

# A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE THREE DREAMS IN EARNEST HEMINGWAY'S "THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA"

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**ABSTRACT**--The topic of this research is "A Stylistic analysis of the Three Dreams in Earnest Hemingway's "The Old Man and The Sea." This research describes the stylistic analysis of the imageries and expressive means used in this novel to reveal the insides and the role of the hero through his dreams. These dreams represent the adjustments in the mind that are linked to sleep. The devices used along with the images and expressive means play a philosophical, sociological and psychological mirror of what is hidden inside the hero's mind and psyche and what is beyond the power of dreams in fiction. In this research, we introduce all the images, which demonstrate various symbols in the hero's life and in his hard society, which in turn characterize the individual style of the author. Dreams function effectively in simulating threats, handling both of the emotional and intellectual problems, and reinforcing memories for the author.

**Key words**-- *a stylistic analysis of the three dreams in earnest hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea"*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Hemingway is a well-known American novelist, a short story writer. He was famous for his simple, economic and comprehensible style. Hemingway is a great and talented writer. He posturizes all the critical events in his epoch through his professional use of the stylistic devices, imagery, expressive means and symbols in his novel. His novel «The Old Man and the Sea» made him a celebrity as it was the first edition print run was 50,000 copies in 1952( He criticizes all bad circumstances imposed on a human being at his time. He evokes various social themes such as: poverty, fear, hardship and inequality of his society.

Moreover, he symbolizes the old man as a strong man, who is, in spite of his old age and bad health, cannot be defeated. Hemingway reports everything beautifully and that indicates his work as a journalist. His style is simple, clear and vivid with many images. There have been many stylistic devices used by Hemingway such as: personification, simile, metaphor and epithet which are integrated together for showing an aesthetic piece of literature and literary fiction genre.

The Old Man and the Sea is his distinguished novel. It a critical analysis of the current situation at his time. This novel has all through been appreciated for its abundance and vividness of the stylistic devices and expressive means which Hemingway used to describe various themes. This novel was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Later, Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1952. Hemingway uses different images and symbols so as to actualize the events of the story.

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Much research has been done on analysing this novel, but no one has analysed dreams as a mirror reflecting the inner feeling of the author and his protagonist. The dreams are the most and best symbols that Hemingway used to dramatize the events and give an aesthetic value as well as they actualize the events. Moreover, dreams are the best to reflect what deep inside the old man as they exemplify the unconscious state of the old man.

The purpose of the research is to demonstrate that dreams enable the sleeper to see things in a more positive light upon waking. Dreams generally help to regulate the mood. Freud (1900) argues that dreams act as "the guardians of sleep" by providing a protective role and enhancing survival.

This research aims at analyzing dreams to find out the essential roles of stylistic devices and to portray them as a characteristic device in narration and as a mirror, disclosing the spiritual, inner and psychological state of the hero. Dreams are used as a mirror to reveal what is going in the old man's mind. It is a good way for the readers to picture the whole event and to help them to judge both the old man and the event properly.

The methods used are: biographical data analysis, cultural and historical analysis, descriptive qualitative analysis, and discourse analysis.

The theoretical value of the research is that the novel content is interpreted via illustration of the importance of dreams in literature.

The practical value of the research is that the present overall analysis can help develop a step-by-step approach to the exploration of the role and great effect as well as the power of dreams in enhancing the inner feeling of the protagonist in terms of their stylistic means.

Structure and volume of the research. The research has 15 pages and consists of introduction, research methodology, data analysis, qualitative descriptive analysis of imagery found in the three dreams. The references include 10 sources.

## **II. THE IMPORTANCE OF DREAMS IN LITERATURE**

The Old Man and The Sea is a story of dualism of dichotomies, namely, Contractions of differences such as: the sea, the old man, the marine man, the turtles, the war jellyfish that flashing under Santiago 's feet as he tastes their destruction gently, a spiritual victory over the falsehoods and treasons of nature.

Dreams, effectively, serve as a valuable narrative device for showing both the author's and characters' point of view and their inner feeling towards their real life situation. A person can be guided by a valuable wisdom through his unconscious imagination or his dream.

Dreams play a crucial role in Literature. Firstly, they show a continuing fascination with dreaming through the time. Secondly, they display shifts in characters' beliefs about the nature and process of dreams.

