

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Ernest Miller Hemingway was an American novelist and short story writer who is widely recognized as one of the greatest authors of the twentieth century. Some of his novels which are usually said to be the finest are: The Sun Also Rises (1926), For Whom The Bell Tolls (1940) and The Old Man and The Sea (1952). The last mentioned was Hemingway's last work that was ever published during his lifetime and for this short novel he received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954.

The Old Man and The Sea presents the adventure of an old Cuban fisherman, Santiago, who sails out beyond the sight of land and farther than he should to catch a huge marlin but finally this big fish is eaten by the sharks.

Santiago's struggle to gain the marlin and defend it from the sharks's attack is interesting to be dealt with. He lets his body hurt and promises to fight until he dies. This hard struggle is extraordinary that it makes me curious about the causes behind Santiago's struggle. Therefore I choose this subject as the topic of my analy

sis. There must be some reasons or motives that affect him to make such great effort and sacrifice.

There are two possibilities that may influence Santiago. First, the community's view and attitude which underestimate him as useless after eighty four days catching no fish. They make fun of him and one of the fishermen considers him as "salao" which is the worst form of unlucky. Thus, he wants to prove that he is not as useless as they used to consider him to be. He wants them to know that he is still "powerful" to catch fish. Another possibility is his own pride as a real fisherman which demands him to keep on fighting confidently. He knows that he is a good fisherman and he is sure that he will catch some fish again.

Whether or not the community's view and attitude play an important role in Santiago's long struggle is still a big question. There is a different opinion between he and the other fishermen in the village concerning fishing. Santiago considers fishing as more than occupation, it is a way of life. On the other hand, the other fishermen put material consideration on fishing. As stated by Gary K. Carey (1973) in The Old Man and The Sea
Notes:

The old fisherman and the boy value human relationships above materialism. The boy's father and many of the other fishermen put material consideration first: a man must catch fish otherwise he has no money, otherwise he is not a man. (12)

1.2 Objective of the Study

This thesis is written primarily to study the influence of the fishermen community's view and attitude toward the main character, Santiago, in his long struggle to catch the marlin. Another objective is to learn about Santiago's motivation for struggling.

1.3 Significance of the Study

Since Ernest Hemingway is well-known as one of the most prominent writers in America, there are many studies which have been done dealing either with his personal life or his works. However, I believe the study on Hemingway is always interesting and will never end. This thesis, therefore, is hoped to give contribution especially to the study of American literature and the study

of literature in general. Particularly, I also hope the readers will reach a better understanding about the influence of community's view and attitude in stimulating one's decision to make an action.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

There are two theories applied in order to look closely at this novel: sociological and psychological approaches. I will use both the study of psychological types and laws presented within works of literature and the psychological study of the author since his or her experiences and state of mind mostly affect his ideas.

I have used Rathus's psychological theory on motivation to support my analysis, in order to emphasize the significance of self-motivation possessed by the main character, Santiago. Spencer A. Rathus (1986) in Essentials of Psychology, stated that "motivation is a hypothesized state within an organism that propels the organism toward a goal" (176). He mentioned further that human beings can be motivated by "needs" and "incentives". I have quoted Rathus's statement regarding "needs" and "incentives" which he explained that:

Needs are states of physical deprivation.

For instance, when we have not eaten or drunk for a while, we tend to develop needs for food and water. We speak of the body as having needs for oxygen, fluids, calories, vitamins, minerals, and so on.

Needs give rise to drives, such as the drives of hunger and thirst. Drives are the psychological correlates of needs. We experience drives of hunger and thirst when we have gone without food and water. Drives arouse us to action. Drive level usually increases with the length of time we have been deprived. We are usually more highly aroused by the hunger drive when we have not eaten for several hours than we have not eaten for, say, one hour.

An incentive is an object, person, or situation perceived as capable of satisfying a need. Money, food, a sexually attractive person, social approval, and attention all can act as incentives that motivate behaviour. (177)

According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in Theory of Literature:

By 'psychology of literature', we may mean the

psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual or the study of the creative process, or the study of psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology). (81)

This is supported by David Daiches in his book entitled Critical Approaches to Literature (1981). He said that modern psychological knowledge can be used to look at the behaviour of characters in a novel. It can be summarized as follows:

We can look at the behaviour of characters in a novel or a play in the light of modern psychological knowledge and, in their behavior confirms what we know about the subtleties as a means of elucidating and interpreting the work (337).

The sociological approach used in this thesis is to discuss the social content of the novel. The actual relations between literature and society can be classified into three as mentioned by Wellek et al:

First, there is the sociology of the writer and the profession and institutions of litera

ture, the whole question of the economic basis of literary production, the social provenance and status of the writer, his social ideology, which may find expression in extraliterary pronouncements and activities. Then there is the problem of the social content, the implications and social purpose of the works of literature themselves. Lastly, there are the problem of the audience and the actual social influence of literature (96).

I also apply the sociological theory on conformity as stated by Jack Levin and James L. Spates in Starting Sociology. They stated that living in a society means that most of the time we conform and follow the rules of the group in which we live. According to them, "there is no way social life could go on without at least a minimal amount of conformity and obedience from group members". (91)

In relation to the social content in The Old Man and the Sea, I have selected George Herbert Mead's theory on socialization. Mead mentioned that one will be really accepted as useful member of social order if he knows the basic rules of the group and organize his actions in

accordance with the frame of the whole group. However, Mead realize that people have certain freedom to act although they are limited by community. He accounts for this freedom in his socialization theory by presenting an idea that self has two components: "I" and "me". "Me" reflect the actions which are made or decided by considering other people's attitude. "Me" represents more conventional side of self, the side which gives reactions to social conventions. At the same time, since we are human beings who have self consciousness, mind, and concepts, we can not predict completely what we will respond in any situation. Contrary to "me", "I" consists of certain private factors which enter our communication with others. "I" represents the spontaneous, impulsive, and innovative dispositions of the individual, those dispositions not yet under the control of society. The "I" is responsible for instances of individuality and conformity. (Kamanto Sunarto in Sosiologi: Sebuah Bunga Rampai, 1985, p. 71-73)

1.5 Method of Research

This thesis is based primarily on library reseach. I will make a close analysis of the novel to make a clear-

er description about the problem of the study and its solutions. Since I will discuss the object which is unavoidably related with the main character of the novel, I also make a character analysis which will be approached from sociological and psychological theories.

The books used are mostly critics on Hemingway's works especially critics on The Old Man and the Sea. The primary source is the novel itself. Materials on Hemingway's personal life are also used since the author's personal experiences play important role in creating his ideas. Some relevant theoretical books are used to support the understanding about literary theories which are used as the basis in analyzing the novel.

Since I will analyze the novel from sociological and psychological point of view, some relevant sources are also applied. Other references used in this thesis which are not mentioned can be found in the bibliography.

1.6 Presentation

This thesis will be divided into five parts. The first chapter is introduction which consists of background of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, theoretical framework, method of research,

and presentation. The second chapter is about the life of Ernest Hemingway, while the analysis will be given in chapter three and four. Chapter three discusses about the sociological point of view in analyzing the influence of the fishermen's view and attitude toward Santiago's struggle. The following chapter will discuss the psychological point of view regarding Santiago's motivations for struggling. The conclusion will be given in chapter five.