

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

This thesis talks about Ernest Hemingway's novel, *The Old man and The Sea*. This novel is American literature that is very popular and rich in symbolism and moral values especially optimistic. This novel tells more about the struggle of the old man Santiago. He tries to survive when the marlin tows him with his skiff in the sea for days. The story shows the patience, hard work, persistence, optimistic of the old man in conquering the marlin and the sharks that come after the marlin dies, *The Old Man and The Sea* is one of the literary work that was written by Ernest Hemingway. He wrote a novel which is simple and yet so profound that it is perhaps one of the greatest stories ever told. He was also awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954 shortly after publication of *The Old man and The Sea*.

Before we get started with the discussion, it is worth talking about what literature is. According to W.H. Hudson (2003 : 10) states that literature vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have thought and felt about those aspect of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us, it deals with the life of man and his destines on earth. It express, thought feeling, emotions, and attitudes towards life, which are permanent and universal, which, in other words do not change with the change of time and place. Literature is big Result of human civilization, in this life human and literature are living side by

side. We realize that most events in our life are reflected in literature. As one of human's creations, literature depicts what human's life is like. Culture and its values give form of literature. Carter (2006:41) states that a literary work expresses an author's mind and personality and that it also tells some essential truth about human life. Literature is divided into three parts; they are poem, novel, and drama. A poem is the word are arranged in separate lines, usually with repeated rhythm. A drama is a play considered as a form of literature. A novel is a story which is written in a book which the character and event are usually imaginary.

A novel is one the literary genres. In the novel contains intrinsic elements such as, themes, characterizations, plot, setting, and the message. By reading the novel, we will find the message, and pick the good values. Novel is an interesting narration of literary work that reveals thoughts, feelings and experience of human being. An interesting novel usually uses symbol and the researcher interesting with Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea* because this novel contains of essential values of human life. With its simple language style but this novel a deep meaning, so many readers either the beginners or the linguist are attracted to read and analyze this novel. This novel is full of symbols, values to rise motivation, natural aspects and human values. This Research study about the optimistic symbolisms in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*, has not been analyzed yet by the previous researchers, start from this point, the research on this novel is conducted Entitled “ The Optimistic Symbolisms in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea* ”. This research is significant because

Indonesia's young generation nowadays is experiencing moral degradation. Many young generation are trapped in drugs, fighting, and free sex and if it isn't soon overcome, they will be disastrous. To overcome this such kind of situation, government through education department creates a new curriculum of 2013 which points on building students will be easily to understand the values that Hemingway want to deliver. There are many moral values that can be applied to the real world especially optimistic. The values are needed very much to build a good character and these values are described in the symbols used in novel. The research objectives are to describe symbols used the novel *The Old Man The Sea* to analyze optimistic life which are reflected I those symbols. Optimistic life is one of the theme among other theme which the readers interpret the content of Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.

B. The Problems of Study

In line with the background the problems of the study are formulated as the follows :

1. What symbols are used in Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and the Sea* ?
2. What are the meanings of the symbols used in Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea*
3. How is Optimistic life reflected in symbols used in Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and the Sea* ?

C. The Objectives of Study

Related to the problems the objectives are :

1. to describe symbols used in Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea*.
2. to analyze optimistic symbols used in Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea*.
3. to elaborate meaning of the symbols used in Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea*.

D. The Scope of Study

This study is only concerned with the novel entitled *The Old Man and The Sea* which is used as the Source of data of symbols reflecting optimistic. The discussion of the study cover :

1. The identification of symbols used in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.
2. The identification of optimistic symbols used in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*.

E. The Significances of Study

Finding of the study are expected to add theoretical and practical contribution,

Theoretically, the finding and expected to :

1. Add up horizon to theories of literature.
2. Become reference for further studies.

Practically, the finding and expected to :

1. This literary application can help readers understand Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea* and other as well.
2. This thesis may help to understand and analyzing the symbol and the meaning of each optimistic symbols that contained on Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea*.



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