# THE HEROISM IN THE NOVEL OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY "WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"

# Mirzanazarova Vazira Akbaraliyevna Namangan State University

**Abstract:** This article denotes about the work of Ernest Hemingway and his contribution to the literature as well as about the play of "Whom the bell tolls". There is a brief information about it, how Hemingway depicted the hero, main features of his heroism in his work. Moreover, this article describes how the war influenced to the work of Hemingway, in which his portrayal of heroism has had a significant impact on literature and society, challenging traditional notions of heroism and inspiring readers to seek their own meaning and purpose in life.

**Key words:** literature, character, heroism, tradition, war, challenges, notions, portrayal, plot, emotion, self-awareness

**Аннотация:** В статье говорится о творчестве Эрнеста Хемингуэя и его вкладе в литературу, а также о пьесе «По ком звонит колокол». Приведены краткие сведения о том, как Хемингуэй изобразил героя, основные черты его героизма в своем творчестве. Кроме того, в этой статье описывается, как война повлияла на творчество Хемингуэя, в котором его изображение героизма оказало значительное влияние на литературу и общество, бросив вызов традиционным представлениям о героизме и вдохновив читателей на поиск собственного смысла и цели в жизни.

**Ключевые слова:** литература, персонаж, героизм, традиция, война, вызовы, представления, образ, сюжет, эмоция, самосознание.

Uzbek nation takes education seriously, with many vying for master's and doctorate degrees. For many students, both inside the capital and also in the regions, studying the English language is a step in this goal to attain advanced degrees in the United States and Europe. Before, learning outside Uzbekistan was reserved for elites, but now that many universities are offering English language courses, Uzbek students from all economic backgrounds desire to study abroad in English-speaking countries. One advantage of the desire to learn English for Western countries is that by learning





English, Uzbek students will have the opportunity to study in Western countries, later returning to Uzbekistan and bringing with them Western ideas.[8]

Literature is any collection of written work, but it is also used more narrowly for writings specifically considered to be an art form, especially prose fiction, drama, and poetry. In recent centuries, the definition has expanded to include oral literature, much of which has been transcribed. Literature is a method of recording, preserving, and transmitting knowledge and entertainment, and can also have a social, psychological, spiritual, or political role. Literature, as an art form, can also include works in various non-fiction genres, such as biography, diaries, memoir, letters, and essays. Within its broad definition, literature includes non-fictional books, articles or other printed information on a particular subject.[1]

There were many people who did much contribute to the literature. Ernest Hemingway was one of them that he wrote many novels from his experience. Ernest Hemingway was an American novelist, short-story writer, and journalist, born in 1899 and died in 1961. He is widely regarded as one of the most influential writers of the 20th century and is known for his spare and direct writing style, which revolutionized modern literature. Hemingway's works often explore themes of masculinity, war, and the human experience, and his portrayal of heroism has had a significant impact on literature and society. Some of his most famous works include "The Sun Also Rises," "A Farewell to Arms," and "For Whom the Bell Tolls." [7] The theme of heroism is a prominent one in Hemingway's works, particularly in his novels. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism often challenges traditional notions of heroism, which involve a larger-than-life figure with exceptional bravery and strength. Instead, Hemingway's heroes are often ordinary people who exhibit courage and integrity in the face of adversity. They are not perfect and may be flawed, but they are determined to do what is right and often make personal sacrifices for the greater good. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism is often linked to the theme of existentialism, which emphasizes the individual's freedom and responsibility to create their own meaning and purpose in life.

## A brief overview of "Whom the Bell Tolls"

"Whom the Bell Tolls" is a novel by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1940. The novel is set during the Spanish Civil War and follows the story of an American volunteer named Robert Jordan, who has been sent to Spain to fight with the anti-fascist forces. Jordan is a skilled explosives expert and has been tasked with blowing up a





bridge to hinder the enemy's progress. Along the way, he meets a group of guerrilla fighters and falls in love with one of them, a young woman named Maria. As the mission progresses, Jordan begins to question the morality of the war and the effectiveness of his own mission. The novel explores themes of war, love, sacrifice, and the human experience, and is considered one of Hemingway's greatest works. [9] As previously mentioned, the theme of heroism is a significant one in Hemingway's works, including "Whom the Bell Tolls." Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in his novels often challenges traditional notions of heroism by depicting ordinary people who exhibit courage and integrity in the face of adversity. Hemingway's heroes are not perfect, but they are determined to do what is right and often make personal sacrifices for the greater good.

