

The Concept of Symbolism through “The Old Man and the Sea”

Abdallah Yassen Abdalla Mohammed

Faculty of Language, Sudan University of Science and Technology
moezalmahi[at]yahoo.com

Abstract: Firstly, symbolism has international codes. Its wonderfulness and beauty dribbles from the diversity of human beings understanding and analysis according to environment and culture. This study believes that the connotation of symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea* is essential for sketches the real meaning of life through fictional depiction. The intensive quest for symbolism's notions in the novella results in, firstly, how can ordinary people overcome of their obstacles in life depending on available capabilities. Secondly, multiplicity and explicitness of symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea* modifies it to be one of the universal novels. Finally, symbolism enhances literature writing.

Keyword: Symbolism, marlin, skeleton, shark, sea

1. Introduction

By the opening of twenties century, very hug changes of development and revelational norms occurred. With regarding to industrialization, new life style, the rapid growth in population, the new form of life, wealth, prosperity and global conflict, it is a fact that a new and modern world was taking a shape.

Due to the global touched changes, the new artistic movement which originated strongly in Europe in the early twenties' century began to grow rapidly in the United States. Accordingly, new American generations appeared. These generations faced difficulties and problems so they persuaded themselves to change traditions, customs and created new life style. There were big struggle and revolution against social, cultural, moral, traditional and old literary movement.

Under such circumstances and throughout ages, some authors who reflect their societies thoughts and norms appear. For that, American traditions and values had been rejected from many literary writers, e.g., Gertrude Stein, F. Scott Fitzgerald, T.S Eliot, Ezra Pound, Doss passes and Ernest Hemingway.

The American novelist and Noble Prize winner Ernest Hemingway presented as one of the most famous and influential writers at that time. Hemingway established his new most well-known style around the world which is called Hemingway's style, with the best speculative and intellectual themes with new phrases.

Hemingway's unrivalled style is well-known all over the world as it comes from his broad experience with life which makes it vibrant. Hemingway's work encompasses various types of characters in age, sex, soldiers, antiwar, antifascist, bullfighters and fishermen, etc. However, Hemingway had a marvelous and elegant style and he was able to produce a well-structured literary concept in his work. One of Hemingway best styles is symbolism in his masterpiece “*The Old Man and the Sea*”.

Symbolism is very important in literature; it enhances the diversities and varieties for any work. It enriches authors' thoughts to express their ideas freely and allow the reader a chance to understand the work through different types of concepts. Multiplicity of Symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea* touches the reader's soul and minds because Hemingway prescribes it from his own real life and vast experience.

2. Literature Survey

Ernest Hemingway plays great role as a famous writer for his objective and terse prose style, beautiful and charming expressions. He teaches his companions and coming generations how to be a great writer through simple style. He used different kinds of literal and psychological theories in his style and invented new ways of language writing and theories which appeared for the first time in English and American literature such as the theory of iceberg or the theory of omission. His masterpiece “*The Old Man and the Sea*” shows that he is an influential stylist, especially in the praise of the Noble Prize Committee about his powerful style which controlling and forming mastery of the art of writing modern fiction. The novella is different in language style from other ones; for example, it is full of realistic ideas which are coming out of Hemingway's real life and experience.

3. Problem Definition

In spite of Hemingway tries to neglect the existence of symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea* by stating that there is not any symbolism. However, it emerges implicitly through the sequence of events. This study attempts to investigate and declare how does Hemingway benefit symbolism to state his own perception of life.

4. Methods /Approach

The study stands on an interpretation and psychological analysis by using descriptive analytical method for Hemingway's style specifically, symbolism through his literary work “*The Old Man and the Sea*”

Volume 11 Issue 6, June 2022

www.ijsr.net

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

It's a tool to search for relevant information through scientific and systematic approaches. In fact, research is an art on how to investigate scientifically. The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English lays down the meaning of research as "a careful investigation or inquiry specially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge." Redman and Mory define research as a "systematized effort to gain new knowledge." (C.R Kothari, 2014, p.1)

The researcher is going to show the methodology adopted in this paper. It gives an exact and detailed description on the steps taken while conducting this paper. It also gives a clear explanation of how the component of the paper methodology must be developed and presented. In addition, it shows the researcher understanding of how the component can be connected to the study. Moreover, the paper concentrates on the methodology that should be used to analyze and interpret the symbolism through the selected novel, "*The Old Man and the Sea*" for the American writer, Ernest Hemingway. The researcher chooses "*The Old Man and the Sea*" as a random sample, which explains the relation between it and the data.

