



RESEARCH PAPER

Shattered Minds and Silent Control: Trauma and Power in *All Quiet on the Western Front*

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the horrific experiences of Paul whose initial excitement for war is shattered after seeing the brutal realities of WWI. This paper examines the psychological impact of combat on soldiers. It investigates the way trauma reshapes their emotional state, identity and perception of life. Another significance of this paper is that it explores how the authoritative figures exploit the patriotic sentiments of these individuals by manipulating them for their agendas. It is qualitative research, and the theoretical framework of this research is Chris Brewin's dual representation theory to analyze the traumatic effects of war on soldiers and Van Dijk's theory of discourse to explore how institutional power manipulates language and narratives to exert power on their subordinates. This research contributes in the field of trauma studies and literary scholarship. The results of this study is how authoritative people manipulates nation and soldiers to serve their own agendas. Recommendations for future researchers is that they can incorporate the trauma theory to explore the psychological impact of war on soldiers in different cultures. Traumatological effects on soldiers due to war can be better understood by the comparative analysis of real life and literary war narratives. Additionally discourse analysis can be done to understand the way politition and media manipulates the nation and soldiers.

Keywords: War Trauma, Psychological State Of Soldiers, Power and Dominance

Introduction

The *All Quite on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque narrates a story of Paul Baumer. He is a young soldiers who volunteers with his friends to fight in WWI. Initially they are all thrilled and filled with patriotic love and pride, but that quickly vanishes after seeing the brutality of the war in the battlefield. Paul friends dies in front of his eyes, and he begins to feel numb and detached from everything in his life. War makes them emotionally unstable and take away their innocence. The prominent themes of the novel are deep loneliness, horrors of the war, loss of youth and trauma.

The aim of this paper is to explore the psychological impact of World War I on soldiers in *All Quiet on the Western*. It examines how war trauma alters the personal identities, mental state and life of soldiers. Secondly, it will also analyzes the way authoritative figures manipulate the young soldiers for their own agendas. The study will use Brewin dual representation theory to understand traumatic response of soldiers due to war and Van Dijk's theory of discourse to investigate how power is exercised through language and institutional structures.

This research is significant because it sheds light on the soldiers emotional and psychological state because of the war especially of those who participated in the war at a young age. This paper will use psychology and discourse theories to contribute in literary

scholarship and trauma studies. It also offers a deep understanding of how authoritative people in military exercise power on their subordinates and influence their mental state to achieve specific goals. . It offers a deep insight into soldiers inner world who gets affected due to war, predominantly those who fight in battlefield at a young age. It also shed light on how power exercises through discourse under the guise of nationalism and duty to justify exploitation.

All Quiet on the Western Front presents a horrific depiction of war and its psychological consequences on soldiers. It also portrays the misuse of power by those in command to manipulate young soldiers for their benefits in the name of patriotism. The argument of this paper is to investigate how the trauma of war reshapes the inner world of soldiers and how authoritative discourse is used to rationalize their exploitation. This problem will be examined through the theoretical framework of Chris Brewin dual representation theory to analyze trauma and Van Dijk's theory of discourse to analyze power structure.

Literature Review

All Quiet on the Western Front is a popular novel as it discusses the events of WWI and the sufferings of soldiers. Numerous studies have explored different themes of the novel in detail such as in "The Contribution of All Quiet on the Western Front to Our Understanding of Psychological Trauma" Nigel Hunt (2020) explores the themes of shellshock, psychological trauma and combat stress through the application of PDST and psychological trauma theory. He emphasizes that fictional novels can complement and reflect on clinical insights of real word related to trauma and memory. "Trauma in Erich Maria Remarque's All Quiet on the Western Front" by Ritu Dhaliwal and Somveer (2025) investigates the psychological breakdown of soldiers in world war I. They highlights the soldiers fragmented identities and emotional detachment from the real world due to war in the novel. Dhaliwal and Somveer uses Psychoanalytic approach and trauma theory as a theoretical framework.

In "All Quiet on the Western Front: A Phenomenological Investigation of War" Tighe (2004) uses a phenomenological lens to understand how the novel captures the lived experiences of war. He emphasizes on the way Remarque's language evokes bodily pain, sensory overload, and existential isolation, conveying the raw inner world of the soldiers. "The Discourse of War and Peace in the Literary Narratives of Conflict Zones"(2024) by May Tahseen Hameed, Mayada Khdayr Yass and Hind Tahseen Hameed applies Fairclough's CDA to Remarque's novel, it shows the challenges of dominant discourses of patriotism and heroism. The authors argue that the novel uses realistic and emotionally charged language to dismantle the ideological constructs that glorify war.

