

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature has always been the twin brother of life; it reflects unusual feelings and social events and brings pleasure to readers. The author uses a combination of insightful means, artistic installations, and programs that provide various methods for processing outstanding literary works to update complex frameworks from specific works.

According to Rosmaidar, Robert and Jacobs confirmed that literature is a form of writing that tells stories with dramatic situations and emotional expressions. Literature also implies a strategy for establishing emotional connections between readers and authors of literary works (Rosmaidar 17). If readers do not carefully consider understanding and interpreting literary works, they will not quickly feel the meaning of literary works.

Since the development of innovation in writing, writers have always wanted to express their intuition, thoughts, and life around the writer. Literature is considered to be a reflection of the real life of the author like Nurhamida and others. It is noted that the novelist can express himself in his masterpiece. He is the representative of the protagonist in the novel of which he is most proud (Nurhamidah et al., 195). The journey of literature closely follows the development of civilization. Through literature, people can constantly discover new information

about history. Anwuka believes that many scholars believe that there is a symbiotic relationship between literature and society. In *The Republic*, Plato observes that literature can influence society (Onwuka 59). Through writing, information is easily passed from one generation to another.

One of the literary methods that have been used for centuries is symbolism. Although it first appeared as a literary trend, because it was adapted and used as a literary method, it had a significant impact on the literary movement. Mohan symbols have been guessed to represent objects, emotions and thoughts through symbols (Mohan 19).

According to Akter in his article, symbols appear in the form of words, sounds, gestures, or visual images. In addition, all of these are used to convey thoughts and beliefs (Akter 3). Symbolism is a method used in literature when something should not be understood literally. Symbolic meaning can be a person, situation, event, or action that has a deeper meaning in the frame. Writers often use symbolism to improve their writing and make readers understand.

Symbolism can give literary works a sense of beauty and deepen their meaning. Symbols can take many forms. Usually it is an object, representing another object, giving it a different, more meaningful and deeper meaning. Sometimes, an event, an action, or a sentence someone said can contain a symbolic value. For example, a smile is a symbol of friendship. When someone smiles at you, it may mean a symbol of that person's affection for you.

Symbolism allows authors to freely add double interpretations to literary works. Bai mentioned in his diary that the symbolism has two different meanings; an obvious literal meaning and a symbolic meaning that is deeper than the literal meaning (White 1). Thus, symbolism makes the themes of literary works universal. Symbolism in literature shows the interest of readers because they find the opportunity to understand the author's worldview and how he sees familiar objects and behaviors, which has a broader impact.

This technique is of great importance in contemporary literature by many 19th century writers. Ernest Hemingway was an important writer of that time, so the researchers chose to analyze *The Old Man and the Sea*. It was published in 1951 because the novel met the requirements of this research.

However, while literature brings pleasure to readers, it also reflects human life and society with its own characteristics. In order to challenge different themes and themes, writers tend to use two different literary methods and language aspects. American literature originated in important eras such as realism, naturalism, rationalism, and romanticism (Sandamali 125).

Some writers tend to use symbols to give their literary works a sense of beauty and artistic complexity, and for other purposes, such as using symbols to avoid social criticism. From this perspective, among the writers belonging to the romantic period, Ernest Hemingway (Ernest Hemingway) stands out for his mastery of the use of symbols.

Ernest Hemingway's heroic short story *The Old Man and the Sea* was published in 1952 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953. It was his last great novel. The story begins with an elderly fisherman who fought an epic battle to catch a giant marlin. In addition to Hemingway's illustrative narrative, the compelling title of this novel also contains elements of nature and humanity, symbolizing the aesthetic aspects of meaning transmission.

Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and the Sea* was chosen because it is a famous international bestseller. The protagonist is an old fisherman named Santiago, who has not caught a fish in 84 days. Santiago, convinced that his luck must end, sailed his ship in the deep waters of the Gulf Stream. He quickly caught a huge marlin. With his countless experience and strength, he fought the fish for three days and recognized his dignity, strength and loyalty to his identity, his destiny is as real as Santiago, just like a real fisherman. Finally, he rolled up the marlin and tied it to his boat. He prides himself on being a real old man and fisherman.

In short, there are many symbolic meanings in the novel. Hemingway uses a variety of symbolism to make the story more beautiful. Symbolism can express meaning as words, animals and natural elements. The role of symbolism in the novel is to make readers more excited about reading the entire chapter of *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Based on the explanation, this study is interested in analyzing the symbolism, both literal and symbolic, used or found in the novel entitled *The Old Man and the*

Sea by Ernest Hemingway. Hence, the writer is interested in conducting and analyzing the research entitled **AN ANALYSIS OF SYMBOLISM AND MEANING FOUND IN *THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA* BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY.**

B. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the study limitation focuses on analyzing the symbolism and meaning found in *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.

C. Problem Formulation

Based on the background of the study and the limitation of the study, the problem formulations to be discussed are about:

1. What type of symbols found in *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway?
2. What are the meaning of the symbols found in in *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the types of symbols found in *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.

2. To analyze the meaning of the symbols found in *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.

E. Significance of the Study

There are some expectations from the author about this study:

1. The study will help the reader understand types of symbolism, both literal and symbolic, along with the definition and the meaning of each symbolism found in *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.
2. The study will help the students of College of Language and Communication Science of Sultan Agung Islamic University and other people interested in the topic to do further analysis.
3. The study will help the author to have a better understanding of using symbolism in future times. Mainly, it will be useful for the reader with literature interest to know how a technique can be used to write a better literary work such as a novel, poetry, plays, and symbolism in the writing process to make the work more esthetic and fun to the readers.

F. Organization of the Study

This study is divided into five chapters in order to make it easier to construct and understand. The first chapter consists six sub-chapters, the first sub-chapter is background of the study, it tells about the background of the analysis that will be

discussed and it tells several reasons why the researcher choose this topic. The second sub-chapter is limitation of the study, this part tells about what is the main focus of the discussion. The third sub-chapter is talking about problem formulation, in this part shows about problem the researcher will discuss. Then the fourth sub-chapter is objective of the study, in this part tells about the goal of the study. The fifth sub-chapter is about significant of the study, it tells about what is the purpose that the writer wants to show to the reader. The last sub-chapter is organization of the study; it contains the outline of the study report. The second chapter is review of related literature. This chapter consists; synopsis of the novel, following by the theory that will be used in the study. The third chapter discusses the research method which contains types of the data, data collecting method and data analyzing method. The fourth chapter consists finding and analysis. The fifth chapter or the last chapter consists conclusion and suggestion.

