

CHAPTER- I

INTRODUCTION

Ernest Hemingway is one of the most famous writers of the American Literature. . Hemingway's active participation in the two great World Wars and his job of press-reporter provide themes for his writings. He deals with war, love and man's struggle for life. He reveals his concern with these feelings through his hero.. His hero is courageous to face challenges. His hero is a warrior, a bullfighter, a fisherman and a reporter. Hemingway believes that 'man can be defeated but not destroyed.'¹

Ernest Hemingway belongs to the lost generation which had lost its faith in life . James T. Farrel observes, 'America was in the full sweep of tremendous economic boom, leading many to believe that this country was paving the way toward a new era of unprecedented world prosperity.'² has lost faith in life. There was no high idea for future. They don't have any dreams for future. Ernest Hemingway's novels deal with the central experience of his own generation. Hemingway creates characters with vision of life.

Hemingway depicts realistic picture of human life in his novels. Leo Gurko states, 'Hemingway's human society is the arena of experience'³ Hemingway's participation in the two World Wars leads him to know effects of the violence and foulness of war. Hemingway was wounded in the First World War at the age of 19. He was hospitalized in Milan, he fell in love there with his nurse Agnes Von Kurowsky. His affair with Agnes was platonic, but unsuccessful. He came into contact with death in the form of his wounds and sufferings and he came into contact with love as he met his beloved in the hospital. Further these experiences become important factors for his writings. Nicholas McDowell rightly quotes, 'Hemingway witnessed three wars, was wounded in the first and wrote a masterpiece about the second. His writing deals with violent death and lost love with the struggles of men and women to maintain their dignity of personal crisis and battle.'⁴ His novels present some of the code heroes whose life is set a model for others.

Hemingway as a child accompanied with his father in his adventurous trips. Further these experiences proved beneficial for his writings. Stewart Sanderson points out, 'Hemingway writes of

what he knows from his own experiences honestly, directly and unambiguously as he can.'⁵ Hemingway's novels deal with the morality of his characters. His characters struggle with life. They lead fake life. They are interested in present. Hemingway, a son of middle class family, acknowledged moral lessons from his parents and grandfather. But Hemingway has his own ideas about morality. He says 'so far, about moral, I know only what is moral is what you feel good after and what is immoral is what you feel bad after and judged by these moral standards.'⁶ Through his novels he shows the conflicts between good feelings and bad feelings.

Ernest Hemingway was encouraged by Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, Ford Madoxford, James Joyce and Conrad to write stories. Gertrude Stein and Ezra Pound motivated him to publish his stories and poems. In his early writing, he deals with wounding, sexual unhappiness, killing and suicide. Hemingway's characters possess heroic qualities.⁷ Leo Gurko writes, about the theme of Hemingway's novel 'the central theme in Hemingway's longer work is heroism. Contrary to general opinion, his novels are not primarily studies of death or simply researches into the

lost generation. They are not just demonstrations of the world's emptiness of how all things are nada. They are essentially portraits of the hero, the man who by force of some extra ordinary quality sets forth the standards of those around him.'⁸

Hemingway deals with the theme of death and love in his novel. He develops his hero from his personal experiences. His early hero from short stories is Nick Adam who resembles with Hemingway's early life. His characters are interested in adventurous games. His characters are ordinary men and women but they possess heroic quality such as sincerity, skill, devotion and commitment for work. They believe in themselves. They struggle with life without bothering results. In For Whom the Bell Tolls - Robert Jordan expresses his satisfaction while dying, 'You've had just as good life anyone because of these last days. You do not want to complain when you have been so lucky. I wish there was some way to pass on what I have learned.'⁹ His protagonist adjusts with situations. Henry Fredrick in A Farewell to Arms is a lieutenant (1929) serving in Italian army, faces critical incidents in his life. Jake Barnes in The Sun Also Rises (1926) leads miserable life because of impotency received in the war



Robert Jordan in For Whom the Bell Tolls (1940) is a participant in the Spanish Civil War, Henry Morgan in 'To Have and Have Not' (1937), a native of Key west, Florida, devotes his life to his family, Cantwell in 'Across the River and Into the Trees' (1950) is an American army colonel of fifty one leads his life in danger of death. Santiago in The Old Man and The Sea (1950) is a Cuban fisherman who has been declared unlucky by his community for not catching a fish for eighty four days. All these characters are resembled to each others. They maintain their identity in extreme situation. His characters boost their personal honour.

