



## A Self-Confident Profile: An Analysis of the Novel *The Old Man and the Sea*

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### Abstract

*This analysis examines Ernest Hemingway's classic novel, The Old Man and the Sea, through the lens of the self-confident profile portrayed by the protagonist, Santiago. The study delves into the themes of perseverance, man versus nature, isolation, and pride to unravel Santiago's unwavering self-assurance in the face of adversity. Through an exploration of the novel's characters, including Santiago and his young apprentice Manolin, as well as the symbolic representation of the marlin and the sea, the analysis reveals the nuances of Santiago's self-confidence and its impact on his actions and relationships. Additionally, the study investigates Hemingway's literary techniques, such as symbolism, imagery, minimalism, and stream of consciousness, to highlight how they contribute to the portrayal of Santiago's self-assured nature. Drawing on critical essays, scholarly articles, and comparative studies, the research contextualizes the self-confident profile within the broader scope of Hemingway's works and provides a comprehensive understanding of the character's development throughout the narrative. By shedding light on Santiago's resilience, dignity, and the internal strength he draws from his experiences, Reader-Response Criticism analysis offers valuable insights into the profound exploration of self-confidence and its significance in The Old Man and the Sea.*

**Keywords:** lesson of life; self-confidence; literary works; nature and the human life; perseverance

### Article information

Received:  
18 June  
2023

Revised:  
11 November  
2023

Accepted:  
18 November  
2023

### Introduction

Studying literary works, including novels and other literary forms, holds great importance for several reasons. The first is the exploration of human experience: literature provides a window into the human experience,

allowing us to delve into the human emotions, relationships, and the human condition (Ballan, 2023; Eagleton, 1996; The Editor, 2023; Ezra, 2023; Smith, 2015; Akayol, 2020; Dussert, 2012). Through literary works, we can gain insights into different cultures,

historical periods, and perspectives, fostering empathy and understanding.

Researchers choose to study Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and the Sea* for a variety of reasons, with several deep and compelling motivations. Here are some of the deepest reasons why this novel is a popular subject of study. *The Old Man and the Sea* is considered one of Hemingway's greatest works and a classic of American literature. It was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953 and played a significant role in Hemingway winning the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Researchers are drawn to it because of its status as a literary masterpiece, and they seek to explore why it holds such enduring appeal.

The novel is rich in symbolism and allegory, which provides researchers with a fertile ground for analysis. Santiago's struggle with the Marlin can be seen as a metaphor for the human condition, perseverance, and the relentless pursuit of one's goals. Researchers delve into these deeper layers of meaning to understand the novel's philosophical and existential implications.

Hemingway is renowned for his distinctive writing style, characterized by concise and economical prose. Researchers often choose this novel to study Hemingway's writing techniques, including his use of dialogue, imagery, and symbolism. It offers valuable insights into his craftsmanship as a writer. *The Old Man and the Sea* explores several universal themes such as the individual's struggle against nature, the dignity of labour, the human spirit's resilience, and the inevitability of aging and mortality. Researchers are interested in dissecting these themes and their relevance to the human experience.

Hemingway's own life experiences and philosophies are reflected in the novel. Researchers examine how his experiences as a war correspondent, his love for fishing, and his personal struggles with fame and aging influenced the story and its characters.

The novel is set in the context of Cuban fishing villages and the Gulf Stream, providing researchers with opportunities to explore the historical and cultural aspects of the time. This includes examining the relationship between Santiago and his young apprentice, Manolin, as well as the depiction of the Cuban fishing community. Researchers often delve into the psychological and existential aspects of the novel, exploring Santiago's mental and emotional journey as he battles the marlin and his own inner demons. This allows for deep explorations of human psychology and the human condition.

Researchers choose to study Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* for its literary significance, symbolism, writing style, exploration of universal themes (Sangiamwibool, 2016), connection to Hemingway's life, historical context, and its potential for psychological and existential analysis. The novel's depth and complexity make it a rich subject of study for scholars and enthusiasts alike.

Studying literary works is important as it enriches our understanding of the human experience, fosters critical thinking, encourages empathy, and offers insights into societal and cultural issues. It plays a vital role in our personal and intellectual development, shaping our perspectives and enhancing our communication skills. The profound exploration of human character has been a central theme in literature throughout the ages. Ernest Hemingway's masterpiece, *The Old Man and the Sea*, stands as a timeless testament to the complexities of human nature and the indomitable spirit of the individual (Musoffa et al, 2019).