The psychologist Cartwright (1991) stresses that dreams serve as a potential healing as new emotive problems appeal to existing problem solving habits that have in the past served for the dreamer. Whereas, Engen (2015) adds that dreams reveal repressive desires, the characters' wishes and worries for their prospects or their history, anticipating what might happen, setting up a atmosphere or exposing a reaction.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was a renewed fascination with dreaming or dreamlike which states that dreams provide routes to greater self- awareness and pathways to the unconscious state of being. Earnest Hemingway involves this state of dreaming in his novel: *The Old Man and The Sea* in which he creates his

protagonist Santiago to dramatize that role of dreaming. Santiago escapes from the hard situation and conscious state to the unconscious state through his dreams.

Many authors involve dreams in their writings. For example, Samuel Taylor's Coleridge's "Kubla Khan", Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, Thomas De Quincey's Confessions of an English Opium Eater, Tolstoy's War and Peace, Anna Karenina and Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment and The Brothers Karamazov.

In modern Literature, there has been a great influence by the psychological theory of Sigmund Freud whose thoughts and ideas increased the incorporation of dream in fiction. Moreover, many writers use dreams both to develop characters psychologically and to capture the essence of dreaming in highly surrealist works. For example, Thomas Mann's The Magic Mountain, August Strindberg's A Dream Play and The Ghost Sonata, Franz Kafka's The Trial and The Castle, and James Joyce's Ulysses and Finnegans Wake. All these writers, in their writings, state that dreams are considered supernatural phenomena, that is to say, simple mirrors of reality used for revealing important aspects of personal identity. Additionally, Shakespeare employed dreaming as a dominant theme or plot device. For example, Romeo Juliet, Henry IV, Measure for Measure, and The Tempest. (Weldhorn, 1988).

Emily Bronte asserts that dreams in literature, as in life, have great pleasure which lies in discerning meaning from them. Dreams, in "The Old Man and The Sea", are featured as a regular motif which represents the overarching theme of the novel.

It is worth mentioning that dreams, in fiction, guide characters in their actual life. For example, when Catherine accepts a marriage proposal from Edgar after connecting a dream about going to heaven with their union:

"I have dreamt in my life, dreams that have stayed with me ever after, and changed my ideas; they have gone through and through me, like wine through water, and altered the colour of my mind. And this is one: I'm going to tell it-but take care not to smile at any part of it."

Hence dreams, being so uncontrollable, are the most personal of our thoughts.

Freud (1900), the great Austrian psychoanalyst, asserts that dreams help interpret the activity in our unconscious mind like wish fulfilment or an attempt by the sleeping mind to produce a solution from unresolved issues in our past:

"The virtuous man contents himself with dreaming that which the wicked man does in actual life"

Most writers use dreams, in literature, as a tool to reveal various things about the characters, especially, the protagonist. Examples of these things are: repressed desires, their wishes and fears for their future or past, foreshadowing things that might come, and finally flashback & backstory.

In repressed desires: the character, here, is unaware of their desires and these desires are revealed only by the power of dreams.

In characters' wishes and fears: sometimes a character has dwelled on something overly or worried about what is coming next and the only way that bleeds that thing is by his/her dream as it might be in real life.

In foreshadowing: the real benefit, here, is more than the character him/herself. The reader also might get something significant about that dream which adds tension, truth about the plot as well as conflict between characters.

In flashback & backstory: dreams can be used as a technique to ease into flashbacks for the characters' story, Moreover, a flashback can be considered as a narrative or scene from the characters' past that is related in

the present story so as to pertain to either characterization or plot and to relate how the characters' relationships deteriorated. (Engen, 2015)

We conclude that a flashback can be the most accurate way to remember something; especially something that is traumatic which has been repressed.

### III. 1.1 STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE OLD MAN'S THREE DREAM

#### 1.1.1 *The first dream*

"The boy went out. They had eaten with no light on the table and the old man took off his trousers and went to bed in the dark. He rolled his trousers up to make a pillow, putting the newspaper inside them. He rolled himself in the blanket and slept on the other old newspapers that covered the springs of the bed. He was asleep in a short time and he dreamed of Africa when he was a boy and the long golden beaches and the white beaches, so white they hurt your eyes, and the high capes and the great brown mountains. He lived along that coast now every night and in his dreams he heard the surf roar and saw the native boats come riding through it. He smelled the tar and oakum of the deck as he slept and he smelled the smell of Africa that the land breeze brought at morning.

