



## ANALYSIS OF THE SYMBOLS IN THE STORY "CAT IN THE RAIN"

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**Abstract**: This article discusses different themes such as loveless marriage, sadness through symbols like the cat and the rain. In this article I will analyze symbols in this short story by Ernest Hemingway. In the given short story the author uses the cat in order to symbolize the woman seeks, physical and emotional attention from his husband and she wishes to have a child. In the given story there were many symbols namely: hotel room, rain, green table, candle, George, chandelier, cat. I will study every symbols which was given in the short story " Cat in the rain" above.

Key words: cat, attention, green table, hotel room, femininity, the window, loneliness.

Introduction: Ernest Hemingway (July 21, 1899-July2, 1961). Terse literary style of Ernest Hemingway, an American writer, ambulance driver of World War I, journalist and expatriate in Paris during the 1920s, marks short stories and novels such as "The Sun Also Rise" (1926), and "The Old Man" and "Sea" (1952), which concern courageous, lonely characters, and he won the Nobel Prize of 1954 for literature. Economical and understated style of Hemingway strongly influenced 20<sup>th</sup> century fiction. Hemingway produced most of his work between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s."Cat in the rain" is a short story by American author Ernest Hemingway, first published by Richard Hadley of Boni and Liveright in 1925 in the story collection "In Our Time". The story is about an American man and wife on vocation in Italy. Critical attention focuses chiefly on its autobiographical elements and on Hemingway's "theory of omission" (iceberg theory). Some writers tried to analyze the relationship between wife and husband not well, however other writers like Daniel Thomieres, S. Harsono, Necat Kumral tried to clearly symbolize something more to the wife, who wants to get more attention from her husband and used the features of cat in the rain with different meaning. Other writers tried to compare the cat with a woman which was given in the story. The author himself Ernest Hemingway depicts the relationship between an American couple which was affected by the consequences of the war period and they continued their existence facing the problem of misunderstanding and loneliness in a marriage. Everyday author's styles are diverse that reader easily understand the hero cat with hidden meaning.

**Literature review** :The term of symbol a thing represents or stands for something else, especially something abstract. Symbolism began as a literary movement in France







in the 1880s during a period of enormous change and upheaval in Europe. The term first came into circulation in 1886 when the poet Jean Moréas published his 'Symbolist Manifesto' in the Parisian newspaper Le Figaro. As the father of Symbolism, Gustave Moreau was an unlikely father figure to the young Symbolists. In literature, authors have long favored the use of symbols among a wide range of literary devices. The earliest recorded forms of human storytelling—cave paintings and hieroglyphics—are quite literally symbols representing more complex narratives or beliefs. Ancient Greek theater, which is the basis for much of today's narrative art forms, used symbolic props including phallic objects to represent Dionysus, the god of fertility. William Shakespeare used symbols to represent inner conscience (think of blood in Macbeth); Edgar Allen Poe used it to convey dread and mortality (think of the eponymous bird in "The Raven"); and William Blake used religious symbols (including Jesus himself) to represent human emotion and desire (as in "The Everlasting Gospel"). Symbolism has played a large role in the history of literature. Symbols have been used in cultures all around the world, evident in ancient legends, fables, and religious texts.

