Novel, one of the genres of literature flourished towards the end of the 18th century. American Civil War started a new era in the history of United States. Due to industrial development and the progress of science changes came rapidly to every sphere of life politically, morally, religiously, economically, and even socially too. The contemporary literature reflects these changes very beautifully. In that period, in America, the prose literature, novel and short story developed more than the other genres of literature. It is known that the novel *The Power of Sympathy*, (1789) written by William Hill Brown, is the first American novel. Novelist like James Fennimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Washington Irving, Kurt Vonnegut, Henry James, William Dean Howells, Hamlin Garland, Stephen Crane, Frank Norris, Jack London, Theodore Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, Ernest Hemingway etc. contributed a great deal to the history of American literature. American novels have been enriched by their writings.

Ernest Hemingway also known as Papa Hemingway has been considered as one of the most famous American writers who worked for almost all the genres of literature. But he is popular among the readers mainly for his novels. As a novelist Hemingway has achieved the worldwide reputation as his novels have some remarkable features. One of the most prominent features that is often highlighted in his novel is the theme of lost generation. As an active member of ‘Lost Generation’ he employs its themes so faithfully in his novels that it brings both laurels and fame to him. He has depicted the things in his novels in a very realistic and intriguing manner. Again it is very important to mention that Hemingway’s extra ordinary talent of storytelling, his beautiful
use of symbols, his superb craftmanship in the portrayal of character, his use of autobiographical elements etc. have made him one of the most prolific novelists of American literature.

Hemingway belonged to that group of young persons, which arose in the aftermath of the First World War, popularly known as ‘Lost Generation’. It is very remarkable that he was not only a member of this group but it was Hemingway who helped popularizing the term ‘Lost Generation’. Hemingway, in one of his non-fictional books *A Moveable Feast* disclosed about the coinage of the term. As the story went on, Gertrude Stein, a modernist American writer once heard the phrase in a garage. Stein once happened to go to a garage to get her car repaired. There in that garage a young mechanic tried to repair her car quickly but could not do even after repeated attempts. His failure made the owner of the garage furious and hence he shouted angrily at the boy, ‘You are all a ‘generation per due’. Gertrude Stein told this story to Hemingway. While narrating it, Stein also added that all the people of that time were belonging to a lost generation. Later Hemingway used this term as one of the two contrasting epigraphs for the novel *The Sun Also Rises*. Due to the great publicity of this novel, the success of the term was guaranteed. The writers of ‘Lost Generation’ came from America and most of them immigrated to Europe. They stayed in Paris right from the end of the First World War to 1930’s. Distinguished litterateurs and artists such as Faulkner, Scott, Fitzgerald, T.S. Eliot, John Doss Passos, Sinclair Lewis, Waldo Pierce, Isadora Duncan, Abram Walkowitz, Alan Seeger, and Erich Maria Remarque etc. are famous members of this generation. The authors belonging to ‘Lost Generation’ tried to reflect in their writings the enormous loss caused by the World War I in the social, moral and psychological spheres of human life. The picture of horror, fear and the futility of human existence etc. are also depicted in their writings. N.G. Meshram comments--
The ‘Lost Generation’ experienced the traumatic experiences of the war, the loss of religious faith, the rapid urbanization which shattered the old institution of family and marriage, the oncoming world of science which blow up the old myths and superstitions and the economic depression—all these produced a social situation which was no better than the waste land.\(^1\)

Hemingway’s position in the history of American literature can finely be examined after going through his writings that he has produced as a member of ‘Lost Generation’. A considerable number of expatriate American writers are members of this group, and among them Hemingway was mostly associated with this generation. The Lost Generation members tended to depict the lives of people in the aftermath of the Great War in their writings. The impact of World War I can be noticed in all branches of literature of that period. In the words of Sanjukta Dasgupta--

*The post-war period of nineteen–twenties, which can be described as an era of disillusionment, led to the almost total disintegration of established values and this fragmentation had a great impact on twentieth century literature, particularly the novel.*\(^2\)

In the novels of Hemingway also this has an enormous impact.

