

An analytical Study of Ernest Hemingway`s "The Old Man and the Sea"

Assist. Lecturer Abdulhafidh Abdulhusein Muhamad

Ahlul Bait University –College of Arts

Alhafidh497@gmail.com

Abstract:

This modest research paper aims to give an overview to the novella of the great American writer Ernest Hemingway`s "The old man and the sea". This study explains and analyzes the elements and the general structure of this masterpiece, in order to give somewhat a clear and integrated image of this literary work. The study also includes some explanations of technical issues, like style, language and the way of narration. In addition, it contains accurate analysis to the main characters, symbols used and lessons learn from it.

1-Introduction

Many readers of all intellectual levels tend to read and analyze "The old Man and the Sea" because it characterizes by the ease of its language and the eloquence of its message, it is a symbolic novella and it contains many motivating lessons and higher human values. (Sinha, 2022,p1212).

The story in brief:

Hemingway`s masterpiece, in short, is a story of an old Cuban fisherman called Santiago, who was unlucky for eighty four days without catching one fish, yet he goes every day with same determination and same spirit of optimism. On the eighty- fifth day Santiago enters the sea far from the place of fishermen, and manage to catch a giant Marlin, which drags his boat far away, and after three days of bitter struggle, he is able to kill it and pull it to his boat. Upon his return, sharks intercept him and devour his

catch, despite his fierce fight with them; he only get the skeleton of the fish. After that he return home with what remain of the catch. He is very exhausted; he sleeps and dreams of his past youth and strength. **(Xie, 2008, p125)**

A true incident that happened with an old Cuban fisherman, inspired Hemingway to write an article about it in a newspaper in the mid-thirties, where an old man catch a huge marlin and on his way home many sharks intercepted him and ate his catch, and his fellow fishermen managed to save him while he was in deplorable condition. **(Farooqi,2021,p186)**

This article appeared in Esquire magazine, in its April issue of 1936 its tittle was "On the Blue water: A Gulf Stream letter" written by Ernest Hemingway when he was working as an editor there. The article began about fishing in the deep sea. Then Hemingway proceeded to describe the sea and its great current and sealed it with a short real story, which was told to him by one of his Cuban friends, the story revolved around an old fisherman in the Caribbean Sea, who caught a very huge fish, after a long struggle and great suffering with it. On his way home, this fish ends up in the mouths of sharks, which the old man, fought fiercely and won over. In early 1939, Hemingway had the idea of expanding this article into a large work, and this was not achieved until the early 1951 when he began writing The Old Man and the sea. **(Cray, p4.1973)**

Through a letter that Hemingway sent from Cuba to his editor, Max Perkins on February,1939 it is really clear that the idea of "The old Man and the Sea" was present in Hemingway`s mind, when he was talking to him about an old man who caught a big marlin and tied it to his boat but the sharks ate it after long time of struggle with them, he also told him that it would be an exciting story. Then he said that he would take that old Carlos in his boat to get acquainted with the props the story well. But this was not

done until nearly twelve years later when Hemingway wrote the Old Man and the Sea. (Tucker,1999, p4-introduction)

2-A bout the Author:

Hemingway is that young man whose star shone rose in the aftermath of the WorldWar1, and create a significant qualitative shift in American literature through his beautiful and unique prose like symphonies. Although his sentence was short and simple but they are resounding. (Parshall, Gerald, 1June,1998)

He was one of the giants of the world literature. At the beginning of his personality was somewhat complex, and it can be said that it was a mixture of "courage and fear". He was very keen to the way he appears to others; also, he was overly affected by the unstable mood of his parents. His mother was a lady who has aristocratic soul, so upset at not being able to sing on New York's stages, despite of having a rare sweet voice. And his father, the doctor, who was not sure of his capabilities even in the field of his work..(Wagner-Martin,2021, p1)

His birth was on July21,1899 and he was ranked second among the six children of the family. His parent are Dr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Hemingway. In high school, was involved in sport, playing soccer and boxing. He received a severe blow to his eye, which caused a visual impairment, which was later a reason to not being accepted in the army during World War1. Despite that, it gave him strong motivation and permanent enthusiasm after graduation from high school. He worked as a news reporter for Kansas City Star.(carey,1973,p2)

