

# The concept of heroism and its representation in the novel “The Old Man and The Sea”

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**Abstract:** With the only word “hero”, a plethora of personages who make people or even the whole world astonished strike our minds in the blink of an eye. But there are such unique figures of the literature to whom worldly attention does not make any sense or the absence of millions of “eyes” is unable to hinder their heroic deeds. This can vividly be shown with the example of the fisherman Santiago in “The Old Man and The Sea” by Ernest Hemingway. “A man can be destroyed but not defeated” a statement made by the real hero-writer of the twentieth century whose epoch-making symbolic quotation echoes the invincible spirit of a hero who reaches the zenith of his success ultimately. In my study, I make an effort to find and analyze clear illustrations for the notion of heroism and represent it with the characters of the novel.

**Key words:** Heroism, parallel suffering, dignity

## Introduction

“Literature is the writing or the study of books etc. Value as works of art” (Hornby et al, 1973: 572). Literature is not anything that is written. That is to say, pamphlets, brochures, textbooks, leaflets are not considered to be literature. Literature has something special to delivery and represents life. The characters, the conflicts, the setting presented in the story are realistic that makes the readers suspicious it as if it were true event in life. However, the readers must be aware of the fact that there is sharp discrepancy between the world of real life and that of literary work. The world within a work of literature is fictional. The same point is also true for the novel “The old man and the sea” by Ernest Hemingway. The setting can be real but the struggle of human being and natural forces is filled with shades of fictional “pencil”. The concept of heroism is described in this work such a beautiful way that it is impossible to ignore it with the image of different characters and the themes of the work which is illustrated below in detail in the discussion part. Research method is also followed by introductory part. At the end, to summon up all the points, concluding part is also addressed.

## Research Method

The object of the study is the novel entitled *The Old Man and The Sea* first published by Ernest Hemingway and was then published by Charles Scribner's Sons in 1952. The novel consist of 48 pages. The formal object of this study, research involves there is main issues Heroism reflected in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and The Sea* (1952). The data of the research are the text in Heroism reflected in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and The Sea* (1952). The data source is divided into two categories: primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data are taken from Heroism reflected in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and The Sea* (1952). The secondary data includes some information that will support the research on the novel *The Old Man and The Sea*. This kind of data will be criticisms on *The Old Man and The Sea*, other studies that have been done related to the novel, and study guide in Hemingway’s work.

The technique used to collect the data is documentation technique that tries to collect data from the written records (books, articles, archives, etc.) that are related to the problem (Moleong, 1990: 113-114, 131). The next phase after collecting data is analyzing the data. Method of analysis used in this research is descriptive with evaluation and interpretation. Descriptive analysis is an explanation of the relation between the data (Moleong, 1990: 6). The last step then, is drawing a conclusion to answer the problem, which has been stated on the objective of the research. The conclusion derives from the explanation of the pattern from the descriptive codes and the general idea of it.

### Discussion

Hemingway's heroes make a breakthrough in the connotation and transcend the traditional function of heroes (Alik Alhakamul Khusna, 2018:15p.). Many of the characters in Hemingway's novels and stories are called heroes because they still preserve some of the virtues of the romanticized figures and the noble people in the traditional sense – bravery, courage, faith, perseverance, dignity, etc. These heroes are more human than divine, more complex than simple. The virtues Hemingway's heroes show when facing the harsh reality serve not as models for people to follow but purely as the revelation of the consolation and comfort for the bitter agony and pains. Hemingway's heroes are not always strong-minded, tough, sturdy, but rather dualized (Khusna 2018).

### Animated and Restrained

Hemingway's heroes are both animated as well as restrained, and seem to possess great spiritual energy. His works capture the extremes of heroism and tragedy. His heroes convey a sense of grandeur and power, and arouse strong emotion. In size, strength and emotional intensity; these characters go beyond the real people. The novel *The old man and the sea* describes the adventure of a single fisherman, highlighting his hard work, and his hard earned prize, the huge marlin, which at last, falls prey to the hungry sharks. Hemingway himself as a war correspondent, also praised the heroism of the man's long silent struggle with the earth and the elements. Hemingway's story begins most lyrically describing most the personal feeling instead of the acts of heroism portrayed in the epic struggle of the old man and with the huge fish. The story begins depicting the interaction between the primary characters as they prepare their fishing gear for the following day near a Gulf Stream harbour in the 1940s.