Contemporary researches has explored the novel through the lenses of historical context ,war trauma and literary representation, but no research has combined the psychological trauma theory with discourse analysis to examine the novel's deeper structural and emotional layers. However, there is a noticeable gap when Brewin et al.'s dual representation theory is used to distinguishes between emotional, sensory and narrative memory of trauma alongside the Van Dijk's theory of discourse which explores how language and ideology function in legitimizing power and control over the subordinate. This interdisciplinary combination offers a unique approach in understanding the internal psychological fragmentation of soldiers and the external mechanisms of the authority in manipulation that sustain war. Therefore, by addressing this gap, this paper aims to contribute an innovative perspective to trauma studies and discourse analysis within war literature.

Material and Methods

It is qualitative research, and the theoretical framework of this research is Chris Brewin's dual representation theory to analyze the traumatic effects of war on soldiers and Van Dijk's theory of discourse to explore how institutional power manipulates language and narratives to exert power on their subordinates. This research contributes in the field of trauma studies and literary scholarship.

Brewin's dual representation theory offers a fascinating lens to understand how traumatic memories are managed in the human mind. Brewin emphasizes the structure of memory itself unlike the general models of PTSD that focus on symptoms and behavior. He argues that multiple types of memories can exist simultaneously, and their sudden emergence can trigger emotional distress and psychological discomfort. He identifies two types of memory representations: Verbally Accessible Memory (VAM) and Situationally Accessible Memory (SAM).

Verbally accessible memories (VAM) are those that an individual can consciously recall and articulate. These memories are linked with language and narrative and can be described in detail. In this a person can explain the whole event and when it occurred, but memories may evoke strong emotions. Situationally accessible memories (SAM) cannot be recalled voluntarily they are stored in unconscious mind. These memories are triggered by specific situations that have resemblance to the original trauma. When these memories are triggered, they reappear with the same emotional force as person experiences at the time of trauma. They often come in the form of nightmares flashbacks. This theory framework highlights the deep psychological complexity of trauma and how it resists traditional forms of rational control narrative.

Teun A. van Dijk in discourse analysis focuses on how language and communication are used to exercise power. His work in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has explored how the "symbolic elites" such as journalists, academics, and politicians shape public opinion and reinforce systems of dominance. In his influential paper *Principles of Critical Discourse Analysis*, van Dijk explains that power is not always enforced through physical means, but it is often exercise through the control of discourse. He thinks authoritative institutes influence and limit the freedom of people. They just want to rule the mind of subordinates so they can use them for their agendas. Laws and rules are always made by people who are in power, and subordinates are bound to follow the implemented rules in order to survive in that system.

Results and Discussion

In *All Quiet on the Western Front* Remarque's portrays the way war always brings destruction to humanity and the psychological devastation of soldiers. Paul Baumer and his friends Muller, Albert Kropp, Tjaden and Leer at the age of nineteen enrolls themselves in the army for World War I. They are brainwashed with the idealistic notions of patriotism, heroism and glory. They romanticizes the war in the start by imagining it as an adventures trip where they would play the role of courageous heroes. However, their illusion is shattered immediately after seeing the death of their classmate Joseph Behm. He is killed during an attack. This traumatic event is the foundation of their psychological decline. "The first bombardment showed us our mistake, and under it, the world as they had taught it to us broke in pieces" (Remarque, pg. 6). Joseph he is lying in the no-man land gets and before anyone can recues him, he gets shot by the enemy in the eye. Paul and his friends faces the brutal realities of war such as violence, constant fear and death which leaves deep emotional scars on their mind. They become emotionally numbed and alienated and feel difficulty in to returning to their normal lives even when they are away from the battlefield.