Hemingway got the first job in his life as a rookie reporter in the above-mentioned magazine, thanks to his rich uncle, who was a close friend of the chief-manager. This uncle was the hero of Hemingway's first story in his early beginnings. The uncle and his wife also provided a room in their big house for Hemingway to live in. however, his work in this magazine lasted for few months, it is

about from the mid of October 1917 until early April of the following year. During this period, he wrote about 12 articles. **(M.Oliver,2007,p5)**

Hemingway`s parents were so happy, because their son chose to work as a journalist in one of the largest newspaper in united states of A merica. He ignored volunteering as a soldier in the World War1,as they counting on him being rejected by the army due to his poor eyesight. He joined the work at Kansas City Star with the mediation of his uncle Tyler, and in a short period, he was able to learn everything about journalistic work professionally. **(Wagner,Linda,p9,2021)**

He was finally able to work with the military units by joining the medical unit of the American Red Cross as an ambulance driver, and when he was working on the Italian front, he was badly wounded. This experience later became a subject, to write "Farwell to arms. **Carey, 1973, p2)**

When he was lying in the hospital in Italy because of his injury, he fell in love with one of nurses called Agnes von Kurowsky; she shocked him when she left him to marry an Italian Officer. However, after leaving this harsh experience, he married Hadley Richardson in 1921 , the first of his four wives .Then he travelled to France and settled in Paris where he joined a group of expatriate writers who called themselves" the lost generation." Hemingway had only one child, Bumby; the family lived on the money Hemingway got for publishing his short stories and his salary as newspaper reporter for Toronto Star. His life with Hadley was not going well, and he finally divorced her in 1927 and married Pauline Pfeiffer. **(Mammadov, 2009, p1-2)**

In the thirties of the twentieth century , Hemingway moved a lot and travelled to many countries , including Cuba ,Italy ,Africa and then he went to Spain to cover the events of the civil war there , this experience inspired him to write his novel To whom the Bell Tolls. Hemingway dominated the art of fiction in America for his beautiful and distinguished style. One of Hemingway`s most famous work is "The old

Man and the Sea" which won the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize for literature in two consecutive years. His life came to an end when he committed suicide in his house in Ketchum, Idaho, in 1961. **(SCRIBNER, JR, 248, about the author)**

perhaps the idea of suicide or ending life dominated Hemingway`s mind and never absent from him. His life is full of deadly adventures and dangerous hobbies that he used to practice and scenes of death and killing in the wars in which he participated. All these painful images left an impact on himself that cannot be cured and may have made him troubled person. He committed suicide in the beginning of 1961 and was treated, but he returned to repeat the same act in July of the same year, but this time, it was the final blow. **(Mammadov,2009,p5)**

Hemingway's private life:

Hemingway`s friend, a retired General Charles T.Lane, wrote about the private life of Hemingway entitled "My first days with Hemingway" he says that Hemingway hated his mother intensely and often called her "bitch"he believed that she was the one who pushed his father to commit suicide because she was a domineering woman. His personality was masculine par excellence, and this is clear from the image of woman in his writing, he always portrays her as bitch or deceiver. Agnes von Kurowsky refused to marry him and described him as young and immature. He married four times, Hadley Richardson was his first wife with whom he had two sons and two daughters in 1929 Hadley asked for divorce after discovering his relationship with Pauline Pfeiffer an American expatriate ,who became hemingway`s second wife later on. **(ibdp2-3)**

3- Language and style:

It is easy to recognize Hemingway`s style because it is distinguished by its unique use of direct sentences and vivid precise details in creating a transparent, attractive and realistic text. Hemingway`s style is to write on the way of "iceberg" where, as he claimed

the greatest bulk of the novella lies beneath the surface parts.(**R.Deshamukh,p342,2023**)

Ernest Hemingway has a unique style in his writing for all his literary works and this style he gained, came from his long experience in the field of journalism and his work as a war correspondent. Through this style, the writer can deliver an eloquent and complex message in a very simple way. Hemingway avoids the use the long complex sentences, adjectives and abstract noun, so we may find under his short sentence many details. He also used a live dialogue and didn't used the indirect speech such as ,"he said" and "they said" , so that the reader merge with text as if he sees the events taking place in front of his eyes. Hemingway, as he said, he tried to make a real characters move in a living reality.(**xie,2008,p 156**)

