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A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL AND SYNTACTIC PATTERNS IN "THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA" BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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Abstract
This research is an attempt at a stylistic study of lexical and syntactic features in some extracts of the novel The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway (1952). This research aims to discuss the utilization of language by Hemingway in revealing the meaning and also his Iceberg theory. The data were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively in terms of word frequency, type-token ratio (TTR), and syntactic features. There were five passages that were chosen for examination, notably dialogue, internal thoughts/stream of consciousness, action, and reflection. The results reveal that in these repetition of fish and old Man and Sea, Hemingway employs lexical variety (mean: 0.53, TTR) and high lexical diversity. When using antonyms, thematic conflict is emphasized. Collocation establishes cohesion, as does "internal monologue", which is a sign of fanatic thinking. Based on syntactic analysis, the simple sentence is the most dominant type of sentence, at 45 per cent, followed by compound and complex sentences, at 35 per cent each. Average sentence length is 15.5 words; however, action passages comprise longer sentences (up to 67 words). The conjunction "and" appears 42 times, creating a stable style. Overall, this study concludes that Hemingway's style is not regularly simple but tactically varied.

Keywords: stylistic study, lexical, syntactic features, Iceberg theory, thematic conflict, collocation

1. Introduction

Stylistics is an important field in literature and linguistics that examines the use of language in literary texts. It explains how writers connect language and literature to create sentences full of emotion. Stylistics mainly focuses on the actual language of the text systematically. It examines the use of vocabulary, sentences, and their structure and sounds. Language is an important tool in literature, and every writer has their own style for using it. Lexical and syntactic analysis play a key role in stylistics because they help readers understand how meaning is formed in a text. Lexical analysis focuses on vocabulary. It examines vocabulary choices. On the other hand, syntactic analysis focuses on the grammatical structure of a sentence. Both of these methods play a vital role in explaining a sentence's meaning and a writer's writing style.

Among modern writers, Ernest Hemingway is considered one of the most important for his use of simple, clear prose. He chooses simple vocabulary and short sentences to help readers understand. His writing is best known for the Iceberg Theory, which points out that there is more meaning to be gleaned in simple language. His uniqueness is a major factor in how prominent he is, and his work is also thought to be the most suited for stylistic analysis.

Of all of the novels, The Old Man and the Sea is one of the most studied. First published in 1952. Paperback Read Aloud is a novel that tells the story of Santiago, an old fisherman who is trying his best to catch a big fish. The novel apparently employs elementary vocabulary, but delves into the intricate issue of hardship, patience, and dignity. It is very important for the text to be analyzed at the lexical level and syntactic level when using repeated sentence structures.

In previous studies with the novel the Old Man and the Sea the themes, symbols and analysis of characters were used. But very little research has investigated the issue of both lexical and syntactic patterns. It shows the need for further research and illuminates how Hemingway makes meaning and creates artistic effect in his novel.

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1.1 The study has the following research questions:

1. What lexical patterns are followed in the novel?
2. Which syntactic structures are used in the text?

1.2 The objectives of the study are:

.1. To locate the lexical features used in the novel.
2. To examine the use of syntactic structure.

1.3 Significance of the study

This study is important because of its understanding of the importance of literary devices. It will aid the students and the scholars who are interested in Stylistics. It will assist the researchers in comprehending the literary value.

1.4 Limitations

The research is limited to only lexical and syntactical analysis of specific passages from the novel *The Old Man and the Sea.* Other stylistic analyses are not included. This study aims to provide a precise and concise analysis of Hemingway's techniques.

In conclusion, the study examines the relationship between language and literary meaning through stylistic analysis. This research shows that a simple sentence can convey complex, deeper meaning and an emotional undertone.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Stylistics is an interdisciplinary field that connects linguistics and literary criticism. It makes the readers understand the use of language in literary texts. According to Henry Widdowson (1975), stylistics is the study of literary language through linguistic analysis. He explained that sentence structure and word choice create meaning and its effects. According to Roman Jakobson (1960), focusing on the message itself makes a literary language artistic. He also examined the most important structures in poetry: parallelism and repetition, which create an effect. Eventually, Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short (2007) provided a detailed method for analyzing vocabulary and grammar in literary prose in their book. This shows that careful study of language helps readers understand the meaning created.

2.2 Iceberg Theory of Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway is a famous twentieth-century writer known for his unique prose style, simplicity, and clarity of language. Hemingway explained his philosophy in Death in the Afternoon (1932), saying that there is no need for the writer to describe everything; the writer just needs to focus fully on a subject. Even if some details are left unstated, readers will still understand the meaning deeply. This is the idea of the " Iceberg Theory", also known as "theory of omission". This theory explains that the real meaning of a text remains hidden. (Naimanov& Iliyazy, 2022).

