

## I. Human Impudence to Animal World in Lewis Carroll's

### *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

This research work makes an attempt to explore human insensitivity and injustice to animal world in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) by deploying ecocritical reading. As William Howarth opines, "Ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and physical environment. It is also by its nature an interdisciplinary enterprise, which seeks to engage with environmental history, philosophy, sociology and science studies and least with ecology and life sciences' (72). This research work tries to explore the relation between human and non-human world along with the anthropocentric point of view. In the novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, we can find a small girl who is tempted by a rabbit while she was lazing around the garden. She has strong inquisition about the rabbit's rush or in other words, to the animal's world. As a typical young girl, this is normal habit of curiosity. Later on, she follows rabbit and enters into a different world where she encounters various obstacles along with other animals like mouse, caterpillar, pigeon etc. Similarly, in the animal's world, Alice not only meets animals but also human beings in their different attitude and roles. The interesting part is Alice's interactions with animals and her change in physical body time and again. This shows that as a true representative of human, Alice, despite the difference in shape and size, human beings can understand the feelings of other non-humans. However, as Paul W. Taylor argues, "human actions affecting the natural environment and its non-human inhabitants are right (or wrong) by either of two criteria: they have consequences which are favorable or unfavorable" (74). Drawing upon the insights of eco-critics and anthropocentric approach the researcher argues that Alice as a representative of human beings goes to the non-human world and shows her superiority as a rational

animal by manipulating and insulting them. Even though she has strong determination to find the white rabbit's journey, she herself goes in the non-human world interferes in their activities and most importantly, she shows her superiority complex by manipulating them in her accordance. This is all because of human being's notion of anthropocentric ideology.

Alice as a young girl does not know various things about the world, but she has curiosity on non-human world. Even though this book contains various fanciful characters, each one adding a bit of humor and dimension to the story. In addition, the book is very complex and has a lot of symbols conveyed through the characters and setting. Lewis Carroll intricately weaves a story using these characters and many less or ones to tell his story. His goal was to teach a lesson to children about growing up in a dangerous world. From the perspective of child literature, it seems only a simple story however; we can find the role of human in various angles and feel the human's encroachment to the animal's world.

From the ecocritical approach as eco-criticism deals with the relation between nature and culture as well as human and non-human, we can find the excessive presentation of human and non-human interaction in this novel. Not only, Alice has curiosity about the animals' world but also she gets involved into their affairs. In various part of the novel, we can find Alice showing her supremacy against animals. It is not only a small girl's psyche to dominate and manipulate animals but also true representative of human being who assumes himself as a supreme creature.

As human beings consider themselves the most rational creature of this earth, they are trying their best to violate natural environment along with non-human world. This wrong supposition of human being can be found in Alice's behavior. At the very

beginning of the novel we can find Alice resting in the garden, once she is fed up with the human world she is attracted to the non-human world. It is not her deep interest rather she takes such activities as fun. Such notion is an attitude of anthropocentric one. As Paul W. Taylor states, "Humans are claiming human superiority from a strictly human point of view, that is from a point of view in which the good humans is taken as the standard of judgment"(79). Keeping human at the center and dealing other creatures as helpless and mysterious is anthropocentric view. In the name of various profit human beings leave show their strong determination to interfere in the non-human world and try their best to get benefit from them. While doing so, they continue to destroy and disturb the non-human world.

Alice too also incorporates the same attitude in this novel; Even though she is a small girl she acts as a dominant character that is center among all other characters. As a small girl, she shows her amazing courage and curiosity for the animal's world. Her query about the animal's world does not seem to be her strong love and compassion towards them; rather she behaves as if they are the source of entertainment. She spies to the animal's world. Such activity is to interfere in other's matter without reinforcing them. The nature of interfering and exploiting is with human beings. Alice too has this attitude. After she goes down the hole, she is not yet satisfied nor gets scared of entering in a different world rather she keeps on continuing her quest. After reaching to the door she again reaches in front of the garden. Here again she finds trouble. The door is so small that she can't enter. However, she gets a special juice that makes her small in order to enter the garden. In course of the change in size of her body with the effect of juice, we can see her state of confusion. Human beings have certain shape and size and they can adjust in their world. It is interesting that her own tears become a huge pool as her body shrinks.

This is symbolic that her own tears becomes problem due to her shape. It can be also understood that because of human's own mistakes they have to face problems.

After Alice accomplishes to cross the shore with a number of animals, most notably a sensitive mouse, but manages to offend everyone by talking about her cat's ability to catch birds and mice. Here, we can find her attitude of arrogance. As she tame a cat at her house, she tries to explain that her cat is best in doing everything. Naturally, all cats are same in their ability and behavior. But it is human who boast themselves of their possession. As human keep animals as their pet they even make their animals superior not for appreciation of animals but for their own personal ego. Her superiority complex is found in this incident. Furthermore, in the wood again, she comes across a caterpillar sitting on a mushroom; at this time she listens the suggestion of him in order to get some benefit i.e. she could get the wishes. Her wishes make her larger and reaches in the nest of pigeon assumes her serpent that went there to destroy her nest. We can find here the pigeon's dissatisfaction when Alice goes to her nest. They both argue about different matter but later on, the pigeon asks leave from its place. This very seems very normal because human beings are interfering in non-human's world which is definitely not liked by the animals.

In addition, even inside the non-human world, the role has been executed in a humorous way. We can find the house of Duchess where she is fighting with the cook not showing any concern to the baby that the Duchess is nursing. It is the world of human that they have forgotten their responsibility of their job. Even the mom pays no heed towards her son. The sudden change of human kid into a pig is very symbolic, which is human beings concept of supremacy. Later on, she meets a Cheshire cat in the jungle. At first, she does not speak to him, later on when she feels that she is lost in the jungle, she asks for help with him for showing the right path.

This is also note worthy to mention that human beings do not want to show that they too have to be dependent with other animals. Whenever human beings have problems they have no option in searching help from non-human world. This is an example of interdependency of each other in this world. But human beings frequently show indifference towards it. The book is very complex and has a lot of symbolism conveyed through the characters and setting. Carroll intricately weaves a story using these characters and many lesser ones to tell his story. His goal was to teach a lesson to children about growing up in an entertaining way. Each character teaches Alice something about life and growing up in a dangerous world. However, the writer tries to indicate that the animal's world is mysterious and dangerous but this is the concept of human beings. Human beings mystify the non human world because they lack the sense of empathy and interest. To analyze the domination of humans to animals' world this research will be using the idea of eco- criticism and most prominently, anthropocentrism.

The term "eco-criticism" was coined in the late 1970's (Rueckert 1996), but its antecedents stretch back much further. However drawing about the general concept of eco-criticism, we can find some veterans who have explained it profoundly. Among them, William Howarth views, "Ecocriticism is the relationship between literature and the physical environment, and it generally refers to scholarship concerned with the environmental implications of literary texts" (71). Howarth's definition of ecocriticism implies that how literary works are influenced by non-human world and environment. Despite humans call themselves superior in every sector; they are expressing their dependency in environment in their writing. Thus, ecocriticism deals with consideration of nature and environment in literature. He also opines: "Ecocriticism seeks to redirect humanistic ideology, not spurning the natural sciences

but using their ideas to sustain viable readings. Literature and science trace their roots to the hermeneutics of religion and law, the sources of early ideas of time and space, or history and property” (78). Howarth is trying to negate the concept of human centric approach of viewing any literary text should be reviewed. As any literary text can't avoid the nature and environment and non-human beings. Similarly, Cheryll Glotfelty, another environmentalist views: “All ecological criticism shares the fundamental premise that human culture, specifically the cultural artifacts of language and literature. As a critical discourse it negotiates between the human and non-human” (5). Glotfelty is trying to implicate that ecocological criticism is connected to over all human culture and language. In other words, ecocriticism is the study of literature and environment from an interdisciplinary point of view where literature scholars analyze texts that illustrate environmental concerns and examine the various way literatures treats the subject of nature. Similarly, Environmental criticism is in the tense but enviable position of being a wide-open movement still sorting out its premises and its powers. Its reach is increasingly worldwide and from bottom to top within academic: from graduate studies (some) major university literature departments to courses in entry level composition. It is wide open to alliances with environmental writers, environmental activities, and extra –academic environmental educators. Not the least of its attractions is the prospect of environmental educators. As Paul W. Taylor believes, “we share with other species a common relationship to the earth. In accepting the bio centric outlook we take the fact of our being an animal species to be a fundamental feature of our existence” (76). According to him, we are sharing the common habitat earth and we must respect each living and non-living beings' existence. Similarly, he wants to stress on the bio centric view which is very important for the overall existence of the living organisms found on earth. Our

existence is possible only because of other's existence. Such concept is related to ecocriticism. However, human beings are not satisfied with what they have and are enjoying the natural resources. They have crossed the limitation and consequently they have been facing various hazards.

In relation to ecocriticism, we can find various examples of human nature relation and interactions and anthropocentrism, it can be stated that anthropocentrism is a part of ecocriticism but it has deeper interest to deal with human centric approach to any literary text. It can be discussed separately with individual approach but at the same time we can't undermine the role of ecocriticism.

