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Vipin K Sharma

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¹English Language Institute, Jazan University, Jazan, Saudi Arabia



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Vipin K Sharma

English Language Institute, Jazan University, Jazan, Saudi Arabia

Email: vipinaravali@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The article investigates how Ernest Hemingway’s works *A Farewell to Arms* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, known as classics of American literature, are similar in varied aspects. This comparative-analytical study attempts to identify essential features of each novel and to explain how these integrate and complement each other. Here we adopt the qualitative descriptive approach as a methodological tool to obtain data to compare and contrast the novels from varied perspectives. Several articles and books of the novels are examined to comprehend about thematical, biographical, and diachronic aspects of the novels. Besides, it also explores more the setting of novels (war), the eternal love, autobiographic nature, characterization, language, and plotting style, and how the two characters meet their tragic end to prove both novels as two sides of a coin. Also, it answers how some features weave two novels together. The explanation expects that Hemingway's works, written in a distinct writing style and with a focus on topics, will continue to capture and connect with modern readers, as well as contribute to world literature.

Keywords: Ernest Hemingway, American literature, *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, similarities, comparative analysis, world literature

INTRODUCTION

Ernest Hemingway, an American author and the Nobel Prize winner for Literature is widely regarded as one of the greatest prose writers. Hemingway has been the subject of extensive inquiry for several decades. His works in different genres have ignited a spark in many scholars to interpret and critically evaluate his published and unpublished works on a vast and bewildering scale in their own context. Ernest Hemingway wrote *A Farewell to Arms* (henceforth, referred to as the first novel) during the First World War (WW-I) and first appeared in 1929. His novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (henceforth, referred to as the second novel), which was penned during the Spanish Civil War and released in 1940, is the longest of Hemingway’s novels. In fact, both of these novels are considered his remarkable achievement in the genre.

Hemingway’s works got both positive and negative criticism for works that make it difficult to distinguish the useful from the political, imitative, and stylistic domains. A class of scholars feels Hemingway made an entirely new emergence with the second novel (herein); nevertheless, other critics consider the first novel (herein) higher in the matter of creative power. Moreover, a few may consider his works as fiction, his experience, pragmatic approach to life, and symbolic expressions to represent eternal and tragic love, emotions, and nature. He has written many novels but these two are considered as the best novels. Therefore, the cited reasons make the existing title interesting to explore further so urgently. His illustrious career makes Hemingway comparable to the ‘Big Five’ of late nineteenth-century American writers like Melville, Hawthorne, Emerson, Thoreau, and Whitman (Sharma, 2023).

A Farewell to Arms and *For Whom the Bell Tolls* have their own unique features in their own ways; however, these two famous novels have many similarities and differences. This comparative-analytical study attempts to identify essential features of each novel and to explain how these integrate and complement each other. Additionally, the researcher herein underscores some of the prominent similarities in terms of the setting, eternal love, autobiographic nature, plot, language, and style, and how the characters Frederic Henry, Catherine Robert Jordan, and Maria meet their tragic end. Here we adopt the qualitative descriptive approach as a methodological tool to obtain data to compare and contrast the novels from varied perspectives. Several articles and books of the novels are examined to comprehend about thematical, biographical, and diachronic aspects of the novels. For this, the article continues its voyage in the next sections with previous works, study objectives, research method, results, and a comparison of the aforesaid two novels before arriving at its destination in the conclusion.

Previous Works

Ernest Hemingway is regarded as one of the largely debated American authors of all time, and his intellectual works attest to his passion to write about the wandering soldier tales in America to fully understand the inner conflict that a soldier suffers in life. For the purpose of this review of literature in the paper on his two novels, we underscore the scholarly works of various writers on each novel to better understand how the subject novels share some of the prominent features.

A plethora of research has been undertaken by scholars across the world to underscore different shades in Hemingway's works. Beversluis (1974) considers Farewell as a departure from Frederic Henry's whirlwind relationship with VAD nurse Catherine Barkley, which ended in her untimely death while giving birth to her baby caused him to recognize that love alone is insufficient to restore a shattered world. Oldsey (1974) had a negative opinion about love and mentioned the narrator's tone of a 'disappointed, or ruined, romantic' when he noticed that the tale illustrates the immemorial tension between man's idealization of the universe and his reluctant acceptance of ruthless actuality. Likewise, Dodman (2006) dubbed it a 'Trauma Narrative,' focusing on Henry's attempt to recount himself following the combined traumas of a trench mortar and the loss of his lover. Al-Fahdawi (2017) illustrated the writer's ironic point of view in treating the negative effects of the war and its atmosphere both physically and psychologically. Ilyas (2018) focuses her study on Hemingway's interpretation of sexuality. Kaifu (2019) gives a systematic analysis of its narrative order, narrative voice, and narrative situation to achieve a better interpretation of the narrative effect of this novel. Solissa (2021) describes the relationship between Hemingway's life story in the novel and his real life. Hemingway indicated that while the couple relished their love, their time together is distinguished by embarrassment, stress, and uncertainty rather than the comfort and affection Henry desires in his fantasies. Conversely, Merrill (1974) claimed to love as 'romantic' stating that Hemingway who once equated the first novel to Romeo and Juliet, claim that 'we most desire... and most respect' Henry for dedicating himself in love to Catherine Barkley.