The third decade of the twentieth century is one of the most blooming periods in the literary history of America. This decade produces a lot of remarkable novels in the field of novel writing. As far as the subject matter and settings are concerned the novelists of this decade have followed two different directions. The first direction has led to those novelists who have portrayed the sad nostalgia for the south while the other direction is followed by those who write on the themes of war. In the words of critic—

*Writers like Faulkner, Katherine Anne Porter, Thomas Wolfe, depicted the sad nostalgia for the south. A kind of regionalism emerged through the works of these novelists, which incorporates within itself*
a probing of cultural roots. They also deal with one of the major social issues. America has faced since the civil war—the relation of the races and the states of the Negroes in America. Other writers like Hemingway and Fitzgerald write about the war and its aftermath.³

Hemingway’s effort of writing novels based on war theme is most praiseworthy. War had an abiding theme of his career.⁴ He employed the theme of war in his early career when he worked as a cub reporter. In the Kansas City Star a great numbers of short stories based on war were published. Like Leo Tolstoy’s War and Peace, Boris Pasternak’s Dr. Zhivago, Evelyn Waugh’s Men at Arms, Hemingway’s A Farewell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls, To Have and Have Not are also labelled as the best war novels of the contemporary world literature. He often dealt with the themes like alienation, disillusionment, divorce, sex, theme of struggle, loss of religious faith, loss of human values in the aftermath of the First World War etc. in his novels. His novels like The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls etc. are very remarkable where matters relating to waste and futility of war etc. are focussed elaborately. Hemingway in his first novel The Sun Also Rises (1926) has depicted the picture of his own generation, i.e. ‘the lost generation’ very faithfully. It is already mentioned that the novelist has added two epigraphs in this novel. One is taken from Ecclesiastes: ‘One generation passeth away and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth forever’ the other epigraph ‘You are all a lost generation’, is Gertrude Stein’s reechoed judgment. This novel is based on the story of a group of expatriate Americans and Britons who lived in Paris during 1920’s. Jake Barnes, the protagonist of this novel is shot in the First World War. Barnes loves passionately Brett Ashley, a modern American woman. But she has a numerous love affairs with men like Cohn, Michel Campbell and Pedro Romero; of course, she also loves Jake Barnes.
But, this love life of Barnes and Brett has not been a bed of roses for them. Actually they are so unfortunate that normal sex is quite impossible between them. Therefore, both of them get frustrated. Disillusioned by the violence of war, Barnes tries to search for new worth of life in the midst of bullfighting. On the other hand, Brett is infertile and she has to remain childless. The war and its aftermath uproot the expatriate from their home country and former values. Here in this novel Hemingway describes very effectively the futility and destructiveness of war. James Nagel says--

*This book made him, almost instantly, an international celebrity identified with an entire generation, torn by war and grieving throughout the roaring twenties for their lost romantic idealism.*

The heavy drinking, sexually promiscuous, brutal and chaotic world is also observed in his novels *A Farewell to Arms and For Whom the Bell Tolls* etc. The disillusionment, alienation, restlessness etc. are revealed through the characters like Robert Jordan, Frederic Henry, Catherine Barkley, Rinaldi, El Sordo, The Priest etc. very clearly. None other than Hemingway is there in the group of Lost Generation who could reflect the negative aspects of that period in novels elaborately and suitably. But it is worthy to be mentioned that despite depicting the negative values of life he was always concerned about the positive values of life such as individual courage, love, skill, and endurance in the nihilistic world. In this respect, Hemingway is very much similar to the famous English novelist Aldous Huxley who also experienced the traumatic experiences of World War I. Comparing these two novelists a critic says---