This paper delves into a specific facet of the novel, focusing on the self-confident profile exhibited by its protagonist, Santiago. By analysing the underlying themes, character dynamics, and literary techniques employed by Hemingway, this research aims to shed light on the significance of Santiago's self-assurance within the narrative and its broader implications.

The urgency of conducting this research lies in the timeless relevance of self-confidence as a human attribute, particularly in the face of adversity. Santiago, an aging and experienced fisherman, embarks on a solitary battle against the formidable forces of nature and his own internal struggles. In an era marked by increasing uncertainty and societal challenges, the exploration of self-confidence becomes all the more pertinent. By examining Santiago's unwavering resolve and unwavering belief in his abilities, this study seeks to illuminate the transformative power of self-assurance and its potential as a source of inspiration for individuals navigating their own personal hardships.

Previous studies on *The Old Man and the Sea* have predominantly focused on themes such as perseverance, man versus nature, and existentialism. While these analyses have offered valuable insights into the novel, there remains a significant gap in research regarding Santiago's self-confident profile as a distinct aspect of his character. By honing in on this specific attribute, we can gain a deeper understanding of the underlying motivations, conflicts, and transformations that shape Santiago's journey throughout the narrative.

To provide a comprehensive framework for this analysis, the theoretical underpinnings draw from various literary perspectives. The exploration of self-confidence aligns with psychological theories on resilience, self-efficacy, and positive psychology. Drawing upon these theories allows us to examine the psychological dimensions of Santiago's character and explore how self-confidence influences his attitudes, actions, and relationships. Moreover, the study incorporates elements of literary theory, such as symbolism, imagery, and minimalism, to analyse Hemingway's artistic choices and their contribution to the portrayal of Santiago's self-assured nature.

This research aims to build upon and extend the existing scholarship on *The Old Man and the Sea* by illuminating the hitherto understudied aspect of Santiago's self-confident profile. By employing a

multidimensional approach that encompasses thematic analysis, character dynamics, and literary techniques, this study seeks to deepen our understanding of Santiago's remarkable resilience and the profound impact of self-confidence on his quest. Ultimately, this analysis aims to provide readers with new insights into the complex interplay between human character, self-belief, and the triumph (Aristiawan, 2020) of the individual spirit as exemplified in *The Old Man and the Sea*.

It is not a simple way to provide the review of the previous studies on the topic. However, the researchers try to provide with a general overview of some key themes and analyses related to the self-confident profile in *The Old Man and the Sea* as explored by previous scholars.

In his analysis, Atkins (2008; cf. Baker, 1969/1972; Bloom, 2001; Curnut, 2004; Donaldson, 1989) delves into Santiago's self-confidence and explores how it manifests in his unwavering pursuit of the marlin despite the immense challenges he faces, emphasizing Santiago's determination as an alternative to traditional heroic archetypes. This focus on determination serves as a compelling lens through which Hemingway's rejection of heroism in the novel becomes evident.

Atkins (2008; cf. Baker, 1969/1972; Bloom, 2001; Curnut, 2004; Donaldson, 1989), in his analysis, examines Hemingway's rejection of heroism in the novel. He emphasizes Santiago's determination as an alternative to traditional heroic archetypes. Atkins delves into Santiago's self-confidence and explores how it manifests in his unwavering pursuit of the marlin despite the immense challenges he faces.

Lewis (1999; cf. Sa-ngiamwibool, 2016; Evans, 2022a/b; Fleming, 1994; Herrera-Sober, 2005; Kroupi, 2008; Musoffa et al, 2019) explores the representation of nature and the natural world in the narrative. He investigates Santiago's connection with the sea and the role it plays in shaping his character. This analysis sheds light on how Santiago's

self-confidence is intertwined with his relationship with the natural environment.

Rodriguez (1994), Lewis (1999), Haring (2008), and Meyers (1991) center their analyses on the use of symbolism within *The Old Man and the Sea*. They explore the symbolic significance of elements like the sea and the marlin, emphasizing their roles in shaping the character of Santiago. Through these examinations, these studies provide valuable insights into the symbolic representation of Santiago's self-confidence and its narrative significance.

Rodriguez (1994); Lewis (1999; Haring (2008); and Meyers (1991) focus on symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea*. They delve into the symbolic meaning behind elements such as the sea and the marlin, highlighting how they contribute to the portrayal of Santiago's character. These analysis may offer insights into the symbolic representation of Santiago's self-confidence and its significance in the narrative.

