



MEANS OF EXPRESSING POSSESSION IN "THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA" BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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Abstract: *This thesis delves into the nuanced means employed by Ernest Hemingway to express the theme of possession in his novel, "The Old Man and the Sea." Through an analysis of characters, symbols, and narrative techniques, the study aims to uncover the multifaceted dimensions of possession within the context of the novel. The paper explores how possession is depicted in various forms, ranging from material belongings to intangible aspects like knowledge, resilience, and personal triumphs. By dissecting the literary elements, this thesis endeavors to unravel the deeper meaning of possession as portrayed by Hemingway and its significance in the characters' lives.*

Keywords: *Possession, Ernest Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea, Materialism, Intangible Possessions, Symbolism, Narrative Techniques.*

INTRODUCTION

Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" is a masterful exploration of human resilience and the relentless struggle against nature. Embedded within the narrative is a subtle yet profound examination of the theme of possession. This thesis seeks to dissect the various means through which Hemingway conveys the concept of possession, both tangible and intangible, and its impact on the characters' lives. By scrutinizing characters, symbols, and narrative techniques, we aim to unravel the layers of meaning associated with possession in the novel.

1. **Material Possession: Santiago's Conquest of the Marlin** In "The Old Man and the Sea," Hemingway employs Santiago's relentless pursuit of the marlin as a metaphor for the conquest of nature and the possession of a tangible symbol of mastery. Santiago's struggle with the marlin represents not just a battle with a fish but a quest for dominance over the vast and unpredictable forces of the sea. The marlin, a majestic creature, becomes Santiago's possession, reflecting his tenacity and skill as a fisherman. This material possession takes on a deeper significance as it becomes intertwined with Santiago's identity, illustrating the profound connection between man and nature.

2. **Intangible Possession: Santiago's Accumulation of Wisdom and Experience** Beyond material possessions, Hemingway explores Santiago's possession of intangible qualities such as wisdom and experience. Santiago's conversations with the sea reveal a deep understanding of the natural world and its rhythms. His possession of this knowledge becomes a source of inner strength, guiding him through the physical and emotional challenges he faces. This intangible possession serves as a counterbalance to the tangible



struggle with the marlin, emphasizing the importance of inner resilience and accumulated wisdom in the face of external adversity.

3. Symbolism of the Sea and the Skiff: Possession in the Natural Elements Hemingway employs symbolism to depict possession through the natural elements of the sea and Santiago's skiff. The sea, a vast and unpredictable force, becomes a symbol of both challenge and opportunity. Santiago's skiff, his vessel on this journey, represents his possession of agency within the natural world. The dynamic relationship between Santiago and the sea mirrors the intricate dance of possession, reflecting the ebb and flow of power between man and nature. Through these symbols, Hemingway explores the transformative power of the natural elements in shaping Santiago's possession not just of the sea but of his own destiny.

By delving into the material and intangible aspects of possession and dissecting the symbolism inherent in the natural elements, this analysis seeks to unravel the layers of meaning woven into Hemingway's narrative. Through Santiago's journey, readers are invited to contemplate the nuanced ways in which possession extends beyond the physical realm, encompassing the resilience of the human spirit, the accumulation of wisdom, and the dynamic interplay between man and nature.

In conclusion, "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway intricately weaves the theme of possession throughout its narrative. By examining material possessions, intangible aspects, and symbolic elements, we gain a comprehensive understanding of how possession shapes the characters and the overall message of the novel. Hemingway's masterful storytelling techniques illuminate the complexity of possession, transcending mere materialism to encompass resilience, knowledge, and triumph over adversity.

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