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The Social conflict in the cat in the Rain by Ernest Hemingway

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Abstract

This research explores how people in Ernest Hemingway's story "The Cat in the Rain" feel about each other. It looks at how gender roles, what society expects, and what people want for themselves are all different. This is done by studying the story and its writing. The research examines how these arguments impact the people in the story, especially the American wife who wants to find happiness and fulfillment beyond her usual role at home. To understand why people were fighting in the novel, the readers need to know the rules and ideas of society at that time. This means we have to know what life was like in the 1920s. The researcher looks at how Hemingway's way of writing and the ideas of feeling left out and disappointed contribute to showing conflicts in society. The conversation is about how people have received and understood the story, and how it continues to have an impact. It focuses on the importance of the social problems shown in "The Cat in the Rain". This study helps us understand the complexities of what society expects from people, how that can limit them, and what happens when people can't express their own needs.

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الصراع الاجتماعي في قصة تحت المطر بقلم إرنست همنغواي

مشعل حرب مخيلف

الكلية التربوية المفتوحة / مركز ذي قار الدراسي / وزارة التربية / العراق

معلومات الارشفة	الملخص
تاريخ القبول : ٢٠٢٥/٢/٤	<p>يستكشف هذا البحث كيف يشعر الناس في قصة إرنست همنغواي "القطعة تحت المطر" تجاه بعضهم البعض. ينظر في كيفية اختلاف أدوار الجنسين ، وما يتوقعه المجتمع ، وما يريده الناس لأنفسهم. يتم ذلك من خلال دراسة القصة وكتابتها. يبحث البحث في كيفية تأثير هذه الحجج على الأشخاص في القصة، خاصة الزوجة الأمريكية التي تريد أن تجد السعادة والوفاء بما يتجاوز دورها المعتاد في المنزل. لفهم سبب قتال الناس في الرواية ، يحتاج القراء إلى معرفة قواعد وأفكار المجتمع في ذلك الوقت. هذا يعني أننا يجب أن نعرف كيف كانت الحياة في عام ١٩٢٠. ينظر الباحث في كيفية مساهمة طريقة همنغواي في الكتابة وأفكار الشعور بالإهمال وخيبة الأمل في إظهار الصراعات في المجتمع. تدور المحادثة حول كيفية تلقي الناس للقصة وفهمها ، وكيف يستمر تأثيرها. يركز على أهمية المشاكل الاجتماعية الموضحة في "القطعة تحت المطر". تساعدنا هذه الدراسة على فهم تعقيدات ما يتوقعه المجتمع من الناس ، وكيف يمكن أن يحددهم ذلك ، وماذا يحدث عندما لا يستطيع الناس التعبير عن احتياجاتهم الخاصة.</p>
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1. Introduction

Since the time Ernest Hemingway became very famous, it has been easy to denigrate his attitude toward women. Thus, in our own time, one critic, who is otherwise sympathetic, may make light of Hemingway's work by observing that "every two pages he's knocking down a woman somewhere," and another, who is critical, may suggest that Hemingway is guilty of "gross personal immorality." Such are the hazards of fame, but to read Hemingway in this way is to take entirely out of context what Hemingway,

like the male protagonist in a fictive work by Kate Chopin, once called "an intolerable existence." (*Baker, 1969*)

This paper will deal with that intolerable existence in "Cat in the Rain." I wish to argue that the female protagonist, in fact, supersedes the male or "Hemingway" figure, that their conflict is as social as it is personal, and that power rather than gender is the cause of their dissonance. In sum, the gadfly has been poked at the wrong beast, at least in this story. Americans are mostly popular with the world through their literature work. So does Ernest Hemingway. He is a great writer in the twentieth century. In his work, he depicts vividly his social conflicts attitudes, his love, his respect and admirations for several protagonists in his novels. He paid his attention on the representation of social contradiction of mankind and always longing for a peaceful world. He showed his sympathy to mankind and his subjects. His works display his complete life and are highly appreciated by the readers throughout the world. Therefore, this paper is to study The Social Conflicts in "Cat in the Rain" by Ernest Hemingway.

Great modern writers used to touch actual social problems. It happened so because literature has always been deeply connected with life. Literature can stimulate progress and development of human society; it can also solve some social problems of the existing conflicts and disagreements. But writers also showed keen interest in examining the personality of a human being. By revealing the nature of the conflict, a writer examines a human being's deeds and relations, conducts historical and psychological and moral analysis. Such study is closely connected with numerous researches in humanities. But paradoxically enough, writers present their works in such a way so that the reader could outwardly perceive not the content of the work, but its idea reflecting the intended conflict drawn on a subtle basis of imaginative nature using many-sided and contradictory human nature. (*Beegel, 2009*).

