

Tribhuvan University

Modernism in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*

This Thesis Submitted to Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna Rajaya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

by

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis/research/term paper entitled,
“Modernism in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*”
is my own original work carried out as a student at the department of English at Ratna
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All sources used for the thesis/research/term paper have been fully and properly cited.

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Letter of Approval

This is to clarify that the thesis entitled “Modernism in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*” Submitted to the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus by Sushma Adhikari has been approved by the undersigned members of Research Committee.

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Abstract

Hemingway's writing with "Theory of Modernism" in *The Sun Also Rises* truly reflects the story of modernist society. He maintained his status of modernist writer and discussed the issues of modernism. All of his characters are away from the normal social norms and values. They tend to move from one place to another, one form of relationship to other games. Sense of disillusionment can be seen in the characters resulting alienation, dissatisfaction and identity crisis in their life. It can be seen in Jake, Brett, Cohn, and Romero. They indulge in alcoholism, sex abnormal appetite and so on. They became assimilated in others cultural and socio-political environment and lacking their original identity.

Hemingway lays emphasis on the issues of struggle for individual freedom and confinement. A close look into the novel makes us aware that it is quest for identify. Although all the characters in the novel trying to live life freely but they became frustrated and alienated by moving here and there and assimilating in others culture to forget their individual suffering. Social estrangement made them disillusioned and brings expatriation in their life which is the strong feature of modernism. The more they are trying to be free, the more they are falling into chaos and meaninglessness. Characters presented in this novel are not within their native country wandering in search of opportunity. Instead of happy life they feel some sort of dissatisfaction so the characters have intoxicated themselves in order to forget their pain. To support this claim idea of disillusionment has been selected as the strong feature of modernism and justified with the idea of different critics of all walks and further elaborated the idea with so many features of modernism which can clearly seen in the text.

Contents

	Page No.
Declaration	ii
Letter of Approval	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Abstract	v
Introduction: Modernism in Ernest Hemingway's <i>The Sun Also Rises</i>	1-6
Modernism and Disillusionment	7-17
Alienation, Dissatisfaction and Identity Crisis	18-21
Conclusion: Disillusionment in <i>The Sun Also Rises</i>	21-24
Works Cited	25-27

Introduction: Modernism in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*

The era between the two World Wars, marked by the trauma of great economic depression beginning in 1929, was that of the emergence of what is still known as “Modern Literature”. The term modernism is widely used to identify new and distinctive features in subjects, forms, concepts and style of literature and the other art in the early decade of the twentieth century but especially after the World War First (1914-1918), it brought a deliberate and radical break in the traditional base of western art and culture in general. It revolted against the art and literature of the past. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* defines modernism as “a style and movement in art, architecture and literature popular in the middle of the 20th century in which modern ideas, method and materials were used rather than traditional ones” (Modernism 287). It is totally a new concept in art, architecture and literature from that of previous period. In short modernism incorporates with newness.

The typical protagonist of modernism lost faith in society, religion and surrounding environment, seemed also to have any claim to heroic action. They find a terrifying and possibly meaningless world. Richard Ruland and Malcolm Bradbury in *From Puritanism to Post Modernism A History of American Literature*:

Most of the American writing up to the second decade of the century was both practical and popular, or populist, though it carried the sense that this was an age of revolutionary ideas. Yet, as the modernist revolution developing in the European art made clear, the crisis and promise of modern forms was far more complex, radical in far more fundamental way. As the nineteenth- century synthesis shattered, as the tradition collapsed and the underlying value systems that had shaped centuries of art were challenged or dissolved, the whole basis of artistic enterprise had it seemed to be re-created. (240)

Modernist literature was predominantly English genre of fiction writing, popular from roughly 1910s into 1960s. It is completely a new and recreated version of literature. Modernist literature came into its own due to increasing industrialization and globalization. New technology and horrifying events of both World Wars (but specifically World War I) made many people question the future of humanity: What was becoming of the world? Writers reacted to this question by turning towards modernist sentiments. Gone was the Romantic period that focused on nature and being. Modernist fiction spoke of the inner self and consciousness. Instead of progress, the modernist writer saw a decline of civilization. Instead of new technology, the modernist writer saw cold machinery and increased capitalism, which alienated individual and led to loneliness.

Critics have different opinion in the subject of modernism. George Steiner (Bradbury ix) has said that modern writing is a writing unplaced and “unhoused”. But Kenner (Bradbury ix) has a different point and suggests that modernism actually found a happy home. Linking American technological, modernity and international modernism, Kenner sees a new kind of kinship being constructed. He says of Wright Brothers. “Their dedlian deed on the North Carolina shore may be accounted the first American input into the great imaginative enterprise on which artists were to collaborate for a half century.” The wrights set soaring; when it landed again, it landed in America. Kenner said that modern movement was born but it appeared unrooted.

