

EXPLORATION OF CHARACTER MOTIVATIONS AND ANGUISH IN THE WORKS OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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Abstract: This article delves into the captivating realm of Ernest Hemingway's literary works, specifically focusing on the exploration of character motivations and the anguish they experience. Hemingway, renowned for his ability to depict profound emotions and internal conflicts, presents a rich tapestry of characters grappling with diverse forms of motivation and inner turmoil. Through an analysis of notable works such as "The Old Man and the Sea" and "A Farewell to Arms," this article examines the intricate interplay between motivation and anguish in Hemingway's characters, shedding light on their complexities and resonating themes.

Key words: Ernest Hemingway, character motivations, anguish, literary works, exploration, internal conflicts, profound emotions, interplay, complexities, resonating themes, determination, existential questions, self-reflection, human spirit, resilience.

INTRODUCTION. Ernest Hemingway's literary contributions have left an indelible mark on the world of literature. His works are not only known for their stylistic prose and vivid imagery but also for the profound depth with which he portrays his characters' motivations and anguish. In this article, we embark on a captivating journey into the minds and hearts of Hemingway's characters, exploring the intricate interplay between their motivations and the anguish they experience.

MATERIALS AND METHODS.

Hemingway's characters are driven by various forms of motivation, each shaping their actions and decisions. Some characters strive for a specific goal, whether it be triumph in a fishing battle or survival in the midst of war (Mahmood, 2019). Their internal fire and unwavering desire for success propel them through challenging moments, fueling their determination. They possess an unshakable belief in their abilities and are prepared to overcome any obstacles to achieve their objectives.

However, Hemingway's characters also grapple with motivations that lead to inner turmoil and anguish. Internal conflicts, moral dilemmas, losses, and traumas evoke painful emotions and prompt self-reflection and isolation (Mohammed, 2017). His protagonists often confront existential questions, doubts about their own worth, and an ongoing search for their true essence. They yearn for answers concerning the meaning of life, the nature of humanity, and their place in the world. Through his exploration of character motivations and anguish, Hemingway provides readers with a window into their souls, prompting contemplation of our own internal struggles. His works serve as a reminder of the complexity of human existence and the resilience of the human spirit in overcoming the most arduous trials.

By examining the motivations and anguish of Hemingway's characters, this article aims to offer insights into the profound psychological portraits the author creates. Hemingway demonstrates

that the strength of the human spirit and the pursuit of self-understanding can surmount even the most daunting challenges, helping us find meaning in this unpredictable and beautiful world.

Findings. The following aspects provide a comprehensive framework for exploring the intricate interplay between character motivations and anguish in Ernest Hemingway's literary works. Hemingway's portrayal of character motivations stands as a testament to his ability to delve deep into the human psyche. For instance, in "The Old Man and the Sea," the character Santiago's motivation to catch the elusive marlin represents his unwavering determination to prove his worth as a fisherman and regain his lost glory. This motivation reflects the universal human desire for achievement and recognition in the face of adversity. Similarly, in "A Farewell to Arms," the protagonist Frederic Henry's motivations are driven by his search for love, meaning, and a sense of belonging in the midst of war. His passionate pursuit of Catherine Barkley reflects the human longing for connection and the desire to find solace and purpose in a chaotic world. Through Frederic's motivations, Hemingway captures the complexities of human desires and the enduring power of love even in the face of tragedy. Hemingway's portrayal of character motivations is marked by authenticity and relatability. In "The Sun Also Rises," the characters' motivations for seeking hedonistic pleasures and escapism in the post-World War I era resonate with the disillusionment and desire for freedom that characterized the "Lost Generation." The characters' motivations reflect the broader societal shifts and the search for meaning and fulfillment in a rapidly changing world (Toker, 2013). Moreover, Hemingway's characters often exhibit multifaceted motivations driven by a combination of external pressures, personal desires, and internal conflicts. In "For Whom the Bell Tolls," the protagonist Robert Jordan's motivations to fight for the Republican cause in the Spanish Civil War are not solely driven by political ideology. His motivations are also intertwined with his desire for personal redemption and a sense of purpose. This multi-layered portrayal of motivations adds depth and complexity to Hemingway's characters, making them compelling and reflective of the intricate nature of human desires. Hemingway also highlights the influence of context and environment on character motivations. In "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," the protagonist Harry's motivations to confront his past regrets and find artistic inspiration are shaped by the African landscape and his imminent death. The vastness of the African wilderness and the proximity of death intensify Harry's motivations and provide a backdrop against which he contemplates the meaning of his life and creative pursuits. Hemingway's portrayal of character motivations encompasses a wide range of examples that illustrate the universality, authenticity, and complexity of human desires (McHugh, 2021). Through his characters, Hemingway explores the depths of our motivations, whether they are driven by personal ambitions, the pursuit of love and connection, or the search for meaning in a tumultuous world. His nuanced and authentic portrayals invite readers to reflect on their own motivations and offer a deeper understanding of the intricacies of human desires and the pursuit of fulfillment.