*Like Aldous Huxley’s novels, Ernest Hemingway’s fictional world, though tragic, does not merely reflect a post war disillusionment, a sense of dissociation and a consequent reversal of values, but marks his release from them. This release is achieved by both Huxley and*
Tragedy is an important form of literature. In the writings of the great classical writers the readers have always found the concept of tragedy. Hemingway as a novelist is best known for the concept of tragedy what pervades through his fiction. His novels like *A Farwell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls, The Old Man and the Sea*—all have tragic elements. Death, suffering, loss, separation etc. are common things that exist in his novels. He extracts his characters mainly from the common people. They are not high ranked heroes as like those of Aristotle’s. Even an old fisherman also finds expression in his novel. The sufferings, sorrows, miseries, loss, death of such characters make the minds of the readers tragic. There is no such American novelist like Hemingway who could reveal the sufferings and struggles undergone by the people in the war time so faithfully. Struggle is an integral part of life. Novel, one of the popular branches of modern literature deals with the lives of human beings, full with struggle and sufferings. It is said that all great art is born out of sufferings and struggles. Hemingway also presents the suffering—both physical and psychological that people experienced in war time or other adverse situations in life. N. G. Meshram opines--

*Hemingway has produced novels that are fictional sagas of timeless predicament of human sufferings. These novels are true of all societies and of all countries. He has depicted the crisis of human existence in all the ages and generations.*

As a humanist he was very much concerned with the sufferings of men and women in post war time and hence portrayed the sufferings and struggle of individual as well as the collective mass in his novels. The struggle of Robert Jordan, Frederic Henry, Catherine Barkley, Santiago etc. to survive in the world of crisis and difficulties portrayed by this novelist is very remarkable. Their
struggle is not merely their own, but it is the struggle of entire human race. Ranging from accidental and individual suffering, Hemingway portrays the sufferings of the collective mass, which is national and also international. Hemingway’s incredibility in presenting the struggle of men and women in his novels distinguishes him from the contemporary writers of Europe and America.

Hemingway is very much conscious while employing themes in his novels. There are some common themes that peep in his novels again and again. Death, love, war, sex, adventure, struggle, sufferings, peace are prominent among these themes. A great number of Hemingway’s novels have revealed the evil effects of war like disappointment, violence, brutality, death etc. on human mind. In fact ‘violence’ and ‘death’ have always been seen in his war novels like A Farewell To Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls etc. A large number of characters contemplate their own death in these novels. Hemingway was a great sportsman. Many times he observed bull fights, engaged himself in hunting, fishing, etc. He portrays these adventurous experiences of life in his writings very realistically.

But the most noticeable thing in regard to his thematic perspective is that in his novels themes like ‘love’ and ‘war’ are often seen juxtaposed. The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell To Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls etc. have the story of love-affairs. The lovers always involve with sex also. Among all his novels, A Farewell To Arms is the best in this regard. The love-affair of Frederic Henry and Catherine is remarkable. Their love relation is so deep that—it was considered as Romeo and Juliet of Ernest Hemingway.

Though Hemingway’s novels are mostly based on the background of war, yet he always advocates for peace. As a humanist in its true sense he always opposed war. His hatred for war or war like situation is expressed through his novels. He always shows his sympathy for those who are the victims of war.
Such type of capability of handling two contrastive themes in novels confirms his reputation as a prolific author of his time.

One of the most noticeable aspects that makes Hemingway unforgettable among the readers is that he had taken the leadership of the modernistic renaissance by employing realistic and naturalistic technique. William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald had also worked for modernistic renaissance. It is already discussed that the World War I badly affected the American people. The writers of that period were also harmed physically and mentally by the World War I. People were disillusioned by the effects of war on their society. It was that time when the country felt an urgent need for such a literature that would narrate what had happened and what was happening to their society. Immediately a great number of authors appeared there and they actively engaged in the war time literature. The life and its problems are accurately depicted by the authors of late 19th century Realistic Movement. Realists attempted to give a comprehensive picture of modern life\textsuperscript{10} by presenting the entire picture. They attempted to show the different classes, manners, stratification of life in America.