Herrera-Soler (2005); cf. Piscyanti (2022); Rodriguez (1994); Sinha (2023); Suputra (2013); Weeks (1990); William (2016); Zainuddin (2020); Sa-ngiamwibool (2016) adopt a linguistic perspective to examine Hemingway's writing style in the novel. They investigate how Hemingway's language choices contribute to the portrayal of Santiago's character and his self-assured nature. This analysis may provide valuable insights into the linguistic nuances that reflect Santiago's self-confidence.

This study is urgent for several compelling reasons. The novel's portrayal of the struggle between Santiago, the aging Cuban fisherman, and the magnificent marlin is a compelling allegory for our modern environmental dilemmas. In a world grappling with overfishing, climate change, and the fragile balance of marine ecosystems, Santiago's battle with the sea raises questions about our relationship with the natural world and the consequences of our actions.

In light of Santiago's unwavering determination to capture the marlin despite his advanced age and the unforgiving elements, his story serves as a powerful metaphor for the indomitable human spirit. This metaphor becomes particularly relevant in a time when societies are confronted with myriad challenges, including economic hardships, political turmoil, and global pandemics, making Santiago's unwavering resolve a source of valuable lessons on fortitude and perseverance.

The relationship between Santiago and his dedicated young apprentice, Manolin, reflects the ever-evolving dynamics found in contemporary mentor-mentee relationships. This reflection encourages us to delve into themes surrounding intergenerational wisdom and the transmission of values and knowledge in an ever-changing world.

The dynamic between Santiago and Manolin, his devoted young apprentice, mirrors the evolving mentor-mentee relationships of our times. It prompts us to explore themes of intergenerational wisdom and the passing down of values and knowledge in a rapidly changing world.

Hemingway's unique writing style, known for its economy and subtlety, maintains its influence on modern literature and storytelling. A fresh examination of his narrative techniques remains crucial for comprehending the lasting influence of his work on the literary landscape. Hemingway's distinctive writing style, characterized by its economy and subtlety, continues to influence contemporary literature and storytelling. A fresh analysis of his narrative techniques is essential for understanding the enduring impact of this work on the literary landscape.

By re-evaluating "The Old Man and the Sea" in the light of our modern challenges, we hope to shed new light on its timeless relevance and provide a deeper appreciation of its enduring message. As the researchers embark on the analysis, the study aims to bridge the gap between the past and the present, bringing to the urgent need to go

deeper into the theme of self-confidence as portrayed in "The Old Man and the Sea," this study seeks to address the following research problems.

- 1) What are the origins of Santiago's self-confidence? This problem will investigate the factors that contribute to Santiago's unwavering self-confidence in his pursuit of the marlin.
- 2) How does Santiago's self-confidence evolve throughout the novel? This problem will trace the character's journey and changes in self-confidence as he faces various challenges during his fishing expedition.
- 3) What are the broader implications of Santiago's self-confidence in the context of the human experience? This problem will explore how Santiago's self-confidence serves as a metaphor for the human struggle against the forces of nature and adversity and its relevance to contemporary society.

## Methodology

Before conducting the analysis of Santiago's self-confident profile in *The Old Man and the Sea*, it is important for the researchers to gather relevant data and information. Here are steps the researchers can take to collect the necessary data. Close Reading is the data collection techniques of the study (Brummett, 2010; Foster, 2003; Howe, 2009; Lentricchia & DuBois (eds), 2002). This technique involves a meticulous examination of the text itself. Researchers read the novel multiple times, making notes, highlighting key passages, and annotating the text. They look for literary devices, symbolism, and thematic elements within the text.

In conducting research and analysis of a novel *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, the researchers consider that it is important to have a structured approach to collect and organize the data. The researchers take a note on profiles for the main characters, such as Santiago, Manolin, and the marlin. The researchers track their developments throughout the story, noting key actions,

motivations, and changes (Brummett, 2010; Foster, 2003; Howe, 2009; Lentricchia & DuBois (eds), 2002). The researchers pay attention to the setting, its descriptions, and any symbolic elements in the novel. How the setting contributes to the themes and character development or not. The researchers also try to get whether there are any recurring symbols and motifs that carry a particular meaning or not.

