Irony Versus Pity in Hemingway’s Novel “THE SUN ALSO RISES”

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ANNOTATION
In the given article irony has been analyzed in Hemingway’s novel “The Sun Also Rises”. Ernest Hemingway is a masterpiece about human emotions. Irony and pity, particularly those directed against war and inhumanity, make up a significant portion of these emotions. These two human emotions serve as Hemingway's vehicle for articulating his views on war.

Irony is always the main element of tragedy. Therefore, in Lear, Shakespeare speaks the most terrible through the mouth of a jester, therefore an even greater poet, our Lord God, poured a good portion of the funny into all the terrible scenes of this life.

KEYWORDS: abnormal, novel, irony, ironical mask, sense of alienation

Introduction. Ernest Hemingway wrote a great book called The Sun Also Rises. This post-war piece accurately captured the situation and the condition of society after the war, including the uncertainty and inconsistent nature of daily living. The characters, particularly Jake Barnes and Brett Ashley, captured the feeling of rootlessness that pervaded life at the time.

The reader has demonstrated how this book reflects the post-war era by demonstrating how all the characters are floating and disrespectful of one another, which is actually the way to look for roots. It would be a mistake to expect them because of how frantic their behavior becomes in this book, even during the war; people exist in such abnormal circumstances. People live in such abnormal circumstances that it would be a mistake to expect them to behave normally; the constant fear of death and exposure to horror make them in a heartless way. This is because their activity in this book becomes almost frantic, actually during the war.

The narrator in this story is brutal, cold, and controlled with an undercurrent of sarcasm. He demonstrates the senselessness of much of the fighting that occurred during the Great War by confirming that, ironically, the situation before and after the war was identical. The only difference was that a lot of people died, which made it both horrifying and futile. However, at the same time, another example of human emotion that parallels and creeps side by side to these ironical positions is the sense of loss there are clear distinctions between irony and
pity in many literary works, and that each power has a specific presence and an aura that influences how its owners behave. In light of this distinction, the title of irony and pity is created and obviously intended for all of the characters.

**Main part.** Actually, one of literature’s biggest contributions is to reveal the innermost mysteries of the human heart and to perform an X-ray on the subject of the heart.

The irony in this study is not a one-sided emotion contained within a bear, but rather a state in which a bear can simultaneously hold both whiteness and blackness. The story uses a lot of examples in an ironic manner to show the reader the unbelievable catastrophes that came about as a result of this dirty war. Hemingway’s approach to writing novels is to instill a sense of despondency and dependence in which everything that is genuine and true in human nature is destroyed and the animal in man emerges, ready to devour everything that is good and noble in human nature.

The conclusion is that a brutal impression of fight and horror of waste and disorder emerges in Hemingway’s novel due to the intensity of his characters’ forces and his avoidance of emotion symbols and overly suggestive rhetoric. Ironically, as a reader, you experience the horror of this war at the same time that another level of emotional attachment to these people and their circumstances has been sparked. If we can use this expression to define the word pity in this context, it has been defined as a really good emotional feeling that has been emerged toward the characters and their situations as a result of the brutal, violent, cruel atmosphere that these characters pass across through it.

This study will demonstrate the existence of two emotions—irony and pity—that appear to be mutually exclusive but are actually two sides of the same coin that accurately capture human suffering. The study will look at complex notions of human suffering that are concealed behind the ironic masks that these characters used to express their tragedies during the Great War. The reader is taken on a paradoxical journey to explore various cultural or religious customs that forbid people from doing, using, or talking about a certain thing because they find it offensive. However, beneath this ironic mask, you will find another mask. This time, however, it is a genuine mask of pity that the character actually had been possessed, which actually came exactly parallel with the ironical mask.

