

An Analysis of the Conflicts of the Novella “The Old Man and the Sea” by Ernest Hemingway

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Abstract

Novella is a prose fiction that is shorter than full length novels and longer than short stories. It can provide the readers with the same satisfaction as reading a complete novel. In order that readers come to enjoy reading novella, the conflicts of a novella must be recognized and it is vitally important that the conflicts give aid to the novella. The aim of this paper is to study the conflicts in the novella “The Old Man and the Sea” by Ernest Hemingway by using the theory proposed by Choo and Yeo, 2013. The objectives of this study are to find out the conflicts first, then to analyze them and finally how they affect the turn of the plot. Firstly, the novella was thoroughly read to study different types of conflict. External conflicts in the novella were analysed in terms of conflict with another character, conflict with society, conflict with nature and conflict with God. Internal conflict in the novella was analysed in terms of conflict within mental struggle of the protagonist, Santiago over certain issues. In findings and discussion, the data were collected and how they affect the development of the plot in ‘The Old Man and the Sea’ was discussed. Among the external conflicts, conflict with nature was mostly used in the novella. Then, Santiago’s mental struggle over certain issues: pride, cruel-kindness, sorrow, perseverance, dilemma, worry, regret, bitterness and sympathy were also found in internal conflict. It is hoped that this study will help English Specialization students who study and appreciate literature to get more understanding about the conflicts used in novella.

Key words: external conflict, internal conflict, the development of the plot

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