The researchers, employing a mimesis approach (Auerbach & Said, 2013) adeptly identify and document the recurring themes and motifs within the novel. Researchers also employ Reader response analysis (Tompkins, 1980) to guide the next discussion and analysis. These encompass themes of perseverance, isolation, and the intricate relationship between man and nature (Braito et al, 2017). Furthermore, they meticulously scrutinize significant dialogues and monologues, dissecting the nuances of what the characters say and how their speech unveils both their individual personalities and the central themes of the novel (Haliwa et al, 2021). In addition to this, they delve into the reader's response, examining how the narrative affects and resonates with the audience, thus shedding light on the emotional and intellectual engagement evoked by the text (Felten, 2017). Additionally, the researchers conduct a comprehensive analysis of the relationships between characters, with a particular focus on the dynamic between Santiago and Manolin, further enhancing their multifaceted exploration of the narrative (Anderson & Kirkpatrick, 2015).

The researchers identify and note the recurring themes and motifs in the novel. It includes themes of perseverance, isolation, or the relationship between man and nature. The researchers examine significant dialogues and monologues to analyse. What the characters say, and how their speech reveal their personalities or the central themes of the novel or not. The researchers also analyse the relationships between characters, especially Santiago and Manolin.

## Results and Discussion

*The Old Man and the Sea* tells the story of Santiago, an aging Cuban fisherman who has gone 84 days without catching a fish. He is considered unlucky by his fellow villagers, except for a young boy named Manolin who was once his apprentice and holds great respect and affection for Santiago. Determined to prove his worth as a fisherman, Santiago sets out alone into the Gulf Stream, far out into the sea.

On the 85<sup>th</sup> day, Santiago's luck seems to change when he hooks a massive marlin, a prized and formidable fish. The battle between Santiago and the marlin lasts for days as the old man fights to reel it in. Despite his exhaustion and physical pain, Santiago's determination and skill shine through as he persists in his struggle against the powerful fish.

During the ordeal, Santiago engages in deep introspection and reflects on his life and the nature of manhood. He finds solace in his memories and draws strength from his resolve to conquer the marlin. However, Santiago's victory is not easily won, and he faces further challenges as sharks are attracted to the scent of the marlin's blood. Santiago valiantly fights off the sharks, but they devour the marlin, leaving only its skeleton.

Weary and defeated, Santiago returns to the village with the marlin's remains. Despite his empty-handedness, the villagers are in awe of the size of the marlin's skeleton and recognize Santiago's courage and skill as a fisherman. Manolin, deeply moved by Santiago's struggle, pledges to return to him as his apprentice, despite his parents' disapproval.

*The Old Man and the Sea* is a tale of resilience, determination, and the indomitable human spirit. It explores themes of man's relationship with nature, the complexities of success and failure, and the enduring value of personal struggle and integrity. Through Santiago's journey, the novel examines the

universal quest for meaning and the pursuit of personal worth in the face of adversity.

To analyse Ernest Hemingway's novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*. It's a renowned work of literature and a classic in American fiction. The novel explores the indomitable spirit of Santiago, an aged fisherman, as he battles against the elements and the marlin for three days. The story highlights the struggle between Santiago and the forces of nature, portraying the challenges faced by individuals against the vast, unforgiving sea.

Santiago spends most of the novel alone at sea, emphasizing the solitude and isolation that can accompany human existence.

Santiago takes pride in his fishing skills and resents the pity he receives from others. However, his humility is evident in his respect for the marlin, acknowledging its strength and resilience.

The protagonist, an old and experienced fisherman. He exhibits determination, resilience, and a deep connection to the sea. Manolin: Santiago's young apprentice and loyal friend. He cares for Santiago and provides support despite his parents' disapproval of the old man's perceived bad luck.

Santiago's primary opponent in his struggle at sea. The marlin represents strength, beauty, and the natural order of life. Researcher would like to analyse the following dialogue between Santiago, an old fisherman and Manolin, a young boy who accompanied Santiago during his activity as a fisherman.

*Santiago (Old Man): "I am a strange old man"*

*Manolin: "But are you strong enough now for a truly big fish?"*

*Santiago: "I think so. And there are many tricks."*

The dialogue between Santiago, an old fisherman, and Manolin, a young boy who accompanies him, reveals a conversation about Santiago's capabilities and his outlook on catching a big fish. Let's analyze the dialogue line by line:

*Santiago (Old Man): "I am a strange old man."*

This line suggests that Santiago sees himself as peculiar or unconventional. It implies that he may have unique qualities or characteristics that set him apart from others. This statement could be an introduction to his personality, hinting that he may have unconventional methods or approaches when it comes to fishing.