The catastrophe of the First World War had shaken faith in the continuity of modern life. Because of this world war, most of the countries were destroyed immensely. About ten million soldiers were killed in this war. Beautiful cities of Europe and Asia were completely destroyed and changed into desert. The war created

a crisis in the life of modern man. Modern men failed getting essence and meaning in their life. People fought for consolidating their power but the war caused only destruction of modern life. The post First World War generation became spiritually barren and weak because the war created anarchism, disorder, horror and violence in the modern life.

The Sun Also Rises is a modernist work in many respects: its characters are more concerned with their own moral code and they pursue their own goals rather than trying to fulfill social expectations and to fit into the larger society (as a character in a Victorian novel would do). This has led them to become expatriates, to leave their country of origin to be freer. They are also deeply disillusioned and do not practice religious beliefs. Jake actually defines himself as a 'rotten catholic'. As several modernist works, it depicts the memory of the First World War as a traumatic event. The effect of war is visible in Jake's body whose mutilation has left him sexually impotent; it challenges the traditional gender role. On the other, Lady Brett Ashley is presented as strong female character. She is confident and adheres to liberated sexual code, yet not many female characters before Brett had expressed their sexual desire so freely; stylistically, the narrative technique is first person that is from the Jake's eyes, short brief sentence pattern and intense use of dialogue to further the narrative shows the best representation over modernism.

The text finally documents the expatriate modern life style of common people and their pessimism towards life, where people see everything futile but live every second with cocktail parties to forget it. Expatriation, war, trauma and disillusionment are the things by which people highly suffer in this time. As literature of this context *The Sun Also Rises* receive wide range of criticism from writers and critics of all walks.

Mostly, this book has been targeted from the modernist perspective reading. Hemingway's attempts to draw out expatriate modernist theme in people's life. The theme of disillusionment is highly targeted by the writer while presenting the story. There is chaos, meaninglessness and pessimism in people's life which is the outcome of modernism. Hemingway presented himself as a successful writer to carry out picture of post war modernist society. Jean Paul Sartre, in a 1946 *Atlantic* article, remarked that the greatest literary development in France between 1929 and 1939 was the discovery of Faulkner, Dos Passos, Hemingway, Caldwell, and Steinbeck. The French novel which caused the greatest furor between 1940 and 1945, *The Stranger*, by Albert Camus, deliberately borrowed the technique of *The Sun Also Rises*. Following the war, Hemingway became a celebrity, his works transferred increasingly to film, his visits to New York appearing in gossip columns. He influenced younger writers as dissimilar as J. D. Salinger, Mickey Spillane, Saul Bellow, and Raymond Carver, although. Hemingway became successful to present the theme of modernism in the novel.

Hemingway became successful to lead his literary carrier with his writing in more modernistic way. He included the features of modernism in his almost all writing which represents the spiritual barrenness and ultimate disillusionment of people's life. "New York Times" states as 'an absorbing beautifully and tenderly absurd, heart breaking narrative. It is very truly gripping story, told in lean hard atheistic prose.'" Similarly New York World advocates "some of the finest and most restrained writing that this generation has produced". Similarly, Nancy Comley "Hemingway; the economics of survival" explores "the Hemingway hero's transformation of money into the structure of fiction" with special focus on "how this concern with money manifests itself in an economic structure of exchange values"

(244). Nancy looks at the artist's transformation of his notion of money into an artifact. To take a point in case, Jake treats women including Brett in monetary terms in *The Sun Also Rises*.

Hemingway presented the issues loneliness and isolation of modern people which keep them away from their own identity and lead them to skepticism and cultural estrangement, which ultimately disillusioned the people's identity and individuality. W. J. Stuckey writes, in 1952 when Philip Young, despite some reservations, asserted that *The Sun Also Rises* was Hemingway's *waste land* and that Jake Barnes was his Fisher King, he was articulating what has become a familiar- and in some quarters at least-an orthodox reading of this novel. Although there are variations in the reading and in the degree of enthusiasm with which it is accepted, it is widely held that *The Sun Also Rises* is a prose version of *The Waste Land*; its theme, the sterility of life in the modern world. Jake Barnes, Hemingway's version of Eliot's protagonist, is a representative victim of this world, and his famous wound, received in the Great War, is a symbol of the general impotence of the times. However, Critics have commented differently on the very issues of the novel *The Sun Also Rises*, it covers modernism, disillusionment and expatriate theme of contemporary American people. Lack of individual harmony cooperation and their superficial idea for worldly happiness are some of the strong reason behind their disillusionment in all aspect of love, life and religion.