Anthropocentrism, properly interpreted is very useful concept for both the theorist and should be a major conceptual focus of environmental critique. The project of countering and subverting the human/nature dualism that is part of human – centeredness and resituating humans in ecological terms in perhaps the one most character of the environment movement. It also refers to a human –centered or anthropocentric point of view. In this regard, Clare Palmer views, “Anthropocentric approaches do not necessarily suggest reckless exploitation of the environment, they may instead maintain that natural resources should be very carefully managed for human benefit of the poor and future of human generation” (18). Here, Palmer is indicating that human beings have no other options using the natural resources including non-human beings but he wants us to remind that they should not cross the limitation and think for the coming generation and the current situation of earth. The philosophy anthropocentrism can refer to the point of view that humans are the only or primary holders of moral standing. Anthropocentric value systems thus, see nature in terms of its value to humans, while such a view might be seen most clearly in advocacy for the sustainable use of natural resources; even arguments that advocate

for the preservation of nature on the grounds that pure nature enhances the human spirit must also be seen as anthropocentric. Alternative, non- anthropocentric or anthropocentric views include eco-centrism, biocentrism and similar framings. The ideas assembled here look at the questions of anthropocentrism in Western philosophy and religion and looking at the implications for anthropocentric thinking of the Darwinian revolution and the emergence of environmentalism. Similarly, in relation to the usefulness of environment, humans tried to interpret every resources of nature for economical purpose. Aldo Leopold opines, “One basic weakness is a conservation system wholly on economic motives is that most members of the land community have economic value” (41). Leopold is trying to put spot light on human being’s lust for wealth. Human beings look each and every thing on earth as a commodity; this concept is also a philosophical view-point arguing that human beings are the central or most significant entities in the world. This is a basic belief embedded in many Western religion and philosophies. Anthropocentrism regards humans as separate from and superior to nature and holds that human life has intrinsic value while other entities (including animals, plants mineral resources and so on) are resources that may justifiably be exploited for the benefit of human kind. In addition, human beings forget the harmony between human and non-human beings in this world. Humans only value their existence. In this regard, Clare Palmer argues, “The well being and the flourishing of human and non-human life on earth have value in themselves. These values are independent of the usefulness of the non-human world for human purpose” (30). Palmer is trying to stress on the value of each and every entity on earth whether they are human or non human beings. If human beings are ready to accept the value of other beings there is possibility of harmonious life of them as well.



Some anthropocentric philosophers views support a so called-Cornucopin point of view, which rejects claims the earth's resources are limited or that unchecked human population growth will exceed the carrying capacity of Earth and result in wars and famines as resources became scarce. Although, the anthropocentrism refers to all humans rather than exclusively to men, some feminist philosophers argue that the anthropocentric world view is in fact a male or patriarchal, point of view. They claim that to view nature as inferior to humanity is analogous to viewing other people (woman ,colonial subjects non- white populations) as inferior to white western men and as with nature , provides moral justification for their exploitation.

The anthropocentric view of the world has made us selfish, self centered and extremely destructive to all other forms of life on the planet including our own. Our fantasies have allowed us to destroy the very life support systems that sustain us to poison the water we drink and the food we eat, to amuse ourselves, with blood sports and eradicate anything and everything we do not like be animal, plant or other human beings .We demonize each other and we demonize the entire living world. It is incredibly delusional conceit by a single species to lift ourselves above in value and importance over all other things. Humanity is so entrenched in this view of the world that we have stifled all empathy to the feelings and interests of all other species. We view them as expansible as property, as nuisances as sources of amusement as slaves.

In an anthropocentric approach, only humans matter and this has absurdly led to beliefs that this entire planet was created just for us, that we are the pinnacle of evolution and the masters of the universe. Every single anthropocentric religion places human beings at the center of everything and above all other species. We have fashioned God in our image in order to justify or superiority and woe be it to any one of that questions this fantasy.

Anthropocentrism has been even discussed as a form of ecological insanity and is leading us towards self destruction because only so many species can be removed before the laws of diversity, interdependence and finite growth lead to our own extinction. We assume that humans are the most intelligent species of the planet because we define what intelligence is and therefore declare ourselves to be the most intelligent species. We define ourselves as moral ethical benevolent and wise despite the fact that our actions reveal that we anything but moral ethical, benevolent and wise. Intelligence could be the ability to live in harmony with nature and within the boundaries of ecological laws. We feel proud of ourselves on our art, science religions, politics our cultures and totally reject that other species have their own cultures their own realities completely independent of our hominid vanities.

This research anchors on the anthropocentric nature of Alice who intentionally enters to the animal's world and interferes in their life. In course of spending time with them, she shows her superiority and tries to dominate them. She is a true representation of human nature who keeps on violating non-human world. This research work tries to put spot light on human nature as a superior one. Similarly, this research also tries to put the spot light in the relation between human and non-human world. In many incidents she manifests that she is amicable with them but at times we can feel her dominating nature. She uses animals in her benefit; this is not an amazing fact that human beings assume themselves as a superior creature and they have all the rights to dominate and abuse other creatures on the earth. In other words, human beings think themselves that they can only be the creature who owns all the natural things. They forget that each and every creature have their peculiar feature, they are gifted by nature. But human beings suppose themselves that they can only utilize the resources of environment. All these thoughts can be grouped together with

anthropocentric view. Even though Alice exhibits some love and respect to other animals throughout her journey, she shows her nature of common human beings i.e. superior. At the very beginning of the novel too, we can see her lazing around the garden. She has nothing to do. Once human beings are restless and idle they start thinking to bother to animals. When they are tired of their own world they have animals' world to interrupt. Alice also has the same attitude. Once she has nothing to do; she shows her curiosity on the white rabbit, who is in a hurry holding a clock. Her curiosity continues until she meets the rabbit and other animals.

In order to accomplish this research, the researcher is going to adopt prominent writers of ecocriticism like Cheryll Glotfelty, Clare Palmer's concepts *Environmental Ethics*, Paul W. Taylor's idea of "*The Ethics of Respect for Nature*". Similarly, Val Plumhood's concept of Environmental Culture and her various books and articles. Similarly, Arne Naess's concept of "*Environmental Ethics*" and William Howarth's idea of *Principals of Ecocriticism* and other ecocritics would also be taken into consideration.

The pivotal backbone of this research is to project the major character Alice's behavior as an anthropocentric one. Despite her young age, she belongs to the human world. She seems innocent but her psyche is superior one. There are numerous examples that can indicate that Alice showing her supremacy over other animals.

In order to make this research a meaningful and eloquent one, numerous articles and books of scholars have been taken into account. Harold Bloom in his article opines, "The Victorian time period was also characteristic of a rigid class structure. This is displayed in his writing when Alice regularly insults the Wonderland creatures, especially the smaller ones" (24). Here, Bloom is trying to indicate that

Alice is acting as a superior creature in front of other animal, she devalues the small creatures, and this is her anthropocentric view. It is in her psyche that human beings have right to exploit and insult non-human beings. Carroll seems to be intentionally stating Wonderland is a mysterious land where animals dwell. This is also an attitude of superiority complex that non- human world is not realistic world. As rationality belongs to human beings and irrationality and mysterious world is of non-human world. Human beings define and perceive other creatures in humanistic way. If they can't understand non- human world they start interpreting in their own way, Alice also possesses such attitude in the novel. In this regard one of the famous critics Robert Phillips opines,

Alice has no idea what latitude and longitude actually mean, but still she persistently tries to demonstrate her knowledge by using these terms albeit incorrectly. She also shows the inconsistency of her education in her ability to remember the correct words in the verse she had memorized for school (82).

Phillips is trying to traverse how human knowledge is centered towards human selfishness. The knowledge and education Alice accumulates from school is not far enough to make her understand about the condition of non-human world. Alice is unable to understand the words in general similar to that she seems not to be able to understand world where animals live. She treats them as if they are an object which can be used for pleasure and fun. Even though she tends to be the leader of animals and acts like she knows everything about them, she seems problematic to face in handling the problem. In addition, another critic Richard Kelly views, "She meets a number of extravagant and incredibly characters from the Cheshire cat (whose habit of making enigmatic pronouncements is only matched by his tendency to disappear) to a caterpillar smoking a hookah and being decidedly contradictory" (67). Kelly has

tried to indicate how human being fantasize animals doing their activity, why is it necessary that a cat should smoke hookah, why not human beings feel themselves become a cat and being chased by a dog? This is because humans intentionally bring animals into their world and force to involve into their activities. In other words, this is because of human's anthropocentric view. Human beings fantasize other animals' act like them and speak like them. In many cases we are told stories about the speaking of animals but such voices are centered towards human world. In the text we do find Alice's unstoppable curiosity about the animal's world, "Burning with the curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit hole under the hedge" (3). This curiosity is not only about the rabbit but also to the entire non-human world. Human beings always have this attitude to know about various things but once they know about such things, they start showing their attitude of superiority complex. Even though she is not familiar about the non-human world she forcefully enters as if she would not get any trouble. This is her over-confidence that she assumes she can handle everything as she is human being. Similarly another critic Elsie Leach views, "Indeed in wonderland, people, animals and creatures symbolizes adult. As they think in the most illogical way the more Alice tries to understand them the more she gets confused" (79). This state of dilemma is human's incompetence to understand the non-human world with respect and sympathy. Alice's confusion not only represents merely a young girl rather she represents the entire human world. Human beings boast of their success and achievement but they still do not have the level of power and interest to understand the non-human world. This can be possible when human beings abandon their attitude of ascendancy.

