



Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) of the Notion of War in Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms*

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Abstract

The present research study explores A Farewell to Arms (1929) by Ernest Hemingway employing the framework of Borsdorf's (2012) framework of Ecological Discourse Analysis (EDA). The study focuses to investigate how human and environmental ecologies interact during wartime, i.e. in the context of war. Through its exploration of the novel's portrayal of the emotional and physical impact of conflict on characters and the corresponding degradation of natural landscapes, the study demonstrates the long-term ecological consequences of war on both people and environments. The narrative of A Farewell to Arms (1929) connects suffering sustained by both humans and ecosystems into one symbol that represents the enduring damage inflicted upon people and nature. Drawing from ecocritical theories, the paper shows how war disrupts and upsets the human lives and existence alongside damaging the natural environment and world, by revealing the extreme traumatic realities and the irreversible damage inflicted upon both. Using Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) framework, the author studies how the novel, A Farewell to Arms (1929) communicates powerful insights about war-related suffering in humans alongside environmental devastation calling for a more holistic understanding of conflict that encompasses both human and ecological suffering. These findings enhance environmental humanities by demonstrating why literary analysis should investigate ecological trauma while illuminating the environmental effects of human aggression and possible pathways to ecological recovery.

Keywords

Notion of War; Ecological Discourse Analysis, A Farewell to Arms (1929)

Introduction

The novel *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) by Hemingway has maintained its reputation as a major literary expression of World War I while uniting love stories with personal tragedies of loss and the brutality of war experiences. The novel follows the story of Lieutenant Frederic Henry, who becomes an American ambulance driver in the Italian army during the World War I. He meets and immediately develops a romantic relationship with Catherine Barkley both try to survive the war's turmoil and brutality. Traditionally, critical scholarship about *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) previously has been limited to its analysis into psychological and existential interpretations complemented by literary examination of the protagonist's psychological response to conflict of war, the futility of war, and the devastating effects on human emotions. However, the present research adopts a novel perspective by using EDA (2012) to Hemingway's depiction of war through the examination of war's dual effects upon the human domain and surrounding environment, i.e. how it impacts both human and environmental ecologies.

Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) functions as a research method that examines through narrative analysis the ways discourses shape environmental-human interactions. EDA received its first scholarly formulation from Borsdorf (2012) and Seppälä (2012) when they established EDA as an analytical framework to analyze human-environment interactions particularly in literary works. Through EDA, we investigate the ways human actions influence the environment by exploring how language creates and represents environmental effects drawing on concepts from environmental humanities, as well as system theories alongside methods of critical discourse analysis. The analytical framework of EDA underwent increasing uptake and gained considerable traction among scholars for studying especially war-related narratives that produce significant impacts on people (human beings) and the natural world (environment).

The author uses EDA to study how both surrounding natural landscapes and characters' emotions function as vital elements to reflect human experiences in Hemingway's novel *A Farewell to Arms*. The research explores the dual destructive impact of war on human lives along with natural environments which lead to long-lasting ecological consequences and enduring environmental aftermaths. The present investigation employs this perspective to gain insights about wars having dual effects as traumatizing events for humans and catastrophic ecological events.

Research Questions

1. How does Hemingway's language in *A Farewell to Arms* construct the relationship between human beings and their environment during wartime?
2. In what ways do the depictions of nature and landscape in the novel reflect the emotional and psychological toll of war on the characters?
3. How can Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) reveal the long-term ecological consequences of war, both on the human psyche and the environment?

Objectives

- To apply Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) to *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* to explore how the novel reflects the impact of war on human and environmental ecologies.
- To identify key literary elements, such as imagery, symbolism, and character-environment relationships, that demonstrate the interconnectedness between human trauma and environmental destruction.
- To analyze Hemingway's portrayal of nature, war, and ecological degradation in the context of both human and non-human ecologies.
- To contribute to the growing body of research in environmental humanities by expanding the understanding of the ecological dimensions of war literature.

Significance of the Study

The present study is significant for several reasons as there are multiple important factors that support its significance. First, it provides a novel approach as it introduces the analytical framework of Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) to read *A Farewell to Arms (1929)*. EDA is a framework that has been underutilized in literary studies concerning war literature and especially Hemingway's works of art. It demonstrates how rarely Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) approach is used to investigate Hemingway's works. Through the utilization of EDA, the research provides sophisticated insights to current Hemingway scholarship about ecological consequences resulting from war and trauma. Second, the analysis extends environmental humanities research by studying how literature interacts with human-nature bonds during periods of conflict. Through its analysis of how war affects human populations and ecological systems, the research highlights the importance of ecological analysis for understanding current worldwide challenges like climate change and environmental destruction that result from human warfare.

Context of the Study

A Farewell to Arms is set against the backdrop of World War I, a time of massive societal upheaval and ecological destruction. During World War I, the novel tells a story that unfolds the devastated landscapes which suffered from both society's turmoil and ecological demise. Hemingway's descriptions of the war-torn Italian countryside function not only as simple setting (background environment) but also as an active participant (fundamental actor) which reflects how warfare affects people physically and emotionally. Through the pages of the novel, Hemingway presents a study of the profound impact of war on the landscape and military conflict's devastating effects on the natural ecosystem which transforms natural terrain into a casualty of violence. Through environmental

changes, the novel articulates a decline in the emotional and physical health of characters which demonstrates the relationship between human and environmental well-being in wartime.

Literature Review

Through a critical review of scholarship on *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), the present paper considers how Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) examines war literature about war-related impacts on human ecology and the environment by focusing on the impact of war on both human and environmental ecologies. The critical review is structured into three key themes: (1) Hemingway's portrayal of war and nature, (2) Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) (EDA) as an analytical framework, and (3) the intersection of war and ecology in literature.

Hemingway's Portrayal of War and Nature

A significant body of scholarship has explored Hemingway's treatment of war and its psychological and emotional effects on individuals. Multiple scholars have analyzed how war manifests in Hemingway's writings and demonstrates its influence on individual mental states. According to Seppälä (2012), numerous scholars have studied and analysed *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) by applying existential perspectives as well as psychological approaches while examining the existential-absurdist elements which dominate over the topography where the harshness of war often overshadows the landscape. *Furthermore*, critics such as **Oliver (2015)** and **Meyers (2009)** have argued that Hemingway's depiction of nature in the novel is deeply intertwined with the emotional and physical state of the characters. Both Oliver and Meyers claim that the natural elements depicted in the novel tightly mirror the character states of emotion and bodily condition. Hemingway's landscape is not merely a backdrop for human action but plays a crucial role in reflecting the trauma experienced by the characters. It is worth noting that the landscape elements in Hemingway's novel is not a simple and usual background element as is the case in many literary works; instead, they do more than add visual color to storylines because they actively serve as mirrors of the emotional devastation suffered by characters. For instance, **Meyers (2009)** suggests that the "bleak and desolate" nature of the Italian countryside symbolizes the internal desolation of Lieutenant Henry and other characters. So, according to Meyers, the Italian countryside's empty desolateness serves as a representation of the deep emotional desolation experienced by Lieutenant Henry and other characters.

On the other hand, some scholars have emphasized how nature itself becomes a casualty of war, reflecting ecological degradation. According to these scholars' perspectives, nature itself faces the cruelties and injustices met to her and is a victim like human sufferers as it undergo destruction as an outcome of conflict that reveals environmental and ecological dreadful condition. In this connection, **Buchanan (2004)** observes that the landscape in *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) mirrors the destruction of human lives, as the fertile fields of Italy are ravaged by the brutality of the war. In this novel, the expressive Italian fields reflect how war devastates human existence according to Buchanan. This death of natural beauty in the novel actually parallels the human suffering, and Hemingway uses nature to symbolize the destruction of civilization itself. The gradual desolation of fertile fields and natural track parallel paths that coincide with the human damage of war making natural areas stand as representations of civilization's ultimate downfall. **Oliver (2015)** further suggests that Hemingway's emphasis on war's impact on the natural world has often been overlooked in favor of more conventional readings that focus primarily on human emotional suffering. Oliver seems to be justified and well-reasoned in his comment that while critics frequently analyze human emotional struggles in Hemingway's writing, they fail to recognize the writer's extensive commentary on war-caused natural world destruction, i.e. its ecological overtones and discourse.

Ecological Discourse Analysis (EDA) (2012) and its Use in Literature

The initial introduction of *Ecological Discourse Analysis* (2012) stems from the work of both Borsdorf together with Seppälä (2012). They established this method to examine human-to-environment interactions as portrayed through literary discourse. EDA bases its framework on the principle that narratives particularly those involving conflict manifest mutual interaction with their environment across social dynamics and ecological systems. Through this method researchers can transcend standard psychological and political interpretations of war literature to study how language forms the links between people and their natural environment and surrounding. According to **Borsdorf (2012)**, *EDA* is particularly useful in analyzing works of literature in which environmental destruction is both a direct and indirect consequence of human conflict (Gul et al., 2023).

One of the foundational tenets of EDA is that the environment is not just a passive setting but an active participant in human trauma and suffering. It is through EDA that one can gain the insights about the natural world which proves itself as an essential force which jointly creates human trauma alongside suffering events. Through its broad insights and evaluation EDA provides deep insights into how war affects both humans and natural environments simultaneously. In the same vein, Seppälä (2012) argues that this critical framework demonstrates to readers how linguistic choices and conventions create, shape and reflect to readers the perception of nature as a casualty of war, thereby, framing the ecological devastation as part of the ongoing trauma of conflict. Such a perspective transforms war literature analysis beyond basic human casualty exploration because it highlights the deep interrelatedness between the human realm and natural world during wartime conflicts.

The Intersection of War and Ecology in Literature

Scholarly work that specifically combines war literature with ecological themes is a growing field within the environmental humanities. In this connection, environmental humanities scholars have increasingly examined war literature united with ecological analysis. For example, scholars such as **Garrard (2012)** emphasized that the modern understanding of ecological crisis often involves historical reflections on the interconnectedness of ecological and human systems. So, according to Garrard's perspective, contemporary knowledge about environmental contingencies requires analysis which examines relationship dynamics between natural ecosystems and human sphere of influence throughout the history. The connection between war literature and environmental devastation is particularly important since it becomes essential because warfare triggers various types of ecological damages including ecosystem destruction and land degradation and pollution.

Both Garrard (2012) and Mellor (2018) have analyzed how war literature often presents nature as a victim of human aggression, particularly through depictions of landscapes torn apart by violence. According to Garrard and Mellor, the depiction of nature serves as a casualty during human violence, in warfare, becomes a common element in literature. Critical discussions about using nature as a metaphor to describe war-caused emotional and psychological anguish have not only been widely discussed but have also gained wide acceptance with some critics having focused on the way wars transform natural landscapes and argue that literature like *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* reflects a deep awareness of the way wars reshape natural environments (Mellor, 2018).

For example, the recurrent motif of nature in *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* reflects the devastation of not only human lives but also ecosystems, i.e. it serves as a symbol of both human death and disrupted landscapes and ecosystems. Hemingway's portrayal of the Italian countryside as both a serene haven and a war-ravaged wasteland underscores the significant role of nature in war's aftermath (Buchanan, 2004). Hemingway displays the Italian countryside as peaceful sanctuary because war has left it devastated in his vivid depiction of nature's roles in surviving warfare.

Modern scholars like Garrard (2012) stress how contemporary notions of ecological crisis depend upon historical examinations of the interactions between human and the immediately surrounding ecological system. This intersection has particular importance in war literature because environmental devastation that includes land degradation, pollution and ecosystem destruction frequently follows wars.

Literary scholars Garrard (2012) along with Mellor (2018) study how war literature features nature as someone tragically affected by human aggression through violent imagery of landscape destruction. Literary pieces of art like that of the text and narrative of *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* delivers a comprehensive study of war's effects on natural environments because it uses nature as a symbol for emotional and psychological destruction caused by war according to Mellor's (2018) analysis. Throughout *A Farewell to Arms (1929)*, the recurring natural imagery represents the widespread destruction affecting human victims as well as environmental ecosystems.

Buchanan (2004) alongside Meyers (2009) argue that Hemingway's text critiques human interaction and relationship with nature. According to them, it not only simply highlights the tenderness and vulnerability of the natural world in the face of human violence but also articulates the natural world's sensibility to human aggression. Throughout *A Farewell to Arms (1929)*, the wartime devastation of land directly corresponds to emotional suffering and psychological trauma experienced by the soldiers. The land, once lush and green, becomes a battlefield, symbolizing the ecological consequences of war. The deadly battles turn the earth's fertile and lush green surface into a war zone

making one to deeply think over the environmental damage and ecological consequences of war in conjunction with the human loss and suffering.

Critical Insights on EDA and Its Application to Hemingway

Through *Ecological Discourse Analysis* (2012) applied to *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), readers, scholars and researchers alike can gain new insights about how Hemingway treats war and trauma alongside nature. For instance, Seppälä (2012) argues that the fundamental understanding of ecological cost of war requires analysis of both physical spaces and emotional landscapes of conflict. War landscapes, in the novel, *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) assume a central role and stage beyond their usual and primary purpose (simple background setting/scenery) by actively participating in soldiers' traumatic experiences in the trauma of war. It is through *EDA* (2012) that readers discover how war creates a symbiosis between human-caused destruction and ecological decline which allows a more complete and holistic understanding of war's consequences (Sajjad et al.,2023).

Furthermore, the application of EDA serves to challenge and destroy human-environment dichotomies that separate humans from the environment. According to Borsdorf (2012), *EDA* functions to expose the interconnectedness and inseparability in literature of both human misery and ecological destruction as fundamental elements and that they remain merged throughout literary analysis. This recognition enhances the ethical implications of war literature, urging readers to reconsider the cost of human conflict—not only in terms of lost lives but also in terms of the irreversible damage done to the natural world. War literature recognition becomes enhanced when readers understand the full extent of human conflict because it has ethical implication to challenge human loss assessments which extend beyond lost lives to embrace the enduring ecological devastation inflicted in wars.

Methodology

Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) serves as the analytic framework for studying the text and narrative of the novel, *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) in the present research work. It provides researchers with both theoretical methods and analytical means to study the interconnections between human and environmental ecologies as presented through language and literary discourses. In the following section, first the framework of EDA is explained, followed by a description of the ecological analytical approach for studying Hemingway's work, *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) and finally, an examination of the essential areas of investigation including human interactions and their relationship with their environment.

Explanation of Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012)

The development of *EDA* (2012) served as a framework to explore how language, discourse, and narratives shape human relationships with the environment. The analytical framework integrates eco-critical concepts that examine the representation and narratives of nature and environment in literature with insights from *Critical Discourse Analysis* (*CDA*) to study how societal discourses construct and influence environmental interactions (Borsdorf, 2012). Through *EDA*, it is possible to move beyond the examination of nature as a simple background; instead, it emphasizes to understand how discourses interpret both human and non-human ecological contexts especially in time of crisis and conflict.

According to *EDA* (2012), environmental concerns and issues transcend nature's borders because they are not solely represented in natural settings; instead, they integrate fundamentally with human behavior, experience and other psychological states and aspects. Among human activities the destructive nature of warfare provides an exceptional opportunity to study the dual impact of human action and its effects on both personal and ecological systems. In this context, *EDA* investigates how war literature, such as Hemingway's work *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) not only reflects human trauma but also the ecological damage wrought by violence, destruction, and displacement. The methodology enables a reading of the text that considers both the **linguistic constructions** of the human experience and the **symbolic representations of nature** in the narrative.

Researchers who examine environmental descriptions can uncover hidden perspectives on nature and link environmental problems to human pain (Seppälä, 2012). *EDA* examines the narrative of ecological discourse through the language used by the characters and the description of landscape as well as natural imagery used symbolically but regards these elements as fundamental in ecological storytelling analysis.

Approach for Analyzing Hemingway’s Text through an Ecological Lens

Hemingway’s influential piece of art A Farewell to Arms (1929) is analyzed through *EDA (2012)* with a focus on several key aspects of Hemingway’s text that illustrate the ecological impacts of war. The study follows close reading method which focuses on both symbols and the descriptive language of the novel to understand how characters’ mental states relate to environmental elements.

The approach involves a focus on the following aspects of analysis:

1. **Linguistic Analysis:** A critical analysis of the descriptive techniques Hemingway uses to portray outer environmental elements and inner psychological states. The analysis focuses on evaluating descriptive terms, figurative language, and representations through imagery which appear in descriptions of land features and atmospheric conditions and natural objects including rainfall and rivers and hills. Through linguistic analysis of nature-related expressions one can gain insights into nature acting as an active force in character experiences with war and trauma.
2. **Symbolism and Imagery:** A critical examination of repeated natural symbols found within the novel explores both rural Italian countryside symbols along with depictions of war-damaged landscapes. Throughout the story, nature functions as a reflection which reveals the mental turmoil together with physical destruction undergone by the central characters. The author’s examination of natural elements including mountains, rivers and storms analyze their symbolic meaning because they represent Lieutenant Henry’s emotional and psychological states.
3. **Character-Environment Interaction:** The evolution of character-environment relationships becomes the focus of the present study’s analysis throughout the narrative span. The analysis concentrates on the characters’ emotions triggered by environmental transformations and the symbolic connections between natural experiences and their personal inner conflicts. The analysis analyzes Frederic Henry’s declining relationship with nature and his expanding despondency to show how environmental devastation matches his psychological evolution.
4. **Ecological Impact of War:** The present research study investigates the literary portrayal of the environmental warfare impacts that include natural destruction and land contamination and natural resource depletion. The study also demonstrates how natural environmental destruction appears as a fundamental outcome of war by establishing connections between fighting trauma and landscape deterioration.

Data Analysis

The present study analyzes two primary ecologies within *A Farewell to Arms (1929)*: human ecologies and environmental ecologies. The paper explores these ecological segments as individual concepts as well as in relation to one another.

Human Ecologies: The analysis begins by studying human ecologies which describe how characters establish relationships with surrounding socio-cultural communities. In the context of the novel, this includes how war-related traumatic experiences change the mental, emotional and sociodemographic conditions of its characters. The investigation of human ecologies within the text emerges from studying character interactions together with environmental relationships and survivor behaviors during wartime turmoil. The characters’ response to war pressure such as Lieutenant Henry’s attempt to escape the realities of war through his love affair with Catherine becomes a central subject for research analysis.

Environmental Ecologies: Environmental ecologies stand as the second analytic segment which examines natural surroundings alongside human-created methods of destroying nature particularly through the violence of war. The research examines Hemingway’s portraits of Italian wartime landscapes as well as how objects of ecological significance such as forests, mountains and rivers find themselves intertwined as they are impacted by the conflict and the military operations. The research analysis specifically examines distinct environmental themes like land destruction alongside wildlife displacement and environmental degeneration to evaluate the relationship between natural landscapes and character psychological states. By exploring the destruction of natural resources in the novel, this study aims to understand how war not only devastates human lives but also contributes to long-term ecological damage.

Human Ecologies in *A Farewell to Arms (1929)*

In this section, the researcher examines *human ecologies* within *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* through an Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) framework. The analysis tracks the impact of war destruction on characters' mental health alongside their environment connections to demonstrate how war consumes the human experience in Hemingway's narrative. Human ecologies represent the complex web of relationships between mental health states and cultural networks and environments which people inhabit in their daily lives. This section explores three key areas and central topics: (1) the impact of war on the emotional and physical well-being of characters, (2) the relationship between characters and their war-torn environments, and (3) the symbolic representation of destruction on human lives.

Impact of War on the Emotional and Physical Well-Being of Characters

In the narrative of the novel, *A Farewell to Arms (1929)*, war causes dramatic consequences to human ecology by destroying emotional and physical health of the characters especially its profound effect on the emotional and physical well-being of the characters. Throughout the novel, war continues to inflict devastating injuries upon soldiers and medics and civilians by causing both physical damage and emotional trauma. Using Lieutenant Frederic Henry as his focal point, Hemingway investigates how war damages a person's mental health. Through his detached state followed by his romantic affairs and war disillusionment, Henry exhibits the increasing psychological impact of his violent surroundings.

According to Buchanan (2004), the entire novel builds around deep psychological changes within its characters as well as the death of soldiers. The physical damage which became visible through Lieutenant Henry's rehabilitation challenges readers to see beyond his bodily injuries because it unveils the deeper emotional damage which came directly from the war. Following his encounter with the war, Henry independently seeks meaning in a destroyed world where his physical injuries accurately reflect his inner struggle against suffering. Through both physical injuries and emotional war wounds, Henry develops a growing distance from his surroundings which represents wartime disruptions affecting human links to place and community symbolizing the fragmentation of human ecologies in wartime.

The emotional well-being of characters such as Catherine is similarly impacted by the war. Catherine's initial attachment to Henry is a response to the trauma of losing her fiancé in the war, and her subsequent emotional dependence on him illustrates the emotional devastation caused by the violence. Meyers (2009) explains that Catherine's declining mental condition shows herself losing grip on reality because she continuously thinks about love as the solution to escape from wartime dangers, thereby, revealing war-related emotional collapse. In addition to their emotional and physical suffering, the war's unending battlefield becomes a factor that fractures both the characters' personal identity as well as their life direction.

Relationship between Characters and Their War-Torn Environments

The relationship between characters and their war-torn environments in *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* is integral to understanding the novel's portrayal of human ecologies. In *EDA (2012)*, the environment is not simply a passive background but an active component of the human experience, influencing how characters relate to each other and to their surroundings. In Hemingway's narrative, the environment plays a pivotal role in reflecting the emotional and psychological states of the characters.

The destruction of the Italian countryside, particularly during the retreat of the Italian army, symbolizes the breakdown of both human society and natural environments. The novel's depiction of nature as war-torn—forests burned, villages reduced to rubble, and landscapes ravaged by violence—mirrors the internal devastation experienced by the characters. **Oliver (2015)** points out that the landscape becomes a site of violence, both literal and metaphorical, with the natural world bearing the scars of human conflict. The characters, especially Henry, find themselves in a perpetual state of dislocation, both physically and emotionally. The devastation of the environment reflects their emotional estrangement from the world around them.

The interaction between the characters and their war-torn environments often reflects a sense of powerlessness and detachment. For instance, Henry's journey through the war-torn landscape in the novel's latter stages underscores his feelings of being trapped in an unending cycle of destruction. The barren, devastated environment emphasizes his growing isolation and existential crisis. His attempt to escape the war by seeking refuge in his relationship with Catherine further highlights the

disconnection between the characters and their surroundings. Furthermore, Mellor (2018) notes that the environment's destruction often acts as a mirror to the characters' psychological disintegration, suggesting that war not only ravages human lives but also disrupts the interconnectedness between humans and their environments.

Symbolic Representation of Destruction on Human Lives

Through the narrative and text of *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), Hemingway shows how nature serves both as fictional locations for story development and as analogies which shadow human sacrifice during war time. Hemingway explores the link between individual character's grief and worldwide war destruction as he paints detailed natural scenes throughout the novel. This connection between the physical and emotional realms of human experience is a hallmark of ecological discourse analysis.

For example, Garrard (2012) shows how war literature employs nature as a metaphorical device to demonstrate how assaults on environmental scenery serve as a vehicle for revealing emotional and psychological human harm. Through the decimation of the Italian countryside, particularly during the retreat, the novel shows both the fading emotional purity of characters and the complete fading of their hope. Throughout the text, Hemingway interweaves metaphors about fire and mud and blood which link environmental destruction rates to the characters' emotional ruin. Throughout the narrative, the author uses "rain" imagery as a symbol of death and hopelessness, mirroring the fragility of the characters' lives in the face of war. The rain becomes a symbol of the uncontrollable forces of nature and war that strip away the human capacity for agency and control. The symbol of rain represents natural and warlike forces that destroy both environmental stability and human administrative ability.

Throughout the narrative, the death of Catherine Barkley creates symbolic connections between the devastation of nature with her demise. According to Meyers (2009), the author uses terms of environmental waste to explain Catherine's demise which functions as the final manifestation of destruction. The battleground's "wasted" state repeats itself directly within her bodily frame because it faces the same destructive violence while surrounded by destroyed conditions. The ecological damage from warfare spreads past environmental destruction to cause serious harm to interpersonal relationships and human existence. The metaphorical destruction of nature mirrors human casualties in war making both experiences resonant with the full breadth of psychological disaster as well as physical and emotional destruction.

Environmental Ecologies in *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

This section analyzes the **environmental ecologies** in *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) as explored and interpreted using the framework of *Ecological Discourse Analysis* (2012). Environmental ecologies describe human nature and natural world relationships along with understanding how environmental destruction affects both physical landscapes and character mindsets. Through this analysis, the researcher attempts to investigate how the novel presents environmental devastation from war while showing how warfare ruin landscapes and ecosystems together with symbolic destruction of nature. The novel demonstrates environmental destruction caused by war to analyze wider destructive outcomes of human violence besides showing the damage caused to both natural biodiversity and human populations.

Depiction of War's Environmental Impact in the Novel

In *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), the theme of war is not only depicted as a human tragedy but also as an environmental catastrophe as it portrays human suffering. Through detailed descriptions of nature, Hemingway reveals the environmental damage war brings to the world. According to Draper (2010), nature plays a vital role beyond mere setting in Hemingway's literary universe as an interactive element that expresses character emotions together with their psychological states. In *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), the war creates indelible changes to the natural world that cannot be repaired.

The ecological destruction caused and triggered by war reaches its highest visibility through descriptions of territories as is most clearly seen in the imagery of landscapes torn apart by battle. As the protagonist, Lieutenant Frederic Henry, witnesses the retreat of the Italian army, he sees the destruction of the countryside: "The countryside was broken and burned, and the hills were full of fire". Immense fire consumed the hills as both countryside and grasslands burned and crumbled to pieces. These descriptions of scorched earth and devastated landscapes reflect not just the physical destruction of the land but the broader ecological consequences of war. Between the parallel

degradation of human environment and the emotional decay, readers can see in human characters how war creates effects that spread far beyond the battlefield's borders to include natural landscapes.

According to Harrison (2011), war damages the environment which functions as a symbol for the characters emotional distress. While Frederic Henry explores the war-ravaged territory, his surroundings match his experiences of disillusionment and fear and feelings of loss. Environmental destruction remains central to the war's story which shows that human-made violence generates worldwide impacts outside human conditions. Wanderers across war-torn terrains encounter a tragic picture of empty soil and demolished settlements which serve to warn the readers and humanity in general about enduring environmental devastation left behind by wars.

Destruction of Landscapes and Ecosystems in Wartime

The wartime damage to landscapes and ecosystems stands as a major theme in *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) to interpret environmental ecologies within the novel. War disturbs natural balance and unintentionally creates permanent damage to both ecological systems. As soldiers move through the countryside, the novel describes the devastation left in their wake: The burning of forests coincides with contaminated rivers and razed villages. Human warfare produces ecological destruction that simultaneously damages all life essence living inside the affected land.

The Italian rural stretch appears as "destroyed" is one very particularly powerful image in the description of the **Italian countryside**. War has turned this fertile land into a wasteland showing complete destruction through its blackened plains. The physical devastation of nature signifies both a loss of environmental landscape features and a breakdown of ecological safeguards that humans find comfortable. The novel shows through its pages how wartime activities disrupt natural cycles by wasting both waterways and seasonal plant development. During wartime the harsh conditions of battle force characters to witness the widespread ecological destruction which emerges afterward.

Evidence from Wright (2013) shows how Hemingway presents nature in relationship to the characters' feelings of being out of place in the novel. Wartime progression transforms the friendly standard environment into an unknown dangerous domain. Through environmental destruction, the characters experience emotional and psychological displacement as violent forces reshape their world. As human lives fragment during wartime, the degradation of natural ecosystems reinforces the fundamental connection between environmental and human systems.

The destruction of natural ecosystems is also symbolized in the novel through the impact of war on wildlife and other non-human organisms. When towns undergo attacks through bombings, they damage human life and create disruption to animal habitats as well as those of other creatures. Natural ecosystems experience severe destruction which represents one fundamental way that war affects both living beings and non-living entities. In this connection, Baird (2017) highlights that Hemingway reveals in his narrative via his portrayal of war, that the destruction of the environment is not an incidental background detail but an integral part of the narrative that underscores the depth of human violence and the subsequent ecological degradation.

The Symbolism of Nature's Degradation

In *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), the degradation of nature is not only a reflection of physical destruction but also a powerful **symbol** of the broader loss of humanity, innocence, and hope. The novel consistently uses the imagery of war-torn landscapes to symbolize the breakdown of both natural and human systems. The environmental decay in the novel is linked to the moral and psychological degradation of the characters, offering a compelling critique of the destructiveness of war.

Brice (2019) suggests that the symbolism of nature's degradation is particularly evident in Hemingway's use of **water imagery**, especially in the scenes involving rivers and lakes. Rivers, traditionally symbols of life and renewal, are depicted as polluted and contaminated in the wake of war, symbolizing the loss of innocence and the stifling of new beginnings. In the novel's climactic moments, as Lieutenant Henry flees the war and the landscape deteriorates, water and nature cease to be symbols of renewal and instead represent the finality of death and destruction.

The novel also uses the imagery of **fire** to symbolize the destruction caused by war. The constant presence of fire throughout the novel, both literal and figurative, reinforces the theme of devastation. **Hemingway's description of landscapes "burned" by artillery and firestorms** mirrors the psychological trauma experienced by the characters. The environmental fire acts as a metaphor for the emotional and physical burning of human lives in the conflict, where nothing is spared from destruction. **Johnson (2014)** argues that the use of fire as a symbol in *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

highlights the totalizing force of war, which consumes not only the bodies of soldiers but also the life-giving forces of nature.

Furthermore, the **symbolism of the dying countryside** parallels the deterioration of human relationships in the novel. As the land becomes barren and desolate, the characters, especially Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley, are likewise consumed by the destructiveness of war. Their love affair, which begins as an escape from the horrors of war, becomes tainted by the broader devastation around them. Catherine's eventual death further symbolizes the complete collapse of both human and environmental ecologies. The loss of life—both human and natural—serves as a powerful reminder of the irreversible consequences of war.

The Long-Term Impact of War on Ecological Systems

Throughout his novel *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), Hemingway constructs intricate imagery that reveals war's expansive ecological harms extending both into immediate fighting areas and across extensive post-battle time periods. The analysis examines war-caused ecological damage that persists past what meets the eye because it affects both natural environments and human societies. Analysis of ecological devastation following the immediate war destruction reveals the complete spectrum of damages while examining natural lands' potential to heal and their function as observer of human conflict, thus developing a greater comprehension of how battlefield devastation links human and environmental suffering in Hemingway's narrative regarding war's enduring effects.

Ecological Trauma beyond Immediate Destruction

A Farewell to Arms demonstrates through realistic depictions how warfare directly damages natural domains through bombarded cities merged with deforested territory alongside poisoned waterways. Beyond surface-level damage to landscapes and terrain the story in the novel shows more extensive ecological consequences. Wartime devastation produces enduring environmental destruction that generates a transformed ecological state which endures beyond wartime destruction.

Baird (2017) notes that ecological trauma refers to the **profound and often irreversible impact** of human activities—such as war—on the natural environment. In the context of Hemingway's novel, this trauma is not confined to the immediate devastation caused by bombings or military activities but extends into the long-term **disruption of ecological processes**. For instance, rivers contaminated by chemicals and the deforestation of once fertile areas prevent the natural regeneration of ecosystems. The consequences are seen through the **displacement of wildlife, loss of biodiversity**, and the **disruption of agricultural production** that characters like Frederic Henry must contend with as they move through the war-torn landscape.

War-induced damage goes beyond physical harm because it affects vital processes which support both human and non-human existence. Just as the human mind, the environment keeps enduring permanent marks that will live on throughout multiple generations.

The trauma inflicted by human disruption of nature builds steadily with the passing years according to Wright (2013). Primarily productive agricultural regions become completely unstable and stop both producing life and crops. Furthermore, food security combined with local community livelihoods suffer as a result which triggers long-lasting damage that extends through time and space far beyond the war's conclusion.

The Potential for Ecological Recovery and Its Limitations

While ecological recovery is theoretically possible after war, Hemingway's portrayal of nature in *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) suggests that the potential for full recovery is limited. Hemingway's depiction of nature hints at the possibility of regeneration, but it also acknowledges the profound **limitations** imposed by the scale of destruction. The novel demonstrates that the war's toll on the environment does not end when the fighting stops but continues in the form of **polluted lands, damaged ecosystems, and disrupted natural processes**.

As Harrison (2011) notes ecosystems demonstrate exceptional resilience but wartime damages frequently overwhelm their natural healing abilities. Through repeated portrayals of arid fields along with contaminated territories across the novel, Hemingway demonstrates how these ecological wounds prove difficult to restore. The terrain characterized by abandoned villages and empty farmlands which Frederic witnesses demonstrates the extensive and prolonged effects of warfare which sluggish recovery efforts barely diminish.

Moreover, **in the narrative of the novel, the perspective concerning the neglect of nature on the part of human reveals how much effort remains necessary to heal the environment.**

Through the movements of Frederic as well as other characters, the novel demonstrates how humans reproduce the ecological damage they create in their environment. Military strategies used during war demonstrate environmental limits by including strategic landscape destruction and resource poisoning which effectively blocks natural recovery. According to Hemingway, one can find that ecological recovery faces hurdles because of post-war human activities that interfere with ecosystem restoration beyond environmental war damages.

Even though natural systems demonstrate survival mechanisms the book implies their self-healing process happens imperfectly and at a slow pace. Ecological restoration processes that address war-damaged areas move at an impossible pace and show unpredictable results. Nature's power to heal within Hemingway's fictional reality becomes bound with human society's ability to break free from historic violence and stop death cycles.

Nature's Role as a Silent Witness to Human Conflict

Hemingway portrays nature as a **silent witness** to the destructive power of war. While humans are actively engaged in violence and suffering, nature observes, reacts, and endures, but without the agency to prevent or mitigate the chaos. This depiction emphasizes the **passive role** of nature in the face of human conflict, but it also underscores its **indispensable connection** to human life. Through the novel's natural imagery, Hemingway illustrates that war does not only affect those directly involved in it but also leaves lasting consequences on the environment, which plays a **silent yet pivotal role** in the aftermath.

Fleming (2016) suggests that in *A Farewell to Arms (1929)*, nature is not merely a background for human conflict but an entity that bears witness to the destruction without the ability to influence it. Unlike the active participation of characters in the war, nature stands still, observing the damage. Hemingway's descriptions of the environment reflect the notion that nature, despite its endurance, is ultimately **subjugated** to the violence and destruction wrought by humans. This helplessness is highlighted in the recurring motif of **death** and **decay** in the natural world. From the **dying fields** to the **contaminated rivers**, nature's degradation serves as a reminder of war's far-reaching and often irreversible consequences.