Hemingway was a journalist, who after being engaged in this profession had been involved actively in this field. But he often had the complaint that it was journalism for which he could not pay attention in fiction writing. Elizabeth Dewberry remarks--

\textit{Although Hemingway often complained that journalism robbed him of the juices he needed to write fiction, there is evidence that moving among journalism, creative nonfiction and fiction stimulated all his writing, that his work in each genre informed and enriched his experience in the others.}\textsuperscript{11}

As a reporter he found himself reporting real life. Those real experiences have found expression in his writings. From the very childhood, Hemingway was passionately involved in big game-hunting, deep sea fishing, bull fighting etc etc.
Many writings of this writer are enriched with these experiences also. Hemingway participated in both the World Wars. His participation in these two wars enabled him to create an ambience of realism in his novels like *The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell To Arms*, etc. This Nobel Laureate visited Spain during the Civil War. He has got a lot of experiences from the war. Based on that war front experience he writes *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Hemingway’s novels explore two types of realism. Sanjukta Dasgupta remarks--

*It may be suggested that there are two levels of reality in novels of Hemingway. The first level is the external or objective reality. External reality means the world of phenomena outside the subjective thought process of an individual.*

Novels like *The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell To Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls* etc. have the external or objective reality. This kind of reality is reflected in these novels through the impersonal war environment and its associated factors such as death, disaster and other concomitant circumstances. His *The Old Man and the Sea* bears the external realities. But in this novel war like environment is not observed. Instead of this common background, he takes indifferent natural environment to express external realities. In the words of Sanjukta Dasgupta--

*The second level of reality is the subjective reality, representing the perceptual world of the human mind.*

The subjective reality of his novel is revealed through the perceptual world of the characters like Jake Barnes, Frederic Henry, Robert Jordan, the old fisherman Santiago and many others. Through Jake Barnes love for Brett Ashely; Frederic Henry’s private world of lost illusions, his love for Catherine Barkley, his sense for happiness with her, and his sense of despair when she dies; Jordan’s sense of responsibility for his duty, his love for Maria, his duty for his groups, his emotional attachment to his lost comrades, Santiago’s inner world of private pride, grief, expectation and self awareness etc. the subjective
reality of his novels like *The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell To Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *The Old Man and the Sea* is revealed.

It is found that Hemingway’s idea of reality finds expression in a huge quantity mainly in his *A Farewell To Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*. The formation of ideas is —

*First, Hemingway becomes aware that the individual cannot survive in isolation and is ultimately helpless, despite possessing courage, strength and skill. Love appears as just a temporary oasis preyed upon by the swiftly advancing sands of nothingness. The conclusion that Hemingway deduces is that the individual is part of the human world in totality.*

Hemingway may be regarded as one of the representatives of the period after First World War. He has not only grabbed the spirit of nineteen-twenties in his fictional works but also tried to outstrip his age and the current social ethics of nineteen twenties. The quest for reality always remains a chief concern in his literary career. As one of the foremost representatives of post war milieu he has brilliantly recorded the post-war life and its ways, moods etc. in his works. The post war period is a period of disillusionment from the cultural, social, political literary points of view. In the novels of Hemingway like *A Farewell To Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls, The Old Man and the Sea* pain, suffering, unhappiness and death appear as unavoidable realities. Hemingway accepts these negative features of life as part of the laws of human existence. His heroes and heroines accept this reality of life. Therefore, approaching his death Robert Jordan says—

*The world is a fine place and worth fighting for and I hate very much to leave it.*

That type of anguish is observed in his novels in such a way that it distinguishes him from his contemporary writers in Europe and America.
Apart from the sense of realism in Hemingway’s writings the metaphysical ideas are also expressed. In his novels, a metaphysical interest in man and his relation to nature\textsuperscript{16} can be discerned. Hemingway views man as a helpless victim of circumstance. He adopts the theory of Determinism. This theory is an essential part of Naturalism. Charles Darwin, in his most popular book *The Origin of Species* (1859) has given the theory of evolution, and the concept, “Survival of the fittest”. From this concept a new theory has been formulated. This new theory claims that man’s fate at the moment of his birth is determined by some external forces. This theory also views that a man is totally helpless before the external factors. The external forces could be socio-political, economic, biological, racial, or gender related. The sense of pessimism is also related to determinism. A great number of writers from America and Europe are seen expressing the sense of pessimism in their writings. Among them Hemingway also expresses his pessimistic view in his writings. His novels like *A Farewell To Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls* have the pessimistic elements. Of course his novel *The Old Man and the Sea* bears an optimistic view. It is considered as one of the great classics in the world.

