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## War, Sin and Justice in the Novel “*The Quiet American*”

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### ABSTRACT

This research paper focuses on one of the literature works of 20th century. A work of one of the most famous English novelists, Graham Greene, “*The Quiet American*”. In this novel, the writer mirrored the war in Vietnam. The key features of this novel are touching and frightening, seen only from the narrator’s point of view during the Vietnam War. The major characters are tangled in a love triangle that leads to death and sorrow.

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### KEYWORDS

The Quiet American, Vietnam

War, death, justice, war

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### 1. Introduction

This research paper focuses on three themes of the novel “*The Quiet American*” written by Graham Greene: *war, sin and justice*. It describes the war between the French and the Vietnamese. The sins and violence that are committed in this war show that there is no justice for people here. Graham Greene is known as one of the greatest writers of English literature. His contribution is enormous in English literature. He is known for various topics that he has dealt with in his novels. His most famous novel is “*The Quiet American*”, that he wrote during his stay in Vietnam. This novel is a treasure of great value in English literature. It was published in 1955 and its popularity never came to an end, but it increased. It is about anti-war, politics and romantic love. Finding the material for this thesis was not that easy, but thanks to my persistent work, I managed to find it. Therefore, every material used in this thesis is cited and paraphrased as required by the rules. The three main books used in this thesis are: *Encyclopaedia of the Vietnam War*, *The Modern Novel: A Short Introduction*, and *The Works of Graham Greene: A reader’s Bibliography and Guide*. The thesis is divided in seven chapters.

Hence, after the introduction in the first chapter, an overview of Modernism is going to be given. This period differs from other periods, and it is considered as the most progressive period of time. In addition, in the second chapter, there are going to be presented some facts about the author’s life and work. In the third chapter, there are going to be defined and explained further the importance of characters, themes and symbols, especially the conflict between them in relation to love and war. In the fourth chapter an account of war, it is going to be talked about war between the French and the Vietnamese in the novel “*The Quiet American*”. In this war, America intervenes, in order to calm the stability of the country. After many murders, efforts finally reach an agreement when war stops and the country take back its earlier peace. Great efforts were made for a united and peaceful Vietnam. In the fifth chapter, there is going to be focused on the second theme, sin. As in any war, even in this war, the sins come from people who act intentionally without inadvertently. In the sixth chapter, it is going to be described the justice, a rather delicate subject. In this sense, there is no justice, because innocent people get killed. In the seventh and final chapter, there is going to be focused on literary criticism on Graham Greene’s “*The Quiet American*”. This novel was appreciated but also criticized. The methods are: historical method, analytical and critical method.

## 2. Literature Review

"Modernism is an area of literary research particularly subject to contest and revision. Most studies converge on the period between 1890 and 1940 in their attempts to date modernism, but there is wide variation, with some accounts stretching this time frame back to the early 19th century and others forward to the beginning of the 21st century" (Hobson, 2017).

Greene belongs to the period of modernity. Modernism has its own features and characteristics. The term "modernism" in terms of its literature became known in English literature immediately after the First World War, to describe the experimental literature, important works by T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, Ezra Pound and Virginia Woolf. Other terms are used as "modernity" in philosophy, "Modernization" in sociology, "modern music", "modern art and modern history" (Lewis 2007, p. 17). "The moderns are therefore those who start off by thinking that human nature, then the relationship of the individual to the environment, forever being metamorphosed ... this change, recorded by the seismographic, senses of the artist, has also to change all relations within arrangements of words or marks on canvas which make a poem or novel, or a painting" (Matz 2004, p. 8). Modern novel experiments with everything, because modernity creates opportunity. Those who create in this modern age sought to flee traditions and create something new. Modern novel attempts to restore the sense of integrity or beauty in the modern world (Matz 2004, p. 8).

Modernism shows that everything is restarted for good, to find ways and methods to discontinue the tradition, but to start with something new, something modern, like the novel, as in all forms of creating. Experimentation and individualism remain behind in the past and modernism has moved into motion. Modernism shows a strong sense of time and similarity between gender and other things. Writers accepted this modern point of view very well. The modernist era was a reaction against Victorian culture and aesthetics, which had prevailed in the nineteenth century. This literary period made traditions abandoned and continued with something new. In the world of art, modernism was the beginning of the distinction between high art and low art. In modernist literature, poets gained the new spirit of time and expanded their vocation

What makes Graham Greene different from other modernists is the other way of creating. Greene faced some changes, but he turned from artificial prose to a natural prose based on clarity and precision. Greene expresses what is most important to the writer, the prose. According to him *"The danger to the novelist is that he should write with his mind on the subjective response of his readers instead of being concerned only to express his idea with the greatest accuracy and the greatest economy"* (Diemert 1996, p. 42). *"The novelist must tell the truth as he sees it"* (Diemert 1996, p. 42).

## 3. Methodology

This research used the historical, analytical and critical method. The paper describes the war between the French and the Vietnamese. This war has a long history. Greene wrote this novel while he was in Vietnam as a journalist. This novel is based on real events, the Vietnam War. It is a long story, which tells many things that happened there. I have analyzed very well this novel like: war, sin and justice. I did an analysis of the war that took place there, many years ago. Then, there were many sins in this war. Innocent people were killed, a bomb exploded in the center of Saigon where many innocent people were killed. There was no justice at all in this war. This war was very unjust, people were killed without any guilt. This novel has been widely criticized for thinking that the author, Graham Greene, spoke bad words of Americans. In fact, it was later observed that Greene did not speak bad words of the American people but of the American government which was doing nothing but fighting only for its own interests.

## 4. The Modern Novel

The modern novel begins in Modernism. The modern novel developed new ways of creating, thinking, and ideas. This novel presents new forms of critical thought and style of creation. Like all other types, even the modern novel has its characteristics and features. From traditional ideas is passed on to something new, a new way of creating. Through it begins a new form of creation different and real. Modern means something new, something more, it means everything. *"The modern novel tries for something new, in the face of modernity, with a "pattern of hope" for redemption"* (Matz, p. 10).