Their company leaves for the front with 150 soldiers but returns with only 80 soldiers as the rest are killed by English army shelling. Paul's friend Kemmerich gets injured while fighting on the front, and his leg is amputated by the doctors. However, Kemmerich is unaware of his amputated leg because it is covered under a wire basket. His appearance looks like a skeleton which is indicating that he is close to death. Paul tries to comfort him by telling him that after the operation he will be sent home, away from the war, but Kemmerich seems distant, already sensing that he may not survive. Paul recalls memories of their past before the war, and he starts crying along Kemmerich. Kemmerich's distant stare at the wall indicates the psychological trauma he is experiencing due to the war. As Brewin states in his theory of dual representation, when traumatic memories are triggered the individual re-experiences the emotional intensity of the original trauma. Kemmerich's cries because he compares his old memories with the traumatic memories of war. Meanwhile, Muller's eyes remain fixed on Kemmerich's boots which symbolize survival in war. His own boots cause him constant pain and gives him repeated blisters. It's not like that he lacks sympathy for Kemmerich but it reflects his focus on staying alive in the war. Paul is present at Kemmerich's bedside when he dies. He struggles to accept his death and feels suffocated. The orderly is waiting to place Kemmerich's body on a waterproof sheet to free up the bed for the next patient. In the hospital it seems like death has become a part of routine rather than a tragedy. Paul breathes rapidly after leaving the hospital and tries to distract himself by thinking of meadows, flowers, and girls an attempt to escape the trauma of witnessing Kemmerich's death. "Müller stands in front of the hut waiting for me. I give him the boots. We go in and he tries them on. They fit well" (Remarque, p. 16). Muller's action shows that when he sees the boots in Paul's hands he understands Kemmerich has died. However, instead of expressing grief, he tries them on and feels pleased, while Paul drinks tea. This behavior indicates that they suppress their emotions and fear of death by distracting themselves with mundane tasks like eating and wearing new boots.

The soldiers are going through severe war trauma. When they return from the front they avoid discussing the horrifying experiences they have endured in the combat because recalling the memories of battle filed threatens their mental stability and make them feel as if they might go insane. They avoid to express their emotions and avoid sharing their feelings with each other. They are afraid that emotional vulnerability might lead them to a loss of their self-control. In the midst of war food becomes the only source of comfort and pleasure. "You might be generous for once. You haven't drawn food for eighty men. You've drawn it for the Second Company. Good. Let's have it then. We are the Second Company" (Remarque, p. 3). When they return from battlefield and receives extra food no one questions its source, knowing instinctively that it belongs to their died comrades. Food serves not only as sustenance but also as a means of psychological survival.

On the front for several days due to the continuous shelling by the English army Paul and his friends remain confined in the trenches. The constant sound of bombardment overwhelms them, as if they are striking their brains with a hammer. They become increasingly anxious and paranoid and starts fearing who among them might die next. Some soldiers begin to cry displaying the symptoms of shell shock. "One lies down in silence in the corner and eats, the other, an older man of the new draught, sobs; twice he had been flung over the parapet by the blast of the explosions without getting any more than shell-shock" (Remarque, p. 50). The term shell shock is introduced by Charles Mayer in his article *Shell Shocked*, it describes the psychological breakdown of soldiers in WWI, characterized by crying, fear, shivering, disinterest, and persistent intrusive memories. Society at that time does not understand these symptoms and often labels soldiers affected from it as cowards. In the novel, Joseph Behm initially resists joining the army but eventually enlists due to societal pressure, not wanting to be perceived as a coward. He is killed during his first combat experience. Paul and his comrades show clear signs of shell

shock Inside the trench. One of the soldiers becomes so overwhelmed by the shelling that he attempts to flee the trench, but the other soldiers restrain him from exposing himself to certain death. . The dugout feels like a grave a space where they are waiting for an inevitable death. They haven't sleep for days because they are aware that falling asleep could cost them their lives. "I am cautious and tense, my heart thumps. My eyes turn again and again to the luminous dial of my watch; the hands will not budge. Sleep hangs on my eyelids; I work my toes in my boots in order to keep awake" (Remarque, p. 49).

Paul states that in the trench if someone sleeps and the attack comes; they wake him up by slapping him because they are devastated and lack the stamina to fight. When the enemy approaches their trench, it is the first time they witness death from such proximity. The enemy's face appears to them as the face of death. Paul asserts that even if his father fights on the enemy side, he will kill him. The fear of death becomes the only force that drives them. As Remarque describes, "We see men living with their skulls blown open; we see soldiers run with their two feet cut off, they stagger on their splintered stumps into the next shell-hole...we find one man who has held the artery of his arm in his teeth for two hours in order not to bleed to death." (Remarque, Pg. 62). Soldier's exposure to such brutality of war strips them of their innocence. They are young but war has consumed their dreams and vitality. They feel lost and stuck in time unable to foresee a future. Paul is traumatized he reflects on his past memories while lying in the trench. He thinks how they were once full of life but now those memories feel like illusions. He wishes to go back in past and live freely as he used to before the war, but the trench always reminds him that that such a life is now impossible. Those once joyful memories turn into painful memories and now provides no comfort. Paul realizes the bitter truth that he cannot become his old self again or live a normal life.

