

LESSONS IN OLD MAN AND THE SEA

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Abstract: In the novel “The Old Man and the Sea” the writer found some positive characters in the novel. During the analysis the writer applies structural genetic approach. The analysis shows that Santiago as character who performs spirit, motivation and hard worker. Then, Mandolin shows a helpful character. Then the setting of the Novel implies that a man should have a good relation with the nature.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the part of the art which uses language as its medium. It recreates the sense of life, its weight and texture. Furthermore, literature recreates the experiential wholeness of life: the life of the emotion, the life of the mind, the individual life and social life.

One kind of literary work written in prose is a novel. A novel is considered as an expression of human life such as human ideas, human trends, and emotion. It can give insight into the minds and disposition of people in the real life. It can emphasize great moral truth by dramatizing the consequences of good or bad action of fictitious people. In reading a novel we often come to understand ourselves better. Therefore, analyzing literature, whether in the form of prose or poetry is an attempt to identify the characteristic of human being which distinguishes one human from another.

Literature is one of the sources of information in our life. There are many kinds of information from one literature, include through a novel. One of important information from a novel is lesson. There are many lessons that can be learned through the parts of the novel, either from the characters, setting, and theme as intrinsic element or social reality and author biography as extrinsic element.

It is clear that literature is very profitable. The benefit of literary work is to guide and to assist members of a society with more critical thoughts and ideas towards human problems and life-values. In other words, the benefit of literary work is to make human beings become wiser in facing reality of life.

One of the novels which can give us some lessons about life namely *The Old Man and the Sea*. *The Old Man and the Sea* is a profound exploration of humankind's relationship with nature, and the human place in nature. Santiago's role as a fisherman who must catch fish in order to live in no way diminishes his deep love of nature and

his extraordinary sensitivity to his environment. In fact his natural piety is in large part a function of his identity as fisherman (outsiders concerned with the "beauty of nature," have no access to the depth of Santiago's hard-earned vision of nature.).

The Old Man and the Sea is interested to be analyzed because the story can contribute to the thought of our soul in our life. There are some motivation and suggestion from the characters.

The Old Man and the Sea, a great book by Ernest Hemingway, is about a fisherman's struggle to save his career. This book is very different than any other book that I have read. It is different because this book doesn't have multiple events that happen in the story. Santiago, an old fisherman, goes out fishing and hooks a giant marlin. The book explains his struggle to kill the fish and bring it back home. The book symbolizes the struggle of the author to write a great book.

METHOD

The founder of the structural genetic approach is Taine, then developed by Lucien Goldmann, a man of letters from France. This approach is able to reconstruct the author's world view. (Endraswara, 2003:55)

Genetic Structuralism is an approach of literature which appears after pure structuralism. Its emergence was a reaction to pure structuralism which disregarded the extrinsic element of literature text. It believes that a literary work is a structure, but is not a static structure. It is dynamic as a social structure which is continuously influence by the society where it exists. This was its called genetic. It means that literary work has its genetic or history in a process of social life. Lucien Goldman as a pioneer of this theory stated that theory set is related to human facts which were as meaningful structure. It is considers literature text as social institution which can change and involve social conflicts. Because of that, the writer could say that the human facts were result of human efforts in his relation with the world around him, and there are some other factors related to the history reality that influence a literary works has been created. (Farouk, 2003:20)

Endraswara (2003:55) Genetic-Structuralism is an approach which combines two important substances in a literary work. They are intrinsic ad extrinsic approach. The element of intrinsic is characterization, setting, plot and theme. Thus the extrinsic element is sociological aspects.

The writer believes that literary work is born in the middle of society as a result of author imagination and also as a reflection of social phenomenon around him. Therefore this literary work is present becomes the part of society's life. And the author as individual subject tries to create his worldview to his collective subject and that becomes a literary work. So, it indicates that literary work is born in certain

society and culture. Because of their circumstances make literary work as one of the document of the social culture.

The historical background, times and social society also influence to the process of creation of work, weather from the content facet or the structure. The existence of the author in a certain society actually influence to his work. Therefore, a certain society where the author`s life, expressly creates a certain kind of literary work. This tendency is based on assumption that the society structure has the normative characteristic, means that the elements of controller have to be obeyed. The thoughts, values and behaviors are certainly influenced by the society structure which is valid. So all factors also determine what the author should write, for whom the literary work be written and the intention of the work it is.

