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The Use of Symbolism in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*

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Keywords: Symbolism Santiago The marlin The Shark The sea	Abstract Symbolism is one of the important features in literature. Some students think it is not important, that's why this is considered the problem of this study. The current study aims at showing to which extent symbolism can add something to the meaning. The procedure followed in this study is a questionnaire method to find out the percentage of the degree of agreement of symbolism in "Hemingway's <i>The Old Man and The Sea</i> ". This study includes a historical review of symbolism and also discusses some theories of symbolism. then, the study discusses nine symbols in Hemingway's <i>The Old Man And The Sea</i> . the aim of the study has been achieved and the study came out with some conclusions and results after using a statistical method to compute the students' agreement, the method in use is called percentage weight. The statistics are as follows: The degree of agreement "agree" is used 30 times which represents 33.3% of the whole percentage of the questionnaire, while the degree of agreement "strongly agree" is used 21 times which equals 23.3% of the whole percentage. The degree of agreement "sometimes agree" is used 10 times which is 11.2% of the whole questionnaire. Whereas, "disagree" is used 25 times which represents 27.8% of the questionnaire, while "strongly disagree" is used 4 times and represents 4.4%.
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استخدام الرمزية في رواية همنغواي "الشيخ والبحر"

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<p>الخلاصة: تعد الرمزية واحدة من السمات المهمة في الأدب. يعتقد بعض الطلاب أنها غير مهمة ، ولهذا السبب تعتبر هذه المشكلة هي مشكلة هذه الدراسة. تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى إظهار إلى أي مدى يمكن للرمزية أن تضيف شيئاً إلى المعنى. الإجراء المتبع في هذه الدراسة هي طريقة استبيان لمعرفة النسبة المئوية لدرجة اتفاق الرمزية في رواية همنغواي الشيخ والبحر. تتضمن هذه الدراسة مراجعة تاريخية للرمزية وتناقش أيضاً بعض نظريات الرمزية. ثم تناقش الدراسة تسعة رموز في رواية همنغواي الشيخ و البحر. حققت الدراسة الهدف المطلوب وخرجت الدراسة أيضاً ببعض الاستنتاجات والنتائج بعد استخدام طريقة إحصائية لحساب موافقة الطلاب ، وتسمى الطريقة المستخدمة النسبة المئوية. الإحصائيات كالتالي: تم استخدام درجة الموافقة "موافق" 30 مرة وهي تمثل 33.3% من النسبة المئوية الكاملة للاستبيان ، بينما تم استخدام درجة الموافقة "موافق بشدة" 21 مرة أي ما يعادل 23.3% من النسبة الإجمالية. تم استخدام درجة الموافقة "أوافق أحياناً" 10 مرات وهو ما يمثل 11.2% من الاستبيان بأكمله. حيث تم استخدام "غير موافق" 25 مرة وهو ما يمثل 27.8% من الاستبيان ، بينما تم استخدام "لا أوافق بشدة" 4 مرات ويمثل 4.4%.</p>	<p>الكلمات الدالة:-</p> <p>الرمزية سانتياغو مارلين اسماك القرش البحر</p> <p>معلومات البحث تاريخ البحث: الاستلام: 2020-11-22 القبول: 2020-12-15 توفر على النت</p>
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Introduction:

Literature is regarded as one of the most interesting things in the human life, also the social framework with its feature makes the people feel delighted in their creative works. Thus, the writer or author looks over with various themes and subjects and utilizes obvious styles and methods of language aspects. American literature uses many different terms that refer to literature and its importance like "Naturalism, Rationalism", Realism and Romanticism, some writers like using symbols to relinquish a contrived depth and beauty for his / her creations and for other objectives like criticizing community behind those symbols to avert problems and particularly problems that will happen to the writer. This point of view, among the authors who belong to the Romantic era, Ernest Hemingway is indicated as the most writer who used symbols. *Torrents of Spring* (1926), *The Sun Also Rises*, *Men Without Women*, *A Farewell to Arms* and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) therefore is a right way success by trading more than 50,000 copies from the primary publishing and also the 5 million copies of the life journal only in two days. In *The Old Man and The Sea*, the writer utilizes much symbolism consecutively to improve the stunning ideas in this novel.

