INTRODUCTION

Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya are two prominent litterateurs in the history of American and Indian literatures respectively. Hemingway’s place in American literature is undoubtedly at the top of the height. He is one of the spokespersons of ‘Lost Generation’. Hemingway has aptly expressed the contemporary experiences of his own time and the comprehensive knowledge of human world in his fictional works. The Nobel Laureate has contributed to almost all the genres of literature and thereby he has enriched the storehouse of American literature and the world literature as well. Most of the modern critics have recognised him as one of the renowned literary figures that the post-war world has ever produced.

In the same way, Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, one of the famous Assamese as well as Indian litterateurs has also occupied a significant place in the history of Indian literature. He has enriched the storehouse of Assamese literature by writing different genres of literature. Both the authors are mostly known for their novel writings. Readers pay much importance in their novels, as those are quite successful in reflecting the contemporary social, economic, political aspects.

Both Hemingway and Bhattacharyya belong to two different countries, having different literary trends and tendencies. But it is noticed that they have shown handful of similarities in respect of different aspect of creative writing. Ernest Hemingway has nurtured his literary pursuits in a country of his own which is undoubtedly recognized as one of the foremost countries of the contemporary world. He witnessed the World War I, World War II, Spanish Civil War, Greco Turkish War etc. The upstories of the novels are based upon the experiences gathered by him from the war front or such type of disturbing
environments. Moreover, his writings have also reflected the experiences of his adventurous life right from his childhood. Apart from these, he has written novels by using the themes like humanistic love and feelings or such kind of other anti-war themes. Such thematic applications have made him popular among the large section of readership throughout the world.

Like Ernest Hemingway, Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya has also penned down many novels on the contemporary historical, political and social events. In this regard it is noticed that he has been influenced by the writings of world famous litterateurs like Leo Tolstoy, Maxim Gorky and many others. Apart from these writers, Ernest Hemingway has influenced him so much which can easily be perceived from Bhattacharyya’s writings. But one can not summarily draw a conclusion that this Assamese writer has blindly followed his American counterpart. His writings always bear the stamp of his individual calibre. Events that are possible to be happened in our nation take place in his novels. The story, plot, language, dialogues, characters etc. are the ingredients of novel writing which are coloured and shaped with the sentiment of his motherland. On the whole, his writing is endowed with originality.

While studying the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya intensively, it is found that their novels are similar in many respects. However, some dissimilarities could also be traced out in their novels. Not only novels, their short stories have also resemblances and differences in many respects, which may also be a topic for research having many scopes.

A close study of the novels of both the novelists, reveals that both Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya have used historical and political background in their novels. Both the novelists have written their novels by taking the help of remarkable political situations and movements of the world. Besides one can easily notice the similarities and dissimilarities in characterization, plot structure, style and language, and even their appreciation of vision of life.
Our present study is designed to focus the basic points of such aspects of the two novelists.

**Subject Matter of the Research:**

The topic of this research work is *The Novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya: A Comparative Study*. Though Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya belong to two different countries, they have produced enough evidence of having similarity in their writings. The similarities, more prominently found in their novels exist mainly in story, plot construction, dialogue, language, characterization, storytelling technique, vision of life etc. Dissimilarities are seen mainly in respect to the time, different points of view, emotion, inner-conflict etc. An attempt has been made here to find out the similarities and dissimilarities in the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.

**Aims and Objectives of the Research:**

Many discussions had already been made on the literary works of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. Apart from this, comparative studies had been made on the novels of Ernest Hemingway with those of many other renowned novelists. Moreover, the works of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya have also been studied comparatively with other famous writers of Assamese and Indian literature as well. But though there is enough scope of making comparison between Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, yet it still remains to be undertaken in the contemporary research scenario. Keeping in view the importance of this, this research topic has been selected. It is hoped that this study will bring into light the similarities and dissimilarities between these two novelists. Secondly, it is felt that though Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya is a multifaceted personality, who is the recipient
of the prestigious Jnanpeeth award has not been recognized widely, outside his native state. His novels have not been able to get proper response from the critics due to unavailability of translated works in other prime languages of the world. It is hoped that the research project will justify its responsibility to be a pointer to place this genius writer in the field of global literature.

