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THE WAR EFFECTS ON CHARACTERS IN A FAREWELL TO ARMS IN THE LIGHT OF FREDERICK NIETZSCHE'S EXISTENTIAL NIHILISM THEORY

Taufique Ahmed Kehar

Research Scholar, University of Sindh Jamshoro, Pakistan
(PAKISTAN)

taufiqueahmedkehar@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study presents the First World War I and its impact upon the characters in a farewell to Arms by using the theory of Nietzsche Existential Nihilism. It seeks analyze of War impact which are associated with the characters. With the help of this theory the research presents the characters put meaningless life and also show that how every character put their attitudes towards war and to impart how every character put his own value throughout novel as well as bringing a clear picture of the First World War I and Characters meaning in this novel . Due to this fact, I am curious to know what kind of impacts have war left upon the characters throughout the novel, so the purpose of this research project is to find out that war has caused many problems on the characters individuality.

Key words: Existential Nihilism: War, Nothingness meaning, loss of hope, loneliness.

1. INTRODUCTION

A farewell to arms novel introduces critically whatever happens during World War I that takes place in Italy. The writer of this novel tries to convey his views about the concept of war and its effect on characters.

According to Pamposh Ganjoo research scholar (2014).War has been remained a broad connotation. No matter of poetry, fiction or drama it is one of the important concept to be explored and it may be defined as an external conflict between two nations or several others, even if it can have a hard impact on human psychology in this novel, which results in decline of issues such as loss of life, alienation, chaos, morality and death as well.

As the characters are marked by war, who indicate their effect in this perspective. As the research will see, Frederic suffers from alienation being failed over and over again to name himself, so this research will argue that Frederic's separation occurs in three particular areas. Firstly, he is alienated from his American ethnic identity. Secondly, he alienates himself from First World War; and, is, sooner or later, alienated from his love to Catherine with whom he was hoping to have a passive life. The framework of Frederic Henry's alienating persona is visible from various angles of suggestion, that is, no hint is provided in the narrative that Frederic thinks going back to his native country while Niclas Martinsson points out that Frederic's American roots, although he is not mocked by the Italians, make him feel alienation. Furthermore, Frederic's share of the point of an ambulance driver contrasts to the position of a regular soldier; and this increases his sense of not belonging in Italy. Frederic says that to Rinaldi that "what a strange thing-to be in the Italian army .It's not really the army .It's only the ambulance ".Rinaldi agrees with Frederic and asks him as to why he has to do the job while, in return, Frederic replies that I don't know .At the end ,the death of Catherine Barkley leaves him in a insecure as well as more greatly subject position which insinuates that, like Earl Rovit puts forth, Frederic becomes to some extent humanly alive by the end indicating a sign of a man of alienating persona of which Martinsson argues that the death of Catherine makes Fredric reject all kind of belief in anything ,return to the detached position he started out from. Therefore, from the background of Fredric's identity fix, separation is critically worried as being the key argument.(Rasid , Akm Aminur, 2013)

Rinaldi looks at war in a depressive mood and the war has separated every. And the drinks make happy Rinaldi. and he is having enjoyment from the time until the war encircle him,so when the war comes he is getting depressed (167 page no). After the war he gives warning to Henry that he is away from it and at that time Henry is in the hospital. Here I do not know anyone to treat you in this hospital and I am depressed with the war also.

Gino is the man who is marked by war he thinks about the war that war does not mean losing the country but winning his own country by fighting other nations of the country and also showing a different way within their own army members as a result dragging all members towards the loyalty mood.(184 page no Ch.27).He thinks that everyman should be patriotic man with his country and Henry accepts opinions of him that he is right at this level and he is showing patriotic assumptions for every country man as well as male or female in the background of war (page no,185 Ch.27).

Three characters (Henry, Gino and Rinaldi) are showing a different mood for war. Hemingway is giving a different point of views through characters for war perspective as for Henry war is alienation from his beloved, for Rinaldi war

creates a depressive mood throughout the novel and finally for Gino war gives a lesson of patriotic manner for every country man and all they should be loyal to his country with a core heart.