The main data has been taken from the novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*, General editor: Professor A.N. Jeffares (University of Stirling) York Classic, York Press. The novel is constructed of pages. It starts at page 3 and ends at page 107. The main data has been taken from all events the novel that are related to the paper.

According to research design, technique and collecting data, the research method has been used in this study is a descriptive one. It explains the relation between the data. In addition, it is the suitable method that helps the researcher to analyze and interpret the novel. This design or technique is a documentation one that helps to collect data. The technique tries to collect data from different types of written records such as (books, articles, archives, etc.) that are related to the problem (Moleong, 1990: 113-114, 131).

While Moleong uses the term 'documentation technique', Nazir uses the term 'library technique' (Nazir, 1985: 53). Those two terms are the same but the naming is generated from different views. Moleong makes the term based on the way a researcher gets the data. The term Nazir used is based on the location where the data are collected.

In this study, the standard criteria used are *Poetics of the Novel*. The standard criteria are the restrictions of steps or guidance which are proposed by a researcher in collecting the data for his research. It is used in order to focus the research (Nazir, 1985:176). (Research, Dipa, 2006, P.15)

With regarding to technique of data analysis, after collecting data, the researcher transfers to analyzing it. As mentioned above the researcher uses descriptive analytical method to help him in analyzing, interpreting and making an accurate evaluation for the whole work. In (Dipa, 2006, research), descriptive analysis is an explanation of the relation between the data (Moleong, 1990: 6). Descriptive study basically is not just exposing data from the object of the research, but later the aim is to interpret and compare the data achieved

with the standard criteria that has been selected (Nazir, 1985: 421-422). During the writer collection of data process, he makes some notes to distinguish between the data. The notes are in the form of descriptive codes. These descriptive codes do not give interpretation but show phenomenon (Miles and Huberman, 1992: 88). At the end, the researcher explains and makes the problem of the research very clear. The problem of the research has been stated from the analyses and interpretation of the study. The descriptive code helps the researcher to write the conclusion perfectly.

In this research, the technique of analyzing data is conducted in several stages, as follows:

- a) The researcher reads the book and understands it, then begins to collect the data for analysis.
- b) The researcher collects the data from different resources such as: *The Old Man and the Sea*, references, and Internet, etc.
- c) Analyzing the data based on descriptive analysis.

Over all, this study describes the research methodology, data collection and the strategies which the researcher uses to finish his research. It reflects clearly all the procedures and processes of the research from the starting up to the end.

5. Result and Discussion

Aniela Jaffe writes a chapter about "Symbolism in the Visual Arts" in "Man and his Symbols" on page (232). The history of symbolism shows that everything can assume symbolic significance: natural objects (like stones, plants, animals, men, mountains and valleys, sun and the moon, wind, water, and fire), or man-made things like (houses, boats, or cars or even abstract forms (like numbers, or the triangle, the square, and the circle).

In fact, the whole cosmos is a potential symbol. Man, with his symbol-making propensity, unconsciously transforms objects or forms into symbols (thereby endowing them with great psychological importance) and expresses them in both his religion and his visual art. The intertwined history of religion and art, reaching back to prehistoric times, is the record that our ancestors have left of the symbols that were meaningful and moving to them. Even today, as modern painting and sculpture show, the interplay of religion and art is still alive.

5.1 The Concept of Symbolism

Despite the literal meaning of symbolism, it has emblematic meaning which makes it one of the strongest devices in literature writings for authors to express their notions and convey messages. The strength of symbolism comes from the diversity of understanding among readers according to the differences in their cultures, knowledge and situations in life. Symbolism itself can give different meanings for one symbol.