3.1–The complexity resulting from the simplicity in the style of Hemingway:

The corner stone of Hemingway `s distinctive style is the truth from which the narrative construction of the work stems, in a simple and clear style. The principle that Hemingway chose for himself in writing was the adoption of simple and real sentences that control the work and gives it a esthetics. Hemingway's simple sentences contain three things: personal experiences, historical knowledge and truth. Firstly, Hemingway believes that the writer should be honest in writing, as he must write about things and events that he touched and experienced or was a part of them. Secondly, the writer must write about concrete reality, that is, about real place and real time. Finally, the writer must create a general ground for feeling and emotions, so that makes the readers feel the same as the characters of the novel if they are put in the same situations and under the same circumstances.(**Gabriel Rodríguez Pazos,2018,p2–6**)

3.2–Economic in narration

Hemingway proudly claims that he was able; to make his novel "The old man and the Sea" consists of thousands of pages. Where all the Characters of the village in which the old man lives, its elders, youth, children, women and their way of living their tradition and costumes are included. But, he believes that many writers have already written about all of these details in an excellent way. He wanted to do something different, so he eliminated all unnecessary things to provide the reader ,as he claim, with an experience through which the reader he or she can see a part of his or her experience. He believed that he was lucky in this regard, as he found in writing about the old man, the boy and the world of the sea abundant stuff for narration. (Bloom,2008, p1-2)

3.3– The way of narrative:

Hemingway`s early writings were characterized as first–person narrative, and this method like report writing, which prevents dealing with the book as a novel, however Hemingway was fully aware of dimensions that must be available in writing the prose. And he once answered a critic`s question on this subject that he is familiar with writing in first–person narrative because writing in such a style shows the writer, as if has an intimate relationship with things at the same time send a message to the reader, that the writer has great experience with things he write about.(lbd,p5)

3.4– Iceberg theory of Hemingway in writing:

In his literary writing ,Hemingway relied on the principle of the so–called "iceberg" , this principle in brief is to include stories ,situations , events under tiny phrases ,signs

and symbols which is similar to iceberg, as the visible part is much smaller than what lies beneath. He spoke about this theory, when he was writing "Death in the Afternoon":

"If a writer of prose knows enough of what he is writing about, he may omit things that he knows and the reader, if the writer is writing truly enough, will have a feeling of those things as strongly as though the writer had stated them" .

Hemingway learn this kind of writing when he was working as a reporter in Kansas City Star, His writings was about incidents and crimes , and it is well known that such style of this field requires clear facts without embellishment and personal view. After that Hemingway dragged this style into his fictional work.(**Perelman,2021**)

4-Themes:

Hemingway possessed an unparalleled literary acumen that many factors combined to create. His life was a product of hard life full of difficult situations and emotional trauma therefore he created unique themes stemming from his long experience in resisting difficult circumstances. Perhaps the most important theme in this novella is the grace under pressure. This mean that man should maintain a self-respect and be patient and wise instead of complaining and surrendering in harsh circumstances.(**Aimless poet ,Rajib,2023,academia.edu**)

Another theme of the novella is the nature and its role in helping man to get rid of the burden of modern life and the problems of era, such as the effect of wars and the conflict between people. Nature is a safe haven for man in purifying himself of hatred and malice and overcoming the feeling of alienation in an ungrateful society .The novel also embodies the theme of courage and nobility in its finest form.(**Ojedoja ,Sanjo,p96,2020**).

Another message in the novel that should not be neglected or underestimated which is the struggle for survival. Santiago derives his patience in resistance from his role model ,the legendary baseball player DiMaggio, who plays with great professionalism despite

suffering from pain of the bulge in his leg .All this is in order to maintain the championship rank .And another example in this regard is the Marlin bitter`s struggle not to give up.(**ibid, p98**)

5- Setting:

The events of this story takes place in one of Cuban village in Gulf Stream on the Caribbean Sea. Hemingway`s first visit to Cuba was in 1928, then he returned to reside there in the beginning of forties, he had full knowledge of the environment, geography and social and political situation of Cuba. This accurate knowledge of history and geography of the place enabled the writer to give a true and realistic image of the story. As for the time of the occurrence of this novella, some critics and those in literary affairs , were able to determine it through the implicit reference in the text , through the dialogue between characters, and through Santiago`s memories. The indication to Joe DiMaggio and a series of games between Yankees and Detroit Tigers, it turns out that the time of this story took place in the fall of 1950.Manolin explain that the story happened in the fall through two hints, the first when he says at this season the blue marlins appear and the second when he says that winter is coming and the old man needs a coat.(**Beachm,1994-2005,p41**)