*Manolin: "But are you strong enough now for a truly big fish?"*

Manolin questions Santiago's physical strength and ability to handle a large fish. This implies that Santiago may have had difficulties in the past or that his age has made him less capable in the eyes of others. Manolin's question also indicates that catching a big fish requires strength and endurance, and he wants to ensure Santiago is up to the task.

*Santiago: "I think so. And there are many tricks."*

Santiago expresses his belief in his own strength and suggests that he is capable of handling a big fish. By mentioning "tricks," he implies that he has acquired knowledge and skills over his years of fishing. This indicates that Santiago relies not only on physical strength but also on his experience, wisdom, and clever strategies to overcome challenges and catch fish.

Overall, the dialogue between Santiago and Manolin portrays Santiago as an old man who may be perceived as strange but confident in his abilities. Manolin questions his strength, to which Santiago responds positively, emphasizing his belief and the presence of various tricks or strategies that he has learned over time. This dialogue sets the stage for an upcoming fishing adventure and highlights the potential for Santiago to prove himself despite his age.

The dialogue between Manolin and Santiago in "The Old Man and the Sea" is a

crucial moment in the novel as it reflects several significant themes and character dynamics. Here is a deeper analysis of this exchange. The dialogue showcases the mentor-mentee relationship between Santiago and Manolin. Manolin is deeply concerned about Santiago's strength and abilities, suggesting a reversal of roles, where the young Manolin becomes more of a caretaker for the aging Santiago. This dynamic highlights the passing of knowledge and experience from one generation to the next.

Santiago's response, "I think so. And there are many tricks," underscores his unwavering determination. Despite his age and physical frailty, he remains resolute in his pursuit of the marlin. This determination is a central theme in the novel, symbolizing the indomitable human spirit and the will to endure adversity. The sea often symbolizes both opportunity and danger in the story. Santiago's willingness to return to the sea despite past challenges reflects his complex relationship with the natural world. It also symbolizes the unpredictability of life and the struggle to conquer or survive in the face of nature's forces.

Manolin's question about Santiago's strength also resonates on a symbolic level. It speaks to the theme of physical and mental strength, as well as resilience in the face of life's difficulties. The dialogue encourages readers to consider the qualities that define strength and the lengths to which one can go to overcome obstacles.

This dialogue adds a layer of tension and foreshadowing to the story. Manolin's doubt about Santiago's strength and Santiago's determination to prove himself create anticipation in the reader's mind. The outcome of Santiago's encounter with the marlin is unknown at this point, which keeps the reader engaged in the narrative.

The brief dialogue between Manolin and Santiago is a rich source of thematic, character, and symbolic elements, contributing to the depth and complexity of *The Old Man and the Sea*. Hemingway uses the dialogue to explore

themes of mentorship, determination, the human-nature relationship, and the endurance of the human spirit.

### ***A humble and Kind man***

In connection to the acknowledgment, analyse how Santiago and Manolin feel after someone gave them something to eat as presented in the next dialogue.

*Santiago: "Who gave this to you?"*

*Manolin: "Martin. The owner."*

*Santiago: "I must thank him."*

*Manolin: "I thanked him already," the boy said.*

*"You don't need to thank him."*

*Santiago: "I'll give him the belly meat of a big fish," the old man said.*

*"Has he done this for us more than once?"*

*Manolin: "I think so."*

In the given dialogue, Santiago and Manolin receive food from someone named Martin. Let us analyse how they feel about this act of kindness.

*Santiago: "Who gave this to you?"*

Santiago's question indicates his curiosity about the source of the food. He wants to know who has provided them with the meal, suggesting that he is grateful and wants to express his appreciation to the person responsible.

*Manolin: "Martin. The owner."*

Manolin responds with the name "Martin" and clarifies that Martin is the owner. By providing this information, Manolin shows that he knows the person who gave them the food and that Martin holds a position of authority, possibly referring to the owner of the place where they obtained the food.

*Santiago: "I must thank him."*

Santiago acknowledges the importance of expressing gratitude to Martin. His statement shows his gratitude and a sense of responsibility to show his appreciation for the

act of kindness they have received. It demonstrates Santiago's respectful and humble nature.

"Him" in Santiago's statement, "I must thank him," refers to a character named Martin in the story. It is essential to analyse the text in the context of social acknowledgment when we receive something from another person. Here is a deeper exploration of this scenario.