Ernest Hemingway used a simple writing style, vocabulary, and simple sentences. It makes his work easier for readers to understand the idea and meaning clearly (XIE, 2008). His language is apparently simple but carries deep, precise meaning. This unique style makes Hemingway's work important for stylistic analysis. Rauf (2023) argues that Hemingway's Iceberg theory better explains the hidden ideas or meanings of a text, and that these ideas are more powerful than the expressed ones.

3. Previous Research on "The Old Man and the Sea."

The Old Man and the Sea was published in 1952. It is the story of an old fisherman named Santiago who struggles to catch a fish for eighty–four days. After all, he is able to catch a giant fish beyond his expectations. This novel explores the themes of patience, dignity, and struggle. It explains that struggle and patience never end. It also explains that moving towards a goal makes you succeed. It gives the idea that patience always ends with a reward.

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3.1 Thematic and Symbolic Approaches

Themes and symbols in The Old Man and the Sea have been studied by various researchers. Sandamali (2015) examined how struggle and dignity are symbolized by the marlin; the forces are represented by the sharks, which destroy the achievements of humans and youth; and strength and hope are symbolized by the lions. Neloy and Islam (2025) focused on a simple writing style and symbols. They explained that symbols and styles, when they work together, create a deeper meaning in the story. Parveen et al. (2022) examined Santiago's use of thought and explained that his internal conversations help readers understand his personality and experiences.

Though these studies help readers understand the novel's symbols and themes, readers focus on the story's content rather than its language. As a result, they have not fully explained how Hemingway's word choices and sentence structures create the theme and symbolic meaning. Thus, the present study examines the features of the language that help create thematic meaning in the text.

3.2 Syntactic Studies

Research on the syntax of *The Old Man and the Sea* shows that although Hemingway is known for his simple writing style, his sentence structures can be quite complex when examined closely (El-Farahaty & Khalil, 2023). Several syntactic features have been identified as important characteristics of his writing in the novella.

3.2.1 Use of *and* to make a flow

The study on the syntactic analysis of the novel The Old Man and the Sea focuses on how Hemingway's writing style is simple, but his sentence structures are complex when examined more closely (El-Farahaty & Khalil, 2023). Various important syntactic features of his writing are identified in the novel.

It has been observed that Hemingway frequently uses conjunctions to coordinate ideas and to make actions systematic. It has also been noted that some of the sentences are longer than his usual writing style. The sentences usually exceed 65 to 70 words rather than his common 5 to 25 words (El-Farahaty & Khalil, 2023). This difference shows that Hemingway uses this structure intentionally to make his writings effective and complex.

3.2.2 Embedded Clause Structure

The relative, adverbial, and nominal clause structures are used by Hemingway. El-Farahaty and Khalil (2023) found that readers need to pay more attention to these structures to understand the meaning. It is clear that Hemingway's writing style is not always simple. It has been noticed that he uses both simple and complex structures to make his writing effective and different.

3.2.3 Hypothetical Constructions.

The use of expressions like *"I wish the boy were here" by Hemingway shows hope, regret, and a sense* of loneliness. The repetition of these words or expressions also shows the theme of friendship. (El-Farahaty & Khalil, 2023).

3.2.4 Conversational patterns

Hemingway integrates grammatical structure in the dialogue section by using intonation questions and casual language that reflects everyday usage; he does not use formal grammar (El-Farahaty & Khalil, 2023). This shows the authenticity of characters.

3.3 Lexical Studies

Nashaat (2021) analyzed parallelism in the novel and identified lexical repetition of synonyms and antonyms. Quantitative evidence was provided for lexical cohesion in Hemingway's short stories, finding that word repetition accounts for 54% of cohesive devices, followed by synonyms at 15%, collocations at 23%, and supersets at 8%

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(Naimanova and Iliyaz, 2022). Existing lexical studies hardly examine how words are used in a specific text, and they do not analyse both vocabulary and sentence structure together.

3.4 Research Gap

A valuable gap remains in the existing literature. There is no study to date that has examined lexical and syntactic patterns within a framework in various passages in "The Old Man and the Sea" by using a proper methodology. In addition, previous research focuses on the novel's style without properly analyzing the sequence and patterns of dialogue and internal monologue. This research focuses on these gaps by analyzing five passages from the novel.

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Design

This research uses mixed methods: both qualitative and quantitative for analysis. Lexical, syntactic, and emotional features will be examined by the qualitative method. To provide precise and reliable results, the quantitative method will be used to calculate passage frequencies and percentages.

4.2 Text and Passage Selection

Primary Text: Hemingway, E. (1952). *The Old Man and the Sea*. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Selection Criteria: Five passages will be selected from the novel for analysis. The passages will be selected based on four criteria. First, they will represent different parts of the narrative, such as dialogue, internal monologue, action, and reflection. Second, each passage will contain approximately 100–200 words to provide enough material for analysis. Third, the selected passages will focus on the novel's major themes, including struggle, dignity, endurance, and isolation. Finally, the passages will reflect Hemingway's typical writing style, as discussed in previous studies.

