

# The Notion of Heroism through the Old Man and the Sea

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**Abstract:** *The notion of heroism in literature has been changed from time to time according to acceptance and development of societies. In spite of its globalism, it can be differed from country to another country and from society to another. In the past, people thought that heroism stood for male, noble and high-class members in societies. Nowadays it can stand for normal and ordinary people. The notion and theory of heroism about ordinary people to be heroes, distinguished from Hemingway's era especially through his novella, The Old man and the Sea. Even female can represent the concept of heroism but Hemingway has many psychological and intellectual problems with women. Hemingway is a great author who adds new thought and conception of life through his new perception of heroism. This study finds out that, hard work, faithful and truthful life leads to success and goals' achievement among all classes of human beings. Human beings must live for various goals in their life, if they miss some they can succeed in others. Life is a matter of persistence forever.*

**Keywords:** heroism, bravery, faith, preference, dignity

## 1.Introduction

Hemingway through his great novella, *The Old Man and the Sea*, changes the motif of heroism from abnormal people to ordinary ones. Hemingway's hero doesn't care of fame or to be known by his society. In the novella, Hemingway presents an old ordinary fisherman to be his protagonist. The old man struggles, fights and bears pain as many people do in real life. He stands up to the end without being defeated.

Dr. Gerald Lucas writes about *The Hemingway Code Hero*, "The Hemingway man was a man's man. He was a man involved in a great deal of drinking. He was a man who moved from one love affair to another, who participated in wild game hunting, who enjoyed bullfights, who was involved in all of the so-called manly activities, which the typical American male did not participate in.

Hemingway defined the Code Hero as a "man who lives correctly, following the ideals of honor, courage and endurance in a world that is sometimes chaotic, often stressful, and always painful."

The Code Hero measures himself by how well he handles the difficult situations that life throws at him. In the end the Code Hero will lose because we are all mortal, but the true measure is how a person faces death. The Code Hero believes in nothing. Along with this, there is no after life.

The Code Hero is typically an individualist and free-willed. Although he believes in the ideals of courage and honor he has his own set of morals and principles based on his beliefs in honor, courage and endurance. A code hero never shows emotions; showing emotions and having a commitment to women shows weakness. Qualities such as bravery, adventurousness, and travel also define the code hero.

A final trait of the code hero is his dislike of the dark. It symbolizes death and is a source of fear for him. The rite of manhood for the code hero is facing death. However, once he faces death bravely and becomes a man he must continue the struggle and constantly prove himself to retain his manhood." (Gerald Lucas, Online article)

The researcher argues that, in Hemingway all novels, especially *The Old Man and the Sea*, his heroes are very ordinary people in their societies like his protagonist Santiago. A quote from *The Old Man and the Sea* enhances this idea,

"The old man was thin and gaunt with deep wrinkles in the back of his neck. The brown blotches of the benevolent skin cancer the sun brings from its reflection of the tropic sea were on his cheeks. The blotches ran well down the sides of his face and his hands have the deep-creased scars from handling heavy fish on the cords. But none of these scars were fresh. They were as old as erosions in a fishless desert." (Hemingway, 1988, p.3)

Another quote from the same book,

"Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same colour as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated." (Hemingway, 1988, P.3)

Santiago faces many difficulties in his fishing life, but he struggles and overcomes his harsh circumstances up to the end due to Hemingway's code hero which he mentions at the end of the novel,

'But man is not made for defeat, ' he said. 'A man can be destroyed but not defeated. ' (Hemingway, 1988, P.87)

To conclude, among Hemingway's elegant and marvelous styles, one of the most touched styles in *The Old Man and the Sea* is heroism. The importance and uniqueness of this

style emerged from Hemingway's real-life adventures. It depends on ordinary heroes who face their fates bravely. Hemingway through his hero Santiago in *The Old Man and the Sea*, gives hope for hopeless people in order to create a real and new society according to his own perception.