Symbolism is equally important in poetry, prose, and plays, as well as in all genres of literature, from science fiction to fantasy to fiction for young adults. When analyzing a piece of literature, examining the primary symbols often leads to a greater understanding of the work itself. Though the definition of symbolism most often relates to a literary device, there was also a nineteenth-century literary movement called "Symbolism." The movement was chiefly based in France, Russia, and Belgium, and was greatly influenced by the works of Edgar Allen Poe. Symbolists rejected realism, and instead thought that truth could only be represented in an indirect manner, i.e., through symbols. Famous symbolists were Charles Baudelaire, Stéphane Mallarmé, Paul Verlaine, Arthur Rimbaud, and Ezra Pound. Symbolism allows writers to express complex ideas while giving the reader a visual, sensory experience. In literature, symbolic language refers to the use of words, phrases, or characters to represent or reference concepts. Symbolic language may be used to communicate meaning or produce effects such as emotions or feelings that are not directly stated. Some writers in their article found the new meaning while researching this short story. Bonnie Chen in his work, he studied that the word "cat" symbolize the wife's situation. Cats intend staying in dry places instead of wet ones just like that she desires for a happy marriage instead of a loveless one. Turkish writers Necat Kumral, compared two short stories to delve deeper into his look at human relationships through typical lives that married or unmarried couple leads. Daniel Thomieres in his work discusses the wife's desire for fulfillment and escape from time, lack of rapport with her husband. D. Thomieres speculates that wife may develop a mental discorder such as anorexia or bulimia. Another author Garcia Marquez, analyzed the femininity of this story, that the woman in this story wants to have a baby and attention from his husband. Dr. Mangesh and R.

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Adgokar analyze Hemingway's short story with the perpective of structural analysis including characters, settings. It is also focused the attention on theme and symbolic representation in it. The author himself focused his attention, on the loneliness of the wife's heart because of the indifference of her husband.

**Result**: In this short story i studied some symbols like: cat, short hair, green table, rain, candle, empty square. Here cat can be symbolize many things. Cat can symbolize emotional desire of woman for freedom who feels herself lonely and wants to have a baby in order to give to the child her attention and love. Difficult situation of the cat symbolizes life of American wife as at that time war signifying decay and degeneration or conflict. Also cat symbolizes symbol of the lack of relationship and attention between wife and husband. The cat is actually a symbol for a child. The rainy days symbolize unfortunate life of woman, as rain itself symbolizes sadness who wants go get attention from husband. Green table symbolizes as refreshing and tranquil as woman tried to change her life by wanting to have a child. The empty square suggests a sense of aridity and barrenness as in this story woman did not have child. Candles symbolize light in the darkness of life. Woman who lives in darkness and tries a way to be happy and fell femininity. As short hair symbolizes independence and confidence, here woman wanted to have freedom and feel herself assurance.

Analysis: We take some extracts from the story: "Cat in the rain":

-The American wife stood at the window looking out. Outside right under their window cat was crouched under one of the dripping green tables. The cat was trying to make herself so compact that she would not be dripped on.

I'm going down and get that kitty," the American wife said.

"I'll do it," her husband offered from the bed.

"No, I'll get it. The poor kitty out trying to keep dry under a table."

The husband went on reading, lying propped up with the two pillows at the foot of the bed.

"Don't get wet," he said.

- Here the cat which tries to protect himself from the rain can symbolize a wife who wants care from her husband and she wishes defence and fell femininity. She expects help and wants to be a weak woman in order to see manhood and love of his husband. Green table means that wife wants some changes in her life. Green color represents refreshing and tranquil moreover nature and brings to mind lush grass and trees. Here with word poor kitty she really wanted to help to this cat as she saw herself in this cat who tries to be happy and protected by someone, who always suffers all this things. With words "I will get it" wife wished freedom in order to do something freely by herself without asking permission.

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-The wife went downstairs and the hotel owner stood up and bowed to her as she passed the office. His desk was at the far end of the office. He was an old man and very tall.

"Il piove," the wife said. She liked the hotelkeeper.

"Si, si, Signora, brutto tempo. It is very bad weather."

He stood behind his desk in the far end of the dim room. The wife liked him. She liked the deadly serious way he received any complaints. She liked his dignity. She liked the way he wanted to serve her. She liked the way he felt about being a hotel-keeper. She liked his old, heavy face and big hands.

-In this extract, wife liked a hotel-keeper and she was over the moon, because she felt kindness from another male. She felt that not all people the same as her husband. She understood that she could get attention from outside people. Someone cared of her and wanted to help , at that time woman could fell femininity and warmth of the man who was so polite and responsible to his job.