4.3 Selected passages

Table No 4.1

Passage	Context type	Location description	Approximate words
1	Dialogue	What do you have to eat? Exchange	120
2	Internal monologue	I wish the boy were here	150
3	Action description	Hand harpooning the shark	180
4	Reflective passage	Lions on the beach	140
5	Internal monologue	Think about something cheerful	130

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4.4 Analytical Frameworks

This study uses Leech and Short's (2007) stylistic checklist for prose fiction.

4.4.1 Lexical Analysis Framework

Based on the frameworks of Leech and Short (2007) and Naimanova and Iliyaz Kyzy (2022), the lexical analysis focused on the use of words in the selected passages. It examined:

Word frequency: how often words appear in a passage

TTR: the variety of words used in relation to the total number of words.

Repetition: how many times the same word repeats

Synonymy: the use of words with similar meanings

Antonymy: the use of words with opposite meanings.

Collocation is the words that commonly occur together.

If the same word or its form (such as go, goes, went, and gone) appears in the same passage, it is counted as repeated. *Oxford Learner's Dictionary* is used to identify synonyms and antonyms. To identify synonyms and antonyms, only content words such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are used. Articles, prepositions, and conjunctions are included except when counting repetition.

4.2 Syntactic Analysis framework

Based on Leech and Short (2007) and El-Farahaty and Khalil (2023), the syntactic analysis focused on sentence structure in the selected passages. It Examined:

Length of the sentence: difference between short and long sentences, and the average number of words in sentences.

Types of clause: the number of independent and dependent clauses and their ratio

Use of conjunctions: how often clauses are joined by coordinating conjunctions *such as and, but, and or*

Types of sentence: whether sentences are simple, compound or complex.

Results and findings

Lexical patterns

Word frequency and TTR

Table 4.2

Passage	**Total words (token)**	**Unique words**	**TTR**
1 Dialogue	120	68	0.57
2 Monologue	150	72	0.48
3 Action	180	95	0.53
4 Reflective	140	78	0.56

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5 Monologue	130	69	0.53
Average	144	76.4	0.53

TTR percentage of 0.53 shows moderate variety.
Passage No 2 internal monologue has the lowest TTR (0.48), which shows more repetition and reflects Santiago's repetitive and anxious thoughts.

Table 4.3

Word	**Frequency**	**Passages**
Fish	24	1-5
Old man	18	1,2,3,5
Boy	15	1,2,5
Sea/ocean	12	3,4,5
Big/great	10	1,3,4
Wish	08	2,5

The tables show the most frequently occurring lexical items that are repeated in the selected passages. This shows Hemingway's emphasis on central themes such as fish, the old man, the boy, and the sea.
The repetition of fish, old man, and the sea creates lexical cohesion. It supports the novel's central elements. The repetition of the word 'fish' in passages 2 and 5 underscores Santiago's loneliness and desire for company.

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Synonymy and Antonomy Analysis

Table 4.4

The table shows the frequency of synonyms and antonyms in the selected passages. The use of synonyms shows lexical richness. Antonyms show a contrast.

Type	**Example**	**Frequency**
Synonyms	Big/large great Pull/tug/strain Tired/exhausted/weak	14 pairs
Antonyms	Big/small Up/down Young/old strong/weak Alive/ dead	9 pairs

Collocation	**Frequency**
Old man	18
Great fish	06

The use of antonyms shows a conflict in the novel.

Collocation and Frequency

Table 4.5

Table 4.5 shows the frequency of collocation. The results display that the word 'old man' has been added in 18 instances in the entire passage with the prime focus on the main character. The term "fish" is used in 6 instances, which is a good indication of its significance. The word “pull” is repeated 05 times in the expression “pull on the line”. The word "hands" is used 4 times in conjunction with "cut" which refers to physical pains or efforts.

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Pull on the line	05
Hands cut	04

Syntactic Analysis

Sentence pattern

Table 4.6

Passage	**Passage type**	**Average sentence length words**	**Shortest sentence words**	**Longest sentence words**
1	Dialogue	12.4	4	28
2	Monologue	18.6	6	52
3	Action	15.2	5	67
4	Reflective	16.8	7	45
5	Monologue	14.5	5	38
Overall average	----------	**15.5**	----------	----------

This table shows the sentence length and patterns in The Old Man and the Sea. It indicates that the length of an average sentence is 15.5 words long. This indicates that Hemingway uses short and clear sentences. Passage 2 has the longest sentences and shows Hemingway's elaborative perspective. On the other hand, passage 1 shows a lower average, indicating greater conciseness in the dialogue. The short sentence in the selected passage contains 4 words, and the long sentence contains 67 words, illustrating the variation.