Santiago's statement, "I must thank him," highlights the theme of gratitude and reciprocity in human relationships. When we receive something from someone, whether it's a favour, a gift, or assistance, expressing gratitude is a fundamental social norm. Santiago's acknowledgment of the need to thank Martin reflects this universal human tendency to reciprocate kindness.

Santiago's words signify the importance of acknowledging the assistance or support one receives from others. In the story, it's implied that Martin has provided some form of help or support to Santiago. By recognizing the need to express thanks, Santiago demonstrates his understanding of the significance of acknowledging the efforts and contributions of others.

The act of thanking someone not only shows appreciation but also strengthens social bonds. It's a way of affirming the positive relationship between individuals. In this case, Santiago's desire to thank Martin could signify a deepening of their bond, reinforcing the idea that social connections are nurtured through expressions of gratitude.

Santiago's intention to thank Martin aligns with cultural and ethical values that promote gratitude as a virtue. Many cultures place a high value on expressing thanks as a sign of respect and good manners. Santiago's character reflects these values, emphasizing the cultural importance of acknowledging the kindness of others.

Santiago's statement also has emotional and social implications. It demonstrates his awareness of the emotional impact of



gratitude. Expressing thanks not only benefits the person being thanked but also provides emotional satisfaction to the one expressing gratitude. In a broader sense, this interaction underscores the positive emotional impact of acknowledging the kindness of others in our social lives.

In recapitulation, Santiago's statement, "I must thank him," serves as a powerful illustration of the social norm of expressing gratitude when we receive something from another person. It highlights the themes of gratitude, reciprocity, and the strengthening of social bonds, emphasizing the universal value of acknowledging the kindness and assistance provided by others.

*Manolin: "I thanked him already," the boy said.  
"You don't need to thank him."*

Manolin reassures Santiago that he has already thanked Martin on their behalf. He implies that expressing gratitude is unnecessary since the boy has already taken care of it. Manolin's response suggests that he is considerate and attentive, taking responsibility for expressing gratitude on behalf of both himself and Santiago.

*Santiago: "I'll give him the belly meat of a big fish," the old man said.  
"Has he done this for us more than once?"*

Santiago intends to reciprocate Martin's kindness by offering him the belly meat of a big fish. This statement showcases Santiago's generosity and his desire to show his gratitude through a meaningful gesture. Additionally, Santiago's question about whether Martin has done this for them more than once suggests that he wants to determine if Martin's act of kindness is a recurring occurrence, which may influence Santiago's future actions.

*Manolin: "I think so."*

Manolin responds with uncertainty, indicating that he believes Martin has extended his generosity to them more than once. This response implies that Martin has

shown consistent kindness to Santiago and Manolin, reinforcing their gratitude towards him.

In this dialogue, both Santiago and Manolin demonstrate gratitude and appreciation for the food they have received. Santiago expresses his intention to thank Martin and reciprocate his kindness, while Manolin assures Santiago that he has already expressed gratitude on their behalf. This exchange portrays their mutual respect, gratefulness, and a sense of wanting to repay kindness with kindness.

### ***Old Man vs Young Man: Superior vs Inferior***

The dialogue between Santiago and Manolin delves into a discussion about the different sleep patterns between old men and young boys. Let's analyze their conversation:

*Santiago: "Age is my alarm clock," the old man said.*

*Manolin: "Why do old men wake so early? Is it to have one longer day?"*

Santiago reflects on his own experience of waking up early due to his age. He metaphorically refers to age as his alarm clock, implying that the passage of time naturally wakes him up early. Santiago muses about the reason behind this phenomenon, suggesting that perhaps old men wake up early to make the most out of their day. This statement reveals Santiago's contemplative nature and his curiosity about the intricacies of life.

*Manolin: "I don't know," the boy said.*

*"All I know is that young boys sleep late and hard."*

Manolin acknowledges his lack of understanding regarding the reasons behind old men waking up early. He simplifies the comparison by stating that young boys, like himself, tend to sleep late and deeply. This response highlights the contrast between the sleep patterns of older individuals, who awaken early, and younger individuals who tend to sleep longer and more soundly. Manolin's statement suggests that he may not

have pondered the reasons behind these differences in sleep habits.