6- Characters:

Edward Morgan Foster (1879-1970), a novelist and critic, discussed two types of characters: the flat character and the round character. Foster points out the flat character is important and it is called character characters, but now it is called cartoon character. Flat character is remain constant all the time and does not affect by the changing circumstances. These type of characters are easy to recognize and easy to remember. While round character is somewhat complex and constantly changing

depending on the development of events and situations, it is dynamic personality. **(Morgan Foster, p36-37)**

6.1-Santiago

Santiago is an old Cuban fisherman; he is the central character of the novel. He is characterized by isolation and has no relationship with any village groups. He works silently and often talks to himself out aloud, but he seems calm and silent with others. He has an emotional and peaceful temperament, despite his long experience in fishing, luck has failed him, but this thing did not stop him from pursuing with his determination, he has great hope that on day he would get a valuable catch and unusual catch. **(Lee and Dr.Asmarani, p5 characters)**

Santiago is, a perfect man relies on himself and his abilities when he works. He is optimistic and always looks forward to winning opportunities .What distinguishes this man most, is his spirit that does not know defeat. Santiago has such a pride that he would rather starve than being under the pity of other, and this is evident when he pretends that he has enough food while his house is empty and there is no crumb of bread in it. He has a great professional legacy that earned him superior courage and challenge, and this was proven when he penetrated a lot in the open sea away from the fishermen and wrestled a huge marlin whale until he managed it, as well as his fierce fight with sharks. Santiago`s courage and honor, are inseparable twins. He does not complain about his bad luck, he does not blame his catch, which defied his strength, nor even the sharks that devoured his catch; instead, he does what he can do without complaining or cursing fate. **(Effinger, 1999).**

Every mark and every spot on this man`s face and body tells a story of his suffering and struggle. The brown spots that spread on his cheeks and extend to his neck are the result of the tropical sun that has always stung him, the cracks in his hands tells tales of the traces from the ropes he used to pull the huge fish and wrinkles

that tell the story of his life, everything in and around him are old except his eyes which have a color like the color of sea ,and from which radiates persistence and determination (**Hemingway,p1**)

6.2– The aggressive nature of Santiago:

Some readers see that there is aggression integrated into Santiago`s behavior, despite the writer, portrays him as a kind ,benevolent and saint-like , but his behaviors in other places in the text show his innate human aggressiveness and his lust for blood in his fight with fish. His fight with sharks may be justified because these creatures are naturally aggressive and he is in a state of defense for himself and his catch. But the contrast may appear with his fight against the Marlin whom he describes as his friend. ***“The fish is my friend too,” he said aloud. “I have never seen or heard of such a fish. But I must kill him. I am glad we do not have to try to kill the stars.”***

So, how can man kills his friend? This also can be justified, as Santiago is a fisherman and the process of killing fishes is a part of fishing mechanism, it is not aggressive, the profession requires it. (**Bloom, 2008, p110**)

6.3–The mechanisms used by Santiago to develop self-reliance:

Santiago depends on three means in developing self-reliance in his struggle with the giant Marlin; the first mean is to collect and recall all his past experiences .one of these experiences is recollection of fist wrestling with an American laborer from Africa origins in one of Casablanca's bars where Santiago won the fight after holding out for a day and a night then people called him a hero. This incident that Santiago has always been proud of inspired him to be patient and perseverance in his struggle with the marlin. Also, from his past experiences is the close contact with lions on the African coasts. The second method of developing self-reliance is comparing himself with a well-known hero as in his frequent mention of Joe DiMaggio. This is a defensive mechanism that the individual resort to enhance his self-respect. Here Santiago compare himself with

the patience of his model, Joe DiMaggio who played with high professionalism despite his the pain in his feet. For the third mechanism is faith and love , his love for his profession ,good people and his friend Manolin ,also his strong faith in God all these factors support his struggle.(Numidia& Melani ,2021,p1536-1537).