One of the most essential pillars in literature art is heroism. It awards any work its verities and differences. It enhances thoughts of both, authors and readers. It enriches and garnishes authors' thoughts and ideas and moreover, it gives readers a real chance to project themselves in the novel and generate new conception of heroism. Diversities of heroism in *The Old Man and the Sea* touches the readers' soul and minds because it comes from the great American author Hemingway who presented himself as a real hero in his life. Linda Wagner-Martin in an introduction to her reference, A Historical Guide to Ernest Hemingway, writes: "Despite Hemingway reputation in classrooms, his reader at large new how central-and yet how unique-this American writer was. Not only had he given our literature a dozen of its recurring touchstones for moving, even stirring, portraits of human interaction in life, but his stylistic influence had helped to create an entire genre, the laconic, hard-boiled mystery and/ or detective novel." (Linda Wagner, p.7)

## 2.Literature Survey

The researcher claims, Hemingway was affected by the great events which happened during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the vast shifting of all aspects of life from late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and during 20<sup>th</sup> Century. So, Hemingway wrote about different features of 20<sup>th</sup> Century like war, nature, death, love and adventure.

An essential point of view about the great changes occurs in twentieth century which affect literature and authors at that time and direct their thoughts, an article about 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Literature for the academic journal; literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century refers specially to world literature production during 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1901-2000). Technological advances during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century give a great chance for cheaper books, resulting in significant rise in production of popular literature and trivial literature, comparable to the similar developments in music. Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, electronic literature developed rapidly due to the development of hypertext and later the World Wide Web. The Noble Prize in Literature was awarded annually throughout the century with the exception of some years. (One line article)

Hemingway series of evoke, subtle and brilliant modern style which appeared in his books; announced that he became a hallmark. An author who was thinking all the time about breaking the rules of writing and producing brand new style. No doubt that, the world received a skillful, talented and brilliant author who represented the generation era of his time and some of coming decades.

Among Hemingway's all books, *The Old Man and the Sea* is the be stone, especially, heroism style which represents his character and real life. The style of Hemingway has been developed from 20<sup>th</sup> era up to 50<sup>th</sup>-with some minor

failures-when he reaches to the peak through his great novella, *The Old Man and the sea*. Accordingly, he deserved to be one of The Noble Prize Winners. Under the title, The Noble Prize in Literature 1954-Summary: "The Nobel Prize in Literature 1954 was awarded to Ernest Miller Hemingway "for his mastery of the art of narrative, most recently demonstrated in *The Old Man and the Sea*, and for the influence that he has exerted on contemporary style." (Online article)

## 3.Problem Definition

Hemingway successes in changing the concept of heroism from high class people to ordinary ones through his real hero "Santiago" in *The Old Man and the Sea*. He changes the notions about bravery, courage, faith, perseverance, dignity, etc." This study attempts to investigate and search how does Hemingway persuade the reader about the notion of heroism according to his own perception of life. He struggles to persuade others with his notion of heroism not only through *The Old Man and the Sea*, but also it comes from Hemingway's as a real character of hero in his life.

## 4.Methodology / Approach

### 4.1 Introduction

The study stands on analysis and interpretation which depends on descriptive analytical method for Hemingway's style specifically, Notion of Heroism through his best literary work "*The Old Man and the Sea*"

Yogesh Kumar Singh writes in his reference, Fundamental of Research Methodology and Statistics "Actually research is simply the process of arriving as dependable solution to a problem through the planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Research is the most important process for advancing knowledge for promoting progress and to enable man to relate more effectively to his environment to accomplish his purpose and to resolve his conflicts. Although it is not the only way, it is one of the more effective ways of solving scientific problems." (Yogesh, K, S, 2006, p.1)

In a reference titled under Introduction to Research Methodology, Dr Kinga Lampek, college professor shared other professors and doctors their introduction under SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE, she argues that, "Humans are rational creatures; their actions are more or less knowingly structured. However, everyday decisions do not always need explanations, opinions do not necessarily require justifications and the sources of knowledge are rarely documented. Information is acquired in two basic ways in everyday life: one is direct experience with subjective impressions while the other one happens when knowledge from others is accepted, which means that this kind of obtaining knowledge is based on consensus. The first method is called empirical reality, while the latter is called consensual reality. (Babbie, 2008)

Nevertheless, rationality, logical argument and the use of well-grounded claims are indispensable in study, work and especially in scientific activities. In scientific cognition the

goal is finding the objective and proven knowledge, which is often a rather difficult task. The solution is provided by scientific research methods as from a scientific perspective a statement is only acceptable if it is regarded both logically and empirically proven.” (Kinga, Lampec, 2015, p.8)

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

#### 4.2 Data Resources

##### 4.2.1. Main data:

The main data has been taken from the novella, *The Old Man and the Sea*, General editor: Professor A. N. Jeffares (University of Stirling) York Classic, York Press. Libraire du Liban 1988. Reprinted 2015. The novella is constructed of 145 pages. It starts from page 3 up to page 107. The main data has been taken from the novel events that are related to the study.