This research paper deals with the theme of modernism in Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. The major argument is justified by the theory of disillusionment. Is Jake mentally satisfied through hard work, drinking and bullfight? How Jake Cohn and Brett become disillusioned in the foreign land? How the characters become expatriated and alienated in by moving in Paris? These are the major issues of this

research paper which depicts the picture of contemporary modern literature. The disillusioned theory is the major tools to justify the concept of modernism.

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 also socially isolated. Robert is battling social isolation, meaninglessness and 'normlessness'. All these characters are alienated due to problems with themselves, others or things that they have to control over. So expatriates never satisfied with isolation. Jake is deeply dissatisfied with hard work, drinking and bull fight because he is wounded physically as well as psychologically and, hence constantly disturbed by the memories of war. The war has made him an impotent and sexual cripple. Almost all the characters in novel became disillusioned, felt identity crisis and meaninglessness and getting expatriate identity in them.

A close observation on the features of modernism, used in *The Sun Also Rises* is the major focus of this research. However it does not go for its comprehensive analysis and examination. Disillusionment theory is taken as primary theoretical tool for the analysis of 1920s American modernism. Idea of Alienation, dissatisfaction and identity crisis is taken to justify the major argument. Some critics/theorist such as Michael Foucault, Jean Pael Sartre, Kirk Curnett, Killinger, and S. Anta and their theories are taken as tools to justify the major argument of this research study. Few major character of the novel such as Jacob Barnes, Lady Brett Ashley and Robert Cohn are in the major focused of this study however other characters plays minor roles while analyzing and interpreting the major argument of this research project.

Modernism and Disillusionment

Modernism is a social movement of the twentieth century that essentially rebelled against the social norms and standard of the Victorian age. The modernist movement redefined how society recognized itself by uniting the Victorian concept of “civilized” and “savage” into one unified whole. The Penguin Dictionary of literary terms and literary theory define modernism as “a movement which began in the closing years of the 19th century and which had a wide influence internationally during much of the 20th century. It reveals a breaking away from established rules, traditions and conventions, fresh ways of looking at man’s position and function in the universe and many experiments in form and style. It is particularly concerned with language and how to use it and with writing itself.” So modernism incorporates with newness regarding form, language and structure.

In general the term modernism encompasses the activities and output of those who felt the “traditional” forms of art, architecture, literature, religious faith, social organization and daily life were becoming outdated in the economic, social and political condition of an emerging fully industrialized world. The poet Ezra Pound’s 1934 injunction to “Make it New” was paradigmatic exhortation was articulated by philosopher and composer Theodor Adorno, who, in the 1940s, challenged conventional surface coherence and appearance of harmony typical of rationality of enlightenment thinking.

Modernism in art was characterized by an Avant-garde style, where the artist pushed the boundaries of perception and focus. Common method and technique of this style included fragmented writing and dialogue, experimental structure and ambiguous characters and morals. In Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*, the dialogue is not often necessarily distinguishable between his characters; he is experimenting with his literary technique. In addition, Hemingway’s text is written as fragmented

work. His sentence structure is short and halting (Chase's American Lit blog). An example of fragmentation is when Jake is explaining how women make great friends. "I thought I had paid for everything. Not like the women pays and pays and pays. No idea of retribution or punishment. Just exchange of values. You gave up something and got something else. Or you worked for something" (152). His use of broken and shortened sentences, both in the characters' speech and Jake's thoughts is present throughout the entire novel and identifies how Hemingway wants the reader to interpret the sentences and thoughts of the characters.

Another characteristic of modernism is the author's use of gaps or fissures in their writing, leaving things unknown to the reader (Jordan). Modernism's presence in Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* is detected through gaps at the very beginning when Jake and Cohn are crying on the conversation and Hemingway leaves out who is saying what (14). This type of writing continues throughout the novel, with characters speaking to each other while the speaker is often times not identified. Another instance of this gap in information is when Bill and Jake are talking and an older man in the bar starts talking to Jake (113). Hemingway makes it hard to follow conversation between the men, and it is difficult to understand who is saying what until he specifies the speaker.

Throughout the novel the Hemingway's characters live through the experiences of everyday life (Jordan), and is another characteristic of modernism that Hemingway applies to *The Sun Also Rises*. Jake is describing a scene, not unlike several others in the novel, in which they are at a café, eating and drinking during fiesta. "At noon we were all at the café. It was crowded. We were eating shrimps and drinking beer. The town was crowded every street was full" (209). This scene taking place seems to be the

every day of the characters in the novel and Hemingway is unflinching in the portrayal of the consistency of these characters' enjoyments.