There is another force that helped Santiago in his legendary steadfastness as he wrestled with the huge Marlin, a great force other than his physical strength, it is the force of faith in God to help him in his ordeal. The following quotes from the text of the novella confirms Santiago`s firm faith in God;

“I am not religious,” he said. “But I will say ten our [64] Fathers and ten Hail Marys that I should catch this fish, and I promise to make a pilgrimage to the Virgin of Cobre if I catch him. That is a promise”

“ Hail Mary full of Grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sin ners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.” Then he added, “Blessed Virgin, pray for the death of this fish. Wonderful though he.” (Ganesan, Immanuel, p272,2020)

6.4- Santiago as a code hero:

The term code hero is assigned to indicate the major characters of most of Hemingway`s works. Philip Young defines the code hero as the hero who is capable to: *“offer up and exemplify certain principles of honor and courage which, in a life of tension and pain, make a man a man and distinguish him from the people who follow random impulses [...] and are [...] perhaps cowardly, and without inviolable rules for how to live holding tight.”* As for Hemingway considers the code hero who: *“offers up*

and exemplifies certain principles of honor, courage, and endurance which in a life of tension and pain make a man a man".

Code heroes possess exceptional characteristics controlled by moral rules. These rules oblige the hero to act with courage and honor in difficult circumstances and critical situation without complaining, even if his battle is losing. **(shafaq, Humera)**

Santiago, the hero of this novel, prove beyond any doubt that the obstacles facing man are of no value when it comes to human dignity and survival. The old man is really a code her, although his body is thin and every in and around him is old except for his blue eyes, as the writer says, which do not know defeat, his inner strength of self-belief and his insistence on victory enable him to succeed. **(Lizotte, 2011, teen ink).**

6.5- Manolin:

there are many researches and articles written on the Old Man and the Sea, and these writings almost cover all aspects of the story except for the lad Manolin which were limited and brief ,Although ,this character has real importance ,but the writer didn't give us a detail information about his age ,family and back ground. **(ixia LI & Bing QI, 2016, 403)**

Manolin had been working with Santiago for forty days then he leaves him at the order of his parents, because all the people of the village thinks of the old man is unlucky. The boy joins another fortunate boat , this boat can catch three big fish in one week .This would be a cause of sadness of the boy for his great teacher coming back empty -handed. But Manolin stay with the old man, as he waits him every day when he returns to carry the fishing equipment and helps him in preparing the food. Through a sentence at the beginning of the story. **"The Old Man had taught the boy to fish and the boy loved him"** **(Hemigway, p1)**

We know that the lad is Santiago`s disciple and there is an intimate relationship between them. Even when his parent forbade him to go fishing with Santiago, Manolin do not stop helping him. **(Sarkar,2022)**

From all above, it is clear to see the importance of Manolin's role in the novella, as he embodies passion and cooperation as well as through him, we learn more about Santiago` travels, adventures and profession.

7-Symbolism

Literature is the mirror of life and it deals with various topics related to people`s life, also it give them pleasure. The use of symbolism increase the aesthetic value of the literary work and support its meaning. So many writers tend to employs symbols in their literary works either to add aesthetics to their works or to hide behind these symbols to criticize political or social matters to avoid punishment and accountability Hemingway experienced the romantic period or was close to it, thus he has great experience in employing symbols in his literary works. **(KPS, 2015,P125)**

Symbolism contributes to enriching and coloring the literary work. It has multiple forms, as it may be words and phrases uttered by characters or acts performed by them. The surrounding places, shapes and colors may be part of symbolism used in the work. **(LAKHADIVE,2019)**

Hemingway wrote an introduction (The art of short story) about the methods and art of writing short stories, this introduction was more like an oral conversation or an improvised text in front an audience. He talked about symbolism in writing within a prolonged talk. He cited many works short stories and gave an example of symbols: You may see a weapon hanging on the wall on the first page of the story. It is not necessary, for example, to find gunfire on page fourteen. This piece of weapon may be just a decorative piece that one of the fools hung up to look at, it may be a symbol, but things should not be taken beyond their scope. **(Benson, 1990, p17)**

In one of his letters to the art critic Bernard Brinson when he was talking to him about the old man and the sea, claiming, there isn't any symbol in the novel and all characters and the things are the same with their names, without any other meaning. Certainly, Hemingway was evasive, and his aim was to extrapolate the readers' views in the novel. Also to motivate the new generation of critics to dive more deeply in the text. In fact, the novel is full of symbols. (Ott, 2019)

Though the old man and the sea appears to be easy and simple, but it leave the authors and critics dive into its depth to decode the Hemingway's symbols and hints and expand its literary resonances and give it a religious and philosophical dimensions, using different literary methods. (Sylvester, Bickford and others, 2018, a mazon.com)

7-1-The most important symbols used by the writer:

1-**The Sea:** is the scene of events of the novel and symbolizes the vast universe in which Santiago struggles alone without any help to obtain available catch to prove himself as an experienced fisherman.