One of the important factors for which Hemingway’s reputation as a novelist is spread out all over the world is his unique style of writing. His writing is always marked with concision, brevity and clarity. Each word he uses has an exact meaning. The novelist has never portrayed extraneous description in his prose. The flowery adjectives, romantic, lingering, twee wordage etc. have not found place in his writings. He believes that a writer should not write about everything he or she knows but should keep superfluous information hidden as a way of strengthening the tension in the story. This style of writing came to be known as the iceberg theory of prose. It is also known as the theory of omission. Though its characteristics use of short sentences and minimal description is uniquely identifiable with Hemingway, a lot of writers have also influenced by this style.
One of the most frequently used aspects of modern literature is symbol. Like many modern litterateurs, Hemingway has used symbols in his fiction extensively. Almost all his writings are loaded with symbols. He brings things and concept as symbols from the natural and material world as well. Physical and psychological wound, climatic changes, natural elements like river, stream, light, dark, rain, and things related to religion etc. are used by him as symbols.

The next important features of his writing which brings to him enormous reputation as a novelist is his extra-ordinary power of storytelling. Ernest Hemingway is well known as an excellent story teller. Almost all his writings prove his talent in story telling. The plots of his novels hold the readers interest throughout. His novels deal with the theme of war, love, sex, pain suffering, death, bull fighting, big game hunting, deep sea fishing etc. The Sun Also Rises deals with the themes like- the aimlessness of the lost generation, male insecurity, the destructiveness of sex, unsuccessful love which is described in the context of accusations or fights, or at best surrounding discussions of sex etc. All the themes have been successfully fused together in this novel. He endeavours to introduce this novel as one of the realistic novels of post war time in Europe. Sanjukta Dasgupta says--

\[ \text{this book may be treated as a document of post-war society in Europe in the early 1920's.}^\text{17} \]

His A Farewell To Arms also establishes his talent in the field of storytelling. It is seen that the novel is loaded with two main themes—war and love. But these two contradictory themes have successfully been interwoven and fused together. The novel also depicts a romantic love affair in the midst of war front. In fact,

\[ \text{It is a love story set against a sharply realistic background of fighting in the tension arising in Northern Italy.}^\text{18} \]
The narrative of this novel is very enthralling; hence it holds the readers’ interest till the end of it. Hemingway uses ingredients like-action, adventure, excitement, violence, suspense, love, emotion etc. which make this novel a popular one.

Hemingway’s acclaimed novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* also deals with the themes- war and love. Apart from these two major themes, the novel has contained some other themes like politics, friendship, morality and ethics, supernaturalism etc. Like one of his previous novel *A Farewell to Arms*, here in this novel the parallel movement of these two themes is observed. This novel is based on the story of war time love. His excellence as a story teller is also revealed in this novel. As Hemingway was there in Spain during the Civil War, he observed the war minutely. Each and every trivial incident of war front is described by him very faithfully. Pilar, a strong female character of this novel reveals a lot of things from her memory, related to this civil war. Robert Jordan, the dynamiter is one of his important characters. In fact, the plot of this novel revolves round his mission to destroy a bridge in Fascist territory. Hemingway presents this character as one who willingly takes up a difficult and dangerous job, who is unmindful of any risk of his life, but only knows about his duty. Duty, for him, is the prime concern. Therefore he says—*I come only for my duty.*\(^1\)

He is a man of action or deeds, who never forgets his own ideology. His life has a serious purpose, and for that reason he lives. T. Bharati opines—

> *Robert Jordan, the protagonist of Ernest Hemingway’s *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, may appropriately be described as an incarnation of a Karma Yogi as he dies for a great cause in the face of his own destruction, a fruitless sacrifice.*\(^2\)

Hemingway has not only portrayed the moral and political problems of Spain, but also highlights the issue of welfare of the people in general. He portrays here characters like Jordan, Pilar, Anselmo, El-Sordo, etc. who represent the
Republican Party. He also describes about the Fascists and their involvement in war. Actually he very realistically describes all these. The scope of the story is wide enough. P.G. Rama. Rao says--

... *For Whom the Bell Tolls* has a story which moves back and forth, into the past and the future, even it moves across forest and mountains, and travels great distance.\(^{21}\)

The novelist has written this novel in such a way that it may be regarded as a true document of Spanish Civil War.

