

The Analysis of Hemingway and His Tough Man Spirits*

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Abstract—Ernest Hemingway was born in Chicago in 1899. He is an American writer and reporter who was considered one of the most well-known novelists of the twentieth century. Many films have made use of the famous novel — "The Old Man and the Sea", which have attracted increasing number of people to see. The novel told a story of a lonely and old Cuba fisherman named Santiago. No fish was caught in eighty-four days, and under this circumstance, he didn't give up but sailed to the gulf of Mexico where few people would go. Eventually on the 85th day, an eighteen-foot-long marlin fish was caught. After two night's struggling, tired Santiago finally ran out of all his strength and surrendered. But, on the way back, a large group of hungry sharks followed the trail of the blood to try to swallow the marlin fish. Out of question, he struggled with the sharks. However, when he got back to the shore, only the bones were left. In spite of the fact that Santiago lost his quarry, he had the spiritual victory, which showed the profound meaning of tough man spirit in America in 1920s through the fisherman's fishing experience. The main character struggled against the destiny with strong and tough perseverance, confronted with the truth with bravery. On a larger sense, under the weighty force, he still kept graceful bearings and continued to live in emptiness with great courage and tenacity, maintaining human being's dignity. As the famous saying goes, "One can be eliminated but cannot be defeated" is the concentration of tough man spirits.

Keywords—Hemingway; fame; toughness; spirits; perseverance

I. INTRODUCTION

Hemingway has a nature aptitude for language controlling. Expressing the most impenetrable sentences in the common terms is what he always do, in the meantime he also demonstrate particular denotation through basic words and small sentence patterns, and making full use of verbs and nouns to disclose the genuine quality of things, without any artificial influence. In the judgement of the pattern of sentences, Ernest used a short declarative sentence to describe the language. He did not think that it was necessary to use a word to modify the sculpture to scream. If only the stuffs were specifically pictured, readers would decide the others. For example, in the novel, the old man and the sea, the main character Santiago used a fish fork to inhibit the big

fish. It was described as: "The old man put down the line and raised the spear as high as possible, and he used all his powers, adding to the one that was just raised by him. Just put it down onto the one side of the boat." In those characterizations, no modifiers were applied by the author, but expressing an exciting scene that were simply combined with nouns and verbs. In this common and unaffected writing, what people can easily have the feeling is the deep artistic field and artistic essence. This kind of original language art definitely makes Hemingway's writings more comfortable and genuineness.

From Hemingway's novel it can be known that his language is distinguished by style, punctuation, straightforward sentences, and the use of words. The basic words are what he often uses as the core to build odd sentences, and barely uses adverbs and adjectives to tell reader about his ideas. In the one section of "A Farewell to Arms", there was a talk between Henry and the pastor about the war issue. The dialog was very laconic, without any useless statements, but the opposition of warfare is what readers can powerfully feel. When it comes to the novel "The Killer", many laconic phrases were got used to exploiting the story in the shape of conversational chat, preventing a lot of clarifications and intricate backdrops through conversations, offering people an incredible and immersive feeling.

II. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT HEMINGWAY

A. Background Introductions

Hemingway is an outstanding novelist who comes from the United States. Most his childhood was spent in a small farmhouse in Walloon Lake. Later he was served as a European journalist and participated as a reporter in the Second World War and the Spanish Civil War. In the last few years, he undergone diverse illnesses, feeling frustrating, and taking his own life at the age of 62. In the year of 1927, his well-known novels, including "The Sun Still Rises", and "A Farewell to Arms", was just the reflection of what people call American "lost generation".

In the 30s and 40s, he shaped the image of the anti-fascist warrior "Fifth Column" and the long novel "Who is For the Bell Tolls" to get rid of confusion and pessimism, fight bravely and fearlessly for the people's interests. In the year of 1950s, he established a spirit named "tough man",

*Project: 2018 Wuhan Polytechnic University Humanities and Social Sciences Research Program (Program Number: 2018JH06)

represented by Santiago "can eliminate him, but fight him unbeaten". Hemingway is regarded as the psychic symbol of the United States of America.

The 20th century was the earliest period of Hemingway's literary creation. He created masterpieces such as "The Torrents of Spring", "Man Without Woman", and the novel "The Sun Also Rises," and "A Farewell to Arms". This period, coincided with the wasteland that the western world indulged as Eliot saw behind the social collapse, the long novel "The Sun Still Rises" is a portrait of the young people living in Europe after the war and their spiritual world. Jack Barnes, who is the main role, is a reporter coming from USA, and the warfare demolished his heart. He was in love with an English nurse, Brett Ashley who fell in love Jack, but the terrible battles isolated both of them, therefore they cannot be together.

Robert Cohen is an author from the U.S. When it comes to life, he has many hypothetical and amorous imaginations about it. He also loved Brett, but she thought Robert was not the right type of her. These youngsters having experiencing changes of life, wanting to know what was that behind the mainland after the warfare. They just do nothing the whole day. The war caught their beloved persons and leaving them with bodily and psychic injury. They were extremely disgusted with the war, had uncertainty about fairness, conventional worth, the miss in their life and so on. The novel censured the warfare from a distinct point of view and has an anti-war hue. The novel has become a masterpiece of the "lost generation" genre of literature due to the confusion of a generation of people.

One of Hemingway's well-known novels is "A Farewell to Arms", whose subject matter is to oppose to the cruel warfare. What he demonstrated are some reasons concerning past events for the appearance of the "lost generation", charging these persons with demolishing the perfections and pleasure of the war, breaking people's warm hearts, and wasting increasing number of guiltless people. It illustrates the fundamental features of Hemingway's writing style and a narrative art called modern narrative. What the novel tells is straightforward. The using of the language is modest, the words being small and laconic, and the description of surroundings accomplishing a mixture of sites.

In the year of 1932, "Death in the Afternoon" was brought out. As the well-known saying goes, "The less, the more", and it makes the novel more purified, abbreviating the space between the audience and the novel, putting forward the "iceberg theory". It only exposes two-ninth of stuffs, which is really beneficial for the plenitude of the article.

In the year of 1940, a prominent novel was written by Hemingway called "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and the backdrop being the Spanish Civil War, which is a kind of significant effort that carries on the old time and the tomorrow. It told a touched tale of the death of Robert, who is an international column volunteer, in tandem with a guerrillas bombing action. This work is one of Hemingway's most imaginative works in the mid-term creation and it overcomes to a considerable degree of the emotions of

loneliness, confusion and sorrow, showing the lofty spirit dedicated to a just cause.

After the Second World War, Hemingway's writing entered the late stage. His typical work is "The Old Man and the Sea." Owing to the work reflects the bravery demonstrated by the "filled with rebel and dying in the genuine world"; he was the Nobel Prize winner for Literature in 1954. Hemingway's contribution of his life had given a brilliant chapter in the history of modern literature. What Hemingway used was his own experience to reveal the dissimulation of these in strength and the brutality of the real world. He painted those lost senses of the youngsters in America. His works are full of love for the working people and make realism open and inclusive in the exploration of artistic creation.

B. The Life of Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway was born in Oak Park. Hemingway spent most of his childhood in the farmhouse of Walloon Lake. He was really fond of reading picture books and animal comics and listened to various types of stories when he was little. Therefore, Hemingway loved nature when he was little.

In four years of study, Hemingway was well-educated in high school education and had excellent academic and physical progress, having an outstanding gift in English learning. When he was studying in junior high school, he spared no efforts to get the first writing training for taking down items for 2 general arts daily records. After hoisting to school, he turned into the editor of the publication. Between times Ring Lardner Jr. was the name he used to celebrate his literary hero Ring Lardner. After his leaving high school, Hemingway, who declined to go to the college, began to continue his creating career as a journalist at Kansas City. Hemingway was well-trained during the six months of working.

At the year of 1918, the WWI broke out then Hemingway left the position of reporters in spite of his dad's resistance and tried to enlist U.S. military to fight in the battle. But what was amazing was that Hemingway could not pass through the eyesight inspection and he was delivered to the Red Cross Ambulance Team as a driver. When going to the Italian battlefield, he did not hide in a secure place instead, getting close to the battlefield as far as he could. He saw the violence of the warfare: A bomb blow up near Milan. The dead body of a temporary morgue was more than that of a man's body. No doubt, Hemingway was deeply distressed. At the year of 1918, Hemingway was injured when he was transferring resources. To praise him, Hemingway was granted the Silver Medal of Bravery by Italian government. His novel "A Farewell to Arms" was enlightened by it. Hemingway used his own experience as the leading character in this novel to create reality.

During the World War II, he was a journalist and joint in the warfare to emancipate Paris. At this time, Hemingway wrote the article "True" that was published in the year of 1969. In 1940, Hemingway ended the marriage with Pauline. At that time, bodily fitness trouble followed and made great

problems to Hemingway. In that year, Ernest published an anti-fascist novel based on the Spanish Civil War.

C. *The Tough Man Spirit's Realistic Meaning*

What can't be lost is the famous saying in the novel: "people are not born to be a loser." "A person could be killed, but he can never be defeated." This is the realistic meaning that the tough man spirit wants to show and "the Old Man and the Sea" wants to demonstrate. What can't be avoided is that if it is human, it must have some shortcomings. When people confesses this flaw and tries to overcome it rather than to yield to it, whether eventually he catches a complete marlin fish or some useless skeleton, this is no longer mattering owing to the worth of people's life has been completely demonstrated in the action of chasing big marlin fish, ever trying to struggle and struggle for his ideals. Isn't he a winner? Old fishermen are people who have the courage to challenge their own difficulties through their courage and confidence, which deserves people's learning.

It's often the case that people's life will be confronted with ups and downs. And people will be faced with many trouble that people barely have the solution. But after reading Hemingway's novel, he can give people a lot of guidance that like the bright light in the dark, offering people strength and the courage to keep fighting, which makes it possible for people to succeed.

D. *Hemingway's Awards*

Ernest Hemingway has been awarded numerous prizes in his whole life. During the WWI, he was awarded the Silver Medal of Courage. At the year of 1953, owing to the profound influence of his novel, "The Old Man and the Sea", he won the Pulitzer Prize. In the next year, Hemingway became the Nobel Prize winner in Literature because of "The Old Man and the Sea". In the year of 2001, Ernest's "The Sun Also Rises" and "A Farewell to Arms" were included in the American Modern Library's "100 Best English Novels in the 20th Century."

III. THE PROFOUND CONNOTATIONS IN THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

A. *The Significant Quality of the Main Character*

The tough man spirit is involved diverse connotations in the old man and the sea. First of all, courage is an indispensable quality of the tough guy. The novel vividly reproduces the image of Santiago: Regardless of the fact that he was old person who with white hair, he has a lot of wrinkles on his face, his head and his hands are full of deep wrinkles. But none of these cicatrixes is fresh. New scars are coming into being when Santiago was fishing on the ocean. His whole body is old, apart from those eyes that are like blue water. They are happy and unwilling to admit defeat and always in good spirits with full fighting spirits. In spite of the fact that the fisherman's life is hard, the old man does not give up hope of living due to his age and weak physical strength. He still sails to the sea as usual with his great courage. In the endless sea, the old man has not been

catching any fish for 84 consecutive days. Manorin, who followed the Santiago in earlier time, also left him. People all said that the old man are stubborn and won't get any harvest. Even in this situation, Santiago still sails with enough courage and strong determination to persist on the 85th day to the ocean. After experiencing numerous empty-handed disappointments, what he possesses is the bravery to be confronted with a fresh start. The courage of Santiago deserves people's respects. However horrible the condition is, the old man always harbors hope. He holds the firm belief that tomorrow must be a preferable day. Good luck will be with him tomorrow. At last on this day, the old man encountered a big marlin fish he had never seen in his life. He ignored the old frail body, trying to wrestle the marlin fish. After two days and nights, he caught the marlin fish eventually. Unfortunately, when he got back, he was suffered from the shark's attacks. Although tired, the old man did not abandon. It is his great courage that makes it possible to struggle against the sharks. Knowing that the power of one person alone is few and it's hard to counter sharks, he insists till there is no power at all. In spite of the fact that Santiago did not keep Marlin fish alive. Santiago defended it with courage and dignity. However hard the enemy is, how tough it is, the fisherman always hit back with the tough spirit, with its great courage, insisting on striving until the finish. Regardless of living in a tragic situation, Santiago never admitted being beaten. Knowing the truth that he failed, he still plucked up courage to change his destiny and faced all misery with a positive attitude towards life, showing a positive concept and outlook and on life. It's a spirit that does not discourage or give up: Tough man spirits. In the novel, Santiago's courageous spirit of optimism is the main manifestation of the tough man spirits.