The first modern novel was made in 1740. This novel has been a modern English development. *"There is nothing offensive to the dignity of literary history in acknowledging that the most prominent piece of work effected by literature in England during the eighteenth century is the creation - for it can be styled nothing less - of the modern novel"* (Edmund, 1740). After the modern literature began, the novel became very important. The modern novel distinguishes because this novel tells the reality, how life is in reality. This novel describes the positive side as well as the negative ones of life, shameless and beautiful. Modern novel depicts both rich and poor people. As a result, we can say that the modern novel has a serious story that

means it only shows the truth. This novel is a psychological novel. This novel has a unique style of writing. In this novel everything is real, and this is very important because it is better to read this novel. From this novel, we can learn a lot because it deals with interesting and important topics both for the time and for the people. This novel is a psychological novel, said by novelists such as Henry James, Joseph Conrad, James Joyce and Virginia Woolf. These novelists found that human consciousness has deep layers of consciousness. From all this, we can say that the modern novel has turned special and unique turning into English literature (Earl, 2016).

It is important to say that through this novel, different topics were taken from the reality. The life of people, the way of life, and everything that has to do with life and truth is reflected. Starting from a different approach to life, free thinking, and dealing with themes in the novel was different. Creators in the period of modernity enjoyed revolutions because they started with something very important and interesting. There is a great increase in literature with the beginning of the modern novel, a new development. Now, everything was filled with modern ideas, different topics, and other approaches. In the modern novel, great importance things are themes, motives, symbols, but more importantly are the characters and the way in which those characters are depicted. Modernists try to describe characters in the most real and original way. *"Modernist subverted and reworked the coherent ego of realist characters with blurring and fragmentation that modified a variety of master narratives"* (Kern, pp. 29-30).

### **5. Graham Greene's life**

Graham Greene was born on October 2, 1904, in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, England. Greene was the fourth child of six children to parents Charles and Marion. Greene began teaching in Berkhamsted, where his father was the director of the school. During the school in Berkhamsted, Greene had a difficult time since he had suffered of depression. His parents seeing his condition sent him to London for treatment. Later, Greene continued his studies at Oxford College, where he published short stories, articles and poems in the students' magazine, Oxford Outlook. In 1925, Greene published a volume of poetry, *Babbling April* (Wise 2012, p. 5).

In 1925, Greene converted to Catholicism. In 1926, Greene returned to London, where he continued to work as a journalist and editor of "The Times". In 1927 he married Vivien Greene Doyrell Browning. Vivien Greene and Graham Greene had two children, Lucy and Frances. Their marriage did not last long, he left Vivien Greene for Catherine Walston, in 1948. His career began with the success of his first work, "The Man Within" (1929). In 1936, Greene travelled to Europe, in Liberia, where he lived and worked for several years. By the end of his life, Greene moved in Vevey, Switzerland, where he died on April 3, 1991 and was buried in Corsier-sur-Vevey Cemetery (Kurian 2010, pp. 342-343). Greene had a dynamic life, where he never stopped creating. Wherever he went, everyone discovered his talent. He had a tendency to create very special works, special themes, interesting characters. He had an educated family, and he tried to be like them.

#### **5.1 Works**

His creative work is divided into novels, short stories, travel writings, plays, autobiographies, essays, and more. His major works are considered to be "Brighton Rock" (1938), "The Power and the Glory" (1940), "The Heart of the Matter" (1948), "The Third Man" (1949), "The End of the Affair" (1951), "The Quiet American" (1955), "A Burnt Out Case" (1961), and "Ways of Escape" (autobiography; 1980). Greene's work expressed his relationships, love-hate relationship with the Catholic faith, such as "Brighton Rock", "The Heart of the Matter", "The Power and the Glory" and "The End of the Affair". His works are identified in his personal battles with God: including his works as "The Heart of the Matter" and "The Quiet American" (Kurian 2010, pp. 342-343). The world of the characters in the works of Greene is different and the tone of his works high lights the presence of evil, as a visible force. Despite his pessimistic tone of many of his works, Greene was one of the most read British novelists of the twentieth century. Throughout his career, Greene was fascinated by film. Greene published several collections of short stories like "Nineteen Stories" (1947), "The Living Room" (1952), and "Potting Shed" (1957). His collected essays appeared in 1969, "A Sort of Life" (1971). The unfinished manuscript of "The Empty Chair", a murder mystery that Greene began to write in 1926 was discovered in 2008. The style of writings, Greene is characterized as direct and clear. The writing style was that he had the ability to describe the internal struggles of his character's face, as well as their internal clashes (Kurian 2010, p. 343). Greene was the literary critic of his time, which according to its literature can be saved by adding stories religious elements. Greene feels a fierce battle between good and evil, right and wrong, reality and sin. Greene believes that the consequences of evil were as real as the benefits of being good. Greene was the first novelist since Henry James. Greene has received praise and criticism from catholic scholars and writers. Greene's main issue is moral and spiritual struggle within individuals. His novels depict a Europe wretched by the depression that goes to the war. Meanwhile, his later

novels describe wars, revolutions and political turmoil. Greene was one of the most romantic British romantics of the twentieth century. The popularity of his books reveals crime and intrigue.

### 6. Information about *"The Quiet American"*

The novel *"The Quiet American"* is one of the most popular works of Graham Greene. *"The Quiet American"* is a novel of great importance. This novel is very popular. Even today, this novel is read by many readers and is highly rated. It was written in the mid-50s and has been translated into Albanian by Betim Muço, in 2006. Events take place in Vietnam at the height of the conflict in the former French colonizers, before the US invasion. *"With 'The Quiet American', Graham Greene left his explicitly his religious novels behind and returned to the political novel"* (Donaghy 1986, p. 67). This novel is a political novel and different from other works of Greene. This novel was first published in the UK in 1955 and then in the United States in 1956. Greene was inspired to write this novel during 1951 while a war correspondent in Vietnam, which included his experiences during the years 1951- 1956.

