

# CHAPTER FOUR

## CONCLUSION

Stylistics is a meeting area of both linguistics and literary criticism, according to Widdowson. Keeping this in view, I have tried to analyse a literary text (i.e. a fictional prose) by applying different linguistic criteria. In all the four chapters of my dissertation I have analysed Hemingway's 'The Old Man and the Sea'. I have had a detailed discussion on stylistics in General, Hemingway as a novelist and preferably as a stylist and stylistic analysis of his book The Old Man and the Sea..

After a careful analysis of his style, one can find Hemingway as a great stylist in the tradition of American literature. It is proved by the Nobel Prize awarded to The Old Man and the Sea for the powerful style forming mastery of the art of modern narration in it. He won universal recognition for the unique and remarkable style he innovated. He forged his style from the beginning of his career and gradually lead it to perfection. He learnt from his journalistic career that simple words have a magic of their own and if they are used in a perfect order and rhythm, they produce heightened artistic effect. He trained ear detected speech rhythms of different speakers as distinctive features of their speech habits. He aimed at simplicity and naturalness of expression. He shunned adornment, adjectives, adverbs,

useless metaphors, redundant descriptions and undue authorial comments.

Eventhough his range of vocabulary is limited, his style appears very rich and catchy. It is appealing to the readers just because it is full of simple, colloquial, familiar and typical words. His style becomes more effective as he uses right word in the right place. He prefers monosyllabic words but sometimes startles the readers by using polysyllabic words. He also coins new words and adds to his range of vocabulary. Eventhough he shunned adjectives and other decorative embellishments, his style is foregrounded sometimes by the use of unusual adjectives which modify the unusual nouns. He uses these adjectives to intensify the quality of the nouns.

His style in general is considered to be the simplest one but especially in The Old Man and the Sea, we find him using complicated phrases and clauses. His phrases have a lengthy premodification and postmodification. It is agreed that he makes rare use of adverbs but what we find in The Old Man and the Sea is that he makes rare use of unfamiliar or unusual adverbs but he frequently uses ordinary adverbs which are regularly used by any ordinary reader. He narrates the action in the story very smoothly and swiftly and it moves before the reader as a real picture. This

becomes possible because of the action words (verbs and nouns) that he uses in the book. As the readers starts getting acquainted with his style, they suddenly are interrupted by the foreign words used by the writer. But that doesn't make his style complicated.

All the events or situations in this novel are described in a linear fashion by using simple declarative sentences in the narration. Quite often these short clauses are strung together by inserting different subordinating and co-ordinating conjunctions. They appear to be excessively lengthy but a closer examination of them reveals that they are all simple sentences conjoined together with the help of 'and', 'but', 'or' etc. His syntax becomes more striking and noticeable because of a strange composition of complex sentences with colloquial ones. He prefers third person narration to narrate the things in an objective manner. He also uses Free Direct Speech, Direct Speech and makes a rare use of Free Indirect Speech or Indirect Speech. The thoughts in the mind of the old man are demonstrated through the Free Direct Thought technique. All these experiments done by Hemingway make his style more natural and less artificial. His conversation is very lively. Although there is not much scope for dialogues (except those between Santiago and Manolin), he presents Santiago's monologues or his speech with

the sea objects in such a way that it reflects the inner mind of the old fisherman, who is alone, deserted and helpless in his skiff.

Hemingway, in this context, can be called 'the best story teller' as he gives a vision of a man fighting against the odds in life with his environment or nature. He makes a picturesque description of man in confrontation with something ranging from marlins, sharks to the other elements in nature. As he presents the story in the most natural way, there is not a very remarkable use of figures of speech except some examples of simile, repetition, refrain, allegory, and personification. The nature imagery used in the novel is one of the important aspects of his writings. It is very vividly and picturesquely portrayed here. Regarding the coherentness of the text, it is obvious that the text is full of different coherent and overt devices of cohesion and that presents the text as a cohesive whole. The context also is everything about the nature and the fisherman's life.

It becomes evident after the detailed analysis of his style that he has left his mark by his remarkable gift of narration. His greatest achievement lies in the sphere of his prose style which is bare, clean and concentrated one. No wonder, he dominated the literary scene for almost four decades as a master of powerful style.