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THE CONCEPTUAL WATER METAPHORS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the application and semantic properties of conceptual metaphors in Ernest Hemingway's well-known novel, "The Old Man and the Sea." The text's "water" metaphors are analyzed, and the author's incorporation of cultural and religious connotations into these conceptual metaphors is explored.

KEYWORDS

Ernest Hemingway, The old man and the sea, conceptual water metaphors.

INTRODUCTION

Ernest Hemingway was an American writer, novelist, and short story author who received the Nobel Prize in 1954. Men and personal travels are the two main subjects of his literary works. American and British literature from the 20th century have influenced his writing. Hemingway spent some time working in Chicago at several mundane occupations before visiting France. During his time in Paris, he got to know well-known American authors like Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, and Ezra Pound. He took inspiration

from them and published his first notable piece, "In Our Time." Later, he became well-known around the world for his pieces, which included "The Sun Also Rises," "A Farewell to Arms," and "The Old Man and the Sea". The Pulitzer Prize was awarded to the author of "The Old Man and the Sea." The narrative recounts the adventures of an 84-day fishing trip led by a Cuban fisherman named Santiago. The author expertly uses vivid imagery to convey his picture of life in this work. This essay examines the text's language features and

considers the conceptual metaphors that are connected to "water" that are employed in the story.

The main metaphor, the sea itself, has an unconscious element and is compared to wisdom, nature, and untamed creation, according to the academic article "Metaphors in 'The Old Man and the Sea'" from Delving Deep (2013). The image of the "big fish" also refers to "searching for life." In his own words, Santiago says, "My big fish must be somewhere." The worth and fragility of the hero are made clear by the fish and turtles.

METHOD

Conceptual metaphors are products of language and cognition that represent the processes of understanding and reasoning. They are a concept within the field of cognitive linguistics. These are real-world experiences that regular people use to gain a deeper understanding of a certain conceptual framework. There are several examples of "water" conceptual metaphors in American literature, including "water is my home," "water is yard," "water is nectar," and "water is thoughts." These metaphors have diverse language and cultural connotations in different parts of the world. Particularly in Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea," comparable applications are discernible:

1) The fish moved steadily and they travelled slowly on the calm water.

The sea, fish, and elderly man are the main symbols that may be found in the text if we focus on the core ideas of the work. Furthermore, a lot of scholars think that the work uses a variety of techniques to depict the status of the American economy at the time. The metaphor "calm water" draws a comparison between a pleasant life and the calm, serene sea to convey the notion of economic stagnation.

2) The water was dark blue now, so dark that it was almost purple. As he looked down into it he saw the red sifting of the plankton in the dark water and the strange light the sun made now.

The fact that the word "black" appears with the word "water" three times in these examples shows that the author uses the sea as a metaphor for life. The large ocean is full of experiences that mold each person's destiny, as shown by a range of hues: light blue denotes youth, dark blue represents the difficult time of work and tribulations, and violet, at the end, depicts a new day and the meanings of life. The story continues, describing the peculiar sunshine on the dark water and implying that wisdom is present at every instant.

To sum up, it can be claimed that the author uses a lot of metaphors and pictures that are connected to the idea of "water" in order to convey a variety of ideas on this essential component of nature.

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