##### 4.2.2. Supporting data:

The supporting data includes all pieces of information that the researcher depends on while he is analyzing and interpreting the novella. All kinds of data and information will be analyzed is relevant to the researcher's study under the paper title, “The Notion of Heroism through *The Old Man and the Sea*.”

#### 4.3 Research design, technique and collecting data

In this study, the researcher used the descriptive analytical method. It explains the relation between the data. It is the suitable method that helps the researcher to analyze and interpret the novel.

According to Dipa Nugraha Suyitno research, “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). (Dipa, 2006, P.15)

#### 4.4 Technique of Data Analysis

First of all, the researcher collects the data and then he transfers for analyzing and interpretation. As mentioned above the researcher used descriptive analytical method to help him in analyzing, interpreting and making an accurate evaluation for the whole study. In Dipa Nugraha Suyitno 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). The writer during collecting data process 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 Huber man, 1992: 88).”

The scientific procedures of the study methodology, helps the researcher to make analysis and interpretation of this work very clear.

##### 4.4.1 Technique of Analyzing Data:

In this study, the technique of analyzing data is conducted by the researcher through five stages, as follows:

- 1)The researcher reads “*The Old Man and the Sea*” and understands it, then begins to collect the data for analysis.
- 2)The researcher collects the data from different sources such as: *The Old Man and the Sea*, references, Internet, etc.
- 3)Analyzing and interpreting the data on relation to the context of the novel when certain actions occur.
- 4)The researcher uses the context of the novel to cover most of the situations with regarding to *The Notion of Heroism through The Old Man and the sea*.
- 5)Analysis and interpretation of the data based on descriptive analytical method.

To sum up, this part describes the study methodology, data collection and the strategies which the researcher uses to accomplish his study. It reflects clearly all the procedures and processes of the study from the starting up to the ending.

## 5.Results and Discussion

### 5.1 The Concept of Heroism

(Longstaffe, 2004, 7) in her reference, *Heroism and Passion in Literature*: “perhaps we should begin with some definition, even if these have to be modified, refined, or indeed rejected later. According to Concise Oxford Dictionary, 'heroism' means 'heroic conduct or qualities'. 'Hero' is defined firstly, in connection with 'Greek

Antiquity', as a man of superhuman qualities, favored by the gods', or a 'demi gods'. Secondly, it may mean an 'illustrious warrior'. In addition, it can signify a 'man admired for achievements and noble qualities, ' or it may refer to the 'chief male character in poem, play, or story.'" (Monya Longstaffe, p.7)

The definition of heroism in The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language in 2022, by HarperCollins Publishers: "A person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, specially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life." (Hopkins and Putnam, 1993, p.3), by the way, there is a very big relation between heroism and adventure due to high risk by heroes. Heroism can be physical or spiritual. Wilfred Noyce in his definition of adventure, mentioned many types of it and how can developed our personal growth and motivation. At the end of his definition he says, "We reveal in a mastery of ourselves which give an impression that we are masters of our world. In a word we are men, and when man cease to do these things, he is no longer man." (David Hopkins and Roger Putnam, p.3)

## 5.2 Heroism as Style in The Old Man and the Sea

Moya Long Staffe writes in her book "Heroism and Passion in Literature", "Must we conclude then that 'heroism' and 'passion' are irrelevant concepts in today's high-tech world? The answer is surely an unambiguous 'no', as a moment's reflection will demonstrate. Although, as I have tried to illustrate, the linguistic terms expressing such notions are generally devalued, the values behind them most certainly are not. An alternative, contemporary, definition of 'heroism' to the ones given by the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* might read: 'an act of courage or bravery beyond the capacity of most ordinary people; an action in which an individual, through extraordinary efforts extends himself/herself -physically, mentally, or in some other way - so far that admiration or wonder are produced in others.'" (Moya, 2004)

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Debata writes in his volume "Theme of Heroism in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*" (Pradeep, p.368): "Hemingway's heroes make a breakthrough in the connotation and transcend the traditional function of heroes. 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."