When Paul and his comrades are sent to the front to install wire fences no one wants to go. They all desire to return home. "A broken arm is better than a hole in the guts, and many a man would be thankful enough for such a chance of finding his home way again" (Remarque, Pg. 24). This line illustrates their antiwar sentiments. They prefer injury over continuing at the front, as it offers a chance to escape the war. After installing the fences. They rest until a truck comes to retrieve them. Paul is awakened by loud sounds and observes numerous ill soldiers lying on the floor while enemy shelling continues. The sound of wounded horses becomes unbearable. Detering begins to lose his sanity due to the painful cries of the horses. Their cries feels like sharp needles in their brains. "God! For God's sake! Shoot them" (Remarque, pg.29). The desperate plea to shoot the horses demonstrates their psychological exhaustion. Horse deaths become meaningless to them, and this is symbolizing how war has normalized death. Witnessing death becomes their routine. They no longer respond emotionally to the dead.

Earth trembles under continuous shelling. Near a graveyard, Paul and his comrades witness coffin lids and bodies flying due to the bombardment. Paul feels that the dead are dying again, revealing the war's utter lack of glory. "I open my eyes--my fingers grasp a sleeve, an arm. A wounded man? I yell to him--no answer--a dead man. My hand gropes farther, splinters of wood--now I remember again that we are lying in the graveyard" (Remarque, pg.31). In such moments, survival becomes paramount. The only thing that matters is survival because they does not hesitate in hiding themselves in the coffin with the dead man. New recruits doesn't know anything about the war. They just knows the basic things and are not trained well for the war .One of the recruit becomes immobilized by fear. He is shaking, sweating, and unable to move. Paul holds him as he cries on his shoulder indicating the profound psychological impact on them. When the soldiers are away from the front they avoid discussing their experiences. The memories are too painful and make them emotional. During a bombardment Paul hides himself in a shell hole. An enemy soldier accidentally jumps into the same hole, and the fear of death compels Paul to act immediately he stabs the soldier. Paul feels difficulty in processing the

situation for a few moments. His hands are covered in blood. He desperately tries to remove the blood stains from his hands by rubbing them against the sand. He is traumatized silence in the shell hole terrifies him and he is lying in the company of a corpse. It is the first time Paul kills someone with his own hands. Upon returning to the huts, he recounts his experiences at the front but omits the killing. Paul's trauma prevents him from speaking of it initially as according to Brewin, in a verbally accessible memory, a person can recall a traumatic event and express it in words. Paul is overwhelmed by the emotions. He is unable to speak of the killing however, the next morning burden becomes unbearable, so he decides to share the murder incident with his comrades.

In war killing becomes routine just like catching the flu. Paul's company initially has 150 soldiers and now only a few remain. He begins losing his friends and grows increasingly hopeless. The soldiers realize they are losing the war. Detering's escape reflects his antiwar stance despite knowing that military police may capture and execute him. It represents the psychological toll of war on soldiers and their desperation to escape. Doctors amputate Albert Kropp knee because he is shot above the knee. He prefers death over living with a disability. The hospital becomes a place where soldiers merely wait to die. The staff's behavior is inhumane. Doctors use soldiers for experiments, and all this reflects the dehumanization war has brought. Muller desires to commit suicide because he is unable to endure both the physical pain of injury and the mental anguish of trauma. Paul all friends Muller, Tjaden, Albert, and Kaczinsky died in the war. Their youth and innocence are obliterated. Paul feels hollow and life loses meaning, especially after losing his friends. He is no longer able to envision a future as he is dead from within.

Alienation from Civil Life

World War I strips the innocence of young soldiers. When they join the army it is difficult for them to comprehend the brutal reality of war. Paul and his comrades enlist in the army immediately after graduating from school. Their decision is influenced by the glorification of war and the nationalistic encouragement of older generations. At the time of enlistment, all are enthusiastic, but upon facing the actual horrors of the front they lose their innocence and begin to feel prematurely aged. They once had dreams and were full of life, but the war shatters those aspirations. As Paul states, "Youth! We are none of us more than twenty years old. But young? Youth? That is long ago. We are old folk" (Remarque, Pg.9). This line captures the deep psychological transformation they undergo. They become alienated from civilian life. Paul reflects on his past where he lives at home peacefully but now those memories seem unreal. When he thinks about life after the war nothing comes to his mind. He remarks, "We are forlorn like children, and experienced like old men, we are crude and sorrowful and superficial--I believe we are lost" (Remarque, pg. 57). The soldiers feel directionless unable to envision any future. Paul refers to his generation as the lost generation. He acknowledges that they are so young that their ideas of the future are vague, and they once romanticized war. However, after witnessing countless deaths on the front they are left emotionally empty.