So, the writer thinks that the weakness of structuralism approaches is corrected by using the genetic factors in understanding the literary work. The genetic means the history of the literary work. There are some other factors related to the history reality that influence the work has been created.

At least, the structuralism-genetic can be acknowledge has the useful facets and efficient, when the researcher constantly concern to the intrinsic elements, besides concern to the sociological factors and also considers that literary work is created by a creativity and uses the imagination factor.

In short, the research of structuralism-genetic approach can be formulated as follows; firstly, the research should be started from the intrinsic element studies, whether partially though in tied together. Secondly, studies about the background of author social society because he is a part of a certain community society. And thirdly, studies about social background and history that influence the work that is created by the author. So, from this three steps, it will be achieved the author`s world view.

LESSONS FROM THE CHARACTERS

Some lessons from a literary work can be taken through the characters. The characters in a novel for example can show some good lesson to the readers. Gill defines character as:

“A character is someone in literary work who some sort of identity, an identity which is made up by appearance, conversation, action, name and (possible) thought’s going on the head. (1987:127)

The Characters are the people in the story. The characters wake up central interest of many dramas and novels, as well as biographies and autobiographies.

In encyclopedia Americana the term of character is as follows:

“Character: in literature, a personage in a novel, short story, or poem. The term of characters also denotes the essential qualities or personality traits of functional or

real individual. The ability to create compelling and believable characters is one of hall markers of the literary artist “ (1976:290)

While Trimmer and Jennings remark that:

“Writer develops their character in a number of ways. When concerned primarily with the external reality of their character. Either describes their physical appearance dramatize action or conversation and summarize their previous historical for us. Writer also penetrate the minds and hearts of some characters particularly the protagonist to show which other in the story may be unaware”. (1989:3-4)

In conclusion, character is very important in the story. Characters can make the story keep moving. Without characters, the can not be formed as a literary work.

ANALYSIS

Lesson is a part of science or knowledge that people get from formal or informal institution. Most people need to increase their knowledge with various reasons, and one of them is in order to be easier to reach their ideals or obsessions. Knowledge has no limit, it is so wide. Whatever people know or discover as a new way and make it as an experience, save it in mind, so it could be classified as knowledge.

Science is an interconnected series of concepts and conceptual schemes that have developed as a result of experimentation and observation and are fruitful of further experimentation and observations. In this definition the emphasis is on the word “fruitful”. Science is a speculative enterprise. The validity of a new idea and the significance of a new experimental finding are to be measured by the consequences in term of other ideas and other experiments. Thus conceived, science is not a quest for certainty; it is rather a quest which is successful only to the degree that it is continuous. In the other word, science is a way of explaining the universe in which people life.

In western culture, science is pragmatic pursuit; it is the discovery of useful facts, whatever they may be. Its virtue lies in the honesty and accuracy with which these facts are gathered and in the completeness of the pattern that as part of formulated knowledge, they finally compose. This factualness of science makes it blind to the differences between the trivial and the significant, the odious and the exquisite, the good and the bad. Indeed the identification of science with the realm of discoverable fact has largely removed it from most basic human concerns and made it into a gigantic robot driving toward material progress (Margenau: “Perspectives of Science”, 1971:15)

Perhaps the most burning questions today is whether the scientific method can be applied to the solution of the human dilemma which has come about through the development of science. There are those who in defining science as man's mastery over mass behavior, predicted by polls and surveys. It may mean mastery over the happenings, like what can be seen in the novel "The Old Man and the Sea", especially some positive points that can be considered as lessons for human being in the social life.

Some Lessons based on Characters Analysis

Santiago

Santiago is the novella's central character. A dedicated fisherman who taught Manolin everything he knows about fishing, Santiago is now old and poor and has gone 84 days without a catch.

