

The Patriarchal Values Embodied in the Tough Image in The Old Man and the Sea

Chunyan Wu

China West Normal University, Nanchong, 637000, China

Abstract

Ernest Miller Hemingway is a representative of America's "Lost Generation" writers. He has always been known as a tough man in the literary world, and he is a spiritual monument of the American nation. Hemingway's works marked the formation of his unique creative style, which occupies an important position in the history of American literature and even in the history of world literature. Since its publication, *The Old Man and the Sea* has attracted extensive research from scholars all over the world. This article selects the patriarchal values embodied in the tough guy image in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* as the object of study. In order to explore the profound connotations of the spirit of the tough guy in Santiago, the author will combine specific novel excerpts and use relevant background of English and American literature to explore the intrinsic relationship between the images of the tough guy patriarchal values. Hemingway created a series of tough guy images in his works, which all reflect Hemingway's philosophy of life and moral ideals. According to patriarchal values, readers can think about the concept of gender roles and patriarchal society, so as to help us understand Hemingway's characters better.

Keywords

Tough Guy Image; Patriarchal Values; Never Give in; Spiritual Enlightenment.

1. Introduction

Ernest Miller Hemingway (21 July 1899 -- 2 July 1961), was an American writer, journalist, and considered one of the most famous novelists of the 20th century.

The Old Man and the Sea is a novella written in Cuba by American writer Ernest Hemingway in 1951 and published in 1952. The story revolves around an elderly Cuban fisherman wrestling with a giant marlin in the Gulf Stream far offshore. Although Hemingway's old man is tragic, he has Nietzsche's "superhuman" qualities, calmly accepting failure, calmly and bravely facing death. These "tough guys" embody Hemingway's philosophy and moral ideals of life, that is, human beings do not bow to fate, never accept defeat, the spirit of a fighter and a positive optimistic attitude towards life. The novel *The Old Man and the Sea* is one of Hemingway's most satisfactory works, the crystallization of Hemingway's personal world view and outlook on life, and one of the most influential novels in the European literary world in the 20th century, which has a long-term impact on promoting the development of European literature.

The image of Santiago in *The Old Man and the Sea* fully demonstrates the tough guy spirit in Hemingway's novel, and after careful thinking, we know that the starting point of the tough guy spirit is patriarchal cultural values. Hemingway has created a series of tough guy images, emphasizing that the individualism of the protagonist is a typical feature of his work, which is caused by many factors such as the background of his era and his own life experience. And this study reveals the intrinsic connection between the tough guy image and patriarchal values through careful reading of this novel, and explains it through three aspects. Firstly, the starting point of the tough guy spirit is patriarchal cultural values, secondly, the extremely weakened

female image, and thirdly, the embodiment of personal heroism. Through this research, a more comprehensive understanding of Hemingway-style tough guys is obtained, and it tries to trigger readers to think about the concepts of gender roles and patriarchal society. After in-depth understanding, it can have a further enlightening effect on reading and understanding Hemingway's other works.

The novel *The Old Man and the Sea* is the pinnacle of Hemingway's tough guy image, and it is also about the struggle between man and nature. Although Santiago inherited the spirit of the previous tough guy, his inner world is changeable. Then through the specific analysis of Santiago, further reveal the starting point of the tough guy image and the tough guy spirit, and explore the internal connection between the tough guy image and patriarchal values. This leads to a deeper understanding of the novel, which leads us to think about the background of the times and Hemingway-style tough guys. Studying the patriarchal values embodied in the image of the tough guy is beneficial for a full understanding of the image of the hero in the novel. And in the process of research, it can be compared with Hemingway himself to get a more comprehensive understanding, because this novella is based on real people and real events, and the existing research on *The Old Man and the Sea* can be enriched.

2. Literature Review

2.1. An Introduction to *The Old Man and the Sea*

The Old Man and the Sea is a famous short story by the American twentieth-century writer Hemingway. The novel is a masterpiece that proved his creative prowess in his later years, occupying a special and important position in his creation, and the novel won the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize in Literature. *The Old Man and the Sea* tells the story of an old fisherman who fights with sharks for a big marlin for three days and three nights on the sea.

