

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

"The Old Man and the Sea" is a touching story by Ernest Hemingway about an aged fisherman named Santiago, who had spent 84 days without catching a single fish, thus tagging him as "salao," which means unlucky. Santiago is more determined than ever in this novella to go further out into the sea than he usually did and here, he hooked a gigantic marlin. However, the marlin was so huge that it took Santiago's skiff along, and tiring struggle follows. Santiago admired the beauty and determination of the marlin, and the two were bonded in wills fighting.

After days of struggle, finally, Santiago was able to kill the marlin and lashed it on his boat. However, on his way back, his prized catch attracted sharks. Despite all the efforts of Santiago, the sharks consumed the marlin and only the skeleton was left. As he was too tired and defeated, Santiago went back to his village with the skeleton of the marlin and was taken by his young friend Manolin. Yet the loss did not break Santiago's spirit which became representative of the indomitable human spirit struggling through the bitterities of life.

The rich symbolism and universal human themes, such as determination and courage, are the foci that attract researchers to "The Old Man and the Sea." Some of these researchers are Danul Aristiawan, 2020, on the theme of Santiago's courage and moral values; Delli Sabudu, 2020, on Manolin's loyalty; and S. Maharajan, 2018, on the heroism of Santiago. Moreover, it shows more of Hemingway's peculiar style of writing and his philosophy of life, thus making it valuable literature.

Each article has a similar theme when it comes to moral values governing an individual, in this case, a Character's behavior and choices the first article. It focuses on the "Courage and Modesty" of the main Character, Santiago, whereas the second article sets it as "Loyalty" from Santiago's student, Manolin. Therefore, the chosen

thesis will also be related to moral values. It will aim to focus on “adversity and “Perseverance” from both characters, Santiago and Manolin since Manolin has the potential to show mostly perseverance due to his loyalty to Santiago, while Santiago can be applied to both traits. It will be analysed on how their actions and dialogues can be portrayed as adversity and perseverance.

In the article, the researcher’s aim was to examine courage and modesty as moral values in *The Old Man and The Sea*. It was a descriptive qualitative study because the data consisted of words, phrases, sentences, or fragments from first to the last chapters. In summary, some moral ideals can be seen in Santiago’s behavior in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*. According to the researcher, research that investigated the moral value represented by the main character faces the issue of interpreting the novel’s messages. It is concluded in the research that Santiago’s courage is displayed by different kinds of feelings. They are among others, Santiago’s feelings of being determined, being hard-working and perseverance, and feeling optimistic about what he does in all cases. Although, the researcher analyzed and stated that Santiago has the feeling of being perseverance, its only objective is only on analyzing the character’s courage and has not extensively covered it, which leads to my thesis title primarily focusing on Santiago’s perseverance in Adversity.

In other article, the purpose of this research is to uncover the representation of loyalty in Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea*. This article focuses solely on the character of Manolin, who is a student of the old fisherman. While Manolin’s character was exemplified in his commitment, high attention, and devotion to the elderly fisherman, my thesis will cover that the characters supporting Santiago can be the cause of Santiago’s perseverance.

Moreover, other study explores the idea of the hero in Ernest Hemingway’s well-known book “*The Old Man and the Sea*.” It looks for signs of tenacity and bravery in the renowned author Ernest Hemingway. It focuses on the primary reasons the writer wrote his iconic novella, which were a personal need to resolve psychological

issues related to his circumstances at the time and the best way to express his experience with the sea. While this article describes the heroism of Santiago, my thesis will focus on his Heroic actions in the face of adversity.

Additionally, another research is intended to reveal internal and external conflict in Ernest Hemingway's. As a central theme in the qualitative research methodology, it investigates both the external and internal conflict of Santiago throughout the novel. As an example, the researcher's findings might be interpreted as an external conflict between the elderly man, Santiago, and society as well as a struggle against the harsh sea, the natural environment, marlin, and sharks. His internal conflict can be seen when Santiago expresses signs of loneliness due to his lack of a spouse and children. In addition, as part of yet another internal fight, he displays humiliation and sadness. Based on my thesis, "The Portrayal of Adversity and Perseverance in the Old Man and the Sea," Santiago's choice to continue being persistent in the face of adversity may have been influenced by an internal and external conflict.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the above background, this paper intends to elaborate the following questions:

1. What symbols portray Santiago's perseverance and adversity?
2. What causes Santiago's perseverance and adversity?
3. How can Santiago's perseverance lead to heroism?

1.3 Purpose of Study

The objective of this study is to examine the portrayal of Santiago's perseverance in adversity, the causes Santiago's perseverance in adversity, and Santiago's perseverance leading to heroism.

1.4 Significance of Study

This study can help the readers understand more about the theoretical framework of Santiago's adversity. It can also be a helpful reference in identifying the causes of perseverance and how it can lead to heroism.

