

Analysis Of Symbols In The Old Man and The Sea a Novel by Ernest Hemingway**I Gusti Ngurah Octova S**

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Abstract; This study aims to analyze important symbols contained in the novel "The Old Man and the Sea", where the symbols often appear but meaning, purpose of the story, and rationale of the author are neglected by the readers. These symbols are representations or interpretations of an idea, personality, object, or abstraction. Data obtained through internet, library research, and the results of related studies from experts. The method used in this study is descriptive objective approach; this approach only focuses on the intrinsic elements of literary work by analyzing and explaining them in detail.

Keywords; novels, symbols

INTRODUCTION

Etymologically, the word "novel" is absorbed from the Italian language, namely "novella" which means a story whereas people who write novel stories are called novelists (maxmanroe.com, 2019).

Novel is a literary work in the form of a long narrative prose, in which there is a series of stories about the life of a character and the people around him by highlighting the nature and character of each character in the novel (maxmanroe.com, 2019).

There are also those who say that the definition of novel is a prose-shaped essay in which there are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Unlike short stories (short stories), the story content of a novel is much longer and complex, and there are hidden messages that the reader wants to convey (maxmanroe.com, 2019).

According to Drs. Rostamaji, M.Pd. (in maxmonroe.com, 2019) the definition of novels is a literary work that has 2 elements; namely intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements, where both are interrelated because they influence each other in a literary work.

Every type of literature has physical and characteristic features which is very different one from another (Tarigan, 1984). Like other literary works, novel also has intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

According to Scholes (in Jonah, 1984: 121) a novel is a story that is related to real or fictional events imagined by the author through his observation of reality. Then

Aristotle (in Hartoko, 1984: 17) expresses that literature is not a copy of reality, but an expression or manifestation of universals or general concepts. While, according to Esten (1978: 9) in the process of creating literary works, an author is faced with a reality that is found in a society of "objective reality" in the form of events, norms or values, views of life and other aspects of society.

Some experts or writers argue that the use of symbols in literary works is very important to build a paper that has deep features and characters to help readers understand the contents of the text and the use of symbols can give a deep and detailed impression.

Symbols can lead someone into future and past ideas (Fritz, 1952). Symbols are manifested in images, shapes, movements, or objects that represent an idea. Even though symbols are not the value itself, symbols are needed in the interest of appreciation of the values they represent. Symbols can be used for any purpose, such as science, social life, or religion. Symbols are not only visible things, but also through movement and speech. Symbols are also used as one language infrastructure, known as symbolic language. The most common symbol is writing, which is a symbol of words and sounds. Symbols can be real objects, such as crosses (Christian symbols) and sticks (which symbolize wealth and power). The symbol can be a color or pattern. Symbols are often

used in poetry and other types of literature, mostly used as metaphors or parables.

Understanding symbols cannot be separated from human memories indirectly that humans will surely know what is called a symbol. Not only that, usually a symbol is defined as a symbol that is used as the sender of the message or belief that has been adopted and also has a certain meaning.

The meaning of symbols is often limited to the conventional sign, which is something that is built by the community, or individuals who have certain meanings agreed upon or members of the community.

In the historical fact of thought, the term symbol has two diverse meanings in thinking, especially concerning religious matters. The meaning of symbols in religious practice is seen as an illustration that can be seen from unclear reality with a system of logical thinking and also scientific (Bagus, 2005: 1007).

According to Herbert Blumer (1962), a modern figure from symbolic interactionism theory explains that the meaning of symbols according to Blumer is in terms of symbolic interactionism which means that symbols are human characteristics to interact through symbols.

A symbol for some communities has become an example of an open presence so that the real truth can be blurred (Herusatoto, 2001: 7).

In addition, symbols are a characteristic that humans translate and define each other's actions. Not just a reaction from someone's actions towards others.

Symbols can also be interpreted as follows; 1. Symbols are signs that are seen to replace ideas or objects. 2. Symbol is a word, sign or signal in representing something such as meaning, quality, object, abstraction, and ideas. 3. Symbols are the meaning of a collective agreement. 4. Ordinary symbols are interpreted in a limited way as conventional signs, something that is built by the community or individuals with certain meanings that are more or less standard and agreed upon or used by members of the community themselves.

What are the functions of symbol? Humans as creatures, who in their journey have known symbols, using the symbols for the purpose of expressing who they are. Humans need other humans to live their lives and it is impossible to live alone, but in groups or what is called society.