In "Whom the Bell Tolls," the character of Robert Jordan embodies Hemingway's portrayal of heroism. Jordan is not a larger-than-life figure with exceptional bravery and strength, but he is an ordinary man who exhibits courage and integrity in his own way. He is willing to put himself in harm's way to complete his mission, but he also questions the morality of the war and is conflicted about the violence he must commit. Jordan's heroism is not defined by his ability to kill, but by his willingness to do what is right and to stand up for his beliefs. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in his novels is often linked to the theme of existentialism, which emphasizes the individual's freedom and responsibility to create their own meaning and purpose in life. Hemingway's heroes must confront the harsh realities of the world and the meaninglessness of life, but they still choose to act with courage and integrity. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism has had a significant impact on literature and society, challenging traditional notions of heroism and inspiring readers to seek their own meaning and purpose in life. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism differs from traditional notions of heroism in several ways. Traditionally, heroes are often depicted as larger-than-life figures with exceptional strength, bravery, and morality. They are often portrayed as symbols of good who engage in epic battles against evil forces. In contrast, Hemingway's heroes are ordinary people who exhibit courage and integrity in their own way. Hemingway's heroes are not perfect; they often have flaws and weaknesses that make them more relatable to readers. They are not invincible, and they do not always succeed in their endeavors. Hemingway's heroes are often engaged in existential struggles to find meaning and purpose in life, which adds depth to their



characters and makes them more human. [4]Another way in which Hemingway's portrayal of heroism differs from traditional notions of heroism is in his emphasis on action and the present moment. Hemingway's heroes are not passive; they are often engaged in physical and emotional struggles that require them to act in the present moment. This emphasis on action and the present moment is a key component of Hemingway's writing style and reflects his belief that life is to be lived and experienced in the moment. Overall, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism challenges traditional notions of heroism by depicting ordinary people who exhibit courage and integrity in their own way. Hemingway's heroes are flawed, relatable, and engaged in existential struggles to find meaning and purpose in life.

#### Heroism in "Whom the Bell Tolls"

In "Whom the Bell Tolls," Hemingway portrays heroism as a complex and multifaceted concept. The novel tells the story of Robert Jordan, an American volunteer in the Spanish Civil War, who is tasked with blowing up a bridge behind enemy lines. As Jordan carries out his mission, he confronts difficult ethical choices, grapples with personal demons, and forms deep emotional connections with the people around him. One way in which Hemingway portrays heroism in "Whom the Bell Tolls" is through Jordan's commitment to his mission. Despite the risks and the obstacles he faces, Jordan remains dedicated to his cause and is willing to make personal sacrifices for the greater good. His bravery and determination inspire those around him, and he becomes a symbol of resistance and hope for the Spanish people. [10] However, Hemingway also challenges traditional notions of heroism in the novel. Jordan is not an infallible hero; he is flawed and vulnerable, and he struggles with doubts and uncertainties throughout the book. He is haunted by memories of past failures and carries a burden of guilt that he cannot escape. Additionally, Hemingway portrays the futility of war and the senseless violence it causes, suggesting that heroism in war can be a hollow and meaningless concept. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in "Whom the Bell Tolls" is therefore complex and multifaceted, reflecting the difficult choices and moral ambiguities of war. Jordan's heroism is not simple or straightforward, but is instead a product of his personal values, his commitment to his cause, and his relationships with the people around him. Through Jordan's story, Hemingway challenges readers to question traditional notions of heroism and consider the true costs of war.