Jake is able to conceal his suffering and come to terms with it through his ironic stance, as is evident when he tells Robert Cohen that “Nobody lives their life except bull-fighting,” according to Edward J. Ahearn. (P. 10). Hemingway has used the bull fights as a means of dramatizing the values he admired, namely courage, endurance, dignity, and skill. Like hunting boxing, and fishing, the bullfight has certain fixed rules and furthermore, the individuals have to rely entirely on his inn. It is a reference to Jake Barnes himself, our hero in the novel, who loses his masculinity during war. His serious injury costs him the loss of his beloved lady Ashley. While Hemingway withholds the precise nature of the wound, Jake serves as a vivid representation of the shell-shocked soldier who is both physically and psychologically wounded.

Jake insinuates his sexual orientation, leaving him impotent. This difficult situation undoubtedly affects his soul in many terrible ways, causing a breakdown in his friendships, making him feel as though he has lost his identity, turning him into an aimless individual with false values, and giving him a profound misunderstanding of his new environment. But he insists on applying the bullfight’s morals and virtues to
himself in order to keep his weapons, and this is a crucial creative element that helps him get the better of his opponent. He also improves and resists the material and the new historical facts, which ultimately helps him achieve a certain level of inner freedom.

According to David Daiches, “the war and the bullfighting combined with the lingering remnants of the frontier situation in America and gave him confidence in his view of things.” Jake Barnes apparently tries to demonstrate that he is capable of overcoming any obstacles that he encounters; he possesses the courage, endurance, skill, and many other qualities that Hemingway tries to attach to his hero; Hemingway’s protagonist who, in spite of his difficult circumstances and those around him, exhibits incredible willpower by refusing to give up; he gives himself extraordinary efforts to prove himself, and these extraordinary efforts help him to succeed. The protagonist in this story by Hemingway demonstrates remarkable fortitude and bravery. But despite his best efforts, he has been unable to find any sort of relief from the profound sadness he has experienced in life, and this is evident in his speech:

“Comfortably that’s a nice word, we have to go like hell to get there and back and have any fishing at all” (P.89) The irony in Hemingway’s protagonist’s use of the word “comfort” is that after the futile conflict he and his friends fought in, they were left with no “comfort” in contemporary life.

He resembles this arduous journey to Burgottes, just like their going to the war and coming back to their homes without getting any fish. It is similar to the war that they participate in, going to this hell war and coming back to their homes without any kind of benefit. Another reason we feel sorry for our hero is that after his involvement in this war, he discovers that the world they live in is not the world they were in, and the place he has returned to is no longer a “home”.

Irony is at once a strategy of containment and a rejection of idealism, according to Marc C. Baldwin in his work Reading “The Sun Also Rises” Hemingway’s Political Unconscious. Jake Barnes, the main character in Hemingway’s novel, travels to a variety of locations, starting with Paris, Pamplona, and then Burgette. He meets a variety of people while searching for a perfect new home where he can find salvation and escape this life of emptiness, but his efforts are in vain as he comes to the realization that all locations share the same uncertainty and inconsistent nature of life. He attempts to control his aimless existence while also rejecting all idealism in this world. Hemingway connects the idea of the expatriate with the idea of the war by demonstrating how one is the corollary of the others, because this wounded disillusioned protagonist feels completely alienated from home and from society as well. This makes Hemingway’s novel The Sun Also Rises a powerful irony in the dislocation of the expatriate community. This sense of alienation is made worse by an acute insomnia symptom, which causes an increasing consciousness of life’s pointlessness and futility. Listen, Robert, I’ve tried everything; moving to a different nation makes no difference, said Jake Barnes. You are unable to move from one location to another. There is no substance to that.[p.11]

You feel pity for these individuals who suffer from the alienation of both the place and the identity because Americans living abroad symbolize the shown post-war generation without a home or family. The characters in Hemingway’s book make you feel as though there is no hope for idealism in this world because they reject idealistic attitudes and behaviors and reject the idea of perfect standards. The natural outcome of this abnormal circumstance is their sense of alienation and isolation from contemporary society. But since Jake must
endure this contemporary social hell, he makes extraordinary efforts to find salvation for his soul by visiting Spain with its traditional values. He also makes an effort to restore his faith in humanity and in himself by combining male companion sports and scenic picnics to foster a sense of self-respect. In this environment, Jake can create a personal code of honor based on honesty and self-respect.