Though themes like death, pain, suffering, love, war, brutality etc. have been taken by Hemingway usually, yet there are many exceptional novels produced by this novelist. *The Old Man and the Sea*, a later production of Hemingway, is a novel which is totally different from the earlier novels. This novel concentrates wholly on deep-sea fishing. This slim volume of Hemingway has contributed enormously to his recognition as a prolific writer. This volume helps to revive Hemingway’s reputation of a great acclaim. It is enriched with the themes like resistance to defeat, pride, friendship, youth and age, man and nature, Christian allegory etc. The novelist unfolds the story of an old Cuban fisherman, Santiago and his adventure with a giant Marlin, his success in killing it, and his defeat by Sharks which attack the Marlin he caught. Pain and suffering have got supreme importance here. The novel is loaded with a plenty of action. Hemingway describes the old man’s battle with the Sharks very excitingly. The story is told in a dramatic way. In the words of P.G. Rama. Rao--

*The story is completely dramatized. Hemingway presents the old man, the boy, and the sea in the beginning of the novel and allows the story to unfold itself. As the tempo of the story rises, the omniscient narrator’s voice is no longer heard; it becomes the means of showing the action. We become oblivious of the narrator and concentrate on the action. This near elimination of the narrator in the interests of dramatization is an important feature of the Old Man and the Sea.*\(^{22}\)
Santiago’s struggle with the dangerous creature of the sea is presented vividly as well as realistically in this novel. Though the story appears apparently unbelievable, yet the novelist has succeeded in presenting the story realistically. N.G. Meshram says--

*Santiago represents all human beings, as does Jesus Christ; his experience is universal human experience, which is tragic.*

This novel may be called a novel of pain and suffering. The protagonist, Santiago suffers a lot throughout the novel. He is the symbol of Jesus Christ. The old man’s left hand is cramped in the course of his struggle, both his hands are wounded, the agonizing sound that he makes is like the sound of a man whose nails are driven out of his hands and images of the crucification are employed here to reveal his agony before the readers. Santiago has bestowed the most difficult and saintly Christian virtues like faith, hope and charity. The novelist explores the fact that though man suffers a lot yet he can achieve a spiritual victory if he has the total dedication for his task.

His other novels *To Have and Have Not, Across the River and Into the Trees, Islands in the Stream, Garden of Eden* etc. have also been written with the themes he usually used for his earlier novels. His *To Have and Have Not* deals with the theme of ‘No chance for one man’. The protagonist Harry Morgan admits *one man alone ain’t got. No matter how a man alone ain’t got no bloody fucking chance.*

*Across the River and into the Trees* has also a love story of post war time. Colonel Cantwell’s last visit to Venice, his love for the city, his readiness for death etc. are vividly told by the novelist. Colonel’s experience what he got from the Second World War is also focused nicely. By using the flash-back technique, the novelist narrates colonel’s experiences.

It is seen that almost all Hemingway’s novels and stories are filled with elements like action, adventures, violence, excitement, suspense etc. He has
the power to sustain reader’s interest throughout. The style of his narration is so gripping that it makes the reader to read those of Hemingway’s writings breathlessly till the very end. For these qualities, he is regarded as one of the great storytellers of the 20th century.

The most enthralling thing of Ernest Hemingway what offers him an exceptional status in the history of the world of novel is that he has created a new type of characters in his novels which are often termed as **Hemingway Code Hero**. The phrase Hemingway Code Hero is referred specially for some protagonists of his novels. The word ‘Code’ means a set of rules or guidelines for conduct. The foremost ideals that exist in Hemingway’s Code Heroes are – honour, courage and endurance in a life of stress, misfortune and suffering. In Hemingway’s stories a world is always seen which is chaotic and disordered. His code heroes are man’s men. They have possessed some features which are rarely seen in the stereotypical heroes. These characteristics are as follows--the code heroes keep themselves busy with excessive drinking, often jump from one love affair to another, they are fond of wild game hunting, very much delighted in watching bull fight, never express feelings or emotions, free willed, attract many women, use women only to fulfill their physical urge, they are always brave, adventurous, also like to travel from one place to another etc. Philip Young defines Hemingway hero as-