Modernist literature depicts the idea of modern life, especially urban life and shows ambivalence towards it (Whitworth). In depicting modern life modernist literature appears to be addressing the fundamental problem of justification of art in the modern world. It is attempting to demonstrate that it is equal to the conditions around it and is not retreating into pastoral. This feature is also seen in *The Sun Also Rises* that almost all characters are from urban areas and they seem to enjoy drinking, partying, sex and other activities related to urban life. They have not any certainty about their activities; it shows the ambivalence towards their life.

It contrasts an orderly past with a chaotic present. This characteristic of modernism was articulated early in its critical history (Whitworth). Stephen Spender wrote in 1935 that writers after Henry James 'are all conscious of the present as chaotic and of the past as an altogether more solid ground' (Whitworth). The contrast emerges not only in direct depictions of the past, but also in allusions to its literature. In *The Sun Also Rises* there seems to be a clear picture of the chaotic present, that all the characters, migrated to another land for the more opportunity and happiness but they are facing chaos in their life. They moved to foreign land for the better opportunity but they are missing the integral part of their individual identity.

Modernist literature displays the idea of pessimism. People couldn't find order, peace and morality in modern society. Pessimistic feelings occurred in the mind of people when they fail to achieve what they had expected. Modern man's desire and expectations were innumerable. All the desire and expectations of modern men were broken by the end of the First World War. Warriors did not glory, honor and sacrifice in

the war front. They saw only the mass destruction of millions of soldiers. People become pessimistic and the sense of nothingness increased in their mind. They feel nothing in the world because they never get satisfaction in the post World War generation. Sartre, in his *Being and Nothingness* says:

My fear is free and manifests any freedom. I have put all my freedom into my fear, and I have chosen myself as fearful in this or that circumstances. Under other circumstances, I shall exist as deliberate and courageous, and I shall have put all my freedom into my courage. In relation to freedom, there is no privileged psyche phenomenon. "All my modes of being "manifest freedom equally since they are always of being my own nothingness" (445).

In *The Sun Also Rises* similar kind of pessimistic feelings we can find in all and all characters. They are not very proactive about upcoming future activities of their own rather visualizing their future as pessimism. For example: Jake says to Robert Cohn "Listen, Robert, going to another country doesn't make any difference. I've tried all that. You can't get away from yourself by moving from one place to another. There is nothing to that" (10). Similar kind of pessimism represented by Robert Cohn as "I can't stand it to think my life is going so fast and I'm not really living it" (9). Jake is a war wound, and he always suffers by the terrible scene of war and always interprets the life in pessimistic way. In so many conversation of novel we can find many expressions representing pessimism and sense of losing hope. Idea of moving into another country also seen as pessimistic vision it does not provide ultimate satisfaction to Cohn and Jake so Jake tries to convince Cohn to leave the dream of moving here and there saying is only worthless idea and it doesn't provide any benefit and solace to the mind of them.

Another feature of modernist literature is it experiments with time, implying a larger philosophy in which time is non-linear (Whitworth). This is true not only of narrative works, but also of poetry. It has been argued that modernist literature possesses 'spatial form': that is, we are forced to read it as if every part of the text were simultaneously present, even when, with texts as long as *Ulysses* or *The Cantos*, the feat is impossible to achieve on a single reading. Similar kind of reading is needed to understand the whole plot of the novel *The Sun Also Rises*, in this basis it represents the writing as a outcome of modernist movement of contemporary time.

A contrast between the individual and the 'herd' or mass 'mass' is commonly a feature of modernist literature; another version is contrast between the elite and the masses. John Carey's *The Intellectuals and the Masses* (1992) provides the most extensive account of these structures, though, being polemical in intent, it gives little consideration to counter-arguments, and is sometimes reductive. Carey argues that the difficulty of modernist literature came about because modernist writers wished to exclude mass audiences (Whitworth). Similarly in *The Sun Also Rises* Hemingway emphasizes on the contrast between the individual and mass. Hemingway focuses on the individual and elite person of the society avoiding mass. For example he focuses on the Character such as Jake, Cohn and Lady Brett Ashley, who are from elite class and not representing common people of the society. He is highlighting the story of highly elite and modern people.

Disillusionment is another feature of modernism. It is a feeling of disappointment of getting something which is beyond the expectation. After the World War I people have been lost in disillusionment, uncertainty and aimlessness since the disastrous war has made people to the world they live in can no longer support their ideas of love, life, happiness and contentment. And it created a lost

generation who has the idea that post-war world is absolutely is not in their favor and lacks stability to settle down. Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* gives the clear psychological description of postwar world with Jake Barnes, main Character, and Robert Cohn, the antagonist, Mike Campbell, Bill Gorton, Brett Ashley, main characters and Pedro Romero with their ups and downs.