The research of foreign scholars on *The Old Man and the Sea* mainly starts from the following four aspects: Firstly, from a literary point of view, Young (1952) and Baker (1961) analyzed the worship of indomitable, courageous human nature and the heroic color of tragedy in the novel. Burhans (1960) analyzed the values of courage, love, humility, loneliness, and interdependence expressed in the novel from symbolism and satire. Roberts (1966) explored the tough guy in the novel based on summarizing characters in Hemingway's other works. Gurko (1968) summarized Hemingway's other works to study the idea of escaping from society and pursuing the liberation of the human spirit in the novel. Barbour & Sattelmeyer (1975) analyzed the symbol of dialogue about baseball in the novel. Bickford (1996) analyzed the symbolism from the Cuban cultural background. Secondly, from the perspective of religion, Backman (1955) explained the piety of the old man Santiago by analyzing the images of the old man's prayer, suffering and wood in the novel---despite suffering physically, he obtained spiritual peace and satisfaction. Baker (1961) analyzed Santiago's piety, suffering, holy humanity and the salvation of meaningless existence in the novel from the perspective of religion, and he believed that Santiago was a hero like Jesus. Thirdly, from the psychological point of view, Benstoltzfus (1991) used Lacan's theory to explain that the old man is the reflection of Hemingway's own personal destiny. In addition, in his paper *Lacan Interpretation of The Old Man and the Sea*, Saussure's concept of signifier and signified is used to analyze some metaphors in the book, such as lion, turtle fish, marlin and so on. Fourthly, from the ecological point of view, Love (1996), a pioneer of American ecological-criticism, thought that the Cuban fisherman was a typical tragic figure, and his expression of human will conflict with the laws of nature, which showed that Hemingway attached great importance to the relationship between himself and the earth. Fleming(1999) analyzed the reasons why novels are so closely integrated with nature from Hemingway's personal experience. Foreign studies on *The Old Man and the Sea* mainly focus on

four angles: literature, religion, psychology and ecology. But generally speaking, there are many literary perspectives, mainly involving creative techniques, artistic styles and novel themes.

Hemingway's work marks the formation of his unique creative style, which occupies an important place in the history of American literature and even in the history of world literature. *The Old Man and the Sea* is the representative work of the writer Hemingway, which established Hemingway's prominent position in world literature, and the novel won the Pulitzer Prize in 1953 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Since its birth, it has become the focus of research by many scholars. The domestic research on *The Old Man and the Sea* also involves literature, religion, psychology, ecology and other angles, but compared with foreign countries, the studies of metaphor in novels in China is more popular. Zou Qin (1993) analyzed Hemingway's personal experience and other works to illustrate that the Bible has an important influence on Hemingway's creative style and connotation, and specifically analyzed the metaphors related to the Bible and religion in *The Old Man and the Sea*. Li Guoqing (2001) analyzed the relationship between the old man and the child in *The Old Man and the Sea*, guided by the theory of grammatical metaphors, and found that the relationship between the two main characters can be seen as the relationship between the teacher and the student, the father and the child, and the saint and the disciple. Dai Guiyu (2005) used Lacan's theory of symbolic psychology to explore the metaphors of Santiago's dreams and fantasies, aiming to illustrate that Santiago's sleep and unconscious fantasies embody the unconscious desires of the old man himself --- to be a champion fisherman, but the desire of the old man and the value he embodies are also the representations of Hemingway's own unconscious desires and the replacement of the values he pursues. Wang Yong (2007) mainly used Freud's psychoanalytic theory to explore the modern western patriarchal culture metaphorically in his works, aiming to illustrate that although this modern Western patriarchal culture is what Hemingway himself pursues, he has transcended this culture and expressed his complex view of women. Su Lan (2011) used the interaction principle in metaphor theory and metaphorical working mechanism theory as the guiding point to analyze the operation of metaphors in *The Old Man and the Sea*, and specifically analyzed the metaphorical meaning of images such as the old man, the little boy, the ocean, and the petrel. Zheng Xiaolan (2011) took cognitive metaphor theory as the starting point to reveal the dominant metaphor of "life is a struggle" in the novel. Yue Jinxiu (2013) combined Hemingway's life and consistent writing themes to study the metaphorical significance of *The Old Man and the Sea*, and specifically analyzed the metaphorical meaning of images such as the sea, marlin, sharks, children, lions, and old people. Domestic scholars are more popular in the study of metaphors in novels, and through the analysis of metaphors in novels, they can reveal some aspects of the novel, so that readers can better understand the novel.

