

AN INTERPRETATION OF JUNGIAN ARCHETYPES IN HEMINGWAY'S THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

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ABSTRACT

The Old Man and the Sea novella play a significant role in American literature due to Ernest's writing style, and it is famous for his simple and clear narratives. Despite its style, the Old Man and the Sea explores human nature and about their life. Through textual analysis, this research seeks to examine the concept of Jungian archetypes, which are portrayed in the Old Man and the Sea. Jung is a psychiatrist who proposed the concept of archetypes and collective unconscious. These archetypes are universal and fundamental human elements that refer to allocate experiences and memories that have taken over from our ancestors. In the Old Man and the Sea novella, these five Jungian archetypes are being portrayed in the plot: the hero, the shadow, the mentor, the wise old man, the sea as a symbol of unconscious. This article's analysis provides light on the novella's universal components, providing insights into the psychological and symbolic dimensions that resonate with readers and contribute to the larger conversation on literature and human experience.

Keywords: Jungian archetypes, *The Old Man and the Sea*, universal elements, collective unconscious

Introduction

Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961) is a Swiss psychoanalyst and psychiatrist. He has been awarded many honorary doctorates from multiple universities. He is known for the archetypes and the collective unconscious. He presents universal symbols and themes that are proposed as Jungian archetypes. These archetypes are fundamental human elements that refer to allocate experiences and memories that have taken over from our ancestral past. These archetypes help to shape our reactions and perceptions to the world. Jung represents very complicated thoughts and as deep as the sea, but it can be summarized easily as it shares common experiences of all human beings for decades. Jung proposed the concept of collective unconsciousness. Collective unconsciousness is like a huge concealed mind that is shared by all human beings. Basically, these are beliefs, feelings, and ideas that are commonly shared by the people of a group, society, and culture. This process of sharing mind determines how we understand the world and see things around us. Jung's archetypes are universal themes and symbols shared by all human beings all over the world, which represents common aspects of human experiences. These archetypes include the hero, the

shadow, the anima, the mentor, and so on. Archetypes can be used as a powerful tool for understanding personal development, self-discovery, and psychotherapy. It gives individuals the opportunity to gain insights into human psyche, fears, motivations, and potential for growth. It's a sociological concept that helps to understand societal functions, shared feelings that shape behavior, and maintain identity through culture (C.G.JUNG, 1996). Certainly, the *Old Man and the Sea* is an English novella written by Ernest Hemingway that can be explicated through the lens of Jungian archetypes. The context of this novella assists an archetypal reading through the projection of numerous similar symbolic characterizations. It's a short story of an ageing man who is struggling to catch a gigantic marlin. Santiago is the name of the old man who lives at Cuba Island. His age is around 85 years, and he is a fisherman by profession. Santiago used to catch fish to sell them into the market so that he could earn money from them. But unfortunately, he was unable to catch a single fish since last 84 days even though he was helped by a young boy Manolin but forced to leave the old man, Santiago as he is no more effective for his daily wages.

Santiago is a hopeful old man who has been continuously trying to catch a fish for the last 84 days, and finally, on the 85th day, he hooks something giant, which is marlin. It took him three days to reel down a marlin on his boat with so much effort and struggle. But unluckily, his boat is attacked by sharks, and marlin is eaten by them. However, Santiago tried so hard to save his fish from sharks, but unfortunately, he couldn't make it. When he returns to the waterfront with a tiding skeleton of a giant marlin on his boat, he amazes all other fishermen (Hemingway, 1952). We can obtain a deeper understanding of psychological and fundamental symbolic elements crisscross by Hemingway in the old man and the sea through the lens of Jungian archetypes.

Research Framework

The researcher applies Jungian archetypal theory as a framework to examine and identify the implementation of Jungian archetypes in Hemingway's 'The Old Man and the Sea'. There is also the comprehensive examination of how these archetypes are associated with symbolic characterization in the specific work. This research helps to find out the research gap by providing significant interpretation of the novella through the lens of Jungian archetypes, which shed light on psychological and symbolic elements.

Research Objectives

1. To investigate the appearance of archetypal characters in the novella.
2. To identify the symbolic importance in the old man and the sea through the lens of archetypes.
3. To examine the philosophical perspectives of Hemingway behind the struggle of Santiago.

