Hills like White Elephants

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“Hills like White Elephants” has a strong sense of imagery and the setting chosen has so much symbolism related to the story. Hemingway describes the story of two characters who are in a train station, which is in a desolate valley. The chosen setting illustrates that the relationship between the girl and the American man was at complete crossroads. While at the station, one learns that this is not the final destination but a stopping point. At this point, the couple has to decide whether they want to proceed together or whether they have to go separate ways. The stopping point was symbolic since it was a platform for them to think over their lives independently and as a couple. The girl is absolutely torn on whether to proceed with the abortion or not; this is seen as she observes the contrast between the barren valley and the white hills. Each detail of the setting even the innocuous demonstrate the struggle between American man and Jig (Anisyah, 2018).

Imagery, on the other hand, plays a key role in exemplifying what was happening between the two main characters. The white hills that are compared to white elephants are the primary image in this piece of literature. The white elephants are unwanted in society and this is the first image that the girl sees (Sharma, 2016). This first sight shows that the girl is thinking so much about abortion. Later on, she sees the mountains which she describe as lovely and acceptable than white hills. At this point, the image shows that the girl is having second thoughts of carrying out the abortion. A change of perception is illustrated by the imagery throughout the story. The couple has second thoughts about their relationship and the abortion.

Sources

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