Furthermore, we can find various incidents regarding human's failure in interpreting the non-human world. In the novel Alice opines, "We're all mad here, I am mad. You're mad" (34). Her statement about madness is because human's condition of frustration because of her pathetic condition in non-human world. The condition of madness is possible only when human finds problem in understanding something or incompetence. This novel was written during the Victorian Age, a time when children books had a didactical purpose. That is why this novel is also meant for education purposes. It describes the growth of Alice from an unruly little girl; always questioning everything to a wise teaching was indirectly about the human's supremacy over non-humans. Another note worthy thing is that Alice was the first child character in English literary to criticize the world of the grown-ups, showing their hypocrisy and their pride.

In this novel, we can detect various incidents where Alice shows her mastery to non human beings and mocks at their size and livelihood. The Caterpillar is like a very wise man that provides Alice with a way to control her growth. The Caterpillar, who is not very friendly, is helpful by advising her to eat from the mushroom if she wants to change her size. He teaches Alice how to cope with the difficult situations she encounters in Wonderland. He shows her how to change size by eating the mushroom and thereby to adapt to her environment when needed. He is smoking a hookah on top of a mushroom. This character was representing drug use with the hookah and the magic mushrooms which make her change size. The writer seems to use caterpillar to show that even they do have potentiality to cope with the problems and can suggest to human beings. Another character is a smiling cat who can disappear and reappear at will name the Cheshire Cat. It is funny because sometimes the cat leaves but his huge grin remains behind. The Cheshire cat represents the time

between adulthood and childhood. This is also the peculiar feature of the cat and has been used by the writer to show the transitional state of human's teen age world. In relation to the human rationality Bethany Kwoka argues,

The process of dealing with a trail, a matter that should be logical, in such an absurd way at the end of the book aims at increasing the nonsense and prepares the reader to the story's outcome. That is how, in the next chapter, Alice will wake up from her dream after rising up against the queen but she seems not willing to cooperate her (27).

As Kwoka tried to indicate that how Lewis Carroll is unable to justify Alice's continuation of her journey with logical end. But when Alice finds herself that she has no option of going further, Carroll makes her wake up from her dream. This is an example of human's incompetence of understanding non-human world. Once human beings realize that they cannot deal anymore with non-human world they just know to surrender or to escape. This is because those human beings do not try to confess that they are not that capable to counter the nature and environment. Once they realize that they can't deal with humans start, they mystifying it charging them as wild or non-human. They forget that as humans have their own instincts and feature other animals to have their own capability and skills. For instance, as birds have capability and to fly but we can't expect monkey flying like bird. However, monkeys have their own potentiality to live and cope with the nature's challenges. Correspondingly, another famous critic Michael Clark opines,

Within the pages of Lewis Carroll's signature novel, *Alice Adventures in Wonderland*, the worlds above and below the famous rabbit hole nowhere intersects. Above the hole the readers find calm and order bright sunlight and

gently flowing Thames, dam below, the laws of nature and logic have been turned on their heads which denotes how nature has been explored (59).

Clark has strived to express that the above part of the earth which has been stated as human world is explained as calm, peaceful and orderly but the below as mentioned as non-human world has been considered as illogical. Indirectly, his approach is to deal this novel from anthropocentric point of view as intending that human world is logical and non-human world is illogical. Likewise, another critic, Steven D. Gredanus argues,

The animals that portray different men that Lewis knew in the Victorian era. One not talks about the men without including every male character. Despite the fact that the female character has been presented as the major one, Carroll is implicating that the activities of females are mysterious. She had very many high expectations in her mannerisms; the way she spoke presented herself and especially her body language (11).

Here, Steven is trying to focus how Alice presented herself with other non-human beings with high expectations. Her expectation is centered towards her own benefits. She as a dominant figure tends to exhibit her supremacy not only from her actions but also from her body language. Therefore the idea of human centrism and dominance of Alice to other animals as well as the strong connection between human and non-human world has been missed by the critics. Thus, this research will thoroughly examine the facts to elaborate and explore human centric behavior and attitude of Alice that has been presented in this novel as well as explore the importance of humans' harmonious relation with animals' world. Here, Alice has been used as a



representational character of entire human beings. This research attempts to explore Alice's nature of supremacy and her attitude towards non-human world with anthropocentric approach and her way of treating non-human world. Furthermore, this research will attempt to interpret anthropocentric attitude of Alice as a true representative of human beings.

This present research is divided into three divergent parts to alleviate the study of love with respect to the central character. The first chapter comprises the general introduction to the study and it also presents the hypothesis, a general introduction to the author and the novel against the backdrop of different critics' commentaries on the novel. It also elaborates the methodology employed to study the text. The second chapter entrusts an extensive textual analysis to reveal how the novel documents the instances of otherising, human centrism, instrumentalism, stereotyping, denial and back grounding by the major character Alice from this novel. The third and final chapter concludes the research with brief recounting observation of the work affirming the hypothesis. Finally, all the chapters ventures to revolve around the critiquing of anthropocentric makeup of the characters in the imaginary journey of Alice.

## II. Human Insensitivity and Injustice towards Non-human world in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

*Alice Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll loops around an insightful cruise made by a small girl, Alice. Despite the fact that this journey is imaginative, many of the incidents and characters are related to humans along with non-human world. Superficially, this journey seems to be merely a dream narrative especially targeted to children. However, if we do a thorough observation, we can find various tenors of human activities towards non human world. In other words, as a representative of human beings, Alice fully entertains her superiority towards others especially towards non-humans. It is a well known fact that human beings claim as the most rational being on earth, but their ego-centric attitude and exploitative behavior does not suit to claim this. Even though there are various other characters in this novel, the entire plot revolves around Alice. Her journey is the major attraction in this novel. Her trip begins with the curiosity about the rush of rabbit that lead her to meet various animals under the ground. On the one hand, various other real and imaginative characters' interaction sound interesting on the other, Alice's nature of dominance and interference is vividly noticed through her dialogues and behavior. However, we cannot undermine the role played by Alice towards other non-human beings. In order to exploit other animals, human beings tend to use their physical and mental power. In this novel, Alice though a small girl uses her mind and shows her unnecessary interference in the harmonious existence of the non-human world.

As human beings contemplate themselves as a supercilious creature, they struggle to impose their ideas and treat them as their things. They keep themselves at the center and wish other animals revolve around them. Paul W. Taylor believes

“each individual organism is conceived of as a teleological center of life, pursuing its own good in its own way” (26). Taylor’s argument is applicable to Alice’s nature as well. In the very beginning of the novel, Alice seems to take rest in the garden when she does not have anything to do. Her act of taking natural setting for using pleasure is the very concept of utility. Whatever human beings use of nature is, for their own convenience. It seems that Alice’s curiosity toward Rabbit’s rush is related to her unnecessary inquisition about the non-human life. She not only follows her but goes into its world. This is similar to invade in other’s territory. Such action can be the example of human encroachment to the world of non-humans. Here in this novel, Alice forcefully enters in their world and explores their life with her own interest. Until and unless she finds where was the Rabbit going and his reason of rush she continues her journey. Later, she returns back getting all the information about them. Furthermore, Lewis Carroll has invented the animals in a weird way. Such invention and giving them weird appearance is the task of human beings. Using their power they keep on manipulating them. For example, The Cheshire-Cat’s body disappeared but the face was still there. Other example is a mouse walking by Alice. In real life, mouse rarely does that. Clare Palmer views, “rather humans can value the non – human world intrinsically quite apart from its usefulness to humans” (17). Human beings only tend to use nature and non-human when they realize that they can get benefit from them. This selfish nature is only with the human beings.

Human beings always stack themselves at the center. In order to keep them at the core they avoid other living organism at bay. Val Plumwood views, “homogenization occurs when differences within an otherised group are disregarded. The other is not an individual but a member of a class stereotyped as interchangeable, replaceable all like homogenous” (84). Nature is diverse with various plants and

animals. Similarly, their shape and size also varies. However, human beings undermine the distinctive characters and their capability of them. Animals and plants have their own peculiar capability. Such qualities are blessed by Mother Nature. However, human though the most unique and capable animal do not try to respect and appreciate the value of others. This is all because of their self centric nature. At the beginning part of the novel Alice says “and what is the use of book without pictures or conversation” (2). Here, her intention is the pictures of animals and their conversation. As Alice as a representative of a human beings, she likes to enjoy the books where there are full of pictures and conversation. Such conversation is obviously of various animals. She likes to enjoy fantasizing animals in her mind. Despite the fact that animals have their own language, human beings manipulate them in their own. Paul W. Taylor opines, “Animals and plants cannot therefore be said to be morally inferior in merit to humans. Since the only beings that can have moral merits or deficient in such merits are moral agents” (83). Taylor’s argument here strongly disagrees with the human’s notion of keeping non-humans inferiority rather human beings should follow the value of other to follow the moral path. Apparently, human beings forget their responsibility to take care of them along with other creatures they are only concerning about their own values. They categorize all non-humans are same as all humans are same.