Hemingway's works depict a variety of motivations that drive his characters, showcasing the complexity of human desires and ambitions. Here are several types of motivations that can be found in Hemingway's portrayals.

Ambition and Achievement

Hemingway often explores characters motivated by a strong desire for success, recognition, or mastery in their respective fields. For example, in "The Sun Also Rises," the characters' motivations revolve around achieving personal goals and pursuing their passions, such as Jake Barnes' drive to become a successful writer or Brett Ashley's pursuit of self-fulfillment.

Love and Relationships

Hemingway delves into the motivations tied to love and relationships, capturing the intensity of desires and the complexities of human connections. In "A Farewell to Arms," the protagonist's motivations are deeply intertwined with his love for Catherine Barkley, driving him to navigate the challenges of war and seek a sense of belonging and emotional fulfillment.

Survival and Self-Preservation

In Hemingway's war-related works, characters are motivated by the instinct for survival and self-preservation. The harsh realities of conflict push characters to make decisions driven by the need to protect themselves and navigate dangerous situations, as seen in "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "A Farewell to Arms."

Exploration and Adventure

Hemingway's characters frequently exhibit motivations rooted in a thirst for exploration, adventure, and the pursuit of unique experiences. In "The Old Man and the Sea," the protagonist Santiago's motivation is driven by his love for the sea and his desire to challenge himself against the formidable marlin, embodying the spirit of adventure and the quest for personal triumph.

Escape and Freedom

Hemingway explores motivations centered around escape and the yearning for freedom from societal constraints or personal struggles. In "The Garden of Eden," the characters' motivations are tied to their pursuit of liberation, both from traditional gender roles and the limitations imposed by societal norms.

Duty and Honor

Hemingway's characters often grapple with motivations rooted in a sense of duty and honor. In works like "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "A Farewell to Arms," characters are driven by a commitment to their respective causes, be it fighting for justice in a war or upholding their moral principles.

Search for Meaning and Identity

Hemingway's characters frequently embark on a search for meaning and identity, motivated by a desire to understand themselves and their place in the world. This existential quest can be seen in works like "The Old Man and the Sea" and "The Sun Also Rises," where characters confront questions of purpose and their own existential dilemmas.

These various types of motivations depicted by Hemingway showcase the breadth of human desires, highlighting the multidimensionality of his characters and their compelling journeys of self-discovery and fulfillment.

