

Abstract

The main focus of this thesis is the concept of time and temporality as represented in the major works of the US Lost Generation. The authors and the writings examined within this thesis are F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender Is the Night*; Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms*; William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying*. This thesis explores the way in which the understanding of the concept of time has undergone a dramatic change at the turn and the first half of the twentieth century, shifting its focus towards the subjectivity of human perception of time. The thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter portrays the philosophy of influential thinkers of the period such as Henri Bergson, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Walter Benjamin to create a background for further discussion and analysis of the novels. The following chapter provides the historical and cultural context of modernism to introduce major factors that shaped modernist thinking within which the Lost Generation appeared.

The next three chapters are dedicated to the detailed analysis of the novels, with each chapter focusing on one of the above-mentioned authors. Each of the novels is examined by close reading, paying attention to the way it incorporates various notions of time within the narrative. Based on this examination, parallels between the philosophy of time and the way it is represented in the texts are drawn to look for possible similarities in the comprehension of the notion of temporality in the concluding chapter.

Keywords: the US Lost Generation, Temporality, Narrative Time, American Modernism, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Francis Scott Fitzgerald.