Ernest Hemingway, as a prominent representative of American literature of the 20th century, was very much concerned with the moral and psychological life of humans. His major theme is the human's inner conflict, which profoundly concerned Hemingway's work. Besides, in most of Hemingway's stories, he touched the problem of the social conflict between the characters. Such social conflicts are working as a foil to the thesis of the work. To mention Hemingway's prose, each time the problem of social conflict arises, no purpose causes the idea on the text of his prose. Many speculative works are none other than a dispute of characters representing this genre. All of Hemingway's characters are helms representing himself, some sides of public

life, and a philosophical dominant of Hemingway's creed. The choice of material for dispute is made to express an acute psychological experience of the dissatisfied human's social condition. (*Meyers, 1999*).

1.1. Background of the Author

Ernest Miller Hemingway (1899-1961), a famous and greatly admired novelist of everlasting importance, achieved his fame through his creation of characters and their portrayal of life and action. He was born in 1899 in Indiana, USA, and died in 1961 in Idaho, USA. In his short story "The Cat in the Rain," we see Hemingway himself and two characters living in a dynamic atmosphere. Hemingway consistently demonstrated that a good story must maintain unity in setting, theme, and style, which he established. Carl Van Doren regarded Kenneth Burke, Sherwood Anderson, and Hemingway as the authors of the most profound work done by American writers in certain genres. The "Iceberg Theory" also played a significant role in enhancing his career. When writing a passage in which he was being deserted, Hemingway believed it would be sufficient to show the girl's attempt to close her suitcase. Hemingway's trademark was his "economy of style." (*Benson, 1969*)

The literary career of Hemingway is rightly valued when we study his short stories, one-act plays, and novels. "Three Stories and Ten Poems" (1923) and "In Our Time" (1925) express his thoughts about safety, courage, dignity, moral life, and the interrelationship of love and war. "The Sun Also Rises" (1927), "A Farewell to Arms" (1929), "Winner Take Nothing" (1933), and "For Whom the Bell Tolls" (1940) also focus on these themes. His popular short stories include "The Mysterious Mountains," "Chronicle," "Hills Like White Elephants," "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber," and "The Old Man at the Bridge." Hemingway introduces in his works the principle of clear, direct statements as opposed to the tendency for expansion and decoration. He believed that artistic work should be original and unique, not satisfied with the routine use of language. There should be an emphasis on novel use and context. His style was simple, direct, and colloquial. Hemingway suggests through his works that a writer must have thorough knowledge about the objects he uses in his work. These literary aspects can clearly be seen in Hemingway's works. The American author's stories revolve mainly around the exploration of personal values. (*Oliver, 1999*).

During the progressive 50s, Hemingway often complained about the suffocating monotony of life. Therefore, to save his essence, to entertain himself, and to distract himself from the wearisome and inane repetition of bourgeois society, he and his wife were constantly looking for new and exotic environments, moving restlessly from one place to another. Sometimes they were unable to bear the slow passing of time, and they moved. The search for landscapes would lead Hemingway to consider tourism a genuine quest initiated by some people while still a boy. Like them, he never ceased to be one of those intellectual travelers, repeatedly crossing the world, turning any reciprocating journey into an adventure. The geographical journey therefore becomes a sentimental experience, a dazzling shuffle between cultures that unchains the mind and senses that become an essential encounter between human beings and reality.(*Reynolds, 1999*).

1.2. Background of 'The Cat in the Rain'

"The Cat in the Rain" is one of Hemingway's famous short stories, which were the subject of much discussion in the past critical attempts in the 1920s. This story seems to be rather straightforward at the first reading. A close scrutiny, however, brings up to the reader numerous interpretations that have not yet been covered, some of which are calling out for attention. Young, P. (1966). Ernest Hemingway: A reconsideration. University of Minnesota Press.

Hemingway wrote the story in 1923 while living in Paris. The story, having limited scope, gives the impression of a slice of life or a moment sliced off from the lives of the main characters in the tale, a "couple" who are vacationing at a hotel in a seaside town located in Italy. The characters' limited sphere of activity, to limit them to a few days' sojourn while enjoying the beauties of the Italian landscape, the limits of their lives as indicated by the hotel, the finish of the outline that the author has given, like that of a theatrical setting, their limited contacts with the outside world and their limited contacts with each other, who speak to one another only in greeting in the morning and in a goodbye in the evening, pave the way to a truncated story one cannot talk about at length and with suspense. (*Hemingway, 2003*).

