

## ANALYSIS OF CHARACTER AND CHARACTERIZATION IN THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA A NOVEL BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

I GUSTI NGURAH OCTOVA SEVENTILOFA

Fakultas Teknik Universitas Mahasaraswati Mataram

*e-mail: rahocta@yahoo.com*

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa elemen intrinsik dari novel “*The Old Man and the Sea*”, yang khususnya berfokus pada karakter dan karakterisasi. Data diperoleh melalui internet dan penilitian kepustakaan. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode pendekatan obyektif. Pendekatan ini hanya berfokus pada elemen intrinsik dari karya sastra. Penelitian ini mengusut elemen intrinsik; karakter dan karakterisasi dengan cara menganalisis dan menerangkan mereka secara mendetail. Dan data diuraikan dengan menjelaskan karakterisasi dari karakter di dalam novel dan tipe karakternya.

*Kata kunci : elemen intrinsic, karakter, karakterisasi, tipe karakternya.*

### ABSTRACT

*This thesis is aimed at analyzing the intrinsic elements of “The Old Man and the Sea”; especially focusing on the character and characterization. The data are gathered through internet and library research. The method used in this thesis is the objective approach. This approach only focuses on the intrinsic elements of literary work. The research investigates the intrinsic elements; character and characterization by clarifying and analyzing them. And the data analyses are conducted in defining the characterization of characters and the types of characters.*

*Keywords: intrinsic elements, character, characterization, types of characters.*

### INTRODUCTION

The word literature comes from Latin; *littera* means letter, is the art of written works. Literally translated, the word literature means acquaintance with letters (Wikipedia.org, 2010). Literature is divided in some genre, such as poetry, prose, drama, etc.

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. Novel is a written art that tells fictious or nonfictious story. One of the most famous fiction novels is *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.

Since the writer has read the story, he was interested with some intrinsic elements in it, especially the characterization of the story. The writer thought that this element is really interesting, because the interpretation of each character cannot be caught by reading the story for one time only. It must be read several times, to understand each character.

Every character and its characterization within the story is unique one from another. The writer wants to show how complex the characterizations of each character are. Especially Santiago and Manolin, these characters are the most that appear in the story, from the very beginning to the very end. These characters by the author are just friends; there is no blood relation between the old man and the young boy. Nevertheless, these two men are connected with a very close and tight bond; more than just friend to friend relationship, but they are like father and son.

The writer also thinks that the characterization of Santiago is the most interesting characterization than those of the other characters within the story, because throughout the novel, Hemingway depicts the old man as a Christ figure; he is constantly displaying the Christian virtues of love, kindness, patience, and humility.

At the end of his journey, he feels shame and humiliated, much like Christ before his crucifixion. When he arrives home, he carries his mast across his shoulders, much like Christ carried his cross. When he finally lays down to sleep, his arms are stretched out straight, his palms are turned up, and his hands are bleeding, much like the image of Christ on the cross. Of course, Jesus' followers were largely fishermen, just like Santiago, and Christ bade them to become fishers of men. In the novel, Santiago is not just a fisherman, but an example of Christian caring to Manolin and a symbol of grace under pressure to all who read about him (Kenan, 2002). The writer also wondered that what made the bond between Santiago and Manolin is so tight because with so many balks and obstacles in Santiago's and Manolin's life, which may shattering their relationship, but still the loyalty of each other is unbreakable (Kenan, 2002) To the writer this part is the most challenging of all aspect in the story to be analyzed.

That is why the writer wants to analyze this story. The writer thinks that by analyzing the characterization within the story; he wants to show the prominence of the characterizations of each character within the story for other readers that might hard to be comprehended.

Based on previous explanation regarding to character and characterization, this study proposes two major questions, namely;

1. How are the characterizations of each character in this novel constructed by the author?
2. What are the types of characters portrayed in *The Old Man and the Sea* novel by Ernest Hemingway?

## METHOD

To collect the significant data needed, the writer tries to find out the data from the sources by reading the novel and also by analyze the data source of this study to check the contents.

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 research and internet research to find data that are related to the research.

Due to find the data, the writer intends to analyze the intrinsic elements in the novel "*The Old Man and the Sea*" by Ernest Hemingway, such as character and characterization by using objective approach; analyzing the character and the characterization in the novel through relevant data, logical viewpoints and author's purposes. Thus, the writer will able to analyze the character and the characterization in more specific and more detailed. The other aspects of the novel also can be analyzed by the 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. Elaborating the characterization of each character by 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.