## A brief summary of the novel's plot

"Whom the Bell Tolls" is set during the Spanish Civil War and follows the story of Robert Jordan, an American volunteer who has joined a group of anti-fascist guerrillas fighting behind enemy lines. Jordan is tasked with blowing up a bridge in order to disrupt the enemy's military operations. As he prepares for the mission, he meets and falls in love with Maria, a young Spanish woman who has been traumatized by the war. Jordan also grapples with personal demons and doubts about the morality of his mission.[3] As the mission unfolds, Jordan faces numerous obstacles and ethical dilemmas, including the possibility of betrayal and the potential harm to innocent civilians. The novel ultimately explores the themes of love, sacrifice, and the true cost of war.

#### The traits and characteristics of his heroic characters

Hemingway's heroic characters share several key traits and characteristics that set them apart from traditional heroes. These include:

- 1. Courage: Hemingway's heroes exhibit courage in the face of danger and adversity. They are not fearless, but they are willing to take risks and face their fears to achieve their goals.
- 2. Integrity: Hemingway's heroes have a strong sense of personal integrity and a commitment to their values. They are not easily swayed by outside influences and are willing to stand up for what they believe in.
- **3. Resilience:** Hemingway's heroes are resilient in the face of setbacks and failures. They are able to bounce back from adversity and continue to pursue their goals.
- **4. Self-awareness:** Hemingway's heroes are introspective and self-aware. They are able to reflect on their own thoughts and emotions and make sense of their experiences.
- **5. Physical prowess**: While Hemingway's heroes are not superhuman, they often possess physical strength and endurance that allows them to overcome physical challenges.
- **6. Emotional depth:** Hemingway's heroes are not one-dimensional; they have complex emotional lives and are often engaged in existential struggles to find meaning and purpose in life.[4]

Overall, Hemingway's heroic characters exhibit a unique combination of physical and emotional strength, resilience, and self-awareness that sets them apart from



traditional heroes. They are complex, relatable, and exhibit a more realistic portrayal of heroism.

## The character of Robert Jordan and his portrayal as a hero

Robert Jordan is portrayed as a hero in the novel, but his heroism is nuanced and complex. He is not a traditional hero in the sense that he does not possess superhuman strength or invincibility. Instead, Jordan is a flawed, human character who struggles with doubts and fears, but still manages to do what he believes is right. He is brave and self-sacrificing, but also compassionate and thoughtful. One of the most notable traits of Jordan's heroism is his willingness to risk his life for the greater good. He volunteers for the dangerous mission of blowing up the bridge, knowing that it is essential to the guerrilla's cause. He also puts himself in harm's way to protect Maria and the other members of the group, even though it means risking his own safety. Jordan's bravery is further highlighted by the fact that he is not a soldier by profession, but rather a literature professor who has joined the cause out of ideological convictions. Another trait that defines Jordan's heroism is his compassion and empathy towards others. He is deeply affected by the suffering of the Spanish people, and his love for Maria is motivated in part by a desire to protect her from the violence and trauma of the war. Jordan is also compassionate towards his fellow guerrillas, and he forms close bonds with them throughout the course of the novel.

# Hemingway's challenges for traditional notions of heroism in the novel

Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in "Whom the Bell Tolls" challenges traditional notions of heroism in several ways. First, he emphasizes the human element of heroism by portraying Jordan as a flawed, vulnerable character. Jordan's doubts and fears make him more relatable and human, and Hemingway suggests that true heroism comes not from invincibility, but from the ability to face one's fears and overcome them. Second, Hemingway challenges the idea of heroism as a solitary endeavor. Jordan's heroism is not a result of his individual strength or prowess, but rather his ability to work with and rely on others. The guerrilla group is depicted as a collective hero, with each member contributing to the cause in their own way. Hemingway suggests that true heroism is not just about individual bravery, but also about the ability to work together for a common goal. [10] Finally, Hemingway challenges the idea that heroism is always justified. While Jordan's mission is presented as necessary to the anti-fascist cause, the novel also explores the cost of violence and the morality of killing. Jordan is haunted





by doubts about the ethics of his mission, and the novel does not shy away from depicting the devastating impact of war on innocent civilians. Hemingway suggests that true heroism requires not just bravery, but also an awareness of the consequences of one's actions and a commitment to justice and morality.