Santiago is an impoverished old man who has endured many ordeals, whose best days are behind him, whose wife has died, and who never had children. For 84 days, he has gone without catching the fish upon which his meager existence, the community's respect, and his sense of identity as an accomplished fisherman all depend. As a result, the young man who is like a son to him (the young man who, since the age of five, has fished with him and learned from him) now fishes, at the behest of his parents, with another fisherman.

Indeed, Santiago's philosophy and internal code of behavior make him unconventional in his society. Santiago's dedication to his craft (beyond concerns of material gain or survival) separates him from the pragmatic fishermen motivated by money. He stands apart from Cuba's evolution to a new materialism and a village fishing culture converting to a fishing industry. He remains dedicated to a profession he sees as a more spiritual way of life and a part of nature's order in the eternal cycle that makes all creatures brothers in their common condition of both predator and prey.

What Santiago desperately wants is one epic catch—not just to survive, but to prove once more his skill, reassert his identity as a fisherman, secure his reputation in the community, and ensure for all time that Manolin will forever honor his memory and become his successor in what matters most in life. For Santiago, what matters most in life is to live with great fervor and nobility according to his beliefs, to use his skills and nature's gifts to the best of his ability, to struggle and endure and redeem his individual existence through his life's work, to accept inevitable destruction with dignity, and to pass on to the next generation everything of value that he has gained. In these desires, he reflects the desires of us all.

What makes Santiago special is that despite a lifetime of hardships that have hurt him (as the morning sun has always hurt his eyes), he is still a man in

charge and an expert who knows the tricks of his fisherman's craft. His eyes remain young, cheerful, and undefeated. He knows how to rely on the transcendent power of his own imagination to engender the inspiration and confidence he needs and to keep alive in himself and others the hope, dreams, faith, absorption, and resolution to transcend hardship.

One of the lesson that we can get from the Santiago "the old man" is he has a high motivation in his life as previous explanation. Then it is proved by some quotations from the novel such as:

" But remember how you went eighty-seven days without fish and then we caught big ones every day for three weeks."

(Hemingway : 10)

"I may not be as strong as I think," the old man said.
"but I know many tricks and I have resolution"

(Hemingway : 23)

"But he thought, I keep them with precision. Only I have no luck anymore. But who knows? May be today is a new day. It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes you are ready"

(Hemingway : 32)

Above quotations show us that Santiago always has positive thinking in his life. He never gives up. He always be sure that one day he will find his ambition and all his dream.

Then another lesson related to Santaigo's character is to achieve his dream he always focus on the thing that he is doing. As the quotation below:

"Now is no time to think baseball, he thought. Now is the time to think of only one thing. That which I was born for. There might be a big one around that school, he thought."

(Hemingway : 32)

Manolin

Manolin is a young man from the fishing village who has fished with Santiago since the age of five and now cares for the old man. Manolin recently began fishing with another fisherman whom his parents consider luckier than Santiago. Manolin is Santiago's last and deepest human relationship, his replacement in the generational cycle of human existence, the one to whom he wishes to entrust his skill as a fisherman, the transforming power of his vision, and his memory. As Santiago is mentor, spiritual father, and the old man or old age, Manolin is pupil, son, and the boy or youth. Manolin loves and cares for Santiago, and at the story's end, he professes his faith in Santiago and everything Santiago represents. Living up to his name, which is the diminutive of Manuel (Spanish for Emmanuel, the Redeemer), Manolin articulates for Santiago the true meaning of his great struggle, which has brought him the intangibles he craves.

Three times, Manolin professes his faith in Santiago. In accepting the marlin's spear, Manolin demonstrates once and for all that he clearly understands and accepts all that Santiago wishes to bequeath him—and all that comes with that inheritance.

Above explanation about mandolin shows that one lesson that we can get from this character is love and care, in this case he loves and cares to Santiago, as we can see in the quotation below:

“When the wind was in the east a smell came across the harbor from the shark factory; but today there was only the faint of edge of the door because the wind had backed into the north and then dropped off and it was pleasant and sunny on the terrace.

“Santiago,” the boy said.

“Yes” the old man said. He was holding his glass and thinking of many years ago.

“Can I go out to get sardines for you for tomorrow?”

“No, Go and play baseball. I can still row and Rogelio will throw the net.

I would like to go. I cannot fish with you, I would like to serve in some way.”

(Hemingway : 12)

Above quotation shows the love and care of Manolin to Santiago. Therefore, as human being, we should care to our society in order to create a good life and happy life.

Another lesson that we can get from Manolin is “he always thanks for helping from someone. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“Who gave this to you?”

Martin. The owner.

“I must thank him”.

“I thanked him already” the boy said. “you don't need to thank him”

“I'll give him the belly meat of a big fish” the old man said. Has he done this for us more than once?

“I think so”

“I must give him something more than the belly meat then. He is very thoughtful for us.

(Hemingway : 14)

Martin

The owner of the Terrace (his name is Spanish for St. Martin), he sends food and drink to Santiago through Manolin.

From this character, we can see the lesson namely he is a generous person. He always helps Santiago by giving some food and drink to him. He gives the food and drink through Manolin.

Rogelio

A man of the village who on occasion help Santiago with the fishing net. From this character, we can get a good lesson that as human being we should give some helping to another people.

Perico

A man at the *bodega* (his name is Spanish for St. Peter, an apostle and fisherman) who gives Santiago newspapers to read. This character also gives us lesson that we have to care to another human beings by giving some helpings.

Friendship

In *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway there are two characters that have a great friendship, the old man and the young boy. The old man has been fishing for many years and for the last eighty-four days has not caught a fish. Now the boy who looks up to him, that is not allowed to fish with him anymore, the young boy is sad because of this. It can be seen to what the young boy said :

“He had seen many that weighed more than a thousand pounds... Now alone, and out of sight, he was fast to the biggest fish that he had ever seen and bigger than he had heard of”

(Hemingway : 63)

Respect

Santiago deeply respects fish in general and this aspect of his relationship to the fish is clearly shown throughout the book. There are many instances where Santiago displays his respect for fish and one of them is stated:

“The Old Man hit the albacore fish on the head for kindness and kicked him, his body shuddering, under the shade of the stern”

(Hemingway : 39)

This shows Santiago's respect and feelings for the albacore fish. Hitting the fish on the head and kicking the fish is a sign of respect.

Another example of Santiago's respect for a fish is when he describes the fish, as what he said below:

“never have I seen a greater, or more beautiful, or a calmer or more noble thing than you, brother”

(Hemingway : 92)

Santiago describes the fish with adjectives that imply the greatest respect for the fish.

From these quotes and explanations you get a grasp of the deep respect for fish. Also you can understand how respect plays a huge role in the relationship between Santiago and fish.

Struggle

Old Man and The Sea, a great book by Ernest Hemingway, is about a fisherman's struggle to save his career. This book is very different than any other book that the writer has read. It is different because this book doesn't have multiple events that happen in the story. Santiago, an old fisherman, goes out fishing and hooks a giant marlin. The book explains his struggle to kill the fish and bring it back home.

Santiago is an old man that wasn't having much luck fishing. One day he decides to go fishing and hooks a marlin. The man struggles to kill the marlin and in the process he is pulled very far out into the ocean. Santiago becomes attached to the marlin and calls it his "brother". Santiago gains strength by thinking about the things he loves and has interests in such as Manolin, a young fisherman, and the New York Yankees (baseball team). Santiago fights the marlin for three days and finally kills the fish. Santiago goes through many of obstacles to achieve his goal of catching a big fish but when he finally gets it, it's taken away from him by sharks that eat the Marlin.

For instance, Santiago's life was filled with honor. The past and the present were memories for which the old man was most proud. The old man endured tremendous physical pain and leading him to almost give up. To encourage himself, the old man remembered the time when he was El Campeon, which mean The Champion in Spanish.

“For a long time after that everyone had called him The Champion”

(Hemingway : 70)

The memory of being a victor revived Santiago's stamina, encouraging him to seek another goal. His next goal, the Marlin, ultimately challenged him.

"Fish...I'll stay with you until I am dead."

(Hemingway : 52)

At the moment when Santiago harpooned the Marlin through the heart, he knew that he was victorious. This act realistically sobered Santiago; he gained more honor and self-confidence. As a result, Santiago's life was filled with a feeling of nobility.

