Hemingway's distinctive art of narrative that he mastered in portraying Santiago as a Code Hero

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This paper minutely scrutinizes the role of Hemingway'sdistinctive art of narrative that he mastered in portraying Santiago as a Code Hero.

The hero according to Earnest Hemingway is someone who defiles the odds when faced with adversity and this theme is repeated throughout his works. This definition of a real Hero evolved for Hemingway as he examined his own life through his writing.

You can't get away from yourself by moving from one place to another. (The Sun also Rises, 11).

'On the Blue Water', which was an article became the source of the novel, *Old Man and the Sea* written by Earnest Hemingway- the Esquire' in April, 1936. Hemingway as we know already was a great nature lover, outdoor life, action and adventure. He had settled in Cube and because he had his own boat, he used to go fishing in it. In the article "on the Blue Sea' Hemingway described the pleasures and adventures of the deep-sea fishing in the Gulf Stream of the Cuban Coast. He went out to unravel the mysteries of the deep sea. In the article, Hemingway had revealed a real incident which he has described very nicely.

Santiago is the protagonist in the Masterpiece of Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*, where his style of writing, the art of narrative was recognized for the Nobel Prize. Santiago is the perfect example of Code Hero, the figure Hemingway was famished to create all his life.

The typical Hemingway Code Hero was unlike an ordinary Man. He was a man involved in great deal of drinking. He was a man who moved from one affair to another, who participates in wild game hunting, who enjoyed bull fighting, who was involved in all of those manly activities, which the typical American male did not participate in, at that time. Throughout many of Hemingway novels the code hero acts in a manner, which allowed the critics to formulate a particular code. He is man of action rather than a man of theory. The concept of formation of the code hero came after disillusionment which was brought by the First World War

Hemingway hero has the duty of avoiding death at almost all costs. Life must continue which is valuable and must be enjoyable, life is everything. A man can never act in cowardly way; he must not

show that he is afraid in the confrontation of death. If man is to live in the presence to death, he lives most intensely sometimes when he is in the direct pressure of death.Hemingway hero is young inexperienced, lost and bewildered in a world divided of values, the code hero is usually a matured man and has realized the potentialities and even knows how to operate things well.

   The code hero is not Hemingway himself, which the Hemingway hero was in disguise. Indeed he is sharply distinguished from that hero; the code hero comes to balance the hero's deficiencies and to correct his stance.

        In *The Old Man and the sea* there is fight, a struggle between the old man, the huge Marlin and other furious sharks. This is not the struggle or fight against the equal force. On the one side is the huge fish Marlin which is too strong and on the other side is an old man, who is too weak physically, still he has an enthusiasm and courage to fight against his foe. He is frail and too exhausted but he uncomplainingly endures the pains and pangs of struggling non-stop through the days and nights, in the hot sun and the cold night first against the fish and next against of his bones, the old fisherman does not for a moment think of anything else but victory with the faith that man is not made for defeat. At the last he was beaten but not defeated.

        In the novel, old man lost but with dignity and with hope of future struggle alive. The struggle of Hemingway in his personal life is very much depicted in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea.* His frustration, his despair, his loneliness is apparent in the character of the old man. The other fishermen used to call the old man "Salo' means an unlucky man or a man's life full of unlucky time. In the same way before writing this novel, Hemingway's life was full of critics and people who mocked on hisdrowning career. In the same way as the old man was fighting with the great Marlin with hope and confidence. Hemingway was struggling in his career and fighting hard to regain his lost position.

     Towards the end Santiago is defeated, but he accepts his defeat quite boldly without any kind of depression. A truly heroic figure risks the possibility of defeat and death. By his action and his strong will act to the last, he proved himself to be the true hero.

        The best interpretation of the story is, of course, to say that it represent the human struggle in which against the unconquerable forces of this world, a struggle in which man can only lose, but lose in such a way that his loss has dignity and can be viewed as in itself a victory.

         The perfect and an excellent example of the code hero is Santiago of *The Old Man and the Sea.* The best thing about him is that he behaves perfectly, honorably and with great courage and endurance, he keeps all that with him which defines the code, while losing his great and giant catch to the

sharks. This all epitomizes the message that, in life you lose your courage, you even get destroyed, what counts is how you keep the defeat away while you are being destroyed. In the words of Baker:

The old man losses the battle he has won the winner takes nothing but the sense of having fought, he fights to the limits of his strength, of having shown a man can do when it is necessary like many of the rest of us, he is undefeated because he has gone on trying (Baker, Carlos 14).