The novel has three main characters: Fowler an English reporter entirely cynical and persistent to be neutral, Pyle (The Quiet American) a gentleman, but a politically naive and inexperienced and Phuong, Fowler's girlfriend. The entire novel revolves around these three main characters, the other characters are more to complete the puzzle. Broadly the novel *"The Quiet American"* is a novel about an amorous conflict and a political conflict, a formula that often encountered. These are so intertwined with each other that it is hard to see who dominates (Greene, 1955). For example, Fowler wanted to be neutral in the war not only as a political creed, but also as a defense mechanism against emotional problems that has majority and despite this, he is a war reporter who reports. His most important steps are undecided and without enthusiasm. Faced with all this he chose to be a cynical extremist as far as his cynicism flowing like a waterfall in every page of the novel. On the other hand, Pyle is a good man with his enthusiasm and naive goodness does evil, whereas, Phuong is a natural woman with little to say as she is controlled by her older sister. However, she is the girl who does what it comes naturally (Greene, 1955). This novel is about the war in Vietnam, between the French and the Vietnamese. The novel is narrated by the protagonist Thomas Fowler, a British journalist who has lived in Vietnam for a long period of time. Fowler did not want to form opinions or engage in the conflict during the war, but wants to report the facts. Alden Pyle (The Quiet American) working for the social assistance mission. Vigot, a French policeman, does not believe Fowler, he suspects him behind the murder of Pyle, but Fowler denies the charges, saying that he knows nothing about the murder of Pyle. Fowler a married man, his wife is in England whereas in Vietnam he is in a romantic relationship with Phuong, his Vietnamese girlfriend (Greene, 1955). When Pyle arrives in Saigon, he is accompanied by Fowler and his girlfriend. However, Pyle is in love with the girlfriend of Fowler, Phuong. Pyle tries to take Phuong, Pyle tries to convince that Fowler is not worthy of Phuong and Fowler has a wife in England. Fowler asks his wife to give him a divorce, but she does not want to divorce, because according to the Catholic religion she does not believe in divorce. Pyle is very sincere in relation to Fowler but when it comes to Phuong, he is confronted with Fowler because he wants a better and safer life for Phuong. First, they were friends, then rivals, Pyle attempts to steal Phuong by persuading her to leave Fowler and live with him together. Fowler notes that Pyle is involved in a deadly espionage supported by General "The" and the "Third force" where many Vietnamese people are killed. In the last chapter, Fowler's wife sends a letter where she accepts to divorce, so Fowler and Phuong can live happily. Also, we recently discovered that the advantages inherent Fowler helped a Communist leader in the murder of Pyle, he is Heng and his associates, as Pyle was involved in the bombing at a political square where many people got killed (Greene, 1955).

The title of the novel *"The Quiet American"* refers to Pyle, who is one of the main characters of the novel. Pyle is a 32-year-old American. He is a CIA agent, who works undercover. Pyle is mild and serious. He is an American with an intellectual family background: his father is a known professor. Pyle studied government and social theories; he is very inspired by York Harding's books on his vision regarding the need of a third force in Vietnam, Pyle shares York Harding's opinion on this matter. Pyle differs from other characters in the novel, because he is polite, quiet, educated and thoughtful. Pyle is a serious man and very sincere, he is enthusiastic about his ideals and beliefs. His character is patriotic, he is an idealist American, who believes he can do something positive in a country that he knows little of (Vietnam). Fowler compares Alden Pyle with other Americans who live in the Continental Hotel. *"He's a good chap in his way. Serious. Not one of those noisy bastards at the Continental. A Quiet American"* (Logan, p. 39). The characters are: Fowler, Pyle, Phuong, Vigot, Helen, Granger, Captain Truoin, Ms. Hei, General "The", Mr. Chou, Mr. Heng, American Economic Attache-Joe, York Harding and Domingues.

Themes, symbols, and characters make this novel as a more appealing and attractive to the reader. In this novel, there are symbols like alcohol and opium, here is talked of Fowler, drinking alcohol and opium. Graham Greene was also known for drinking alcohol and opium. Alcohol and opium help Fowler to be better off not to look at different situations, like when he

sees dead people, as well as his separation with Phuong when Pyle gets her. The second symbol is the helmet. This is about the helmet that the Lieutenant offers Fowler when he goes to Phat Diem to report about the war. Although, Fowler as tired of what he sees in the war, he still tries to show what he sees. And the third symbol is The Role of the West. The Role of the West is described by York Harding, where Alden Pyle is inspired to go to Vietnam. Pyle thinks that a "Third Force" is needed but it is very difficult and he fails to do it. In the novel, there are also themes like Vietnam and the West. France fights Vietnam and does not want to withdraw. It is a war, where many innocent people were killed. Vietnam wants to lead its own country and be free. The second theme is Impartiality and Action. Fowler wants to remain neutral in the war. He does not want to be involved in the war and he calls himself a reporter and not a journalist. However, later he is involved in Pyle's death. Fowler understands that due to Pyle, many innocent people are dying because of his naivete. And the third theme is Inevitability of Death. Fowler sees dead people in the war and he is afraid of death. He fears why everything in life is not permanent. Phuong loves him very much, but he still fears that she will leave him. Whatever he does, he wants it to last forever. The three main themes of the novel are: war, sin and justice. It is about war in Vietnam, between the French and the Vietnamese. Vietnam wants to be released and govern its own country. In this novel, there are many sins like the murder of innocent people in the war, then, the murder of Pyle and corruption. There is a great war, where America is struggling to win Vietnam.

And corruption, where General "The" is a corrupt man. The third theme is justice. In this chapter, it is seen that there is no justice, dead people were killed and nobody does anything, then, they kill Pyle and no one finds out who killed him. And General "The", who just blows up and bombs exploding in Saigon, where many people were killed. The themes that are going to be discussed and analyzed are war, sin and justice. The focus will be on these three topics as very important to be addressed and analyzed. The war takes place in Vietnam, between the French and the Vietnamese. In this war, Fowler goes to report for the war that is taking place there. Pyle goes to help through "The Third Force". In this war there are many sins, the innocent people were killed, corruption and the murder of Pyle. There is no justice in this war.

## 7. War

According to Davis, the war in the novel is not described properly. Fowler presents the war as something serious, but the killing of women and children is as if the enemy did not exist, which is the communist Vietnamese who is in contact with him. Another important aspect, not only of the Vietnam War but of any war is "how the novel shows that the "truth" about what actually happens depends upon who control the interpretation" (Burns, p. 6). Between 1965 and 1975, there were various names about the Vietnam War. The War was called by different names. Americans called the war "Vietnam War", while Vietnamese called it the "American War". Some others prefer to call the "Second Indochina War". Critics have described the war in Vietnam as "No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War" (Nixon, 1985). "The Indochina War" refers to the war of Vietnamese independence against the French colonial rule from the end of the World War II to 1954" (Kutler 1996, p. 241). Indochina's war is called in some names such as "French Indochina War", due to the rule of the French in three nations. It is also called "Franco-Vietnamese War", a war between the French and the Vietnamese, and other names. On December 19, 1946, until August 1, 1954, the French-led war between France and the Vietnamese nationals of Bao Dai and Viet Minh led by Ho Minh and Vo Nguyen Gaip developed. The war takes place between French colonial forces and large Vietnamese forces in Northern Vietnam.