Anguish and internal conflicts play a pivotal role in Hemingway's works, shaping the motivations and actions of his characters. Hemingway deftly captures the profound emotional struggles and inner turmoil experienced by his protagonists, adding depth and complexity to their motivations. Here are several key aspects regarding the role of anguish and internal conflicts in Hemingway's works. Hemingway's characters often face internal conflicts that arise from moral dilemmas or conflicting values. These struggles can arise from choices between duty and personal desires, or from grappling with ethical dilemmas in the face of challenging circumstances. For example, in "For Whom the Bell Tolls," Robert Jordan wrestles with the moral implications of his actions as a soldier and the conflicting ideologies he encounters during the Spanish Civil War. Hemingway's characters frequently carry the weight of past losses and traumas, which fuel their internal conflicts and shape their motivations. Whether it is the loss of loved ones, the horrors of war, or personal tragedies, these experiences instill anguish and contribute to their complex motivations. In "The Sun Also Rises," the characters' internal conflicts are deeply rooted in their individual experiences of post-war trauma and disillusionment (Tarnoc, 2022). Hemingway's works often delve into existential questions of identity, purpose, and the meaning of life. The anguish arising from these existential dilemmas drives his characters to engage in profound self-reflection and introspection. In "The Old Man and the Sea," Santiago's solitary struggle at sea becomes a metaphor for his internal journey, prompting him to confront questions of his own worth, mortality, and the essence of his existence. Hemingway's characters frequently experience emotional turmoil and a sense of isolation, adding depth to their motivations. They may grapple with feelings of loneliness, alienation, or a sense of being out of place. This anguish contributes to their motivations as they seek connection, understanding, or a sense of belonging. In "A Farewell to Arms," the protagonist's motivations are influenced by the emotional turmoil of love and the isolation he feels as an American in war-torn Italy. Hemingway's characters undergo profound growth and transformation as they confront their internal conflicts and navigate their anguish. Their motivations often evolve as they strive to reconcile their conflicting emotions, confront their fears, or find a resolution to their internal struggles. This transformative journey can be seen in works like "The Sun Also Rises," where the characters' motivations shift as they grapple with their personal demons and attempt to find redemption or a sense of purpose.

By incorporating anguish and internal conflicts into his narratives, Hemingway creates complex and relatable characters who grapple with the profound emotional and existential aspects

of the human experience. These internal struggles enrich the exploration of character motivations, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the complexities of human desires, values, and the indomitable spirit that emerges from navigating the depths of anguish.

Resonating themes pervade Hemingway's works, connecting readers to the profound and enduring aspects of the human condition. Through his exploration of character motivations and anguish, Hemingway touches upon themes that strike a chord with audiences across time and cultures. Themes of resilience in the face of adversity, the search for meaning and identity, the complexities of love and relationships, the cost of war and violence, and the fleeting nature of human existence resonate throughout his narratives. These resonating themes prompt readers to reflect on their own lives, values, and experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of the universal struggles, triumphs, and dilemmas that shape our lives. Hemingway's ability to capture these resonating themes with honesty, depth, and emotional resonance solidifies his place as a literary master, inviting readers to contemplate and engage with the timeless dimensions of the human experience.

Character development and transformation lie at the heart of Hemingway's storytelling, as his characters undergo profound changes and growth throughout his works. For instance, in "The Old Man and the Sea," the character Santiago begins as a weathered and marginalized fisherman, but through his relentless struggle with the marlin, he undergoes a transformative journey that reveals his inner strength, resilience, and determination. Santiago's character development showcases the indomitable human spirit and the capacity for personal growth even in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. Similarly, in "A Farewell to Arms," the protagonist Frederic Henry evolves from a detached and disillusioned ambulance driver to a man driven by love and a renewed sense of purpose. His experiences in war and his relationship with Catherine Barkley propel him towards a transformative realization about the fragility of life and the importance of embracing love and human connection. Hemingway's skillful portrayal of character development and transformation invites readers to witness the evolution of his characters, drawing inspiration from their journeys and reflecting on the capacity for change and self-discovery within their own lives.

