

**THE OPTIMISTIC SYMBOLISMS IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S
THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA**

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ABSTRACT

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This study aims at explaining the symbols used in the novel and describing the values of optimistic reflected in the symbols used in Hemingway's The Old man and The Sea. This research is classified as a descriptive qualitative method. The primary data source of this study is the novel The Old Man and the sea by Ernest Hemingway. The collecting data process is note-taking technique. This study is also categorized as library research. Based on the findings and discussion, the researcher draws the conclusion such follow. First, it is found that there are eight symbols used in this novel. They are classified into Individual symbol and Universal symbol. In the novel the Old Man and the Sea the symbols which the researcher considers as individual symbols. Individual symbols are the old man as a symbol of someone who has optimistic, Manolin as a symbol of hope, Marlin as a symbol Struggle of life, Shark as a symbol of Destruction and problem, joe Di Maggio as a symbol Strong desire, bird as a symbol of help. The second category is Universal symbol. universal symbol are Sea as symbol of universe, Lion as symbol of strength. there are two elements or values which characterize someone as the one who has optimistic life which is reflected in the symbols used in this novel. They are the values of struggle and positive thinking, Second, Those symbols reflect the values of optimistic life which is to be the theme of the novel.

Keywords: *optimistic, symbol*

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Literature is big Result of human civilization, in this life human and literature are living side by side. We realize that most events in our life are reflected in literature. As one of human's creations, literature depicts what human's life is like. Culture and its values give form of literature. Carter (2006:41) states that a literary work expresses an author's mind and personality and that it also tells some essential truth about human life. Literature is divided into three parts; they are poem, novel, and drama. A poem is the word are arranged in separate lines, usually with repeated rhythm. A drama is a play considered as a form of literature. A novel is a story which is written in a book which the character and event are usually imaginary.

A novel is one the literary genres. In the novel contains intrinsic elements such as, themes, characterizations, plot, setting, and the message. By reading the novel, appreciating, and following the plot, we will find the message, and pick the good values. Novel is an interesting narration of literary work that reveals thoughts, feelings and experience of human being. An interesting novel usually uses symbol and the researches interesting with Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea* because this novel contains of essential values of human life. Ernest Hemingway's novel, *The Old man and The Sea*. This novel is American literature that is very popular and rich in symbolism and moral values especially optimistic. This novel tells more about the struggle of the old man Santiago. He tries to survive when the marlin tows him with his skiff in the sea for days. The story shows the patience,

hard work, persistence, optimistic of the old man in conquering the marlin and the sharks that come after the marlin dies, *The Old Man and The Sea* is one of the literary work that was written by Ernest Hemingway. He wrote a novel which is simple and yet so profound that it is perhaps one of the greatest stories ever told. He was also awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954 shortly after publication of *The Old man and The Sea*. With its simple language style but this novel a deep meaning, so many readers either the beginners or the linguist are attracted to read and analyze this novel. This novel is full of symbols, values to rise motivation, natural aspects and human values. This Research study about the optimistic symbolisms in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*, has not been analyzed yet by the previous researchers, start from this point, the research on this novel is conducted Entitled " The Optimistic Symbolisms in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea* ".

There are many moral values that can be applied to the real world especially optimistic. The values are needed very much to build a good character and these values are described in the symbols used in novel. The research objectives are to describe symbols used the novel *The Old Man The Sea* to analyze optimistic life which are reflected those symbols. Optimistic life is one of the theme among other theme which the readers interpret the content of Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* .

