

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

The novel “The Old Man and The Sea” was written by Ernest Hemingway and released in 1952. Ernest Hemingway was a famous American writer and journalist born on July 21, 1899, in Oak Park, Illinois. He is known for his distinctive works, minimalist writing style, and significant influence on 20th-century American literature. In 1954, Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his valuable contributions in developing a new literary style. However, he also faced various health issues and personal conflicts, including alcohol addiction and depression. On July 2, 1961, Hemingway ended his life by suicide at his home in Ketchum, Idaho. Throughout his life until his death, Hemingway wrote seven novels, six collections of short stories, and two non-fiction works. Among his seven novels, two novels were selected by the writer in this study, namely “The Old Man and The Sea” and “To Have and Have Not”.

In “The Old Man and The Sea”, Hemingway explores universal themes such as perseverance, resilience, suffering, and human dignity. The central character of the novel is named Santiago, an old fisherman who struggles against the sea to prove himself and maintain his dignity. The story narrates his life as a fisherman who lives in a coastal village in Cuba. The story in the novel focuses on Santiago’s experience enduring a long time without catching any fish during a drought, until one day he decided to venture into the deep sea

to catch a big fish.

During Santiago time venturing into the deep sea, after several days of no success, Santiago finally got a bite from a large marlin. A fierce battle between Santiago and the marlin began. Santiago fought the marlin for several days, he even experienced exhaustion and severe injuries. Despite being physically and mentally tested, Santiago did not give up. Eventually, he managed to catch the marlin, although on his journey back to his home, the marlin was devoured by sharks, leaving only scales and bones.

Then, the second novel titled “To Have and Have Not” comprises three narratives centered around the resilient character Captain Harry Morgan, a tough individual. Initially, Hemingway published the first story in 1934 in *Cosmopolitan*, followed by the second in 1936 in *Esquire*. Subsequently, he chose to develop a novella based on Harry Morgan’s exploits. However, its publication was postponed until 1937 due to Hemingway’s involvement in The Spanish Civil War. Upon its release, the work faced substantial criticism, notably from *The New York Times* in October 1937, which suggested that Hemingway’s reputation as a creative writer might have been better served had the novella never been published.

Similar to the character of Santiago in the novel “The Old Man and The Sea”, in the novel “To Have and Have Not”, the central character named Harry Morgan is a boat rental services. The novel focuses on the life struggles of Morgan as a boat rental business. The setting of this story is in Havana, Cuba. The novel portrays Harry as an ordinary worker during the depression era, was

compelled to get involved in illegal trading, smuggling contraband between Cuba and Florida due to the heavy economic pressures.

The two novels by Ernest that the author narrated above have a similarity, we can observe that both central characters share a common background of working at sea. Moreover, both novels were written by the same author, Ernest Hemingway, which might also influence the characterization in these different novels. Comparing the central characters who share similarities in both novels is the main goal of this research. However, before comparing the central characters, it's important to understand the structure that shape the novel and build those characters. Understanding and analyzing the structure of the novel is crucial, and using structural theory can assist the writer in comprehending its components.

Structural researchers commonly adopt an egocentric methodology, focusing primarily on the literary text. Structuralism underscores the autonomy of literary works, prioritizing an objective analysis that delves into the inherent aspects of these texts. These intrinsic elements, constituting the foundational components of literature, are apparent within the text itself. In prose literature like novels, short stories, and novellas, these elements typically include Theme, Message, Characters, Plot, Setting, Point of View, and Language Style. After understanding the structure of the novel, especially its intrinsic elements that construct the novel and influence its central characters, the theory of comparative literature will be implemented as a bridge to compare the two existing central characters.

Comparative literature studies encompass various aspects, such as grasping the distinct literary movements and trends of a particular era, examining recurring themes and ideas across different literary traditions, and investigate genres, structures, and patterns. However, the most crucial aspect is the exploration of literary relationships. These relationships involve connecting the subject matter found in literature, which can be effectively compared in terms of themes, characters, societal contexts, emotional nuances, and more.

In conclusion, the novel “The Old Man and The Sea” tells the story of an old fisherman who goes without catching any fish for a long time, while the novel “To Have and Have Not” depicts life struggles of Harry Morgan, manages a boat rental business. This study titled “Exploring Ernest Hemingway’s Novel (A Comparative Literature Analysis of “The Old Man and The Sea” and “To Have and Have Not” Central Characters)”, aims to explore the structure of similarities and differences of the central character aspects from the novel “The Old Man and The Sea” and “To Have and Have Not” using structural novel and comparative literature theory.

1.2 Identification of the problems

As explained in the research background, both novels feature central characters who are working at sea, Santiago in “The Old Man and The Sea” and Harry Morgan in “To Have and Have Not”. Despite their common background, each character faces unique challenges and situations in their respective stories. The similarity and dissimilarity is an interesting aspect to

compare in this research. With the same background of life and author, this holds significance in the comparative literature study that focuses on comparing two literary works.

In this research, the writer using structural novel theory to analyze the structure of the novel beforehand, the structuralism theory is presented by Jauharoti (2014). Then, comparative literature theory to analyze the structure of similarities and differences between the two novels, assisted by Kasim (2011). So, this research identifies the structure of the selected novels and also compares this structure, which impact their central characters.

1.3 Limitation of the study

The analysis of this study is focused on the comparison and contrast of the central character within the two novels titled “The Old Man and The Sea” and “To Have and Have Not”. The research will be conducted through an analysis of structures in both novels, followed by an exploration of intrinsic elements that impact the central character for comparison using the theory of structuralism by Jauharoti and comparative literature by Kasim.

1.4 Research questions

Related to the identification of the problems that have been explained above, the research problems to be addressed in this study are formulated in the form of two main questions, namely:

1. How are the structure of the story of the novel “The Old Man and The Sea” and “To Have and Have Not”?
2. What are the comparison that exist between the two central characters of

the novel “The Old Man and The Sea” and “To Have and Have Not”?

1.5 Objective of the study

By conducting this study, the writer aims to address the research problems and achieve several additional objectives. Therefore, the main goals to be achieved with the study are:

1. This research aims to analyze the structures present in the novels “The Old Man and The Sea” and “To Have and Have Not”.
2. This research aims to analyze whether the central characters of both novels share similarities and differences.

1.6 Significance of the study

This study is conducted to obtain significance for the English department, fellow students, and other related individuals. Therefore, the focal significance to be acquired through this study is as follows:

1. The findings of this study may depict the utilization of structuralism in analyzing the structure of novel especially intrinsic elements of a novel that impacted the central character. This study also discusses two novels by the renowned author Ernest Hemingway, depicting elements or aspects of the same author. It is hoped that this research will serve as a reference for other students and researchers intending to investigate similar topics.
2. The results of this study are expected to serve as a means to implement comparative literature theory in analyze similarities and differences of the central characters in both selected novels. Consequently, this can also

become a reference in the appreciation, analysis, and criticism of literature in the English department of Pasundan University.