Like each individual has different potentiality and special traits, it also applies to non humans too. Alice attempts to explain that all the animals come under the same categories. But she has different opinion like all the human beings. She says, “I wish you were down here with me! There are no mice in the air, I’m afraid, but you might catch a bat and that’s very like a mouse” (6). Alice’s assumption of bats is very like mouse is the very idea of consideration of similarity of animals. Such kind of

similarity keeping them all in one basket and treating the same. As bats are far different in their characteristics with mice Alice is trying to keep them in one group. Mice are supposed to live on the ground and depend upon grains however bats belong to birds' group. This notion of keeping animals in one particular group is not respecting their distinctive features and biodiversity. In this regard Paul W. Taylor opines, "We share with other species a common relationship to the earth. In accepting the bio centric outlook we take the fact of our being an animal species to be fundamental features of our existence" (76). Like human beings accept each other's existence similar to that all the animals and their specific character should be accepted accordingly. Humans are not accepting because they consider non-humans are inferior to them. Likewise, animals are represented wild beast with no respectable characteristics in other literary works. This is another example of stereotyping. In this regard, Alice says,

for she had read several nice little stories about children who had got burnt, and eaten up by wild beasts and other unpleasant things, all because they would not remember the simple rules their friends had taught such as, that a red hot poker will burn you if you hold it too long; and that if you cut your finger deeply with a knife it usually bleeds (10).

Alice is trying to explain that the stories written for children had represented animals as wild and unpleasant things because they do not have sound memories. Animals are considered complex and dangerous by human beings this notion was started when human beings disturbed their life along with their habitat. Once human beings interfere in their livelihood, it is obvious that they will react in a defensive way. If it applies to Human beings it is obvious that human beings also will defense themselves from their enemies. Paul W. Taylor believes, "animals and plants cannot therefore be

said to be morally inferior in merit to humans. Since the only beings that can have moral merits or be deficient in such merits are moral agents” (83). Taylor also believes that the morality is the factor that determines whether they are inferior or superior. Since human beings have devalued their moral values, animals cannot be judged as inferior. Even though the sizes of animals differ from one to another they have their own unique feature that cannot match with others. Even human being does not have such feature. For example, the power of smell of human is far less than dog. Cheetah runs faster than human beings. There are many such examples that can prove that humans lack various qualities that non-humans have. Therefore, human’s boast of superiority seems groundless.

Alice retains possession of stereotyping non-human beings and wishes to change their shape and size. According to her wish she wants to change her shape, when it is in her favor, she feels happy when it comes against, she complains. Alice views, “I do wish they would put their heads down. I am so very tired of being all alone here” (21). This expression vividly indicates that Alice wants animals do according to her demand. Whenever she is in trouble she demands animal’s assistance. It is not only her desire for help rather she even wants to change their bodily structure which is a nature made construct. Unlike humans, animals can’t express their emotions directly but they do communicate, it is humans who do not try to understand and mystify their character. Alice says, “The mouse looked at her rather inquisitively and seemed to her wink with one of its little eyes, but it said nothing” (25). Here Alice is unable to understand what the mouse is trying to say as the mouse can’t have the voice as humans have. But it is human who are supposed to guess what they are thinking of. Paul W. Taylor argues, “We share with other species a common relationship to the earth. In accepting the bio centric outlook we take the fact of our

being our animal species to be a fundamental feature of our existence” (76). As Taylor is highlighting that despite our difference in shape and size we are connected in such a relationship that we can't underestimate the value of each other. As ecosystem is the same that binds humans and non-humans together. Therefore human beings should accept the value of other's existence.

In the same course, the human's nature of considering themselves superior and non-humans inferior continues from Alice's actions in the following incidents as well. Once they assume that other are in the state of powerless, human consider themselves greater and start marginalizing them. In her journey to the world of non-human, Alice comes across various species. Among them is Mouse. She wants its favor when she is in trouble. However, her nature of dominance continues, “Perhaps it does not understand English, thought Alice. I dare say it's a French mouse, come over with William the conqueror” (25). Alice is commenting in the capacity of Mouse's ability to speaking French. It is definitely an expression of arrogance. As human beings have divided this earth into different nations along with their language, animals do not have this sense of nationality of language. It is impossible for animals to understand French or English. If they have to communicate, they have their own way. But human beings misjudge and disrespect animals with their lack of comprehension. It is not the problem with animals but with the humans. Alice charges that mouse could be French because it could not speak English. Once human beings fail to understand animals simply they mystify them or point their incapability. This applies to common human beings. It is humans' incapability not to understand non-human intentions.

There are heterogeneous other instances of stereotyping ideas expressed in the novel through the major character Alice. Despite of her small age Alice's curiosity seems logical but her activities are illogical. However, we cannot forget the fact that

she is a human being who possesses the entire attitude a typical human holds. The nature of superiority is inherited by her from her parent whom has been continuing since the human civilization. Therefore, she can't be the exception. Her concept of keeping non-humans inferior continues, after she goes under the ground i.e. also the world of animals, she happens to face various obstacles. In order to continue her journey her shape becomes trouble. The presence of magical juice helps her to shrink and continue her journey. As animals have different shape and size they can adjust themselves in various situations. But the frequent change of shape and size is the fulfillment of human desire. In such process Alice tries to shift the size according to her condition. Whenever she gets in trouble she starts blaming her size again. Sometimes she wants to be bigger and sometimes smaller. Such fluctuating demand of her is her selfishness. She views;

I know something interesting is sure to happen; "she said to herself" whenever I eat or drink anything; so I'll just see what this little bottle does .I do hope it'll make me grow large again, for really I'm really, I'm quite tired of being such a tiny little thing. It did so indeed, and much sooner than she had expected: before she had drunk half the bottle (44).

Her passion of growing bigger and smaller indicates that she sometimes appreciates being small and adores to be tiny. Similarly, she wants to be bigger as well but according to her wish. The connection between small and large is with the size of animals in the novel. When she cannot go outside the door, she wants to be small and enters through the hole and she gladly accepts being small. When it comes to be not to reach at the table being small she again wants to big. This matter of size is determined by her condition. Carroll is hinting humans to understand the condition of animals who are tiny and large. The condition Alice comes across makes us realize the



importance of size. Many times Alice wants to be small in size. Therefore, the concept of small size can't be inferior or superior as it depends on condition. Paul W Taylor argues, "Humans are claiming human superiority from a strictly human point of view, that is from a point of view in which the good humans is taken as the standard of judgment"(79). As Leopold believes that the notion of human point of view is humans tend to judge from their own perspective. Once human beings start thinking from animal's point of view the concept of superiority and inferiority does not remain. Humans claim themselves superior just because they have unique feature of sensibility which is lacked by non-human beings. The size can't only distinguish the superiority or inferiority. Mother Nature has constructed each and every organism with their peculiar trait. All of the human beings should respect their value and position. Alice, when she has problem she complains to be big and some time small. Even Lewis is giving the idea of stereotyping the little animals,

As soon as she was small enough to get through the door, she ran out of the house and found quite a crowd of little animals and birds waiting outside. The poor little lizard, Bill was in the middle, being helped up by two guinea pigs. Who were giving it something out of a bottle? They all made a rush at Alice the moment she appeared, but she ran off as hard as she could, and soon found herself safe in thick wood (53).

Here, Lewis Carroll is attempting to exhibit that the animals are fragile and helpless. Even Alice gets scared when they are found in a group. Addressing the animals like 'poor little lizard' is the human perspective. Similarly, not only human beings have the culture of helping each other but also animals possess this instinct. In the incident above, we can imagine how animals live their life with such compassion but their world gets disturbed by Alice's arrival. All get perplexed at the sudden presence of

Alice. As human beings take non-human's life is worthless, they do not pay any attention that their unwanted presence can ruin their secured life in the wilderness. Such activities are shown by humans only because they think they are powerful and they do want to exercise their power to the innocent creatures. Such notions of human beings as the most brawny creature are continued in other parts of the incidents in the novel as well. Alice states that she has a cat at her home as her pet. When she encounters another cat from the jungle, she tries to show the same behavior to it. As human beings keep animals at their residents for pleasure and for companionship but they do behave themselves as superior and act accordingly. Similar to that Alice commands the cat whom she meets during her adventure in the jungle. Alice had very many expectations; the way she spoke presented herself and especially her body language. She was quickly growing tired of these requirements. She was seeking to escape from her high strong environment and enter her own world. Here, Alice expectations are not met, thereafter her reactions seem to be surrendering. Her superiority and helplessness is vividly exhibited in her body language. It is also seen in her perspective towards the cat. This narration also explains the attitude of Alice,

A cat may look at a king said Alice I've read that some book but I don't remember where, Well, it must be removed said the King very accidentally and he called the Queen ,who was passing at the movement. My dear! I wish you would have this cat removed. The Queen had only one way of settling all difficulties, great or small. (125).

Alice's argument about cat's right to look at anywhere but her logic about the book she had read becomes another factor that how she takes such examples easily. For animals, they do not worry whether they are king or servant. They have full rights to look wherever they like. It is human beings who fix for animals what to see and what

not to see. Human beings chant slogans for their various rights but forget the presence of other's rights as well. In this regard, Paul W. Taylor views,

We may have responsibilities with regard to the natural ecosystems and biotic communities of our planet but these responsibilities are in every case based on the contingent fact that our treatment of those ecosystems and communities of life can further the realization of human values/human rights. We have no obligation to promote or protect the good of non-human living things, independently of this contingent fact (74).

Human beings have various accountabilities if they are claiming that they are the most sensible animals on this earth. To respect and treat the ecosystem and animals on earth is the major one. Once we realize, this will be beneficial to both human beings and non-humans. However, Alice seems to neglect this idea showing her superiority over them.

