

**“THE WAND CHOOSES THE WIZARD”: AN INVESTIGATION OF INANIMATE
AGENCY IN *HARRY POTTER***

Chinar Chawla

Research Scholar, Department of English & Cultural Studies, Panjab University, Sector 14, Chandigarh, India

Received: 18 Nov 2023

Accepted: 20 Nov 2023

Published: 25 Nov 2023

ABSTRACT

The paper presents a study of the agency possessed by magical things found in the world of Harry Potter books. Before embarking on this analysis, the paper charts the origin and theoretical background of a recent turn in critical theory – new materialism. The paper places itself in a tradition of analyzing previously overlooked materiality in literary texts. The aim is to highlight how objects are turned into things due to their refusal to co-operate with intended human-centric use. Through the use of new materialist lenses, it is proposed that agency exists beyond the traditional anthropocentric subject-object relationship. The Harry Potter book series by J.K. Rowling provides a litany of such illustrative instances, overturning one’s humanist expectations and teaching us to cherish things for what they are.

KEYWORDS: *Fantasy, Children’s Literature, New Materialism, Thing Theory, Post Humanism, Materiality*