Usually when he smelled the land breeze he woke up and dressed to go and wake the boy. But tonight the smell of the land breeze came very early and he knew it was too early in his dream and went on dreaming to see the white peaks of the Islands rising from the sea and then he dreamed of the different harbours and roadsteads of the Canary Islands. He no longer dreamed of storms, nor of women, nor of great occurrences, nor of great fish, nor fights, nor contests of strength, nor of his wife. He only dreamed of places now and of the lions on the beach. They played like young cats in the dusk and he loved them as he loved the boy. He never dreamed about the boy." (Hemingway, 1952, p.6)

The speaker is Hemingway. He is describing the situation of the day before the voyage of both Santiago and the boy: Manolin.

This utterance indicates that Santiago lives in a very bad and poor condition in his shack as he is deprived of the simplest things of accommodation such as light, pillow and bed. Moreover, the newspaper stands for Santiago's education and his interest in journalism. Santiago was interesting in reading newspapers to follow the news of sport. Due to the lack of strength and youth, Santiago used to dream of many things such as: great occurrences, great fish, fights, contests of strength and his wife. However, this time he dreamt of a completely different thing. He dreamt of places as he longs to the past days of his childhood and youth, the days of energy, power and strength. Everything he saw in dream indicates optimism.

Hemingway uses various stylistic devices and figurative means to describe Santiago's dream.

We have many epithets in this utterance. Firstly, when the old man describes the beaches as: "the long golden beaches and the white beaches" by using adjectives like fabulous colours like golden and white that indicates optimism and shining views of these beaches. Secondly, in "the high capes.....the great brown mountains.....the surf roar.....the white peaks.....the different harbours.....the native boats.....great fish and young cats."

Moreover, we have hyperbole when describing the intensity of the whiteness of these beaches which symbolize the beauty of nature in Africa and in "the land breeze came very early.....it was too early in his dream". The "surf roar" also indicates an auditory image, that is to say, onomatopoeia which means the splash of the waves of water in the sea.

There is a specific use of vocabulary as most of them are concerned with the nature and ships and their construction such as: tar, oakum, boats, deck, beaches, capes, mountains, surf roar, peaks, island sea harbours roadsteads, storms, great fish, lions cats dusk and breeze.

We have here specification when Hemingway describes Africa with “the smell of Africa with its land breeze in the morning which characterizes this special continent.

There is an indication from this utterance that the old man has dreamt of women, great occurrences, great fish, fights, contests of strength and his wife many times. However, this time the old man has dreamt of something completely different from the past dreams. He has dreamt of places and the lions. This implies many things: firstly, the man has got bored of his usual dreams that in this time depending on his real lack and urgent need to the power and strength of the lions so as to be ready for his futuristic hard and risky voyage of hunting.

Hemingway also used metaphor to describe these lions as “young cats in the dusk.” I believe this metaphor also show a contradiction between the lions and the cats. The lions are strong, wild, and savage and they are not pets, but the cats are delicate and pets. This symbolizes the contradictions found in Hemingway’s and the old man’s life at that time.

We have a personification between his love to these lions and his love to the boy. We can conclude that the old man behaves with animals in some cases as if they were human beings. There is a great possibility here that the old man doesn’t have real and loyal friends. Hence, he compensates his own lack of having friends with those lions thinking of him that animals can be more loyal and stronger than having false friends who will not support him in his hard circumstances.

Moreover, it indicates that both of the old man’s conscious and unconscious states are integrated together to escape into the world of dreams so as to enhance his physical abilities, resolution and his energy.

### ***1.1.2 The second dream***

“He did not dream of the lions but instead of a vast school of porpoises that stretched for eight or ten miles and it was in the time of their mating and they would leap high into the air and return into the same hole they had made in the water when they leaped. Then he dreamed that he was in the village on his bed and there was a norther and he was very cold and his right arm was asleep because his head had rested on it instead of a pillow. After that he began to dream of the long yellow beach and he saw the first of the lions come down onto it in the early dark and then the other lions came and he rested his chin on the wood of the bows where the ship lay anchored with the evening off-shore breeze and he waited to see if there would be more lions and he was happy. The moon had been up for a long time but he slept on and the fish pulled on steadily and the boat moved into the tunnel of clouds.” (Hemingway, 1952, p.22)

The old man in this utterance has dreamt his second dream during his hard fight with the giant fish so as to catch it. It was the eighty fifth day and the giant fish pulled his skiff farther and farther in the sea. He dreamt of a great number of porpoises which were jumping high into the air.

