

PSYCHOLOGICAL MOOD OF CHARACTERS IN THE “END OF SOMETHING” BY E. HEMINGWAY

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Annotation: In this article we will discuss the psychological mood of the characters in the story “The End of Something” by Ernest Hemingway. We try to analyze the main features of the characters of this story thoroughly, however there are some uninvestigated sides as well. Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) published this story in 1925 in the collection “In Our Time”. By using many symbolic features, the writer accomplished his literary aim masterfully. A reader can observe by the dialogues of the characters their mood and behaviour sufficiently.

Key words: A story, psychology, characters, separate, mood, to analyze, to express.

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) wrote the story “The End of Something” in 1925 and published it in the collection “In Our Time”. The story in which a similar storm establishes the turmoil in Nick’s mind due to his break with Marjorie. One of the main characters Nick Adams plans to leave his girlfriend Marjorie, the youngs had been dating for several years, but at last Nick decided to make a conclusion of their love. But he tried to find the easiest way to tell it to his girlfriend.

The story begins in this way: The two lovers prepared for a picnic at Hortons Bay. Here the writer draws readers attention to the old mill on the bank of the river, with using this symbol Hemingway emphasizes the end of their love, Nick’s feelings have turned to a cold and bitter decision at the present time. In Hemingway’s style this is the simple method of establishing the mood of the story. Here the loss of the mill equated Nick’s awareness of the separation. He also lost his belief and feelings towards everything and everyone.

When they made fire the couple started to eat their sandwiches, but Nick did not want to eat anything.

“They ate without talking, and watched the two rods and the fire light in the water.

- *There’s going to be a moon to-night, said Nick.*
- *I know, - Marjorie said happily.*
- *You know everything, - Nick said.*
- *Oh, Nick, please cut it out! Please, please don’t be that way¹!”*

By this dialogue we can be inferred that the characters try to hide their inner mood, Marjorie doesn’t want to break up the bond with Nick. Nevertheless Nick draws girl’s attention to the main theme of their conversation. During the story Marjorie doesn’t give an opportunity Nick to express his feelings.

“He was afraid to look at Marjorie. Then he looked at her. She sat there with her back toward him. He looked at her back. “It isn’t fun anymore. Not any of it.

She didn’t say anything²”.

Through these dialogues by the characters we can understand that they both try not to insult each other’s hearts, and there are not any exaggerated or hidden meaning in their words. But all the time Marjorie sensed that something is wrong and bad by Nick’s actions. That’s why she insists on asking again and again what is wrong, and eventually Nick declares that: “It isn’t fun anymore”.

¹ Hemingway, E. “In Our Time”. NY. 1925.p.108

² Hemingway, E. “In Our Time”. NY. 1925.p.108

With saying these words Nick lies with his face on the blanket and Marjorie stands keeping silence. Here the writer uses the best expression of his character's psychological mood. Within this silence the readers can feel both characters' feelings and their miserable mood.

At the end of the story Nick's friend Bill comes to their tent, he teases Nick's state and speaks with irony.

“Did she go all right?” Bill said.

“Yes,” Nick said, lying his face on the blanket.

“Have a scene?”

“No, there wasn't any scene”.

“How do you feel?”

“Oh, go away, Bill! Go away for a while!”³

Nick hates Bill's tinge of irony, because he feels bad about the whole episode. When Nick displays his heart over the separation from Marjorie, he at the same time indicates that life isn't fun without Marjorie either. We can perceive through the plot of this story that Hemingway opens his hero Nick's psychological mood in a complex way. Nick can love and separate at the same time, that is the very complex psychology of him.

“The awakening of Nick's sensibility in this story and his learning that emotional attachments are not easily severed foreshadows the thin-skinned sensitivity to hurt that the later heroes exhibit”⁴.

Conclusion. We analysed E.Hemingway's one of the best stories “The End of Something” and tried to simulate the main heroes' mood. We can refer that this investigation must be continued by other long articles afterwards as well. Because Hemingway's stories are full of mysterious plots and symbols.

The list of literature

1. Joseph Michael DeFalco “The theme of individuation in the short stories of Ernest Hemingway”. University of Florida, 1961, p.53.
2. Hemingway, E. “In Our Time”. NY. 1925.p.110
3. Smith, Paul. Hemingway's Senses of Ending. The Hemingway Review. Vol.12. No.1, Fall.

³ Hemingway, E. “In Our Time”. NY. 1925.p.110

⁴ Joseph Michael DeFalco “The theme of individuation in the short stories of Ernest Hemingway”. University of Florida, 1961,p.53.