Humans as part of members in society, often use symbols in understanding the form of an interaction. By that, symbols have an important function or role in the form of communication between humans according to Faridatul Wasimah (2012: 26). The function of the symbol is as follows; 1. Symbols allow humans to connect with the material world as well as socially by allowing them to give names, categories, and in remembering various objects that they encounter wherever and whenever. 2. The symbol functions to perfect humans in understanding an environment. 3. Symbols enhance human ability to think. The meaning of thinking is considered a symbolic interaction with oneself. 4. Symbols improve human ability to solve a problem. Humans definitely can think, by functioning symbols before making a form of choice in doing something. 5. The use of symbols allows each human to transcend in terms of time, place and themselves. The symbol can imagine life in the past or in the future. Imagining about ourselves based on other people's views. 6. The symbol allows humans to imagine a metaphysical reality such as heaven and hell. 7. These symbols allow humans not to be enslaved by their environment. They can be more active than passively directing themselves to something they do.

From the explanation above the writer can draw the conclusion that almost every literary work has a symbol to represent the ideas, views, feelings, reasoning, or personal experiences of the author which is then poured into the paper. In addition, by adding symbols to written works such as novels and short stories believed by the author can add a deep and broad impression to understand the contents of the story. And this is good for writing so that the story is not too "light" for the readers.

That is the reason why the writer or researcher wants to analyze the symbols contained inside and find out the meaning of each symbol in the story of the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*. This research is also expected to be useful for the reading community, helping the reading community in understanding similar novels, and adding insight into literary appreciation.

Based on previous explanation regarding to symbols, this study proposes two major questions, namely; 1. What are the symbols in the novel constructed by the author? 2. What are the meaning of each symbols found in the novel of *The Old Man and the Sea* novel by Ernest Hemingway?

METHOD

The method used in this study is a descriptive method with a descriptive semiotic approach. That is, this research is conducted as objectively as possible based on the facts that exist with the assessment of the signifiant and signifie.

Objective approach (is the most important approach because any approach taken basically relies on the literature itself. This approach focuses attention solely on the elements, known as intrinsic analysis. For example in works (fiction sought is an element elements of plot, character, setting, point of view through an objective approach (intrinsic elements will be maximally exploited) (Ahadia, 2019).

According to Paul Cobley and Litza Janz (2002; 4) semiotics comes from the word *seme*, Greek, which means interpreter sign. These signs are not limited to writing; these signs can be in the form of relationships between writers, literary works, and readers. Of course these signs can be directly related to the condition of the universe and the human environment. There are many ways that are structured in analyzing literary works semiotically. The most common way is to analyze literary works through two stages, namely intrinsic analysis and extrinsic analysis.

The research technique carried out by analyzing stories (text). The story is analyzed in terms of its structure. The analysis begins by determining the sequence of the flow

(synopsis). After the structure of the story of analysis, the story is analyzed semiotically by retelling the storyline until it finds story texts containing symbols by utilizing excerpts from stories that are used as objects and supporting books related to disclosure mean.

The data needed in this study are all expression, conversation, phrase, and statement in the novel. The data are collected from the novel itself; “*The Old Man and the Sea*” and also by using library and internet research. Due to find the data, the writer intends to analyze the intrinsic elements in the novel such as plot, character, setting, point of view through an objective approach.

After collecting the data and studying the information, which is closely related to the analysis, the writer begins to analyze the data by taking the following steps:

1. Identifying the problems which are relevant with the statements of the problems.
2. Taking quotation from some sentences or paragraphs, statement, and narration from the novel. The quotations are taken from pages related to the discussion.
3. Studying the relationship of the components of the novel which are related to the study, which is by studying the relationship among intrinsic elements; character, theme, characterization, and setting. It will become the basic frame for the writer to make conclusion and suggestion for the novel.

DISCUSSION

The structure of story analysis aims to get the composition of the text and provide the facts conveyed by the text (plot)

1. *The Old Man and the Sea* tells the story of a battle between an aging, experienced fisherman, Santiago, and a large marlin. The story opens with Santiago having gone 84 days without catching a fish, and now being seen as “*salao*”, the worst form of unluckiness. He is so unlucky that his young apprentice, Manolin, has been forbidden by his parents to sail with him and has been told instead to fish with successful fishermen. The boy visits Santiago's shack each night, hauling his fishing gear, preparing food, talking about

American baseball and his favorite player, Joe DiMaggio. Santiago tells Manolin that on the next day, he will venture far out into the Gulf Stream, north of Cuba in the Straits of Florida to fish, confident that his unlucky streak is near its end.