**Scope of the Research Work:**

The subject of the comparative study of the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya is of huge and wide scope. This research work is not offering a detailed analysis of all the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. It is not an easy task to study a large number of novels of the two novelists within a limited scope of the research work. Therefore, for the convenience of the study, only the novels based upon the war-like environment and political background have been selected. Some important political and war novels like *A Farewell To Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls, Yiaruingam, Mrityunjay, Pratipad* are chosen for this study. It will be noteworthy that Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea* is an exceptional novel which has no war or political theme. But it is also selected for this work as it expresses nicely the author’s philosophy of life, like his two other selected novels. Another aspect of the study is to delineate vision of life of both the novelists bearing much similarities, though they belong to different countries.

**Limitation of the Topic:**

The literary works of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya are not limited to the writing of novels only. Apart from being famous as novelists, both of them are familiar to the readers as the writers of other literary genres as well. But this research work is confined only to the novels of these two novelists particularly having political and war themes or
stories. Some novels which have ideological similarities or in which similarities and dissimilarities can be traced out in regards to writing technique, skill, language, dialogues, story, plot-construction, characterization, historical background, aesthetic pleasure etc. have also been considered for this research work. Both Hemingway and Bhattacharyya already passed away. So it is not possible for the researcher to meet them personally in order to know more about them and their writings.

**Hypothesis:**

Hypothesis determines the speculative outcome of a research activity. A hypothesis means a provisional notion whose merit requires evaluation. The hypothesis of the present study is that in the political and war novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya there are more similarities as far as the story and plot construction, characterization, language, dialogue, description of atmosphere and vision of life of both the novelists are concerned.

**Methodology of Research:**

As the present study is a comparative one of both the novelists, the scholar has analysed the subject from comparative point of view. ‘Comparative Literature’ plays a vital role in getting the whole literary world together for a single identity. Search for literary relationship, similarities, dissimilarities, parallels between two or more works of similar or different languages and countries are the main objectives of comparative literature. While making comparative study, importance is given to the things like- the sources, themes, folklore, myths, artistic artifices, social, religious, political movement, history and trends etc. Comparative literature tries to find out the qualities that are hidden in the literary works.
Different critics have commented on and defined comparative literature differently at different times. But the definition given by Rene Wellek is the most acceptable one. He says-

*It will study all literature from an international perspective, with a consciousness of the unity of all literary creation and experience. In this conception comparative literature is identical with the study of literature independent of linguistic, ethnic, and political boundaries. It cannot be confined to a single method; descriptions, characterization, interpretation, narration, explanation, evaluation, are used in its discourse just as much as comparison.*

Finding his approach useful the scholar has tried to analyze the very objectives of the study with the help of holistic comparative method. While doing so, the methods of observation, analysis and description have also been adopted. The neo-classical method of close text reading is also used in this study.

**Data of the Research:**

In this research work the scholar takes help of the texts of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya as the primary source. Many literary figures, eminent critics have been interviewed which are used in this research work as primary data. Moreover critical books on the two writers, articles published in magazines, periodicals etc. on these two novelists were consulted as secondary resource of this work. The researcher also uses internet services for collecting some information.

**Review of Literature:**

Review of literature is an important aspect in a research activity as it paves the way to carry on the work. In any scientific investigation the works done in the past make the base of the researcher strong for future investigation.
The past literary works are reviewed to reach the goal of the research very acceptably and faithfully.

Many works have already been done independently by many critics on Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. But comparative study on these two great novelists from two diverse cultures has yet to be done. The present study is the first attempt of such a comparative study done on these two writers. Though no extensive comparative study of the writings of these two novelists is seen till now, yet a few Assamese writers have tried to make comparison of these two writers.