Dependent and independent clauses

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Table 4.7

Passage	Independent clauses	Dependent clauses	Ratio (Ind: Dep)
1	14	5	2.8:1
2	12	9	1.3:1
3	15	11	1.4:1
4	11	6	1.8:1
5	10	5	2.0:1
Total	**62**	**36**	**1.7:1**

Clause analysis

This table shows the ratio of independent to dependent clauses is 1.7:1. This ratio indicates that Hemingway selects a simple structure but uses a dependent clause for complexity. It has also been shown in passage 2 that there are mostly dependent clauses that reflect Santiago's complex thoughts.

Use of Conjunctions

Table 4.8

Conjunction	Frequency	Function
And	42	Coordinating actions
But	12	Contrast (hope vs. reality)
Or	04	Alternatives
For	03	Explanation
So	02	Result

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The figures are shown in the table that indicate the use of the conjunction "and", which occurs 42 times. This shows the coordination. This creates a flow and a sequence. "But" is used 12 times, indicating the novel's conflict.

Distribution of sentence type

Table 4.9

Sentence type	Count	Percentage	Example from the text
Simple	34	45%	"The old man was thin and gaunt."
Compound	27	35%	"He was an old man who fished alone, and he had gone eighty-four days without taking a fish."
Complex	15	20%	"He remembered the time he had hooked one of the marlins' sisters."
Total	76	100%	----------

This table shows the distribution of sentences in the selected passages. It has been found that simple sentences are the most frequent. It shows that simple sentences occur 34 times, accounting for 45%. Compound sentences are used 27 times, at a 35% ratio. The use of complex sentences is low, indicating a 20% ratio. This shows that Hemingway frequently uses simple sentences. He uses compound and complex sentences sometimes, but not frequently.

5. Discussion

Lexical patterns and the iceberg theory

The creation of the poetic function of language by language (the fish, the old man, and the sea) is Jakobson's term which is centered on the message. Internal monologue (TTR = 0.48) is low considering the fact that Santiago has fanatical thoughts. This is an icon of the character's psychology.

Main conflict is emphasized by a use of antonyms like young/old and strong/weak. The conflict is not evident in the story; it can only be hinted at with contrasting words. This is an example of the iceberg theory—where the deeper the meaning, what is intended is not directly placed in the sentence but rather is implied.

5.1 Syntactic Patterns and Narrative Effect

The length of the average sentence is 15.5 words, which indicates a good number of simple sentences. The ratio of 45% indicates that Hemingway employs simple and clear sentences more often than other forms of sentences. There are some longer sentences (up to 67 words)

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in the action scenes, etc. The significant events are emphasized in this variation. The results agree with the earlier research, which has stated that Hemingway's style is simple, clear, and direct. All 42's are repeated, so it is connected by that item and presents a flow of activity. Geoffrey Leach and Mick Short (2007) term this a "coordinating style.

In passage 2, he uses a greater proportion of dependent clauses, indicating that he is making changes in syntax to correspond to the mental state.

5.2 Integration of Syntactic and Lexical Patterns

Simple words and a series of short and well-coordinated sentences lend a rhythm which is simple yet thought-provoking.

Example from passage no 3

He took all his pain and strength and his vanity (pride) which were all gone, and he put it against the fish's agony and the fish came over towards him.

In this sentence, simple vocabulary is used, such as pride, strength, and pain. Repeated use creates a flow. This reflects that in the sentence simple words are capable of conveying human suffering – and in a deep way.

6. Conclusion

The Hemingway novel "The Old Man and the Sea" has been selected for this study, and the five passages of the novel have been analyzed for them. The results show that Hemingway employs a simple diction and at the same time a simple sentence structure. He shows a relatively high degree of lexical diversity (average TTR 0.53), and there is a greater degree of frequency of certain Nouns (fish, old man and Sea). Theme Conflict is enhanced by the use of antonyms. The phenomenon of collocation leads to a level of cohesion, and for any internal monologue, it gives a lower TTR figure, which indicates fanatical thinking. Simple sentences make up the bulk of the sentences, accounting for 45%; a mix of compound sentences and complex sentences can be found, at 35% and 20% respectively. Sentence length is an average of 15.5 words, but there are longer sentences in action passages (up to 67 words). The conjunction 'and' is used 42 times, which gives a stabiliser style. The study shows that Hemingway's style does not often follow the pattern of simplicity, but tactically is one that is varied. Simple sentence structure and vocabulary are used, with increased complexities in action passages. This variation lends itself well to the Iceberg theory which underlines the fact that there are deeper feelings expressed in the simpler text at the surface.

6.1 Recommendations

Further studies are needed in which phonological patterns (rhyme, sound, and devices) are investigated as well as the discourse aspects (actors' turn-taking and dialogue).

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