On the other hand, Ernest Hemingway's second novel (herein) is about love and grief, life and death. The New York Times, on publishing in October 1940, acclaimed it as the 'most moving document' on the Spanish civil war and the 'first leading novel of the Second World War.' Mehmood (2014) finds the reasons behind this emotional crisis and Hemingway's notion of describing the mental trauma of the postwar affected generation. Zuo (2015) reveals that the author in the novel tries to express war ambivalence intuitively so that the reader can enter the character's heart and appreciate the complex psychological characteristics. Datta (2019) while drawing conclusions on characters Maria lost in a bootless errand, and Robert Jordan, a dynamiter, tackles questions about life, death, war, and politics yet the succeeding discussion and preponderance of similarities rebuke these claims. Many literary scholars have tried valiantly to isolate Hemingway's personal experiences from his works, but the subsequent discussion and prevalence of resemblances refute these assertions.

The study is significant since its results and discussion may be considered as an authoritative reference work to meet the need of writers, researchers, and students to provide an explicit and clear explanation of these given works. Additionally, this makes cognizance of the massive literature and the ever-increasing research findings. Scholars and intensive readers will now easily and rapidly access the best critical work to explore more of Hemingway's works, which are currently inaccessible or scattered in journals and books. Therefore, to pursue the aforesaid points, the article proceeds to look into the objectives, methodology, findings, and comparative analysis of the two novels.

Research Objectives

This article intends to undertake a descriptive comparative analysis of Hemingway's two main novels from different angles to prove that both have similarities that call them two sides of a coin. Additionally, the study aims to understand the fundamental components of the novels, their unending love, and the true personalities of the protagonists. It tries to understand the diachronic, biographical, and thematic elements of the novels. The forthcoming discussion aims at adding to the new contributions to the existing knowledge of the research. The final objective is to ensure that the results of this research will focus on a change in the pragmatic and philosophical view of Hemingway's novels' credibility to extend far beyond the restricted domain of descriptive, scientific, and ideological analysis.

METHODOLOGY

In this study, a descriptive study design with a component of qualitative analysis is used (Mahmood et al., 2022). The research is qualitative in nature and provides a content analysis of Hemingway's works *A Farewell to Arms* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Here we adopt the qualitative descriptive approach as a methodological tool to obtain data to compare and contrast the novels from various perspectives. Besides, the qualitative research methodology provides a phenomenological presentation of the different characters as soldiers, lovers, friends, support staff, companions, and others for the narratives of the plots in both novels, with their individual experiences. To understand the humanistic aspects represented through the characters of Frederic Henry and Robert Jordan, this study focuses on the content, quotes, and findings of the previous studies and is conducted

from a comparative standpoint. The comparative literature approach to literature employed entails the similarities and differences between the protagonists and other aspects of these novels (Kumar, 2023; Benyo et al., 2022). Additionally, the comparative method is used to understand Frederic Henry and Robert Jordan's behavior by examining both texts. Further, the research is based on the systematic investigation of the new and useful information in the novels. The researcher sorted, analyzed, and compared the literary works in various contexts to empathetically create meanings, and convey their emotions, feelings, and ideas to the readers. Besides, the information is gathered by reading edited books, past research, theoretical viewpoints, and resources on novels and related works. He also critically examined the literature on Hemingway's abilities to see things from several angles and their use of artistic skills. The researcher, however, also looked into other studies on a number of issues that the novels raise about Frederic Henry and Robert Jordan, the protagonists, to present the results that are carefully discussed further.

