American novelist Ernest Hemingway and Indian novelist Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, who belong to the twentieth century, have made remarkable impact on the readers not only as literary giants but also have made enough contributions to the society at large as human beings of their respective age. There are a few American writers like Hemingway who achieved the recognition of international celebrity and literary sublimity during their lifetime. Like him Bhattacharyya, a regional novelist from Assam, India, has also got international relevance and appeal. The novels of both the novelists are the mirror of their respective societies.

Undoubtedly, these two novelists are quite different from each other in respect to their countries, cultures, languages, races, religions, nature, living style etc. Despite these differences there are many striking and significant similarities between Hemingway and Bhattacharyya in regards to their writings. Here in this research work contrast and comparison between these two novelists have been made in regards to some significant aspects, taking a few selected novels of them. The study has been divided into seven chapters in addition to an introduction and the conclusion. Let me briefly give a summery of each of the chapters below.

The introduction of this work attempts to give an idea on the subject matter of the research, the aims and objectives of the present study, the scope of this research work, the limitation of the topic, hypothesis of the work, methodology applied for this research activity, various data like primary, secondary or tertiary data which are used in this work and the review of literature, etc.
In the first chapter an overview of the life and works of these two prominent novelists is presented. This chapter has been divided into two sections for the convenience of study. The first section of this chapter gives a general idea on the life and different works of Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway is very much popular among the readers both for his creative works and adventurous life. This versatile genius has contributed a lot with significant works to the American fictional and non-fictional literature as well. Hemingway is a journalist who has borrowed many techniques and styles from this field to his writings. He is also a realist and almost all his writings are based upon his real life experiences what he got from the great two wars, Spanish Civil war, Greco-Turkish war, many bull-fights in Spain, fishing life in Cuba etc. The fiction of Hemingway is enjoyed by readers all over the world mainly for its unique style. The prestigious Pulitzer Prize for his novel *The Old Man and the Sea* in 1953, and the Noble prize in literature in 1954 for his mastery over art of narrative of his novels, were conferred on him as a recognition of his unique quality as a writer.

The Second part deals with the description of life and works of the Assamese novelist Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. This Assamese novelist is a multifaceted personality who has enriched the store house of Assamese literature by his writings in almost all the genres like-poetry, novel, drama, short story, essays, travelogues, biographies, translation etc. Bhattacharyya has been awarded with the highest and prestigious literary award of India ‘Jnanpith’ for his novel *Mrityunjay* in 1979 as a recognition for his outstanding contribution to Indian literature. It is no need to mention that he is the first ever Assamese recipient of this award. Earlier in 1961 he was awarded the ‘Sahitya Akademi’ Award for his novel *Yiaruingam*. Apart from being a celebrated writer both in fictional and non-fictional writings, Bhattacharyya is a socially committed journalist too. He is actively associated to a considerable number of journals, magazines, periodicals, news papers etc. but it is the *Ramdhenu,*
the epoch-making literary journal, which brings to him very much reputation both as an editor and a writer. Bhattacharyya has played a significant role in ascertaining the growth and nature of modern Assamese literature as the editor of Ramdhenu.

The second chapter of this research work highlights Ernest Hemingway as a famous American novelist. It is a known fact that Hemingway as a novelist is very much successful who leads the literary movement in changing the scenario of American fiction between 1925 and 1961. This novelist often deals with war or war like unstable situations in his novels and hence he chooses themes like struggle, pain, death, sufferings, unhappiness, adventures etc. as recurrent themes. But despite these themes he has also used themes like love, peace brotherhood, humanity, religion in his novels as he was a humanist. Hemingway as a novelist is very much successful in regards to creation of a new class of characters who are often known among the readers as ‘Hemingway Code Hero.’ As a modernist he has employed the realistic and naturalistic technique in his novels. The metaphysical and autobiographical note have also existed in his novels. One of the striking features of his novels is that like the writings of classic writers the concept of tragedy also pervades through his novels.