In *The Sun Also Rises*, Jake Barnes has been portrayed as “the other” of the post world war I disillusionment. He was a wounded man not only physically but also psychologically bruised. He is living in Paris with the group of American expatriates, the wound that sets him apart from all other men, that constitutes him an individual. The society is hostile “injustice everywhere” (63). Even his own lover Brett Ashley and friends are indifferent to him. In the society he is made fool. For example, He is a fool, Georgette said “oh it was a joke”, and then Mrs. Braddock's said: “yes, said Georgette.” To laugh at did you hear that, Henry Mrs. Braddock's called down the table Braddock's “Mr. Barnes is deduced his finance as Mademoiselle Leblanc and her name in actual is Hobin” (25). This shows the Jake Barnes disillusionment of life interpreted by Georgette. It is also represents the domination over male identity by the female character.

Disillusionment does not merely occur in only novels; every single individual to walk the earth will experience mental displeasure at some point within their lives. Nevertheless many choose to let unfortunate events circle within their souls and become encrypted into their memory. Once this happen, the role of aimlessness takes its course, adverse fate reigns, and the feeling of disenchantment dwells in the mind. Hemingway's novel *The Sun Also Rises*, grasps this very subject in a subliminal way. On the same subject, Curnutt states that those who were involved in lost generation movement or trend are called ‘expatriate’, who abandoned his or her country because

of not being satisfied and content with the social life and its codes of country that s/he lives in.

Curnutt also says that 'expatriation provided Hemingway a powerful metaphor for exploring the challenges of surviving the modern, postwar world' (Curnutt). Therefore specially Jake, Cohn and Brett are deeply disillusioned and became expatriate, who never satisfied with their social norms and values. Because of the trauma created by war they are in search of new identity they are wandering about, drinking, partying and make love can be related to Hemingway's personal life too. His protagonist Jake Barnes has certainly experienced prodigious pain, but according to Hemingway, he must heal himself fully in order for the pain he endured to be worth it whatsoever. Through its contrasting concepts and façade of leading a fulfilled life, *The Sun Also Rises* suggests that indeed, life is a rigorous battle, and in order to understand the world in a very much reflective way, one must deceived them and trust their transcendent illusions; nonetheless as Hemingway presents in his novel; one must also be subject to a despondent realization of their misapprehensions; one must learn from this pain, and heal in order to survive.

World War I, not only changed the Europe destroying emperors and governments, it also changed the meaning of honor, courage, and created a lost generation, which means disillusioned, hopeless and not satisfied mass of people. The generation is also did not follow the Victorian gender roles. As Anita S states in 'Representation of women in the work of P.G. Wodehouse', during the Victorian period gender roles were separated clearly as if by boundaries. It was obvious to see a domestic woman in the house who was 'angel in the house, angelic in patience and self-effacement' (55). However, after the World War I the mobility of gender roles found in social and business life. To illustrate Brett did not follow the traditional

gender role as in Victorian period; she is self-confident and able to break traditional feminine role that's why she is performing masculine freedom. However Jake is unable to perform his masculine role physically and occupationally rather he is more introvert, confused, tortured and feminine. So he is deeply disillusioned regarding gender roles and in professional life too.

Michel Foucault states in his book *The History of Sexuality* that the industrial revolution, religion and the society formed "a transformation of sex into discourse not governed by the endeavor to expel from reality the forms of sexuality that were not amiable to the strict economy of the reproduction." He also mentions that society planned to "banish casual pleasures, to reduce or exclude practices whose object was not procreation" (892). That can be elaborate with the relation between Jake and Brett. They both love each other emotionally but not sexually as Jake is victim of WWI and he takes it as he is serious handicap and feels sorry for himself. He express as follows:

But I couldn't sleep. There is no reason why because it is dark you should the things differently from when it is light. To hell there isn't! I figured that all out once, and for sex months I never slept with the electric light off. That was another bright idea. To hell with women, anyway to hell with you, Brett Ashley. (128)