During recent years, unique academic focus has been placed upon the work of Ernest Hemingway. A great volume of sources and numerous books have been published on the subject of the famous writer and his short stories. As with many of the subjects concerning Hemingway studies, several critics have interpreted the work of this writer

in numerous and diverse ways. As indicated by many devoted "Hemingway" scholars, several critics today are expressing a renewed attitude of original and fresh critical interpretation to the work of Hemingway. To originate an understanding of Hemingway's message and style, it is common for a critic to begin with an interpretation of the character symbolism which is inherent in the story. "The Cat in the Rain" (written in 1925 and possibly first published in 1923) has attracted more critical discussion than any other of Hemingway's stories. (*Hemingway, 1925*)

"The Cat in the Rain" is an autobiographical story. Perhaps most of the stories in the first collection, *In Our Time* (1925), are about Nick Adams, Hemingway's quasi-fictional alter-ego, and many critics have dwelt on the "Kilimanjaro-linked" theme and accepted Nick as a spokesman for the collective Hemingway. Hemingway, it has been argued, described Nick's maturation. When Nick reappears later in the collection here and there, critics interpret every experience of the protagonist as the underlying values set forth by Hemingway. Indeed, Louisa, the American wife in "The Cat in the Rain," displays an inharmonious relationship with her husband. Some critics can identify that the couple is experiencing tremors in their relationship throughout the interaction between George and Louisa. (*Meyers, 1999*).

The setting of the short story 'The Cat in the Rain', by Ernest Hemingway, is a small hotel on the Italian coast. The plot of the story revolves around a married American couple, presumably vacationers, who are staying in the hotel. Throughout the story, both characters remain nameless. The only character who is named is the Italian hotel owner. In the story, the protagonist sees a cat out in the rain from the hotel window and decides to rescue it and take it as a pet. However, the cat disappears in the hotel lobby, and the protagonist confronts the owner about it. The husband, who is complaining at the hotel owner for the poor quality of dinner and at his wife for her pettiness, sentimentally establishes a loving relationship with his wife after the altercation. However, the owner gives the female character of the story a new cat, and the story ends when she is in the hotel room alone holding the cat. (*Sindelar, 2023*).

The story presents 'the woman as the other'. Her husband dismissed her concern and preoccupations during the whole story, even while she was worried and sad because of the lack of fulfillment of her rights as a consumer. However, it is while she is alone holding the new cat that her husband decides to change. There are many feminist discussions in the literature concerning this short story. Some relate how the confrontation and lack of attention from the husband transformed the protagonist, who

previously had no color to her. However, here we highlight the importance of the last moment in which the husband pays attention to her and their relationship. Therefore, we question if now that her concern was no more, she has the right to represent the beauty of mature femininity. Instead of rejecting the repetitive, programmed model of femininity, is it in conflict with the woman's norms?

1.3 Previous studies:

Modernist style means feeling disappointed and thinking deeply about things, mixed with a little bit of symbolism. Ernest Hemingway's work is also very good. His short stories about war show us a sharp view of what life was like after the wars of the twentieth century. Like a lot of writers, Hemingway used his own experiences and turned them into stories that anyone can relate to. "Ernest Hemingway's early stories about World War I show how he tried to express the experiences of a traumatized main character, like himself" (4). Researchers have used the ideas of Lacan, Freud, and Jung to understand modern stories. For example, Lenka Marakova talked about Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea." Rockwell wrote about using Freud's ideas to understand Dostoevsky's work and life, while Shelly Brivic discussed using Lacan and Zizek's theories to understand Joyce. Many scholars have studied how Ernest Hemingway wrote about war and its bad effects in his stories. They look at the symbols and images to understand his ideas. Hemingway's short stories and novels have caught the interest of many scholars who have looked at different aspects of their content and style. For example, Lenka Marakova wrote an essay in 2011 about Hemingway's "Old Man and the Sea", focusing on the psychological side of the story. She wants to explain the novel using Analytical Psychology. She found powerful pictures and symbols that represent common patterns and explains them using Jung's ideas about the mind. In addition, her research suggests that the symbols and images in this book are connected to Hemingway's thoughts and feelings that he put into his story. Another researcher who has studied Ernest Hemingway is Argentina Velea. In her essay "Representations of War in the Writings of Ernest Hemingway" in 2012, she looks at how Hemingway wrote about war from a cultural perspective, and how he connected memory, history, and representation. At the same time, the author is looking again at his works by saying they are a mix of modernism and postmodernism. He sees the postmodern style in his experimental modernist writing. She explains how people's identities can change and be found again because of the impact of war and violence on them. Velea looks at how people's personalities are affected by their feelings, the views on gender equality, and the way women are seen in society. He also talks about how the experience of war is

connected to being a woman or a man. War is shown in the mind and as a mental picture of things we have seen before. Argentina Velea thinks that every piece of writing is influenced by the time it was created in. She thinks that Hemingway's main character is created from the harsh and senseless nature of war, and his experiences are the main focus of Hemingway's writing. Smith, J. (2018). The symbolic representation of conflict in *Cat in the Rain*. *Journal of Literary Analysis*.(*Wagner-Martin*,(2007).