Literature Review

Carl Jung has presented archetypal theory to elaborate analytical psychology on the broader aspect. He believed in the collective unconscious. It shares mutual human experiences and imagery thematic elements that are inherited from our forefather. These archetypal elements help to structure our behavior, thoughts, and cultural expressions. Jung also discusses universal themes that are common for all human beings, and it helps to shape culture and upbringing, through these archetypal elements, we can perceive the world easily. It helps to

understand the deeper symbolic language confer in the myths, cultural narratives, and dreams (Jung, 1996). Jung archetypes play an important role in forming stories all over the cultures. Archetypes allow the reader to understand the deeper thoughts and mythologies provided by the writer in the work. Through the themes and motifs, the reader can drive characters and the plot of the story easily. Also, with this framework, readers can understand the various cultures, psychological growth, and historical periods (Jung, 1996). Jungian psychological archetypes represent universal symbols and themes from the collective unconscious, which share common themes and symbols across the all human culture. These archetypes include the mother, the hero, the child, the wise old man, the trickster, and so on. It shares common aspects of human experiences. The archetypal theory has been interpreted on the Antoine de saint- Exupery's *The Little Prince* (Rani, 2021). This paper has explained four archetypes; the persona, the shadow, the anima, and the self and how they are all interpreted in the work.

In Jungian psychology, the shadow portrays as the darker aspect of one's personality. In the *Little Prince*, the businessman and the king represent the shadow archetype. Both characters represent as egoistic and oppressed. Through their behavior, the Little Prince encounters both of them as the darker and less commendable human being (Rani, 2021) The persona represents the individual's adoption of their behavior to be fitted in the culture and societal expectations. In the *Little Prince*, the lamplighter portrays the persona archetype. He reflects the enthusiastic role to societal expectations where he holds no longer true meaning. The persona archetype demonstrates the potential pitfalls in expense of personal fulfillment to perform societal expectations (Rani, 2021). In Jungian theory, the anima portrays the feminine features within the male psyche. The rose portrays the anima archetype for the Little Prince. He interpreted rose deeply connected to his feelings. As he grows the rose for him, he falls in love with it. Also, when he returns to his world, he has taken that rose with him (Rani, 2021). The self is the significant archetype that portrays the unified and consolidated personality. It leads to both conscious and unconscious characteristics of human beings. In the novella, the little prince himself portrays the self-archetype. Through his journey, he encounters self-discovery. He learns more about himself and human nature (Rani, 2021). These interpretations of Jungian archetypes illustrate the characters and themes within the novella that how these archetypal elements portray the true meaning for narratives from the perspective of readers. There are numerous archetypal elements that are interpreted on Hemingway's novella, '*The Old Man and The Sea*': the hero, the shadow, the wise old man, the anima, the self. These archetypes share deeper meaning of the narratives and help readers to understand broader symbolic characterization from the journey of Santiago. The hero archetype embarks on the journey of an old man who has faced physical and emotional challenges while struggling with marlin. His courage and spirit are the characteristics of the hero's journey. The sharks interpret the shadow archetype. Sharks are considered as the symbol of destruction and threaten old fisherman's success. Sharks symbolize the darker side of Santiago's psyche. The wise old man archetype interprets the character of Santiago as he is wise enough and has competitive knowledge of the sea. The mentor archetype interprets the character of Manolin, who has sincere feelings for Santiago and shares emotional support with him. The unconscious archetype interprets through the character of the sea when Santiago battles with. Santiago was not battling with the sea. He was battling with himself to confront his power in his own perspective (Kusuma, Bahari, & Putri, 2017).

There is a notable research gap that is how these archetypes are associated with symbolic characterization in the novella *The Old Man and The Sea* and presents thematic depth and psychological development within this specific work. This research helps to find

out the research gap by providing significant interpretation of the novella through the lens of Jungian archetypes, which shed light on psychological and symbolic elements.

Research Methodology

The researcher interprets the Jungian archetypal theory in the Hemingway's novella *The Old Man and The Sea* with the help of textual analysis of the novella along with close reading. The researcher used primary sources for collecting data from the books of Carl Jung and Hemingway's novella, *The Old Man and the Sea*. The researcher read the archetypal theory and then closely read the novel to find the archetypes in the specific work. The reason for choosing this method is to explain the research problem and analyze it through the archetypal theory (Kusuma, Bahari, & Putri, 2017). The data has analyzed through textual analysis by collecting those statements from the novella, which specifically highlight the Jungian archetypes.

Textual Analysis

Symbolism is one of the most significant literary techniques that have been used in the 20th century, specifically in fiction. In this section, the researcher will analyze the intensity of literary techniques used in fiction. Symbolism refers to the representation of the object, person, place, and event that abstract an idea or condition. Symbols produce a connection between reality and spirituality or a moral order (Quinn, 2006). Jungian archetypes represent symbolic representations of universal elements that emerge from the collective unconscious. These archetypes manifest themes, symbolic characters, emotions, and human experiences. Jungian represents numerous archetypes, but the researcher only discusses five archetypes and interprets these in *The Old Man and The Sea* novella.