2.2. An Introduction to Patriarchal Values

In western academic discourse, "father" is called patriarchy, which originates from Patriarch and means male parents, bishops, the originator and founder of science and religion. Relative to patriarch, matriarch means female parents and the wife of patriarchs. Linguistically, it can be seen that "patriarchy" is an unequal system or system that puts men in a dominant position and women in a subordinate position. From private areas of families and ethnic groups to public areas such as religion, science and society, men are in a dominant position.

Patriarchal system, as an important concept in western philosophy of the other, is an ideological mechanism imposed on women or the other. Philosophers' theories in different periods have different interpretations of patriarchy. From the social and cultural point of view, it mainly involves cultural studies, feminist studies, ethnic studies and other related fields. Patriarchal system is neither "natural" nor eternal. It has artificial elements and can be changed. In the patriarchal system, there is a dominant relationship between men and women within the same level, and there is a hierarchy of domination between different levels.

The research on western patriarchal values can be roughly divided into three categories: first, the theoretical connotation of patriarchy; second, the philosophical origin of patriarchy; third, the research on patriarchy and gender.

The book "The Establishment of Patriarchy" by Jeda Lerner inspired the author to study the origin of Chinese Huaxia Patriarchy. Later, the concept of "gender" and "difference" by Joan Scott, a woman historian, caused a deeper and broader thinking. In participating in the construction of Asian women's studies, Korean scholar Zhang Bihe's discussion of Asian Patriarchy made the author feel deeply connected.

3. An Analysis of the Tough Image

3.1. The Commendation of Spiritual Victory

Santiago is willing to go fishing alone in the unpredictable deep sea where materials are scarce, which is a challenge to himself. When he is in the deep sea, fighting marlins and sharks, he is a weak person, but he is also a "strong person" who does not flinch. Although at the end of the story, all he got was a bare fish rack, he was the winner of his courage and confidence.

From a secular point of view, Santiago is not a winner, or even a loser in life. Although he defeated the marlin and the shark group, his final result was still the remains of a marlin and a lonely old man on the island of Cuba.

But from the idealistic point of view, the old fisherman is a winner, a winner of himself. Although he is old, he never gives in to marlins, sharks and cruel life. This victory is a spiritual victory, which can be said to be the modern echo of the tragic spirit of ancient Greece.

It is this lonely and self-centered spiritual victory that makes the image of "Santiago" tough guy different from other tough guys in Hemingway's works. Hemingway praises human confidence and courage through the tough guy spirit of Santiago, which is the eternal value of human progress that is always worthy of praise, and this is also the theme that Hemingway really wants to show.

3.2. The Affirmation of Failure Heroes

Because of his own experience, Hemingway thought that the war only brought cruel killing and death to people, and the so-called "peace" and "democracy" were not noble undertakings. The war destroyed people's original beautiful hopes and beliefs, and the traditional values were also burned. Hemingway personally participated in the First World War. As a survivor of the war, he witnessed the cruelty and fierceness of the war, leaving a wound in both body and spirit, which is manifested in his creation that the "tough guy" images are all affirmation of failed heroes. Santiago is a tough guy created by Hemingway in his later period. He is regarded as the best representative of Hemingway's "tough guy image", because no matter how many failures he has experienced, he can immediately regroup and work hard for his inner ideal.