War trauma erodes their capacity to imagine life beyond the battlefield. They believe even if the war ends the traumatic memories of war will never leave them until death. Muller questions his comrades that what they would do after the war ends, but nobody has the answer, so they eventually abandon the conversation and agree to decide after the war ends. In contrast, all the older people remain connected to their prewar lives, highlighting the generational division and the disconnection the young soldiers feel from civilian existence.

The old people have children, wives and occupations. Their background is so strong that war cannot make them feel lost, but on the other hand, young soldiers do not have any background before the war that is why war distresses them more. When they contemplates old memories, they feel like they cannot live like that again.

"We had as yet taken no root. The war swept us away. For the others, the older men, it is but an interruption. They are able to think beyond it. We, however, have been gripped by it and do not know what the end may be. We know only that in some strange and melancholy way we have become a waste land (Remarque, Pg. 10).

Albert Kroop thinks that even if they go back to their previous lives, they cannot become the same as they were before the war because it will be impossible for them to erase all the memories of shells and bombs. When Paul gets a leave of 14 days from the front, he feels happy, but when he reaches his village, he feels alienated. People are walking carefree on the road, and everyone seems busy in their lives. Everything is the same as before, nothing has changed, but the only thing that has changed is Paul. He is in a village, but he is unable to forget the memories of war. He doesn't feel comfortable talking with people. He does not want to talk to anyone. He just wants to live peacefully without any interruption. Paul is in a traumatic state. When he walks on the road, he gets scared by the sound of the tramcar. It sounds like a bomb sound, and he feels like a shell is coming towards him, which makes his body paralysed from fear. "I have been startled a couple of times in the street by the screaming of the tramcars, which resembles the shriek of a shell coming straight for one, somebody taps me on the shoulder" (Remarque, pg.77) so, noise coming from tramcars triggers his memory of war which lies in his subconscious, and he feels the same fear of death as he experiences in the war when he hears the sound of a shell coming towards him. On reaching home, his sister welcomes him happily and is surprised to see him. Paul feels like he cannot move. He feels emotional and wants to speak, but no words come out of his mouth. He feels strange seeing his mother and sister after a long time. They seem to him like strangers. He cannot tell them the reality of war and how much he has suffered on the front because no one can understand him.

Civil people's perception of war is glory and honour. Soldiers are perceived as brave, and they are not allowed to cry or show any kind of immoral sentiments towards war. If any soldier gets emotional or suffers from the trauma, he is labelled as a coward. People only want to listen to the stories that glorify war. Paul encounters his master, and he asks him about war and how the war is going on the front? According to his perception, it is going tremendously, but he still wants Paul's approval. "So you come from the front? What is the spirit like out there? Excellent, eh? excellent?" (Remarque, pg. 77). Paul does not want to have a conversation related to the war because it only reminds him of the worst memories of war. He wants to get rid of terrible memories. He never narrates to anyone about the realities of war. He just exclaims that everything is fine at the front and soldiers are in great spirits. His father wants him to wear his uniform so he can show off in front of his friends that his son is fighting for their country. When Paul changes into civilian clothes, he feels light as all burden sheds off his shoulders. Paul looks at the literature books and realises they do not interest him anymore. He feels all the words written in these books are now useless. "I find I do not belong here anymore, it is a foreign world" (Remarque, Pg. 78). He realises he does not belong in this place anymore and can never adjust to civil life again after what he has experienced in the war. He now belongs to the life at the front, and his friends are the only family who understands him. Soldiers who survive are rootless, detached, and hopeless. They cannot function properly because they are unable to erase the traumatic memories of war. The people who are not part of the war will forget everything about it, but soldiers who have suffered because of the war can never be the same as before.