RESULTS

The study's probe of the two novels and their central figures, Frederick Henry, Catherine, Robert Jordan, and Maria, yields some useful results. Firstly, the setting of the plot is a backdrop of war, and the protagonists adopted a chauvinistic approach to serving their country in the war. Moreover, both Frederic and Jordan are on a quest to attain love, but their relationships end tragically. They are committed soldiers in pursuit of their archetype ambitions, which ended up with a great loss in losing Robert Jordan and Catherine. Secondly, Hemingway points out that war brings mass destruction, loss of lives, psychological suffering, and physical disabilities (similar to the findings of Dodman, 2006; Al-Fahdawi, 2017). This proves that war never bridges boundaries but causes massive destruction of human beings, animals, cultures, and societies, besides impacting the ecosystem and the environment. Thirdly, the eternal love between Henry-Catherine and Jordan-Maria exemplifies their profound, caring, and true love for each other. Besides, Hemingway's mention of their love as Romeo and Juliet (concur with the findings of Merrill, 1974) is quite evident in the novels. Fourthly, Hemingway utilizes his experience in portraying the protagonists who reflect his character in texts that make novels autobiographical (related to Solissa, 2021), therefore giving a pragmatic outlook to his novels. We also agree that Hemingway's full objectivity as a writer has given the characters their real-universe lives (coexist with the findings of Kaifu, 2019); thus, he maintains a uniqueness that prevents his characters from coming off as figures from real people. The protagonists represent all classes since they look as if they acted real and genuine for readers. Both novels depicted different shades of individuality, societal and human relationships, and the incongruity of society. Finally, Hemmingway uses a simple plot, and direct style to convey emotion. The novel's use of language, short and simple sentences, (similar to the findings of Zuo, 2015), and imagery confirm not just his literary prowess but also his ability to tackle universal topics. However, the study contradicts the findings of Ilyas (2018) and Datta (2019). Furthermore, we find that Hemingway's works, his artistic abilities, and his focus on topics, capture our attention and give new perspectives to scholars in order to contribute to world literature. Therefore, the dynamics of the plot, style, language, and pragmatic approach address all the desired aspects that the present time calls for in enlightening young readers and scholars with knowledge of 'all times' cultures and societies. Additionally, the main issues regarding the major characters Frederick Henry, Catherine, Robert Jordan, and Maria, which we consider from multiple readings, perspectives, and analyses that are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs, significantly support these findings.

DISCUSSION

The given comparative analysis is given considering some of the prominent points that justify the aforementioned findings and how the novels share similarities.

The Setting of the Novels- Backdrop of War

Both the novels have been penned in the war background. The former is after the First World War and the latter was written after the Spanish Civil War. In the first novel, the protagonist Frederick Henry was involved as an Ambulance Driver in the war and wounded by an explosion, and met an English nurse Catherine Barkley at the hospital. But soon after, he foresaw the negative effects of war and left the war front to meet up with Catherine again. The reunion ended up in love, had a baby, but unfortunately, this brought a tragic end to Catherine's death. On the other hand, the setting in the second novel is the Spanish Civil War, where the protagonist Robert Jordan, a dynamite expert, worked with Pablo and Pilar to fight against the Fascists. Jordan, like Frederick Henry, fell in love after meeting Maria, an attractive and lovely young lady. Unfortunately, Maria was tortured by Fascists, who imprisoned, brutalized, and raped her before being rescued by Pablo and Pilar. Here, the two: After Jordan and Maria spent the first night together, they grew to be really close. Then Jordan, a dynamite expert, had to blow up a bridge with hand grenades when they ran out of explosives.

In both novels, Frederic Henry and Robert Jordan are the main characters who illustrated their journeys, events, and the people they met to work as companions. In the first novel, Frederic Henry meets Rinaldi a doctor and the priest, who helps him a lot. Likewise, in the second novel, Robert Jordan met Maria his love, and Pablo and

Pilar who helped him with shelter, protection in their gypsy-guerrilla band, and food, and ultimately helped him carry out his plot to blow up the bridge. Also, both Frederic and Jordan fall in love, and their relationships end tragically.

Eternal Love

True love has been one of the main themes in these novels including the conjugating and cerebral meeting of adoring couples through Henry-Catherine and Jordan-Maria besides others that most critics call the expressions of human sufferings, war, and religion, the transformation from traditional to modernism, etc (Jabeen et al., 2022). We go through love affairs, the reunion of Frederic Henry's unsettled journey in the first novel during the war, desertion, and then the untimely demise of Catherine during childbirth. The sudden demise left him alone and shattered, forcing him to introspect and believe that "love is not enough to replace a discarded world" (21). Similarly, Oldsey stated the narrator's tone in the novel was that of a "disappointed, or 'ruined,' romantic," as the narrator recounted the immemorial conflict between man's idealization of the world and his reluctant acceptance of basic fact (178). Nonetheless, contemporary critics might not have considered love as the main theme, but love played a vital role in Hemingway's artistic career. Later on, Lewis's Hemingway on Love (1965) and Crozier's "For Thine Is the Power and the Glory: Love in For Whom the Bell Tolls" had well undertaken to affirm Hemingway's belief in love and his works. Also, Merrill (1974) strictly considered love as 'romantic' when Hemingway "once referred to *A Farewell to Arms* as his *Romeo and Juliet*' and further claimed that "we most desire ... and most respect" asserting Henry for "committing himself in love to Catherine Barkley". Similarly, Catherine's sleepless nights and her consistent medical care are reflected when she claims that she does not want anybody else to touch him. And she is mindless for becoming enraged if they (the other nurses) do (103). This exemplifies their profound, caring, and true love for each other.