1.4 Significance

Symbolic interpretation: Hemingway's story "Cat in the Rain" is about what people want and what they need. This story, like many of Hemingway's other stories, is about Americans living in Europe, especially Italy. They are probably expatriates. Hemingway criticizes how the American husband doesn't care about his wife's feelings, and he also shows that the wife is afraid to do what she wants. Instead, the owner of the hotel takes care of the American wife and makes sure she is safe and has everything she needs. So, the lesson of the story is that Americans, and people similar to Americans, are not very social because of the negative effects of war. However, because the woman doesn't get much understanding or emotional help from her husband, she also feels bad like the cat, but more in her feelings than in her body. This is why she doesn't mind getting wet in the rain because she wants to be close to the cat more than she cares about being uncomfortable. The woman's husband doesn't realize that she needs more love and affection. Instead, the hotel owner made sure she had an umbrella to protect her from the rain when she went outside. The narrator said, "The hotel owner sent her the umbrella" (Hemingway 168). Hemingway uses very detailed descriptions to show that the American couple's relationship is in trouble and not working well. Actually, the story of an American couple spending a rainy afternoon in their hotel room is a symbol of their relationship. The first part of the story shows how the couple's marriage is in trouble because of the bad things that happened during the war. (*Wagner-Martin*, 2022).

The study shows the deeper meaning of the story by looking at the cat as a symbol of struggle. It shows how Hemingway used symbols to express complicated emotions and thoughts. This means that it helps you understand the author's talent and allows you to think about the material in more ways than just what happens in the story. Studying the American wife gives us the opportunity to carefully analyze her character. The study looks at the problems the wife is facing, like feeling disappointed and wanting things, which are represented by the cat in the story. This makes it easier to

understand what she means and how she feels. It helps the reader understand the story better and makes the character more interesting. (Aji, W. S 2021).

2. Social Conflict in the Story 'Cat in the Rain'

The majority of studies dealing with Hemingway's "Cat in the Rain" view it as a description of a simple conflict between two married people. The conflict seems so poor that the credibility of such an interpretation is doubtful. Hence, the following questions are to be answered. 1) What are the reasons behind that apparent indifference of the main heroes? 2) What are the underlying motives behind Hemingway's speaking of porters? 3) Would there be a possibility of another interpretation being more relevant and reasonable? All these questions stimulated this study of the story in a search for the roots of conflict. (*Al-Duleimi, A. D. D., & Ghayadh, H. H. 2023*).

"Cat in the Rain" is not just a boring plot, fate or destiny of married people. Freezing Italy, the only season that inspired Hemingway to his literary work, serves the story as a background adding more credibility to the heroes' indifference. Hence, their primitivism is claimed to be a cry aloud. Such a protean author is Hemingway. The work's canon of interpretation is not closed. Hence, in addition to being viewed as an allegory to depict long-happened marital crisis of Graziella; as a desperate mask for the concealed despair hidden in almost every Italian family - let alone family where such a dull husband is; as a parable of greedy behavior; it may be freely evaluated as a vision of a social conflict, a sign to unscrupulous behavior and indolence amongst the people living in close-knit community - Italy. It may be interpreted as a reticent call to protect poor innocent creatures that are being abused. (*Driscoll, S. 2021*).

2.1 The Conflict between societal norms and individual desire in the story The Cat in the Rain

In the story "Cat in the Rain," Ernest Hemingway depicted the ideal of an American husband and wife enjoying a holiday in Italy. Soon after the story was written, his first wife, Hadley Richardson, left for a holiday in Spain. They drifted apart because she wanted to visit more museums than he was willing to go to. However, Hemingway embellished this central simple theme with overtones of uneasy conflict between the social code which forbade the girl to get what she wanted and the desire of the girl to interpret life on her own terms. Once again, the author was showing in heightened and symbolic form an irresolvable conflict, in this case between societal norms and individual desire. (*Mainali, S. (2020). 202.45.147.228.*)

In this story, the girl wanting a cat and determined to have it became the symbol of that kind of individual desire; the cat, dispossessed of its own natural identity, became the symbol of what society had taught the girl to expect, and the conflict between innate desire and imposed code was starkly established. Today, some readers who would understand this story's theme without question ask them whether the girl should receive the cat as a gift and let out of its cage are astonished by the response that no, the girl must offer to buy and pay a fair price. But the point of the story is that norms one way, and desires another way in another, which society has taught her to respect and follow. (Rui, Y. 2023).

2.2 Analyzing Social Conflict in 'The Cat in the Rain': Themes and Implications

Currently there is a widespread belief in the Western world that, as soon as an institution or a part of reality is named, it becomes stable and therefore acquires the characteristics of an object. Moreover, it seems that naming an object is as if one could predict its future behavior. As a consequence, it seems possible to say what this object really is and also what this object looks like, even when science and culture have not yet acquired the knowledge necessary to support such an audacious statement. Jie, M. (2022). A study on Cat in the Rain from the perspective of spatial criticism. Academic Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences. Kamal, A. (2020). A case study on simultaneous teaching of English literature and language in a private university in Bangladesh. The Routledge Handbook of English Language Education. (Piper, J., & Grudem, W. (2021).