Gobinda Prasad Sarma in the book *Birendra Bhattacharyyar Sahitya Kriti*, (1983) by Hemanta Kumar Sarma, makes a brief study of the novels of Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. The title of the article is “Bhattacharyyar Upanyasat Paschatya Prabhab”.

Aradhana Goswami(1983) in her article “Mrityunjay Upanyasar Keitaman Dish” which is published in *Birendra Bhattacharyyar Sahitya – Kriti* has done a comparative analysis of Hemingway’s *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and Bhattacharyya’s *Mrityunjay*.

Gobinda Prasad Sarma(2010) in his book *Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya: Oupanyasik* tries to make an elaborate discussion on Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya as a novelist particularly as a political novelist.


Hemanta Kumar Sarma’s (1983) (ed.) *Birendra Bhattacharyyar Sahitya-Kriti* is a collection of critical essays on the life and literary activities of Bhattacharyya where different critics and litterateurs have written different essays.
Prafulla Kotoky (1979) in his book *Swarajottar Asomiya Upanyasa Samikhsha* has critically discussed on Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya’s novels.

Prafulla Kotoky (1973) in *Sahitya Bichar* has discussed about the story, plot, characterization, atmosphere etc. of the novels of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.

Malaya Khaund (1996) in her book *Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya Aru Teor Upanyashas* has analysed critically the novels of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.

Assamese writer Amarendra Kalita (2006) in his book *Paschatya Sahitya* has made a brief study on Hemingway’s life and his literary achievement and a comprehensive study on his famous novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Carlos Baker (1979) in his *Hemingway, The Writer as Artist* has discussed about Hemingway as an Artist.

P. G. Rama Rao (1979) in his book *Ernest Hemingway: A Study in Narrative Technique* has made an extensive discussion on narrative technique of Hemingway in relation to his subject and literary credo.


N. Ramchandran Nair (1994) in his *The Hemingway Arc* has criticized the works of Hemingway.

Sanjukta Dasgupta (1996) in her *The Novels of Huxley and Hemingway: Study in Two Planes of Reality* has made a comparative study on the novels of Aldous Huxley and Ernest Hemingway.

Somdatta Mandal’s (2002) (ed.) *The Ernest Hemingway Companion* is a collection of articles by different writers, where they have written essays on the novelist Hemingway and on his style, technique, characterization, themes etc.

This research work has been divided into seven chapters like the following:

- Introduction
- Chapter-I: Life and Works of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya
- Chapter-II: Ernest Hemingway: The Novelist.
- Chapter-III: Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya as a Novelist.
- Chapter-IV: Story and Plot Construction in the Novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.
- Chapter-V: Characterization in the Novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.
- Chapter-VI: Language, Dialogue and Description of Atmosphere as Story Telling Technique.
- Chapter-VII: The Vision of Life of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.

Conclusion.

Bibliography.

Appendix.

In the introduction of the thesis an idea of (i) Subject matter of research, (ii) Aims and objectives of the study, (iii) Scope of the study, (iv) Limitation of the topic, (v) Hypothesis (vi) Methodology applied (vii) Data of research, (viii) Review of literature has been given briefly.
The first chapter has two parts. The first part makes a short analysis of the life and works of Ernest Hemingway. In the second part a short description of the life and works of Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya has been given.

The second chapter is designed to analyse Ernest Hemingway as a novelist. In the third chapter an attempt has been made to highlight Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya as a novelist.

The fourth chapter analyses the similarities and dissimilarities in the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya in regards to story and plot construction.

The fifth chapter focuses the resemblances and differences in regards to the art of characterisation in the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.

The sixth chapter makes a discussion about the similarities and dissimilarities of language, dialogue, story-telling technique etc. in the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.

The seventh chapter highlights the vision of life of both the novelists. In the conclusion an evaluation of the comparison of the novels of Ernest Hemingway and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya has been attempted.

At the end of this work select bibliography and appendix are added.
Reference: