

This thesis traces the influences of the Great War (1914-18) on David Herbert Lawrence's sensibility and his novels. It demonstrates the differences between Lawrence's earlier novels (pre-War novels) and later novels (post-War novels, also including the ones written during the War). It explores how the War brought about certain changes in Lawrence's sensibility and direction of his thought, which can be perceived in his later novels. This study basically deals with how the Great War played a defining role in the development of Lawrence's thought.

References to the Great War and its influence on Lawrence are scattered in various critical discussions of Lawrence, but no comprehensive study has been made to illustrate how important a role the War has played in altering Lawrence's sensibility and the track of his thought in his later works. The majority of what has been said is confined to the discussion of his one novel, Women in Love, written during the War. This study makes a comprehensive analysis of the subject by taking into consideration all of Lawrence's novels to explain how his later novels differ from his earlier novels and how the Great War accelerated this change in his outlook.

This study for the most part uses comparative method. Its aim is to make a comparison between Lawrence's pre-War novels and post-War novels to make obvious how the direction of Lawrence's thought developed as a result of the Great War. It can also be called an exploratory and explanatory study as it explores the changes in Lawrence's approach and explains the role of the Great War in bringing about these changes. At places psychoanalytical theory is applied to show how the War made Lawrence go through torturing and humiliating experiences, which filled him with bitterness and cynicism and thus affecting all his works written after War.

This research makes a detailed study of one important aspect of his work little explored by the critics. It helps in understanding the ever-developing literary temperament of Lawrence. The study also confirms the popular assumption that the artists and the literary works of an era are affected by the socio-political changes of that period. A unique contribution of this research is that it has initiated a new discussion, never hinted at by Lawrence's critics, by analysing the issue whether Lawrence as a literary artist was benefited by the War or it proved disastrous for his art. It traces the positive and negative influences of the War on Lawrence's art and finally maintains that the War rendered him a service by ~~w~~etting his sensibility and enhancing his creativity.