In the second novel, Robert Jordan was attracted to a charming damsel Maria who was molested and raped by Fascists during the war. Despite his assignment as a dynamite expert to destroy a bridge, his love for Maria is well-acknowledged and appreciated. Jordan is a brave, courageous, and wise soldier who tries to serve the best, but contrary to his decision of Pablo to undertake an operation that may endanger his life. Jordan found his found love for life in his love for Maria which was very short. Despite his commitment as a true soldier and his death at the end, his love for Maria brings immense love, sympathy, and heartfelt emotions. Jordan's brief, blessed but profound love for Maria brings him a tragic but dignified end. Finally, it is Jordan's separation from Maria that makes all appreciate and recognize, the value of the young life he is squandering before. His love for Maria had been illustrated when after being severely injured and knowing his inevitable unlikely survival, he says goodbye to Maria and arranges for her to run away to safety with the other guerrillas. He assures her that they have become one and that he will follow her wherever she goes. It reminds us of John Donne's poem – *No Man is an Island* shows that people need each other and are better together than they are in isolation.

Tragic Ending

Ernest Hemingway's words affirm the prospect that he created his wandering soldier tales for the spiritless American people to completely comprehend the veteran's inner battles they suffer in life. Deep in war memories, he wrote both novels with great heart, mind, and soul to describe the outcomes of a war, which brings mass destruction, loss of lives, psychological suffering, physical disabilities, etc. War has no place for moral values and emotions but intention to win somehow. For Henry love is only a "rotten game"; a game "like a bridge in which you said things instead of playing cards. Like a bridge, you had to pretend you are playing for money or playing for some slakes. Nobody mentioned what the stakes were. It was alright for me" (*A Farewell to Arms*, p.27; Al-Fahdawi, 2017). War is a social embodiment of the world's weariness and suffering, loneliness, defeat, and despair (Baker, 1952; Pourshahian & Kumar, 2022). In the second novel, Robert Jordan, a young American volunteer in a Republican guerrilla unit during the Spanish Civil War, was killed while razing the bridge, leaving his young lover, Maria, to carry on without him.

Likewise, the unexpected death of Catherine in the first novel brought a tragic end to the story and left Frederic Henry devastated and alone in the world. Moreover, Henry, after Catherine's untimely death during childbirth, was disillusioned and thought that love was not enough to replace a rejected world (21). He was devoted to his wife Catherine, as seen by his response to the nurse's question, "Aren't you proud of your son?" and he replied, "No. ... He nearly killed his mother" (325-26).

Autobiographical

Most of Hemingway's works are based on his real-life experiences but are shown as fiction. Since Hemingway served in World War I, many scholars believe that his works are based on his own war experience (Solissa, 2021). We believe that the warrior and the sufferer of war never draw a blank about the war. Therefore, the two novels under discussion have been written on his own experiences serving in the war and later witnessed in the Spanish civil war. During WW-I, Agnes von Kurowsky Stanfield an American nurse while working in a hospital in Milan cared for Hemingway after he had been injured. Here, Hemingway fell in love with her and

later planned to marry her. Kurowsky might have inspired Ernest Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms character Catherine Barkley (Villard & Nagel).

The other characters like the priest were based on Don Giuseppe Bianchi; however, the record for Rinaldi is still unknown. Baker (1972) also stated that within just a few weeks of his arrival, Hemingway was injured by an exploding shell and was sent to a hospital in Milan. He was sent to a hospital in Milan. During his recovery, he fell in love with a nurse, an experience he chronicled in his novel A Farewell to Arms years later. It is believed that a few parts of the novel were in Piggott, Arkansas, at the home of his then-wife Pauline Pfeiffer (Hemingway-Pfeiffer) who was expecting a baby in Mission Hills, Kansas (Burnes, 2007). His wife had a cesarean section when Hemingway was writing the passage about Catherine Barkley's childbirth. (Meyers: 206-207).