The main theme of Hemingway's novels is man's struggle for survival. After two World wars, the concept of traditional hero is changed. Hemingway formed his hero as per his own conception. His hero is a warrior, a reporter, a matador or a fisherman. According to Philip Young, 'Hemingway's life has rich reservoir from which he drew many plots, characters and heroes for his work. His typical hero shares one or many of Hemingway's ideas. He has courage and dignity. He is wounded, and shows strong points in the hours of distress or tension.'¹⁰ Hemingway, through his characters perhaps wants to propagate

the message to the generation how to make life meaningful. Hemingway himself was a depressive man. Hemingway inherited fits of temper and sporadic nervous collapses from his father. But he survives from this personal drawbacks with his strive for perfection and perseverance. So he could write great novels which have his own ideas.

The theme of war is the great theme for contemporary novels of the period of 1920. Hemingway wrote on war and its futility as well as its importance. Backer writes, 'Hemingway's enormous literature in the thirties rested largely upon his fictional reaction to World War I. A Farewell to Arms, in which the hero, sick of slogans and hysteria, makes a separate peace and disassociates himself from the war in order to enjoy a brief of happiness with his beloved before ultimately defeated by the vagaries of Nature.'¹¹ Hemingway's three novels amongst six deal with the post war effects.

The hero of his first novel sustains physically and emotionally disabling wound. His second novel describes the experience of the Spanish civil war. In 'Across The River And Into

The Trees' colonel Cantwell revisits, the Sunken road at Foss Alta.

Hemingway glorifies values of humanity. Brotherhood is one of them. In For Whom the Bell Tolls Pablo, absconds from his band to avoid the participation in Robert's mission of blowing the bridge. When he suffers loneliness, he returns to his band. In Baker's word, 'The man, who cuts himself off from the group, suffers the horror of loneliness. This is the message that Hemingway had for his American readers.'¹² Frederick Henry, Robert Jordan participate in the war for love of humanity. Santiago's love for Stars, Birds, Sharks and Marlin illustrates his values of brotherhood. Hemingway's characters are on the side of humanity..

All female characters to which Hemingway portrait in his novels are different to each other in their identity. Lady Brett Ashley cares for her identity. She doesn't want to be governed by others. She is a frank lady. She changes her lovers. She tries to seek peace of mind. Catherine is a nurse. She is attracted towards Henry Fredrick. She dies in childbirth. Maria wants to serve Robert. She wants to be his woman. Retana is curious to

know about colonel's opinions and experiences of the war. One common factor among these heroines is their appearance in the novel. They lead the hero from the path of death to life. Maria's simplicity. Brett's platonic love for Jake, Catherine's devotion for Henry and Retana's innocent attraction for colonel Cantwell are their assets. They are lovable, adjustable and impressive.

Ernest Hemingway deals with love between man and woman delicately, As Dorothy Parker quotes, 'There are many authors who have written about love all along gamut from embarrassment to enchantment. But nobody can write as Ernest can of a man and woman together and their fulfillment.'¹³ Hemingway calls A Farewell to Arms as his Romeo and Juliet. Hemingway shows complete commitment of this pair for each other. Their love is pure and platonic.

Hemingway also deals with the nature and man. Important aspects in his novels are Sea, Land and Sky. Henry and Catherine decide to go in the villages in Switzerland, Jake's group goes to fiesta in Pamplona. Robert loves pine trees, sky and mountain and Santiago has bond with sea. Being matadors, fishermen and hunter his characters enjoy Nature.

In his period almost every writer, novelist and poet is compelled to reexamine his obligation to the society in which he functioned. Political and historical events in Europe and in the United states provoke every artist to write about it. The artist who had not been upset by the world war, they too wrote about war. Hemingway's biographer Baker writes, Not even his persuaders who criticized him for his non involvement could make him change his stand. For Hemingway in the world, the men had fought for a dying cause, the dying order out of the war as a lost generation.'¹⁴ Hemingway's only one political novel 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' deals with the Spanish Civil War. Hemingway shows the difference between the Spanish Civil War and the World War in his novel. Hemingway visited Spain during his official tour. He observed the suffering of the people. His novel deals mainly about the Spanish Civil war.

Since childhood Hemingway was interested in fishing, bull fighting, boxing and hunting. His passion for adventurous games and concept of love are important factors of his novels. Hemingway was wounded in the war and accidents. But he had

strong urge for life. His own struggle for survival reflects in his characters.