### Santiago as the representator of heroism

Santiago as a protagonist, his actions, activities, life style as well as his close similarity to the author, expression how Santiago grows matures from an old damaged man into a true hero by not give up his attitude to life. *The Old Man and the Sea* is, from one viewpoint, an interpretation of Hemingway's personal struggle, unattractive, definite, resolute and everlasting, to write his best. With his seriousness, importance, his correctness and his perfectionism, Hemingway saw his abilities correctly as Santiago. "(TOMDS:P:2-3)".

### Parallel Suffering

For ordinary reader it appears to be like that Santiago as a main character has to suffer from struggles but what about other characters? Marlin for example? Meanwhile, the old man is also suffering from fatigue and he begins to experience faintness and dizziness, the marlin has also weakened though. Yet, Santiago refuses to break down their physically or mentally, and continues working his great marlin closer to the skiff. Finally the marlin circles close enough for the old man to spear it with his harpoon which he drives in with all the strength he can send for.

### Energetic and Controlled

Hemingway's heroes are both energetic as well as controlled, and give the impression to own great spiritual transcendent liveliness energy. His heroes deliver a sense of dignity, majesty and power, and produce strong emotion. In dimensions, strength, responsive and emotional concentration; these personal characters go beyond the real people. The novel *"The old man and the sea"* designates the exploration adventure of a single fisherman, importance his hard work, and his hard received award, the enormous Marlin, which at last, decreases target to the hungry sharks.

### The Dignity

The authority and Dignity of Hemingway's novels are resonant through the novel. The introductory profile is of Santiago, and „Old Man“ in the title, and the main character, through the story section, essentially speaking, he is portrayed as the hero of the novel. But as heroic his bear huge Marlin, Santiago calls him his „brother“. He is a Cuban fisherman, described and designated as being old in every technique except his eyes, which “were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated?. Even though

Santiago has not caught a fish for eighty four days, he overlooks the hisses and disappointment of other fishermen and revenues to the sea in his skiff day after day. The old man's sail was "patched with flour sacks and. furled it looked like the flag of permanent defeat"

### Patience

From the beginning of the work, the novel is constructed under the quality of patience and endurance. The survival fight receipts its climax, the obstinate marlin drawn the line unkindly and quickly, till it has cut Santiago's face, his body was so tired, and his hand was numb and impractical, even with all this bodily weaknesses, the old man was coming up for the right time to harpoon it, as shown below. Once the fish, made a surge that pulled him down on his face and made a cut below his eye. From time to while Santiago was talking to his enemy (the marlin), he asked the fish in unintended way to transporting under his leadership, "If you're not tired, fish, he said aloud, you must be very strange". He felt very tired now and he knew the night would come soon and he tried to think of other things. "(TOMAS, p. 05)".

### Individuality

Not considering his only companion Manolin, Santiago's life is left in isolation. Santiago's life is categorically heroic typical, the old man all through his day; he creates his detailed selections of what he precisely lives for, and what he can live without. Santiago was struggling in life to endure with his dignity and independence, without admiration of what he movable, or in what he be unsuccessful; the main point that distinguishes Santiago from the other fishermen and people in his rural community is his high level of consciousness and desire of his skill. To be specific for Santiago is not just to be by you and isolated from people, but be specifically in a world full of differences and departures.

### Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the whole paper, this study comes to the following conclusion. Firstly, there are Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and the Sea* is one of the great fictional works. For sure, it transports the message meaning of human existence way of life and dignity. The old fisherman measured by many people who read to be a tragic hero, in that his greatest strength principals to him to subsequent collapse. In this study, the researcher is concerned for the Heroism in the novel *The Old Man and The Sea* as a character the clarification and unravels it by using the approach.

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