The researcher classifies the types of heroism according to the Dr. Pradeep's definition: Courage, Bravery, Faith, Perseverance, and Dignity.

### 5.2.1 Courage and Bravery

Santiago's courage and bravery appear when he fishes for eighty-four days without catching a fish. Fishermen made fun of him as an old man without luck; he still gets up every morning in order to catch a fish. His courage and bravery appear when he faces an ignorant society which leaves him alone and without friends. The fishermen fear

to be touched by his lack ness of success and unlucky as well. Even Manolin (the boy), his parents force him to leave the old man because he is 'salao' which is the worst form of unlucky. The old man lives very great isolation among his society and on the sea.

Santiago's courage and bravery appear when he hooks a very big marlin and endures three days catching it. Moreover, he faces dangerous sharks. Also, his courage and bravery appear in his strong determination and will to reach his purpose and aim. He believes that one day he will success and become a lucky fisherman. The old man courage and bravery endure him to face the ignorant society and later on the big marlin and the sharks. Courage and bravery help human beings to face diversity sequential hardship of life.

In addition, the old man shows his courage and bravery through his battle with the marlin. He fights for survival in order to be or not to be. He becomes very tired in addition to his physical weakness as an old man. He continues struggling up to the end, depending on his inner strength. It's clear that his persistence is insuperable.

*So he did it. It was difficult in the dark and once the fish made a surge that pulled him down on his face and made a cut below his eye. The blood ran down his cheek a little way. But it coagulated and dried before it reached his chin and he worked his way back to the bow and rested against the wood. He adjusted the sack and carefully worked the line so that it came across a new part of his shoulders and, holding it anchored with his shoulders, he carefully felt the pull of the fish and then felt with his hand the progress of the skiff through the water.* (Hemingway, 1988, p.41)

The concept of courage and bravery can be changed from era to another era or from culture to another culture or society to another. When the old man faces the fish and depends on his pure strength, he loses the fight.

*But when he put all of his effort on, starting it well out before the fish came alongside and pulling with all his strength, the fish pulled part way over and then righted himself and swam away.* (Hemingway, 1988, p.76)

Hemingway's concept about courage and bravery is very clear; if people want to survive, they must change the way of their thinking and alternatives to face their problems. Now, the old man uses his thoughts intelligence and cunning more than strength to fight the fish.

*Now I will rest an hour more and feel that he is solid and steady before I move back to the stern to do the work and make the decision. In the meantime, I can see how he acts and if he shows any changes. The oars are a good trick; but it has reached the time to play for safety. He is much fish still and I saw that the hook was in the corner of his mouth and he has kept his mouth tight shut.* (Hemingway, 1988, p.77)

Moreover, the old man realizes on his skills more than his strength,

"I may not be as strong as I think," the old man said. "But I know many tricks and I have resolution." (Hemingway, 1988, p.15)

### 5.2.2 Faith

Faith is very essential in humans' life. It gives supernatural power for success and achievement. The researcher classifies faith into three parts. The first part is a religious faith, the second is the faith and confidence in ourselves, and the third is recall through others.

The religious faith inherited in humans even if they don't declare it, especially in dilemmas and problems. Santiago claims that, he is not religious but before he kills the fish he prays to God and the Virgin Mary for success. Hemingway always drags his reader's attention to the three principals of the Christian's virtues, 'faith', 'hope', and 'love'. "God let him jump," the old man said. "I have enough line to handle him." (Hemingway, 1988, p.42)

Another quote about believing in God, "You're feeling it now, fish," he said. "And so, God knows, am I." (Hemingway, 1988, p.44)

In addition, "God help me to have the cramp go," he said. "Because I do not know what the fish is going to do." (Hemingway, 1988, p.73)

Moreover, the old man promises if he catches the marlin, he'll make a pilgrimage to the shrine of the Virgin de Cobre.

