

ABSTRACT

The thesis sets out from two phenomena in Hemingway and his works, i.e., the conspicuousness of subjects of violence in his works and the fact that his own life is full of violent experiences. As these phenomena are viewed from the assumption that a literary work is essentially a cathartic outcome of a writer's obsessive experience, a question of what ideas of violence there might be in Hemingway's works rises. This thesis is to answer the question.

The answer for the question is to be found in the novels A Farewell to Arms, The Sun Also Rises, and For Whom the Bell Tolls because in them the subjects of violence are salient. The search for the ideas or themes of violence in the three novels is conducted by studying the attitudes of the heroes toward violence.

From A Farewell to Arms is found out the idea that "escape from violence is actually futile", from The Sun Also Rises is obtained the theme that "violence is, after all, needed in life", while from For Whom the Bell Tolls is found out the theme that "violence is to be accepted as a fact of life".

The three themes of the three novels are causally related that they are discernible as a unity of notions and thus can be read as "escape from violence is actually futile because violence is, after all, needed in life, so it is to be accepted as a fact of life". The close relationship of the three themes coincides with the assumption which maintains that along some works of a writer stretches a thread that relates them to each other. Further, the assumption that the thread which relates the works to each other essentially makes up the writer's vision, brings to the conclusion that the three themes are none other than Hemingway's vision on the relationship between man and violence.

Viewed from the process of bringing the ideas into the mind, the three themes show stages of developing ideas and this is to be explained by the assumption that a writer is essentially always eager to make perfection to the theme of his present work.