

STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE SHORT STORY “MY OLD MAN” BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the language style of Ernest Hemingway's short story “*The Old Man*”. This research describes the stylistic used in the short story. Ernest Hemingway is one of the famous writers of prose and short story. Many people recognize his special works for short stories because Ernest Hemingway has a characteristic that makes him one of the best short story writers in Europe from a young age. *My Old Man* is the first work known for the lot use of stylistic styles that distinguish this story from Hemingway's other works. The researcher limits the stylistic only to explore linguistics such as pragmatics and semantics. In addition, the researcher explains the features of stylistic devices which are on simile, poetry, and calque. This study combines 2 methods of analysis, namely textual and stylistic analysis. The results illustrated how Hemingway used stylistic to describe a child as the narrator, where he told in detail the dark experiences of his father in the world of horse racing in a coherent manner. Hemingway combined his imagination with processing language styles in the story.

Keywords: *Ernest Hemingway, linguistics, my old man, short story, stylistic*

INTRODUCTION

Stylistic is a literary discourse of a linguistic orientation. According to Traugott and Pratt (1980), linguistic can contribute substantially to understanding a text by helping us to realize why it is that we experience, what we do when we read a literary work. According to Freeman (1971), stylistic was the basis of learning literature which started in the 20th century. In doing a stylistic analysis, the researcher should formulate the research options not only by asking a question,

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"What use is made of language?", but also about the "why" and "how". As Leech and Short (2007) argued about "Why does the author choose to express himself in this specific way?" and "How is such an aesthetic effect achieved through language?" It is clear that a stylistic analysis aims to explain the language used in a text concerning its creative function.

In *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Crystal (1978) observed that, in practice, most stylistic analysis has attempted to deal with the complex and 'valued' language within literature (literary stylistic). He argues that in such examination the scope is sometimes narrowed to concentrate on the more striking features of literary language. For instance, it is "deviant" and "something abnormal" namely a sentence or writing that has broader language meaning. For example, shorter poetic languages are easier to study stylistically than drama and novel languages (Crystal, 1980).

This story was the first story by Ernest Hemingway that tells about the world of horse racing. Joe is the son of a famous horse jockey in the late world war. There are several interesting language styles in the story. This research expects to explore Hemingway's famous short story sequence, "*My Old Man*", based on a stylistic approach. The writer may be known as a controversial figure, well-known for his understated prose style which he named the *iceberg* technique or the technique of omission. Hemingway deviated from the certain norms of language and established his norms to enhance the reading experience.

The research on the stylistic itself is not much different from the research on the language style. However, in stylistic analysis, the researcher has investigated more in detail the linguistic style of this short story. Such as the linguistic style in some of the conversations from the characters. In this study, the researcher investigates the reason the author used his style of language. Some sentences seem to be clear in the meaning and purpose but there are also several ambiguous sentences. Hemingway is famous for his talent in using stylistic in each of his short stories.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A short story is a literary piece of prose that is less than a novel in length (Pransiska, 2018). A short tale, according to the dictionary, is a created prose narrative that is shorter than a book, generally focusing on the construction of mood rather than plot and usually dealing with a few

people and trying for unity of impact. Short tales are distinguished by their modernity, shortness, and diversity, according to Ghasemi (2011). Short tales rely on a greater number of literary methods to tell their narrative. The structuring of a short narrative is not dependent on verse, presentation, or rhymes (Upreti, 2012). One of the various narrative structures is the short tale. Parts of the short narrative are classified by Irshad and Ahmed (2015). The main elements of a short narrative include subject and premise, back story or exposition, story spine (plot, characters, climax), conflict or crisis, context and place (period). Short tales are the most widely read literary form.

The garment of thought is style (Leech & Short, 2007). Various detractors claim that the term "style" is commonly employed without comprehending what it means. A style is a way of writing, speaking, or performing anything (Leech, 1969). In order to achieve sprightliness in any piece of writing, the writer employs a variety of approaches to make it fashionable and appealing. It's known as "Stylistic." Stylistics is a branch of applied linguistics that may be defined as the application of linguistic models to literary content. Styletics, according to Widdowson (1975), is the study of literary debate from a language perspective. Stylistic is a way of studying literary texts via the use of linguistic explanations, and it is seen as a connecting strategy (Short & Candlin, 1989). Despite the fact that some techniques and orientations are difficult to accept, Wales (1989) claims that these many approaches are suited to the major impact of linguistics and literary appreciation.