Here Jake tries to perform his masculine gender roles in various ways to cope with his damage sense of himself as sexual being but he cannot. That's why Brett and Jake have identity confusion and dilemmas about their gender roles which compelled them to search other means of entrainment which actually has no results. So their gender identity became disillusioned and unable to perform their roles as society

expected. In the context of post World War time there is no peace in society; people are intellectually and spiritually disillusioned. Most of the inhabitants lead a life of sensation only, usually mistake sexual desire for love, devoting themselves to excitement rather than positive achievements. Jake says “One of them saw Georgette and said I do declare, there is an actual harlot. I’m going to dance with her, let you watch me. The society has made him angry I was very angry. Somehow they always make me angry”(17). It seems that the individual and society or the system part always. Jake realizes that the society is hostile or indifferent to him. He wants to rebel with the society, for that, he has to move alone and choose his own life. He says: I know they are supposed to be amusing and you should be tolerant, but I wanted to swing on one, any one, anything to shatter the superior, simpering composure. Instead, I would down the street and had a beer at the bar at the next Bal when I came back to the Bal there was a crowd on the floor (17). So Jake is suffer by the social system and feels society is not in his favor rather it provides suffering.

Majority of the characters are young American and British citizens living in Paris. Most of them fight bravely for their country but in peace time they are neglected. Others in the world are simply expatriates. They have some sort of feeling that is sense of loss. They want to annihilate their obsession but it is impossible. To escape from their problems they get involved in drug addicts and alcoholism to avoid their disgusted feeling which is also not a long term solution. We can learn more about their intention through their debate to each other. They are too cautious about their own situations and close up their situation. Their debate and complaining manner to each other also enable us to understand something easily. Even in their emotional speech, they portray their condition and psychological anxiety. At the same

time, Bill thoroughly explains the Jake's condition but it is symbolically the plight of the all people in the post World War First era. As Bill says to Jake:

You know what you are? You are an expatriate. Why don't you live in New York? Then you would know these things. You have lost touch with the soil. You get precious. Fake European standard have ruined you. You drink yourself to death. You become obsessed by sex. You spend all your time talking, not working. One group claims women support you. Another group claims you are impotent. (115)

It shows the disillusioned their identity in the foreign land. They all became expatriated and lack their individual identity in another's country but never get satisfied the things they have found in foreign land. They are wasting their precious time in drinking, talking and other type of ridiculous activities which doesn't give any meaning to their life. Choosing life in another country brings the expatriate identity, they neither enjoy in foreign country nor do they forget their own country and own religious cultural values.

Jake and Robert Cohn are two friends. Cohn is romantic hero. But Jake is against the contemporary romantic values. There is a conflict between them. He has an endless effort to defend him while he has been badly hit by Cohn as he is not a member of the society. I swung at him and he ducked. I saw his face duck sideways in the light. He hit me and I sat down in the pavement. As I started to get my feet he hit me twice, I went down backward under a table, I tried to get up and felt I didn't have any legs, I felt I must get on my feet and try hit him(168). Jake in the same position as the wounded steer in fiesta, "The steer was down now, his neck stretched out, his head twisted, he lay the way he had fallen"(144). The concluding isolation of the wounded

steer is also figured in Jake's solitude at San Sebastian like the steer. Jake does "not attempt to join the herd" in Paris.

Bull fighting scene is important in the novel. Jake vividly explains the rules and the fighting of bulls. Brett and Jake observe the bullfighting together until her departure with Romero. It is an interaction between Romero's action and Jake's passion. He introduces himself as an aficionado in bull fighting who has got victory over dangerous animal bulls and winner of match. Now Romero's successful and courageous bull fighting reminds his past. He expresses:

It was a very good bullfight Bill and I were very excited about Pedro Romero (...) After Romero has killed his first bull Montoya caught my eye and nodded his head. This was real one. There had not been a real one for a long time [...] we had that disturbed emotional feeling that always comes after the bullfight and feeling of elation that comes after a good bullfight. (164)

Although, it gives him pain and headache. His praises of bull fighting is also seeking his lost form of manhood which is causes of his obsession. In the same scene, Jake has another kind of pain through the elopement of Brett with Romero. It is also parallel to his loss and injury in the war. Cohn's relationship with his wife Frances also ended when he openly decides to go away to San Sebastian with Brett where they have a closeness and each other but it is not long lasting. It totally collapses when she chooses Romero and he is beaten by Romero and defeated. But still he wants and praises Brett which is cause and jealousy to Jake. This same relationship is the causes of the crisis between Jake and Cohn. Then he starts to hate Cohn. Almost all the characters reflected the sense of disillusionment, disillusionment regarding gender

roles, religion and individual identity. They are in search of these things in their life and trying to be happy in their own way.