Hemingway's distinctive writing style has a profound impact on conveying motivations and anguish within his narratives (Abdullah, 2016). Marked by concise and sparse prose, Hemingway's writing strips away excess to focus on the essence of emotions and motivations, intensifying their impact on readers. Through succinct and direct language, he captures the raw intensity of anguish and the driving force behind character motivations. By employing short, declarative sentences and minimalistic descriptions, Hemingway creates a sense of urgency and immediacy, immersing readers in the characters' emotional landscapes. This stripped-down style allows for a deeper exploration of the internal conflicts and desires that shape his characters, amplifying their authenticity and resonance. Hemingway's writing style becomes a powerful tool in unearthing the depths of motivations and anguish, inviting readers to engage with the characters on a visceral level and forging a lasting connection between the reader's own experiences and the emotional landscapes depicted in his works.

Hemingway's works are characterized by their psychological depth and complexity, delving into the intricate workings of the human mind and the complexities of human emotions. Through his portrayal of characters' motivations and anguish, Hemingway unveils the multi-layered nature of the human psyche, offering readers a glimpse into the depths of human experience (Shams, 2002). His characters exhibit a range of emotions, from love and longing to fear and despair, and grapple with internal conflicts and existential dilemmas. Hemingway's exploration of psychological depth goes beyond surface-level portrayals, delving into the complexities of trauma, grief, and the search for meaning. Through his nuanced and introspective approach, he captures the subtleties of human thought and emotion, revealing the intricate tapestry of motivations and the profound impact of inner struggles. Hemingway's ability to navigate the intricate terrain of the human mind adds richness and authenticity to his characters, making them relatable and compelling, and solidifying his reputation as a master of psychological exploration in literature. Hemingway's portrayal of psychological depth and complexity can be observed through specific examples in his works. In "The Sun Also Rises," the character of Jake Barnes grapples with the psychological impact of his

war injury, which has left him impotent. This internal conflict shapes his motivations and relationships, as he navigates feelings of inadequacy and the longing for a sense of wholeness. In "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place," the characters of the older waiter and the deaf old man reflect Hemingway's exploration of existential themes. The older waiter's internal monologue reveals his own struggles with loneliness, despair, and the search for meaning amidst the emptiness of the night. These examples demonstrate Hemingway's ability to delve into the complexities of the human psyche, highlighting the profound impact of internal struggles and the intricacies of characters' motivations, fears, and desires.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the literary contributions of Ernest Hemingway encompass a profound exploration of character motivations and the portrayal of anguish, interwoven with a keen focus on psychological depth and complexity. Hemingway's ability to delve into the depths of the human psyche and convey the intricacies of human emotions sets him apart as a master storyteller. Through his works, he illuminates the universal aspects of the human condition, depicting characters driven by ambition, love, survival, and the search for meaning.

Hemingway's characters undergo transformative journeys, evolving and growing as they navigate internal conflicts and confront their deepest fears. Whether it is Santiago's relentless struggle with the marlin in "The Old Man and the Sea" or Frederic Henry's transformation in "A Farewell to Arms," Hemingway captures the essence of personal growth and the profound impact of life-altering experiences. These transformations serve as a testament to the resilience and strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Moreover, Hemingway's writing style, characterized by its conciseness and directness, serves as a powerful tool in conveying motivations and anguish. His stripped-down prose, with its emphasis on essential details and sparse descriptions, intensifies the impact of emotions and magnifies the psychological depth of his characters. By eschewing verbosity and focusing on the core elements, Hemingway invites readers to engage with the characters' innermost thoughts and feelings, forging a deep connection between the reader and the narrative.

In essence, Hemingway's works leave an indelible mark on literature due to their exploration of character motivations, profound anguish, and psychological depth. His ability to capture the complexities of the human experience resonates with readers, compelling them to reflect on their own desires, fears, and aspirations. Hemingway's legacy as a literary master lies not only in his ability to craft compelling narratives but also in his profound understanding of the human psyche. His works continue to captivate and inspire, offering timeless insights into the depths of human motivations, the complexities of the human condition, and the enduring power of literature to illuminate the human experience.

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