A writer's capacity to produce meaning in his work can be improved by employing various tools or literary devices. The greatest example of a literary device is a simile. Excessive exaggeration enhances the story's mood and makes something intriguing. Stylistic analysis is commonly viewed as a method of delving into the meaning of a literary piece, but it may also have another meaning. It may be regarded as a more realistic approach to linking textual choices to social and profitable creativity and literacy in a cultural context (Thornborrow & Wareing, 1998). Stylistic analysis is a crucial approach for understanding the mores in which all forms of realities are produced via language. It does not just deal with the examination of particular impacts of language in a book (Birch, 1989).

Several studies mentioned stylistic analysis. The reason the researcher chose this study is that Ernest Hemingway is very famous for using many unique language styles. Many types of research studies analyzed the style of language but there are not many that analyze the

stylistic of the short story. Slightly different from analyzing language style, stylistic analysis is more directed at linguistics. This study focuses on Ernest Hemingway's style and the meaning of the short story "*My Old Man*". Some several sentences and utterances use stylistic in the short story. There are many differences in this study compared to other studies that also discuss stylistic on other short stories. Stylistic analysis is widely used when analyzing poetry.

METHODOLOGY

This research used the qualitative method with a textual method. In the textual method, the researcher investigates and analyzes the literary work with an emphasis on content analysis. According to Guba and Lincoln (cited in Moleong, 2005), the content analysis is conducted by interpreting and making conclusions through the identification of the specific theme within texts; objectively and systematically. This study also aims to use stylistic analysis to specifically analyze the stylistic in the story. Stylistic analysis is a method used to analyze the given piece of literature. This study combines two methods of analysis simultaneously, namely textual and stylistic analysis. The results of the analysis showed the stylistic in the story and the pragmatic features from the story.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Stylistic in My Old Man by Ernest Hemingway

The researcher found out that Ernest Hemingway has a characteristic that is not exceptionally different from most writers who use literary language in writing short stories. Clearly, Hemingway has a special characteristic that can distinguish his short story from other short story writers. This special characteristic is stylistic. According to this sentence that Joe tells in the first sentence, where Joe described the figure of "The Old Man" or his father according to his father's physical condition that Joe saw. He compared him to the jockey around his father and with his honesty as a child.

"I guess I'm looking at it, now, my old man is cut out for a fat guy, one of those regular little fat guys you see around, but he sure never got that way, except little towards the last, and then it wasn't his fault, he was just riding on the jump and he could afford to carry a plant of weight." (My Old Man, p. 1)

In this quotation, the stylistic form of Joe's statement is told honestly in describing what the Old Man looks like. There is no remarkable phrase here but it is a good start because Ernest Hemingway immediately explained the title of the story from Joe's point of view.

"I want to come back and sit down next to him and he will pull the rope out in the sun with sweat pouring off his face and him skipping rope in the white dust with the rope going cloppetty, cloppetty, clop, clop, clop, and the sun hotter, and him working harder up and down a patch of the road". (My Old Man, p. 1)

Hemingway made the storyteller in this short story a child, and he is a poetic child. In the quotation, the sentence contains poetic elements. It's different from Hemingway's other short story which is written in ordinary conversation. Stylistic poetry can be seen here such as the use of onomatopoeia. This statement has a semantic meaning that Joe recounted when his father was practicing.

The semantic meaning in linguistics aims to interpret a sentence or speech based on the actual meaning. *"None of these things are horses, Joe. They've killed that bunch of skates for their hides and hoofs up at Paris."* (My Old Man, p. 3) The semantic meaning in this sentence is any match that Joe saw so far is not about the horses, but about the satisfaction of some people who want the victory in betting (gambling). Eventually, killing each other was common in the world of horse racing in the story.

