**The Novel “The Fox”**

**Women’s perception of the war**

D.H Lawrence’s The Fox is set at the end of the First World War. In the whole story, even if the word “war” appears only 4 times, the intelligent reader understands that war is the background of the story.

War is always depicted through indirect textual references. Indeed the reader can make up a general overview only once he has read the whole short story. Right from the first pages of the novella there is a clear reference to  war:

“War conditions, again, were very unfavourable to poultry-keeping. Food was scarce and bad”.

“Since the war the fox was a demon”

Lawrence is perfectly able to synthesize the meaning of the war as a time of famine and suffering in only two sentences.

In the economy of the text the fox is considered a demon because it represent the issue of the lack of food and the poverty that the two young ladies have to face.

Last but not least, war is quoted in Henry’s presentation: Henry is a soldier who has fought in Salonika (now called Thessaloniki), a Greek port where Anglo-French forces landed on  October 5thy, 1915.

Reading the Story, the readers can trace out the negative aspects of war in the novel. Misery seems to be reflected in Bandford and March’s rural activities, especially in rearing. Indeed, as you can see from the beginning of the novel, the omniscient narrator asserts: “ War condition [..] were very unfavourable to poultry-keeping. Food was scarce and bad.” Such statement makes you immediately think about the difficulties of living during the post-war period.

It is also important to say that Bandford and March’s living conditions are hard since they are unable to manage the farming and rearing activities properly. It follows that, even if they are independent from the juridical point of view, their independence seems to not lead them to good results. Therefore, their living condition seems to suggest to the reader their need of somebody who can help and raise them from such terrible condition.

They have also to face another economical problem caused by the war: the reader must consider that the two women have not enough money to start the business. Indeed, at the beginning of the novel, the narrator says “Banford's father [..] gave his daughter the start”. They have an amount of capital that enables them to survive in spite of their difficulties in the management of the farm. As a consequence, their independence is not given by their actual self-sufficiency.

In spite of this, in Lawrence’s novella the two female characters seem to be very determined. Just consider their intention to manage a farm together even without a male support. As a matter of fact, the narrator asserts “They had taken the farm together, intending to work it all by themselves” right in the first lines of the novel. In addition, interesting to notice is also Banford’s statement: “We consider ourselves quite efficient”, that unveils her awareness of being independent.

**Key words**

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| ***“The Fow”***  *By D.H. Lawrence* | Keywords about War:Misery, unfavourable condition, poverty, difficults | *Keywords about Women:* Emancipation, independence, autonomy, ambition, difficults |

**The novel “La Grande Guerra a Piedi”**

**Keywords about War:**

*Reflection, horror, memory, death, blood*