Human relations are elaborated in Hemingway's novels. Jake's friendship with Robert, Bill, Mike, Brett and Romero depicts his desire to stay in a group. They enjoy holidays together. Robert Jordan's staying with a guerrilla band provides him ample opportunities to rejuvenate relations in the cave of guerrilla band. Santiago lives alone. His care has been taken by Manolin, who is the disciple of Santiago.

Born on 21st July 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois Ernest belonged to the middle class family. His father was the medical practitioner. Hemingway inherited love for adventurous life from his father. His mother was a talented singer. She played an active part in church affairs. She wanted to develop love for music in her son. Her mother's dominant role in the household coers and his father's erratic and depressive nature disturbed the peace of the house. Constant clashes between parents raised emotional tension in the family. It also disturbed Ernest's sensitive mind. Hemingway gained the artistic sensitivity from his mother and love for hunting,

shooting, fishing and depression from his father. Twice, he ran away from the house. He worked as a laborer, dishwasher.

At school, he was a brilliant student. He played football and proved his talent in boxing but his nose was broken and one eye was damaged in boxing at the school. He participated in debates and acted in the class play. He was the member of school Orchestra. He wrote for and later edited a weekly news sheet and contributed his creative writing in school's literary magazine. 'Tabala'. His schooldays were difficult. His experiences in the adolescent age were to be projected into his earlier short stories.

In 1917, Hemingway was graduated from Oak Park high school. He worked as a reporter with The Kansan City Star. His apprenticeship in the newspaper developed his observing capacity which proved beneficial in his writing. Since childhood; Ernest Hemingway wanted to serve in the army. He joined army as an ambulance driver. On 8th July, 1918, at midnight, before his nineteenth birthday, he was badly wounded in an accident. He was hospitalized in Milan. During the course of twelve operations, two hundred shell fragments were removed from his body. At the hospital, he met and fell in love with his nurse Agnes Von

Kuroskey. In the hospital, he came into contact with death and love, two intertwined subjects that became central theme to his fiction. But the nurse refused his first true love. Disappointed Ernest met Hadley Richardson, eight years his senior. He married Hadley and gave her self confidence. Hemingway achieved simple style. His talent and knowledge of journalism provided themes for his short stories.

With the publication of 'in our time' - a collection of his short stories, his literary reputation was firmly established. But his personal life began to crumble. Hemingway was attracted towards Lady Duff Twysden, the model for Brett Ashley in The Sun Also Rises and fell in love with Pauline Pfeiffer, Divorcing Hadley, Hemingway married Pauline. He met Martha Gellhorn in 1936. She was a writer and journalist. In 1940, he married Martha. His excessive intake of drinks was the beginning of his tragic end. He and Martha argued about his lying, his untidiness and his egoism. He participated in Second World War. He traveled extensively during the course of his work for The Daily Star and The Star Weekly. He interviewed the members of U.S.S.R and Mussolini.



Mary Hemingway, his fourth wife took care of him as best as she can. They spent most of their time in Cuba.

Hemingway published his first book. 'Three stories and Ten Poems' in 1923. His second creative work in our time (1924) is a collection of brief prose sketches of war, bullfighting and events known in the course of his newspaper work at various places. They deal with violent incidents in contemporary life. 'His second collection of short story In Our Time (1925) contains fifteen short stories. The stories are a series of episodes in the biography of the hero. Between the publication of In Our Time and The Sun Also Rises Hemingway wrote a parody called the Torrents of Spring. In this Parody, he attacked the work of Sherwood, Anderson and Stein.

Hemingway's first successful novel is The Sun Also Rises (1926). It depicts the life style of the group of American expatriates. They lead a fake life style. The novel is important as the first full scale novel of Hemingway in which he presents the wounded hero.

A Farewell to Arms (1928) deals with a love story of an army man and a nurse. She dies in childbirth. Death in the Afternoon (1930) is a descriptive book on the bullfighting To Have and Have Not (1933) is a story of Harry Morgan's devotion for family. It deals with Morgan's urge to provide all facilities to his wife and children. The Green Hills of Africa (1934) presents an account of the big game of hunting with digressions on literary matters. His only full length play The Fifth Column published in (1937) For Whom the Bell Tolls (1939) describes an American volunteer Robert Jordan's involvement in the Spanish Civil War. It is his longest novel which deals with Robert's sincerity and loyalty in work. Robert possesses leadership qualities. Robert, the lover of the life embraces death for the sake of liberty of the Spanish people.