## FINDING

From the results of data analysis of the novel, the writer assumes that characterization is complete or full picture of a character in the story; such as attitude, physical feature, action, style of speech, and character's viewpoints on the problems he faced. According to the writer's observation, some of characters in the story are described through direct characterization; in which a character is described through direct statements about character's personality and tells what the character looks like. Characters who belong to direct characterization are Santiago, Manolin, DiMaggio, other fisherman and the tourist. Besides direct characterization, there is indirect characterization; in which a character is described through character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say. Some of characters who belong to indirect characterization are John J. McGraw, Rogelio, Perico, Pedrico, Martin, and the waiter. During the analysis the writer also finds that the most complex characters in the story are Santiago and Manolin.

Character and characterization; 1. Santiago; Santiago is the main character in the novel, is a confident, brave, cheerful, determined, optimistic, and tough old man. He has an ambition; to catch a giant fish which has not been caught by other fishermen in his village. He loves baseball so much and his favorite team is Yankees of New York. When he was young he was a tough arm wrestler and he always won the arm wrestling competition. Without his late wife, he lives alone in this world and sleeps in a small shack at the sea shore. 2.

Manolin; Manolin is a young boy who loves Santiago and looks up to him as a father figure. He has parents who banned him to sail with the old man. He is also the old man's protector. Manolin always helps Santiago to carry his catch and the gears. 3. DiMaggio; DiMaggio is a famous American baseball player. He appears in the story as the Santiago's inspiration. DiMaggio's father is also a fisherman just like Santiago. He has visited Santiago's village for several times. And he suffers a bone spur in his heel. 4. This man is a manager and coach of the American baseball team. He is a rough, harsh-spoken, and difficult man. He loves horses as he loves baseball. He comes a lot to The Terrace, a restaurant in Santiago's village, and he loves to drink until he gets drunk. 5. Perico; he is a man who owns the bodega in Santiago's village. He provides Santiago newspapers so he can check the baseball scores. 6. Martin; at the end of the story he comes up as a proprietor. He owns The Terrace restaurant. He is a merciful man and he provides foods and drinks for Santiago. 7. Pedrico; he is another villager in the Santiago's village. He is a kind man; he helps the old man with his gear and the shredded catch. He also makes traps for other fishermen. 8. Rogelio; he is a young boy just like manolin. He is also the villager in Santiago's village who helps Santiago with the fishnets. 9. Manolin's parents; they appear only in the beginning of the story. They doubt to Santiago and ban their son; Manolin to sail again with the old man, because the old man was out of good luck. 10. Fishermen; they appear in the beginning and the end of the story. Some of these fishermen mock and make fun of the old man, except the older fishermen who always put a respect to Santiago. 11. Waiter; he is a man who works in The Terrace restaurant. He misunderstands to a tourist's question. He thought that the tourist is asking about what happen with the giant marlin. 12. The tourist; this character is a woman. She thinks that the remains of the marlin caught by Santiago are those of a shark.

As explained before in the abstract above, this study also uncovers the types of characters in which very significance for the continuity of data analysis for the following discussion chapter. The results can be described as next explanation. Types of characters in the story can be divided in some categories. First category according to character's role, there are major and minor character. Some of characters who belong to major character are Santiago and Manolin, while characters who belong to minor characters are DiMaggio, Rogelio, Perico, Pedrico, John J. McGraw, Martin, Manolin's parents, other fishermen, the waiter, and the tourist. Second category according to good and bad attitude of a character, types of characters can be divided into two such as protagonist; the good character, and antagonist; the bad character. Protagonists within *The Old Man and the Sea* novel are Santiago, Manolin, Perico, Pedrico, Martin, Rogelio, DiMaggio, the waiter and the tourist, while John J. McGraw, other fishermen and Manolin's parents are the antagonist. The third category according to the change of attitude and behavior of the character, there are flat character and round character. Flat character means character whose attitude and behavior never changed from the beginning to the end of the story, while round character is character whose attitude and behavior changed. Flat characters in the story are Santiago, DiMaggio, Perico, Pedrico, Rogelio, Martin, John J. McGraw, Manolin's parents, other fishermen, the waiter and the tourist, while the only one round character in the story is Manolin.

## DISCUSSION

In this section the writer serves the analysis results; such as the characterization of each character and the types of the characters which stated on the statement of the problems. As it was mentioned previously objective approach is analyzing the characterization in the novel through relevant data, logical viewpoints and author's purposes.

