Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya are two most influential litterateurs in the history of American and Indian literature respectively. Both the novelists, who belong to the 20th century, have made great impact on the readers. Hemingway, who has introduced a literary revolution in the American fiction, becomes a widely recognised litterateur in the world literature. Being one of the spokespersons of the ‘Lost Generation’, he has depicted the scenario of his own time in his fictional and non-fictional works very faithfully and realistically. This multifaceted personality has contributed his writings to almost all the genres of literature.

Like Ernest Hemingway, Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, has enriched the Assamese as well as the Indian literature with remarkable contributions to the field of fictions and non-fictional prose. Being the editor of Ramdhenu, the epoch-making journal of Post War and Post Independence era, this literary giant has played the role of a torch bearer in identifying, cherishing and promoting new literary talents in Assam. As the editor of this journal, he is so outstanding and competent that the entire period of its publication in the mid 20th century is known as the ‘Age of Ramdhenu’ or ‘The Ramdhenu Yug’.

Though both the writers, Hemingway and Bhattacharyya have exhibited their talent in almost all the fields of literature, yet they are mostly known for their novel writings. A man with multidimensional literary personality, Hemingway is very much popular in the world of literature primarily for his war novels while Bhattacharyya, the multifaceted personality of Indian literature, is famous mainly for his political novels. Both the novelists have witnessed various civil and domestic wars and political upheavals and they have created many remarkable war and political novels based on the experiences achieved from those wars.

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 so far as their writings and their vision of life are concerned. The present study is undertaken with a view to make comparison and contrast between these two novelists in regards to such significant aspects, taking a few selected novels of them. This work has been segmented into seven independent chapters in addition to an introduction and the conclusion.
In the introduction, an attempt has been made to give an idea on the subject matter of the research, the aims and objectives of the study, the scope of this research work, the limitation of the topic, hypothesis of the work, methodology applied for this research activity, collection of data, the review of literature, etc. The first chapter is an overview of the life and works of these two prominent novelists. This chapter has been divided into two sections. 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 literary genius was a journalist too, who borrowed many techniques and styles from this field to his writings. The second part deals with the description of life and works of the Indian novelist Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. This multifaceted personality, apart from being a celebrated writer both in fictional and non-fictional writings, was a socially committed journalist too. He was actively associated with many journals, magazines, periodicals, news papers etc in Assamese and English. But it is the *Ramdhenu* which brought him much reputation, both as an editor and a writer.

The second chapter highlights Ernest Hemingway as a famous American novelist. It is a known fact that Hemingway as a novelist is very much successful who led the literary movement in changing the scenario of American fiction between 1925 and 1961. This novelist often deals with war or war like unstable situation in his novels and hence he chooses themes like struggle, pain, death, sufferings, unhappiness, adventures etc. as recurrent themes. Moreover, as a member of ‘Lost Generation’, he has used the themes of this generation in his novels very nicely. Apart from these themes, being a humanist he also uses themes like love, peace brotherhood, humanity, religion in his novels. Hemingway, as a novelist is quite 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 autobiographical note has 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 highlights Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya as a novelist. Bhattacharyya has written a large number of social and political novels in Assamese literature. But it is observed that he is known mainly for his political novels. Before him there were many Assamese novelists who wrote political novels. But Bhattacharyya is exceptional from those Assamese novelists. He has started a new trend of political novels where he introduces the inner conflict of characters very aptly for the first time in Assamese novels, what makes him a good Indian political novelist.
The fourth chapter of this work deals with the comparative study of the story and plot construction in the novels of both the novelists. These two 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 observed well organised. In most cases their stories and plots are found very complex. 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 the story and plot construction. Bhattacharyya was very much conscious politically and socially about his country, and hence his novels are also revelation of lot of problems of his nation. He always advocated for social changes and dynamics of life. But Hemingway was not so much conscious either socially or politically like Bhattacharyya or he didn’t employ such themes in his novels. Of course there is no doubt that he was a humanist and as a humanist he always pleaded for the welfare of people.

The fifth chapter of this research work is a study of the art of characterization in the novels of both the novelists. The brilliant creative power of portraying the characters of both the novelist is best exhibited in their novels. The characters of these two novelists have deep impression on the mind of the readers. They have the common human attributes such as good-bad, love-hatred, honesty-jealousness, envy, feelings, emotions, selfishness, desires, motif which made them life-like characters. It is noticed that both the novelists, Hemingway and Bhattacharyya have created both round and flat characters in the novels. Both of them have portrayed a considerable number of male characters in their novels who exhibit some common features like boldness, courage, fearlessness, activeness, loyalty etc. But in respect to the portrayal of female characters it is evident that they are different from each other. In Hemingway’s novels 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 observed that, they are used by the male characters to fulfil their mental or physical desire. But Bhattachayya has created a large number of women characters in his novels with a 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 marginalization.
In the sixth chapter an analysis has been made on the language, style, dialogue, description of atmosphere in the novels of Hemingway and Bhattacharyya. 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 a novel. In the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya also there are ample examples of dialogues. Both the novelists have employed dialogues in their novels very effectively in order to depict the emotions, feelings, reactions of the characters to analyse the events, to give the background information about the place and events etc. This chapter also focuses 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 demands. The narrative techniques of the two novelists have also studied in this chapter. They 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. One of the most important common ideas found in their novels is the hatred for war and making all efforts to establish peace in society, which both the novelists and their characters desire.

Finally, the entire research work has been summarized and concluded in the last chapter. Moreover, findings and future scope of the study is also added in this chapter.
THE NOVELS OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY AND BIRENDRA KUMAR BHATTACHARYYA:
A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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