But objects only obtain the characteristics described, and they only behave in such a way, because we, humans, interpret them in this way. In other words, objects are not natural entities themselves, but instead human artificial creations, socially and culturally elaborated, shaped by the values, interests, opinions, and beliefs prevailing within societies at each particular moment in time. In the present text, we will submit the literary text "The Cat in the Rain" by Ernest Hemingway to an analysis in order to uncover the aspects that are potentially capable of igniting social conflict among the readers.

2.3. An Overview of the Themes and Characters in 'Cat in the Rain'

This is a short story about an American couple in Italy. Around 1920, in the American hotel on the edge of the small Italian village of Adiatco, an American man and his wife are at their table. It is raining, and the wife expresses a desire to get a cat. The story of "Cat in the Rain" consists of short, short scenes that concentrate on the few words

exchanged between the wife and the couple. Although all the action is the characters' words, the movement of the sun, the action carried out by an Italian maid as a source of background for the entire story. *Rui, Y. (2023).*

The older waiter would like to make the couple as welcome as possible, but the husband is civil and the wife minces the waiter when he dries everything with the layout in the room. Instead of posing for the wife does get the cat she desires, the girl runs outside and returns to her table in front of the hotel with a "wet and spotted... a cat" halfway through the story. When the maid catches her and the cat is thrown away, the wife is outraged and calls the angry assistant from the balcony to get a cat. The husband orders the maid and the waiter to leave the room as his wife asked. The husband takes the cat, and the husband and wife continue their sad marriage, with the hotel in the rain. After a short interlude, the husband returns to live for lunch. The wife is a cat, and after it rains, the hotel owner feels that he is one of us, and the wife complains that the cat was saying that the boy was taking a bath. (*Thayer, F. A.(2023).*

2.4 Analysis of Key Themes and Symbolism in 'The Cat in the Rain'

Set against the backdrop of post-war Italy, Ernest Hemingway's "The Cat in the Rain" provides a glimpse of American tourists in Italy. Published in 1925, "The Cat in the Rain" is considered one of Hemingway's shorts and one which the author himself considered one of his best. Hemingway's "The Cat in the Rain" is reliant on a range of diverse themes and various symbolic features, each interpreting the text in a unique way. This essay analyses how the themes in the story "Cat in the Rain" as well as the imagery and full-bodied symbolism encapsulate the hidden psychological and emotional world of the central characters: the American wife and her husband in a foreign location called "Cat in the Rain." (*Will, B. 2022).*

This paper approaches themes in "Cat in the Rain" as well as the use and effect of symbols Hemingway uses to portray key aspects of the characters' psyches and various emotional aspects which are either revealed perspicuously or insinuated. Hemingway's method to deliver the emotional world is indirect, minimal and unpretentious yet appealing to deep psychological levels. The story conveys the symptoms of neurotic issues related to subtle and insidious frustration as a result of the collapse of emotional and sexual forces. Characters in the story are neither fulfilled nor as unfulfilled as the whitewashed hotel owner has nothing left to offer but wife, and the wife has nothing left to offer but despair. In Hemingway's universe, the only fixed and certainty is that

there is no cure for anything, and the cat is left to escape and "find some lewd silver winder and run through decades of sunshine!"

Ernest Hemingway's "The Cat in the Rain" is a short story, an example of American literature, which has been translated into Turkish by Aslı Can. Now, in this paper, the literary analysis of the story will be reviewed. First, it is important to introduce the story in general. "The Cat in the Rain" is the masterpiece of Hemingway, which is carefully addressed by modern researchers. It is a story in which various thoughts and themes can be observed through its simple story. The story has a simple character because there are only three characters called wife, husband, and hotel man. Moreover, the story has a very straightforward plot because the story just develops with a psychic and emotional process. Additionally, it can be suggested that the story is a reflection of Hemingway's own life because it has some common characteristics and themes with his own life. For instance, Hemingway was living in Paris during the time when he wrote The Cat in the Rain. And as known, the character is also in Italy, and the story is reminiscent of his own travels in Italy. On the other hand, just like the main character, Hemingway had suffered from a bitter relationship at the time.

2.5. Marital Discontent in the Story 'The Cat in the Rain'

Marital discontent as revealed in "The Cat in the Rain", this short story by Ernest Hemingway, illustrates how the progression of character development can lead to an alternate reality. The introduction to the American couple needed to draw a populous and specific conclusion to the wife's sudden enthusiasm of acquiring a 'cat' that she discovers in the rain. This enthusiasm truly reflected the relationship between her and her husband. The nature of the Americans for the setting leads to the manner in which she is treated. The wife is unhappy and discontent in her marriage. Her husband does little to please her, and she starts looking for emotional reassurance from the hotel owner. The feeling of familiarity and protection that his reception and offers guides her to reveal a hope that he in turn represents indirectly. The rain symbolizes the beginning of the wringing out of their discontent. (Rücklová, A.(2021).