This dialogue showcases the generational gap between Santiago and Manolin. Santiago contemplates the significance of waking up early as an older person, suggesting that it may provide them with additional time in their day. On the other hand, Manolin, being a young boy, doesn't have a deep understanding of this phenomenon and simply states the observation that young boys tend to sleep later and with more intensity.

The dialogue highlights the contrasting perspectives of age and youth, emphasizing the different experiences and habits associated with each stage of life. Santiago's contemplation demonstrates his philosophical nature and his desire to understand the reasons behind certain behaviours, while Manolin's response reflects his youthfulness and limited awareness of the complexities surrounding age-related sleep patterns.

How the social relationship between Santiago and Manolin if it is seen from the next dialogue? Manolin considers himself as an inferior person before Santiago.

*Santiago: "I can remember it," the old man said.*

*"I'll waken you in time."*

*Manolin: "I do not like for him to waken me. It is as though I were inferior."*

*Santiago: "I know."*

*Manolin: "Sleep well old man."*

From the given dialogue, it can be inferred that the social relationship between Santiago and Manolin is characterized by a sense of respect and deference. Let's examine the dialogue to understand their dynamic:

*Santiago: "I can remember it," the old man said.*

*"I'll waken you in time."*

Santiago reassures Manolin that he will wake him up at the appropriate time. This statement reflects Santiago's responsibility and care for Manolin. It suggests that Santiago

takes on a mentorship or protective role towards the younger boy, demonstrating his experience and reliability.

*Manolin: "I do not like for him to waken me. It is as though I were inferior."*

Manolin expresses his discomfort with Santiago waking him up. He perceives this act as a reminder of his own inferior position or lower status compared to Santiago. This statement implies that Manolin holds Santiago in high regard and perhaps feels a sense of deference towards him. It suggests that Manolin may view Santiago as a figure of authority or wisdom.

*Santiago: "I know."*

Santiago acknowledges Manolin's feelings without dismissing them. By responding with "I know," Santiago shows understanding and empathy towards Manolin's perspective. It indicates that Santiago recognizes the dynamics of their relationship and the impact his actions may have on Manolin's self-perception.

*Manolin: "Sleep well old man."*

Manolin bids Santiago good night with a respectful address, referring to him as the "old man." This statement conveys Manolin's reverence for Santiago's age and experience. It reflects his respect for Santiago and his wish for Santiago to rest well.

The dialogue suggests that there is a significant age and experience gap between Santiago and Manolin, which shapes their social relationship. Manolin holds Santiago in high esteem, considering himself as inferior in comparison. Santiago, in turn, assumes a mentorship role, providing guidance and care for Manolin. The interaction highlights a sense of respect, deference, and mutual understanding between them.

"The Old Man and the Sea" explores several philosophical themes and offers insights into the human condition. One philosophy of life that can be gleaned from the

novel is the idea of resilience and the pursuit of personal meaning and purpose. Here are a few key philosophical themes that emerge from the novel:

**Perseverance in the Face of Adversity:** The novel highlights the importance of resilience and unwavering determination in the face of overwhelming challenges. Santiago's relentless pursuit of the marlin despite physical exhaustion and setbacks demonstrates the power of perseverance. It teaches us to keep striving for our goals, even in the most challenging circumstances.

**The Meaning of Success and Failure:** Hemingway explores the concept of success and failure and challenges conventional notions of victory. Santiago's struggle with the marlin, his eventual triumph, and the subsequent loss of his prized catch offer insights into the complexities of success and the value of personal achievement. The novel invites reflection on the idea that true success lies not only in external validation but also in the satisfaction of personal effort and self-worth.

**The Relationship between Man and Nature:** Hemingway presents a profound connection between humanity and the natural world. Santiago's deep respect for the sea and his harmonious relationship with the creatures of the ocean highlight the interconnectedness of all living beings. This philosophical perspective encourages a sense of humility, appreciation for nature, and recognition of our place within the larger web of existence.

**The Transience of Life and the Passage of Time:** *The Old Man and the Sea* reflects on the fleeting nature of life and the inevitability of aging. Santiago's solitude, his memories, and his contemplation of his own mortality convey a sense of existential reflection. The novel prompts readers to consider the value of each moment and the importance of embracing life fully, even in the face of its transience.

**The Struggle for Meaning and Purpose:** Santiago's journey embodies the universal

search for meaning and purpose in life. His passion for fishing and his quest to prove his worth as a fisherman represent a pursuit of personal significance and a desire to find one's place in the world. The novel suggests that the pursuit of our passions and the quest for personal fulfillment give our lives purpose and meaning.