Pragmatic Analysis in *My Old Man* by Ernest Hemingway

The next statements contain several pragmatic examples in the story. In this context, Joe's father, the Old Man, was having a fight with fellow horse jockeys in Milan in a gallery. The stylistic of the jockeys is portrayed very loudly and harshly. This is different from Joe's point of view where his father was described as talking gently to anyone in front of Joe.

"You go out and buy me a Sportsman, will you, Joe?" (My Old Man, p. 3).

The meaning of this quotation is to ask Joe to leave so he will not see a quarrel that is quite rude. Joe's father did not want Joe to know the real problem. There is also a simile here, simile is a literary device that is also included in the science of language style in literary (stylistic). A simile is a figure of speech that is used to describe the similarity between something un-similar as in the following quotation.

"... Lantorna shot her out the field of a hundred meters like pulling a cork out of a bottle". (My Old Man, p. 3)

Soldi, galleria, scala, are some examples of the Italian words in the story. The setting of the event in the story is in Milan, Italy. For the readers who do not speak Italian, the story might be quite difficult to understand because there are some Italian words. According to a dictionary, *soldi* means money. *Galleria* means gallery or place. *Scala* means ladder. Another foreign word is *Gare de Lyon* from France, which means the Lyon Train Station. At that time, the Old Man and Joe were at a station in Paris. The Old Man spoke French and said "*Gare de Lyin*". This corresponds to the dictionary of the language in question. This term in the literature is called *calque*.

"Gosh, I've never seen such a horse. Back of the old guy in the gray tall hat that walked along like he was the ringmaster in a circus.", "Smooth and yellow in the sun moving along", "Everybody cheered Kzar when he went on and he sure was one swell-looking horse", "Gee, it's great when they go by you and then you have to watch them the away and get-go and go and all the bunches up and down and you feel like swearing and goddamming worse and worse ". (My Old Man, p. 6)

In these statements, Hemingway again made a poetical dialogue for Joe. These quotations are from Joe who talked about Kzar (a horse that is competing). The main point is, for Joe, Kzar is the best and most beautiful horse he has ever seen.

The short story also illustrated the stylistic of Hemingway's short story when Joe watched horse races in the stands with his father. Language style describes Joe's happiness when he was watching the match and Joe considered the race at that time as a very swell race. *"Wasn't it a swell, race Dad?" (My Old Man, p. 7)* Although Joe talked in a question form, in this case, Joe was portrayed as convincing his father that the horse racing was the best race he had ever witnessed with Joe. In conclusion, the intentions of the pragmatics of Joe's statement can be interpreted as something that does not have to be answered by his father.

Joe's father is depicted by his stylistic, which does not heed the race at all. He only focuses on the greatness of George who wants to succumb to the race because he loves his life and horse. According to the statement, *"George Gardner's a swell jockey, all right," "it sure took a*

great joke to keep that horse from winning". (My Old Man, p. 7). For Joe's father, George is a big-hearted jockey who is not selfish and thinks of himself. He was willing to succumb to the match and make her horse that should be able to win instead succumbed to not getting the first position.

When a French horse racer said, "*It seems like they get started they don't leave a guy nothing,*" (My Old Man, p. 11). The racer was describing the manner of Joe's father during his life. As should be known, the French horse racer was the person whom Joe suspected of being the murderer of his father. It was not explained how Joe had become after the departure of his father at that time. However, from the last sentence uttered by the French horse racer, it sounds like a threat to Joe, which was enough to describe what stylistic was used.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that in this short story, Hemingway used stylistic to describe a child as the narrator. Joe, The Old Man's son, told in detail the dark experiences of his father in the world of horse racing in a coherent manner. This story is made by Ernest Hemingway about Joe who told the reader about his father's life as a horse racer. Hemingway combined his imagination with processing language styles in the story. It starts with the Hemingway language style which is processed into the language style of a child who tells the story of his father. The language style of Ernest Hemingway was intended to get the language style of horse jockeys and more directed towards the language of poetry, referring to the terms of meaning in each speech and storyline from the beginning to the end. Contrary to Ernest Hemingway's short story which used more ordinary language without giving meaning to speech, conversation, or even any story content.

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