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS DESCRIPTION:

Research questions have been based on the nature of the problem and Nietzsche Existential Nihilism theory to depict the war in order to analyze the characters' nature meaning how they exist throughout the novel.

i. Research Questions

RQ1-What is the underlying existential nihilism notions in the characters, A Farewell to Arms ?

RQ-2 How can war effects among characters be analyzed with the reference to the novel?

RQ-3 How can the novel be called as meaningless?

ii. Objectives of the Study.

Research objectives are usually expressed in lay terms and are directed as much to client as the researcher that are being given

(a)- To explore the existential nihilism notions of characters in the novel.

(b)- To analyze the war effects among characters.

(d)- To examine the novel as meaningless aspect.

iii. Purpose of study.

My study focus is on how characters exist their own meaning throughout the novel that is intrinsic elements of the characters such as circumstances of each individual character on the basis of existential nihilism notions. However, finding out intrinsic elements of the characters have been researched or worked by the various researchers and to collect qualitative data and research design as well

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

In literature review, I have found a good representative literature discussing the war and its effect among the characters in a Farewell to Arms. Knowing about its historical background is good because that is a starting point, the generating element of Hemingway's experience of war.

i. War Background

The World War I was also known as the Great War because it was a war on a range up to that time unimagined in modern history. The war broke out after the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand ignited an already tense territorial feud between Australia –Hungary and Serbia. Fance, Great Britain, and Russia joined as the Allied powers against the Central power alliance of Austria-Hungary and Germany. Eventually, America joined the war on the side of the Allies after Russia had withdrawn. (Pirnuta Oana, Andrea, 2013).

ii. Significance of War

It makes clear title of this novel, a farewell to Arms concerns itself first and foremost with war, namely the process by which Frederic Henry removes himself from it and leaves it behind. A close reading of the novel will show that Hemingway's view about war is clear; it is a source of terror and uncertainty, it alienates that human being, it is unjust and useless: you did not know what it is about. You never had time to learn. They threw you in and told you the rules and the first time they caught you off base they killed you' chapter 40, Book IV.

As Peter Conn states 'no other writer had before felt that the World War was such a turning point in USA history. The war was an ocean away and the domestic attitude towards it was shaped by patriotic songs, slogans, and romantic stories from faraway Europe. This contrasted to the idea that Hemingway wanted to present, and that is why he repeatedly outlines in the unfolding of his novel through the use of descriptive scences of artillery bombardment during the Italian retreat, the divesting impact that a war can have on individuals: it causes anxiety, terror, disorder and despair. (Pirnuta, Oana-Andrea, 2013)

iii. War and Its Chaotic Element

Chaotic element has been shown in this novel through some description of the event which describes in this way that Italian give a fire to Italian as in the back Italian lines by chance shoot officers for separating from their officer, and refugees showed the whole depression of every army member on the roads by flight to all the people who were there and every individual were seeing whatever happening on the ground.

Not any Italian troop was able to hold its own troop but they were ordered to fight to every man who is on the ground soldiers who left the ground were blamed by some army police due to leaving the front to whom is called death and life ground. There remains confusion .Henry Frederic considers in doubt to be a foreigner. And changes uniform, as he wears Italian Uniform being German. Despite of this he tries to start carrying out himself in the waters of a river. Now Henry is in danger as a deserted and a renegade. One thing more .He acquires civilian clothes meeting again with Catherine escapes arrest rowing by night thirty-five kilometers up the lake past the border posts into a neutral stance of Switzerland, where peace seems to win through. But although it will be a happy and calm winter for Henry and Catherine, the nearness of danger can be felt. Their love end precisely where it has begun, in the hospital ward. Elaborating emotions and almost psychological state creates melancholy tone in this novel. The hopelessness apprehends in a danger, with personal experience we can deconstruct the idea of war as unrealistic. (Pirnuta, Oana –Andreea 2013).

iv. Terror mood in war

The World War I showing a mood of terror by giving different writers references and experience who belonging to Ernest Hemingway writing and they also gave a duty in the military.

