

# THE THEME OF ALIENATION IN THE SELECTED WORKS OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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**Abstract:** - Ernest Miller Hemingway is acknowledged as the most significant writer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century American literature. His prose style is universally recognized as one of the innovative of 20<sup>th</sup> century literature. Hemingway writes of what he knows of his own experience. His writings are honest, direct and clear. The main objective of the present paper is to make a comprehensive analysis of alienation in the selected novels of Ernest Hemingway. The causes of alienation are enumerated by extracting the influencing factors like anxiety, despair, loneliness etc. The consequences of alienation are studied here in this paper. This study will focus on the four of Hemingway works: *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*. The passion of his life was to write absolutely truly absolutely with no faking or cheating of any kind. Hemingway presented the theme of violence and death to show that there is much pain and suffering in life, but the ills of life lose their sting before man of courage and iron-will. Hemingway's war experiences made a great emotional and psychological impact on him. His mental deterioration most likely began after his participation in World War I and World War II.

**Key words:** Alienation, loneliness, Suffering and some other influencing factors of life

## Objectives:-

1. To study the alienation and its consequences
2. To observe the mental status of Hemingway

**Introduction:** - Hemingway, in his novels and short stories, presents human life as a perpetual struggle which ends only in death. It is of no avail to fight this battle, where man is reduced to a pathetic figure by forces both within and without. The ultimate victory depends on the way one faces the struggle. In a world of pain and failure, the individual also has his own weapon to assert the dignity of his existence. He has the freedom of will to create his own values and ideals. In order to achieve this end, he has to carry on an incessant battle against three oppressive forces, namely, the biological, the social and the environmental barriers of this world. The term alienation has been used over the ages with varied and sometimes contradictory meanings. In ancient history it could mean a metaphysical sense of achieving a higher state of contemplation, ecstasy or union - becoming alienated from a limited existence in the world, in a positive sense. In the theory of psychoanalysis developed around the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sigmund Freud did not explicitly address the concept of alienation, but other analysts subsequently have. It is a theory of divisions and conflicts between the conscious and unconscious mind, between different parts of a hypothetical psychic apparatus, and between the self and civilization. It postulates defense mechanisms, including splitting, in both normal and disturbed functioning. Alienation has long been a popular theme in literature, but its rise to prominence came most sharply during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as humans moved farther away from the world of nature and closer to that of machine. This notion of alienation, although commonplace by today's standards, is not general, as it can take on very different meanings and tonalities depending upon whether it is a person from society, a person from oneself, or a marginalized group of people.

All history has to be comprehended as a function of that primitive alienation that mankind cannot get out off. Alienation is not oppression. It is the predominance of the other in the pair other and same, the priority of the objective, and consequently the necessity of all behavior and ideology to project itself into the element of the other and to return to their promoters as alienated and alienating. The alienated person is also completely outside of alienation, he regains himself in his pure subjectivity. He is also alienated in the mode of having to be so, wholly in his ideas and wholly outside of them. This is the dominant alienation in modern society. But both in its form and in its extent the modern alienation differs from that of preceding time. It has now become much more intensified and broader, and has actually turned into a prevalent trend.

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#### ❖ *The Sun Also Rises:-*

Here are the three main characters deals with some form of alienation. The characters who are alienated would be Jake, Brett, and Robert and each of them are dealing with a different type. Jake would be going through powerlessness where he doesn't have any control over his problem as well as cultural estrangement. Brett is also dealing with powerlessness but Jake Barnes is not only one of the most important characters of the book but also the one who tell the story and tell the audience what is happening from his point of view. He is unable to have a relationship with women but more specifically, Brett. The only women he truly loves will not come into a relationship with him because he will not be able to satisfy her sexual needs. Jake is also dealing with cultural estrangement which means he is not one with his generation. Being an expatriate of World War I, Jake is part of what Hemingway calls the **"lost generation"**. His experiences have led to a demise of his confidence in his masculinity and love. He is alienated from ever being physically involved with women. Likewise, Brett is alienated from satisfying her love. Brett is a promiscuous woman and has to have her sexual desires fulfilled. The love of her life, Jake is incapable of giving her what she wants. Even if she were to try to pursue a relationship with him, it would not work because he would not be able to please her and she would cheat on him in order to try and feel the same love she has for him with another man. She would not be able to truly satisfy.

Hemingway shows the aspect of disillusionment and alienation in many different occasions in the novel. One occasion is when Jake starts to pray but he almost falls asleep so he prays for the Bullfighters. He knelt and started to pray and prayed for everybody I thought of, Brett and Mike and Bill and Robert Cohn and myself, and all the bullfighters, separately for the ones I liked, and lumping all the rest, then I prayed for myself again, and while I was praying for myself I found I was getting sleepy, so I prayed that the bull-fights would be good, and that it would be a fine fiesta, and that we would get some fishing. This quote shows that Jake has loose morals because he did not pray for anything really important, instead he prays for having fun and a good time in the fiesta. When he is praying for something important it bores him and he almost falls asleep. Furthermore he could not pray as well anymore because he has returned from the war where he has seen many terrible things. He is isolated and chambered in his own soul.