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Symbol

There are many elements on the novel that the reader wants to keep reading it. Symbol as one of the elements important to the reader not only to flow with the plot but also to discover the aim of the work. Theory of literature by Wellek and Warren (1977:186) states that symbol is words or other communicative things such as gesture or that stand for something else. For example; A flag is a piece of cloth which stands for (is a symbol of) a nation. A symbol has complex meaning; it has not only 'literal' meaning but also additional meaning beyond the literal meaning. Sometimes the literal meaning of symbol is absurd. A symbol may have more than one meaning. X.J Kennedy in *literature : An Introduction to fiction, poetry, and drama third edition* (1993 : 45) states that the word symbol derives from the Greek verb *symballen*, to throw together and its noun *symbolon*, 'mark' and 'sign'. Symbol is the use of the word, a phrase, or a description, which represents a deeper meaning than the words themselves. Symbol is something used for, regarded as, representing else. More specifically, a symbol is a word, phrase, or other expression having a complex of associated meaning; in this sense, symbol is viewed as having values different from those of whatever is being symbolized. Symbol, however, also indicates their own reality. For example, a cross not only stands for suffering, but also stands for Christian suffering.

There are some of symbol in various definitions by some experts, they are:

According to Wellek and Warren *Theory of Literature* (1977 : 45) state that there are kinds of symbols, they are :

1. Private Symbol

It is symbol which is usually interpret in the whole context of character in novel.

2. Conventional Symbol

It is symbol which study and which stand to mention or substitute something.

3. Natural Symbol

It is symbol which is usually interpret about nature.

According to Hartono and Rahmanto in Sobur (2006 : 157) classify symbol into three catagories, they are:

1. Universal symbol

It is symbol which deal to archetype.

2. Cultural Symbol

It is symbol which is influenced by certain culture.

3. Individual Symbol

It is symbol which is usually interpret in the whole context of a writer's work.

Symbol is one of many aspects of language which can indicate an author's style. Hemingway uses symbols to give the reader a better look and an easier understanding of what the story Is about. The use of symbolisms in his novel gives deeper meaning. The major symbols that Hemingway uses in his novel are sea as the setting of his story, the main character Santiago (the old man), Marlin (great fish) which gives a meaning to the old man, Manolin, bird, lion, Joe Di maggio, the

sun, harpoon, and shark which stand for the life. In both the sea and universe, there are a number of elements and possibilities that man has to face and experience, some are gifts to be struggled and some are problems to be defeated.

In writing, symbolisms is the use of a word, phrase, or description, which represent a deeper meaning than the words themselves. This kind of extension of meaning can transform the written word into a very powerful instrument. Symbolism occurs when the theme or emotion underlying a story. Without symbolisms a story with plot and action will get wrong. plot and action are important but too much of it leaves your story reading like a screenplay. For novel the characters have to have time just exist. The reader needs to have a chance to catch their breath.

B. The Concept of Optimistic

Optimistic is performing the life by practicing values and attitudes which is described as the characteristic of optimism. The optimist is someone who has several characteristics that bring him or her into the great life. The optimists are the ones who know that they desire and hope and believe they are able to get it successfully then they attempt to obtain it confidently and achieve it. They believe in God who is very near and present in the very pure and impulse of their hearts. Heart as the source and centre of all minds compasses all truth and converts the shadows to realities. With their spirit they can see the whole world, from this they reach their confidence and trust that can protect them from doubt and fears. A man must understand evil be acquainted with sorrow before he can write himself an optimist and expect others to believe that he has reason for the faith that is in him. With the

knowledge he can chase the evil away. Then the struggle is one of great blessing that makes them to be strong, patient and helpful men or women. The optimist will use every time and circumstances to break away the obstacle that blocks their desires. Their soul will beat glad march to every new discovery, for them every fresh victory comes over difficulties and every succes adds to human knowledge and happiness. Seligman adds that the central skill of optimism is the power of non negative thinking, it is someone's ability in changing the destructive things he says to himself when he experiences the setbacks that life deals all of him (Martine Seligman, 2006 : 15).

From the above statements about optimism, the writer sums up that optimism is a hope which is convinced to reaching what has been hoped. So the writer thinks that values of optimistic are hope, everybody's heart and mind to give him power, struggle, everything that the people want must be efforted and fought when an obstacle blocks it.