"One of the most important aspects of human life and a basic survival has always been the means of expression for mutual understanding between members of a tribal and social group. This need for communication and

development can be seen as a major factor in the growth of human civilization" (P.221) (Adrian Frutiger)

According to (Fadaee, 2011, p.20), Shaw (1881:367) presents the following definition for symbolism:

"(Symbolism is) something used for, or regarded as, representing something else. More specially, a symbol is a word, phrase, or other expression having a complex of associated meaning; in this sense, a symbol is viewed as having values different from those of whatever is being symbolized." (P.20-Paper)

5.2 Symbolism as Style in Old Man and the Sea

According to Philips, (1984, p.4), about symbolism concerns The Old Man and the Sea Hemingway says, "Then there is the other secret. There is not any symbolism (mis-spelled). The sea is the sea. The old man is an old man. The boy is a boy and the fish is a fish. The sharks are all sharks no better no worse. All the symbolism that people say is shit. What goes beyond is what you see beyond when you know." (Bernard, B. 1952, P.780)

To illustrate the above saying, Hemingway kept calling his work-The Old Man and the Sea-a larger manuscript as a result of his decades of practicing his crafts. He wrote to Charlie Scribner that the novel was "prose I have been working for all my life." It "should read easily and simply and seem short and yet has all the dimensions of the visible world and the world of man's spirit." (Wagner, 2007, 158-159)

The researcher claims, Hemingway wants to make the novel completely natural and gives a wide chance for his readers' minds and hearts to generate as many symbols as they can without restrictions to enrich the novella's concepts. He wants himself and his novella to be universal and live for long time as much as they can.

The researcher believes that, the successful writer is aware of the importance of readers' understanding of his writing. In order to make the writing meaningful and affective, the writer must build a constant relationship between characters to convey his message. In writings, symbolism used to represent something instead of another thing to create vivid meanings, streamed emotions and feelings in a story. Metaphor, allusion and simile develop the pace of symbolism. It helps the writer to correlating theme and plot.

5.2.1 The Sea

Hemingway's father Dr. Clarence Edmonds "Ed", loved outdoors life, fishing and hunting in the north Michigan woods. He was a man of nature who loved to stay outside for a long time. Hemingway fascinated by the way of his father's living style. So, from an early age, Ernest shared his father's interests. Hemingway effected in his writing later on by the developing of nature's lessons and outdoors life in his early age, which became the basis and foundation of many of his stories, such as some of the Nick Adams stories and his great novella *The Old Man and the Sea*. (Harcourt, H.)

The symbolic meaning of the sea in the novella is struggling, challenges, obstacles and long-life journey, which hinder human being to reach his success in life. Hemingway lived a very exciting life, which was full of troubles and obstacles. The sea is not only anglers' life but also a hope and a strong reason to continue their life. It is useful and helps them to get fish in order to improve their life standards. They can spend lovely time on the beach. Fishermen face by many natural factors and obstacles in the sea like weather and waves. Also, the creatures of the sea which can be very dangerous and causes their death. So that the sea is a matter of hope and death.

"He looked across the sea and knew how alone he was now. But he could see the prisms in the deep dark water and the line stretching ahead and the strange undulation of the calm. The clouds were building up now for the trade wind and he looked ahead and saw a flight of wild ducks etching themselves against the sky over the water, then blurring, then etching again and he knew no man was ever alone on the sea." (pp.48-49 Hemingway)

Sea like universe that teaches Santiago how to face his problem and be a real man who can be destroyed but not defeated. In life, men can be destroyed everywhere and every time but not defeated.

"But man is not made for defeat," he said. "A man can be destroyed but not defeated." (p.87 Hemingway)

However, at the end Santiago overcomes his all problems and wins the game by killing the shark. He represents the strong determination for a person who never gives up. Therefore, life as a count of failures lead to success.

5.2.2 The Marlin (the fish)

The marlin is a symbolic meaning of human beings struggling in their life. Santiago, an old fisherman stays for eighty-four days in the Gulf Stream without catching or taking a fish. Even his lovely boy forced by his parents to leave the old man. The boy's parents called the old man *salao* which is the worst Spanish word for unlucky people.

After great suffering of waiting, the old man catches a very great fish on ropes, but unfortunately, instead of hauls and drags the fish, Santiago pulled by it and faces by a great battle of struggling from the fish. He shows his respect and admiration to the marlin dignity. Therefore, no one deserves to eat the marlin.

"You are killing me, fish, the old man thought. But you have a right to. Never have I seen a greater, or more beautiful, or a calmer or nobler thing than you, brother. Come on and kill me. I do not care who kills who." (p.77 Hemingway)

Nevertheless, his eyes, which are the color of the sea, remains cheerful and undefeated.

"Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated." (p.3 Hemingway)

In addition, the hero does not lose his pride and courage.