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...............we generally; though infelicitously call this man the Code Hero—this because he represents a code according to which the hero; if he could attain it would be able to live properly in the world of violence, disorder and misery to which he has been introduced and which he inhabits. This code hero, then offers up and exemplifies certain principles of honour, courage, endurance which in a life of tension and pain make a man a man, as way say, and enable him to conduct himself well in the losing battle that is life. He shows in the author’s famous phrase for it ‘grace under pressure.’
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It is known that Hemingway’s novels were readily accepted by his native citizen when those were first published. It can be assumed that the main reason of this attraction is his code heroes. There are some peculiar features that are observed in his code heroes. The code heroes always follow some particular concepts like the concept of ‘Death’, the concept of ‘Grace under Pressure’, the concept of ‘don’t let’s talk about it’, the concept of ‘loyalty’ etc. in their lives. These concepts make those code heroes different from the other characters of other contemporary writers.

The concept of death is always there in the activities performed by Hemingway Code heroes. Death plays a prominent role in their actions. Hemingway’s concept- ‘When you are dead you are dead’ is reflected through the actions of these characters. He believes if death is the end of life, if there is nothing more after one’s demise, then he should search his reward, his pleasure, happiness, immediately in this life. Therefore, almost all code heroes have engaged with each kind of sensual activities like eating, drinking, sex etc. They get involved in every kind of physical pleasures for fulfilling their gratification because such type of gratification would be their award, what they deserve in this life.

As death is the ultimate end of all actions, so it is the responsibility of code heroes to elude death by any means. Life itself is a thing of worthiness. On the other hand death is nothing in comparison to life. Every human being must confront death, and this is the rule of nature. But one should not afraid of death when he faces it. It is observed that Hemingway’s heroes always encounter with death, sometimes in the war front, sometimes in bullfighting, or wild game hunting etc. They must have fear of their death while confronting it. Even then they would not get afraid or forget their duty. They show manly nature by confronting directly with death and at the same time they exhibit their own patience, courage, tolerance, order etc. so that the concept of ‘Grace under
Pressure’ can be formed. Hemingway heroes believe that - the triumph of life is in fighting, it is not determined by victory or defeat and lost or gain. They know that a man can be destroyed, but not defeated.26 

The meaning of this phrase “Don’t let’s talk about it” is that after performing an act of bravery man should not discuss about it. Action is more important than gossiping. If someone talks too much about his task, he may lose the importance of his action. Too much talking leads to emotion. Secondly, the concept of loyalty is always present there in Hemingway Code heroes. A code hero always feels a sense of loyalty to a small group of people or someone else. Frederic Henry is very much loyal to the group of ambulance drivers; Robert Jordan shows his loyalty to a small group of guerilla. The idea of loyalty is expressed in The Old Man and the Sea through the relationship between Santiago and Manolin. It is true that Hemingway code heroes never feel any kind of loyalty to indistinct things.

The Hemingway code heroes sometimes appear as young man and sometimes as old men as well. Even a female character like Catherine Barkley may also claim herself as Hemingway code hero. Some of his remarkable code heroes are- Nick Adams, Frederic Henry, Robert Jordan, Santiago and so on. Among all his code heroes, it is Santiago who is regarded as the best. Santiago behaves properly-honourably, with great courage and endurance. He shows his love for all creation of God. He has great sympathy for them who are weak. He has the nature of friendliness. Above all there is a great quality in his character i.e. his indomitable nature. For such qualities he has always been considered as one of the great characters that Hemingway created. By creating those characters who exhibit a large number of peculiar rules or code in their lives, Hemingway could claim a different position in the American as well as World literature of novels.