Santiago in *The Old Man and the Sea* is a weather-beaten old fisherman. His greatest hobby in his life is fishing, so he also lived happily on an island in Cuba all his life. His wife died a long time ago, with no children to support him... There are a lot of inner monologues of Santiago in the book. When he was alone at sea, fighting with vicious sharks, a lot of silent inner monologues showed his perseverance and spirit of fighting to the end. From the angle of opposition between shark and fisherman, he is a loser; but judging from his attitude towards failure, he is a winner.

In the sense of life, marlins and fishermen also have the winning spirit of losers, and Hemingway praised this kind of indomitable courage and confidence in the face of bumpy fate, even an old and frail old man.

His living conditions are extremely poor. He is a loser in life, but he is a spiritual winner. Santiago is a failed hero to Hemingway. The reason for his failure has become less important. What he wants to express most is the attitude of the failed hero towards the unhappy life.

4. Patriarchal Values Reflected by the Tough Image

4.1. Patriarchal Cultural Values---The Starting Point of the Tough Guy Spirit

Hemingway thinks that women should be the accessories of men, and women who disobey men are dangerous. He even claims that real men don't need women. Unable to well understand feminist culture and his own one-sided understanding of women, Hemingway was confused about how to ideally construct the relationship between men and women. Admittedly, he made some efforts to construct an ideal female image, but he failed. He couldn't get rid of the patriarchal culture concept, and had to follow the traditional concept to shape or change the female image. Because the essence of life pursued by Hemingway is a kind of patriarchal cultural values, as a world-famous fighter, Hemingway always fights for the dignity of western patriarchal culture.

4.1.1. Hemingway's Era Background

Like Hemingway, a group of young Americans living in France lost their way after the First World War. The war caused great physical and psychological harm to them. They were very empty, distressed and depressed. They want to make a difference, but the war makes them mentally confused, and the treacherous society makes them very disgusted. They can only live in ruin, so American writer Stein calls them "the lost generation". The novel is a true portrayal of Hemingway's own life path and world outlook. Hemingway and a literary school he represents are also called "the lost generation". Because Hemingway lived in the age when the patriarchal culture gradually declined and women's consciousness gradually awakened, the traditional patriarchal culture emphasized that men were the masters of social forces, while women were attached to the mainstream male culture both economically and politically. Aware of the inevitable declining trend of the patriarchal culture under the background of modern civilization, Hemingway worked hard to find a way of survival to restore the dignity of the patriarchal culture, that is, the way of survival of the tough guy. This way of life emphasizes the spirit of "tough guy". Facing the doomed pressures of loneliness, failure and death, we dare to face the bleak life, persevere in the face of adversity, and maintain the "elegant demeanor under heavy pressure".

4.1.2. Hemingway's Own Life Experience

Hemingway once participated in two world wars and the Spanish war. People haven't woken up from the nightmare of the world wars. Disappointment, loss and other confusions are bothering people. The post-war society was a scene of chaos and depression. The war and various absurd phenomena of society brought Hemingway deep trauma in spirit and body, which was a narrow escape. This is one of the manifestations of old fisherman Santiago's aging. In addition, we found that Hemingway didn't publish any important works for ten years after *For whom the bell tolls* in 1940, while *Crossing the River into the Forest* published in 1950 was unanimously criticized by public opinion circles. Many critics even asserted that Hemingway's intelligence had dried up and there was nothing new. The miserable fate of the old fisherman is the refraction reflection of Hemingway's own experience in art. At this time, Hemingway really needs to reproduce the tough guy image, and this "tough guy" image is more "tough" than ever before, in order to restore his position in the literary world. In fact, these works do reflect the author's own search, but this search often comes from the author's specific life experience, and lacks the macro-peep into life, so it is difficult to arouse readers' strong resonance. Hemingway himself realized this, "There is another school of criticism, saying that I can only write about my

own experiences. Now publishing this work *The Old Man and the Sea* can also destroy this school of criticism.” Therefore, Hemingway completely abandons the female role in *The Old Man and the Sea*, vividly depicts the desolate and tragic beauty of the old man under the pressure of loneliness and difficulties, and at the same time endows the tough guy image with new features and more flesh and blood.

