



THE THEME OF WAR AS AN INVITATION TO DEATH IN THE NOVELS OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY – A CRITICAL STUDY

K.S.SATHEESH KUMAR¹, Dr.S.GANESAN²

¹Research Scholar, Dravidian University and Assistant Professor, Department of English, Vel Tech Multi Tech Dr.RR.Dr.SR Engineering College.

²Professor and Head, Department of English, Vel Tech High Tech Dr.RR. Dr.SR Engineering College.



Article Info:

Article Received:14/04/2015

Revised on: 19/04/2015

Accepted on: 26/04/2015

ABSTRACT

War being treated as one of the greatest tool by many nations to prove their powers in the world. Many emperors, kings and leaders in the nations realized the truth only after the war was over. The present study depicts the backlashes of wars from the novels of Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway, the great novelist and short story writer who has written many works with reference to war, as he was initially an Red cross society ambulance driver, volunteer, war correspondent, reporter and journalist in the military course and wrote several works on war; He met hundreds of thousands of soldiers and saw their miserable life during and after the war, he had rightly expressed their feelings in his novels and short stories.

Keywords: War, Hemingway, WWI, WWII, Civil war,

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INTRODUCTION

Hemingway was born on July 21, 1899 in United States when the Civil war was raging on. Since his birth he has seen many wars, like WWI, WWII, and Spanish civil war, etc, He is a war correspondent and writer and has wrote many fictions, articles, short stories, etc, depicting the wars and its backlashes. He written down his thoughts on the advent of atomic warfare, which were published as the forward to a book entitled "*Treasury for the Free World*"

"We have waged war in the most ferocious and ruthless way that it has ever been waged. We have waged it against fears and ruthless enemies that it was necessary to destroy. Now we have destroyed one of our enemies and forced

the capitulation of the other. For the movement we are the strongest power in the world it is very important that we do not become the most hated. We need to study and understand certain basic problems of our world as they were before Hiroshima to be able to continue, intelligently, to discover some of them have changed and how they can be settled justly now that a new weapon has become a property of the part of the world. We must study them more carefully than ever now and remember that no weapon has ever settled a moral problem. It can impose a solution but it cannot guarantee it to be a just one. An aggressive war is the great crime against everything good in the world. A defensive war, which must necessary turn

to aggressive at the earliest movement, is the necessary great counter crime! But never think that war, no matter how necessary nor how justify, is not a crime.

Ask the infantry and the dead.”¹

The above forward message to the book clearly shows his attitude on the war. He depicts that war is a crime even if it is in any form, defensive or offensive.

“War is part of the intercourse of the human race” wrote the Prussian philosopher cum soldier General Karl von Clausewitz. Alexander the Great of Macedonia had told during his last days that he will leave the empire to the strongest, but sooner the Great Empire divided into many smaller kingdoms. Many kingdoms across the world realized the truth that war physically and psychologically wound the people of the nation, In spite of this fact; war has been exercised by many nations, kingdoms, and by leaders to showcase their strength across the borders.

The article attempts to answer a question on the possibility of development through time, in the representation of war in Hemingway’s writings. In considering existing critical studies and biographies interpretation of Hemingway’s war fiction from the perspective of identity constructions is proposed. The focus is on identity transformation and rediscovery depending on war’s effects. Psychoanalytical, post feminist and gender criticism are used to analyze the severe imbalances or disruptions in the development of personality, the strategies through which the self struggles to cope with tensions generated by the war, survivor traumas, the distinctions between the roles played by combatants and non-combatants in the representations of war and the manner in which the meaning of trauma develops in their respective cases. The war experience in Hemingway’s fiction is related to femininity, through the experience of independence and masculinity in his bid to offer a positive definition to individuals.

The war and its impact on Hemingway’s life weighed heavily on his mind. One amongst the primary items that he wrote for *The Toronto Star* was “Popular in Peace – Slacker in War”. He work on war that “There is no man alive today who has

not cried at a war if he was at it long enough. Sometimes it is after a battle, sometimes it is when someone that you love is killed, sometimes it is from a great injustice to another, sometimes it is at the disbanding of a crops or a unit that has endured and accomplished together again. But all men at war cry sometimes, from Napoleon, the greatest butcher, down.”

Hemingway, in second edition of *In Our Time*, describes the horrors of the war, mothers clinging to their dead babies and the graphic description of mules being maimed and left to die within the water by the dock realities.

“Soldiers Home” is the worrying story of a young veteran of warfare I who has come back home safely and the difficulties that he faces in civilian life. “The Revolutionist” a Hungarian communist wanders through Italia once having been tortured in and exiled from his own country for his beliefs. The young radical, an admirer of art and nature, believes religiously in his “world revolution”, solely to finish up in jail in Swiss Confederation.

Nick Adams, the narrator, when having been infused within the spine, turns to the Italian soldier Rinaldi and says you and me; we’ve made a separate peace.” He expresses his disenchantment after hit by injury in the war.

For *Whom the Bell Tolls* is Hemingway’s masterpiece of the Spanish war. The author gives a realistic picture of the war. The protagonist in this novel Henry Martyn Robert Jordan, It’s a story of loyalty and courageousness, love and defeat, and also the tragic death of a perfect person. “Small Town Revolution” is a piercing and frank account of the takeover of a provincial city in Spain. It reveals in unimaginable detail the brutalities of war and also the horrific executions of Nationalist sympathizers by a friend.

“Black Ass at the Cross Roads” is a short story published posthumously. It was written between the end of World War II and 1961. The phrase “black ass” is one that author used depression, a clinical illness that he himself suffered from it at the fag end of his life. The story could be a dark reflection on combat duty by a depressed Yankee soldier of World Health

Organization fatally wounds a young German soldier and watches him die.

A Farewell to Arms describes how Frederic Henry shoots at 2 sergeants who desert their posts, killing one of them. "The Ivy Leaf," the nick name of the US Army's fourth foot Division, to that Cantwell (and Hemingway) belonged, portrays the deep comradeship among troopers, whereas in "The Dead" he offers a final reflection on the common occurrence of death in wars and therefore the issue of living with the memory of horrors.

"Losing Your Son to War" describes the foremost painful experiences a parent will have. "Islands in the Stream" presents darker & harder reality long-faced by families across the world in times of war.

CONCLUSION

Several of Hemingway's novels and shorter stories war describes directly. Others are involved with the aftermath of wars. The author himself took part in many wars throughout his period of time, each as a participant, as a journalist covering wars, and in different capacities. He was even married to one of the best correspondents of all times. That war is a significant theme of Hemingway's work has been established by the readers and critics alike.

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