1. The Hero

The Hero represents the qualities of courage and resolution. It also portrays the journey of self-discovery, facing, and overcoming challenges. Similarly, Santiago, the main character of the novella, personifies the hero archetype. Santiago faces so many challenges by nature. He is all alone having a battle with the gigantic marlin on the ocean for continuously three days and finally kills the marlin. This novella shows the struggle of a man and his success over nature's will. As old man faces cruel time while battling with marlin although his hands get injured but don't lose hope. **'Will try...as have oars and the tiller'** (Hemingway, 1952, p. 42). It portrays a universal theme, as everyone has to face his life challenges and deal with pain in order to succeed in goals (Shuhaib, 2021).

2. The Shadow

Jungian portrays the shadow as the darker aspect of unconscious, which tends to be denied by humans. It can be a desire, fear, and unresolved conflicts. In Hemingway's novella, the sharks portray the shadow archetype as sharks are representations of destruction that threatening the Santiago's fruit of struggle. Sharks also personify the harsh reality of the world face by human in their daily life. **'He knew he was beaten now...there was no great weight besides her'** (Hemingway, 1952, p. 119). Hemingway delivered a lesson to his audience that there is always a life purpose after suffering. As Santiago has been defeated by sharks, he still has hope inside him to go for fishing again (Sinha, 2022).

3. The mentor

Jungian portrays the mentor archetype as a symbol of a true friend who guides the hero on his journey of self-redemption. The mentor archetypal character is full of wisdom and provides advice. In the *Old Man and The Sea* novella, Manolin interpreted the mentor archetype. His relationship with Santiago portrays the essence of loyalty. This novella sets a true picture of friendship between an old man and a young boy. This can also be counted as a universal theme as friendship has no age boundaries and shares the same feelings and emotions. Manolin and Santiago catch fish together every day, but as Manolin's father forces him to change his tutor because Santiago fails to catch fish on a daily basis. **'I wish...had the boy...to help...to see this'** (Hemingway, 1952, p. 17). The essence of this friendship is shown at the time of battling with marlin, when Santiago expressed his feelings about the fish all alone in the battle with marlin (Shuhaib, 2021).

4. The Wise Old Man

Jungian describes the wise old man archetype as a representation of a man full of wisdom, guidance, and connects with deeper truths. Santiago's experiences and pursuing the nature of fish showcase his wisdom. We all know that Santiago is a skillful fisherman. He has developed a level of competence and understanding that compensates for the reduction in his physical strength. He understands how to read nature and how to manipulate the line to determine the movement of the fish. He can decipher even a little movement of the fish. **'Once in the afternoon...east to north'** (Hemingway, 1952, p. 25). His resilience and understanding of the sea reveal his wisdom and insight. His competence and understanding of reading nature and the movement of the fish are remarkable. He can perceive a little movement of the fish. He is also aware of his own limitations. He understands how far he can go with his skills (Mogea, 2023).

5. The Sea as a Symbol of Unconscious

Jungian describes collective unconscious as the fundamental human symbols and motifs that contain universal memories and experiences. Through the interpretation of Jungian archetypes, the sea portrays the symbol of power by representing collective unconscious. As the sea is vast and deep, mysterious and enchanting, and holds both life and danger of death. The self-discovery journey of Santiago maintains the deep connection with the sea, and it symbolizes his own psyche as he struggles with his inner problems and resolutions (Mogea, 2023).

Ernest is famous for his philosophy about human that they can be destroyed but not defeated. It is considered one of the themes of his works. As Santiago struggles a lot to catch marlin and then try hard to save it from sharks without concerning about his life just to make out money from it, it only remains a skeleton of marlin. Still, he makes plans to go for fishing after all sufferings as he isn't defeated. According to Hemingway, success and failure are two important aspects of life. He considers a real success as a continuous struggle. Without struggle, no one can be successful. His character Santiago is depicting struggles from start till end that he never give up and that's make him successful. To gain something is not success. Success is something to motivate you to gain what you desire. Hemingway also believes that a man is not made for defeat. It's an honor given by God to a man. So a man can be destroyed but can't be defeated. Hemingway shows a real successful man to the world through his work. He said if you think that Santiago is a failure, then you are wrong because in the outer aspect, it shows you as failure, but in the inner aspect, he is not. He continuously struggles from his fate, and that makes him a successful man (Sinha, 2022).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the investigation of Jungian archetypes in Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" has revealed numerous levels of symbolism, offering readers with a sophisticated understanding of the characters and themes. This study has practical ramifications for readers, scholars, and the larger field of literature beyond the sphere of literary analysis. By recognizing these archetypes, readers have a greater understanding of the universal human experiences weaved throughout the story, creating empathy and connection with the characters. Scholars gain from an improved framework for interpreting and analyzing literature, contributing to the debate on the psychological components of narrative. Furthermore, the findings contribute to the ongoing discourse on the junction of psychology and literature, providing insights into the intricacies of the human condition to the broader discipline. Finally, the study contends that using a Jungian lens not only improves comprehension of "The Old Man and the Sea," but also broadens the frontiers of literary exploration, allowing for a more meaningful engagement with the complexities of human nature.

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