

LEXICO-SYNTACTICAL ANALYSIS OF STYLISTIC DEVICES IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

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Abstract

This article studies the lexico-syntactical stylistic devices used in Ernest Hemingway's novella *The Old Man and the Sea*. The purpose of the research is to explain how word choice and sentence structure help to create Hemingway's simple but meaningful writing style. The research focuses on major stylistic devices such as repetition, parallelism, understatement, enumeration, and simple sentence patterns. The study is based on qualitative analysis of selected parts of the text. The theoretical background relies on the ideas of Galperin, Leech and Short, and Simpson.

Keywords: Lexico-syntactical devices, stylistics, Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*, repetition, simplicity, minimalism.

Introduction

Stylistic analysis is an important part of linguistics because it helps readers understand how language is used to create meaning in literary texts. Many writers have been studied from a stylistic point of view, and Ernest Hemingway is one of the most well-known among them. His writing style is usually described as simple, direct, and clear. Unlike writers who use long descriptions and difficult words, Hemingway prefers short sentences and ordinary vocabulary.

The Old Man and the Sea, published in 1952, is one of Hemingway's most famous works. It tells the story of Santiago, an old fisherman who fights a large marlin in the sea. At first glance, the story appears very simple. However, it contains deep meanings connected with patience, courage, loneliness, and the relationship between humans and nature.

Many researchers have studied the themes and symbols of this novella, but fewer studies focus on its lexico-syntactical features. For this reason, the present article

aims to analyze the main lexico-syntactical stylistic devices used in *The Old Man and the Sea* and to explain how they help to express the writer's ideas.

2. Theoretical Basis

This research is theoretical and is based on stylistic analysis. Lexico-syntactical stylistic devices appear when vocabulary and sentence structure work together to create expressiveness in a text. According to Galperin (1981), such devices include repetition, parallelism, enumeration, climax, anticlimax, and understatement.

The study uses the theories of Galperin, Leech and Short, Simpson, and Wales. Special attention is given to Hemingway's "iceberg theory," which means that the writer shows only a small part of the meaning on the surface, while the deeper meaning remains hidden and must be understood by the reader.

The analysis is carried out through close reading of the text, focusing on how words and sentence structures are used to create stylistic effects.

3. Results

3.1 Lexical Simplicity and Word Choice

The analysis shows that Hemingway mainly uses simple and common words instead of abstract or complex vocabulary. Most of the words are related to the sea, understand.

Some words, such as sea, fish, hands, pain, and luck, appear many times in the text. Because of this repetition, they gain symbolic meaning and help to show Santiago's struggle and endurance.

3.2 Repetition as a Lexico-Syntactical Device

Repetition is one of the most noticeable stylistic devices in the novella. Hemingway repeats words, phrases, and sentence patterns to create rhythm and emphasize important ideas.

Lexical repetition reflects Santiago's thoughts and his strong determination.

Syntactic repetition helps the story flow calmly and steadily, similar to the movement of the sea. In some parts, anaphora is used to stress emotions and actions without using emotional language directly.

3.3 Parallelism and Sentence Structure

Parallelism is often used in sentences that describe actions and natural processes. Sentences with similar grammatical structures create balance and clarity in the text.

Hemingway mostly uses simple and compound sentences instead of long and complex ones. This makes the text clear and easy to read while still keeping the reader's interest.

3.4 Understatement and Minimalism

Understatement is an important stylistic feature of *The Old Man and the Sea*. Hemingway describes painful and emotional moments in a calm and neutral way. He does not exaggerate feelings or events. This minimalistic style allows readers to feel emotions on their own. Instead of telling the reader what to feel, the author lets the reader understand emotions indirectly.

3.5 Enumeration and Descriptive Accuracy

Enumeration is used to list objects, actions, or sensations. These lists are short and concrete, helping the reader clearly imagine Santiago's life, tools, and physical condition. This technique increases accuracy and realism without making the description too long or detailed.

4. Discussion

The analysis shows that lexico-syntactical stylistic devices in the novella have several important functions. First, they reflect Santiago's personality and way of thinking. Second, they create a rhythm that matches the natural environment. Third, they support the symbolic and philosophical meanings of the story.

The results support the idea that simple language can still be artistically powerful. Hemingway's style proves that minimalism is a conscious and effective literary choice.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the stylistic strength of *The Old Man and the Sea* lies in its simple but well-organized language. Through repetition, parallelism, understatement, enumeration, and clear vocabulary, Hemingway creates a text that is easy to read

but rich in meaning. The combination of word choice and sentence structure allows the author to express deep philosophical ideas using simple language. Therefore, lexico-syntactical stylistic devices play a key role in the artistic value of the novella.

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