Ernest Hemingway wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls* in Havana, Cuba in 1939 and finished in 1940 in New York City, and published in October (Meyers: 334, 339). Hemingway's experiences during the Spanish Civil War also worked out well in writing this novel. Like Fredrick Henry in *A Farewell to Arms*, this novel features an American protagonist, named Robert Jordan, who fights alongside Spanish guerillas for the Republicans (Meyers, 1985). The action takes place in the Sierra de Guadarrama mountain range between Madrid and Segovia and includes both real and fictional characters. Besides, the main conception of the book is based on this idea: whatever happens in this world is a part of one's own concern and particularly "any man's death reduces me since I am implicated in Mankind. As a result, never send to find out Who the Bell Tolls For." Moreover, Hemingway has truly characterized the characters and experiences of Spanish people in the Spanish War for which Baker (230) affirmed that "the driving emotion behind *For Whom the Bell Tolls* was really Hemingway's sense of the betrayal of the Spanish people." Hemingway drew heavily on Donne's 'Devotions' for his title, as well as supplementing the pertinent text giving a pragmatic outlook to his novels.

Plot, Language, and Style

Hemingway's novels are written in the prose usually associated with his- hard and bare, secular and ostensibly non-literary. However, this austere-exterior contrasts with the few significant parts are written in a different manner that is warmly personal, deeply allusive, and suggestive of spiritual principles. Being a journalist, his style is direct and plain but conveys emotion without the rhetorical style. Additionally, he avoids the unwanted use of adjectives making it easy to comprehend. Moreover, the novel's use of language, short and simple sentences, and imagery confirm not just his literary prowess, but also his ability to tackle universal topics that all readers can relate to, even if these themes are hidden behind the narrative of a war story.

The plot in both novels is simple when one makes that mental reduction (Kaifu, 2019). The novels give a plain and straight narration of how young soldiers were inducted to take part in the war. Fredrick was assigned to work as an ambulance driver and Jordan was asked to blow up a bridge in the enemy territory. Hemingway's prose style, in which he says about the people in war, has stood the test of time. A climax has reached in the first novel when Catherine dies after baby-birth making the end pitiful and tragic. Similarly, the blowing up of the bridge in the second novel is the earthy climax, and the novel plot keeps moving to the climax gradually from the beginning where we see Jordan lying on his chest in the pine forest inspecting the bridge and later ends with tragic end with death after accomplishing his mission again lying prone in the pine forest waiting to meet his death. The simple similarities in both the novels from the beginning and at the end express the completion of the action. Also, the action in the latter novel is faster than in the former since it completes within four days and three nights. The hero either loses his life or his beloved making Hemingway sets new grounds and a smooth transition between various actions in the novels. Hemingway's characters play critical roles sincerely and honestly creating niches in writing for readers better comprehend. The blend of good and evil forces surrounding the protagonists makes novels worth reading. The old skepticism still resists the sparks of the new hope. Henry, Catherine, Jordan, Maria, Pablo, and others are surrounded by a fatal halo in the war situation.

These two novels form a new genre and Hemingway changes his perception of life to transform. Alfred Kazin (336) reckons *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is "the work of a thorough romanticist who had at least reconciled himself to the ideal, and who had demolished the ancient channel house with great fervor, and that his portrayal of the Spanish War was more of a study of epic courage and compassion than a study of the Spanish people." Finally, both these novels indubitably stand for another century as the best novels written in English in the context of War.

The aforementioned discussion proves that both the novels and characters have several common features that make them both sides of a coin. Fadiman (1940) rightly said:

The hero, Robert Jordan, a young American Loyalist sympathizer, recalls to mind Frederic Henry. Like Henry, he is anti-heroically heroic, anti-romantically romantic, very male, passionate, an artist of action, Mercutio modernized. Though the heroine, Maria, reminds one rather less of Catherine Barkley, the two women have much in common.

CONCLUSION

The aforementioned points conclude that no unprejudiced reader can deny that both novels give an immediate impression of similarities in setting in war-like situations, autobiographic nature, illustrating the eternal love, and simple narration and smooth transition in the events coupled with a realization of two sides of the same coin. And at its close, Hemingway does something he has never done before. He permits his hero to say "Each one does what he can. You can do nothing for yourself but perhaps you can do something for another." Hemingway worked independently for his writings to be a creative and new genre, which continues to captivate students and the general public.

The above explanation may not be an end to the resemblance between these novels; however, it opens avenues for scholars to explore more in other facets of the novels. Both the novels touch a deeper level than any other of his works since they express and release the adult Hemingway's voice 'To Have and Have Not'. His works and his principle of growth would inspire many young writers to experience and pen down to achieve the level that is so rare among modern American writers.

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