

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The reasons of Santiago's struggle are, firstly, from the other fishermen's view and attitude. Secondly, from his inner self. It seems difficult to separate these two kinds of causes and to decide which one is more dominant, because they are closely interrelated.

Santiago lives among other people in a community, his activities are interrelated together with them. Therefore, he can not avoid judgements of the other members of the community. On the other hand, he is an individual who has his own opinions, views, and attitudes about each conducts he takes. These two kinds of causes can not be separated, each of them gives contributions to strengthen Santiago's effort to catch fish. The influences from the community can be said as the influences which come from outside himself. While his own characteristics, views, and beliefs are supporting factors which come from his inner self.

The other members of the community make fun of him, even consider him as unlucky and weak because he catches

no fish during eighty four days. There is a common knowledge among the members of the fishermen community, that in order to be called a successful fisherman, one must be able to catch a truly big fish. They underestimate Santiago since he can not fulfil the requirement and expectation of a real fisherman.

As a normal human being, Santiago can not neglect this humiliation toward him. He can no longer bear the insults. His pride has enforced him to prove that he is not a "salao". In fact, he is still a true fisherman despite his old age.

The other fishermen's view and attitude make him remember of his role as a fisherman. This role requires him to fulfil his duty as a fisherman: catching fish. For this duty as a fisherman, Santiago is willing to sacrifice his life and endure alone for three days and nights on the sea. If he is successful in catching fish, especially a marlin, he can be approved as a member of the community because he has fulfilled his duty. It means that he has done what the other members of the community expect him to do.

The pressures coming from outside, that is from the community's view and attitude have awaken his awareness

as a fisherman. He has to prove that he is a real fisherman, in doing so he uses his potentiality as best as he can. Santiago wants to show his existence by using all his potentiality and capability. He has determined to stay on the sea to fight until he dies.

His strong self-confidence also plays an important role in his struggle to catch the marlin and to protect the fish from the sharks' attack. Santiago is very optimistic that someday he will be lucky and successful in catching a big fish.

Thus, the influence from the community's view and attitude which is supported by his tendency of self actualization and his strong self-confidence motivate him to fight alone on the sea. He can only bring home the marlin's skeleton after all, in spite of his long struggle to gain it. However, Santiago is not disappointed. He can go home proudly because he has done his duty as a fisherman.

From the analysis which I have made, I can get a clearer description about the causes of Santiago's struggle on the sea. He does not want to lose his pride by being underestimated and made fun of by his fellow fishermen. Santiago's self-confidence is restored after he

bring the marlin's skeleton back home. It is a very large fish, eighteen feet from nose to tail, and naturally he takes pride in his catch. Despite the skeleton, the people in Santiago's village are fascinated and shocked by the old man's successful ability to show his quality as a real fisherman.

However, this people's attitude does not change his simplicity as a fisherman. He merely leaves the harbor and go straight home, regardless of the crowd which is gathering around his big fish. He is very tired and wants to have a long rest.

The readers can take the positive aspects of Santiago's personality to be applied in their lives. In facing troubles, the readers may take lessons from Santiago's struggle to gain the marlin. He is never desperate, no matter how difficult and bad the situation is. Santiago has strong self-confidence, he believes in his own strength. This indicates that someone must have strong self-confidence and never depends on other person in order to be successful. His devotion to his profession as a fisherman is also important to be noticed. Santiago is a professional fisherman, viewed from his willingness to sacrifice his life to fulfil his duty. He does not take

material consideration in fishing, therefore he insists to bring home the marlin's skeleton. Materially, this skeleton means nothing but the long struggle to gain the fish should be valued.

I hope this thesis can give contribution to the readers in general and the students of literature in particular. There are many things that can be discussed about the novel, and mostly about Santiago himself. Hopefully, this thesis can give more input about the causes of Santiago's struggle, not only as a fisherman but also as a member of society.