1 - 1 Statement of the problem

The problem of this study is related to some students who think that not all symbols, in Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea* can add meanings or represent more implied ideas for them. The study has the following question:

Do the students agree that symbols add meanings to the literary work in which they are used?

1 – 2 The aim of the study

This study aims at showing the percentage of using symbolism in Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*.

1 -3 Procedure of the study

This study has a procedure in order to achieve the aim of the study. The questionnaire shows the degree of agreement about the symbolism in Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea* which is prepared and presented to a group of students. The responses of the students have been calculated.

2.1. Symbolism: A Historical Review

Among the foremost literary texts and devices, symbols attract reader's eyes, due to their ability to extend thinking and understanding of people. The present section explains the term of “symbolism” as a tendency and a literary system and attempts to offer some approaches of which are referred to a group of scholars like De Saussure, Whitehead Langer and Frye.

Symbol is a significant figure of speech in any language or concept within which something “object, person, situation or action ” gives many meanings than what it is. Basically, the term "symbol" originated from the Greek term “*symballein*” which refers —“to throw together and Latin term —*Symbolon* refers to —token of sign Bernard Shaw (1881: 367)”.

However, authors use a variety of symbols to get a dimension for the literary imaginations and to precise the items sarcastically averting the issues which will come to them (ibid), defines "symbol" as follows: symbol is something used to, or thought to be, representing something else. Particularly, a logo may be a word, phrase, or other words and ideas having a posh of associated meanings; during this sense, a logo is seen as having rules and rates vary from those of whatever is being “symbolized” and also Cuddon (1998) defines symbol saying “The word symbol derives from the Greek verb —*symballein*, —to throw together, and its noun —*symbolon*, —mark or —sign”.

“Though it is considered as an object, animate or inanimate, which acts or stands for something else” Symbolism as a great motion in the literary writing relates with an aesthetic motion, originated in France, within the 19th century. And it is called as "decadent motion” as well, for they make imagination like reality in life. Furthermore, symbolism began as a reaction to the movement of realism and naturalism in literature. At the end of the 19th century, symbolism missed its prestige in all regions of France. Then, the recognition grew and rapidly spread to continental countries in Europe like England, Russia, the USA, and South America. In this case, the symbolists' experimental ways demanded several English, Irish and American poets like the poet William Butler

Yeats (1865-1939), poet (1885- 1972), T.S Eliot (1888-1965). Perrine (1974,50), mentions that the meaning of the literary symbol must be realized from its social context. For this reason, the meaning of symbols can be specified inside the original text, not outside the intentional meaning of the literary text.

2.2 Theories of Symbolism

Symbols refer to different signs, meanings and interpretations. A lot of theorists contributed for the growth of different fields with their theories and views “for whom symbols are products of the human abstracting process” (Rapaport Royce 1965: 97). “Symbolism is inherent in the very texture of human life” (Hadjira, 2013:60.). According to what is mentioned above, there are many theories talking about symbolism.

2.2.1 De Saussure’s Theory

Semiotics “is a Greek word *Semiotikon*” which means sign, as it is concerned with the study of signs and their translation. Reyes (2013:11) says that, Saussure showed “Semiotics” as just like “a connection between an object (the signified) and its linguistic impersonation (the signifier)” and how these two elements are interconnected. Charles Peirce puts a more inclusive definition for semiotics. Semiotics is the ideology of the primary nature and essential assortment of possible semiosis. “By semiosis I mean an action”, an impact, which includes, a collaboration of three subjects, such as sign, its object and interpreting, this tri-relative effect not being fixable in action among pairs”. Semiotics studies not only the signs and symbols, but their meanings. And also other factors that affect them such as the encoder, interpreter and culture etc. “Signs and symbols are not only limited to visual representation but also different from language, shapes, colors, textures, clothing, to actions, gestures, mannerisms, and facial expressions”.

2-2-2 Whitehead’s Theory

Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947) is an English scholar specialized in Mathematics and Philosophy. Aside from his countless contributions in various subjects, symbolism is one of his main subjects in focus. Whitehead embraced the idea that symbolism is the product of human process of thinking. Symbolism could generate emotional attributions of unexemplified notions (Whitehead 1927:6).