"You did not kill the fish only to keep alive and to sell for food, he thought. You killed him for pride and because you are a fisherman. You loved him when he was alive and you loved him after. If you love him, it is not a sin to kill him. Or is it more?" (pp.88-89 Hemingway)

One of the most important elements in our life is to have a very good example and model to learn more from. This model can give hope to hopeless people and energy of enthusiasm.

"But I must have confidence and I must be worthy of the great DiMaggio who does all things perfectly even with the pain of the bone spur in his heel." (p.55 Hemingway)

The marlin symbolizes struggle in life that all humankind face in their life. These struggles can be poverty, different type of illnesses, bad luck or anything else. The old man knows from the first time he cannot kill the fish, so he wants to drag it to the shore but it pulls him faraway into the sea. Pulling of the fish to the old man represents life that pulls people to unknown.

"You are killing me, fish, the old man thought. But you have a right to. Never have I seen a greater, or more beautiful, or a calmer or more noble thing than you, brother. Come on and kill me. I do not care who kills who." (p.77 Hemingway)

Other quotes to support the previous idea, "My choice was to go there and find him beyond all people. Beyond all people in the world. Now we are joined together and have been since noon. And no one to help either of us." (p.39 Hemingway)

This is the second day now that I do not know the result of the judges, he thought. (p.55 Hemingway)

"It is good that we do not have to try to kill the sun or the moon or the stars. It is enough to live on the sea and kill our true brothers." (p.62 Hemingway)

In spite of his experience in the sea, which represents life's experience, the old man faces by the fish. He knows that it is very strong, has great determination and it can destroy his hope to bring him back home with nothing.

"Then the fish came alive, with his death in him, and rose high out of the water showing all his great length and width and all his power and his beauty. He seemed to hang in the air above the old man in the skiff. Then he fell into the water with a crash that sent spray over the old man and over all of the skiff." (pp.78-79 Hemingway)

Santiago struggles for the whole day to hook the huge fish. He feels not only great pain in his body, but also in his mind due to concentration and thinking.

According to quotations, "he felt very tired now and he knew the night would come soon and he tried to think of other things" (p.55 Hemingway)

"The old man made the sheet fast and jammed the tiller. Then he took up the oar with the knife lashed to it. He lifted it as lightly as he could because his hands rebelled at the pain." (p.90 Hemingway)

As people struggle and defeat challenges in their life, the old man killed the fish and won for his pride and reputation. The following quotes show the idea:

"If I were him, I would put in everything now and go until something broke. But, thank God, they are not as intelligent as we who kill them; although they are more noble and more able." (p.51 Hemingway)

"Fish, he said' I love you and respect you very much. But I will kill you dead before this day ends." (p.43 Hemingway)

"He is wonderful and strange and who knows how old he is, he thought. Never have I had such a strong fish nor one who acted so strangely... He cannot know that it is only one man against him, nor that it is an old man. But what a great fish he is and what will he bring in the market if the flesh is good." (p.38 Hemingway)

"The line rose slowly and steadily and then the surface of the ocean bulged ahead of the boat and the fish came out. He came out unendingly and water poured from his sides. He was bright in the sun and his head and back were dark purple and in the sun the stripes on his side showed wide and a light lavender. His sword was as long as a baseball bat and tapered like a rapier and he rose his full length from the water and then re-entered it, smoothly, like a diver and the old man saw the great scythe-blade of his tail go under and the line commenced to race out." (p.50 Hemingway)

At the end, the hero gains the respect of other fishermen who treat him as legend. Nobility comes through hard work in life. Life, which has been described as sword and scythe blade.

"I'll kill him thought, he said. In all his greatness and his glory. Although it is unjust, he said. But I will show him what a man can do and what a man endures." (p.53 Hemingway)

5.3 The Sharks

The sharks represent and symbolize ruin and destruction. Human beings faced by different types of sharks in their life. Of course, they are not real sharks but people who destroy and ruin others and hinder them to achieve their goals, aims and success are regarded to be sharks.

Santiago fights for many days to catch the marlin and return with it in order to have real evidence for his success and win for his dignity as a true fisherman among his colleagues. Unfortunately, the shark attacks him, destroys his dream by eating the flesh of the marlin, and let him to return with the

skeleton after a very scary battle. The old man defeats the shark but it makes him a big looser.