The researcher chose marital discontent as a component of my personality analysis because this characteristic always interests me. In the story, marital discontent is vital; almost every characteristic, in which the story could probably be classified under, is an element that many people have encountered, or will encounter in the future. The story can happen to almost anyone who has had this sense of marital discontent. Troubles in a relationship, though not as discreet for every marriage, are sought after to be solved

by millions of potential people who hold marriage dearly to their lives. The flighty wife also carries such internalized torments that she would appreciate anyone that would listen. This is quickly noticed by the hotel cat, displaying an unruliness, which could be released.

2.6 The Relationship Dynamics of the American Couple in the story 'The Cat in the Rain'

'Cat in the Rain', a perfect example of American literature, was first published in 1925. The short story offers insight about a young American couple living out their greatest desires and dreams. Besides, inherent ideas and patterns reveal the cultural and individual characteristics and differences of the American couple. The paper subjectively analyzes the relationship dynamics of the American couple based on sociological interpretation. It aims to apply relationship theories to the American couple in Hemingway's 'Cat in the Rain'.

Actually, from a sociological perspective, 'Cat in the Rain' is seen as making it possible to descriptively analyze the relationship dynamics of the characters. The term 'relationship' is used throughout the work to imply the mutual and complementary ways that two or more particular subjects "interact" and "communicate", according to the theories of structure, role, social action, intimacy, trust, performance, dialect, power, love, communication, dialogue, conflict, equilibrium, etc. In this way, they interconnect and interdepend upon themselves to cause and effect both continuously changing and changing mutual orientations. Their peculiar relationships are representations of social structure and meaning in society. Not only do they have common and different roles and together fulfill social functions based on cultural values and norms, but they also 'share' joint identities, experiences, emotions, positions, desires, conflicts, concessions, satisfactions, and their physical or spiritual effects. (*Chakrabarty, T., Padmakumar, V., & Brahman, F. 2024*).

3. The American Wife in the Story 'The Cat in the Rain'

Ernest Hemingway, with great economy of means and thought, developed a theory of himself as a writer that affects his style as a short story teller. The aspect of the American scene that interested Hemingway—an interest which distinguished him from the "Jazz Age" writers—was that of the wounded men which is reflected in his works. The story of the two wives, like most of Hemingway's early works, is easily predictable. They are the frail but faithful and complacent supporting cast of a wounded man. This is the comment that Hemingway makes, but another comment of his in the same

collection is that "a man's wife can't always tell the truth about her husband." Sometimes a man invents a plan that he doesn't carry out and wishes that he had. What if a wife who was aware of his wish said "There's a cat out in the rain?"

The relationship of the American wife to her husband is the main focus of *The Cat in the Rain*. Throughout the story, an obvious difference between the two becomes apparent. The American wife is not satisfied by material possessions alone, while the American husband is dominantly passive. The wife's need could easily be mistaken for love, as an examination of the following text reveals. The American wife has an impulse to protect, nurture, and enhance the well-being of the kitten she spies outside her hotel room in the rain. Later, when her husband fails to respond to her request to find the cat and bring it to her, she says, "I wanted it so much. I wanted a kitty." *Ahmed, S. S., & Saadoun, S. (2024).*

What the wife expresses is an impulse to lavish love and affection on a completely defenseless creature. Her husband, on the other hand, though politely but not lovingly detailed, is not acting upon his wife's yearning. The stark contrast between these personalities is analogous to the innate parental traits of love and protection that are characteristic of a mother. The weeping cat in the rain serves as a substitute for the child the wife never had. She tells her husband, "I want to pull my hair back tight and be somebody's mama." In this depiction of the wife, we see that her position focuses solely on the display of an imparted emotion relating to the human female nature. She is not content with a passive role, avoiding that play in life by eliciting her husband's aid, or by showing empathy and understanding toward the little cat.

In "The Cat in the Rain," an American couple was spending their holidays in an Italian hotel. The contrasts in the relationship between the couple attracted the interest of the writer. When 'The Cat in the Rain' was written, the Italians were still quite romantic, but the writer did not like a salon-keeper to talk 'of the?='. They did not like to have people talk to them very much. They did not like literary people, moviemakers, or duchesses.' As a matter of fact, 'they wanted only what his native town could give him'. What they hated was the fact that the two Americans saw them every night at the hotel. The dissertation is organized into four sections. The first section is dedicated to the American wife and her relationship with the American husband. In section two, the time and place nexus in "The Cat in the Rain" is investigated. In section three, the change in a relationship in "The Cat in the Rain" is investigated, and the fourth section concludes the dissertation. (*Nagel, J. 1996*).