Thus, Alice's nature of stereotyping does not seem to be her individual characteristics but rather representation of a typical human being. Keeping human at the center and treating other non-human beings like animals at margin cannot create harmony between humans and animals. On the contrary, this novel's main character Alice shows such behavior.

Instrumentalization is another key concept of anthropocentrism, which deals with the human's selfish behavior towards non-human world. In other words it is the concept that views the natural species are only the instruments to be used for a mankind. In this regard, Val Plumwood claims,

The other's independent agency and value is downgraded or denied. The others are used as a means of instrument to fulfill the one's and like the women who are conceived by men to fulfill their desire and who lack the independent ethics and identity. Traditionally, the woman is conceived as "passive" her agency of the male who is her protector (121).

Plumwood intends to say that the elements of the nature having no ethics and value are only the objects to fulfill the one's end; they are the instruments for the human beings who exploit them to quench their thirst of being economically prosperous and wealthy. Like the women who have been an object for the men from the very ancient period and they are identified as the object to meet the physical mental and social needs of the human beings. With reference to the novel, there are various examples that explain the characters considering animals as instruments or possession.

Basically, human beings consider them the supreme living creature and try to exploit the natural things along with non-human beings haphazardly. Such nature of treating others as instrument or object is the very nature of human beings. In this novel too we can find various examples of using animals as instrument. Alice runs after the rabbit in order to find out where he is going. She follows him under the ground and meets various animals. She uses them in her accordance. While in the journey, she comes across a cat from which she gets a good company in her journey. However she compares that cat with her own. She has her pet a cat that she has named Dinah. The given expression about her cat shows her nature of treating animals as her possession,

Alice replied eagerly, for she was always ready talk about her pet.

"Dinah's our cat. And she's such a capital one for catching mice you can't think! And oh, I wish you could see her after the birds! Why

she'll eat a little bird as soon as look at it!" This speech caused a remarkable sensation among the party. Some of the birds hurried off at once: one old magpie began wrapping itself up very carefully, remarking, I really must be getting home (39).

The extract apparently exposes the nature of human being as the master of animals. Alice talks like she a mistress of her cat. Whenever there is about cat, she would mention about her cat and would behave like her cat is the best cat. She even praises her cat's ability to chase mouse. She wants to prove that her cat is best cat. Similarly she also mentions about her cat's activity of chasing birds. Chasing birds, eating mice, etc are the typical features of a cat. Here Alice tries to explain that that makes her cat best by such activities. Her consideration of best cat is the attitude of instrumentalization. She takes her cat as a thing and tries to prove that hers is the best. Such attitude is the approach of human centric one who always boasts that they are the superior ones.

Similarly, the human character is Duchess in this novel that fairly shows the nature of superiority as Alice in the novel. As the Rabbit is the servant of Duchess, when she realizes that she is not able to reach in time at the palace she is going to be punished brutally. Alice hears the Rabbit saying,

The Duchess! The Duchess! Oh my dear paws! Oh my fur Whiskers! She'll get me executed as sure as ferrets are ferrets! Where I can have dropped them, I wonder! Alice guessed in a moment that was looking for the fan and the pair of white kids' gloves, and she very good-naturedly began hunting about them (41).

The extract unanimously states the condition of the Rabbit who is scared of her Duchess because she is late in her work. She even lost the glove that makes her even much worried. She fears that her Duchess would punish her brutally. Her expression of “oh! My dear paws, whiskers” denotes that she would punish her brutally. Here, the expression of Rabbit indicates that human beings have kept in terror to the animals. They are given various tasks of humans, once they can't accomplish in time then they are brutally penalized. Keeping animals as their assistance and exploiting is the nature of humans. Another example of human being's attitude of considering animals as tool is seen when Alice encounters with a small puppy. She says;

And yet what a dear little puppy it was! Said Alice as she leant against a buttercup to rest herself and fanned herself with one of the leaves, “I should have liked teaching its tricks very much, if –if I'd only been the right size to do it! Oh dear I'd nearly forgotten that I've got to grow up again! Let me see –how is it to be managed? (57).

The extract implicates that how human beings like to train animals. Such training is for their benefits. According to her, the more she trains her dog the more benefits she would get. This convention is the very idea of treating animals as their slaves. Once humans do not find that the animals are not following them they brutally punish. This proves how human beings like Alice keep dogs as pet. In the extract she also laments that she is not in her right size. In order to escape from the door she had drunk a magical juice so that she could get shrink and later came out. When she was chased by dog as a tiny little girl she gets scared by the puppy. This is also the best example of the power related with the size. Alice's behavior changes according to her size as well. When she finds herself small she thinks she is powerless and when she is in her real size she becomes powerful. Alice does not realize the fact that whatever the size

of living beings they should respect each other as they are strongly connected to each other. In this regard, Paul W. Taylor views, “Human and non- humans alike are viewed together as integral parts of one unified whole in which all living things are functionally interrelated” (83). He is also trying to highlight the importance of interconnectedness between human and non-human beings. Similarly, he stresses that all living beings are interrelated. Therefore, the superiority of humans should not last.

Likewise, the human attitude of considering non-humans as a possession continues in other incidents of the novel as well. The fascinating and most laborious character, Rabbit has been taken as a slave to the king and queen, this extract of the novel clarifies it clearly;

Alice recognized the White Rabbit it was talking in a hurried nervous manner, smiling at everything that was said and went by without noticing her. Then followed the Knave of Hearts, carrying the king’s crown on a crimson velvet cushion and last of all this grand procession, came THE KING AND QUEEN OF HEARTS (115).

Alice recognizes the Rabbit who has been appointed to accomplish certain task. Due the heavy pressure by his masters she is nervous but at the same time she continues her journey smiling at Alice. This suggest that even though the Rabbit is busy in assisting human beings it cannot forget it instinct of enjoying its life. Focusing on the wellness of human being Paul W. Taylor believes;

Although our human good( What is of true value in human life, including the exercise of individual autonomy in choosing our own particular value system) is not like the good of a non-human animal or

plant, it can no more be realized than their good can with the biological necessities for survival and physical health(80).

Taylor argues that human beings use of individual autonomy of choosing their own value system should not undervalue the rights of non-human animal or plant. Human beings may claim that they have full rights for their autonomy to enjoy their value system; they also have to consider the value system of others as well because they are connected to the same chain of being. As the Rabbit is used to help human beings they are not supposed to torture her. In the entire novel, we can find her to be in rush and worried about her task as she would be punished by her masters if not completed on time. This is why the humans pressurize non-human snatching their rights. In this novel there are other non-humans too who have been used as tools to human beings. Alice in the court of the king when there was necessity of a pencil. Alice too wanted it but it was with a Lizard. But she secretly stole it from him. Such cunningness is not only of Alice but it is the typical human beings.

A small girl like Alice is behaving as a typical matured girl showing her all intelligence and sense of dominance,

This of course, Alice could not stand, and she went round the court and got behind him, and very soon found an opportunity of taking it away. She did it so quickly that the poor little juror ( it was Bill, the Lizard) could not make out all what had become of it; so, after hunting all about for it, he was obliged to write with one finger for the rest of the day; and this was very little use, as it left no mark on slate(165).

The act of stealing and troubling of Alice is note worthy to discuss. Alice keeps her problems at first for solution. For solving her problem she does not worry about



disturbing others especially non human beings. Such tendency is not only in her nature. It is common trait of human beings. In order to fulfill their desires human beings do their best to exploit non-human beings as well plants. When Alice steals the pencil that was about to be used by the Lizard, the poor fellow gets in trouble.

Humans think that their problems are the greatest problems in the world. In order to solve their problem they use non-human beings and plants.

Hence, in this novel, Lewis Carroll has completely shown his major character as main exploiter of animals' rights and liberty. She also manipulates them in her accordance though she is just a small girl. She teases the size of the animals when she herself gets in the problem.

Otherization is a strong weapon of anthropocentrism which sees the human being 'self' and the nature and natural creatures as 'other'. This concept deals with keeping human beings at different category. Obviously, this category is the superior one and the animals in the other category i.e. inferior. According to Val Plumwood, "The otherization of non human is first and foremost a question of justice. Its mode of distancing from and reducing the other bear on a key question of justice, the concern with obstacles to justice" (96). It tries to justify that otherization can't secure the justice for the natural elements as otherization creates the distance in one to another relationship and attachment. Similarly, Edward Said discussed in the introduction of his popular book *Orientalism* as, "The 'other' means those who are not white or the exotic and it is their land that that must be conquered along with them" (69). Such dichotomy is widely available in this novel. To distinguish one to another there are various categories such as shape, size, color, potentiality etc. Human beings also do the same. They hardly love to keep non-humans into their group. Despite the fact that they both belong to the same chain of ecosystem and nature the humans try to keep a

certain distance with them and hesitate to embrace them as their fellow species. In order to keep them at distance they interpret them as savage, wild, inferior etc.

In this novel, Alice apparently wants to keep disconnected with the other creatures who she encounters. However, she is fascinated to learn about their world. While exploring the animal's world, she faces various obstacles but she handles with her intelligence and her change in shape led her to continue her journey. This proves that to understand non-human's world she has to adopt herself in their shape and environment. Her extreme concern to Rabbit's rush is her view of taking them as a different creature with different world. In the unit, The Pool of Tears we find,

The mouse gave a sudden leap out of the water, and seemed to quiver all over with fright-Oh, I beg your pardon !cried Alice hastily, afraid that she had hurt the poor animals feelings. I quite forgot you didn't like cats."Not like cats! Cried the Mouse in shrill passionate voice .Would you like cats if you were me? (25).