4.2. The Extreme Absence of Female Image

Why is the female image missing? First of all, Hemingway’s growing experience, life background and his previous works can tell us some information: he is trying to find a way of life to restore the dignity of patriarchal culture, but at the same time, he can look at things from the perspective of women beyond his gender identity and reveal women’s inner feelings. He has a ambivalence of sympathy, understanding and fear for women. He tried to build an ideal female image, but failed. Since it is impossible to construct an ideal gender relationship between men and women, Hemingway simply puts aside women completely in *The Old Man and the Sea*, and depicts a man’s world without women.

4.2.1. The Differences from Hemingway’s Other Works

Compared with the tough guy images in Hemingway’s works like *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* in the 1920s, Santiago, the old man in *The Old Man and the Sea*, is no longer just addicted to the pain of despair, but eagers to communicate with others, admits his weaknesses and pursues the new tough guy image of life unremittingly. However, this is closely related to the lack of female roles in *The Old Man and the Sea*. Although the female images in Hemingway’s other works are often weakened, after all, they appear as heroines and play a vital role in shaping the tough guy image of the hero. However, in this novel *The Old Man and the Sea*, the female image can be said to be extremely weakened. In the novel, the old man took the picture of his long-dead wife off the wall and stuffed it under his clothes. Except for the female tourists who appeared in the hotel at the end, it can even be said that the female image has disappeared. Since it is impossible to build an ideal gender relationship between men and women, Hemingway completely puts aside women in *The Old Man and the Sea*, and depicts a man’s world without women. Through a series of old man’s resistance actions and final failure, the novel tells readers his sorrow about the decline of patriarchy culture. At the same time, through describing a series of thrilling scenes such as the old man’s struggle with the marlin and sharks, it shows that he is trying to find a way of life to restore the dignity of patriarchy culture. Although there are no female characters in this article, it can be seen between the lines that the author has doubts and fears about female culture, which of course also comes down to his deep-rooted patriarchal cultural values, for example, the old man hates the jellyfish floating in the sea, calling her “bitch”. The female images in Hemingway’s works are either missing or weakened. Generally speaking, most of the female images in his works belong to two extremes: angels or witches. Although Hemingway also tried to endow these women with some masculine features, for example, they are all obsessed with men’s hairstyles and men’s clothes. In *The Sun Also Rises*, Brett, the witch, has “short hair combed back like a boy” and always wears a men’s beret on her head, and she also smokes, drinks and has a loose sex life like a man. Catherine, the gentle and obedient angel in *A Farewell to Arms*, told Henry that she wanted to have her hair cut short after little Catherine was born, but this masculinization of women’s appearance, manners and life style can’t create an ideal female image, which is just a one-sided definition of women based on patriarchal cultural values and traditional ideas. Sisu, a French feminist critic, pointed out that the traditional “androgyny” is neutral, and the real “androgyny” should be non-antagonistic, pluralistic, constantly changing, and without excluding differences or obliterating any identity.

4.2.2. The Display of Female Image by Symbolism

The implication of the sea in western literature is rich and colorful, whether it is a pure and amiable girl or a fierce demon. In *The Old Man and the Sea*, the sea is described as a woman. In the process of fishing for the elderly, the sea is always quiet and flowing slowly, even when sharks take the fish from the elderly, the sea is still so calm. She is always quietly, confidently and equally staring at Santiago---an old man like a “tough guy”. Describing the sea as a woman, she is gentle in appearance, but she has infinite and powerful power. She has unheard-of big marlins and greedy sharks. She is so unfathomable, and this is the real sea, which just happens to show that the “real tough guy” is weak and humble in appearance, but has extraordinary perseverance and fighting spirit in heart.

Why not change the role of the boy in the book into a wife or daughter that is theoretically more suitable and better able to take care of the elderly? The lack of image as female noumenon does not mean the disappearance of women. In fact, “she” is hidden in all aspects of the text, with the purpose of creating a “real old man”.