"The shark swung over and the old man saw his eye was not alive and then he swung over once again, wrapping himself in two loops of the rope. The old man knew that he was dead but the shark would not accept it. Then, on his back, with his tail lashing and his jaws clicking, the shark plowed over the water as a speed-boat does. The water was white where his tail beat it and three-quarters of his body was clear above the water when the rope came taut, shivered, and then snapped. The shark lay quietly for a little while on the surface and the old man watched him. Then he went down very slowly." (p.86 Hemingway)

"He took about forty pounds," the old man said aloud. He took my harpoon too and all the rope, he thought, and now my fish bleeds again and there will be others." (p.86 Hemingway)

Some people do not like to look back at their great success that ruined by others in front of their eyes. The old man hates to look back at the marlin after the shark eats it and destroys the hero's dreams. The following quote shows that meaning,

"He did not like to look at the fish anymore since he had been mutilated. When the fish had been hit it was as though he himself were hit.

But I killed the shark that hit my fish, he thought. And he was the biggest dents that I have ever seen. And God knows that I have seen big ones." (p.86 Hemingway)

On the other hand, Hemingway talks about two types of sharks, the first are the shovelhead sharks which destroyed the protagonist's or Santiago's fish. These sharks or creatures are not worthy or respect by Santiago because they can come even there is no fish or smell of blood. However, the Mako shark is respected by the hero even it symbolizes death. Hemingway talked about the critics as shoved –head shark who said that he was finished as a writer without any real production from them. While the Mako shark represents the positive side of other critics and criticism.

Also, Hemingway wants to drag his readers' attention that destructive people in life are too many like the shove- head sharks while the supporters are very few like the only Mako shark.

Mako's shark comes first, the old man shows his respect and admiration for it in spite of eating a piece of his fish. Even he uses the pronouns him and his for this creature. Santiago reflects:

"He was a very big Mako shark built to swim as fast as the fastest fish in the sea and everything about him was beautiful except his jaws." (p.84 Hemingway)

The following quote about the shoveled-head sharks that the old man shows no respect.

"They were hateful sharks, bad smelling, scavengers as well as killers, and when they were hungry, they would

bite at an oar or the rudder of a boat. It was these sharks that would cut the turtles' legs and flippers off when the turtles were asleep on the surface, and they would hit a man in the water, if they were hungry, even if the man had no smell of fish blood nor of fish slime on him." (p.91 Hemingway)

During the war, Hemingway fictional writing was very poor with several setbacks and failures. In 1948, he met a 19-year-old Italian girl named Adriana Ivancich. His love to Adriana inspired him his fictional novel *Across the River and Into the Tree*. As an author, he enjoyed one of the most prolific writing periods of his career. (pp.14-15 Andrew Quick-Writer and Director)

The researcher argues that, after Second World War, the world waited Hemingway to write another well-known and finest novel emerged from the war as he wrote *A Farewell to Arms* after the First World War. The world expected Hemingway's second fictional novel war writing due to his wide experience in war as a correspondent in the Second World War and shared in the First World War. A man who says, "Real war is never like paper war, nor do accounts of it read much the way it looks." (P.16 www)

Reversed to all exceptions, he wrote *Across the River and Into the Trees* which disapproved by many critics. As a researcher to present different point of views, Isaac Rosenfeld, an American critic and novelist writes; it is not enough to say that 'Across the River and Into the Trees' is a bad novel, which nearly everyone has said. Such judgments fail to go deep; they make an artificial separation between Hemingway the man and the artist and attribute to the former. (P.296 *The Critical Heritage*)

To conclude, as usual, war eliminates and eradicates everything, as the World War I did and came up with new Great War writers like Hemingway; also, the Second World War did the same as before. It emerged with new Great War writers but unfortunately, Hemingway was not one of them. Actually, Hemingway did not want to plunge himself in war's writing due to his sensitive political position and his wide reputation as a writer. During 40s, Hemingway found it very difficult to fill his previous reputation, talent and celebrity and his fortune went into critical decline after *For Whom the Bell Tolls* until the coming of *The Old Man and the Sea*.

5.4 The Skeleton

The skeleton symbolizes Santiago and his indestructible and everlasting persistence. At the end, Santiago finishes his great fighting with the sharks after they eat all the marlin's meat until they don't find anything to eat. Finally, he returns back with the skeleton and the tail of the fish lashed aside his boat. He spends great effort and extra energy to reach his shack because he is too tired and has to carry the mass on his shoulder.