2. On the eighty-fifth day of his unlucky streak, Santiago takes his skiff into the Gulf Stream, sets his lines and by noon, has his bait taken by a big fish that he is sure is a marlin. Unable to haul in the great marlin, Santiago is instead pulled by the marlin, and two days and nights pass with Santiago holding onto the line. Though wounded by the struggle and in pain, Santiago expresses a compassionate appreciation for his adversary, often referring to him as a brother. He also determines that, because of the fish's great dignity, no one shall deserve to eat the marlin.
3. On the third day, the fish begins to circle the skiff. Santiago, worn out and almost delirious, uses all his remaining strength to pull the fish onto its side and stab the marlin with a harpoon. Santiago straps the marlin to the side of his skiff and heads home, thinking about the high price the fish will bring him at the market and how many people he will feed.
4. On his way in to shore, sharks are attracted to the marlin's blood. Santiago kills a great mako shark with his harpoon, but he loses the weapon. He makes a new harpoon by strapping his knife to the end of an oar to help ward off the next line of sharks; five sharks are slain and many others are driven away. But the sharks keep coming, and by nightfall the sharks have almost devoured the marlin's entire carcass, leaving a skeleton consisting mostly of its backbone, its tail and its head. Santiago knows that he is defeated and tells the sharks of how they have killed his dreams. Upon reaching the shore before dawn on the next day, Santiago struggles to his shack, carrying the heavy mast on his shoulder, leaving the fish head and the bones on the shore.

Once home, he slumps onto his bed and falls into a deep sleep.

5. A group of fishermen gather the next day around the boat where the fish's skeleton is still attached. One of the fishermen measures it to be 18 feet (5.5 m) from nose to tail. Pedrico is given the head of the fish, and the other fishermen tell Manolin to tell the old man how sorry they are. Tourists at the nearby café mistakenly take it for a shark. The boy, worried about the old man, cries upon finding him safe asleep and at his injured hands. Manolin brings him newspapers and coffee. When the old man wakes, they promise to fish together once again. Upon his return to sleep, Santiago dreams of his youth—of lions on an African beach.

FINDINGS

After reading the contents of the whole story from the novel, the old man and the sea, researcher can draw conclusions; there are several symbols that can represent ideas, souls, enthusiasm, experience, identity, and the religious point of view of the author.

1. Santiago

"He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish. In the first forty days a boy had been with him. But after forty days without a fish the boy's parents had told him that the old man was now definitely and finally *salao*, which is the worst form of unlucky, and the boy had gone at their orders in another boat which caught three good fish the first week. It made the boy sad to see the old man come in each day with his skiff empty and he always went down to help him carry either the coiled lines or the gaff and harpoon and the sail that was furled around the mast. The sail was patched with flour sacks and furled, it looked like the flag of permanent defeat.

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 [9] reflection on the tropic sea were on his cheeks. The blotches ran well down the sides of his face and his hands had 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.

Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated.”

From the narrative of the 3 paragraphs above it can be concluded that Santiago the main character in this novel is a symbol that represents experience, resilience, unyielding, independence, affection, high self-esteem, tenacity, independence, and loneliness and solitude. It is clear that the novelist wants to give a message to readers that Santiago has a strong character from the beginning to the end of the story.

2. The Marlin fish

The marlin represents the ultimate opponent, one that brings out the best in Santiago. The marlin is also a symbol of the struggle for life. Since Santiago manages to spear him to get his first fish after more than 3 months not catching a single fish, Santiago's heavy and long struggle begins. Bringing the marlin fish home causes further complications. Not then after spearing the fish Santiago could immediately raise it onto the boat, the extraordinary big and strong fish made Santiago have to feel tremendous pain all over his body it refuses to give up its life, it does not want to be a prey.

Santiago spends the majority of the novel tracking, killing, and attempting to bring The Marlin (the fish) to the shore. Santiago must wait for a whole day until he can catch the fish but not only waiting, he also must feel a very great pain in his body in order to catch The Marlin. We can see from these quotations.

“he felt very tired now and he knew the night would come soon and he tried to think of other things”

“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”.

3. The Sea

Hemingway identifies the sea as a journey of life. The sea for a fisherman is his life not

only because the sea provides fish to catch, eat and sell for a profit or for other things but also the sea (life) thought Santiago to be a true fisherman by making Santiago faces many obstacles by himself in the wide blue sea and its mystery.