- Liking him she opened the door and looked out. It was raining harder. A man in a rubber cape was crossing the empty square to the café. The cat would be around to the right. Perhaps she could go along under the eaves. As she stood in the doorway an umbrella opened behind her. It was the maid who looked after their room.

"You must not get wet," she smiled, speaking Italian. Of course, the hotel-keeper had sent her.

With the maid holding the umbrella over her, she walked along the gravel path until she was under the window. The table was there, washed bright green in the rain, but the cat was gone. She was suddenly disappointed. The maid looked up at her.

-Here by the help of maid who held an umbrella she can also feel protection by hotel-keeper as he sent the maid to this wife in order to not get wet as a care and attention. Wife tried to find that cat and it can symbolize she found a way to be happy and to have a child. There she saw green table as a chance to feel some hope but the cat suddenly disappointed. She felt that she lost everything and she never fell femininity and she will continue this way of living.

-"Don't you think it would be a good idea if I let my hair grow out?" she asked, looking at her profile again.

George looked up and saw the back of her neck, clipped close like a boy's.

"I like it the way it is."

"I get so tired of it," she said. "I get so tired of looking like a boy."George shifted his position in the bed. He hadn't looked away from her since she started to speak.

"You look pretty darn nice," he said.

She laid the mirror down on the dresser and went over to the window and looked out. It was getting dark.





"I want to pull my hair back tight and smooth and make a big knot at the back that I can feel," she said. "I want to have a kitty to sit on my lap and purr when I stroke her."

"Yeah?" George said from the bed.

"And I want to eat at a table with my own silver and I want candles. And I want it to be spring and I want to brush my hair out in front of a mirror and I want a kitty and I want some new clothes."

"Oh, shut up and get something to read," George said. He was reading again.

-Here, wife wanted to attract attention of her husband by asking about her haircut. She started to say about her wishes like what she wants to do. By saying about haircut she wished to talk with her husband and sharing some information, asking some advice from him but as usual he ignored her. Then she started to use another way she said that she wants to have a kitty to sit on her lap and purr when she strokes her. And this symbolized that she really wants to have a baby and care about him or her. By the words that she wants to eat with her own silver and wants candles. It can be symbolize that she wishes bright colorful life and individual life, she wants to have own opinions and decisions also freely express thoughts and wants that someone listens her.

-His wife was looking out of the window. It was quite dark now and still raining in the palm trees.

"Anyway, I want a cat," she said, "I want a cat. I want a cat now. If I can't have long hair or any fun, I can have a cat."

George was not listening. He was reading his book. His wife looked out of the window where the light had come on in the square.

Someone knocked at the door.

"Avanti," George said. He looked up from his book.

In the door way stood the maid. She held a big tortoise-shell cat pressed tight against her and swung down against her body.

"Excuse me," she said, "the padrone asked me to bring this for the Signora."

-In this extract, rain and darkness symbolize sadness of woman. By words:" I want a cat, I want a cat. I want a cat now" she means that if she cannot have long hair or any fun, she can have a cat: she means that if she cannot have freedom, she may have a baby to feel happiness as having a baby helps to change life. With baby she can be busy and she cannot feel herself lonely as child gives for every woman full of fortune. At the end of this short story woman can fell attention from the hotel-keeper as this man found cat and sent to this woman. She got wished attention and warmth from another man which her husband could give to her. During the life you can a great goodness from others who you are not even expected.

**Conclusion**: Most of writers wrote different kind of articles to this short story and analyzed different themes. We can see that the word cat every researcher give different ideas to this animal. Some writers said that cat is the emotional desire of woman, In





this article I analyzed symbols of this short story we can see that here the cat not only symbolized the loneliness of American wife also it was symbolized the unhappiness of woman who wants change life. Also cat can be symbolized to have child in order to give to the child all attention and love which she does not have. Every time when we read this short story we can get a new meaning to symbolize the cat as there were many things to think critically and find some new works.

## **Literature Review:**

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