"I am not religious," he said. "But I will say ten Our 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." (Hemingway, 1988, p.52)

The second type of faith is the self-confidence. In difficulties, people depend on themselves to solve problems especially when they are alone. In spite of his weakness as an old man and loneliness, he returns back to his youth when he was physically, mentally, and spiritually strong. He defeated the negro who set a good example as a strong and undefeated person. The protagonist thinks the battle with the marlin is paralleled to his battle with the negro. As he defeated the black man in Casablanca, he'll defeat the marlin.

"As the sun set he remembered, to give himself more confidence, the time in the tavern at Casablanca when he had played the hand game with the great negro from Cienfuegos who was the strongest man on the docks. They had gone one day and one night with their elbows on a chalk line on the table and their forearms straight up and their hands gripped tight. Each one was trying to force the other's hand down onto the table. There was much betting and people went in and out of the room under the kerosene lights and he had looked at the arm and hand of the negro and at the negro's face. They changed the referees every four hours after the first eight so that the referees could sleep. Blood came out from under the fingernails of both

his and the negro's hands and they looked each other in the eye and at their hands and forearms and the bettors went in and out of the room and sat on high chairs against the wall and watched. The walls were painted bright blue and were of wood and the lamps threw their shadows against them. The negro's shadow was huge and it moved on the wall as the breeze moved the lamps." (Hemingway, 1988, p.56)

The old man describes and addresses himself as 'strange old man' which means that he's unique and individual. He's completely different from other fishermen and members of his society, so he's alone all the time. According to the quote,

"I told the boy I was a strange old man," he said. "Now is when I must prove it." (Hemingway, 1988, p.53)

Another quote,

"I am a strange old man." (Hemingway, 1988, p.7)

The third source for the old man faith and self-confidence is to recall others who gives him strength to continue his battle with the marlin. The old man loves the boy very much; he treats him like his son and student. Even the boy's parents separated him from his master, but still, he has strong relationship with the old man. The boy may be weak towards a battle like this, but the old man recalls him because he wants someone to witness for his great doing and also, he trusts on the boy. May he recall him as a spiritual power and to share him his experience. His isolation from the others never late him to feel a full loneliness.

Then he said aloud, "I wish I had the boy. To help me and to see this." (Hemingway, 1988, p.37)

Aloud he said, "I wish I had the boy."

But you haven't got the boy, he thought. You have only yourself and you had better work back to the last line now, in the dark or not in the dark, and cut it away and hook up the two reserve coils. (Hemingway, 1988, p.41)

I cannot be too far out now, he thought. I hope no one has been too worried. There is only the boy to worry, of course. But I am sure he would have confidence. Many of the older fishermen will worry. Many others too, he thought. I live in a good town. (Hemingway, 1988, p.97)

The old man has strength by recalling Joe DiMaggio who makes the difference in his lovely New York Yankees team. During catching the fish, the old man remembers DiMaggio with title 'great'. He wants to achieve his aims as DiMaggio did with his team in spite of his injuries. Baseball is a national sport in America, so Hemingway wants to drags his reader's attention to nation and nationality. Even a person is far from his country, he still loves and remembers it and his love is developing and be greater and greater with time.

This is the second day now that I do not know the result of the juegos, he thought. 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.

*What is a bone spur? he asked himself. (Hemingway, 1988, p.55)*

In spite of faith strength, sometimes luck can be great helper for someone to achieve his goals. Luck can be different from time to time, situation to another situation, even from place to another place and person to another.

*Luck is a thing that comes in many forms and who can recognize her?" (Hemingway, 1988, p.99)*

The boy wishes for his master a good luck because he believes in his master's luck. Both of them believe in the number "Eighty-five" as a religious concept.

*"Eighty-five is a lucky number," the old man said. "How would you like to see me bring one in that dressed out over a thousand pounds?" The old man's prediction does eventually come true - before it goes horribly wrong. Does this confirm or reject his claim that eighty-five is lucky? (Hemingway, 1988, p.9)*

The old man doesn't depend on luck as a fundamental thing. He prepares himself to be ready when it comes. He does his craft as he was born to do it perfectly, seriously and beautifully.

