

Abstract

During his life, Ernest Hemingway was not only surrounded by many ambitious women but he also witnessed the change in women's social positions in society. It is observable in his works that Hemingway's own experiences with gender issues affected his life and his literary output as well. Thus this thesis focuses on the issue of gender differences in selected novels of Ernest Hemingway. Its aim is to describe and analyze the author's characterization of his male heroes and their female counterparts in the following novels: *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Sun Also Rises* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Even though it might seem that Hemingway's heroes are generally known for being very "masculine" types, they are often, as the thesis argues, under the influence of female characters. Moreover, although it might seem that women are not important for Hemingway's stories due to the fact that his heroes are depicted as strong and independent men who do not need women, it is the other way around since women's presence provides the reader with an ability to see the emotional side of the heroes. Thus an analysis of the individual relationships and their impact on the characters' development is another important part of this thesis. Moreover, Hemingway's works are always connected with his personal experiences and thus the reader may comprehend Hemingway's characterization of gender only after he or she gets acquainted with the author's life. For this reason, each chapter of this thesis offers information about the author's motivation for writing his novels.