In 1950, Vietminh greatly strengthened, forcing the French to enter the Red River Delta. In 1951, Vietnam attempted to win the war but couldnot win, they failed. "The term" Vietnam War "refers to the period of direct U.S. military intervention in Southeast Asia and its aftermath from 1965 to 1975 " (Kutler 1996, p. 615). Vietnam is in Southeast Asia. Once: it was ruled by France. But in 1954 the French were driven out by the soldiers of a communist leader named Ho Chi Minh. Like Korea, Vietnam was then divided in two, the communists ruled the North and non-communists the South (Bryn O'Callaghan, p. 124). The United States of America's intervention in Vietnam is considered to be the longest war in its history. By the end of 1940, the leaders of the United States of America set up a pro-Western, anti-communist regime in French Indochina. The United States supported the French efforts and in 1954 the United States followed a persistent policy and ultimately military intervention in Vietnam. The conflict lasted nearly thirty years. In 1975, North Vietnam triumphed and marked a serious obstacle to US policies. The Vietnam War created a division within American society and damaged the domestic economy. The crisis made a reconsideration of diplomatic and military policies to the United States of America and left a puddle that has involved American life for many decades (Kutler 1996, p. 554).

Americans enter Vietnam with the idea that they know better than the Vietnamese, assuming they know what is best for the people of Vietnam. The novel *"The Quiet American"* is a political novel about war in Indochina. Here the characters are more like individuals than as representatives of the nations. It is about war between the French and Vietnamese. It is also relevant to the rivalry between the two men in love with the Vietnamese girl (Davis, 1956). The novel *"The Quiet American"* is called a novel against war. Greene describes war as an absurd attempt, orchestrated by cynical politicians, fought by terrified soldiers, blamed, and reported by journalists to capture a big story. The war is associated with the involvement of the United States of America in Vietnam, spying, terrorism, and disregarding the intentions of innocent people, killed as a result of its intervention. Graham Greene was the only one who wrote about war and politics in Vietnam in the novel *"The Quiet American"*. Greene represents the way of life in general but also of political life. The novel refers to the Indochina of the 1950s, the conflict between the French and the Vietnamese, the involvement of the United States of America and three characters (Lawrence 2008, p. 1).

### 8. How does war affect the main characters?

*"His characters radiate the ethical uncertainty and confusion that comes from living a war-without-end"* (Smith, 2004). Fowler from the beginning when he reports as a journalist, until the end of the war, he experiences many things. He lives with Phuong. Then he goes to report war in many places and sees everything. Pyle initially starts well but later he gets involved into the deaths of many innocent men drowning in Saigon and finally killing them. Phuong from the beginning up to the end remains the same in terms of its decisions guided by others instead of making its own decisions. She trusts the two but finally ends up with Fowler and they live together (Smith, 2004). Fowler reports to the war, while Pyle tries to help in the war, but he is involved in the explosive bomber in Saigon. On the other hand, Phuong does not even deal with what's happening in her own country. Fowler, Pyle and Phuong are the main characters in the novel *"The Quiet American"*. The novel shows a love triangle, Fowler, Pyle and Phuong. Phuong is Fowler's girl, but Pyle falls in love with Phuong and wants to marry her. Fowler wants to marry Phuong, but his wife is religious and does not give him divorce. Phuong abandons Fowler and goes to Pyle but finally Fowler is involved in Pyle's assassination, so Fowler and Phuong live together (Gibson, 2017). Pyle supports the "Third Forces" leader and believes in him a lot (Johnson, 2003). These have a double meaning in the novel but each of them has their end. Fowler speaks, represents, and furthers the rhetoric of the rising anti-colonialism movement of the 1950's. Pyle is pro-intervention. Phuong is a noticeably voiceless in the novel. Particular importance in the novel *"The Quiet American"* also has the relationship between the characters. The main characters in the novel are: Fowler, Pyle and Phuong. At the beginning of the novel, their relationships are good but later change, because of jealousy and point of views. Fowler meets Pyle for the first time at the Continental Hotel in Saigon. Fowler was having a drink at the Continental hotel when Pyle came. Pyle is a modest, quiet and serious man, and he does not criticize anybody. Pyle asks Fowler if he has read York Harding. Pyle says that Harding has written a book titled *"The Progress of Red China"* and is a very deep book (Greene 1955, p.25). Pyle meets Phuong for the first time at the Continental Hotel, just two weeks after arriving in Saigon. Phuong was there with Fowler and Pyle came to their table, inviting them to his desk. They talk about war and various things. Then there's also a Granger at their desk (Greene 1955, p.36). Pyle welcomes Phuong to dance together, she acknowledges and they begin dancing. In any case, Pyle does not realize how to dance while Phuong is the best player in the Grand World.

Fowler takes a seat at the table and looks at them as they staggered, while Phuong's sister, Miss Hei, goes to Fowler and asks his identity. Fowler says he is called Pyle and that he is an individual from the US financial mission. Phuong and Pyle go to the table where Fowler acquaints Pyle with Phuong's sister. Phuong's sister leaves and just these three remain, Fowler, Pyle and Phuong. There starts the night with artist (Greene 1955, pp. 43-50). Pyle goes to Fowler in Fat Dinh, to converse with Fowler since he needs to wed Phuong. Fowler discloses to Pyle that he cannot hold up until the point when I return to Saigon the following week. Yet, Pyle discloses to Fowler that you can be executed and it was not reasonable to say no. Their discussion started to protract and mortars started. Fowler says they are endeavoring to stop an assault and that there is no rest today around evening time (Greene 1955, pp. 62-67). Fowler leaves a gathering with Pyle in Fowler's home at six o'clock. Fowler reveals to Phuong that Pyle will come; however, she needs to go to her sister and she is not exhausted for Pyle and says that on the off chance that he needed to see me, he may have requested me. Phuong goes to her sister. Then, Pyle comes to Fowler in the apartment together with his dog "Duke". He goes inside, where he sees that Phuong is not there. Fowler says that Phuong has gone to her sister. Fowler asks Peter about the plastic. Then Phuong comes to the apartment and greets Pyle and Fowler. He tells Phuong that Pyle wants to talk to her. Pyle tells Phuong that he has the particular respect and love that he has felt since they have danced together. Pyle says she wants to marry her. Phuong says no and refuses to marry Pyle. Then, Pyle comes out of Fowler's apartment (Greene 1955, pp. 79-87). Fowler told Pyle that something struck me but it is not serious. Fowler was seriously hurt. Fowler continues to lie languidly by the great pain he has in his left foot. Then, Pyle summons Fowler and asks him if he is hurt. Fowler admits to the injury. Pyle supported Fowler in his chest but Fowler says he