Alice does have sympathy towards animals but she even keeps distance with them because the understanding of their life from human's perspective. Similarly, the nature of interfering in other's living style especially in non -human world is necessary to mention. Alice says,

You promised to tell me your history, you know" said Alice, and why it is you hate –C and D' she added in a whisper, half afraid that it would be offended again. Mine is a long and a sad tale! Said the Mouse turning to Alice, and sighing. It is a long tail certainly' said Alice looking down with wonder at the mouse's tale (36).

Alice at first seems to show the interest on the Mouse's story about the struggle it made. When it says it a long immediately Alice turns to the Mouse's tail. Here, she is making fun of mouse and its struggle. As a representative of human being she does not show any interest to listen the story. It is because she keeps herself in a different position and do not want to bridge the gap between humans and non humans. In this ground Paul W. Taylor views,

A life-centered system of environmental ethics is opposed to human – centered ones precisely on this point. From this prospective of a life – centered theory, we have prima facie moral obligations that are owed to wild animals themselves as members of the Earth's biotic community .We are morally bound to protect or promote their good for their sake (74).

The fact that human beings have to keep tact relationship with nature and environment they are valorizing the aspect of human beings only. While talking about the rights about human beings they also should not forget about their responsibilities. Human beings are only concerned with their race therefore they marginalize non-human beings in background. In this regard, Stevens Gredanus opines, "The animals that different men that Lewis Carroll knew in the Victorian era. One used them in their own benefit and self interest" (11). Steven's idea about the human centric approach towards animals is note worthy to mention. Presenting animals for serving human beings in the literary work even did not start from Victorian era. It had started since the beginning of literary works. Almost in every literary work wherever non-human beings have been represented they have been used by human beings in any manner.

Correspondingly, Alice continues behaving animals with the attitude of alien creatures. She explains their livelihood in a mysterious and complex way. Without respecting their shape, size and nature human beings. Alice as a representative of human beings she too shows such attitude. Alice says,

She heard a little animal (she could not guess of what sort it was) scratching and scrambling about in the chimney close above her then saying to herself. This is Bill; she gave one sharp kick and waited to see what would happen next the first thing she heard was a general chorus of “There goes Bill! Then the Rabbit’s voice alone- “catch him” (51).

Carroll’s narration and Alice’s behavior towards animals vividly seen in the given extract. Alice considers and addresses animals as little and narrates the life style like scratching and scrambling. When she identifies that it was a lizard she brutally kicks it to see its reaction. This is how human beings treat mercilessly to the innocent creatures like lizard. Alice does not seem to have feeling of respect towards non-human beings as she assumes that they do not feel any pain. Such notion of human beings considering human beings as superior is an example of anthropocentric view as well. Alice’s treatment of animals in such way gives the picture that she cannot understand how animals feel. Her action of kicking to Bill is the best example that she can do whatever to animals as she is stronger than them. Even though it is a lizard it has its feeling and way of life but Alice interferes into its world as a colonizer enters into other place and exploits them. In relation to this, Paul W. Taylor argues, When we treat nature and animals in polarized terms as part of radically separate, simpler order, we do them injustice, as we do also when we see them as less evolved, inferior things(75). Here Taylor is trying to implicate that we human beings polarized

ourselves in a different direction. As we keep ourselves in a position of rational, evolved, order etc while consider them as less evolved, irrational, disorderly etc. This is how we separate each other from two different categories. Human beings never keep them in their category and consider as others as alien their land. Alice continues to act showing non-humans as others. Alice says I didn't know that Cheshire cats always grinned; in fact, I didn't know that cats could grin (82). Here, the expression of Alice that she has no idea about the grin of cat is not surprising because human beings believe that they only have emotional things in their life. As humans can laugh, cry similar things is applicable to non-humans too. But it is human beings like Alice who undermine the fact about the similarity between humans and non-humans. Likewise, Alice tries to prove that she is an intellectual and owns a good sense of humor. She thinks that non-human beings are mindless or senseless. She says while interacting with the cat in her journey,

How do you know I'm mad? Said Alice." you must be" said the cat, or you would not have come here, Alice did not think that proved it at all; however, she went on: and how do you know that you are mad? "To begin with," said the Cat, a dog's not mad. You grant that?" "I suppose so," said Alice. "Well, then, "the Cat went on, "you see a dog growls when it's angry, and wags its tail when it's pleased" (90).

Alice considers her as an intelligent girl or in other words human beings call themselves the most rational living beings on earth. But they consider animals as mad. They think the non-human beings activities have no sense and useless. Such perspective is human centric idea as human beings are always sensible and intelligent in front of animals. Putting into different polar human beings always put themselves in the pole of intellectual and wise. Whereas non-human beings are kept in insensible

and wild's pole. In this context the famous critique Paul W., Taylor argues, "the injustice of othering the non-human is perhaps clearest in the traditional stances of the dominant culture that would deny any application of ethics to non-human" (77).

Taylor is also supporting that the traditional stances are forcing humans to take non-human as keeping detached from non-humans with humans. Alice's attitude of showing non-humans in other category continues in the other parts of novel when she continues her journey,

Alice did not quite like the look of the creature but on the whole she thought it would be quite safe to stay with it as to stay with it as to go after that Savage Queen.: so she waited. The Gryphon sat up and rubbed its eyes: then it chuckled. "What fun!" said the Gryphon? Half to itself, half to Alice "What is the fun? Said the Gryphon, half to Alice (139).

Alice's reaction to the creature makes crystal clear about her opinion about non-human beings. Even though Gryphon is a mythical creature having head and wings of eagle and body of lion. It is also note worthy to mention that such mythical creatures are also invented by human mind. Therefore, it is human beings who can create any creature they like joining different part of animals. This shows that human beings consider equal to nature which is totally wrong. Taylor's argument supports here as traditionally humans have made such norms to keep human beings at the place equal to nature. It should not matter to Alice how any animals look like and their livelihood. The shape, size and their uniqueness of every creature has been made by Mother Nature. Regarding their size and way of life humans like Alice does not have such rights. However, Alice belongs to the group of such race that only assumes themselves are the sole owner of this earth.

Similarly, human beings assume that all the emotive qualities such as love, pain, jealousy, fun, fear etc matters a lot in their life. Non-human beings also hold such emotional traits. But Alice does not show any concern about them. Considering others pain and problem are not in mind of human beings. At the end of the novel Alice does not show any mercy to the innocent Lizard,

Alice looked at the jury-box and saw that in her haste she had put the Lizard in head downwards and the poor little thing was waving it's tale about in a melancholy way being quite unable to move. She soon got it out again and put it right; not that it signifies much; she said herself; I should think it would be quite as much use in the trail one way up as the other (178).

Alice's merciless behavior is also seen with Lizard as she puts it inside the box as it is not the right place to live for it. However, Alice even does not show any mercy towards the innocent lizard. There is no interference of Lizard in her way but she does not pay any heed towards it out cry. Alice even though a small girl shows such cruelty justifies that human beings are such intolerable and violating towards non-human beings. This is totally an injustice to such poor creature who are innocent and no relation to human affairs. It is human beings who possess such brutal behavior. As Paul W. Taylor argues,

Our sensitivity and injustice towards nature is a prudential hazard to us and should be rejected on that ground alone. But we must still place the recognition of injustice first, rather than continuing to prioritize our own interests as suggested in the concept of enlightened self- interest is only as good as the assurance that the actor will be enlightened, and there

is a major question about what can be guarantee that regularly the absence of a dispositional ethical base of a no-egoist kind such care and respect (78).

Taylor argues that we should identify activities of injustice first then only we can reform our mistakes to non-humans. Once we realize that we have exploited animals, it is our duty to realize our guilt and act for the reformation of the misdeed. Once it is practiced one would be enlightened. However, it is not seen in the novel especially with the character Alice.

Thus, the key idea of anthropocentrism i.e. Othering has been used full-fledged in this novel. Most importantly, Alice creates such two different poles that are totally different to each other. The first pole belongs to human beings with wisdom, power and rationality represented by Alice but the other one with non-humans with senseless, powerless, and wild represented by The Rabbit, Cat, Caterpillar etc.

Anthropocentrism holds another vital issue i.e. Human –Centeredness. This ideology simply denotes the aspect of keeping human at the center with rationality. As Paul W. Taylor argues, “Centrism is often represented as if its distortions affected only the weaker party to the relationship, the victim” (78). Here, Taylor is denoting the weaker party and victims are Non-humans. The entire novel has been presented as keeping human at the center. Even though most of the events are connected with animals and animal’s world but Lewis Carroll has made his character Alice at the center as well some invented characters like Duchess, King and Queen at the end of the novel to show the ruling character. Taylor also opines,

The model of anthropocentrism I now sketch would construct as a first approximation a “human centered” parallel to the concepts of



hegemonic centrism which have been the focus of the critiques of liberation movements and their critical concepts of androcentrism, eurocentrism and ethnocentrism. It is to be noted that we need not be falsely anthropomorphizing when we conceive of individual's plants and animals in this manner (70).

