, but had descended, like varieties, from other species. (409)

Even though he is accustomed to the civilized human being, his instinct is animalistic. He is descended from the animal and destined to face a lot of extreme pains and tortures and face the extreme climate. His gene is matched with the animals that should fight with other wild animals to survive. Buck again returns to his own descent struggling with various difficulties and hardship.

The Call of the Wild is one of the best books written, because it educate the readers that throughout life you will continue to learn and be thought. Throughout the novel, *The Call of the Wild*, the reader grows with buck as he transform from a common laid back house dog to a primordial beast. When buck touchdown in Yukon, he began to convert his mind mentality to the survival of the fittest, with "fittest" described as the one who learns the quickest. When looking at the novel the first thing to note is that the setting is the wild place, a forest and the wild environment like snow and rivers. The name of this place is Alaska. London has demonstrated that that there are two basic contradicting ways of life in the novel: people and the wilderness.

The wilderness strips off the surface of evolution being the only place where the law of nature is valid. Man and animals are reduced to their instincts to stay alive whereas cities are places allowing the fragile to get along invalidating the laws of evolution.

Buck's life is an ethical retrogression; he lives a life of luxury in a southern civilized American city. He is caught and brought to Alaska to serve as a sled-dog. We witness his submission to the code of violence and toil, a sort of de-initiation, forcing him to give up his sense of morality: This first theft marked Buck as fit to survive in the hostile Northland environment. It marked his adaptability, his capacity to adjust himself to changing conditions. It marked, further, the decay or going to pieces of his moral nature, a vain thing and a handicap in the ruthless struggle for existence. It was all well enough in the Southland, under the law of love and fellowship, to respect private property and personal feelings; but in the Northland, under the law of club and fang, he would fail to prosper.

Even though Buck's masters are seemed superior to the dogs in the Canadian wilderness, they are meek and fragile in front of the powerful nature. When the food is beginning to be scarce they begin to beat the dog more powerfully. Emile Zola in his essay *The Experimental Novel* Cites 'L' Introduction by Claude Bernard which reads:

Men then perceives that he cannot dictate the law of nature because he does not possess in himself the knowledge and the criterion of exterior things he realizes that in order to arrive at the truth he must, on the contrary study the natural laws of and submit this ideas[. . .] the criterion of facts. (652)

This passage of Zola suggests that naturalism is the study of nature and men where there is unequal relationship between these two entities. Human being and other

animal are nothing in front of the nature. They should struggle hard to be adapted in the given environment. Species cannot impose their right upon the nature they should be feeble and helpless in front the powerful nature. The dogs in the Canadian forest should struggle hard to be adapted and to live there because they are meek and feeble in front of the powerful nature.

Buck, an animal is reared up in the lap of his animal mother. Though Buck's parents are in human being's surrounding, the basic nature of Buck's upbringing is animalistic. Here like the baby who have the intense passion for his mother's body, Buck also has the intense desire toward his ancestry. However, if he reveals his ancestral behavior in the society, his masters cannot tolerate it and he should be starved. They may reject him or kill him. He has such kinds of fears. That is why he accepts all kind of disciplines, morality, and order, which are beyond the syllabus of animals. Here Buck's strategy to survive is to be calm and cool. He is inclined to his ancestral instinct because this instinct is inherited. It is the result of the gradual development. He though should be disciplined and good mannered, he is interested and inclined to the animalistic and ancestral behavior because he cannot overcome the powerful nature.

Because of the fear of being abandoned or to be killed, he accepts the rules and regulations and becomes human being. He accepts all kinds of order and guideline provided by his masters. However, he is an animal he eats with human, sleep with human, plays with human and does every kind of behavior with human beings. Here Jack London treats animals as human being and animals as human beings. It means there is no any boundary and limitation between human being and animals because there is not any justifiable relation in nature. Nature is unjust. The one which is strong survives and wins and the one which is weak cannot survive. He

does not treat human being and animals equally. Rather he treats human beings as animals and animals in their upgraded forms. So Buck becomes very human as:

But, Buck was neither housedog nor kennel dog. The whole realm was his. He plunged into the swimming tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he escorted Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long twilight or early morning rambles; on wintry nights he lay at the Judge's feet before the roaring library fire; he carried the Judge's grandson on his back, or rolled them in grass, and guarded their footsteps through wild adventures down to the fountain in the stable yard, and even beyond, where the paddocks were, and the berry patches. Among the terries he stalked imperiously, and toots and Ysable he utterly ignored, for he was king – king over all creeping, crawling, fling things of Judge Miller's place, human included. (14)

Buck's family members are human beings. His friends and intimates are the sons and the daughter of Judge Miller. It means because of the fear of being killed or being starved he represses his desires to play with other dogs that are wild. He does not demonstrate his instinctual behaviors and becomes totally human like. He has all kinds of his ancestral desires which he has got from his ancestor by gradual development.

In the new society all, the human beings are ruthless and cruel. They do not have any human like attitudes and behaviors. In his previous society, his masters are loving, caring and kind toward him. He can play with them, eat with them and sleep with them. He is like their family members. However, in Canadian wilderness, all of his masters are distorted from the morality principles and human behaviors. They are immoral and savage like animals. The only rule is the rule of 'kill or be killed'. Now

he should be a real animal but he still has the fear of being killed. That is why he obeys the rules and regulation of the new law. Among his friends and rivals, he becomes ruthless and violent. To be safe also he should have to be ruthless and animalistic. Now he listen the call of his ancestral memory. He becomes like a real dog. When he is beaten by a club by the new master, he then realizes that this world is different from his past world. The desire, which he is compelled to repress under the inner psychology, is now the rules and regulation in the new world. As the narrator narrates:

And Buck was truly a red-eyed devil as he drew himself together for the spring, hair bristling, mouth foaming, a mad glitter in his bloodshed eyes. Straight at the man, he launched his one hundred and forty pounds of furry, surcharged with the pent passion of two days and nights. In midair, just as his jaws were about to close on the man he received a shock that checked his body and brought his teeth together with an agonizing clip. He whirled over, fetching the ground on his back and side. He had never been struck by a club in his life and did not understand. With a snarl, that was part bark and more scream he was again on his feet and launched into the air. And again the shock came and he was brought crushingly to the ground. This time he was aware that it was the club, but his madness knew no cautions. (18)

Buck is accustomed to be ruled with love, affection and morality. He is repressing his guilty desire to be killed and to kill while living in Judge Miller's estate as other wild dog does. However, the shock of the club makes him aware.

Darwin has always claimed that there is the high competition in nature for the survival. That very competition is the struggle. He has given the name of the struggle.

Darwin has claimed that the species within the same species has the better competition than the other species. For example there is the high competition among the dogs than among the men and the dog in *The Call of the Wild*. As Darwin claims:

The balance may determine which individual should live and which shall die-which variety or species shall increase or finally become extinct. As the individuals of the same species come in all respects into the closest competition with each other, the struggle will generally be most severe between them . . . the slightest advantages in certain individual, at any age or during any season over those which they come into competition, or better adaptation in however slightest a degree to the surrounding physical condition, will in the long run turn balance. (115)

In the Canadian wilderness there are other several dogs who are struggling for the survival. They don't live because they are filtered by the nature because of their incapability of doing struggle. Nature balance the environment which will determine which should live and which should die.

So, *The Call of the Wild* is the depiction of the theme of the survival of the fittest. Each and every element of the novel best describes that the novel is the demonstration of the survival of the fittest. Every character in the novel is struggling for the survival. Buck, Buck's masters and other are struggling. They are competing with the harsh environment as well as with their own species.

Chapter III: Consequences of the Struggle among the Species

After the analysis of the novel from the perspective of Charles Darwin's survival of the fittest the researcher has come to the conclusion that the harsh environment in the Canadian forest, the high competition not only among the dogs and men but among the men and among the dogs themselves, the difficulties and the unjust nature of the nature all prove that the novel is a demonstration of the survival of the fittest. Buck's struggle, his toil to adjust himself into the harsh environment which is totally new to him is a prime example of the struggle with the environment by the species. His previous life and his effort to live in the Canadian wilderness, and his extreme struggle with the extreme cold and with the starvation clearly show the high competition among the same species. Buck's fight and the men's each and every activity is the struggle to be adapted in the extreme environment.

