

SYNOPSIS

This thesis explores the use of Expressionism in the poetry of Wilfred Owen. The movement of Expressionism was a reaction against and response to the threats and problems of the time especially the period immediately preceding the First World War. The catastrophic First World War demanded a new mode of expression to record it and a new intensity to analyze it. Owen rebelled against the prevalent poetic idiom to give vent to his strong anti-war emotions and to express the meaning, essence and psychological dimension that is hidden beneath appearances.

It is hoped that this research will open a new vista in the study of Owen's war poetry. Much has been written on his anti war poetry but his use of Expressionism has not so far been adequately focused upon. This dissertation analyses different dimensions of Expressionism in Owen's poetry i.e. political, psychological and religious. This study also traces affinities among the British, the German and the French war poets to establish the similarity of their responses to the First World War.

This study seeks to put in proper perspective Owen's Expressionistic thematic concerns and stylistic devices which move beyond mere factual reporting towards a more penetrating and vivid expression of things.