The relationship between the elderly and ocean is like the relationship between men and women. First of all, the old man always regards the ocean as a woman, and respects and cherishes her, which is in contrast with those young fishermen. Because the old man was young, he called the ocean Elmar and regarded everything around him as a competitor. Later, after understanding, he realized that no one can live without anyone. Secondly, external factors also play an important role, such as the influence of the moon on her. The old man treats the ocean with the same respect and love as his wife and the women who appear in his dreams, but when he was young, he must be as eager to conquer them as most young fishermen. Even when he is old, he realizes that “she” always has a cruel side, and only by keeping strong can he master “her” and make use of “her”, which is the premise for men and women to get along harmoniously. Thirdly, the old man’s attitude towards different creatures in the ocean shows his attitude towards women. He loves and respects some of them, but he also hates and curses some of them. He loves flying fish very much, because they are his main friends in the ocean, just like the confidante he met when he was young. Turtles and tortoises have beautiful appearance, fast swimming and high value, as if admiring beautiful women. When he meets jellyfish, he can’t help shouting, because he has been hurt by them, this attitude is like treating “dangerous women” who disobey and resist men. It can be seen that women are loving and cruel, gentle and uncontrolled, willing to give and ready to withdraw gifts at any time. For the elderly, women are so familiar and unpredictable. Therefore, he no longer dreams of storms, women, events that have happened, and his wife. This is a real old man’s state. After the age of being frivolous and tender-blooded, it is calm and open-minded.

4.3. The Embodiment of Individual Heroism

Hemingway’s era advocates patriarchy. As we all know, America is a country that advocates heroes. Hemingway’s novels are just trying to play up the myth of personal heroism. In his works, gender roles are clearly distinguished and the division of labor between men and women is obvious. The tough guy created by Hemingway emphasizes that lonely individuals can’t escape the fate of failure in the powerful struggle with the outside world, but he doesn’t admit defeat, and even if he fails, he should keep the demeanor of a winner. In fact, this spiritual essence is personal heroism, which overemphasizes the role and strength of individuals, just to show a kind of elegance under pressure.

4.3.1. Striking Distinctions in Gender Roles

America is a country that advocates heroes, and Hemingway’s novels are just trying to play up the myth of personal heroism. In his works, gender roles are clearly distinguished. Men are considered to be decisive, active and competitive, and women should be gentle and able to handle all kinds of interpersonal relationships. However, feminism believes that this blind

development of masculinity and suppression of femininity will inevitably lead to serious consequences, perhaps to the extent of global genocide and ecological extinction. Analyzing Hemingway from the theme of the relationship between men and women, it is not difficult to see that although he is keen on describing the wildness and bravery of men, Hemingway indirectly shows his fear and hatred of women. His “code heroes” are all fighting alone, even if they have anything to do with women, they will eventually be separated. His strong sense of fate and death is universally reflected in his works. His masterpiece *The Old Man and the Sea* outlines a purely male world. Hemingway’s tough guy emphasizes that even if a person fails, he should maintain the demeanor of a winner. In fact, this spiritual essence is personal heroism, which overemphasizes the role and strength of individuals, just to show a kind of elegance under pressure. Because it would rather accept the fate of ultimate failure, the result can only lead to no choice but sorrow. The result of the tragic struggle of the old people in desolation is nothing in the end. Is this an ideal way of life? From the female point of view, this way of life only reflects the appeal of the male mainstream society. He replaced the male’s own needs with the female’s needs, and constructed the female’s ideology with the male’s ideology. As a result, the female was completely alienated and became the existence of otherness, and the male experience gained absolute control over the female experience. Obviously, this “tough guy” way of life is not conducive to building an equal and harmonious modern society.