2- **Marlin, Lions and the Sharks:** these creatures, which Santiago encountered through his life and his voyage, each have their own symbolism, the Marlin is the rival that struggles for survival, and for Santiago is the last hope for self-affirmation. As for the lions in the protagonist's dreams represent his youth that has passed and his strength that has decreased. Sharks are undoubtedly the forces of evil and the enemies of (Sandimali.K.P.S,p128,2015)

8-Different readings to the novel:

Reading between lines is the best way for reading texts, because it helps the reader to extract the hidden information. These information are lurking under simple sentences and phrases of the texts, it is somewhat similar to the iceberg, of which only

a very small part visible. Hemingway`s method give simple hints and leave the rest to the readers to search and explore.(**Rauf,p88 introduction**)

8-1- Biographical reading:

Some critics and readers may notice that most of Ernest Hemingway`s works are based on his personal experiences and his literary production may be a translation of many facts and events that he lived or that were part of his life

There is a great similarity between Hemingway and Santiago, the protagonist of "The Old Man and the Sea". When Hemingway wrote this novel, he was lonely just like the loneliness of Santiago. Also, there is an appreciable affinity in the conflict, Santiago, a skilled fisherman with long experiences in fishing and an expert in the sea and its secrets, fails over the course of 84 days to obtain a catch commensurate with his value as a great fisherman. This is similar to Hemingway`s struggle with himself and with the circumstances to produce fine literary work befitting his status as great writer after 10-year estrangement until people thought that Hemingway exhausted all his creativity.(**a biographical analysis of The Old Man and the sea\Clint kalbach**)

Psychological reading: 8-2

Many studies focused on reading the novel from a psychological corner, including this study, which see that the journey of the old man, as drawn by Hemingway , represent a reflection of the attitudes , the desires ,and the tendencies to embrace some aspects of nature ,because nature is the ideal place in broad contemplative thinking .Hemingway used in his novel what so-called in psychology the "fifth dimension or the imaginary virtual time ,that man resort to for the purpose of getting away from his problems or for the purpose of finding solution .(**Shahwan, Saed,p87,2019**)

Psychological analysis of the protagonist:

Sigmund Freud divided human personality into three types i.e. the **id**, **ego** and **superego**. The id is the storehouse of instincts, needs and desires ,and the ego is that aspect of personality that appear to be a modified type of **id** because it is governed by the controls and requirement of reality. Whereas the **superego** represents the ideal for the ego, it is the morals and virtues.(Lapisely, Daniel ,p1,20120).

When psychoanalytic theory is applied to Santiago`s personality, the **id** drives him to obtain a valuable catch so he goes to the sea to satisfy this desire, then his need to get food and warmth though he knows very well that he lacks these things but he speaks with his friend Manolin as if food and warmth really were there.

“What do you have to eat?”

The boy asked.

“A pot of yellow rice with fish. Do you want some?”

“No. I will eat at home. Do you want me to make the fire?”

“No. I will make it later on. Or I may eat the rice cold.”

A person uses such mechanism to alleviate the things that he suffer from .sometimes man resort to daydreaming or imagination to satisfy his urgent needs.(Kurnita,Azizah,p4,2014)

The **ego** is that side of personality that restrains the **id**, so, when Santiago tries to borrow money from a friend of his (**id**) ,he always reluctant to do so (ego) fear the negative effects of borrowing as he says ,too much borrowing, will make me eventually like a beggar . As for the **superego**, the conscience and ideals prevent the ego from slipping. Santiago`s **superego** is his positive reaction towards those who mock him because he was not able to get single fish for eighty four days. The super ego make him act wisely and rationally and ignore their mockery. (Ibd,p-6-7)

8.3--religious reading:

In the last decade of Hemingway`s life, he deeply aspired to a mystical Christian vision, and this was evident in the "The Old Man and the sea "in which he told the story of indomitable human spirit (. **Moddelmog, 2013, p354**)

Some critics see that Hemingway is a devout catholic, and that his writing are not devoid of allusion to religious references. Some numbers appeared in the novel such as 3,7,40 and 84, the use of these numbers are not arbitrary, and each number has its Biblical significance as those critics see. The number three may be refers to the ancestors Prophets Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, or the author meant the three day after which Jesus returned to life. And the number seven is the period in which the universe was created. Then the number forty is the period after which Mandolin left his old friend Santiago, the same period after which Muses and his followers were banished to the desert. As for the number84, its relationship to religious interpretation is somewhat controversial. This is the number of days in which Santiago did not succeed in catching any fish then three days of struggles with the great Marlin are added so that the number became 87, Good Friday falls one day after this period on 88th day.(www.nots.com>[how-numerology](#) -old-man-sea)

8.4-Political reading:

Some critic believe that the Old Man and the Sea is not devoid of political references ,since Hemingway is the most experienced writer in the world of wars ,and he often employ his long experience in his literary works. And because the novella was written in period of post-World War II, is established the belief that this novella did not deviate from the rule, as it certainly carries some references and allusions to political situation of the world at that time. One of these allusions is the word Solo which refers to the worst degree of bad luck. When the Axis powers achieved great victories, the Allies suffer from bad luck just like Santiago`s bad luck. Another word is the Skeleton which refer to Hitler when the Soviet reached at Hitler`s hideout they did not find but the remains of

charred body. Their precious catch had gone and nothing left only a burn skeleton. (BANSAL,2017.P327-329)

8.5-Best reading to Hemingway`s works:

Hemingway`s literary writing are lively, purposeful, and have a wide cultural resonance, also he has advantage that we rarely find with other writers. He involve the natural world in his writings, and as a result, of being a hunter, adventure, tourist, and natural scientist, he invest all these experiences in his work. Readers, students and others, often face difficulty and confusion in understanding Hemingway's works because most of them search for the plot and neglect an important fact, the use of landscape in which the event take place ,which has the greatest role in resolving the complexity of the story. Those interested in Hemingway`s work believe that the reading should be careful, and that the landscapes described, Such as rivers, seas and forests, should be viewed closely and not merely as backdrops to the story. (MAIAER,HEVIN,2018)

9-Lesson extracted from the novel:

The lessons learned from this novella can be found in the attitude and action of the characters involved. Definitely, the most important figure in this novella is Santiago who is the pivotal character of the story. This man has been exhausted by life and he is now in the fall of his life, isolated in a miserable hut, after his wife died and he became lonely widower. No one care or ask about him except his friend little Manolin. Even this boy no longer accompanies Santiago

9.1-Determination:

The protagonist of the novella, Santiago, present a great lesson in determination and perseverance. This man, despite his old age, his failure to catch a single fish for eighty -four days, his exposure to the ridicule and contempt by others and the primitiveness of his tools, continues to face all difficult circumstances with relentless determination and

invincible strength. When he achieved a large catch ,he continues to fight fiercely in order to subjugate his volente catch to his own will .This legendary steadfastness is the most eloquent lesson that can be learnt from this novel. **(Saed, Ahmed,p33-38,2023)**

9-2-Manliness: Hemingway has some criteria for manliness embodied in the character of the protagonist, Santiago. The first of these criteria is that man is not created to be defeated. Santiago has nothing but a rickety hut, small boat, primitive fishing tools and his sail that is patched flour bags. Everything around and in him is old, except for his eyes which have a color like the color of the sea. They do not know defeat. This man, despite the bad luck and despite, sails his boat for a very long time without getting bored or inaction. Secondly, a man should not depend on luck. Many people believe in luck and misfortune and some people justifies their failure by luck. The villagers describe Santiago as "Salao" which is the worst example of bad luck. All of these terms are not found in Santiago`s dictionary of life. The fishermen return every day, happy with their catch ,and he comes back empty- handed ,but this not let him give up, he is fully believe that diligence only thing that brings luck. The third criterion of manliness is enduring pain and difficulties without complaining. Santiago suffered a lot for victory without complaining his fatigue to other. Finally, the man should not be a braggart .The most beautiful thing in a man is humility. Santiago despite his great experience in the field of fishing talks about himself with humility.(**Schat,Bryan,July2011**)