#### ❖ *A Farewell to Arms:-*

Hemingway explains here all the feeling that soldiers of his time felt during and after the war. In this uses painful experiences of his own life and places them in the novel. The main character of the novel Henry is based on himself and his personal experiences. His personal pain enables him to describe him and his feeling to a great amount of detail. The characters views of the world change wit. It is about the experiences of love and war and how one man, the main character Henry, deals with the overwhelming adversities of death and defeat in war and death in his own personal life. It deals with the plight of a husband dreading his wife's verdict. His wife has delivered a stillborn child, and is fighting for her own life. The protagonist is distressed and escapes to a café to pacify his frets. His anxiety has numbed him so, that he begins to take notice of inconsequential details of the order of things. The author has employed a very unique way to bring out the protagonist's state of mind. When Catherine and the child die, Henry does not know what do but see Catherine again. He enters her room but seeing her does not help; he is completely alienated. Catherine's protracted labor results in the delivery of a dead child. As time passes, it becomes apparent that she is dying. Henry has lost his love and his child, he has deserted the war, and the book ends with him alone in the rain, completely alienated. The themes of fear, suffering, courage and comradeship are prominent issues which are raised in this novel.

#### ❖ *For Whom the Bell Tolls :-*

It is the creative force of human solidarity which is celebrated. The real "terror" of the human condition, more horrible than the fear of death. Hemingway is recognized for his depiction of male protagonists who are alienated, hyper-masculine, obedient, dedicated and willing to sacrifice themselves. Before he meets Maria, Jordan is alienated as a human being. He travels alone, exhibits no family ties and retains only one or two friends whom he admits he doesn't know very well. Maria is the catalyst that connects him with the human race and brings about in him a renewed sense of spirituality. When many think of wars, the first thought that comes to mind is the land which was fought over and which side won. They never consider the psychological side effect soldiers endure during war. For many, this is the only side they see so there is no exposure except through writers such as Ernest Hemingway. In *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Hemingway captivates the realism of war through his own eyes. Drawing from his own observation and experiences as an ambulance driver, Hemingway shows the psychological damage of war through the destruction of human lives, uncommitted relationships, and lack of confidence.

### ❖ *The Old Man and the Sea*

Here the hero is alienated from human society and is left alone on the wide sea for three days and night. It was especially easy to notice the alienation in this novel. This was because throughout the whole novel, Santiago was alone. He fished alone, he lived alone, and the villagers didn't pay much heed to him. He wasn't alienated in a bad way, and he didn't seem to mind that he was often alone. During this time he does not feel alone and establishes his solidarity with the world of nature around him. This feeling enables him to bear his ordeal more easily. His isolation creates in him the feelings of brotherhood with the creatures of water and air. He loves the flying fish, the green turtles and the hawksbills and calls them brothers. He even liked the loggerheads that looked huge and stupid. The only sea creature that excited his contempt was the Portuguese men-of-war and scavenger sharks. When a tired warbler came to rest on his line, the Old Man felt very happy and wished to spread a sail for his comfort. He felt pity for the poor bird and thought that the life of birds was the hardest of all creatures. He felt compassionate even to the marlin he had hooked and called it his brother. He wished that he could feed the marlin as he had fed himself. Hemingway won the Nobel Prize for *The Old Man and the Sea* in 1954

**Conclusion:** - Hemingway treats nature as the central motif of his life and creation. The excellent descriptions of the nature and the close relationship between nature and man are the main feature of Hemingway's creation. As a cross-discipline of ecology and ethics, eco-ethics explores the human's ethical duties for nature. Hemingway's more self-actualized characters like Santiago do not sustain themselves and endure on new values posited by modernity, but by the everlasting values extolled by the old guard; those of courage, solidarity, love, humility, and interdependence. Hemingway's more self-actualized characters like Santiago do not sustain themselves and endure on new values posited by modernity, but by the everlasting values extolled by the old guard; those of courage, solidarity, love, humility, and interdependence.

He is not only a well-known authority through the literary world. His writing master ship won him a great number of readers, respect of literary critics and last, but not least, a Nobel prize for literature. Many scholars have studied the writings of Hemingway, trying to unveil its originality and attraction. These studies have alternatively dealt with Hemingway's writing style, his language, themes of his works or hero types. Although many of these studies explained why readers had accepted Hemingway's works during their time origin, Hemingway is not a less popular author nowadays. Man isn't designed to live alone. He's designed to live in fellowship. Our first fellowship is with God; next fellowship with other men. The Bible tells us that if our fellowship with God is broken, that will break our fellowship with family and friends as well. The negative effects of alienation can be depression, inferiority as well as superiority complexes, self-hatred, hatred of others and many more. The reason why these effects are so varied is that when a person is alienated, his perception of others.

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