3.1. Significance of Social Conflict

The conflict presented in the novel arises from misunderstanding or disagreement between characters. The conflict may therefore be physical or social. However, social conflict is the main concern of every human being, and it has received special attention in art and literature. Writers from the beginning of man's realization of selfhood have repeatedly set down on paper their opinions and interpretations of this aspect of life. "The Cat in the Rain" is a story that presents the social conflict prevalent in human society. The author is interested in the social conflict, understanding human behavior when he is dealing with his fellows, and how their understanding influences their life. This study is undertaken from a sociological perspective that books and human behavior are a function of society. (*Hansen, K. 2020*).

The layout of the study will include the following chapters. The introductory chapter presents the background, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, assumptions, significance of the study, and the limitations of the study. Chapter two presents a critical analysis of "The Cat in the Rain," including the writer's lifestyle, literature, and style, as well as the works of the author, his development, and contribution. Chapter three gives an explanation of social conflict in general, including answers to the research questions and a brief discussion. In chapter four, the social conflict is analyzed in "The Cat in the Rain." The conclusion and recommendations are drawn in chapter five, the end part of the study.

The Cat in the Rain describes an eventful day in the lives of an American couple visiting Italy. Thrown into a situational story where external intrigue leads the reader to await the outcome of the couple's hotel stay, an underlying theme is still present. Hemingway uses vivid imagery and profound atmosphere to depict one of the story's main interpersonal conflicts: the struggle for individualistic entities against a background of oppressive and dismal aspects of nature. Other themes, such as parental conflict and emotion versus rationality, are also introduced.

3.2 Analysis of Societal Norms

Sociological research has revealed that societal norms and institutions often have a strong influence on people's behaviors, even when these are not in their best interest. This field includes studies of social conformity, the impact of public investigations or publicity on behavior, the impact of judicial or family institutions on people's economic decisions or wellbeing, just to mention a few. The aim of in-depth research on norms and institutions is to understand the extent to which individual moral

compasses are shaped by the prevailing conventions, and the feedback effect of specific behaviors and individual attitudes on social norms.

A fundamental question in social sciences is what drives behavior, or alternatively, which social frameworks lead people to make choices that depart from their self-interest. According to Adam Smith (1759), sympathy was the cornerstone of social behavior. Modern research has revealed that there are objective social frameworks (like laws, norms of behavior, procedures, or social conventions) that lead to the development of some altruistic behavior. These rules and institutions protect and enhance cooperation. The application of these rules has been formalized in a wide array of environments. Moreover, the existence of pro-social and pro-welfare motivations (which are quite strong) leads to a consensus that positive feedbacks on desired behavior can be induced by playing on these sentiments.

3.3 Gender Roles in the story 'The Cat in the Rain'

The story shows how divided the roles of the two men and the two women are. The older man and the woman are busy with their problems and they do not pay any attention to the other two characters. The role of cultural educator is played by the man. A reader can learn the main issue of the story from his ideas. He is more active in the conversation and knows more about local culture than the other American. The young man is the one who listens and does not say much. He helps the girl as well. In the story, the girl's place is at home. She thinks about housework even on vacation. She visits many places but does not understand that she could find out what the present is looking like herself. Only the man does. The older woman shows her role by typical housework issues. She orders around, asks the maids for doing something for them. Only her husband has enough courage to go out on a sunny day to buy cigars, although he is very sick. The young man and the older woman do what their partners ask for. They are in love. In contrast to them, the topic the American woman and the older man are talking about is very serious, it is a concrete proposal. The older man proposes recrimination (eleven times), reproach, safeguards. They try to help the girl. Her husband does not love her or at least ignores her. The man she meets outbreaks her to say out loud what she wants (cat, some dress, raincoat). He looks like a kitten who purrs. The boy should be compared with local maids and the old man with the girl. In both cases, there is no love and they look silly. When the girl finds a friend, not a proper one like her husband, the old man overflows with criticism. The man says, "They make me feel very badly." Here are his lashkaras. "They make me feel very badly." He tries to change his wife, but he is not able to do anything just like the girl's husband.

Uchida, S. (2020). Another look at Cat in the Rain. Relevance Theory, Figuration, and Continuity in Literature. Books.Google.com.

The young boy has an ironic and peaceful role in the story, too. At the beginning of it, he is just sleeping, but during the dialogue between the couple, he is playing a role of a frame. Neither the man nor the girl wants to soliloquy. Nobody crosses the threshold of the other character. The couple is behaving like actors on a stage. At the end of the story, after the couple leaves, out of the boy are a part of the scenery. The man is the one who reacts to the maid's repeated offer, watching there and at the end of the story, and at 11 o'clock, fixed the table. The American woman as well. They follow the rule, "Location decides disposition." The hotel and its sites insert the certain destination to all characters. He is the oldest, more conservative, reaction to the maid's offer is unambiguous. More than half an hour. The symbol of rousing itself is uneasy. They are dressed more than merely. The American women jest the skirt, but the old man and the boy never show anything except for their heads. The place where the girl wants to find her happiness has no symbol: "It's not any fun to play checkers by yourself." "I know, I've been thinking." She killed the cat and say me use that umbrella.