Ernest Hemingway earns his fame as one of the best known novelists in American literature by employing the autobiographical elements in his novels
very nicely. It is seen that he derives the impulse for fiction from his own real life experiences or sometime from some others experiences who have also experienced agonies like him. His whole life is packed with adventure and excitement. From the very early age to till death he had involved in number of adventurous activities like fishing, hunting, bull-fighting, skiing, boxing, horse-racing etc. Hemingway had participated in the two world wars. He observed the Spanish Civil War also. He gathered many experiences from these wars. Such experiences of his real life have been reflected through his writings. Nick Adam, the first Hemingway hero appears in many stories. He initiates into world of violence, suffering and death as he gets matured through different stages. He is modeled on Hemingway himself. The protagonist of his novel *A Farewell To Arms* is an autobiographical hero. Hemingway worked as an ambulance driver in his real life during the First World War, when he was in Italy. There in war he got injured badly and therefore admitted in a Red Cross Hospital, in Milan for several weeks. At hospital he falls in love with a British nurse, Agnes Von Kurowsky. In *A Farewell To Arms*, Henry is also depicted as an ambulance driver, who develops a love affair with a British nurse, Catherine Barkley. In his actual life his wife Pauline Pfeiffer had a difficult labour while their son Patrick was delivered. Catherine Barkley, in *A Farewell to Arms*, has a labour with complexity too and delivers a baby. But unfortunately the baby dies soon after arriving this world. Autobiographical elements are found in his *For Whom the Bell Tolls* also. N.G. Meshram opines that Jordan, the hero of the novel is semi autobiographical hero like Nick Adams, Frederic Henry. He succeeds in the mission of blowing a bridge to check the advancement of the fascists. He is fatally wounded and suffers stoically but does not leave the place of his position. He gives the message that—

*If we win here we will win every where. The world is fine place and worth fighting for and I hate very much to leave it.*²⁷
It is assumed that by making this remark the novelist addresses to the cowardly act of suicide committed by his father who could not face the situation in the family and who finally, succumbed to death.

*The Old Man and the Sea* also contains autobiographical elements. Critics have tried to comment on this book from different angles. It was a product of his old age. The main character of this novel Santiago is also an aged man. He has the resemblance to the novelist. Before the book *The Old Man and the Sea* appeared, Hemingway had faced a great difficulty with his writings.

The period from 1940 to 1950 was not favourable for Hemingway. Even not a single novel was appeared at that period. But in 1950 his *Across the River and into the Trees* was published. Immediately after its publication, he was harshly criticized, for falling below his normal standards. He obviously was in a literary dryness at that time. *The Old Man and the Sea* was published in 1952. The book is like a great prize for him, for which he has been regarded as one of the great novelists in the world literature. Santiago’s fate in fishing resembles the condition of the author. But the old man wins at last after a long struggle and the Marlin is his prize. It has also a great significance. He also wins the battle and achieves his prize for nothing but the book itself. This book is considered as a fitting reply to his critics. Here in this novel, the sharks which attack the marlin and the fisherman are compared to those critics who criticized Hemingway harshly. Both the novelist and Santiago struggle against their enemy to achieve their prize. The way that they adopted to struggle in their life is not different from each other.

It is found that Hemingway is one of the most promising novelists of American literature who mirrors his contemporary society in his novels very realistically. Critic also says, *Hemingway is a true representative of his time in a true sense that his novels offer a graphic account of the outer realities.* His novels often explore the alienation, loneliness, anguish, loss of religious
belief, loss of human values, sufferings of people, the sexually promiscuous world, the heavy drinking world etc. of post war time very successfully. But it is also noteworthy that despite depicting such negative aspects of that period, he does not forget to celebrate the positive belief of people of his time. A large number of his characters always intend to follow certain principles of life like honour, courage, endurance, strength, humanity, brotherhood, friendliness etc. Hemingway’s effort of depicting the post war world with its positive and negative aspects is really praiseworthy. For the thematic concern in regards to his distinctive style of writing, his exceptional technique of story-telling and narration, his super craftsmanship of character portrayal, the novelist is different from other American novelist. Therefore, it has to be acknowledged without any doubt that he is one of the great novelists in American as well as world literature. He will remain as a model for his successors.
References:

3. N.G. Meshram. op-cit. p.06.
8. ibid. p.31.
13. loc.-cit.
22. ibid. p.214.
23. N.G. Meshram. op-cit p. 94.