*"Only I have no luck any more. But who knows? Maybe today. Every day is a new day. It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes you are ready." (Hemingway, 1988, p.23)*

### 5.2.3 Perseverance

Perseverance is an essential element in our life specially during disappointment, failure or delaying in achieving goals. Human beings need support particularly when they encounter difficulties in order to success and obtaining their aims. Despite of the old man individuality, readers observe that from the hasten of the novella actions that Santiago is a perseverant man. From the start of the novella, Santiago is a lonely old man without children or wife. His society in the small village is very sarcastic. It laughs and rejects him as unlucky fisherman.

Eighty-four days past without catching a fish, but the protagonist doesn't lose hope. He still believes that the coming day is the best. His perseverance and patience appear when he goes for fishing day after day without disappointment until he catches a big fish as a trophy for his patience and perseverance.

*I could just drift, he thought, and sleep and put a bight of line around my toe to wake me. But today is eighty-five days and I should fish the day well. (Hemingway, 1988, p.31)*

*Just then, watching his lines, he saw one of the projecting green sticks dip sharply.*

*"Yes," he said. "Yes," and shipped his oars without bumping the boat. (Hemingway, 1988, p.31)*

Sometimes, people think that their goals are more difficult to achieve but, if they put confidence and perseverance in themselves, they will reach to their aims. Santiago compares himself with the beast, but he thinks the marlin strength is better than him. He recognizes that the marlin endurance and perseverance is equal to him. Fortunately, Santiago has strong perseverance and gives readers a lesson that human beings have different abilities and different types of means to win.

*"Fish," he said softly, aloud, "I'll stay with you until I am dead." He'll stay with me too, I suppose, the old man thought and he waited for it to be light. (Hemingway, 1988, p.41)*

The old man compares the fish as strange creature to himself. They're strange in their unrivaled abilities to endure beyond reality. So, if he wins it will be worthy and deserved.

*"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." (Hemingway, 1988, p.55)*

Santiago's determination changes from level to another upper level according to the climax and acceleration of events.

*But he seems calm, he thought, and following his plan. But what is his plan, he thought. And what is mine? Mine I must improvise to his because of his great size. If he will jump I can kill him. But he stays down forever. Then I will stay down with him forever. (Hemingway, 1988, p.48)*

Sometimes, weakness can be appeared and the perseverance also can be touched by obstacles. In the coming quotes the old man thinks beats are better in their endurance and ability comparing to human beings.

*Man is not much beside the great birds and beasts. Still I would rather be that beast down there in the darkness of the sea. (Hemingway, 1988, p.55)*

Santiago doesn't lose hope. He feels weakness and lack perseverance in his body, but he changes and depends in his mental determination.

*"What kind of a hand is that, " he said. "Cramp then if you want. Make yourself into a claw. It will do you no good." (Hemingway, 1988, p.46)*

At end, the old man wins his battle with the fish but unfortunately the sharks appear as unbalanced power comparing to weak and lonely old man. In spite of his great appointment and useless hope to win, the old man still fights for his dignity and gives hope to hopeless people. Hemingway wants to tell his readers to fight for their aims, continuing life for success and goal preservation up the end.

*The shark was not an accident. He had come up from deep down in the water as the dark cloud of blood had settled*

and dispersed in the mile deep sea He had come up so fast and absolutely without caution that he broke the surface of the blue water and was in the sun. Then he fell back into the sea and picked up the scent and started swimming on the course the skiff and the fish had taken. (Hemingway, 1988, pp.83 & 84)

The old man's head was clear and good now and he was full of resolution, but he had little hope. (Hemingway, 1988, p.85) "Fight them, " he said. "I'll fight them until I die." (Hemingway, 1988, p.98)

Towards the ending, Santiago never dreams of the fish, the sharks or even his lovely boy, but he dreams of lions. Dreaming of lions means that he accomplishes and achieves his goals with great success according to his own concept of life. His determination and perseverance are still unbeaten.