The skeleton appears for the ordinary people as nonsenses and not useful because it hasn't flesh. On the other hand, it can be a connotation as bones for strength, eternity and everlasting in both human beings and animals. Skeleton

symbolizes Santiago's indestructible and everlasting persistence against sharks as same as human do in their really life. Sometimes people do not satisfy with their achievements even they are great as Santiago does. The sharks want to take his dream as an angler and the only evidence for his struggle and success. In addition, he is very sad because he thinks that he does not protect his dream as an achievement. When people do great things in their life, they take a rest in order to prepare themselves for the coming challenges. The coming quote talks about this issue,

"He was asleep when the boy looked in the door in the morning. It was blowing so hard that the drifting-boats would not be going out and the boy had slept late and then come to the old man's shack as he had come each morning. The boy saw that the old man was breathing and then he saw the old man's hands and he started to cry. He went out very quietly to go to bring some coffee and all the way down the road he was crying. Many fishermen were around the skiff looking at what was lashed beside it and one was in the water, his trousers rolled up, measuring the skeleton with a length of line."(p.103 Hemingway)

In real life people come across faithful supports who appreciate their work even they do not know anything about them, which can be a great motivation for more and more successes and achievements. Santiago's appreciation does not come from his near fishermen but from the tourists.

"That afternoon there was a party of tourists at the Terrace and looking down in the water among the empty beer cans and dead barracudas a woman saw a great long white spine with a huge tail at the end that lifted and swung with the tide while the east wind blew a heavy steady sea outside the entrance to the harbor."(p.107 Hemingway)

"What's that?" she asked a waiter and pointed to the long backbone of the great fish that was now just garbage waiting to go out with the tide. "Tiburón," the waiter said. "Shark." He was meaning to explain what had happened. (p.107 Hemingway)

"I didn't know sharks had such handsome, beautifully formed tails." "I didn't either," her male companion said." (p.107 Hemingway)

5.5 The Lion

Lions symbolize strength in reality but according to the old man, it can be a symbolism for strength and youth. At the beginning of his battle, he never dreams of anything even his lovely boy. Instead, he dreams of lions in order to feel energy, win and protect his lovely people and things.

"He no longer dreamed of storms, nor of women, nor of great occurrences, nor of great fish, nor fights, nor contests of strength, nor of his wife. He only dreamed of places now and of the lions on the beach. They played like young cats in the dusk and he loved them as he

loved the boy. He never dreamed about the boy"(p.17 Hemingway)

Firstly, the old man dreams of his lovely places in his childhood even in this critical situation that shows his faithfulness and loyalty. He wants to be calm in order to face his danger.

"He did not dream of the lions but instead of a vast school of porpoises that stretched for eight or ten miles and it was in the time of their mating and they would leap high into the air and return into the same hole they had made in the water when they leaped." (p.67 Hemingway)

"Then he dreamed that he was in the village on his bed and there was a northern and he was very cold and his right arm was asleep because his head had rested on it instead of a pillow." (p.67 Hemingway)

Then, the old man dreams with the lion in the middle of his fighting and struggling which means that an era between childhood and ageing. The old man also dreams of lions those in his consciousness mind and flash back to his early life. He was happy for his dreaming of lions to keep his resistance.

"After that he began to dream of the long yellow beach and he saw the first of the lions come down onto it in the early dark and then the other lions came and he rested his chin on the wood of the bows where the ship lay anchored with the evening off-shore breeze and he waited to see if there would be more lions and he was happy." (p.67 Hemingway)

At the end of the novella Hemingway repeats the old man dream of lions which shows that Santiago still struggles and fights for his rights in life. He will never stop unless he wins the marlin which represents his achievements in life. A man must keep grace under pressure.

"Up the road, in his shack, the old man was sleeping again. He was still sleeping on his face and the boy was sitting by him watching him. The old man was dreaming about the lions."(p.107 Hemingway)

5.6 The Birds

Birds are symbolic meaning which represent gifts and helps from God to people in general and specially fishermen in the sea. All the time, birds help fishermen to find their ways and needs in seas. The old man treats the sea creatures as his friends specially the birds. Hemingway wants to show the relations between people in real life.

"A small bird came toward the skiff from the north. He was a warbler and flying very low over the water. The old man could see that he was very tired. The bird made the stern of the boat and rested there. Then he flew around the old man's head and rested on the line where he was more comfortable. "How old are you?" the old man asked the bird. "Is this your first

trip?"The bird looked at him when he spoke. He was too tired even to examine the line and he teetered on it as his delicate feet gripped it fast." (p.43 Hemingway)

Santiago knows from the movement of the birds about his marlin and fixes its place. He believes that God helps him all the time and this reflects the Christian point of view for Hemingway. He reflects what most of humankind for the sake of their God.