Power and Dominance

The Remarque novel portrays how political figures, teachers, and elders manipulate the younger generation with the idea of nationalism, so they volunteer to join the army and fight for their country. People in power have an interest in the war; they never think about the innocence of young soldiers and how they are putting their young nation into a brutal war. According to Van Dijk's theory of discourse, he claims that people

who have power don't directly change the minds of other people; they just manipulate language in texts and communication, so they can rule over their minds and use them for their own interests. Paul exclaims that for our future, we trusted the people who have power over us, such as our elders and teachers. They betrayed our trust, and we realise our generation is more trustworthy than these people. Kantorek is a Paul class teacher; he used to give lectures on nationalism and patriotism and encouraged them to join the army. He portrays war as glory and honour, but in reality, Paul realises there is no honour or glory in war. In the war, soldiers just focus on their survival instead of fighting for honour, glory, or country. "The first death we saw shattered this belief. We had to recognise that our generation was more to be trusted than theirs" (Remarque, pg.6). At that time, there were many people like Kantorek who believed that they were doing right, but it was right only for them because it caused them nothing. Soldiers are the one who faces the brutality of war. People in power just get benefits from the war. Paul and his friends think they are going to be trained for heroism, but in reality, they are just circus ponies. A soldier's fate is in the hands of authoritative people; they are using them like a puppet whose strings are in their hands.

When Kemmerich's leg gets amputated, no orderly looks after him because he is just a soldier. They only give special treatment to officers. The hospital staff is corrupt, even Paul gives an orderly cigarettes as a bribe to convince him to give medicine to Kemmerich. At that time, they were facing a shortage of medicine due to the war, so hospitals saved it only for officers. Leaders are using young soldiers, and in return, they haven't given them proper medical facilities. Their lives are unimportant to them. Paul and his friends faced many difficulties during their army training under Himmelstoss. Himmelstoss is their trainer, but in civil life, he is a postman. In the academy, he takes advantage of his power. He has a special grudge with Paul and his friends because they give him a tough time. He takes advantage of his power and gives strict punishments. When power comes, dominance comes with it, and Himmelstoss is a perfect example of it. Albert says Himmelstoss is a different person as a postman but becomes a bully as a drill sergeant.

Himmelstoss's attitude as a drill sergeant is cruel because he knows that he has power over boys, and nobody can complain about him. Army soldiers are not allowed to say no and cannot complain about people who are ranked above them. "It's not only Himmelstoss, there are lots of them. As sure as they get a stripe or a star they become different men, just as though they'd swallowed concrete" (Remarque, pg. 20). One morning Paul makes Himmelstoss bed fourteen times but still he finds a mistake in it, even he cleans a mess with a toothbrush under his orders, but Himmelstoss never gets pleased. He likes to misuse his power and enjoy bullying young soldiers. Katschinsky says that if the authoritative people in the army get the same treatment as soldiers, the war will end in one day. Paul's friends suggest that war should be fought in a wrestling ring where generals of both countries fight, and whoever wins is considered a victory for that country. Upper-rank people are just giving commands in WW1; they do not have any concern with how many soldiers are dying in the war or from what difficulties they are going through. They are just sitting peacefully in their offices and passing orders. In the army, one man must have power over another, and when they have power, it goes to their mind, and dominance comes with it.

"Let a man be whatever you like in peacetime, what occupation is there in which he can behave like that without getting a crack on the nose? He can only do that in the army. It goes to the heads of them all, you see. And the more insignificant a man has been in civil life the worse it takes him" (Remarque, Pg. 21).

Paul also discusses the concept of an enemy; he said it is our teachers and authoritative people who make us believe that people from other countries are our enemy by giving us lectures on nationalism and commands, but in reality, they are the same as us. War gives popularity to leaders and generals, so their names can be a part of school books

and history. Paul realises war benefits only generals and leaders, and for other people, it just brings destruction and inhumanity. People who initiate war are real enemies of soldiers and humanity. They just do propaganda by saying that the opposing army is your enemy. They know Germany is losing the war, but still, they continue the war just for their own benefit.

Conclusion

The purpose of this paper is to describe the traumatic effects of war on soldiers and how they feel alienated and lost after returning home. People in power just manipulate the young generation for their own interest by brainwashing them with the idea of nationalism and patriotism, so they volunteer themselves by their own will to join the army and fight for their country. In a nutshell, wars only bring destruction to humanity at the expense of many precious lives.

Recommendations

Recommendations for future researchers is that they can incorporate the trauma theory to explore the psychological impact of war on soldiers in different cultures. Traumatological effects on soldiers due to war can be better understood by the comparative analysis of real life and literary war narratives. Additionally discourse analysis can be done to understand the way politicians and media manipulate the nation and soldiers.

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