The third chapter is an analysis of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya as a novelist. Bhattacharyya, a gifted scholar and a man of intelligence has varied contributions to the Assamese literature. This literary figure is able to get a prominent place in Assamese literature mainly for his novels. As a novelist Birendera Kumar Bhattacharyya is quite efficient in creating character, environment, background, in using language etc. It is known without any doubt that before him there were many Assamese novelists who wrote political novels. But Bhattacharyya is exceptional from those Assamese novelists. Bhattacharyya has started a new trend of political novels where he introduces the inner conflict of characters very aptly for the first time. Bhattacharyya writes a large number
of social and political novels in Assamese literature which are based on the contemporary economic and political scenario. But as a novelist he is known mainly for his political novels.

The fourth chapter deals with the comparative study of the story and plot construction in the novels of both the novelists. Both the novelists have constructed story and plot in their novels by following the traditional rules and technique. It is evident that the story and plot of both the novelists are often seen well organised. In most cases their stories and plots are found very complex where struggle and conflict make frequent occurrence. It is also mentionworthy that both the novelists have largely employed some common themes like war, struggle, love, humanity, peace, religion etc. in their novels. Though there are many resemblances between these two novelists, a few dissimilarities can also be noticed in their novels in respect to story and plot construction. Bhattacharyya is very much conscious politically and socially about his country, and hence his novels are the revelation of the problems of his nation. He always advocates for social changes and dynamics of life. But Hemingway is not so much conscious either socially or politically like Bhattacharyya or he doesn’t employ such themes in his novels. Of course there is no doubt that he is a humanist and as a humanist he always pleads for the welfare of people.

The fifth chapter of this research work is a study of the art of characterisation in the novels of both the novelists. The brilliant creative power of portraying the characters is best exhibited in their novels. Characters like Frederic Henry, Robert Jordan, Santiago, Manolin, Pablo, Anselmo, Pilar, Maria, Catherine Barkley etc. of Hemingway and Dhanpur, Mohoda Gossain, Rup Narayan, Richang, Videshelly, Jiban Master, Phanitphang, Giassuddin, Chatterjee, Koli Baideu, Gossani, Dimi, Sharengla, Khutingla, Jebunnisa, Pannu, etc. of Bhattacharyya have made impression on the minds of the readers. All the characters have the common peoples attributes such as good-bad, love-hatred, honesty-jealousness, envy, feelings, emotions, selfishness, desires, motif which
made them lifelike characters. etc. It is noticed that both Hemingway and Bhattacharyya create round and flat characters. It does not matter whether the characters are round or flat but they have to struggle in their life hard in order to reach their goals. These characters always believe in the principle- ‘A man can be destroyed but not defeated’. Both the novelists have portrayed a considerable number of male characters in their novels exhibiting some common features like boldness, courage, fearlessness, activeness, loyalty etc. It is interesting to note that despite involving in war or war-like unstable political situations their characters always search for peace. But it is also evident that in respect to the portrayal of female characters they are different from each other. In Hemingway’s novels, it is observed, women characters have never got the same importance like those of male characters. Even the number of female characters is less than the male characters. In most cases, it is seen, they are used by the male characters to fulfil their mental or physical desire. But Bhattachayya have created a large number of women characters in his novels with significant importance. Bhattacharyya was very much conscious about the issues and problems related with women. He could feel the pain and suffering of the women in a patriarchal society like ours and hence tried to reveal the pathetic, deplorable, subservient state of women and their eternal slavery in his novels. Many times he portrayed some rebellious women too who raised their voices against oppression and marginalisation.

In the sixth chapter an analysis has been made on the language, style, dialogue, description of atmosphere in the novels of Hemingway and Bhattacharyya. Style, language etc. are very important aspects of creative literature for a prose writer. The ‘style’ plays a vital role in giving the shape of a novel. The writing style of both the novelists is characterised by the cult of simplicity, verbal economy, impressionistic method, elusion of unnecessary narration and excessive ornaments, use of short and simple easy language etc. In the novels of both the novelists different kinds of languages such as simple,
emotional, evocative, sentimental, journalistic, political language etc are noticed. The language of both the novelists are loaded with phrases, idioms, riddles, proverbs, local or foreign words, phrases etc.