did not want to leave. Pyle says they should either help or kill both of them. It is very cold. Pyle says I say that this is for Phuong. Fowler says you helped me just because of Phuong. Fowler says, "If I was you, I would left you. Oh, no, you will not go with me, Thomas. "He added with a self-conceited self-conceit:" I want to know you better than you know yourself" (Greene 1955, p.124). So far there were some good moments that they passed together. Now they begin to break the relationship between them, because of jealousy and because of the involvement of Pyle in the bombing that happened in the center of Saigon. Fowler because of the jealousy of Pyle began to grumble everything he had with the Americans. Fowler also became nervous about the bombing that took place in the center of Saigon, where Pyle was involved. Fowler goes to meet Mr. Heng. Mr. Heng says that Pyle was involved in the bombing that occurred in the center of Saigon. Also, General "The", wants to publish this news in the newspaper, but Fowler does not accept it. Then, both of them agree to kill Pyle, where Heng tells Fowler to invite Pyle for dinner to "Vieux Moulin" at Dakou's bridge (Greene 1955, pp.193-196). Pyle dies and after his death Vigot, the French police officer asks Fowler about Pyle's death because he doubts and suspects him. Vigot asks Fowler a lot of questions due to the fact that he knew Pyle well. He asks about Pyle's life, who Pyle was, where he came from, what he was doing, and where he has worked. Pyle's death remains unpaved. At the end of the novel, Fowler receives a letter from his wife where she accepts to divorce him. Phuong is very happy and goes to meet her sister and tell her the good news. While Fowler, though rejoicing again, says, "Everything was wasted on me, he was not alive, but I wanted to have someone I could say to me that was bad" (Greene 1955, p.212).

All characters have their own importance, but these three characters give the image of the entire novel. If we compare the importance of three characters to the novel "The Quiet American", Phuong is the passive character. Phuong represents Vietnam, where it serves as a stand for a silent and passive birth over which competing foreign powers are competing. The novel "The Quiet American" is a tense historical moment, where some foreign countries had a role in the future of Vietnam. The Frenchmen wished to keep the colonies. Vietnam wanted independence. Americans wanted to stop the spread of communism and install democracy. Ordinary Vietnamese people have no control and thus become passive. Phuong is a featured character, influenced by her sister Miss Hei and in the competition between Fowler and Pyle. We can say that Phuong plays a secondary role in the novel "The Quiet American". First, it has a full character. Compared to Fowler and Pyle, the icon of Phuong is important for the novel only as a promoter of events. She is an object of the desire of Fowler and Pyle. Because of it, Fowler and Pyle fall into conflict. Fowler is more involved than Pyle in Phuong's case, because Pyle is in love with Phuong. Pyle decides to tell Fowler that he loves Phuong and he wants to take her. Pyle decides to marry Phuong and it would be much better for Phuong than to be Fowler's love (Logan, p. 40).

## 9. Sin

Sin is another theme in the novel "The Quiet American". "Sin is committed everyday by people even without realizing it. We even commit the same sins, but the responses are always different. Literature depicts this psychological fact very well through the realistic trials and options the characters face" (Strickland, 2014). "Only those who recognize the omnipresence of sin—recognizing first of all that they themselves number among the sinful—can possibly anticipate the moral snares inherent in the exercise of power" (Bacevich, 2009). Fowler, a Catholic, lost in a world of darkness, loses his way to love, humanity and religion. One of the sins in "The Quiet American" is religion. The narrator struggles with religion, Catholicism, because it does not allow him to get a divorce and remarry. Fowler falls in love with a young Vietnamese, Phuong, and starts a love affair with her, while being married to another woman at the same time. The sin of unfaithfulness is a matter that hurts Fowler but yet the love he feels for young Phuong, pushes him to ask for a divorce and commit a sin. His legs are tied as he is married and his wife does not believe in divorce, because she is Catholic. In a dark world, Fowler sees Phuong like a flower in the middle of a world full of pain. But his flower with youth and purity is being taken away because of his marital situation that pushed Phuong to Pyle (Johnson, 2003). On the other hand, we have the murder of Pyle. Pyle goes to Vietnam with ideas based on York Harding, to do something good for the country. He becomes friends with Fowler, where he loves his lover, Phuong. Pyle is struggling to do something for Vietnam but at the same time to take Phuong as a woman and to share it with Fowler because she thinks he is not for her. Pyle also co-operates with General "The" and the bombs that explode in Saigon are due to their cooperation. Fowler reveals that Pyle is doing just the worst, he decides that with Heng to kill Pyle. Now, innocent people will not die. And now Fowler will be quiet and happy together with Phuong. Even though French policeman Vigot tries to find out who killed Pyle, but he cannot figure it out. Fowler does not know anything about Pyle's death. As Phuong never finds out who killed Pyle, though he lacks Pyle because he knows he was a good man (West, 1991).

Fowler sees people killed in war, sees terror. Wherever he goes, he is terrified of being seen, children and women crying, innocent people. He also goes to different conferences to know the reason for the murder and to know who won the victory.

Each party believes that they have won. No one ever accepts the loss, but always says they have won. At conferences Hanoi Fowler wants to know who has won and knows the exact number of victories and losses. In this war, the enemy does not exist because there are victims every time and nobody cares how many women have remained without children and many children have remained without mothers. Likewise, Fowler sees many children without feet, many motherless, no heads. People crying for losing their family. So, there is a strict war, where no one knows who will win, because the losses are huge by each party. The only hope of the people was the unification of Vietnam that would make them live freely in their country and rule it by its own. And this is at the bottom where the French are drawn by Vietnam and all Vietnam is joined, and now the people are free and in peace. Like any other country, these people also want to live freely, live like others. Do not have foreign leaders but have their own people (Burns, 13).