Strength

Many people believe that when people get old they become useless. For that reason many of the old people believe that is true and they really believe that they are useless. However, since the writer read *The Old Man and the Sea*, I realized something else about the characteristics of old people. Santiago's age does not mean anything to him. He believes that he can do anything he wants.

Santiago is very strong physically and mentally. He does not believe that he gets old and it's time for him to relax as many old people believe. Santiago goes to fish every day like he used to do when he was a young man. Sometimes he spends a lot of time fishing, and he comes back without having even one fish. One time he went to fish and he spent three days on the sea. During his trip he did not eat anything, or sleep either. He caught a huge fish. Santiago struggled a lot to catch the huge fish and protected it from other fishes. It was a very difficult situation for Santiago, but he did not give up. He fought the sharks and got back with what was left of his big fish.

However, all these factors did not affect Santiago psychologically. He did not believe that he was too old to go and fish by himself. He went to fish to even though he knew that it would be a difficult trip. Santiago believed that he was strong fisherman and he would be like that for the rest of his life.

3.2 Lesson from the setting of the novel

The Old Man and the Sea is a profound exploration of humankind's relationship with nature, and the human place in nature. Santiago's role as a fisherman who must catch fish in order to live in no way diminishes his deep love of nature and his extraordinary sensitivity to his environment. In fact his natural piety is in large part a function of his identity as fisherman (outsiders, touristically concerned with the

"beauty of nature," have no access to the depth of Santiago's hard-earned vision of nature.)

3.3 Hemmingway's life is reflected in "The Old Man and The Sea"

The writer himself believes that Santiago's character is the character that closely represents Hemingway the man. There is some dissension; however, regarding whether it is in fact Hemingway's personality or simply his experiences which are being personified by his characters. With a rather distinctive writing style, he is heavily influenced by his experiences in war.

The first sentence of the book announces itself as Hemingway's:

"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"

(Hemingway : 9)

The words are plain, and the structure, two tightly-worded independent clauses conjoined by a simple conjunction, is ordinary, traits which characterize Hemingway's literary style. While in other works this type of language is used to convey the immediacy of experience, Hemingway's terseness is heightened here to the point of rendering much of the prose empty on one level and pregnant with meaning on the other.

The other case that makes the writer believes that Hemingway's life is reflected in the lessons that are in "The Old Man and The Sea", as we know that Hemingway is an existentialism follower. Hemingway shows existentialism in this novel.

Many Philosophers and authors over time developed the idea that human existence is unexplained and void of meanings, which come to be known as existentialism. In existentialism there is no god. All life happened by chance and it has no meanings.

Existentialism believes that you begin with nothing and you end with nothing. Throughout "The Old Man and the Sea" Santiago the man character shows honesty and respect towards the fish that he is trying to kill, and the ocean that he fishes every day. Santiago doesn't have the best of luck, but he doesn't cry he suffer with the utmost dignity for a man who went over eighty days without catching a fish. Existentialism believes that the honesty and respect is a key ingredient in the way men and women should lives there lives. Santiago shows respect for the fish in various and sometimes hard to understand, but here he just tells it like it is "fish" he said "I love you and respect you very much. But I will kill you dead before this day ends".

The majority of the old man's positive actions, however, are not presented directly to the writer but are related the dialogue between the two waiters. They begin with their brief discussion on why the old man attempted suicide, and then continue into how he planned to execute the deed. It is significant that the older waiter mentions that the old man's niece - who rescued him from death - did so out of "fear for his soul." This gives the reader insight into the heavy moralizing to which the old man must have been subject, and the difficulty he experienced in having his family accepts his existentialist philosophies.

CONCLUSIONS

There are some positive lessons that the writer gets in his analysis as follows:

1. The high motivation and never give up is shown by the major character "Santiago"
2. Love and cares to close friend is shown by the character "Manolin"
3. Related to Social concerns, "The Old Man and the Sea" is a profound exploration of humankind's relationship with nature, and the human place in nature.
4. Generally from the characters in The Old Man and the Sea, we get some lessons such as friendship, respect, struggle and strength.
5. Hemingway's life is reflected in the lessons in "The Old Man and the Sea", through his experience in war and his role as the existentialism follower.

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