Taylor's argument that in any circumstance human keep themselves at the center. His approximation is target to the focus on human beings who forget the presence and contribution of non-human beings in their life. In this novel Alice is the major character as she almost keep the center of attraction to her. As she belongs to human group she keeps her attitude of centrism in the entire novel until the end. In the beginning Alice runs after the Rabbit in order to find where it was going. Her journey begins following the Rabbit; however she shows her attitude of centrism almost every incident while she meets other non-humans beings. When she enters the area of non-human beings she gets puzzled. As Taylor believes,

In private enterprise and private property culture ,the forgetting of nature's agency and contribution is property culture ,the forgetting , nature's agency and contribution is often paralleled by forgetting of the importance of social infrastructure, which under economic rationalism and centrism is similarly either privatized(often with disastrous consequences) or starved of resources to the point of break down(81).

Alice has the forgetting as other human beings she undervalues the presence of nature, where ever she goes she has a concept in the mind that which country's territory that place belongs. It is human has divided this single and beautiful earth into

various countries. Nature does not discriminate to any creature on this earth. Alice says,

But I shall have to ask them what the name of the country is you know. Please, Ma'am, is this New Zealand or Australia?" (And she tried to curtsy as she spoke –fancy curtseying as you is falling through the air! Do you think you could manage it?) "And what an ignorant little girl she'll think me for asking! No, it'll never do to ask: Perhaps I shall see it written up somewhere' (5).

In order to follow the Rabbit, Alice willingly falls under the burrow, when she finds that it is an unfamiliar place to her she speculates that it could be the place like New Zealand or Australia. This is her common human ideology that her consciousness would suggest to divide any nature wilderness to human's division of place. She cannot interpret the land with appraisal rather she tries to mystify with suspense. Alice also comments in her inability to identify the place where she reached. She also expects the name of place' name written by human beings. Her expectation of human being in such wilderness is her expectation of human's presence everywhere is notion of human centeredness. As human beings consider them most intelligent and superior, instead of learning and listening from others they keep on advising themselves. Such attitude is the nature of human beings, "come there's no use in crying like that! Said Alice to herself, rather sharply," I advise you to leave off this minute! She generally gave herself very good advice" (12). Alice as lonely girl consoles herself when she gets scared of the strange place. As Taylor opines, we dissociate ourselves from nature in order to manipulate it, but then cannot empathize with it or relate to it dialogically (120). When she finds herself alienated from the place she tries to

empathize herself by encouraging herself. She continues her journey with courage and attitude of arrogance. She convinces herself,

You ought to be ashamed of yourself,' Said Alice a great girl like you" (she might well say this) to go on crying in this way! Stop this movement, I tell you !but she went on all the same, shedding gallons to tears until there was a pool all round her, about four inches deep and reaching half down the hall. After a time she heard a little pattering of feet in the distance, and she hastily dried her eyes to see (17).

Here, Alice criticizes herself about her fearful nature; however it is the dialogue of increasing her confidence in order to control her. Addressing herself "great girl like you" is an example of human self appraisal. It is the power of human rationality to give self assurance to cope with the problems however such rationality focuses only on human superiority In this regard, Taylor argues,

The feature that makes this human-centered framework of rationality especially dangerous in the case of nature is that it encourages a massive denial of dependency, fostering the illusion of nature as inessential and leaving out of account its irreparability, non-exchangeability and limits. Similarly, it is conceptually incoherent to judge humans have moral capacities while non-humans don't (77).

Alice when realizes that she is alone and wants assistance from anyone available there inside the world of animals gets into trouble due to her shape, however she denies about her dependency and tries to believe in her rationality but she has certain limits. She continues the journey along with her human centered nature which she exhibits to all the non-humans during her journey. When she meets the Mouse on the

way she starts explaining her own. As humans claim that whatever they do or have something with them they are perfect. Even they interpret that they have their best of best. They not only compare among humans but also with non-humans as well. In conversation with the Mouse whom she meets on the way she praises her cat, treating as if she possesses the most precious thing. She says, I wish I could show you our cat Dinah I think you'd take a fancy to cats if you could not only see her .She is such a dear quiet thing(26). Here, Alice attitude toward the mouse is to scare the Mouse as it's the major enemy. However, her consideration to her own cat she says 'a dear quiet thing'. This also proves that how she assumes inferior non-humans. She treats her Cat as a thing as if it has no life. Even such animals are being tortured by humans limiting their freedom. She thinks that her pets are like her possession. This is an example of human centrism as in any condition they keep themselves at the center. She also praises her dog at home with the same attitude she says,

There is such a nice little dog near our house. I should like to show you  
!A little bright eyed terrier, you know ,with oh such long curly brown  
hair, And It'll fetch things when you throw them, and it'll sit up and  
beg for its dinner and all sort of things. I can't remember half of them  
(27).

She keeps on explaining about the animals around her house. Her compliments about her cat and the neighbor's dog seems the appreciation of animals but it is not so. She does not explain about their livelihood or with respect to their life but she elaborate as appreciating the eyes, hair and most importantly, she explains that the dog would fetch the things thrown by human beings. Here it is clearly seen that dogs are kept as the source for recreation. In other words such animals like cats and dogs are kept by humans for their pleasure. They can use them as a playing tool .This is definitely the

example of taking non-humans at the level of margin with who they can do whatever they like. Similarly, in the non-human's world Alice becomes a dominant figure where all the animals are bound to be in her command, "then they all crowded round her once more while the Dodo solemnly presented the thimble saying "we beg your acceptance of this elegant thimble and, when it had finished this short speech ,they all cheered"(35). In the group of animals like Eaglet, Cat, Mouse and Dodo the duck Alice shows her intelligence to control over them. She is able to make them realize that she is the one who should be obeyed. Similarly, she also makes the animals feel sorry for their delay. As Taylor states, the human centered framework may once have been functional for the dominance and expansion of Western civilization, removing constraints of respect for nature that might otherwise have held back its triumphs and conquests (83). Taylor wants to hint that human centered attitude can't operate all the time. During the expansion, human beings made constraint in the respecting the nature and non-human's world. In order to get victory over non-humans they exploited nature at its extreme but this is totally wrong.

It is not only Alice who exposes the human centric attitude in this novel, there is another woman Duchess who is rather cruel to non-human beings. When Alice reaches to the garden she encounters her. She gets much surprised to see the cruelty of her towards the small baby and pig. "It's a Cheshire cat" said the Duchess and that's why, Pig. She said the last word with such sudden violence that Alice quite jumped; but she saw another moment that it was addressed to the baby and not to her, so she took courage and went again (82). Here this extract's dialogue from the Duchess towards the baby who is a bit fat has been addressed as Pig in anger. Human beings symbolically use various animals in order to express their anger to their fellows. Similar to that the baby who the Duchess is carrying on her lap is

calling pig. This is an example how human beings mock at the size and structure of non-human beings. As creature have their own distinctive shape and features, it is human who misinterpret it. This is because of human's nature of dictatorship. Similarly, human beings do not give any attention towards non-human's feeling and conditions. Even in joy Alice enjoying while dancing Alice keeps on treading on Mark Turtle's body. The poor, innocent animals could not revolt because they were helpless in front of Alice's giant body. The human centric approach does not give emphasis on the feeling of others especially to animals. All their focus is human even though they exploit them, "so they solemnly dancing round and round. Alice every now and then treading on her toes when they passed too close and waving their fore-paws to mark the time, while the Mark Turtle sang this" (150). While Alice and Duchess are dancing there were other animals as well like Turtle, Gryphon, lobsters etc. But Alice and Duchess do not care about them and keep dancing with careless mood. Their attitude toward other animals is intolerable this is because of their self – centric attitude. Another problem of following anthropocentric framework is the deprivation of the animals' right. By nature, every creature taken birth in this earth have their fundamental rights to survive to feel pain and pleasure but when human centered approach is implemented, the rights, for other creatures are sidelined. They are treated as if they are insignificant to maintain the whole. Regarding animal rights, Peter Singer argues,

Animals do not individually have rights but instead have capacity to feel pleasure and pain which gives them moral standing. In order to represent the interest of the animals human must reject species.

Animals have utilities that ought to be treated on an equal basis with those of human beings because each sentient being has equal utility

value and deserves equal moral consideration. We must act in a way that is advantageous for the largest amount of sentient beings (65).

Alice and Duchess as a representative of human beings do not respect the rights of animals. It is human who can use their moral standing to consider the feeling of animals. As human beings suffer animals also do. However, animals have been used as utilities and they consider as objects without any feelings.

Therefore, this novel's major character Alice along with Duchess shows the human centric behavior and attitude towards non-human beings. Almost all the incidents related to Alice's journey and the writer's focus to her exploration to the animal's world is stressed through human centric ideology which valorizes human and their actions.

Similarly another important approach to analyze anthropocentrism is the concept of Denial or back grounding. This idea is related to deny the existence of non-human beings. Human beings deny the fact that they are totally dependent on nature and non-human beings and carry on with exploitation and rejecting their vital role to be protective towards nature. In this context, Paul W. Taylor states,

Dependency on nature is denied, systematically so that nature's order, resistance and survival requirements are not perceived as imposing a limit on human goals or enterprises. For example, crucial biosphere and other services provided by nature and the limits they might impose on human projects are not considered in accounting or decision making (78).

