Abstract

George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* is a novel that is widely used in the classroom all over the world. Being written in the style of allegory the novel has been subject to a number of different interpretations of what the story is really about and what Orwell wanted to say as well as in comparative studies with other allegorical works. However, what has not been done is how interpretations can help students in the English-as-a-second-language classroom to develop their critical thinking and interpretative skills. This essay dissects the novel to examine how the novel functions as allegory, on the four different levels coined by Dante Alighieri and further developed by Fredric Jameson, in order to present how the allegorical readings can be used, with help of Stanley Fish’s theory of interpretative communities, in the English as a second language classroom.

**Keywords:** Orwell, Jameson, Fish, allegory, interpretative communities, reader response