4.3.2. A Spirit of Never Being Defeated

Reading Hemingway’s works, the images of tough guys always make countless readers admire them. Those tough guys dare to face up to the incompleteness and pain of life, use the strength of their own small individual life, rely on tenacious will, arrogant dignity and indomitable fighting spirit to fight against the realistic fate doomed to loneliness, failure and death. Santiago in *The Old Man and the Sea* can be said to be the generalization and sublimation of Hemingway’s tough guy image. He forcefully declared that “people are not born for failure, and one can be destroyed but not defeated”. In the novel, the old Cuban fisherman didn’t catch any fish for 84 days in a row. On the 85th day, he sailed out to the open sea alone and caught a big marlin. After three days and two nights of hard work, he finally killed the big fish, but he was repeatedly attacked by sharks on his way home. At last, the big fish was left with debris. Indeed, we appreciate Santiago’s heroic struggle in the face of failure, because he showed an elegant manner under pressure.

Since the end of the British Industrial Revolution, in order to occupy more resources as soon as possible, different countries in the international arena have started to set off two large-scale world wars. Since then, a series of ideas of efficiency first and man can conquer nature have filled everyone’s mind. Hemingway, as a member who survived the war, was transformed into a hero under the influence of such philosophical ideas as man can conquer nature. Although the novel *The Old Man and the Sea* tells the story of fishermen catching fish on the surface, the symbolic significance produced in it cannot be underestimated. In other words, Santiago is by no means a simple fisherman, but it is more a manifestation of the abstraction of human behavior characteristics in modern society. For example, his life and death with sharks reflects the battle between man and nature. Although it is said that it still can’t escape the doom of failure in the end, as a tough guy, he must not easily discard his inner strong and courageous belief and human dignity. This kind of purpose has been clearly stated in the original work, that is, “a person is not born to be defeated. If you destroy him as much as possible, you can’t defeat him”. The image of Santiago eulogizes the indomitable spirit of struggle even if nothing is achieved, the moral victory without fear of failure, and the victory of human spirit. Man’s greatest victory is spiritual victory. When we are as helpless and unarmed as old fishermen, our only weapon is our own confidence, and our only shield is human dignity. Santiago has always been recognized by academic experts as the spokesman of a kind of outstanding spiritual strength, mainly because no matter how many times he has experienced heavy failures, he can

immediately cheer up and works hard for his lofty ideals. After vividly portraying this kind of tough guy image, Hemingway also tried to tell us that people were not born in this world for failure. In order to truly reach the peak of success, it is necessary for everyone to gradually realize himself with his own powerful strength and belief. This can be said to be the creed that every strong person must abide by continuously in the process of survival and development.

5. Conclusion

Hemingway's works often show the image of a tough guy. These characters include boxers, matadors, hunters, etc. They all have an indomitable character. In the face of violence, death and unchangeable fate, they all show human dignity and courage.

His work *The Old Man and the Sea* is a household name, and Santiago is the highest representative of a series of tough guy images created by Hemingway. Santiago, an old Cuban fisherman, is characterized by his competitive consciousness, challenging spirit, initiative and tenacity to challenge the strong. In the face of 84 days without catching fish, Santiago is still undaunted and full of spirits. This novel tells the story of three days and two nights when he struggled with the caught the marlin and sharks on his way back.

This study explains the patriarchal values embodied in the tough guy image in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* from three aspects, and reveals its internal relations. First, the starting point of the tough guy spirit is the patriarchal cultural values; second, the extremely weakened female image; third, the embodiment of personal heroism.

The root cause of Hemingway's patriarchal cultural values is his background and personal experience. Compared with Hemingway's other works, the female image of *The Old Man and the Sea* is extremely weakened, and the symbolic meaning is often used to reflect the female role in this article. Hemingway is in a society with obvious gender roles. In his works, he usually emphasizes personal heroism. As the article says, "People are not born for failure, and one can be destroyed, but not defeated". (Hemingway, 1952: 103).

Studying the patriarchal values embodied in the image of the tough guy is beneficial to fully understand the image of the hero in the novel. In the process of research, it can be compared with Hemingway himself, so as to get a more comprehensive understanding, because this novella is adapted from real people and events, and the existing research on *The Old Man and the Sea* can be enriched through research.

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