### 10. Corruption

*"Corruption is a constant in the society and occurs in all civilizations, it has many different shapes as well as many various effects, both on the economy and the society at large"* (Šumah, 2018). Pyle trusts General "The" a lot. Pyle is convinced that the goals of General "The" are adapted to the purposes of America. So, General "The" organizes an attack where many innocent people are killed in the center of Saigon (Bacevich, 1955). The corrupt military army ran by general "The" who armed his army with weapons of States, which consequently results in a series of terrorist bombings in Saigon, Vietnam. In these bombings, a number of innocent people die. It's a difficult situation, a rigorous war where people are killed intentionally and unintentionally. The lack of justice is a very broad topic where justice is seen when one is killed or disappears. If you can call justice killing Pyle, where innocent people are killed, then his death is justice. Lack of justice and parody leaves a little place for him to see justice (Greene, 1955).

Fowler goes to the north to see how the war is taking place there. He had gone there with a troop boat from Nam Dinh. Fowler knew Fat Diemin well. All those bombardments and blasts made that place more devastated and desolated. There was a church in which many people had sheltered, who had fled from their homes, and were more secure in the church.

But later, Fowler leaves the church and leaves with a group at the top with the lieutenant, to continue in the other villages to observe the terrain. They continue to walk where mortars went over their head and spread beyond them. They continued to walk to a canal where they were stopped by a packed full of corpses in the canal. Still, they went on walking trying to do something to get to the other end. They went to see what had happened there. In a narrow channel there was a woman and a little boy dead. Then they returned to the farm, but news came through the radio and the lieutenant said they would bombard the village. They got up and started returning, navigating again between the corpses and coming in row after the church. The planes were launched and bombs began after them. Darkness had collapsed when they arrived at the staff headquarters. There it was very cold and they got a drink to heat up a bit. Colonel asked Fowler if he had a shooter with him and Fowler said he did not. And he gave him a shooter and said keep it under the pillow. At about three and a half hours the mortars will begin, Colonel said.

Their conversation was accompanied by a whiskey drink, and this is not anything compared to what is happening 100 km further in Hoa Binh and there is a great war said the colonel. Afterwards, they all froze, Fowler sees Pyle dreaming by pacing and holding an invisible partner. But, he woke up from the ghuma and his hand was in the revolt that had been given to him. Pyle said I could sleep here, while Fowler asked Pyle where he had found the gun and Pyle said someone gave it to me (Greene 1955, pp. 51-62). The epic *"The Quiet American"* has the transgression of affection and murder when a man like Fowler does not enable religion to accept Phuong as a lady. Fowler is hitched and his significant other does not trust in separation, since she is Catholic. Then again, we have the homicide of Pyle, which he defames unjustifiably on the grounds that he is guiltless.

At first, the connection among Fowler and Pyle was great, yet later they lost their organization in light of Phuong. Pyle is attached to Phuong and needs to lift her up. He cannot do that until the point when he goes to Pyle's passing. Pyle is straight forward with Fowler, revealing to him the amount he adores Phuong and that he will do his best to make her upbeat. Sin is likewise debasement. An aggressor armed force ruined by General "The", who furnished his armed force. General "The" outfitted his equipped armed force of America, bringing about a progression of psychological oppressor bombings in Saigon, Vietnam. From these bombings, numerous honest individuals kick the bucket. It is a troublesome circumstance, a strict war where individuals are shot dead and purposefully.



Fowler is an agnostic and does not trust in God. Wherever he goes to Vietnam on various devour days, he is exceptionally shocked. He doesn't concur that the Catholic religion does not permit separate. Fowler and Pyle participate in the merriments of the Caodaist celebration celebrated in Tanyin. Consistently in Tanyin extending eighteen miles toward the northwest of Saigon, the Caodaist celebration was held. Caoda's places of worship could draw in the consideration of nonnative's in each town. In these festivals, the pope welcomed individuals from government, discretionary and others. Fowler went while in transit to the house of God and proceeded to take a gander at all the things that were there, similar to a Christian, a Buddha. Fowler had never needed to accept and that the writer's activity is to express and enlist (Greene 1955, pp. 92-98). Fowler composes a letter to his significant other, Helen, who needs separate.

Fowler says Helen does not hope to give her separation instantly, but rather let her think and after that arrival the appropriate response. Likewise, Fowler reveals to Helen that she has discovered another lady in Vietnam and sits tight for her. Fowler reveals to Phuong that he is looking for separation to his significant other and afterward weds Phuong. Phuong is cheerful and says he needs to run with him to England, where in London there were passages and two-level transports (Greene 1955, pp. 89-90).

Inevitably, Fowler's answer originated from his significant other. Fowler asks Phuong that there is no paper and Phuong says, indeed, a letter has come. Phuong brings Fowler's letter while Fowler takes the letter and sees the start of the letter stating "Dear Thomas" and "With Love, Helena". Phuong inquired as to whether the letter was from his significant other and Fowler says yes. Fowler started to peruse the letter, where Helena had expounded on their encounters and the undertakings Fowler had with other ladies. Lastly, Helen says, "I don't put stock in separation; my religion stops it and my answer, Thomas, is no, no" (Greene 1955, p. 133).

At last, Helen (Fowler's better half) consents to offer separation to Fowler. Toward the finish of the novel, Fowler and Phuong get uplifting news. Helen has sent Fowler a letter expressing she consents to separate from her. In the letter she expresses: "I recollected on your letter. Stop. I'm acting nonsensically as you trusted. I advised my legal advisor to begin the separation system. Stop. Favor the Lord. Stop. With adoration Helen" (Greene 1955, p. 211).

### 11. Religion

"Religion doesn't play a significant role in "The Quiet American" (Miller, 2004). "Religion has always been an integral part of the literary tradition: many canonical and non-canonical texts engage extensively with religious ideas, and the development of English Literature as a professional discipline began with an explicit consideration of the relationship between religion and literature" (Knight, 2009). Catholic religion has its very own standards. Catholics trust marriage comes as a blessing from God's hand. Catholic religion has these key components:

- Marriage joins a couple in loyal and shared loves
- Marriage opens a couple to giving life
- Marriage is an approach to react to God's call to blessedness
- Marriage calls the couple to be an indication of Christ's adoration on the planet.