When Jake Barnes thought about his serious injury in the war that cost him the loss of his beloved, Hemingway’s hero Jake Barnes, tried to cover a sense of irony concerning his deep injury in the war, he prefers to talk about it as something merriment, a source of happiness or a source of enjoyment in order to break down his tens. This incident confirms the idea of irony as a way to contain the incident, as well as to reject any form of idealism. He conveys this sarcasm in his internal dialogue:

“...I was pretty well through with the subject. At one time or another I had probably considered it from the most of its various angles, including the one that certain injuries or imperfections are subject of merriment while remaining quite serious for the persons possessing them.”

Another circumstance that reinforces our empathy for our protagonist is Jake’s contemplation of the following: I only wanted to know how to live there; maybe if you learned how to live there, you learned what it was all about.

Hemingway paints a painful picture for Jake Barnes, the war-weary protagonist of The Sun Also Rises, in a typical inner monologue in which he feels lost throughout his meaningless life. Hemingway portrays a painful picture for Jake Barnes, who painfully realizes the terrible agony of life passes through endless nights without sleep but lacks sufficient insight and reason to see through the puzzling issues of life in a proper perspective. When Lady Ashley falls into men’s arms right under his nose, he is confused and acting like an important weakling because he has been acting like that all along.

Jake makes us feel sorry for him because we can’t really call him a man because he doesn’t seem to have much self-confidence. He doesn’t seem to be able to solve his problems or even figure out how to get past the obstacles in his way; he wimpers in pain and is helpless; However, he does not attempt to escape it or rationalize the circumstance to alleviate his suffering.

“Jake Barnes represents the best of the lost generation, the best that is lost,” Sheridan Baker says. “He tries to conceal his suffering himself with his new condition.” At this point, we may see how Hemingway wrote this novel, portraying his own secret within it.

The thought is that following Americas’ entrance into the Main World War Hemingway attempted to enroll in the US Armed force. Despite his enthusiasm, he failed the physical examination due to poor vision. Be that as it may his energetic soul encouraged him to join with the Red Cross as an emergency vehicle driver. After a brief period, he moved to the town of Schio, where he worked delivering cigarettes and chocolates to soldiers at the front. While there, Hemingway was seriously injured by an Austrian motor shell fragment, and he spent some time recovering at a Milan hospital. Hemingway fell in love with a nurse from Washington named Agnes Vouk Kurowsky there. Despite being six years older than him, she turned down his proposal to marry her and got engaged to an Italian officer. Another perspective is that Ernest Hemingway detested his mother, as stated by Major General Charles T. Laham of his friend Ernest Hemingway:
From my earliest days with Ernest Hemingway, he always referred to his mother as “that bitch”, he must have told me a thousand of times how he hated her and in how much he hated her and in how much he hated her and in how many ways.”

Conclusion. We already know from the previous speech that Hemingway detested his mother and always portrayed her as a controlling woman who tried to control others without taking into account what they thought or felt. Indeed, the real-life people in Hemingway’s life are like the character Brett Ashley, who rejects Jake because of his serious war injury, which caused him to be unable to conceive and ignored his other characteristics as a man. Which we have a feeling of sympathy towards both Jake Barnes and his maker Ernest Hemingway who imparts to his hero similar sufferings in his day to day existence.

If we pay attention to Hemingway’s childhood and the relationships he had with his mother and his first love, Agnes, we will come to the conclusion that they are similar to Brett Ashley’s character. Ashley rejected Jake because he had been seriously injured in the war; in fact, she rejected him because he was infertile, ignoring and neglecting his other qualities as a man. As a result, we feel sorry for both Jake and Ernest Hemingway, who may have been going through the same.

References:


