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**AN EXPLORATION OF HEMINGWAY'S CODE HERO:
UNPACKING SANTIAGO'S DETERMINATION AND RESOLVE
IN 'THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA'**

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Abstract

This research study prolifically carries out an inclusive analysis of Ernest Hemingway's 'Code Hero' paradigm through the lens of Santiago, a resilient protagonist of the novella 'The Old Man and the Sea'. Ernest Hemingway's Code Hero, a paradigmatic icon, out rightly encodes what Bertrand Russel defines as "despairing courage", posing an unwavering resilience and great dignity in the face of impending challenges. The central objective of this research study is to center stage the motifs of Code Hero and the hyper-masculine moral code technically encoded in Santiago's DNA, making him as a man of action rather than a man of contemplation. Close-reading and textual-analysis of the original text have been employed as a primary source in this research study. This research study's finding masterfully uncovers the intersection governing masculinity, existentialism, and human fate. The finding of this research depicts a spectrum of possibilities via we can

comprehend Ernest Hemingway's literary legacy and the imperishable connectivity of Code Hero in this contemporary milieu.

Keywords: *The Old Man And The Sea, The Code Hero, Determination, Resilience, Human Fate, Existentialism, Grace Under Pressure, And Nada Philosophy.*

Introduction

Ernest Hemingway's literary masterpiece "The Old Man and the Sea" has been his last major work of fiction, centering upon a paradigmatic figure, an ageing Cuban fisherman grappling with a giant Marlin in a far out territory in the Gulf Stream. This seminal creation is highly credited with its depiction of a typical Hemingway's Code hero, adding a new dimension to an already existing literature on this cardinal paradigm. It impeccably incorporates a legion of motifs *videlicet* prestige, courage, endurance, and existentialism. Santiago, a paragon of unflinching optimism clearly subscribes to these traits valorized by the Code hero, defeating death and does not succumb to the engulfing tentacles of trials and tribulations, breaking the negating obstacles of pessimism and successfully travelled to the road of optimism in his thirty-years of his indomitable life syncs with the Code hero ideology, a concept introduced by Ernest Hemingway.

Ernest Hemingway has masterfully portrayed the protagonist's optimistic approach towards the defamatory stereotypes and derogatory remarks spewed by the younger, considering Santiago as a 'misfit' for adventures. Santiago, an ultra-optimist painstakingly counters all these pessimistic and cherry-picked views, proving the lofty ideals of courage, determination, and existentialism.

Despite old age, Santiago firmly believes in his wisdom 'the old age is not a hindrance if a man is determined to do something'. Confronting the inevitable challenges in the form of a voracious sea, a giant fish, Marlin, uninvited and devouring sharks hell-bent on to sabotage a 'big hunt', the Marlin, thirst, and hunger. This explicitly alludes towards his resilient aptitude towards tackling the inevitability unleashed by the merciless and dark impulses of the nature (Anjum, 2015).

Santiago, a paradigmatic icon of the novella 'The Old Man and the Sea' nourishes a significant moral code 'the hyper-masculinity', potentially

armed and responsible to confront the inevitable adversities shaped by the dark impulses of our nature, bringing him a crystal-clear sense of life through these dogmas. This true meaning is essential to maintain one's dignity despite harsh calamities unleashed by our nature to demoralize Santiago, achieving his burning desire to catch a big fish, Marlin. Measuring himself against the difficulties life throws in his way, realizing that we will lose ultimately because we are mortals, but playing the game honestly and passionately in spite of that knowledge (Roach, 2019).

Ernest Hemingway has actively portrayed Santiago as an 'existential stoic' owing to his pro-activeness in his life. This imperative trait potentially maximizes his deterministic attitude, superseding the chaotic and unordered elements surrounding him to create a more valuable and meaningful existence.

Additionally, impassiveness at Santiago's disposal is a clear reflection of the undisputable fact that a Code hero must posit emotional intelligence while confronting a wide spectrum of impending challenges (Samad, 2022).

Death, an inevitable catastrophe acts as a great hindrance for a Code hero to achieve his cherished dreams. Santiago, an icon of supreme courage, honor, and resilience, exemplifies all these prodigious coping tools to fearlessly confront the morbid ramifications of death, unfolding his glorious fortune (Zheng, 2019).

The concept of "despairing courage" introduced by Bertrand Russel, complies with the Code Hero ideology, showing the dignity in the face of calamities. It alludes towards the intrinsic quality through which the coping capability is potentially harnessed by Santiago, molding a drastic and unfortunate scenario into his own favor (Anjum M. S., 2015).

Santiago, a male character, is grappling hard with a chaotic world by means of 'grace under pressure' with a solemn purpose to safeguard his identity

Borer and Holland says,

"The idea of the Code Hero was born out of necessity, as a means of coping with an unsettling or absurd world, and as we now grapple with the post-

modern condition, the concept is not only relevant but, perhaps, more necessary than ever. Because, the Code Hero is grounded in the existential beings in the world, in contradistinction to a world of absolutes, offering the transcendence beyond escape from arbitrary and restrictive cultural and ideological conventions. Thus, through the course of character portrayal, Hemingway is able to show how he developed the style which is characterized by a photographic realism through the deeds, actions, and the reactions of his heroes (Dwyer, 2024),”

Research Questions:

How does Santiago, a paradigmatic figure, embodies Ernest Hemingway's Code Hero Paradigm?

How does the Code Hero paradigm syncs with masculinity and existentialism?

Method and Materials:

A qualitative research methodology is employed in this research study to gain an in-depth understanding of Ernest Hemingway's Code Hero paradigm, determination, and unflinching resilience in the face of impending challenges, combining close reading, critical analysis, and contextualization.

Through textual analysis, a well-thought-of examination of Santiago's dialogues, inner monologues, and description of his actions and aptitude has been conducted, unpacking the lurking complexities of his character. Furthermore, the study has intelligently scrutinized the images and symbols inextricably tied to Santiago, a paradigmatic figure, unpacking their deeper significance. Through an intensive line-by-line analysis, each textual fragment has been subjected to critical evaluation, providing a refined understanding of Santiago's character and his exemplary role in the narrative.

Through contextualization, biographical experiences, center staging Hemingway's involvement in a myriad of adventures videlicet big game

hunting, sea voyages, World War 1, and the Spanish Civil War, reflecting his unyielding emotional restraint.

Data Collection:

Data in connection with this research study has been extracted from the original text of Ernest Hemingway's novella 'The Old Man and the Sea' and technically exposed to a comprehensive analysis. While the secondary sources include, videos, essays, articles, and information derived from internet.

Delimitation:

The scope of this research study is confined to the central motifs of the novella 'The Old Man and The Sea', center staging resilience, determination, masculinity, and existentialism reflected in the personality of Santiago.

Significance:

This research brings forth the notion of 'grace under pressure', a complementary concept inextricably tied to the idea of Code Hero, strengthening our deep understanding about the applicability of Ernest Hemingway's literary legacy.

Additionally, it explicitly challenges the conventional notion of hyper-masculinity in terms of solitude, and emotional restraint.

Implication and future research directions:

This research study reconsiders Ernest Hemingway's oeuvre in light of the Code hero, challenging the rampant and pervasive notions of masculinity, and existentialism. It also explores human condition determined by some external impulses of our nature, rethinking the conventional paradigms of hyper-masculinity and heroism. Other literary discourses and meta-narratives can be actively countered after harnessing the modality of inter-textual analysis.

Analysis and discussion:

After introspection of the paradigmatic figure of the masterpiece of Ernest Hemingway, 'The Old Man and The Sea', Santiago, it can be inferred from the paradigms of courage, honesty, and determination that Santiago deterministically tackled all the impending challenges hell-bent on to push his cherishing ambitions to oblivion. These Code hero characteristics are out rightly reflected in Santiago's personal heroic calculus, adding a new string to his strong belief system that no external medium outside of oneself can provide.

Confronting a morbid fear of death has been an intrepid and daring maneuver at Santiago's disposal exemplified as 'Code Hero', avoids covering behind the false and intolerant mask of religious hope. This existential familiarity strengthens his intrinsic belief system, turning him as an existential stoic, checking his pro-activeness to weigh the ramifications unleashed by the persistent challenges. Through stoicism, the protagonist of the novella, Santiago, successfully supersedes the chaotic and haphazard fragments, circumscribing him to carve out a more productive existence. Despite his physical and emotional fatigue owing to his tug-of-war with a big fish, Marlin, uninvited and devouring sharks, merciless voyage of the sea, stayed intact proving the unyielding nerves of an existential stoic.

This research study can be interpreted in the light of the Spanish philosophical concept "Nada". This philosophical concept is integral to the Ernest Hemingway's novella "The Old Man and the Sea", bringing forth the central figure, Santiago, embodying this concept and grapples with confirming to the trivial nature of his existence. Santiago's adventure has been jeopardized by a series of challenges videlicet the loss of his big hunt, Marlin, attack of devouring sharks, and the brutal climate unleashed by the nature, making him realize that life is utterly meaningless and compels him to know that one ought to carve out one's own meaning in the face of adversity.

Last but not the least, this gives a crystal-clear imagery of the novella's protagonist, Santiago, an ultra-optimistic figure, living as per his own paradigm: "man is not made for defeat... [a] man can be defeated but

cannot be destroyed.” In the same vein, “Old age is not a hindrance if a man is determined to do something.” This undisputed fact put forwards a conclusive evidence from the sail of his skiff resembling “the flag of permanent defeat” but Santiago had the steel nerves, confronting the inevitable outcomes of the odds unleashed by the unpredictable nature. It clearly un-fathoms the motifs of “the honor in struggle, defeat, and death”, nourishing our pride, the ultimate source of greatness and determination.

Conclusion:

Summing up, this research study has provided significant insights into the intricate facets of Ernest Hemingway’s Code hero exemplified by the protagonist, Santiago. Resilience and determination have been the imperative dimensions of Ernest Hemingway’s ideology, exhibiting the tolerant aptitude adopted by Santiago in the face of indomitable scenarios. These central motifs reaffirms the undisputed fact that an exemplary Code Hero must not be a man of theory and contemplation but a man of action. Santiago, a paradigmatic icon of the hit novella ‘The Old Man and the Sea’ is grappling with a big challenge in the shape of Marline and others despicable obstacles unleashed by the nature clearly syncs with the Code hero paradigm. Despite the overwhelming odds, the protagonist remains as an unyielding man, considering success and failure as the two equal facets of life.

Last but not the least, this research study impeccably provides a new insight into an already existing literary discourse with regard to Ernest Hemingway’s literary legacy, impacting human condition, center staging the everlasting connectivity of Ernest Hemingway’s vision of heroic existence.

Recommendations:

Additional research on Ernest Hemingway’s paradigm, the Code Hero, will provide new insights into his literary works.

It provides a blueprint through which we can harness a refined understanding about the reflection of this Code hero paradigm in Hemingway’s literary career.

It can be used as a prototype, bringing relevant motifs, lurking in other literary works, to a cogent comparative analysis.

This Code Hero paradigm can be used as a touchstone to challenge the dominant metanarratives, impacting the very essence of masculinity and existentialism.

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