In marriage, the two ended up one substance in an association joined by God, (Mark 10: 8). Jesus talks about separation: "Accordingly what God has consolidated; no individual must separate" (Mark 10: 9). The Catholic Church does not allow divorce for precious sacramental marriages. According to them, marriage goes hand in hand with the relationship with God.

God is 100% loyal to the relationship of those who choose to marry and are called in the same loyalty. God does not allow divorce relationship. God does not accept and hate divorce (Mal 2:16) and allows it only in the case of unfaithfulness by another companion (Matthew 19: 9). When there has been loyalty or other sins that have disrupted them, it is God's desire for both partners to repent and reconcile (Luke 17: 3-4, 1 Corinthians 7: 10-11). However, forgiveness and failure to seek forgiving is sin (Matt 6:15). Whoever divorces her and marries another, the man commits adultery, and he who marries a wife deserves her husband's adultery (Luke 16:18). God does not allow a divorced person to marry. The Bible says that the woman should not be separated from her husband and the husband should not divorce his wife (1 Corinthians 7: 10-11 ESV).

Pyle's death was not revealed by anyone. That night, Fowler waited for dinner at the restaurant in "Vieux Moulin" (near Dakou's bridge), it was twelve o'clock and Pyle had not come. Fowler returns home to see Phuong there waiting for Pyle to return. Vigot, a French policeman asks Fowler some questions about Pyle. Fowler says that all he knows about Pyle is that Pyle was thirty-two years old, employed in the economic aid mission, American nationality. You look like his friend told Vigot. Fowler begins to describe the situation as he had been in the Continental hotel at six o'clock. Then at half past eight, I went to "Vieux Moulin" and just a morning.

Pyle did not come. Then Fowler asked where they had found Pyle. He said that Pyle was found in the water, at Dakou's bridge. Then, Vigot tells Fowler if you can identify the Column and go down the stairs to the basement where Pyle's corpse was. Pyle had wounds in the chest, but Vigot says that Pyle has not died because Pyle is sunk into the clay and found clay in his lungs. Fowler then leaves with Phuong in the apartment (Greene 1955, pp. 11-24). General "The" is a Vietnamese militant leader. Pyle sees General "The" as the leader of the "Third Force". He sees him as the leader of a nationalist coalition and believes it will bring democracy to Vietnam and govern the country, not the French, not the community. Pyle thinks General's "The" intentions fit with America's goals. However, this turns out to be a wrong assessment. General "The" uses plastic explosives secured secretly by Pyle. Pyle believes the campaign will focus on military facilities, but in fact, General "The" organizes a fierce attack on civilians in the center of Saigon. *"We are an old colonial people, Pyle, if we have learned little from reality, we have learned not to play with the crag. This Third Force has come out of a book, that's all. General "The" is just a bandit with several thousand people. It does not constitute a national democracy"* (Greene 1955, p.175). Pyle tells Fowler that I thought you were not on anyone's side, and Fowler says he is not on anyone's side. Fowler begins to criticize Pyle, saying that he put General "The" on the map, found the "Third Force" and national democracy. He tells Pyle that where he is on your right shoe and go to Phuong tell your historical work. Pyle does not agree with what Fowler says and says General "They" would not do this (the Saigon outbreak), and that someone has deceived him. According to Pyle, communities may have done this (Greene 1955, p. 182).

## 12. Moral dilemmas

*"Moral dilemmas set a challenge for ethical theory. They are situations where agents seem to be under an obligation both to do, and to refrain from doing, a specific act"* (Statman, 1995). As an important topic in the novel "The Quiet American" has moral dilemmas. They represent human values and provide an interesting source of thought. Moral dilemmas are when Fowler does not want to be involved anywhere. At first it is seen that he only reports in the war, reports of murdered people and all what is happening in the war. He tries to look at his job and not to be involved it anywhere. Later, we see his change. He sees that Pyle with his naivete tries to do good but on the other he does badly, because he is jealous of Pyle that he is getting his wife. Also, Pyle is a bomber in the center of Saigon. Fowler is terrified of what he sees in the center of Saigon, where many people remain dead, with limbs torn, many people crying for their dead children. He began to discover more about Pyle, about what he is does and how he collaborates with. All these Fowler reveals and puts together Mr. Heng to kill Pyle. According to them, Pyle is considered dangerous in the sense of naivety because he did not know what he was doing, good or bad. First of all, he did not know Vietnam as he thought it was not easy at all. He thinks he is doing well, but he does not know that through his actions is doing just badly.

His naivety costs him a lot, and the ignorance of many things he does not know. And because of his naiveté, comes to his death (Greene, 1955). Greene is concerned about dilemmas. His dilemmas are religious, political and personal. Fowler does not believe in religion; he is an atheist. But he is frightened of death and the fact that he'll be alone because Phuong is going to live with Pyle. Fear makes him think more about his life, seeing himself as an old man, he thinks it is important for him to live with someone. To political dilemma, it is seen that Fowler deals with French and Vietnamese politics. He reports on the war between them, a bad war where he sees only bad things, and that both French and Vietnamese are trying to show their strength. And personal dilemma, Fowler tries to divorce his wife and live happy with Phuong. In the last few years of his life he wants to live happily and not have problems but to fix his life. Greene addresses all of these issues by treating each one in the best way. So his ideas to deal with these dilemmas were clear. All of these make the work interesting and understandable for everyone (Stephen 1986, p. 316).

Critics see the novel "The Quiet American" as a novel that has much to offer, even if we see the characteristics of Greene's work, such as Catholicism. This novel cannot be considered as a political novel, but can also be seen as a novel on morals and moral issues. These moral issues should not be closely linked to Catholicism but represent human values and provide an interesting source of thought. Morality should not be related to Catholic religion, because each of them represents something else, something different. Each of them is unique in its own way. Their division can offer more and something

interesting. And all of these make the novel interesting and have interesting topics within it. This novel is distinguished by the topics, in terms of themes from other novels. It is different in everything. This is what makes the novel stronger (Radecki 2015, p. 15).