"He watched the flying fish burst out again and again and the ineffectual movements of the bird. That school has gotten away from me, he thought. They are moving out too fast and too far. But perhaps I will pick up a stray and perhaps my big fish is around them. My big fish must be somewhere." (p.25 Hemingway)

"The bird is a great help," the old man said. Just then the stern line came taut under his foot, where he had kept a loop of the line, and he dropped his oars and felt the weight of the small tuna's shivering pull as he held the line firm and commenced to haul it in. The shivering increased as he pulled in and he could see the blue back of the fish in the water and the gold of his sides before he swung him over the side and into the boat."(pp.28-29 Hemingway)

6. Conclusion

The researcher claims that *The Old Man and the sea* is rich of symbolism. Hemingway uses the symbolism in *The Old Man and the sea* implicitly in order to create a universal novella. The globalism of his novella stands out from the personal and own readers' understanding for the novel according to their personal situations in life and psychological point of views.

With regarding to *The Old Man and the Sea*, despite the literal meaning of symbolism, it has emblematic meaning which make it one of the strongest devices in literature writings for authors to express their notions and convey messages. Hemingway's masterpiece *The Old Man and the Sea* declares his mastery of writings in Literature specially the use of symbolism.

The real concept meaning of symbolism clarifies in this novella due to Hemingway's craft in writing and how he portrays symbolism through real situations in life. The novella gives hope for hapless people to achieve success and learn new aspects in reality.

7. Future Scope

There are not many studies discuss the concept of symbolism and the perception of Hemingway in *The Old Man and the Sea*. However, the researcher wants to focus on this area to manifest the concept of symbolism to be explicit. This study endeavors to open a wide pass for coming researchers to fabricate more investigation and discussion for the notion of symbolism through *The Old Man and the Sea*. The limitation of this study is an interpretation and analysis of Hemingway's characteristics style with reference to his novel "*The Old Man and the Sea*".

References

- [1] Adrian. (1989): Signs and Symbolism Their Design and Meaning
- [2] Debra A. M., (2013). Ernest Hemingway in Context. Cambridge University Press.
- [3] Fadaee, E. (2011): A case study of "Animal Farm". *Journal of English and Literature*, Vol. 2(2) pp. 19-27, February 2011 Available online <http://www.academicjournals.org/ijel>
- [4] Harcourt, H. (n/d). Ernest Hemingway Biography. Retrieved from <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/o/the-old-man-and-the-sea/ernest-hemingway-biography>. Accessed on 28/5/2022
- [5] Jeffares, A.N. (n/d). *The Old Man and the Sea*, General Editor. York Press.
- [6] Jung, C., Franz, V., Henderson, J., Jacobi, J. & Jaffe, A. (1964). *Man and his Symbols*. Ferguson Publishing.
- [7] Linda, W-M. (2007). *A literary Life*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- [8] Meyers, J. (1982). Ernest Hemingway the Critical Heritage. British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data.
- [9] Miller, D. (2017). [WRITING THE WAR NORMANDY BEACHES • BAYEUX • PARIS • AACHEN REIMS • SAINT-MALO In the Footsteps of WWII Correspondents].
- [10] Philips, L. (1984). *Ernest Hemingway on Writing*. Simon Schluter.
- [11] Quick, A (n/d). Notes on Staging the Page: A Dramaturgical Approach to a Farewell to Arms. Available on http://www.imitatingthedog.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/AFTA_Learning_Resource_Pack_web.pdf. Accessed on 25/5/2022.

Author Profile



Moez Almahi Mohammed Khalil was born in Sudan. He is currently working as an instructor at King Saud University, Common First Year, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He has master degree in Applied Linguistics from Nile Valley University, Sudan. Right now, he is pursuing PhD at Sudan University of Science and Technology, Sudan. In free time he like hiking and walking. He is good at computer.



Abdalla Yassen Abdalla Mohammed was born in Sudan. Currently, he is working as an associate professor at Sudan University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Language, Sudan. He has master degree in Applied Linguistics from London University, United Kingdom. In addition he is PhD holder in Applied Linguistics from Khartoum University, Sudan.