RESEARCH MEHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS

Methodology

In accomplishing this research, the writer used descriptive qualitative method. Centralized to Hancock (2009 : 7), Qualitative research is concerned with developing explanation of social phenomena. That is to say, it aims at helping us to understand the social world in which we live and why things are the way they are. It is concerned with the social aspects of our world. The method was applied by describing the data and analyzing them through some steps that related to the focus of analysis. The reason why the writer choosed this method was to explain the problem and its analysis through the theory and show the quality through the findings.

A. Source of Data

Source of data will be taken from statement that contain optimistic symbol in the novel *The Old Man and The Sea* which became main source of the analysis.

B. Technique of Collecting Data

The technique for collecting data is a way to get information that would be used in the research. Creswell (2009: 166) state that the data collection include setting the boudaries for the study, collecting information through unstructured or semistructured obsrvation.

In this study, the data is collected through documentary method by doing the following steps.

1. The writer read the novel for several time to understand the novel clearly.
2. The writer read underline the statements in order to support the analysis, like the statement that contain optimistic symbol.

C. Techniques of Analyzing the Data

The data are collected in this research must be analyzed the writer uses descriptive qualitative design. There are steps as follow.

1. Collecting the Statements from the novel the novel *The Old Man and The Sea*.
2. The Writer Underline the statements in order to support the analysis, like the statements that contain optimistic symbol.

D. Finding

After making analysis to the data got from the novel *The Old Man and The Sea*, the writer finds some finding as the Following :

1. Symbol used in the novel *The Old Man and The Sea* Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea* is rich in symbols. The relationship between values, symbol and language have strong effect. In this research the writer selects eight symbol taken from the novel. the writer consider those are the main symbols used in the novel then those symbols are categorized into Individual and Universal symbol.
 - a. Individual Symbol

Symbol which is interpreted privately, readers should interpretate the symbol based on the context where the meaning is not conventionally. It depends on the reader's ability in comprehending the story. The writer categorizes the following symbols in this category.

1. The old man as a symbol of Optimism.
2. Manolin as a symbol of Hope.
3. Di Maggio as a symbol of strong desire.
4. Bird as a symbol of Help.
5. Marlin as a symbol of struggle.
6. Shark as a symbol of destructor

b. Universal Symbol

It is a symbol which is considered previously agreed upon meaning by all people around the world because of their experiences. The writer categorizes the following symbol in this category.

1. Sea as a symbol of Universe.
2. Lion as a symbol of Strength.
2. Optimistic Reflected in Selected Symbol

After analyzing the eight symbols taken from the novel *The Old Man and The Sea* and the values of optimistic life which they reflect. Then the writer considers that all the selected symbols reflect the values of optimistic life. The following are descriptions:

- a. Values of Positive Thinking is reflected in the symbols of the old man, Manolin, Di Maggio.

1. The old man changes his pain into strong spirit and he also builds a good relationship with other creatures either human or inanimate, and positive thinking.
2. Manolin doesn't let the old man in his sadness, manolin tries to motivate the old man to get well as quickly.
3. Di Maggio has power on motivating someone who is experiencing hopeless.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

After analyzing the novel, finally writer went to the conclusion that presented as follows :

1. A symbol has complex meaning. there are many hidden meanings do it. For example the marlin represent strength, manolin represent hope and others symbol.
2. Each symbols represents diffrent things. Hemingways uses symbolisms to potray the traits of the main character in his stories.

Suggestion

There are several suggestion that writer could offer to readers towards symbolisms, they are :

1. It would be useful for the lecturers of the English Department if they use this thesis as the examples of moral values especially optimistic symbols when they are teaching about literature or other related subjects. Hopefully, students can apply moral values in their life.
2. It is for students of the English Department to make further study in analyzing symbolisms. Hopefully, it can help them when reading English novels which contain various symbols. At last, this analysis can at least be a comparison for any studies in the same field.

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