Human beings reject the dependency on nature as they think they are the most sensible creature on earth. At the very beginning of the novel, Alice can't stop herself

enquiring about the Rabbit's rush. She believes that she can investigate and interfere in other's world as she is a human being. Alice's attitude is also the attitude of the writer. In various parts of the narration we can feel the sense of denying the existence of non-human beings, "There was nothing so very remarkable in that nor did Alice think it is so much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself" (2). Alice herself says that there was nothing remarkable in The Rabbit's rush nor it was interested in her situation. But when Alice finds no interesting around her place she gives interest on it. This signifies that human beings like Alice pays attention when they are bored of worldly things. They think that the non-humans world is the place to explore whenever they are bored. This is an example of accepting their existence on earth. In this regard, Aldo Leopold views,

The life sustaining matrix is built of green plants with legions of micro organisms and mostly small, observes animals in other words, weeds and bugs. Such organisms and mostly small, obscure animals –other words weeds and bugs. Such organisms support the world with efficiency because they are diverse allowing them to divide labor and swarm over every square meter of the surface (32).

Here, Leopold argues that there must be harmonious relationship between human and non- human beings. Every life sustains only if there is respect of each other. Even green plants and other micro organism are also interconnected to each other. Such unison makes the earth and living organism survive on earth. However, human beings deny this fact and continue exploiting the nature. With the attitude of superiority and selfishness humans have forgotten their human aspects. Even though they are considered as sensible and progressive creature on earth but they have been showing inhuman behavior. In relation to this human cruelty seems extreme, "talking of axes,



and said the Duchess, Chop off her head! Alice rather anxiously at the cook to see if she meant to take the hint; but the cook was busy stirring the soup and seemed not to be listening so she went on again” (84). The above extract explicitly shows how human beings are cruel and do not show any mercy to animals. Human’s anger and madness lead to the destruction of animals but also to human beings. There is another example of denial of other’s existence. “It was not very civil of you sit down without being invited, said March Hare. “I didn’t know it was your table” said Alice it’s laid for a great many more three” (98). This is the best example of the reaction when animals find that some human being negate their place. As human beings boast about their territory and forbid others to enter similar to that animals also do not want interference from human beings. The Hare gets furious when he finds that Alice seats on the chair which was not kept for her. Even though it looks a normal incident but the Hare’s reaction of rejection is clearly noted in his anger. It is not only the Alice the Hare is angry but to the entire human race who forcefully enter in their world. When she interacts with the Mock Turtle she confesses that she had never been to the sea and seen creatures like Lobsters. The mock Turtle said,

You may not have lived much under the sea- “(I haven’t said Alice)” and perhaps you were never even introduced to a lobster (Alice began to say “I once tasted-But checked herself hastily and said. No, never) so they began solemnly dancing round and round. Alice, every now and then treading on her toes when they passed too close, and waving their forepaws to mark the time, while the Mock Turtle sang this, very slowly and sadly (156).

Alice’s ignorance to identify Lobster but remembers eating sea animals is her denial of life of animals. As human beings have various options to eat they keep on tasting animal’s meat too. Eating meat of other animals is definitely showing indifference to

the existence of other animals. Alice treading to the lobster's toes is totally disgusting as she does not show any mercy towards the innocent creature. Such attitude is in her mind as she is human beings who believe that they can do whatever to non-human beings.

Thus, Alice along with Duchess as a representative of human beings shows anthropocentric behavior towards non-human beings as far as possible. Most importantly the protagonist of this novel, Alice dominates almost all the non-human beings directly and indirectly by homogenizing, instrumentalising, othering, denying the intrinsic values of no-human world and keeping human at the center.

### III. Alice's Irresistible Inquisition to Non-human World

This research work inspects, analyses and reflects upon human insensitivity and injustice towards animal's world in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Even though Alice is a small girl she shows a strong inquisition towards animals' world. This curiosity leads her to interfere in the world of animals. Despite her small age, she holds the notion of anthropocentric view. While encountering various animals like Rabbit, Caterpillar, and Cat etc. in her journey, she exhibits her superiority complex. She attempts to dominate them as far as possible. In addition, she gets too much fascinated by the rush of the Rabbit. Later on, she explores the non-human world showing her deep interest and enthusiasm. This research has also analyzed how human encroach to the land of non-human beings territory. In relation to this various concept of anthropocentrism this research has used the tools such as othering, human centrism, stereotypical representation of animal world, denial, instrumentalism, and comes to a conclusion that even though human beings consider themselves as the most sensible creature on earth, are denying the value of animals. They treat such beings as their objects and always tend to keep themselves at the centre.

Similarly, the author has given the title of this novel as *Alice's Adventures in the Wonderland*. Here, the writer is also misinterpreting animals' world as wonderland. It is the notion of human centrism. However, there are various incidents where Alice the major character treats other animals in her accordance. She never treats other animals equal to human beings. It is mandatory to give equal weight to the non-human beings but Alice tends to give priority in her own interest. This is her

psyche that is inherited from her parents. Even though she is a small girl she treats others as if they have no value like her.

Furthermore, this research critically analyses on the anthropocentric nature of Alice who intentionally enters to the animals' world and interferes in their life. In course of spending time with them, she shows her superiority and tries to dominate the animals. She is a true representation of human beings who keep on violating non-human world. In many incidents of the novel, she shows that she is friendly to them but at times we can feel her dominating nature. She uses animals in her accordance; this is not an amazing fact that human beings assume themselves as a superior creature and they have all the rights to dominate and abuse other creatures on the earth. In other words, human beings think themselves that they can only be the creature who owns all the natural things. They forget that each and every creature has their peculiar feature, and gifted by nature. But human beings suppose themselves that they have every right to utilize the resources of environment. All these thoughts can be grouped together with anthropocentric view. Alice even though shows some love and respect to other animals through her journey, she shows her nature of common human being i.e. superior rational being. At the very beginning of the novel too, we can see her lazing around the garden. She has nothing to do once human beings are restless and idle, they start thinking and bothering to animals. When they are tired of their own world, they have animals' world to interrupt. Alice also has the same attitude. Once she has nothing to do, she show interest in the rabbit that is in rush holding a clock. Her curiosity continues until she meets the rabbit and other animal's world. She mocks at them just because they cannot do what she expects them to do. As each and every living beings have their own distinctive quality, Alice tries to devalue it. Similarly, even though she mocks at the small size of the animals gets into trouble when she

cannot continue her journey. Her expectation to change her size when she wants to continue her trip signifies that human beings' selfishness in order to use non-human beings features in their accordance. She even treats them as instruments. As instruments have no feelings and are used for human's benefits Alice also manipulates various animals like Cat, Rabbit, puppy etc to please herself. Similarly, the writer has shown his major characters as main exploiter of animals' rights and liberty.

Otheriszing is another aspect that has been shown by Alice towards other beings in this novel. This idea deals with keeping human beings at different category treating humans at the center. This notion side lines non-human beings as others like they are not in human group. Alice as human assumes herself as a superior one who hold the power to manipulate others as they are inferior to her. She undermines the fact that each and every living creature has some special potentiality which is gifted by Mother Nature. However, human beings are the one who devalue their ability and try to misinterpret their inability in various sectors.

The valorization of human rationality has made human beings as a focal point. Lewis Carroll tries to show that the animals are helpless and senseless. While addressing such animals they are addressed like "poor Little Lizard". Such expression vividly indicates that how humans perceive non-humans. This argument is applicable to Alice as she shows the behavior distorting other non- human beings. She believes that the weaker animals have no sense of pain and troubles rather she focuses her ease in her tour to their world. It is not only with Alice but also other human character presented in the novel such as Duchess, King and Queen at the end of the novel. Even though these are fictional characters having the body of cards and humans, they show their real nature of humans i.e. dominating. Since they all belong to the group of so called superior humans they possess the same attitude.

As a matter of fact, human beings boast about their human rights but they do not pay any heed about the rights towards other beings. Human beings like Alice, Duchess and King do not show any respect for their rights and feelings. They merely use them in their benefits and ignore their values centering themselves. Likewise, humans deny the existence of non-human beings including natural environment. They forget the value of each other and behave that they do not others for their existence. Even they ignore the dependency on nature and continue with the exploitation and rejecting their role to be defensive towards nature. When Alice does not have anything to do something interesting she starts taking interest to non-human world. Even though this is her fantasy to explore in the animals' world she keeps on the same attitude as she has in her real life. Despite her young age, she has this very concept to consider human beings as a superior creation of nature. This is not only her problem as she also member of human beings. She takes animals' world is a different place where human beings can carelessly explore without any hesitation. Even they do not give concern about their undisturbed life in their own world. It is human beings who do not judge their existence. It is very puzzling that even Alice finds that there was nothing remarkable about the Rabbit but she still has interest to follow Rabbit. It seems like she just takes visiting animals' world is a fun game or merely a time pass. Therefore, Alice along with Duchess belonging to human world shows their anthropocentric behavior towards non-human beings. Most notable Alice shows her full dominance towards all the non human beings whoever she encounters in her journey though imaginative. She show various feature of anthropocentric attitudes like homogenizing, instrumentalising, otherising, denying and keeping human at the centre.

Thus, the major character, Alice along with other human character show how their dominance towards the non-human world ignoring their values. Despite the fact that this novel is highly appreciated for his simplicity and imaginative quality of Lewis Carroll, it has presented non-human world, especially, animals as commodity and instrument to satisfy their greed. Even though the major character Alice is a small girl, she holds the nature of human centric value and continues showing her attitude until the end of the novel.

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