A variable recognition emerges between Langer where she differentiates between signs and symbols; on the other hand, Whitehead (1927) argues that there is a difference between direct knowledge and symbolism. Direct knowledge recognizes no room for errors as to its perfection and correctness. Where symbolism contradicts it for it is open for errors in the sense that the wrong understanding of the symbol may occur and cannot be verified (Whitehead,7).

2-2-3 Langer’s Theory of Symbolism

Susanne Langer (1895-1985) is an American philosopher whose notion of the symbol is the main focus of her studies and considered it as a core pillar of philosophy as it focuses on human perception and awareness. Langer argues that the symbol can be perceived when understood (31). Langer (1954, 22) established the variation between the "symbol and sign" as they are not similar even when humans use signs and symbols. Signs can be described in reality in contradiction to symbols used in imagination of the

real world. In short, a sign could stimulate thinking or action and symbols make us think of the representations of things.

3. The Symbols

A symbol is any image or thing that stands for something else. It could be as simple as a letter, which is a symbol for a given sound (or set of sounds). Similarly, every word is a symbol for the idea it represents. Flags are symbols for nations. “Symbols are characters, objects, figures, and colors; are used to represent abstract thoughts or notions” (Hezal Trivedi, 2015:5).

3 – 1 Santiago

Santiago the old man is a symbol of the cheerful, hopeful and undefeated person. He is also a symbol of strong and confident person. He is an expert of the other fishermen and a man in charge.

3 -2 The Marlin

Magnificent and glorious, the marlin is a symbol of the ideal contender. In a world in which “everything kills everything else in some way,” Santiago feels extremely lucky to find himself compared versus such a creature that makes him show the best of him: his courage, strength, respect, and love. Santiago finds it worthy to have the Marlin as opponent, but not the sharks (Ibid:6).

3.3 The Lions in the Dream

Santiago has his very nice dream about the lions that play at the “beaches of Africa thrice”. “The first is a night before he moves on his three-day fishing voyage, the second happens when he sleeps on the boat for a few hours in the middle of his conflict with the marlin, and the third occurs at the very end of the novel”. “In fact, the sober promise of the triumph and regeneration with which the novella closes are supported by the final image of the lions. Because Santiago associates the lions with his youth, the dream suggests the circular nature of life”. In addition, because Santiago thinks the lions, fierce predators, playing, his dream proposes an accordance between “the opposing forces — life and death, love and hate, destruction and regeneration — of nature”. (Ibid:7).

3.4 The Shovel Nosed Sharks

The shovel nosed sharks are not merely moving zests that carelessly and mercilessly attack the marlin. “As opponents of the old man, they stand in bold contrast to the marlin, which is worthy of Santiago’s effort and strength”. They symbolize the universe's destructive laws and confirm the fact that those laws can be exceeded just when the equals fight to death. “Because they are base predators, Santiago will not win a glory from fighting them”. these sharks also represent critics who criticized Hemmingway (Ibid:10).

3. 5 Manolin

Manolin is considered as a symbol of compassion, circle of life and pure love. Santiago and Manolin have big difference in age and this is a symbol of their fishing skillfulness. At last Manolin symbolizes hope. (Ibid: 11)

3. 6 DiMaggio

DiMaggio Symbolizes hope, enduring pain and suffering. DiMaggio is also a symbol of pride, motivation and strength for Santiago (Radha B. Ghevariya. 2015: 6).

3. 7 The mast

It refers to the Jesus's cross. It is put on Santiago's boat where the mast stands, that Santiago suffers. He struggles for three days in the sea with wounds on his neck and hand palms (Ibid: 7).

3. 8 The lost Harpoon

Santiago loses his harpoon in which he fights the sharks. This symbolizes persons who lose faith when attacked by life's sorrows. People without faith are "defenseless" just like Santiago when he loses his harpoon (Ibid: 8).

3. 9 The sea

It symbolizes the isolation in the universe for Santiago and the universe itself, without a recognition or help when Santiago faced his challenge alone (Lorcher Trent, 2020: 3).