### The impact of war on Hemingway's characters and their heroic qualities

War has a profound impact on Hemingway's characters, and it often serves as a catalyst for their heroic qualities. In "Whom the Bell Tolls," the characters are shaped by the violence and trauma of the Spanish Civil War. Jordan, for example, becomes more compassionate and empathetic as a result of his experiences in the war. His love for Maria is partly motivated by a desire to protect her from the violence and suffering he has witnessed. At the same time, war also challenges and tests the characters' heroic qualities. Jordan, for example, faces numerous obstacles and ethical dilemmas throughout the course of the novel. He is forced to make difficult choices and to confront his own doubts and fears. War also brings out the worst in some characters, highlighting.

This essay analyses the theme of heroism in Ernest Hemingway's novels, specifically "Whom the Bell Tolls." It explores how Hemingway's portrayal of heroism differs from traditional notions of heroism, highlighting the traits and characteristics of his heroic characters. Hemingway challenges conventional notions of heroism by presenting flawed and vulnerable characters who struggle to find meaning and purpose in a chaotic world. The essay also discusses the impact of war on Hemingway's characters and how his experiences as a war correspondent influenced his portrayal of heroism. In "Whom the Bell Tolls," Hemingway depicts a group of fighters who are committed to a cause greater than themselves but are also aware of the futility of their efforts. The essay concludes by reflecting on the significance of Hemingway's portrayal of heroism and its broader implications for literature and society as a whole. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in "Whom the Bell Tolls" is significant for its departure from traditional notions of heroism in literature. Rather than depicting heroes as invincible and morally unambiguous, Hemingway portrays his characters as flawed and human, with a deep sense of moral ambiguity. This allows for a more nuanced exploration of heroism, one that reflects the realities of war and its impact on those who fight it. Furthermore, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in "Whom the Bell Tolls" is significant for its exploration of the relationship between heroism and political

ideology. The novel's protagonist, Robert Jordan, is a committed Communist who fights for a cause he believes in. However, Hemingway also portrays the destructive aspects of political ideology, showing how it can lead to the dehumanization of the individual and the perpetration of atrocities. Overall, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in "Whom the Bell Tolls" is significant for its complexity and nuance, which challenges traditional notions of heroism and explores the impact of war and political ideology on the individual.

Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in his novels has had significant implications for literature and society as a whole. By challenging traditional notions of heroism, Hemingway presented a more realistic and nuanced view of heroism that emphasized the complexity of human nature and the impact of external factors such as war on individual actions. Hemingway's heroes are not infallible figures, but flawed human beings who face difficult choices and grapple with their own vulnerabilities. They are often defined by their actions rather than their words, and their heroism lies not in their triumphs, but in their willingness to persevere in the face of adversity and to stand up for what they believe in. In addition, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism has contributed to a broader cultural shift away from idealized, one-dimensional portrayals of heroism, towards a more nuanced and complex view of heroism.

#### LIST OF LITERATURE

- 1. Baqoeva M, Muratova E, Ochilova M., English literature. T.: 2006
- 2. F. Boynazarov Jahon adabiyoti T. 2006 y.
- 3. Gale Contextual Encyclopedia of American Literature. USA, 2009.
- **4.** Istoriya amerikanskoy literaturi. Tt. 1-2, pod redaksiyey N.I.Samoxvalova. M. Izd-vo «Prosvesheniye», 1971
  - 5. Problemi istorii literature SSHA XX veka. «Nauka», 1964
  - 6. SH. Normatova. Jahon adabiyoti T. 2008 y.
  - 7. <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest\_Hemingway">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest\_Hemingway</a>
- **8.** <a href="https://bluedomes.net/2020/04/02/the-growing-importance-of-english-in-uzbekistan/">https://bluedomes.net/2020/04/02/the-growing-importance-of-english-in-uzbekistan/</a>
  - **9.** <a href="https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46170.For\_Whom\_the\_Bell\_Tolls">https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46170.For\_Whom\_the\_Bell\_Tolls</a>
- 10. https://content.ikon.mn/banners/2015/4/9/1468/Hemingwey-for-whom-the-bell-24 grammata.compdf.pdf