Later, he dreamed of groups of lions coming down onto the long yellow beach in the early dark and he was enjoying looking at them till the evening off-shore breeze when the ship laid anchored there. Hemingway uses a figurative use of language.

Hemingway uses various literary techniques to convey the old man's emotion and his feeling of the past days of his youth and strength. The old man's lack of power and strength has shown his reiterated dreams of the lions through the expressive means such as: personification, epithet in the utterance.

We have personification in "his right arm was asleep." Moreover, there is a metaphorical expression when the old man describes his right arm as a pillow. We have an indication here that the old man is a very poor man. Symbols play a connotative role of conveying meanings of words and their associations which provide a deeper meaning to the text. The symbol of "the pillow" stands for the rest, relaxation and tranquillity which the old man lost in his old age.

Hemingway additionally uses here some epithets for dramatizing the situation as shown in the following: "the long yellow beach", "the early dark", and "the evening off-shore breeze." All these epithets are used to actualize the scene so as to attract the readers' attention and imagine it as if it is in the reality. We have also hyphenation between the words "off-shore."

Another metaphor is expressed in "the tunnel of clouds" describing the weather at that time which was cloudy and dark.

We may conclude that the old man intends to tell us that he is a strong and risky man as he sails far in the sea alone in spite of the dangerous condition of this voyage in the sea. Moreover, he wants to convey a good idea to his readers that he has a good relation with the lions as if they are his friends.

### ***1.1.3 The third dream***

"Up the road, in his shack, the old man was sleeping again. He was still sleeping on his face and the boy was sitting by him watching him. The old man was dreaming about the lions". (Hemingway, 1952, p. 36)

At the last time, the old man again has dreamt of the lions. It indicates that the old man is a resistant man and cannot be defeated in spite of his failure in protecting the giant fish. However, he proved to all that he is still able of hunting and he has a strong hope and resolution. The old man is so tired out of his hard and long journey and this is apparent from his way of sleeping as it is expressed in this utterance: "He was still sleeping on his face" which symbolizes his big effort in the journey.

Santiago struggles with his incongruent thinking, on one hand considering the fish as a brother and on the other hand his desire to prove his superior humanness by its destruction. His destruction with wildness tells him it is natural to kill the fish. (Synder, 1990, p. 4)

Yet, Santiago is a man, a human being living in a nature which is definitely not devoid of life and death, destruction and rebirth. Hence, we conclude that Hemingway makes clear these opposing forces; however he mixes them all together to come up with a clear unity of process, purpose and function physically and spiritually in the end: "I didn't know sharks had such handsome, beautifully formed tails". (Hemingway, 1952, p. 122)

Santiago often identifies with the marlin he has caught, commenting on it being his brother and comparing his will with the marlin's. Santiago clearly sees an essential part of himself in his surroundings and in the animal objects of his experience. (Franz, 1972)

It is argued by Hartman (1996) that dreams have a quasi-therapeutic function allowing for cross-connections of emotional material in neural network in the context of a "safe place". This occurs particularly in the case of traumatic experiences through association and integration of material with other related emotional material of the dreamer's life and results in "calming the storm". Then gradually the trauma is resolved or integrated and the

dreams change his character and mood. That's why dreaming has a restorative function in producing changes in memory network which are adaptive for the future.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

One of the most prominent images used by Hemingway is dreams. Dreams are used as a mirror to reveal what is going in the old man's mind. It is a good way for the readers to picture the whole event and help them to judge both the old man and the event properly. Dreams act as a therapy that allows for cross-connections of emotional material in neural networks in the context of a "safe place" and that happens only in traumatic experiences of the dreamer's life, then results in calming the dreamer and changing his character and mood.

Furthermore, Earnest Hemingway reveals many themes found in his society and his own life such as: darkness, hardship of life, frustration, longings, violence, hardships and darkness. Hemingway believes that there is no use for the human existence. He also believes that his society is without ethics and principles, a world of sufferings, hardship, traumas & violence. I recommend this study to those who have interest in fictional analysis. The present study could be extended to further analysis of the concept of dreams in various fictional texts.

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