Dialogue has an important role in the development of story of a novel. Use of dialogue is often a part of literature. In the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, there are ample examples of uses of dialogues. Both the novelist have employed dialogues in their novels very effectively in order to depict the emotions, feelings, reaction of the characters, to analyse the events, to give the background information about the place and events etc.

This chapter also focuses on the art of creation of atmosphere of both the novelists. Both the novelists have the extra-ordinary power of creating proper atmosphere as the situation in the story demands. Hemingway’s depiction of situations like war environment in *A Farewell To Arms* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, sea environment in *The Old Man and the Sea* etc. are really praiseworthy. Bhattacharyya is also very much successful in producing specific atmosphere very realistically in his novels. His description of atmosphere like the suffering of the leprous, in *Pratipad*, the description of the scene in *Mrityunjay* in which Gossani arranges the important things such as ‘moran ada’ (a kind of ginger), ‘mokordhwaj’ (a kind of herbal medicine) etc. for Gossain at the time of departure for the guerrilla war, the description of the time of insurgency in *Yiaruingam, Mrityunjay* etc. are very appreciating.

The narrative technique of the two novelists has also been studied in this chapter. Both the novelists have used the first and third person narrator in their novels.

The seventh chapter of this work is a study of the vision of life of both the novelists. The vision of life of great artists is directed to the better quality of life. Both Bhattacharyya and Hemingway basically employ the humanistic vision of life in their novels. Theme of struggle is always seen in their novels.
Their characters struggle hard in life to reach their ultimate destination. Their characters have the strong will power through which they endeavour to win the losing battle. One of the most important ideas that has been reflected in their novels is the hatred for war and making effort to establish peace in society, which both the novelists and their characters desire.

The Findings of the Research:

In the present study it is found that Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya are two distinguished authors in American and Assamese literature respectively.

One of the important facts that is observed in this study is that war or any other contemporary political circumstances have the vital significance in shaping the literary career of both the novelists Hemingway and Bhattacharyya.

Another aspect that has been brought to light in this study is that both the novelists use two contradictory ideas -‘war ‘ and ‘love’ parallely in their novels.

It is also noticed here that though both the novelists use the theme of war in their novels, their intention is not to glorify it but to reveal its evil impact on humanity. In fact, both the writers are concerned with the interests and welfare of human beings and their humanistic approach is clearly reflected through their novels.

This research work has also arrived at another fact that like Hemingway, Bhattacharyya has also introduced a new type of heroes in his novels, who exhibit the same features like those of the code heroes of the novels of Hemingway.

In this present study it has also been observed that both the novelists are very much similar in regards to their use of language and style of writing. Both the writers started their career as journalists and their writing style is flourished by the experiences of journalism.
It is also found in this study that Bhattacharyya and Hemingway are different from each other in many respects. The most striking difference is seen in the portrayal of female characters. Bhattacharyya’s characters are very much sensitive as regards to emotion, feelings and inner conflict which are rarely found in Hemingway’s characters.

This research also discloses the fact that despite the many similarities they share, they are different from each other in other respects. Though Bhattacharyya is very much inspired by the writings of Hemingway, yet he is not a blind imitator of this American author. In fact, both the writers Hemingway and Bhattacharyya have their own talent and identity by which they could glorify themselves in their respective literary fields.

**Future Scope of the Study:**

The present research work entitled *The Novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya: A Comparative Study* is an overall study of a few select novels of both the novelists. The study attempts to give a comparative account on some war and political novels bearing some striking similarities of both these authors. Despite the effort made by the researcher there are enough scopes to carry out research on the novels of both the novelists-- Hemingway and Bhattacharyya. Some specific areas which may be undertaken by researchers in future are like the following-

1. The scholar might study the language and style of the novels of Hemingway and Bhattacharyya specifically.
2. There may be specific study on the thematic aspect of novels of both the novelists.
3. Another aspect that the futures researchers may pick up for further investigation is the narrative of the novels of Hemingway and Bhattacharyya.
4. There may be comparative study on the art of characterization of the novels of both the novelist exclusively.