The thousand times that he had proved it meant nothing. Now he was proving it again. Each time was a new time and he never thought about the past when he was doing it. I wish he'd sleep and I could sleep and dream about the lions, he thought. Why are the lions the main thing that is left? (Hemingway, 1988, pp.53 & 54)

"He no longer dreamed of storms, or of women, or of great occurrences, or 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. He simply woke, looked out the open door at the moon and unrolled his trousers and put them on" (Hemingway, 1988, p.17)

#### 5.2.4 Dignity

According to Cambridge dictionary, dignity is the importance and value that a person has, that makes other people respect them or makes them respect themselves. Moreover, calm, serious, and controlled behaviour that makes people respect you. (Online, Cambridge Dictionary)

From the opening of the novella, the old man shows his dignity and respect to himself. Santiago and the boy sat on the Terrance and many fishermen were sad for him and made fun because he didn't catch a fish for eighty-four days. Even the old man hasn't something to eat, he doesn't accept food from the boy. He prefers to be hungry than losing his dignity. Finally, he accepts the boy's offer because he loves and respects him too much.

"May I get the sardines? I know where I can get four baits too."

"I have mine left from today. I put them in salt in the box."

"Let me get four fresh ones."

"One," the old man said. His hope and his confidence had never gone. But now they were freshening as when the breeze rises.

"Two," the boy said.

"Two," the old man agreed. "You didn't steal them?"

"I would," the boy said. "But I bought these."

"Thank you," the old man said. (Hemingway, 1988, pp.6 & 7)

The old man wants to win for his dignity, so he drifts far into the sea in order to convince himself, the boy and the society he's a real fisherman who does his craft well. It doesn't matter to win or to fight up to death.

Once he stood up and urinated over the side of the skiff and looked at the stars and checked his course. The line showed like a phosphorescent streak in the water straight out from his shoulders. They were moving more slowly now and the glow of Havana was not so strong, so that he knew the current must be carrying them to the eastward. If I lose the glare of Havana we must be going more to the eastward, he thought. (Hemingway, 1988, pp.36 & 37)

The nature of human beings is struggling towards their goals, respect and dignity. Sometimes very lovely things can be obstacles which hinder people to attain their goals so, no way to sacrificed them for winning. People sometimes destroy lovely things to gain their dignity and reputation among others which seem more important than their lovely things.

Santiago claims that he loves and respects the fish because he didn't come across a strange fish like it. But his respect for himself as a fisherman is more essential than his respect for his lovely and respected marlin as virtues and values.

Fish, "he said, "I love you and respect you very much. But I will kill you dead before this day end." (Hemingway, 1988, p.43)

Santiago respects the fishermen in the small village and he knows that they don't respect him. When he thinks of the marlin and it can be eaten by the fishermen or other unrespectful people, he becomes sad for this noble creature. He wishes if it can be eaten by noble people who deserve it. He considers that the marlin has more dignity than the fishermen and people around him.

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? (Hemingway, 1988, p.88)

The old man dignity gives the novella an excellent sense to reach into high climax and acceleration of the actions. It gives the reader a chance for sustainable reading and doesn't stop until he finishes without guessing the end exactly. Each reader can guess the end according to his own point of view, concept and psychological state.

## 6. Conclusion

Firstly, the analysis of heroism in *The Old Man and the Sea* shows different types of heroism which related and supported each other smoothly. Secondly, Human beings struggle in their life for different goals. In spite of Santiago loss for the marlin, he still struggling for other believes in

his life. Thirdly, some people are straightforward and deal with life honestly. Like the protagonist Santiago, most people despite of losing their physical power, but they continue strife in life pushing by inner feeling or even imagination. Finally, Hemingway success in convinces his readers and critics by portraying heroes as ordinary people in their societies.

## 7.Future Scope

The lack of studies about analysis, interpretation and discussion of Hemingway's notion of heroism in *The Old Man and the Sea*, enhance the researcher's desire to focus on and go through. Moreover, the researcher is looking forward to demonstrate the notion of heroism as a real phenomenon to readers, critics and other who are interested in. This study takes an effort to open a wide pass and channel for coming researchers to fabricate more analysis, interpretation, investigation and discussion for the notion of heroism through *The Old Man and the Sea*. The limitation of this study is analysis and interpretation of Hemingway's characteristics style for his heroism notion and concept with reference to his novella "*The Old Man and the Sea*".

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