Santiago's victory is the moral victory of having tasted without permanent impairment of his belief in the worth of what he has been doing. Say's Chloe Lizotte in his study of Santiago as a Code Hero:

Being the protagonist of Hemingway's novella *The Old Man and the Sea*, barely a shell of a man, living in poverty and without catching a single fish for Eighty four days, Santiago sets out to hook for a massive Marlin in order to support himself and his noticeable scarcities. The voyage tests Santiago's physical and emotional strength, he tightly clenches his morals and his values in the face of dangers so as to preserve through the epic struggle *(Lizotte, 1)*.

As a Hemingway code hero, Santiago throughout the novella proves time and again that external obstacles do not matter if one has the internal courage and dignity, which ultimately comes to one's survival. Youthful energy and spirit is a vital component of the old man's personality that proves crucial to his survival.

Hemingway code hero maintains dignity in the midst of suffering and defeat, which more explicitly Santiago performs. So the unspoken code required Santiago to proceed further into the struggle Santiago was comfortable but suffering, although he did not admit the suffering at all. Santiago here is with the response of an ideal code hero to the situation such as this. Without such strength, the motivation to succeed and to press on until the end of the fight would deplete with the onset of any major hindrance. It surely is impossible to accomplish anything tough without will Santiago has,

Santiago's later comments that *Pain does not matter to a man. (The Old Man and The Sea, 51)* as he examines his injured right hand, he has the mentality which a true Hemingway code hero possesses.

Triumph over adversity with numerous challenges to Santiago appears continually throughout the story. At one time, Santiago seems lacking of physical strength and that almost convinces him that he cannot continue, however, at the same time Santiago reminds that *man is not made for defeat a man can be destroyed but not defeated….(The Old Man and The Sea, 101)* This statement reflects the true sentiment the Hemingway code hero, never backing down in the midst of defeat while ensuring that one's moral

code remains intact. The heroic nature of Santiago comes alive when he seems to be most defeated. Towards the dawn of novella, Santiago might appear extremely unsuccessful, his internal dignity never waves. He constantly stays true to his code in facing and winning over the adversity, in the face of death, he reaffirms his life and worthiness in the universe.

Santiago is meant to be a master fisherman and there is a very good reason why Hemingway chose an old man as his hero.

The Hemingway code hero always has a control over his emotions and Hemingway code hero learns this from the former typical Hemingway hero.

In the Detailed study on the nature of Hemingway`s heroes, Bhim Singh Dahiya sums up the existing criticism on it and points out where he differs from it, not agreeing with Young`s views, believes that the Hemingway hero should not be confused with the hero himself, nor does he agree with widely accepted theory of the *Code Hero* teaching the Hemingway hero, from the later not only learns from his own experiences but also the ability to make serious commitments in life which the former has not. Dahiya also rejects, what he calls, the critics confusion, particularly that of Delbert Wylder, between the hero and the protagonist in Hemingway`s works, Dahiya insists that the heroism "is not a matter of physical courage nor of a personal success in a dangerous situation; it is characterized by his larger concern for the fate of human society, by this complex awareness of life , and by his mental courage that shows itself in with standing stress and strains of his complex awareness"(Dahiya, 7).

Hemingway himself defines the code hero as, "A man who lives correctly, following the ideas of honor, courage and endurance in a world that is sometimes chaotic, often stressful and painful"here *Code* would mean those set of rules or instructions for conduct. In Hemingway's code, the Prominent ideals are honor, courage and endurance in a life which would be filled with stress, misfortune and also pain. Often in the stories of Hemingway's, the hero's world is much violent and not in order, moreover the violence and disorder seem to win.

A typical code hero is an independent and free willed man. He does not show emotions, has mastery over them. Neither does he commit to any women, as the possession of emotions and having commitment to women shows weakness. The prime qualities such as bravery, adventuresome and travel also define the code hero.

Hemingway won the great Nobel Prize in 1954 after he was awarded Pulitzer Prize for the masterpiece, *The Old Man and the Sea* here we are mistaken that Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize for the great book *The Old Man and the Sea* , but the portrayal of the *Code Hero* and 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.

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