

Navigating through Psychological Remains: Trauma, Fragments of Consciousness, and Narratives in

All Quiet on the Western Front

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ABSTRACT

Battle stories were once used as cultural centres for building bravery, sacrifice, and collective identity. Yet, contemporary warfare literature is slowly changing its focus from battlefield glory toward psychic destruction. This study examines war narratives as evolving literary environments that stress pain, memory fragmentation, and identity instability. The study, which employs Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front* as its primary source, investigates how war appears as an emotional breakdown instead of military victory. Relying on trauma theory, especially the work of Sigmund Freud and Cathy Caruth, the study argues that modern war tales break down linear narratives, substituting heroic discourse with fractured consciousness, silence, and a lack of emotion. The research focuses on how narrative voice, interrupted sequence, and personal depictions of brutality create a new literary setting where the human psyche is the ultimate battleground. War narratives call on nationalistic memory and the morality of representations by demonstrating the disconnect between authorized military accounts and real-life experiences. Lastly, the paper shows how contemporary war literature redefines evidence, turning from an act of watching psychological survival through moral decline instead of actual achievement.

Keywords: Narratives, Trauma, Memory, Warfare, Survival.