Alienation, Dissatisfaction and identity Crisis

In *The Sun Also Rises*, characters are lonely or alienated. Bill says “we are the foreigners.” The cause of loneliness is the direct consequence of the war. Jake says “It was in reality of calamity for civilization” (14). Jake emasculated by a war wound, is very lonely, but he tries to stand in different relationship with his loneliness. He says “it is important to discover graceful exist” (9). He cannot establish normal relationship with Brett, which is his main cause of loneliness. He says, “We were sitting now like two” (24). Jake endures the loneliness of his condition by subjecting himself, no self pity in Jake’s appraisal of his own life. He says, he rather enjoyed, he went often to the races, dines with friends and put in some extra time at the office.

Hemingway’s world is the world of war, which brought violence and horror in the mind of the readers. Death and violence play an important role in his work. Jan Killinger writes, “The most obvious recurrent motive in all of Hemingway’s work has been the subject of death or violence” (17). For Hemingway, adventurous living is necessary to make life meaningful. Generally, Hemingway’s heroes are adventurous. Jake is a casualty of war because of his fighting in Italy during the war. His own private tragedy is war wound which has emasculated him. He comes to Paris and start new life. But, the wound has traumatically separated him from all other people. The war has caused him to isolate from the humanity. In order not to think too much about himself, Jake spends a lot of time listening to trouble of his friends and drinking heavily.

He wants to search new meaning to replace old one. His sexual wound, the result of unpreventable accident in the war, points to another direction, when accidents can always happen and Jake is equally powerless to prevent them. When he takes dinner at Pamplona, suddenly his mind diverts to the past. "It was like a certain dinner I remember from the war. There was much wine, and ignored tension, and a feeling of thing coming that you could not prevent happening" (121). So he always feels alienation and lost in the memory of war which provides sense of loss and alienation to his mind.

Like all other Hemingway's characters, Brett, too, suffers from sense of alienation. But like all other typical Hemingway's characters, Brett does not have the insight or intelligence to detect the truth behind the existing facts of social conventions, morality and religion. She takes leave from the institutionalized religion and traditional conception of God; she would hang tortuously in a vast void of nothingness with no hope of support, succor or rescue from any source, however unreal and imaginary. Brett's understanding of Mike Campbell is equally accurate. Although she does not have for him the deep liking and regard she has for Jake, she chooses him for marriage because he does not mind her affairs with other man which is a way of overcoming her alienation and finding. Fulfillment through sex as she herself asserts: "He's my sort of thing". Brett's alienation and her subsequent nymphomania is the direct result of her shattering experiences of war where she not only lost her true love, which developed an acute sense of alienation.

Cohn's failure of marriage also leads him to the sense of alienation. He tries to overcome his alienation by indulging himself in fiction writing. Due to this sense of isolation, an inferiority complex and a sense of insecurity is developed in him. He tries to find out comfort in boxing. As a result of this, Cohn has been a failure on all

fronts, yet he has been successful in getting a publisher for his first novel. The reason behind his success in literature or in writing is his alienation which he can express in a very realistic way because he is also a victim of it.

Hemingway addresses how WWI created dissatisfaction and identity crisis and identity confusion in his novel *The Sun Also Rises* using his dynamic character such as Jake Barnes, Robert Cohn and Lady Brett Ashley. The book, in addition to that, raises some significant question about people's dissatisfaction and identity confusion in the readers mind. The novel firstly is the reflection of Hemingway's belonging to the lost generation, and secondly, his exiles or expatriates who aimlessly wonder about drinking, making love and travelling from place to place and party to party in *The Sun Also Rises*.

In spite of the fact that these expatriates seem to try to explore the meaning of their lives with these actions, Gertrude Stein names them as a 'lost generation' on the other hand, Some critics says *The Sun Also Rises* 'that the book is an exemplary model of a marriage between modernism and lost generation' which also means to say that social and moral corruption after the WWI and super fast developing modernism lead people to be lost. Development always has not positive aspect it is sometimes harmful for the society which brought negative impact to the upcoming generation. Similarly in *The Sun Also Rises* modernism fragmented the public relation and their relation to society and leads to loneliness.

Especially Jake, Cohn and Brett are the 'expatriates' in the book who are never satisfied and content with themselves and their society. Traumatized because of the WWI, Jake, Brett and Cohn are desperately disillusioned and in search of new ideals to stick to, that's the reason behind the people's worthless wandering.

Hemingway autobiographically presented the issues of marriage, and having sex with several girls, and the postwar situation of the contemporary time which resulted in the wounds and deaths of thousands of people and made these people rethink and reconsider the ideals or codes of the society. Hemingway captures atmosphere by visualizing the picture of postwar era with the activity of his characters, moving another place for money and comfortable living standard. Aimless wandering never provides satisfaction in their life and concludes them as expatriate being.