Practical Part

4 - The degree of agreement

This questionnaire has five likart-scales which are

1 – Strongly Agree. 2 – Agree. 3 – Sometimes Agree.

4 – Disagree. 5 – Strongly Disagree.

The question is that: Ddo you agree that symbols add meanings to the literary work in which they are used?

Symbol 1

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
Santiago	Student 1	Agree
	Student 2	Agree
	Student 3	Strongly agree
	Student 4	Sometimes agree
	Student 5	Disagree
	Student 6	Disagree

	Student 7	Strongly agree
	Student 8	Agree
	Student 9	Strongly disagree
	Student 10	Disagree

Symbol 2

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
The Marlin	Student 1	Agree
	Student 2	Agree
	Student 3	Strongly agree
	Student 4	Sometimes agree
	Student 5	Sometimes agree
	Student 6	Disagree
	Student 7	Strongly agree
	Student 8	Disagree
	Student 9	Strongly disagree
	Student 10	Agree

Symbol 3

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
The Lions on the Beach	Student 1	Agree
	Student 2	Disagree
	Student 3	Strongly agree
	Student 4	Strongly agree
	Student 5	Sometimes agree
	Student 6	Agree
	Student 7	Strongly agree
	Student 8	Disagree
	Student 9	Strongly disagree
	Student 10	Disagree

Symbol 4

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
The Shovel-Nosed Sharks	Student 1	Agree
	Student 2	Disagree
	Student 3	Strongly agree
	Student 4	Agree
	Student 5	Disagree
	Student 6	Sometimes agree
	Student 7	Agree
	Student 8	Strongly agree
	Student 9	Disagree
	Student 10	Agree

Symbol 5

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
Manolin	Student 1	Strongly agree
	Student 2	Agree
	Student 3	Disagree
	Student 4	Agree
	Student 5	Sometimes agree
	Student 6	Disagree
	Student 7	Strongly agree
	Student 8	Agree
	Student 9	Disagree
	Student 10	Strongly agree

Symbol 6

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
DiMaggio	Student 1	Sometimes agree
	Student 2	Agree
	Student 3	Agree
	Student 4	Disagree
	Student 5	Strongly agree
	Student 6	Agree
	Student 7	Strongly agree
	Student 8	Disagree
	Student 9	Agree
	Student 10	Disagree

Symbol 7

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
The mast	Student 1	Agree
	Student 2	Disagree
	Student 3	Strongly agree
	Student 4	Agree
	Student 5	Sometimes agree
	Student 6	Disagree

	Student 7	Agree
	Student 8	Strongly agree
	Student 9	Disagree
	Student 10	Agree

Symbol 8

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
The Harpoon	Student 1	Agree
	Student 2	Agree
	Student 3	Disagree
	Student 4	Strongly agree
	Student 5	Agree
	Student 6	Sometimes agree
	Student 7	Disagree
	Student 8	Strongly agree
	Student 9	Agree
	Student 10	agree

Symbol 9

Symbol	Student no.	Degree of agreement
The sea	Student 1	Agree
	Student 2	Disagree
	Student 3	Strongly agree
	Student 4	Strongly agree
	Student 5	Sometimes agree
	Student 6	Agree
	Student 7	Strongly agree
	Student 8	Disagree
	Student 9	Strongly disagree
	Student 10	Disagree

Al-Gareeb (1970:77) believes that one should use the following formula to get out the percentage weight:

Coefficient midst

percentage weight = ----- x 100
Maximum Value

5. Conclusion

The study concludes that the students under study came out with these percentages for the symbols as a whole. The degree of agreement “agree” is used 30 times which represents 33.3% of the whole percentage of the questionnaire, while the degree of agreement “strongly agree” is used 21 times which equals 23.3% of the whole percentage. The degree of agreement “sometimes agree” is used 10 times which is 11.2% of the whole questionnaire. Whereas, “disagree” is used 25 times which represents 27.8% of the questionnaire, while “strongly disagree” is used 4 times and represents 4.4%. The above results lead us to find that most of the students under study agree that symbolism adds meaning to Hemmingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*, which means that the aim of this study has been achieved.

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