



## Interspecies Relationships: Death, Grief and Mourning in Bengali Short Stories

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### Abstract

This chapter will attempt to analyze how animal-human relationships have been represented in Bengali short stories through their depiction of death and mourning in its various forms. In analyzing this nuanced aspect of interspecies relationship, this chapter will attempt to locate the positionality of the animal in respect to the canonical, mainstream anthropocentric literary landscape. To a great extent, the expression of grief and mourning towards the companion beings has been shaped by the human perception towards the animal. This chapter will attempt to fathom this human animal dynamic through a multidimensional perspective socio-cultural, economic and inter-personal relationships of alienated individuals. ‘Disenfranchised grief’ and its articulation in terms of companion animals functions as a crucial factor in this analysis. This chapter throws into the relief how significantly the inter-species communication in terms of gaze, speciesism and empathy construct a counter narrative of Postcoloniality in its inclusive, all-encompassing range.

**Keywords:** Death, Inter-Species Relationships, Animal Gaze, Companion Animals, Mourning.