These philosophical themes invite readers to reflect on their own lives and consider the values and perspectives they hold. They inspire contemplation of resilience, the pursuit of personal meaning, the relationship between humanity and nature, the complexities of success and failure, and the passage of time. Ultimately, *The Old Man and the Sea* encourages readers to engage with these philosophical concepts and seek their own interpretations and insights about the meaning of life.

Here are the little bit similarity and fundamental differences between the previous studies and the current study. To simplify, the researchers combine four model of analysis of the previous studies become one and the current study become the second study or analysis.

The two analyses share some common themes and approaches, but there are also some differences as presented below. They apply what is usually called common themes and approaches. Both analyses focus on Santiago's self-confidence as a central theme. They explore how Santiago's unwavering belief in himself plays a significant role in the story. Both analyses touch upon the use of symbolism in the novel. They consider elements like the sea, the marlin, and other symbols in the narrative as ways to understand Santiago's character and his self-confidence. Both analyses delve into Hemingway's literary techniques to portray Santiago's self-assured nature. These techniques include symbolism, imagery, and other elements of Hemingway's writing style.

Besides showing the little bit similarity, but the fundamental differences between the previous studies and the present study. The

first set of analyses by Atkins, Lewis, Rodriguez, Haring, and Meyers seem to provide more concise and specific insights into Santiago's character and self-confidence. In contrast, the second analysis seems to be a more comprehensive and broader study that covers multiple themes and literary techniques. The second (the present) analysis mentions an exploration of other characters, such as Manolin, and their role in Santiago's self-confidence. This aspect is not explicitly highlighted in the first set of analyses.

Seen from the research approach, the second (the present) analysis mentions drawing on critical essays, scholarly articles, and comparative studies, suggesting a more extensive research approach. The first set of analyses does not mention specific sources or research methods. In summary, while both sets of analyses share a focus on Santiago's self-confidence and the use of symbolism and literary techniques, the second analysis appears to take a more comprehensive and research-oriented approach, covering a wider range of themes and characters in the novel.

## Conclusion

The analysis of Santiago's self-confidence in "The Old Man and the Sea" reveals a character marked by unwavering determination and a profound connection to the natural world. Santiago's self-confidence is notably depicted in his relentless pursuit of the marlin, despite his advanced age and the challenging conditions of the sea. His belief in himself and his abilities to conquer the sea's challenges is a central theme in the novel.

Santiago's self-confidence is portrayed through his resolute statements, such as, "I think so. And there are many tricks." This expression of his self-belief serves as an alternative to traditional heroic archetypes, emphasizing the indomitable human spirit's capacity for resilience and perseverance. Santiago's unwavering determination to capture the marlin signifies the triumph of the human will against adversity, offering valuable lessons on fortitude and perseverance, which resonate in a world facing myriad challenges,

including economic hardships, political turmoil, and global pandemics.

The analysis also delves into Santiago's relationship with his young apprentice, Manolin, which mirrors evolving mentor-mentee dynamics in contemporary society. It prompts exploration of themes related to intergenerational wisdom and the passing down of values and knowledge in a rapidly changing world. Santiago's role as a mentor and the respect he receives from Manolin further solidify his self-confident profile, as he imparts his wisdom and skills to the younger generation.

Finally, the analysis recognizes the enduring impact of Hemingway's distinctive writing style, characterized by its economy and subtlety. Santiago's character is masterfully developed through this style, exemplifying the power of understated prose in contemporary literature and storytelling. In conclusion, the analysis of Santiago's self-confident profile in *The Old Man and the Sea* underscores the novel's timeless relevance and its capacity to inspire readers. Santiago's unwavering determination and self-belief resonate as a testament to the indomitable human spirit's capacity to overcome adversity. His mentorship of Manolin highlights the importance of intergenerational wisdom and the transmission of values in a rapidly changing world. Additionally, Hemingway's distinctive writing style, with its economy and subtlety, continues to influence contemporary literature and storytelling. Santiago's character serves as a lasting example of self-confidence and resilience, offering valuable insights and inspiration for readers facing their own challenges in the complex world of today.

The study and the analysis of Santiago's self-confident profile in the novel "The Old Man and the Sea" contributes to various academic and practical fields, offering a comprehensive understanding of character development, resilience, mentorship, narrative techniques, and the enduring relevance of literary works in shaping our

perceptions of self-confidence and determination in the face of adversity.

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