### 13. Literary Criticism on Graham Greene's "The Quiet American"

Graham Greene's books are of extraordinary significance. His books have diverse points. *"The Quiet American is of a mixed genre because Greene blends the techniques of his earlier novels together to produce a work of political narrative, full of action, with psychological introspection, that has an historical background and Catholic sensibility in its confessional narration"* (Reshetova, p. 10).

The epic *"The Quiet American"* is an essential novel. The epic *"The Quiet American"* was evaluated as an enemy of American tale. After the novel *"The Quiet American"* distributed, it energized and debate in the Americans since Greene was charging the Americans and the US legislature of underwriting fear-based oppression. Per users in the United States and numerous per users by and large discovered Greene utilizing Pyle's character to reprimand Americans. As indicated by them, Greene through Pyle presented Americans as youthful, insensible and unsafe individuals. Greene was additionally condemned for America's way to deal with Vietnam. America does not encourage any nation, nobody, but rather it intercedes for its very own advantages.

Where there is no intrigue it doesn't meddle. As indicated by the title of the novel, America is the principle concern since *"America is a vulgarly materialistic and "honest" country with no comprehension of different people groups"* (Davis, 1956). After every one of these reactions, Greene answers that *"He was not against the American individuals but rather against the unsafe approaches of the American government"* (Logan, p. 37). The US government was not helping but rather was just causing more in the mid of 50s, Greene expressed *"I don't see myself as hostile to American any more than I think about enemy of Romanian or against Italian"* (Roiphe, 2003). Of those who did not like the novel, they called it in different ways. Despite numerous explanations, they still had different thoughts, but later changed their minds as well as Americans. Some of them named this novel, A.J. Liebling called this novel *"a nasty little plastic bomb"* (Roiphe, 2003). *"Although Greene claims in a prefatory note, "this is a story and not a piece of history, "he wanted it both ways"* (Ripatrzone, 2018). Greene's enemy of Americanism is more delicate than thought. This is likewise found in the film, where European enemy of Americanism has changed in the course of the most recent 50 years. This implies the novel *"The Quiet American"* isn't as unpleasant as it was previously. Today, Greene's perspective for Americans appears to be outdated and individuals don't have that conviction of gratefulness as previously.

All these clarifications made by Greene reveals that the novel *"The Quiet American"* is unique in every respect, as in dealing with war, characters, messages, and many other things. This novel was distinguished by other novels written by Greene. Greene was also distinguished by other writers as the one who was the first who wrote about the war in Vietnam. He wrote the novel in the best way and presented real events. This novel is also distinguished by the way it has been written.

### 14. Results and Conclusions

The novel *"The Quiet American"* written by Graham Greene, known for his great contribution in English literature, has great importance and value in English literature. It is evident that this work is a masterpiece of its kind. The novel reflects on the pain that hunts the human being during life. Moreover, it mirrors the situation happening during the Vietnam War. It is a sensational statement reminding people that humanity will overcome all hardship or make a man commit sins such as murder for what he believes or feels. *"The Quiet American"* is a novel of a special importance. In addition to others, this novel was criticized but also praised. According to artistic aspect, this novel has multidimensional artistic values.

From the analysis, it would be concluded that the novel *"The Quiet American"* is a unique book and has very high values in English literature. This research paper is divided in seven chapters. In the first chapter, it was talked about modernism, as a great period of literature. In the second chapter, there was talked about Graham Greene, his life and work. In the third chapter, there was discussed about the novel *"The Quiet American"*. A conflict between them was in terms of love and war. In the fourth chapter, there was talked about the war, one of the main topics, the war between the French and the Vietnamese, when America intervenes in order to calm the country. After many murders, efforts finally reach an agreement where war stops and the country takes back the peace that had earlier. Efforts were great for a united and peaceful

Vietnam. In the fifth chapter, there was discussed about sin. As in any war, even in this war, the sins come from people who act intentionally without inadvertently.

In the sixth chapter, was talked about justice, a rather delicate subject. Based on circumstances and happenings, there is no justice, because innocent people were killed. In the seventh and final chapter, there was talked about literary criticism about novel. These themes, war, sin and justice, make this novel more attractive and appreciative. In this novel every theme is unique. They are very important, the war takes place between the French and the Vietnamese, and then the sins that are made in this war, in relation to justice: it is shown that there is no justice for people in this novel. These themes make the novel more special and more important to the reader. These themes are of huge importance as they are treated for the first time and they were never addressed before by anybody. From the analysis that has been made, it has been found that the war took place between the French and the Vietnamese: furthermore, the involvement of America did not make it easier.

This novel does not indicate how the war ended. Pyle tries to help, but unfortunately only cause's damage, while Phuong, even though war takes place in her own country, is not impressed by anything and she is influenced only by others because she never makes decisions for herself but others decide for her. There are many sins in this war, like women's betrayal, corruption, murder of innocent people, Pyle's murder. As seen in the novel, Fowler is married, and also has a lover in Vietnam. He wants to be divorced from his wife, but she does not want to divorce because the Catholic religion does not allow separation. Fowler wants her divorce several times, and at the end of the novel, his wife agrees to divorce, and he is now free to marry Phuong and they live together. The other sin is the murder of innocent people in the war. Fowler goes to report to the war and sees many dead people and he is terrified of what he sees. It is also the explosion of the bomb at the center of Saigon, where innocent people are killed. In corruption, General "The" is corrupted. Pyle believes that he is doing well for his country. The next sin is Pyle's assassination. Fowler, seeing that many people are dying because of Pyle's naivety he decides to kill Pyle along with Mr. Heng. It was not supposed to kill Pyle, but to inform the court authorities and leave the case to them.

This novel is distinguished from other novels by its unique style. This book is fraught with conflicts and tense situations between the characters. The theoretical and research aspect is realized by concluding that this novel has high literary, artistic and aesthetic value. From the analysis and comparisons, it would be said that these themes have undeniable significance and high values. They were uniquely written and with a special style of writing. The novel was appreciated but also criticized. Finally, I would say that throughout my work in this thesis, I tried to shed light only on some aspects of the novel "The Quiet American". The three themes that have been treated in this work are mainly analyzed only through one aspect. I hope that other aspects of this book will be treated by other studies as they still remain important for English literature.

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