10-Critic reaction toward the old man and the sea:

Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner are perhaps the most important giants of twentieth -century literature in America. They enjoyed the same amount of reputation locally and internationally, both of them won Nobel and Pulitzer prizes. Perhaps the

dividing point between their personalities was the international fame and addiction to alcohol. Although the two men did not meet each other face to face except through correspondences, the rivalry between them was honorable. Faulkner wrote his opinion about the old man and the sea as follow:

" ***His best. Time may show it to be the best single piece of any of us, I mean his and my contemporaries. This time, he discovered God, a Creator. Until now, his men and women had made themselves; shaped themselves out of their own clay; their victories and defeats were at the hands of each other, just to prove to themselves or one another how tough they could be. But this time, he wrote about pity: about something somewhere that made them all: the old man who had to catch the fish and then lose it, the fish that had to be caught and then lost, the sharks which had to rob the old man of his fish; made them all and loved them all and pitied them all. It's all right. Praise God that whatever made and loves and pities Hemingway and me kept him from touching it any further***(Book Marks, 2022).

10-1- Contradictions in the novella:

Brenner Gray, an academic author, says although Hemingway wanted the Old man and the Sea to be realistic by drawing its characters, but no one praised its realism, he committed many mistakes and the following gaps prove that:

1-When the sharks devour the marlin, Santiago accepted this defeat and not affected ,is ideal and not realistic, the real story indicate that the old fisherman was pulled out from his boat by his follow fishermen while he was in deplorable state ,crying over his loss and the sharks are still circling around his boat. the character of the old man portrayed by Hemingway in Santiago is very ideal, he wished to feed the marlin, does not feel sad about the distortion caused by the sharks in his catch, respect the opinion of Manolin`s parents to leave him and go in another boat and his positive reactions

towards of bullies from village people, all suggest that he is an ideal man far from reality.

2-Making Santiago`s character invulnerable and nonnegotiable, his entry far in the sea by his primitive boats and tools is justified though it is suicide like. Hemingway`s Santiago is a powerful man physically and emotionally, who does not need any help from others, while he, always wishes of having a son or having Manolin with him to control the marlin.

3-tp Santiago is supposed to be an experienced and wise fisherman ,how could he make such mistake of killing the Marlin and tying it to his boat ,knowing with certainty that the sharks surely attack him because of the Marlin `s blood.(Brenner,p176-177)

Conclusion:

With his unusual acumen, Hemingway dramatized the novel by, presenting its characters and the scenes in which the move at the beginning of the novel, leaving the novel to reveals its contents and events in an automatic and sequential manner, where the role of r narrator diminishes.

.The closeness of this story to reality raises it to literary perfection, on the face, it is very short story, but it includes a wonderful literary images for example, the Marlin which is non-human figure has great role in the story, it embodies resistance and courage to survive, it also has an important role in showing the courage and valor of the old man

The writer could have made this novel have thousands of pages, but with his unusual experience in including many events through in a single simple sentence or single symbol was able to create a great masterpiece from simple novella. He has the ability to write about the village in which the old man lives, the residents, the way of their life and traditions, but he was satisfied with these simple few characters. Despite this, He produced a wonderful that could provide inspiration for many stories. He

believed that writing on the village, the sea and the fishermen were all topics that many writers had written about before him and they excelled at that. However, his way in imitating and simplifying the characters gave the novella an exceptional quality rarely seen in writing novels The story also gives the reader additional information about fishing terms, methods and technique and this is another feature added to it Despite Hemingway`s claim that The Old Man and the Sea does not contains any symbolism at all , and the names mentioned in it are the same as the real names, that is to say, all the characters old man ,the boy ,the sea and the sharks all of them, are in their names and titles without any other indications. But the astute reader cannot rely on such a claim for many reasons, the first of which; how could a great writer like Hemingway ends his literary career by simple work devoid of any significance or aims? Secondly, is it reasonable that a simple story wins two of the most important literary prizes, Pulitzer and Nobel? In fact, this novella is a nucleus of many stories, themes and ideas for the symbols it contains. This brief study is an attempt to shed light on the most important elements of the novella also clarify the circumstances under which the story was written.

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