By giving reference of M.Cunliffe who gives a pay attention that one thing has happened in the First World War to the American writer of the 1920s who made a list of those troops that give a danger of war before arriving of the American forces such as Faulkner said for joining the RAF and Hemingway, John Dos Paso, E.E Cummings in ambulance units, and in which caste he finalized conclusion that war was a nightmare in which he should not present such as Scott Fitzgerald failed to go overseas.

The war indicated its effect across the modern American literature. It was shown in the postwar and first world war I through lost generation term. In Nineteen-Twenty, writers like Anderson, F .Scott Fitzgerald, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, and Gertrude Stein all they introduced about this term and described those ideologies which were false according to patriotism, so these ideologies taking men to a different concept of the mind.

There were writers who told about realities for whom people who were in a matter of confusion about war and for losing his faith and the previous values that were like diamond before arrival of this war or coining lost generation term to this novel indicating a different mood of every character throughout the novel.

v. Theoretical Framework/Conceptual Framework.

Nietzsche is the German philosopher who gave a detailed diagnosis of nihilism as a widespread phenomenon of western culture and who looks this term in a different of which discipline names are given such as metaphysical nihilism, epistemological nihilism, Mereological nihilism, moral nihilism, political nihilism and Existential Nihilism, However .Nihilism has been taken from Latin word(Nihil , meaning 'Nothing or purposeless) is the philosophical viewpoint that suggests the denial of belief towards the repeatedly aspects of life . Most commonly, but here, Nietzsche Existential Nihilism theory uses which focuses on "Nothingness meaning of life, Loss of hope and loneliness by analyzing the text to find out the war effects within the characters in a farewell to arms and showing how characters put their value and meaning throughout novel, so on this perspective Existential Nihilism is the belief that life has no intrinsic meaning or value. With respect to the universe, existential nihilism points out that a single human or even the entire human species is insignificant, without purpose and to change in the totality of existence. The meaninglessness of life is largely explored in the philosophical school of existentialism. Through this framework is taken meaning of characters how the characters are impacted by the war and how they exist.

vi. Nothingness Meaning

“ As Frederick Henry comes near Catherine at the time of death when she is dying due to pregnancy feeling sadness” (As cited in the chapter 41, page, 240).

It's clear that Frederick Henry, an American lieutenant in the Italian ambulance service during World War I, falls in love with an English nurse, Catherine Barkley at the end of time when she becomes pregnant he goes there to ask, but she was dying with her child due to pregnancy so by seeing this scenario he felt sad ending and he returned to post directly (D.Hart James 1941).

vii. Loss of Hope.

“Henry Frederick says that war has caused to love with Catherine but prayer that remains forever” (As cited in the chapter 3, page -25).

The story of World War I in which the fortunes of Frederick Henry and Catherine become inevitably interwoven with the fortunes of war when the lieutenant is wounded, the nurse takes care of him at Milan. They live happy life together in the summer months, but even though she becomes pregnant, then she refuses to marry him, fearing that this will lead her sent back to England (Crowell, 1962).

viii. Loneliness of Frederick Henry.

“As Henry Frederick reports that my return to post will make me lonely on the land” (As cited on the page 240-245)

When Henry return to his post, finds Comrade Rinaldi depressed by the monotonous horrors of the war, and shares the suffering during the disastrom retreat from Carpetto, He deserts and learns that Catherine has been transferred to Streea, and joins her there. Although he is civilian clothes he is suspected, and forced to flee with Catherine to Switzerland. They go to Lausanne for the birth of the child, but both mother and baby die leaving Henry alone in a strange land.

4. CONCLUSION

This study research insists on how each individual character put their meaning through the impact of war; on the other hand, characters played a different role for indicating war effect on their own stand and Nietzsche's Existential Nihilism theory interpreted each character in their own meaning feature as Frederick Henry Character is left behind loneliness mood state, lack of hope and no fruitful meaning of life at the end part of novel while Catherine is influenced by internal intrinsic features through war with the help of Frederick Henry interaction so in this way she is characterized by these intrinsic features such as sorrow mood state due to Frederick segregation when she was pregnant; and no meaning value of life till death. As a result war has left fury meaning for characters which creates scenario of terror, separation, Chaotic, loneliness, loss of hope and nothingness meaning of life between Frederick Henry and Catherine till the end of novel through the impact of war.

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