

Nature, love and Societal Expectations in the Select Works of Ernest Hemingway

Dr. Divyasree C

PhD in English from Kanchi Mamunivar Government Institute for Postgraduate Studies and Research

Abstract: Ernest Hemingway was an American journalist, short story writer and novelist. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Some of his works were published posthumously since he died from suicide. He also won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953. His themes include nature, war, love and loss. This paper analyses some of his critically acclaimed works.

Keywords: Ernest Hemingway, The Old Man and The Sea, For Whom the Bell Tolls, The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell to Arms.

I. Introduction

Ernest Hemingway was an American journalist, short story writer and novelist. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Some of his works were published posthumously since he died from suicide. He also won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953. His themes include nature, war, love and loss.

II. The Old Man and The Sea

The Old Man and The Sea is a novella by Hemingway, published in 1952. It is one of the most critically acclaimed works of Hemingway, and describes the story of Santiago, an old fisherman. He struggles to catch a big marlin. It is stated at the beginning of the novel that Santiago has been unable to catch a fish for eighty four days. He is finally able to catch an eighteen feet long marlin. The novel focuses on pride, perseverance, man and nature, old age and friendship.

III. For Whom the Bell Tolls

For Whom the Bell Tolls is a novel by Hemingway, published in 1940. The plot revolves around Robert Jordan, an American volunteer. The setting of the novel is the Spanish Civil War. Robert is a dynamiter. A dynamiter is a person who operates the dynamite. During an attack in Segovia, he is tasked to blow up a bridge. For Whom The Bell Tolls is a war novel. War, violence, death and culture are the focal points.

IV. The Sun Also Rises

The Sun Also Rises is the first novel of Ernest Hemingway, published in 1926. The Sun Also Rises is a modernist novel. Modernism was an early twentieth century movement in literature. In modernism, tradition was rejected and new means of cultural expression were sort for. This novel depicts the lives of British and American expatriates. Expatriates are people who live outside their own country. The expatriates in the novel travel to the Festival of San Fermin in Pamplona, Spain from Paris. It is a traditional festival in Spain. Marriage, disillusionment and nature are important themes.

V. A Farewell to Arms

A Farewell to Arms is a novel by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1929. The setting of the novel is World War II during the Italian campaign. It is written in the first person narrative and tells the story of Frederic Henry, who is a lieutenant and an American in the Italian Army. He has an affair with Catherine Barkley, an English nurse. The novel comes under the genre of realism. War, love, death and religion are the core themes.

VI. Death in The Afternoon

Death in The Afternoon is a non-fiction book by Ernest Hemingway. This book was published in 1932, and is divided into three sections. The first section consists of Hemingway's work. The second section consists of pictures, with the third and final section comprising of a glossary of terms. The book talks about Spanish Bullfighting. The author describe in detail about the history and traditions associated with Spanish Bullfighting. The book comes under the genre of travel literature.

VII. A Movable Feast

A Movable Feast is a memoir by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1964. It details his struggles as a writer and an expatriate in Paris in the 1920s. The memoir was published after the death of Hemingway. The author talks at length about his marriage to Hadley Richardson. This was his first marriage. His relationships with prominent figures of the Lost Generation are also described in the memoir. The Last Generation is the demographic group born between 1883 to 1900.

VIII. The Snows of Kilimanjaro

The Snows of Kilimanjaro is a short story by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1936. Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. At the beginning of the short story, the story itself starts with the description about Mount

Kilimanjaro. Harry, a writer, is suffering from gangrene and is stranded with Helen, who is on an African Safari. Harry is extremely frustrated and terrified of death, and is hence very sarcastic and unpleasant towards Helen. Death tradition, and gender roles are the dominant themes.

IX. The Garden of Eden

The Garden of Eden is a novel by Ernest Hemingway, published posthumously in 1986. The novel is set within a span of 5 months. The protagonists are an American writer named David Bourne and Catherine, his wife. The setting of the novel is Côte d'Azur and Spain. The Côte d'Azur is known in English as the French Riviera. The protagonists fall in love with the same person. Societal conventions, identity, and individual aspirations versus societal Expectations are the core themes.

X. Hills like White Elephants

Hills like White Elephants is a short story by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1927. The plot of the short story revolves around a conversation between a young woman and an American man. The young woman is described as a girl at a Spanish train station, and is waiting for a train to Madrid. The hills are likened to elephants in the short story. Conversation about an abortion, a taboo at the time, is spoken about. Gender roles and unwanted pregnancy are the main themes.

XI. The Killers

The Killers is a short story by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1927. The protagonist of the novel is Nick Adams. The short story comes under the genre of crime fiction. The novel is set in the 1920s. The novel is set in the Prohibition Era in the US. The Prohibition Era was the period between 1920 to 1933 in the US, when production, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages were stopped. Adams has a run-in with two hit-men.

REFERENCES

- Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell To Arms*. Arrow Books, 1994.
- . *A Moveable Feast*. Vintage, 2011.
- . *Death in the Afternoon*. Vintage Classics, 2000.
- . *For Whom the Bell Tolls: The Hemingway Library Edition*. Scribner Book Company, 2020.
- . *The Garden of Eden*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1987.
- . *The Old Man and the Sea: The Hemingway Library Edition*. Scribner Book Company, 2020.
- . *The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway: The Hemingway Library Edition*. Scribner Book Company, 2018.
- . *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*. Vintage Classics, 2004.
- . *The Sun Also Rises*. Mint Editions, 2024.