It begins with the characterization of the characters; 1. Santiago; by personality, Santiago is brave, confident, cheerful, determined, and optimistic; he is not letting anything in life rattle him. Even when he does not catch a single fish for eighty-four days, he refuses to be discouraged. Santiago is an expert fisherman, skilled and meticulous. He always makes well and careful preparations when he wants to sail and is always prepared when he makes a catch. Santiago loves baseball too much, although he has no radio or television. He gets the news about this sport from newspaper. Even when he is in the middle of the battle against the giant marlin he remembered the games, and his favorite baseball team is Yankees of New York. Santiago is a humble man. He lives in poverty, owning a small shack with no running water; yet he never complains. 2. Manolin; Manolin loves Santiago so much and he demonstrates his love for Santiago openly. Manolin cares for Santiago is like a child to a father. He is also Santiago's friend and protector. He makes sure that the old man has food, blankets, and can rest without being bothered. To the writer he is only a companion who feels nothing but love and devotion. 3. DiMaggio; he repeatedly serves as an inspiration to Santiago. The old man loves baseball and the Yankees in particular. Santiago believes that the hero of the Yankees team is DiMaggio, an inspiration to his teammates and to the old man Santiago. 4. John J. McGraw;

Santiago admires McGraw as he admires DiMaggio. Ernest Hemingway describes him as rough, harsh-spoken, and difficult man. He loves horses as he loves baseball. John J. McGraw often comes to The Terrace, a restaurant in Santiago's village. 5. Perico; he serves an important role in the story and old man's life by providing him with newspapers that report the baseball scores. The act establishes him as a kind man who helps the aging Santiago. 6. Martin; this character appears in the end of the story as proprietor. He is the owner of The Terrace restaurant in Santiago's village. The writer learns of him through Manolin, who often goes to Martin for Santiago's supper. As the old man says, Martin is a man of frequent kindness who deserves to be repaid. 7. Pedrico; he is another villager that appears in the end of the story to help the old man with his gear and the shredded catch; the giant marlin fish. The writer assumes that he is a fisherman that also makes traps for other fishermen. Santiago gives him the head of the fish as his reward for helping him. 8. Rogelio; Rogelio is a young boy which helps Santiago with his fishnets. He cares Santiago to respect him as the humble old man. 9. Manolin's parents; They are doubtful to the old man, because the old man cannot catch a single fish after eighty-four days sailing in the sea. They prohibit their son; Manolin, to fish again with the old man. 10. Fishermen; they are described quiet simple by Ernest Hemingway. Appear at the beginning and the end of the story. Many of them mock and make fun of the old man, since he gets eighty-four days of unlucky. But, other older fishermen act the opposite way. They sad to what happened to the old man, but they never show it and still respect him. 11. The tourist and waiter; these two characters are the last that appear at the very end of the story. The tourist is a woman. Ernest Hemingway describes her as a person who thinks the remains of the marlin caught by Santiago are those of a shark. While the waiter is the one who answer what had happened to the marlin instead of explain who has the spine, and he gives the writer misinterpretation.

## CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

Based on finding and discussion the writer concludes that *The Old Man and the Sea* tells about an aging Cuban fisherman named Santiago who goes out alone on a small skiff to catch a giant marlin. He does that to regain his luck and his pride, but unluckily at the end of the story he got beaten by the sharks which ate his catch. This story is about perseverance, loyalty, man vs nature, quest, and unseen heroism.

*The Old Man and the Sea*, like many other novels consists of some intrinsic elements; two of them are character and characterization. The character in the story is not much in number, but its major character; Santiago and Manolin bring the biggest role to the story. The characters and its characterization within the story are tremendous to be analyzed, since one character from another is different and unique. Each character in this novel is described differently and variably from one another. Some of characters are described through direct characterization, while other characters are described through indirect characterization. Types of characters which can be found in this novel are major character, minor character, protagonist, antagonist, flat character, and round character.

Every characterization of character is analyzed by reading the whole story page to page, and its role to the story using objective approach. Not all character gives good contribution to others. They play their own role to the end of story. Conflicts and relationship among the characters make the story more outstanding. Furthermore, it can be suggested for the following research on this novel based on the result of the analysis some questions are left unanswered; Hemingway never specifically describes interesting character in the story, which is Santiago's inspiration; DiMaggio. Since Santiago's character said that he had met with his favorite baseball player on the beach, Hemingway never explains how and when these two characters meet each other in Santiago's village. To the writer this thing is still a mystery. Moreover, the lack of female character in the story or female influence to the other characters, this fact makes the writer curios, why the author never explicates the relationship between Santiago and his wife, how is the appearance of his wife? Is she beautiful woman or else? How the meet? How is Santiago's life before she died? These questions always disturb the writer's mind until the end of the study.

Besides analyzing character and characterization, there are objects of the study that worth analyzing, such as other intrinsic elements; plot, style, theme, setting and symbol. The writer suggests that theme and symbol are interesting objects to be studied for further research, because during the analyzing of the story the writer finds symbols that represent hidden messages from the author, which may help the next researchers to find facts which may skipped by the writer

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