'Across the River and Into the Trees' (1950) deals with love story laid in Venice.

The Old Man and The Sea (1951) deals with the old man and of his courage and endurance. Santiago, the Cuban fisherman struggles with Nature for his bread. The novel elaborates bond between Man and nature.

His third collection of short stories Winner Take Nothing (1933) deals with adventure of Nick Adam. Hemingway acted as a collier's correspondent with the British Royal Air Force. He wrote articles for Garden of Eden. His series of Paris sketches were published posthumously as 'A Movable Feast' (1957). In 1964, after his death, Mary, his fourth wife, with the help of Scribner, published A Movable Feast and Island in the Stream in (1970) The Nick Adam's Stories (1972) His The selected letters edited by Carlos Baker published in 1981. Scribner also published a new version of The Dangerous Summer in 1985. The Garden of Eden (1986) and The Complete Short Story of Ernest Hemingway (1987).

In Hemingway's view 'The talent and training of an artist are very like the talent and training of a sportman.'¹⁵ Hemingway worked hard for perfection. His hero develops the technique for perfection of the work. Romero strives for the perfection in bull fighting, in The Sun Also Rises, Robert's efforts in blowing up the bridge in For Whom the Bell Tolls and Santiago's skill and technique in fishing in The Old Man and The Sea.

Hemingway preferred simple and lucid style of writing. Hemingway says 'If a man writes clearly enough any one can see if he fakes.'¹⁶ Selecting important crises of human experience he developed his plots.

Hemingway's important aspect for the theme of the novel is 'Death'. As a reports about 'Death in the Afternoon', "Hemingway went to Spain to watch the bullfights because that was only place after the war where he could study the violent death. Violent death was he said one of the subjects about which he most wanted to write." Death is perhaps most favourite topic for him. The hero faces the bull, the carrier of death courageously. Henry Fredericks says, "The coward dies a thousand deaths the brave but one"¹⁷ Hemingway though admires death, he is also a lover of life. Seriously, he deals with life and death in his novel.

The present study aims to present the critical analysis of three major characters from Ernest Hemingway's novels- Jake Barnes from The Sun Also Rises, Robert Jordan from For Whom the Bell Tolls and Santiago from The Old Man and The Sea. Jake

participated in the war. He is physically wounded, works as a reporter, he has a strong will power to face the problems in life.

Robert Jordan, an American Volunteer, participates in the Spanish Civil War. Robert faces the death courageously. He is also physically wounded. Santiago, the old Cuban fisherman is also wounded but has strong desire to struggle with mighty Nature.

These three heroes : Jake, Robert Jordan and Santiago are physically wounded. They are courageous in the crisis. They have technique of work. Three of them have strong will power. Hemingway believes that sincerity and commitment, skill and techniques, courage and will power are qualities of the man. They help him to survive in critical situation also.

Jake Barne has participated in the war. He is emotionally and physically wounded in the war. He leads fake and meaningless life. But his platonic love for Lady Brett Ashley, his sincerity in work, makes him different to others. He is the representative of the generation who had lost faith and suffering

of the effect of war. Jake says, "I got hurt in the war", I said "Oh, that dirty war."

We would probably have gone on and discussed the war and agreed that it was in reality a calamity for civilization, and perhaps better would have been avoided.¹⁸ (Page No. 17)

Robert Jordan's participation in the Spanish Civil War is different to Jake. Robert's attitude for the life is meaningful; He leads meaningful life as an instructor in the university. Sacrificing life for foreign people's liberty to which he loves most, waits for death.

Santiago's struggle is different to Jake and Robert. He struggles with fate and Nature. He wants to perform his duty honestly.

These three novels - The Sun Also Rises, For Whom the Bell Tolls, The Old Man and The Sea represent three different stages of literary career of Ernest Hemingway. His first novel The Sun Also Rises established his reputation as a novelist. For Whom the Bell Tolls is his finest novel and The Old Man and The

Sea won the Pulitzer Prize for literature and Nobel Prize for literature.

It seems that Ernest Hemingway expresses his observation in his novels. His interest in adventurous games, his childhood and suffering, his ideas about love, attraction for death made him legendary figure. His biographer Carlos Baker writes for him. 'Here is nature and here is man. Here also is something about the nature of manhood.'

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