The story shows nature as a passive but powerful symbol which reminds readers about environmental devastation alongside human sacrifices during war. This aligns with Cresswell (2014) analysis which, in fact, demonstrates how war literature showcases both natural and human systems as interrelated experiences. Natural settings in Hemingway's writing do not cause violence, however, they become profound symbols representing the prolonged damages created by human warfare.

The symbolism of nature's role as a witness also draws attention to the **moral implications** of war and reveals the moral dilemmas surrounding conflict. Nature goes on witnessing the actions of humanity during war even though it refuses involvement through the conflict yet bears extensive damage caused by human violence. Through this imagery, war metaphors alert readers about how the environment's suffering is often neglected or ignored in discussions of human conflict.

Using an *Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012)* framework, the comprehensive analysis and assessment of *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* reveals extensive insight into the novel's depiction of human and environmental ecologies within wartime reality. Using *EDA* analysis, the researchers discovered how Hemingway uses war-damaged territories with injured protagonists in his storytelling to illustrate the extended aftermath of war against both people and nature. The analysis reveals essential discoveries about war through an ecological investigation while showing the value of ecological study for war analysis and providing novel perspectives for environmental humanities research.

Findings from Ecological Discourse Analysis

Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012) provides key findings about how the story, themes, motifs, symbols, imagery, similes, metaphors, allusions in the text of *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* approach both environmental effects of war along with its accompanying psychological repercussions. Through its perspective of human ecologies, the novel illustrates how battles emotionally and physically harm people accordingly with the experiences of Frederic Henry illustrating these effects. Throughout the text of the novel during the **human-nature relationship** in wartime setting, the characters confront psychological anguish while also dealing with ecological ruin in their desperate struggle.

Ecological trauma resulting from landscape destruction creates a somber setting that enhances the characters' life battles in the novel's context. As the novel illustrates nature's alterations through

wartime resemble the transformative effects of warfare on human bodies because ruined ecosystems and barren terrain represent emotional damage. The notion of **ecological recovery** is brought into question, with Hemingway presenting nature as an observer to human conflict, suffering from but unable to intervene in the destruction.

The findings of the study indicates and establishes that A Farewell to Arms shows wartime ecological trauma exists past environmental destruction to inflict distress that humans and natural systems must endure. Ecological systems accumulate enduring scars from warfare which develop complex stories about war's permanent changes to ecosystems and human populations.

Significance of Understanding War through an Ecological Lens

Using ecological perspective in the analysis provides an innovative approach to read literary works that address warfare. Before the emergence of ecological perspectives war literature mainly centered on human casualties in addition to other environmental effects. Through *Ecological Discourse Analysis (2012)* of Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms (1929)*, one can gain deep insights into how human suffering exists within an interconnected chain with environmental destruction (Habib et al.,2025).

By foregrounding nature's degradation as a result of human violence, this analysis reveals that the consequences of war are far-reaching, touching not only individuals and societies but the broader **ecosystems** that sustain life. Nature's decline because of human aggression becomes the central theme in this analysis which demonstrates that destruction from war permeates complete ecological systems as well as individual communities. This broader perspective shifts the focus from viewing nature as merely a backdrop to human conflict, to seeing it as an active participant in the **war narrative**. Wartime trauma finds its symbolic expression throughout Hemingway's work when nature acts as a reflection that deepens these traumatic effects. The integration of natural elements between humanity and conflict allows researchers to understand war-related impacts more completely, thus creating a broader understanding of war's ultimate far-reaching yet invisible consequence in addition to the immediate visible loss.

Contributions to the Broader Field of Environmental Humanities

The present research makes a significant contribution to the field of **environmental humanities** by bridging the gap between **literary studies** and **ecological discourse**. In a sense, the study produces a major achievement in environmental humanities by establishing connections between literary studies and ecological discourse. By analyzing *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* through the framework of *Ecological Discourse Analysis*, this study not only contributes to the growing body of work that explores environmental themes in literature but also underscores the relevance of **ecocriticism** in understanding the deep and often overlooked consequences of human conflict on the environment. An ecological analysis of *A Farewell to Arms (1929)* advances both literary environmental research and demonstrates why ecocritical approaches matter for understanding human warfare's unacknowledged ecological costs.

Through the integration of *EDA*, the present work enhances our understanding of the novel's **ecological motifs** and provides a critical perspective on the **interactions between human beings and their environments**. In a sense, the current research work integrates *EDA* to offer better insights about the novel's environmental motifs and symbolism and exposes human-environment relationships by using this very particular analytical approach. The present analysis promotes additional research investigating how literature expresses ecological concerns with specific reference to war-induced environmental destruction and human-induced environmental exploitation and degradation. By emphasizing the importance of recognizing **ecological trauma** and **nature's resilience**, this study contributes to an evolving discourse within the environmental humanities that calls for a **more inclusive** and **sustainable** approach to human and ecological coexistence.

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