Darwin's theory claims that the species that are best suited genetically to the environment will live in the certain environment. In *The Call of the Wild* Buck's gene best suited with the animals and the wilderness and he be fitted in the Canadian forest. Though human beings are trying their best to make Buck like human, who is bounded to rules and regulation, Buck does not fit in the human civilization and society although he lives there with peace and calm. As E Royston Pike quotes Darwin in the book *New Paradigm*: ". . . might come to the conclusion that species had not been independently created, but had decedent, like varieties, from other species" (409). So buck is best suited in the Canadian forest than the cozy environment of the Judge Miller. So he becomes adapted in the wilderness even if he is not accustomed to live there.

Buck struggles hard among the hardships and difficulties to be survived. Here in case of Buck, the meaning of survival goes beyond the meaning of survival. Here

in case of Buck the meaning of survival is the survival with dignity and power which Buck gains by struggling hard with the environment and with the same species. The master of Buck compels him to carry heavy load and provide limited ration. He has to struggle hard in the midst of the starvation and the extreme cold. Not only him the other dogs are also struggling hard to live in the extreme climate of North Klondike. They are competing with the masters; they are competing with the other dogs and with the starvation. Moreover the extreme climate and the hardship is also the thing with which they should have to fight a lot as “. . . it was disappointing down the throats of the others. To remedy this, he ate as fast as they; and, so greatly did hunger compel him, he was not above taking what did not belong to him” (28). This is the example of the struggle with the starvation. When the ration is limited among the sled dogs the dogs go on the fight and extreme struggle to fill up their belly. This struggle clearly shows that the novel of Jack London is a depiction of the survival of the fittest.

No one can help the ill in the surrounding where there is the matter of life. Every creature is worried and struggling for his own life. As “. . . yes but it's not only a question for food. It can be just as vital to avoid being eaten by other animals” (quoted in Gaarder 415). The act of shooting is also the evidence that there is the competition. At the end of this journey the dogs are exhausted and, and the mail carrier sell them to a group of American gold hunters. Here in the strange and unknown environment Buck undergo a violent struggle and experience to adjust in the new environment. This kind of Buck's struggle also proves that the novel is the depiction of the survival of the fittest.

So *The Call of the Wild* has incorporated the element of Darwinism combining the theory of common decent, gradual development, and the struggle for the survival. Buck is such animal which is accustomed to live in the company of civilized and good

mannered masters. He lives in the Judge Miller's estate where the law is the law of justice and affection. "And over this great demesne Buck ruled" (13). There is no any kind of cruelty. There is no any kind of law of club. There is no any kind of savage and unjust rule where the animals are beaten mercilessly. The sons and daughter regard Buck as their sister and brother. He is like the member of human's family. When he finds everything is taken away from him, he instead of making him weak and fragile make himself capable enough to fight with the difficulties and the hardship.

When Buck is abducted and taken to the Canadian forest he is reduced to nothing. He is beaten and given a lot of tortures. He is forced to pull sled which is too much heavy and he has not carried that kind of load before. This experience far from destroying him make him stronger and he wins back his kingdom. Rather he wins a new kingdom, a wild kingdom that better suits his animalistic gene. As Lamarck argues ". . . the different species had developed the characteristic they needed" (quoted in Gaarder 413). Buck fight with the club of his masters, he fight with the other dogs which are his own species. The struggle is high within the same species which Darwinism claims "Every creature is competing to survive in a given environment" (Darwin 55). So Buck's life becomes a synonym of struggle.

Thus, Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* dramatizes the theory of survival of the fittest by demonstrating the struggle among the dog and men, among dog and the extreme cold, and among the dog, men, the cold and the starvation. By showing the death of the other dogs, which are too weak to fight with the cold and to carry the heavy load London proves that Buck is the best match of the strange and hostile environment. Here Buck is the one who is the fittest in the Canadian wilderness where there is struggle in each and every step.

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