

Jyun-Tang LAI

61221013l@gapps.ntnu.edu.tw

National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan



**“Bored and dead and dull”:
Ernest Hemingway’s existential boredom in *The Sun Also
Rises***

Days as an expatriate in Paris and the trip to Spain for San Fermín inspire Ernest Hemingway to verbalize his memories into a novel. Hemingway, an Illinoisan writer whose roman à clef— *The Sun Also Rises*, brings out the moral decay and the disillusion thereupon, found in what Gertrude Stein coins the “Lost Generation”. Hemingway, who portrays hedonism and alcoholism in *The Sun Also Rises*, resembled the essence of boredom, specifically existential boredom. Although much has been discussed about Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*, the lens through boredom is however absent. This thesis therefore analyzes the motif of existential boredom, as it shows in Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*, through the interpretations of existential boredom by the Norwegian philosopher, Lars Svendsen. This thesis argues that Hemingway’s characters in *The Sun Also Rises* undergo the state of being bored, resonating Svendsen’s ideas on the existential boredom, as the constant drinking and socializing are ways to address the vacuity.