PREFACE

In the field of literature study, now-a-days, ‘comparative literature’ has been considered as one of the significant subjects. In practice, the term comparative literature has covered and even now covers rather distinct field of study. The comparative literature is not a genre of creative literature like short story, poetry, novel, drama etc. Even it represents more than an academic discipline. It is, in the basic concept of the term, only a method of literary criticism. Comparison is a method of acquiring knowledge. Through the process of comparison, two or more works of different writers are focused clearly in respect of relationships between them and other areas. Apart from it the similarities and dissimilarities of the works are also traced out. Any single literature or any other event cannot be comprehended except in relation to other literature or event. As such, the primary object of comparative literature is essentially the ‘study of diverse literatures in their relations with one another’. It is observed that many research works have already been done on different litterateurs and their works by using comparative method. But there are many other litterateurs and their major works which are yet to be studied comparatively. One such interesting topic which still remains to be studied is the comparative study of the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. Considering this topic an interesting and important one, the researcher has attempted to carry out this research work here.

Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya are two outstanding litterateurs in American and Assamese literature respectively. Despite belonging to two different countries they have produced enough evidences of having resemblance in their works. Here in this research work an attempt has been made to explore the similarities and the dissimilarities, if any, that exist in their novels.
It is quite difficult to make a comparative study of all the novels of Hemingway and Bhattacharyya. Therefore, for the convenience of the study some of their political and war novels have been selected for the analysis and study.

Both Hemingway and Bhattacharyya have written some novels which are based on various contemporary political circumstances or some civil or domestic wars. It is needless to mention here that such novels have made immense impact upon the readers with its literary acumen and technique. Both the writers are known humanists and hence they feel the pain and sufferings of the people that a war brings forth. Both of them are disillusioned by the war. Therefore they want to bid farewell to war and hence try to establish peace in the society. This ideology of both the novelists pervades in the story-line etc. of their major novels. Some other striking similarities of the novels of the two novelists are also noticed by the scholar which are expected to be explored and analysed here along with the remarkable differences prevailing in their novels.

This research work has been done in a form of contextual comparison. It will be worthwhile to mention that Bhattacharyya’s novels are written in Assamese language and so the important quotations, extracts, lines of his novels, which are referred to this work, have been translated into English. Moreover, the other important references which are given from the Assamese books are also translated into English. While rendering some extracts from Assamese texts into English, the researcher has tried her best to keep the original meaning intact. The abbreviated form of the translation i.e. ‘trans’ is written within bracket against the translated quotations, lines, etc. As a humble scholar of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, this opportunity has been grabbed to enjoy the novels of these two novelists. Though this study cannot be claimed as a complete one, yet it is an effort to have a grasp of the subject to some extent.

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