

## A Study: Utility of Symbolism in Ernest Hemingway's writing

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### Abstract

*Ernest Hemingway is the most famous writer of America. He uses symbols, image verbalisation and reality in his works. His writing is the most recognisable and prestigious prose of the twentieth century. There are so many novels in which he has used symbolism. He has a close relation with the word "symbol". Symbols overlook existence of Ernest Hemingway's characters. His technique is unproblematic with simple grammar and easily approachable language. His authentication is in clean way. He does not focus on reflection but action. The powerful impact of Hemingway's writing on other writers remains to this day. We must focus on symbolism and use symbolic element in literary writing.*

**Keywords:** Miniscule; Environment; Symbolism; Demolition; Innocence

Ernest Hemingway is allotted a significant place among the famous writers. Through symbolism, he makes the world around the pair waiting from the train and evolves the apparently trivial brabble between them into a fight against human situation. Symbols in Hemingway's story differ from brilliance to the apparently miniscule. He fills his story with mixture of symbols that help the portray the whole matter of the story. Works of literature can lead us to see profoundly into and beyond things through the use of symbols which are generally actions, characters or even objects. The features of a symbol are

connected to the abstractions it comprises. A thought connect to a field of worry in the work can be a symbol. The meaning and image of symbol express far more than mere words. Ernest Hemingway examines this by his effective use of symbolism in his works to search the disillusionment and the determination of individuals against the background of a pitiless environment.

His style of writing involves getting right to the core of the scene without spending much time on building of characters. He uses declarative language. But this unique style of writing made many feel that Hemingway is an artist in his essence. His writings are regarded more contributed with a power to arouse higher levels of emotions and that would be because of his real life experiences.

Hemingway did not like discussions regarding the symbolism in his famous works. Fraser Drew said about: "No good writer ever prepared his symbols ahead of time and wrote his book about them, but out of a good book which is true to life symbols may arise and be profitably explored if not over-emphasized."

Hemingway has written so many popular works in which the reader can see his unique language style and symbolism. His language is precise and natural because he always deals to choose words particular, colloquial. His power consists in his short sentences and very particular details. He links several parts of the sentence in consecutive way. Hemingway uses

dialogue as an effective device. Here is a good example chosen from *The Old Man and the Sea*:

“What do you have to eat?” the boy asked.

“No, I will eat at home; do you want me to make the fire?”

“No, I will make it later on, or I may eat the rice cold.”

Thus we can see that such interposition as “he said” have been neglected.

In *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway uses many characters as a symbol for example the sea which stands for all of life on which man must sail. In both sea and in life, there are several possibilities that lie hidden from the common eye, some are boons to be treasured, and some are difficulties to be defeated. The Marline, a fish, symbolizes the ideal opponent. It is a symbol of mysterious world of the unknown that challenges every man. Santiago, who is a hero, has respect, power, bravery and affection. Santiago, an old Cuban fisherman, struggles while trying to keep hold of the extremely large fish. It creates struggle, success and epic passion for Santiago. This opportunity proves Santiago a strong and motivated fisherman.

Santiago's old age is also an example of symbolism. Old age is represented between the Marlin and Santiago while he is stuck out at sea. His old age gives him an extreme advantage over him as a fisherman. It can also symbolize the dignity, pride that older men have against young men.

The shovel-nosed sharks attack on the Marline. They are opponent of an old man. They symbolise the destructive law of the universe and certify to the fact that those laws

can be surpassed when equals struggle to death.

This novel gives a great demonstration of Hemingway's passion and drives to develop some of the best masterpieces and symbols to literature in history.

In *A Farewell to Arms*, Hemingway uses rain and snow as symbols. He uses this literary device as a symbolism for its own sake. Rain and snow affect his plot and hold our interest.

Weather is a central element of the war experience. In this novel, he describes weather in a real manner but he uses it for symbolic purposes as well. Rain symbolises for death and snow symbolises hope in this story.

It is snow that ends the fighting explained in the novel's first chapter. Thus, snow symbolises for safety. Thenceforth, Frederic Henry explains the priest's home region of Abruzzi as a "place where the roads were frozen and hard as iron, where it was clear and cold and dry and the snow was dry and powdery . . . ,"

In the last, the debate between the Swiss policemen over winter sports not only gives comic ease. Henry and Catherine find themselves in the Swiss Alps with snow. So, they have gained a life of both innocence and safety.

