Fifth Lecture
The Setting of the “Old Man And The Sea”

Mainly the setting of the novel can be divided into two portions. At the beginning and the end the story takes place in the small fishing village Cuba that is situated near the Havana. The main business is fishing. Hemingway lived in Cuba for a few years to get enough knowledge of the places that are described in The Old Man and the Sea. At the middle part of the story, it deals with the waves Gulf Stream that brings the giant marlins in the months of September and October. During the course of the novel, the setting also becomes symbolic, because the sea represents the total universe against the humanity represented by Santiago..etc.

Iceberg Principle

The iceberg theory is a writing style characterized by a very minimized presentation of details within a story, which forces readers to read carefully in order to understand a much bigger picture than that presented. American author Ernest Hemingway is most associated with this writing style.

Iceberg Principle in The Old Man and the Sea.

Ernest Hemingway is one of the most famous American writers widely known for his unique style and writing techniques. The basic concept of the ‘iceberg’ principle was realized by Ernest Hemingway in his novel The Old Man and the Sea is that each character on the page is only 10% of who they actually are, and the rest 90% is implied and inferred within the mind of the reader.

The simple story about a fishermen turns the minds of people upside down, and reveals the nature of a seemingly ordinary person. Reader learns about Santiago, who tells the story and reveals himself as a character towards the end of it. For eighty-four days he fails to catch at least one fish, but his spirit does not fall, and he keeps on going into the sea and trying to catch a big marlin. He successfully used the iceberg he focused on the details that are left on the surface leaving the understanding of the underlying themes to the reader. As an author, Hemingway believed that the core meaning of a literary piece should never be evident, but rather hidden beneath…etc.
Sixth Lecture
Symbols in “The Old Man and The Sea”

Literature reflects the human lives and the society with its characteristics while gives the pleasure for the people. To tackle with different themes and subjects, writers use vivid styles, literary devices and language aspects. In American literature that has derived through its major eras such as Realism, Naturalism, Rationalism, and Romanticism, some authors tend to be used symbols to give an artistic beauty and a depth for their creations and for any other purposes such as criticizing society behind those symbols to avoid troubles and problems that may fall upon the writer. In this point of view, among the writers who belong to Romantic period, Ernest Hemingway is signified for his mastery of using symbols. In old Man and the sea, the author uses number of symbols respectively to develop the themes of the novel.

Symbolism:

Symbol also a major figure of speech in which something (object, person, situation or action) means more than what it appears. The term symbol has derived from Greek term “symballein” that means ‘to throw together’ and Latin term ‘Symbolon’ means ‘token of sign’. Writers use Symbols to grab a depth for the literary creations and to express the things ironically avoiding the problems that can come to them. The Old Man and the Sea contains many symbols such as:

1- Santiago: In old Man and the sea, Santiago symbolizes the Jesus Christ and the nature of human beings who don’t like to accept the defeat in their lives..etc.
2- Manolin: Manolin is the young boy, who follows Santiago. In The old man and the sea, Manolin symbolizes the youth of Santiago and the disciples of Jesus..etc
3- Joe DiMaggio: Joe DiMaggio is the role model of Santiago’s baseball world. At the sea when Santiago suffers greatly, he consoles his heart thinking about Joe Dimaggio and his Sufferings. Here in the novel DiMaggio symbolizes the strength. Joe DiMaggio also represents hope that the old man has for Manolin..etc
4- Fishermen: Hemingway uses these fishermen and the proprietors of the coffee shop for the symbolical representation of the people who don’t like appreciate others.
5- The Sea: Sea represents a great role in the novel as setting and a symbol. The main event of the story takes place in the sea. Here sea symbolizes the —universel and thel Santiago’s isolation in the universel..etc.
6- Fish/Marlin: The fish is also a symbol of Christianity, and Hemingway imbues the giant fish with several Christian virtues: kindness, patience, and determination. Although hooked by Santiago, the fish does not panic or dive to the depths…etc.

7-Sharks: The sharks could represent those who would tear apart anyone's successes, because they destroyed all the effort of Old man and his hopes…etc.

8-Lion: The lions in Santiago's dreams represented his lost youth and his decreasing strength…etc

9- The mast: the mast symbolizes the cross that Jesus Christ was forced to drag. The desire of the author to represent Santiago as Christ like figure, mast symbolizes the cross in the novel…etc

10- Harpoon: Harpoon is the power of fishermen in the sea. Simply the loss of harpoon symbolizes the loss of power of Santiago amidst the sea and the strength…etc

11- Santiago’s eyes: Though Santiago physically declined as an old man, his eyes stay in the same color without any change. So this eyes symbolizes the unchanged determination of Santiago to achieve his great catching in the life.