“He looked across the sea and knew how alone he was now. But he could see the prism in the deep dark water and the line stretching ahead and the strange undulation of the clam. The clouds were building up now for the trade wind and he looked a head and saw a flight of wild duck etching themselves against the sky over the water.”

But Santiago wins the sea battle (life) by passing all the obstacles. One of them is the sharks that attack his fish and want to destroy his dream to bring home a big fish.

“But man is not made for defeat, he said. ‘A man can be destroyed but not defeated. I killed him in self – defense, ‘the old man said aloud. ‘And I killed him well’. ‘Fight them, ‘he said. I will fight them until I die.”

“But we have killed many sharks, you and I, and ruined many others. How many did you ever kill, old fish?”

4. The Sharks

The sharks represent those who would destroy anyone's successes. For Santiago the sharks are a reason that can make him become a loser fisherman if he cannot defeat it. The shark wanted to take his catch which is Santiago's evidence as true fisherman. Santiago did everything in order to protect and defend his fish.

“He raised the club high and brought it down heavy and slamming on the top of shark's broad head. He hit him solidly and from as he could raise the club. This time he felt the bone at the base of the brain and he hit him again in the same place while the shark tore the meat loose sluggishly and slid down from the fish.”

The sharks make Santiago's heart broken into pieces by destroying the marlin after Santiago catches it with all his power. The shark was built to kill and destroy everything that stops it. The shark destroyed Santiago's dream to prove to everyone that he is a true

fisherman by catching a big fish and show it to the other fisherman.

“He did not like to look at the fish any more since he had been mutilated. When the fish had been hit it was as though he himself were hit.”

“They must have taken a quarter of him and of the best meat, ‘he said aloud. I wish it were a dream and that I had never hooked him. ‘I’m sorry about it, fish. It makes everything wrong’. He stopped and he did not want to look at the fish now.”

Not just one but many statements in this story show how bad the destruction that the sharks causing.

“The skiff was still shaking with the destruction was doing by the shark to the fish and the old man let go the sheet so that the skiff would swing broadside and bring the shark out from under. When he saw the shark he leaned over the side and punched at him.”

“He did not want to look at the fish. He knew that half of him had been destroyed. The sun had gone down while he had been in the fight with the sharks.”

5. The Skeleton of the Marlin Fish

The skeleton symbolizes Santiago as an old fisherman. It was a long backbone of the great fish which is same with Santiago just an old man. But it was also a handsome and has a beautifully formed tails which is same with Santiago’s soul and spirit.

The skeleton and Santiago already face many struggle in their life. Fighting and struggling until their final breath. But how hard they try they will face the fact that words is a hard place. Life is hard and even you try very hard you cannot fight the law of nature and the law of God.

But even though he fails people still look at the skeleton as a big achievement. The tourist in the cafe near the beach looked at the skeleton as a beautiful big shark skeleton which is means someone who catch it must be a very noble person.

6. The Sea Birds

Hemingway proposed the sea birds as God’s help in the story. These birds have shown to Santiago the right direction where there are many fish around. Santiago also

addresses the sea birds as God’s help directly in the story. This statement is proven as citation below

“As he watched the bird dipped again slanting his wings for the dive nad then swinging them widely, perhaps my big fish is around them. My big fish must be somewhere. The bird has no change.”

“A small bird came towards 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 on the line where he was more comfortable.”

7. Joe DiMaggio

In the story Santiago has an idol which is a sport man, a partially-handicapped baseball player, named Joe DiMaggio. Hemingway is clear to symbolize Joe DiMaggio as hope. Santiago wants Manolin can be so great just like his idol and not be a poor man in the future. DiMaggio inspires the old Santiago with leadership qualities and the determination to win, in spite of handicaps. The image of the baseball hero playing in pain gives Santiago renewed vigor and stamina to bear his own pain.

“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. Un espuela de bueso. We do not have them. Can it be as painful as the spur of a fighting cock in one’s heel.”

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that this story has many symbols in it. Symbols can have more than one meaning or can be called having complex meanings. These symbols can be used to sharpen the story and then help the reader to better understand the messages contained in the story.

Symbolization also helps writers to strengthen the character of the main character, Santiago. From the symbol analysis above, it can be concluded that the story he wrote was

intended for everyone without any limitations. This is evidenced by the story that is easy to understand, simple, yet still strong, intense, and deep in meanings.

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