The first chapter of the novel, rain symbolises death: "In the fall when the rains came the leaves all fell from the chestnut trees and the branches were bare and the trunks black with rain,"

Henry tells us. "The vineyards were thin and bare-branched too and all the country wet and brown and dead with autumn."

Throughout their Milan idyll, Catherine creates the symbolism of the rain denotative for Henry and for the reader of the book: "I'm afraid of the rain because sometimes I see myself dead in it," she says to him. "And sometimes I see you dead in it."

During Henry and Catherine's trip from the armorer's to the hotel, near the train station, the beginning of chapter, the fog of the city changes in to rain, the novel's symbol of death. The last function of Catherine in this part of the novel is to indicate to Henry that he should step in out of the rain. During the chapter, it rains continuously when the tide of battle turns and the Italians begin their withdraw from Caporetto, the Germans who have connected the fighting. One evening, the rain changes into snow, existing hope, but the snow speedily melts.

During a discussion among the drivers about the wine, the driver, Aymo says, "To-morrow maybe we drink rainwater." Hemingway has evolved the rain symbolism to such a stage that the reader experiences a real sense of preventing — and, the next day will bring death to Henry's unit.

In the end, when Henry leaves the hospital during Catherine's extended "The day was cloudy but the sun was trying to come through" — a literary light of hope.

During the operation, he sees that it is raining. The nurse says that the baby is no more. He sees again rain. The writer mentions "could see nothing but the dark and the rain falling across the light from the window."

At the novel's end, Henry leaves the hospital and goes back to his hotel in the rain. The last word in *A Farewell to Arms* is "rain," evidence of weather's significant place in the novel.

*Hills Like White Elephants* by Ernest Hemingway is a short story which is about a man of American and a girl. There are many symbols in the story; the chief symbols are white elephants, the hills and the railroad station. Hemingway completes this story with a mixture of symbols that help portray the picture of the story. He also uses these factors to evolve the theme of the story.

The theme is about how Jig, a girl, see the possibility of preserving her baby and having a happy life with her baby, while the man does not see the possibilities and actions to pursue her to go through with the miscarriage.

In the novel, Jig saw at the hills and said, "They look like white elephants." The man answered, "I've never seen one." Then she stated, "No, you wouldn't have."

The hills symbolize big obstructions. This shows the reality that the girl's child is a chief obstacle in her life, but it is not the end of her life.

Hills also are great symbols of this story. This shows that Jig sees the hills and sees chance, yet at the same time the man sees the hills but sees nothing-- his imagination of happy future is stopped by the big obstacle of the child.

In this story, Jig sees the scenery and says, "And we could have all this." She said this because hills show new life, challenge. When Jig sees the hills, she sees a new chance of happy life with her new born baby. The white elephant symbolises a baby.

During a crisis, the railroad station is symbolic at the crossroads of life.

*The Sun Also Rises* is a famous novel of Hemingway. The episodes of the bullfighting are full of symbolism. Every episode has

element of bull fighting either has occurred or will sooner occur among Jack and his friends.

In the beginning of the story, the bull kills the steer. We can imagine Mike's attack on Cohn. We can read this event as early indication of Brett's demolition of Cohn and his evolution. The perspectives of Jack and post war society are two symbolic elements in the episodes of bull fighting. Thus, Hemingway uses the element of bull fighting because he wants to evolve the theme of disruptiveness of sex. The symbolic elements of sex and violence connect to risk and demolition.

The demolished lumber mill is the most relevant symbol in *The End Of Something*. It shows the spoiled relationship of Nick and Marjorie. Marjorie notices that the mill recalls her of a castle. Nick does not say anything. She sees her connection as a protected tower.

In *A Clean Well-Lighted Place*, Hemingway uses symbolism to help to move the theme of Nihilism, the philosophy that there is nothing divine to believe in. It analyses that there is no miraculous reason or clarification of how the world is today. There are three symbols: the soldier, the café, and the shadows of the leaves. Symbols found in this short story certainly exhibit this Nihilistic theme.

Symbolism is a relevant device in literary field. It makes a story more effective and interesting. It represents ideas and quality of a writer. Thus, the reader can manifest several symbols throughout Ernest Hemingway's literary works. The symbols are specifically epitomized through his eminent novels. Every writer should use symbolism in their literary works like story, novels etc. Thus, it would be a helpful device to make effective literary work.

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