

Wilfred Owen's Poetry : A Study

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Abstract:

This paper focus on the Wilfred Owen's poetry is against the war and more especially the ill effects caused by the war on the body and more importantly on the mind of the soldiers. The body on the wounds never stop there – it makes them impotent, immobilizes them, makes them bed ridden, eventually they get bored in the hospital bed – this creates mental illness as well – More than seventy percent of the war wounded soldiers face depression at some point in their life.

These poem are written by our Wilfred Mr. Owen, by keeping the doomed youth in mind; he illustrates with emotion and sympathy how they struggle with mental illness, describes the pathetic and life less situation faced by the soldiers; he is successful in describing the helpless state; to Owen it is very insane and dehumanizing; By the way these are just some of the ill effects faced by the poor soldiers of lower cadre in the Army during the first world war.

Mind you, there is no other war affected people's life just like First World War. The First World War is so devastating and it had the worst effect and negative impact on the life of the soldiers – and the 1st world war still stands tall by getting 1st rank in terms of damages caused for soldiers. This particular poem gives emphasis to the effects of mental illness and was written at the Craig low heart hospital in Oct 1917 by our beloved Wilfred Mr. Owen.

This poem never failed to highlight the ill effects of war like famine, devastated cities, death of millions, destruction and doom effects. The economy of the whole nation gets impacted

negatively by wars. The statistics says that around 17 million people were killed and 20 million were seriously injured – including soldiers, *women and children by the way*.

Moreover, the 1st World War never ended there – in fact it led to more wars as a *chain reaction*–Neither Europe nor the world can sleep in peace after this war –there were constant political unrest – no body an forget the Russian Civil War caused as a side effect of the 1st World War. And to make it worse, the difference of opinions and conflicts created there are still boiling down up to today.

Rememberthe well known Versailles Treaty which failed to meet its peacemaking endeavors and ended up in the 2nd World War.

Citation: Michael D. Mr. Settles, American Army retired officer’s blogs on Quora;

- i. The impacts and effects of the Versailles Treaty includes reparation (reimbursement, compensation) of Great was formerly belonging to many the Alsace-Lorraine. This Alsace-Lorraine was taken over by France. So Germany and France took their own reparations by this Versailles Treaty.
- ii. Now, the impacts on the economy on Germany and the German people:
 - a. Nobody can forget the great depression caused by this war on Germany. The depression and the economical downturn made the country to feel ashamed.

Introduction of Biological weapons, poisonous gases, arsenide and other weapons of mass destruction paved for large scale killing of innocent people, soldiers, including women and kids (Children).

Wilfred Owen was born in Oswestry on March 18, 1893 in England. He was eldest of four children. He wrote most of poetry on war from August 1917 to September 1918 .he meet sigfredsagoon in craigloghurt hospital when he was affected by shall shock.

Sasoon engaged him to write many poems. Owens’ concept of poems is war and pity of war .his works are against the war .Owen wrote of his poem his experience during the war time .in the

poem mental cases. He remembered the scene in craighlow heart .hospital when he was patient in the hospital. with the serious rhetorical questions just likes these two poems he asks serious questions.

“Who are these? Why sit them here in twilight? (Line -1)

This poem observes the soiders affected by the mental illness who were taking treatment. In hospital because of shell shock during the First World War. In first stanza Owen the soiders who looked life abnormal condition .that animal or dehumanized appearance

“Drooping tongues from jays that slop their relish,

Baring teeth that leer like shall’s teeth wicked?” (Line 3-4)

Owen describes the physical appearance of the soldiers .their tongues hang from their mouths while saliva dribbles down their faces and their expression like animals because of sleepless night and mental affection. War has stolen their humanity

In the second stanza he assumed the questions why they were .affected by mental illness.

These are men whose minds the deed have revised

Memory fingers in their hair of murders. They once witness. Wading laughs of fresh these helpless wander (Line 10- 30)

Soiders who were in hospital are deadly men though they were living .they were not amply affected physically but also mentally .they remembers the shell shock and the death of their friends who died in frontof him in the battle field

In the final stanza Owen blame the government .war is futility and madness. Owen again remains the physical appearance and mental condition of soldiers in the final stanza.

Sun light seems a blood –smear: right comes blood –back dawn breaks open like wound that bleeds afresh thus their heads wear his hilarious hideous awful falseness of set smiling corpses (Line-21-24)

Here Owen uses simile that sun has a coat of power. it gives rotate life it hide dark ness gives light the world .Owen displays the life condition of soldiers that there was no change in their life they don't have any exception to live during the world war. They born for fight and scarifies their life

Being in the war field, and witnessing your colleague soldiers, losing the limbs, bleeding & during in not an easy joke it affect the mind, psychological well being and your emotional stability.

The lines 10 to 30 further illustrates the mental illness, depression and the troubles those soldiers went through. War has torn their lives apart. They were speculated from their near & dear, friends & families, out there in the cold & snow –the uncertainty of the war inflict the minds of the soldiers drastically. This leads them to many types of psychological disorders and unsound mindedness.

The shall shocks have a devastating effects on the soldiers mind –they goes to an almost a coma stage –a sort of living dead –they are physically present lying motionless in the hospital beds but mentally absent –even if some of them recovers by chance ,they are shell having that nightmare lingering on their mind for days to come .

The contribution of government and their diplomatic affairs to the war;

According to Wilfred Owen .government authorities, their beurocracy and automatic attitudes added fuel to the fire and made the peace lee fins efforts fruit less.

If they do not shed sweat in the peacemaking efforts their soldiers have to shed blood in the war the authorities never have to enter the war field –they are very comfortable sitting in their while house & parliament buildings and talking about peace for name sake – it is the poor soldiers who scarifies their life for nothing. In the end, war destructs both sides of the battle – Wilfred Owen has felt the ill effects & expressed in his poems

Conclusion:

The focus of article is Owen's concept about war and the soldier's state who were affected physically and mentally because of the shell shock. He differentiates the common men's life style and soldiers.

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