B. *The Reflection of Willpower*

Secondly, the indomitable willpower of the novel's protagonist Santiago also reflects the deep connotation of the tough man spirits. This area is not far from the shore. Maybe there will be even bigger fish in further areas. After experiencing the 84 days of disappointing fishing, Santiago's heart is filled with wish and will go forward. People who don't hold the opinion of the hope has no soul. Every day is fresh to people with wishes. Of course, good lucks are what people want, but I'm willing to do it exactly. In this way, when lucks are coming up, you should be prepared to receive it. The tenacious will of the old man supported him to discover the giant marlin fish that he had never seen in his life on the 85th day. What he is not considering losing something, but considering the solutions to what he already possessed. Although he knew that his opponent was very strong, he did not withdraw, but to fight hard. Also he did not fear and persevered to start struggling in two days and nights with Marlin. This is the fight between the life and death. The marlin fish begins to shift around the small ship, twining the rope around the mast, and Santiago's right hand held the steel fork up. When the fish jumped into the deep ocean, he made every effort to throw it at its heart and the fight came to an end with marlin's wailing. The life of the big fish, which stayed afloat on the superficial part of the sea silently, was defeated by Santiago's tenacious willpower, and

at the same time he had consumed nearly all his strength. The lonely old man dragged his exhausted body and sailed home with the big fish he had captured. However, the old man did not expect the smell of big fish to be smelled by a group of sharks and rushed to eat. Santiago's hands are just having the muscle spasm. What he is able to use is his right hand, with a piece of twig, and everything else to defend himself. The sharks were constantly attacking and the old man fought over and over again despite his tiredness. He was concerned about nothing. He just wants to keep his fish unharmed, even if there's some less. I wished to fight against you till I was dead. The old man's short sentence but incisively summarize the content of his stubborn willpower: Desperate but also to overcome this group of sharks. Although only a skeleton was left in the Marlins, the old man finally chased away the cruel sharks. The tenacious force he demonstrated during the struggle explained the profound connotation of the tough man spirit.

C. Maintaining Elegant Grace Under Pressure

Hemingway once said: The strongest physical beauty can only bring visual pleasure, but strong willpower can reflect the depth of one's heart. The film's old man and Sandea in the sea meet every challenge with tenacious willpower: Whether it is the experience of numerous sea fishing in his life, or his striving for catching big marlin and sharks, he is testing his willpower and patience. His firm conviction guided his actions: What is essential is to bring the fish back to the coast. Santiago's tenacious willpower has always been in the film and is a typical representative of the tough guy spirit. In the end, the connotation of the tough guy spirit is also reflected in the grace that still maintains elegance under pressure: Even after being destroyed, it can still maintain elegance and maintain human dignity. In the old man and the sea, Santiago had nothing left, he was defeated by glory, and he maintained his dignity in his desperate fight. Just like Santiago said: people can be killed but can never be beaten. His body could be flogged, but the willpower inside is invincible. Despite Santiago's old age, he still insists on fishing in the sea, and continues to pursue in the predicament of disappointment and return for 84 days. Although the struggle to catch the Marlins on the 85th day is exhausted, he still can die. Shaking off the sharks, the old man will never stop adhering to trouble in the end. In the heart of Santiago, fishing is not just a means of earning a living but also a sense of pride. When he felt lonely and hopeless, the glory is the most precious thing he had gained in a contest. His honor once reminded him that he must not fail. Regardless of the arduousness, Santiago never gave up fighting in the past. He dared to endure suffering, caring less about the life and death, and won back human dignity through practical actions.

IV. CONCLUSION

In the outstanding novel, "the Old Man and the Sea", Hemingway embodied the spirit of the tough man through the old fisherman's experience of fishing. The spirit of the tough man is in stark contrast to the postponed attitude of people who are passive and hostile to the world. It encourages people to establish new hopes for life and fights

with social darkness with high morale. Tough guy spirit guides people to face reality and suffering in a correct way and requires people to respect life and the future and fight with the enemy with a strong posture. The important qualities included in the Tough Guy Spirit are tenacious willpower, fearless courage, and maintaining elegance and dignity and dignity under heavy pressure. One person can be killed, but the hard-to-be defeated spirit not only provides a meaningful spiritual guide for those who suffered physical and psychological harm during World War I, but also has a profound influence on people's work and life in today's society.

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