However, when analyzed in detail, it is not difficult to understand that Hemingway's and his exiles or expatriates' lives can mainly be related to the WWI which led to all this confusion and dissatisfaction. He directly states this idleness and lack of control in the book *The Sun Also Rises*. "You are an expatriate. You've lost touch with the soil. You get precious. Fake European standard have ruined you. You drink yourself to death. You become obsessed with sex. You spend all your time talking, not working. You are an expatriate, see? You hang around cafes" (60). So the life of all the characters in this novel highly represented as insignificant being, who does not have their control over their own life. In this way all and all characters became dissatisfied and feeling the crisis of their identity in the foreign land.

Disillusionment in *The Sun Also Rises*

Disillusionment and the search for the meaning of life is the central theme in the novel *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway. The main characters are members of the lost generation, a group of American expatriates living abroad, making art and trying to find meaning in life. Each character has their own way of doing that: Jake obsesses about money, for instance, and tries to distract himself from his impotence. In Jake's disillusionment, however, there is the faith hope for rebirth or

transformations. This novel is written in the background of war, so some harsh effects of the war upon the characters are overtly presented. Hemingway gives emphasis on characters individual freedom, having right to choose their way of life as they want. They seek their meaning according to their choices in life as they want. Like Jake, an individual, disillusioned in the post war era, tries to find out his meaning through alienation and relationship with Brett. Brett also uses her freedom of choice through her rationality.

Almost all characters in the novel become disillusioned in different way. They move to Paris in order to search for comfortable life, individual identity, money and the freedom on life. While getting these things they lost their faith in religion morality and value of humanity. All the things are in decreasing order and became disillusion in the foreign land. Beyond all the expectation they get lost into the things of trajectory pleasure and started live their life superficially. This superficial happiness provides them the same kind of superficial satisfaction in life.

All the characters in this novel view death as the end of all activity, so they must seek their reward now. They devote themselves to physical pleasures and the reward of this life, which goes along with the idea of modernism. Modernism represents an “immense panorama of futility and anarchy” people contribute to this valuing their own desires over humanity. All the characters represent lost generation because they are lost while trying to combat death courageously, instead of focusing on living. It seems that characters are suffered by the concept of nothingness, so believes that once they dies, they will experience nothing, they are just preparing themselves for death instead of living their life. All the characters become lustful and became expatriate to represent the age of modernism.

The Sun Also Rises presented the picture of War and destruction because this is the time after World War I. The effect of war can be seen in the characters of *The Sun Also Rises*, for example in Jake and in other characters the effect of war became the reason for the disability or impotence in them. Similarly destruction and the harmful effect of wartime is also reason behind the disillusionment in the characters of this novel. This is the time of technological development all around the globe, and development of technology separated people from the social relationship, love and harmony between them. Similarly people started to move in different place in search of employment and opportunity which is also helpful for distracts and disillusioned life.

War, destruction unemployment and technology all lead to disillusionment and fragments the dream and desire of modern people as presented in all the characters of *The Sun Also Rises*. People become scattered all over the world in search of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness at the same time a group of expatriate move to Paris and doing hardship to fulfill the desire of their life but forgetting their own value of religion, nationality and individual identity and performing the superficial busy life and getting involve in the activities of transitory pleasure which replicate to the superficial happiness on them. By lacking their own country of origin and socio-cultural values they are suffering from alienation, isolation and disillusionment. This is resulted into a significant outcome of modernism.

This thesis studies “Modernism in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*” portrays the issues of contemporary American and British citizen, moved to Paris and Spain and this is the best example of modernism which represents the issues of disillusionment of people after the World War I. Hemingway presented the story in first person point of view from the Jake’s eyes, who is war wound and reminiscence

of war make him hopeless in the present condition and he narrates all the story from his perspectives of pessimistic idea. While narrating story Jake seeks the condition from the darker side and memorized his impotency as a trauma. This is the main reason behind his disillusionment. Similarly Brett, Cohn, Bill, Mike and almost all character wandering aimlessly having nothing positive outcome in their life. Brett is able to challenge the traditional gender role and social taboo for women as submissive being and acts as superior male but it is also not providing herself core level of satisfaction, developing relationship with so many male characters she didn't find intimate relation and satisfaction as she expected it shows the suffering regarding life, love and happiness.

Hemingway portrayed the core value of society with the experience of his characters and their daily life activities. It reveals the truth that society is hostile and indifferent to the individual and if someone wants to fit in society he need to scarifies his individual choices; it means social systems are major causes behind the disillusionment. Except social system war, destruction and development of technology leads people to disillusionment. Development of technology, war and destruction all leads to disillusionment, which is a strong feature of modernism. So the novel *The sun Also Rises* is a brilliant work of Hemingway which reflects the issues of modernism.

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