It might interest for the issue that the cat is in the rain in the Italian town. The girl desires a cat, but the pet could be a knight of facsimile next to her, it likes a dress that must be a weapon of her self-respect or a raincoat that would defend herself. The cat comes cool in the rain, and the boy does what a cat or some pet would, he produces an umbrella for her, in lack of anything better. The cat is a symbol of independence for her, and of her trip to the town. The girl is standing at the threshold, the rain was all around, she cannot reach the domestic convexity.

3.4 Elements of the cat's presence:

Analyzing the garden in the story from ancient ideas, it's a place of happiness on earth. The woman in the story doesn't have a name and has lost who she is because of the war. War has made her lose the purpose of living. So, she looks for things on earth that make her happy, like the garden, the trees, and the sea, to hold onto and make her life enjoyable. In Japanese culture, the garden in the story is a peaceful place where the couple can find balance and renew their energy after the war. It is a calm place where the couple can relax and let go of the stress from their war-torn society. The garden symbol also represents the ability to have babies, connected to the motherly figure. We will talk more about this later. Their hotel room had a view of the sea. The sea is often

seen as the source of life. The ocean has been portrayed as both good and bad in stories. Poseidon, a god in Greek mythology, could create big whirlpools, storms, or tidal waves. People have gone missing in the ocean, eaten by whales, attacked by pirates or drowned. Certainly, the sea can be described as a powerful and dangerous natural force. The ocean has big pearls and treasures. Many fishermen depend on the sea for their living, especially in Japanese stories. Furthermore, because all rivers flow into the ocean, the sea can represent heaven or endlessness where all souls merge together. Some people think of it as the hidden part of our minds (45).

The sea in the story might represent a vast place where the couple's souls go. After a tough time because of the war, they have found a peaceful place to relax. The couple is worn out from feeling like life has no real meaning or purpose. Their life is boring and lacks excitement and optimism, similar to the repetitive movement of the sea. The sea breaking in a long line in the rain symbolizes this monotonous and predictable existence. Water is often seen as a symbol of new beginnings and growth, just like in life. Anthropologists think it is very important that water is used in baptisms because it represents a person being born again spiritually. The pair was struggling. The war ruined their lives, dreams, and desires. Now that the war is over, it is time for a new beginning, both in the body and the spirit. In the same way, when it rains in a story, it can show that a character is starting fresh or being born again. But the rainy weather in the story makes everything feel sad and cold because of the war. Color is a strong symbol with strong feelings connected to it. In books, you often see the idea of light and darkness. Light usually means hope, goodness, and knowledge, while darkness stands for ignorance, despair, and evil.

The color red can mean blood or violence, but it can also represent birth, energy, and fire. The color green is often linked to being able to have babies, nature, and getting bigger. Stories and poems often have patterns about nature, representing life, change, and endings. Trees usually stand for knowledge, but a forest can show that someone is lost or scared. In the story "Cat in the Rain" there is a comparison between light and darkness, like when the Italians came to see the war monument from far away. It was shiny and made of bronze, and sparkled when it rained. It was raining, and it was getting dark. The narrator is saying that things are better now and describing a nice rainy day with green trees and a sea. As the story goes on, the reader starts to see how much the couple is hurting emotionally. Even though they are on vacation in a sunny country, they feel lonely and stuck in their room by themselves. At the end of the story, it's

almost nighttime, which shows that the couple's souls didn't change. They couldn't get rid of the loneliness and disconnection caused by the war.

Conclusion:

In short, the analysis of the social conflicts in Ernest Hemingway's "The Cat in the Rain" gives us new ways of understanding how people relate to each other and the influences of society on those relationships. This study examined previous research and explored different topics and methods related to the social conflict in the novel by looking at a lot of different books and articles. Studying past research has led to some important findings. First, feminists have noticed how men and women are expected to act in certain ways, and how this holds women back. The disagreement between the American wife's goals of being independent and happy, and what society expects, shows how some people have more power than others and unfair treatment based on gender. In conclusion, the woman really wanted the cat because she felt a strong connection to it and the cat symbolized many things that she secretly wished for. Taking cover from the rain, is like the wife being stuck in the hotel room feeling lonely even though her husband is there. When the wife goes out in the rain to get the cat, she is also trying to save herself without realizing it. The cat represents all her feelings, desires, and sorrows. It is something real that you can actually do, even though there are many wishes that seem impossible. In this story, the cat represents a woman. The woman is sad, she feels like she doesn't have anyone to talk to, and she is not happy. She is like a cat in the rain, wet and lonely. She is ignored like a lonely cat. She wants people to care about her. She wants to feel important, safe and happy, but her husband doesn't care about her ideas and feelings because their marriage was ruined by the effects of war.

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