

## CRUELTY OF WAR IN RICHARD FLANAGAN'S THE SOUND OF ONE HAND CLAPPING AND THE NARROW ROAD TO THE DEEP NORTH

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**ABSTRACT** - War is a clash between armed forces between two nations or two different groups have difference of opinion in a particular affair. War creates great destructions. Millions of lives get destroyed during the war. War can be evaded by humanity or compassion. Hence, War is not climax to any issues. The two novels of Richard Flanagan explores how the lives of people shatters amidst the war and their survival throughout the war period. War kills, destroys and ruins the lives, the government, the nation, the world and so on . War victims would move to other countries and they lead their life as refugees. “*The Sound of One Hand Clapping* and *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*” are the two novels chosen for this article.

**Key words**- War, Violence, Survival and Humanity.

**“ The war is not meant to be won, it is meant to be continuous.”- George Orwell**

War is executed by the governments, states or nations to resolve their disputes with the opponents in the battlefields by the armed forces. Though we speak about war or boast about the nations power or ruling hand on opponents, we can witness that the sufferers are innocent peoples, children and animals. The fear of war make people to move from their natives and stay as refugee in other countries. Perhaps, the refugees experience immense humiliation throughout their lifetime. Here, Richard Flanagan depicts the hardships of the war victims in his two novels *The Sound of One Hand Clapping* and *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*. From the words of Richard Flanagan, “ The world did not change, the violence had always

existed and never be eradicated, men would die under the boot and fists of other men until the end of time and all human history was a history of violence.[1]. War is a threaten which is always there in the human history. War could not favor anyone. It can only create great loss in the nation, worldwide and also in the lives of poor people. The drawback of war was recorded in the work of Richard Flanagan. *The Sound of One Hand Clapping* portrays how the migrants from war torn Slovenia reaches Australia with a new hope. Yet the savageness of war made their life gets shatter amidst the other migrants. Bojan Buloh with his family moved from their hometown to Australia. They moved to Australia with a new hope. Bojan and his family stayed as a refugee in the in their new home land. They got shelter in a over crowded refugee camp. Moreover, they were put to work in the hydroelectric power station, which was known as Butlers Gorge. It was located in the wilderness of rainforest. Here too the family were haunted by the means of war. The poignant memories of war made Bojan's wife Maria to walk out of her family, abandoning her 3yr old daughter Sonja in a pathetic circumstance. The whole anticipation of this family got devastated and Bojan turned to be a drunkard for his entire life. Sonja left her father in anger and got pregnant . Adding to this, the father of her child was unknown. Similarly , looking into the lives of refugees in the war camps, they move to their transit camps with a new hope. There they lose their identity, lack their basic needs such as food ,shelter, clothing and good sanitary. The refugees have to embrace their new life with hatredness in and contentment out. Survival amidst of war is exposed to danger. The refugees can't voice out their problems in the refugee camps. The refugees were put to this miserable plight which was inescapable. And their lives get exhausted there. Furthermore, In *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, the novel delineates how the Australians were captured by the Japanese when they conquered East Asia in early 1942. A great number of men and women died in the war period. The captives caught from Australia were forcibly made to work railway in Thai-Burma . The victims were known as prisoners of war. The main aim of Japanese is to defeat the British in our Motherland. Yet, they didn't get a chance to set foot in India. Their sole source is to built the Thai-Burma

railway to enter India to defeat the British. War destroys the very base of humanity. The sufferers can't expect any kind of fellow feeling from their opponents. The opponents they believe that the captives are the slaves under their hands. Hence, they can do any harm to their captives. In the war camps, one can witness the acute level of inhumanity. Again in *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, Flanagan records the miserable plight of prisoners in the war camps. They were starved to death and also forced to work for long hours in

the wilderness. exhaustion on the Line. And as naked slaves they began to die for the Line".[1]. In the present scenario, Russia invaded Ukraine and had a war with the neighboring country. For the past 8yrs there was a cold war between two countries. Russia deliberately sent its military forces to invade Ukraine. Russia targeted the houses, cities and institutions and destroyed the entire Ukraine. Many people ran away to the borders to save their lives. Even so, many became prey to the bombs. Millions of people lost their lives and livelihood in this war. In this decade we have come across so many wars such as Israel-Palestine, Ukraine –Russia were we can understand humanitarian was dead. As we all know, War is an inescapable evil. Nations must understand war is not a solution to any problem. Rather, war itself is a troublesome situation that destroys the entire world. War could not give peace. If a third world war arises it is damn sure that the world would be a boneyard. War is of no use. Only humanity changes every aspects of life. From the words of Winston Churchill “ More than an end to war, want an end to the beginnings of war.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Flanagan , Richard. *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, Random House, 2013.
- [2] <https://www.bartleby.com/essay/Essay-on-War-F3B3G2ZVC>.