

## **A Six Thinking Hats Analysis of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea***

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### **Abstract**

This paper focuses on linking Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats method with the major themes of *The Old Man and the Sea*. Each hat corresponds to a certain concept or theme within the novella allowing for an organized framework of discussion. The aim of this paper is to apply the six thinking hats to *The Old Man and the Sea* by analysing the following themes. The theme of Man versus Nature as Santiago deals with the ocean and its creatures is thus tied with the white hat. The black hat highlights the theme of Isolation and Loneliness, through which Santiago's facts speak of a man cut off from the rest of the world and the risks he undertakes by himself. As for the red hat, it connects with the theme of Perseverance and Resilience, emphasising in Santiago's emotional strength and determination in the face of adversity. Regarding the yellow hat, it can be ascribed to Wisdom and Experience theme as it describes the virtues that lie in Santiago's life and the lessons that came forth after his sufferings. For the green hat, it considers Symbolism, looking deep into the significance of the marlin, the sea, and the journey of Santiago. Finally, the blue hat addresses the overriding theme of the Struggle, which synthesizes the major struggles within the story, resolving under one dominant analysis the conflicts that Santiago endeavours and prevails against.

**Keywords:** Six Thinking Hats, *The Old Man and the Sea*, Man versus Nature, Perseverance, Symbolism, Isolation and Struggle.

## تحليل ست قبعات تفكيرية لرواية الشيخ والبحر لهمنغواي

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### المستخلص

يركز هذا البحث على ربط طريقة "القبعات الست للتفكير" لإدوارد دي بونو مع الموضوعات الرئيسية في رواية "الشيخ والبحر". كل قبعة تتناسب مع مفهوم أو موضوع معين داخل الرواية، مما يتيح إطار عمل منظم للنقاش. يرتبط موضوع "الإنسان ضد الطبيعة" بالقبعة البيضاء حيث يتعامل سانتياجو مع البحر وكائناته. أما القبعة السوداء فهي تُبرز موضوع العزلة والوحدة، حيث تتحدث حقائق سانتياجو عن رجل منعزل عن بقية العالم والمخاطر التي يواجهها بمفرده. فيما يخص القبعة الحمراء، ترتبط هذه القبعة بموضوع المثابرة والمرونة، مع التركيز على قوة سانتياجو العاطفية وعزيمته في مواجهة الشدائد. كما يمكن نسب القبعة الصفراء إلى موضوع الحكمة والخبرة، كونها تصف الفضائل التي تكمن في حياة سانتياجو والدروس التي نشأت بعد معاناته. القبعة الخضراء تتناول الرمزية من خلال النظر بعمق في دلالة المارلين والبحر ورحلة سانتياجو. ختاماً، القبعة الزرقاء تعالج الموضوع الأساسي للصراع الذي يجمع الصراعات الرئيسية في القصة، موحدةً في تحليل واحد سائد للصراعات التي يواجهها سانتياجو ويحقق النصر عليها. الهدف من هذا البحث هو تطبيق القبعات الست للتفكير على "العجوز والبحر" من خلال تحليل الموضوعات المذكورة أعلاه.

**كلمات مفتاحية:** القبعات الست للتفكير، الشيخ والبحر، الإنسان ضد الطبيعة، المثابرة، الرمزية، العزلة والصراع .

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### 1.Introduction

The “Six Thinking Hats” model of thinking was developed by Edward de Bono, who is widely considered as the foremost expert on conceptual thinking. This paper explains how Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats method can be connected with the primary themes of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea* and how each hat is associated with distinct main themes from the story. Edward de Bono developed the Six Thinking Hats model in response to challenges in thinking, and this model, according to Kachru, improves the efficiency and effectiveness of thinking (2009: p.372). The Six Thinking Hats method includes the Black Hat, Blue Hat, Green Hat, Red Hat, White Hat, and Yellow Hat. It is argued that *The Old Man and the Sea* combines themes of Man versus Nature, Isolation and Loneliness, Perseverance and Resilience, Wisdom and Experience, Symbolism, and Struggle, in the novel concerning the main character, Santiago. These themes represent the core elements of *The Old Man and The Sea*. Isolation and Loneliness highlight the protagonist's solitary journey. The struggle emphasises his physical and emotional battles. Symbolism enhances the multiplicity of the narrative with numerous levels of significance. Resilience and endurance are examples of the determination of the human spirit. Man vs Nature paints the struggle between the human race and the forces of nature. In addition, Wisdom and Experience show the progression and comprehension of the hero's character, giving a deep insight into life and its struggle.

Consequently, the primary goal of the present work is to correlate the six hats' method to the main topics of the novel, thus facilitating novel interlinks. In this as a bit of background, the methodology pertains study making use of De Bono's six thinking hats method while at the same time disintegrating crucial aspects of *The Old Man and The Sea*. Each hat stands for a different view: White stands for information, Red for feelings, Black for judgment, Yellow for optimistic approach, Green for imaginative activities while Blue stands for meta-cognition. With this approach, the study seeks to understand comprehensively the character of Santiago as presented in the themes of the novel. It is even possible to comprehend the characters of the novel better and the themes and other literary features of the novel in a more balanced way using the Six

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Thinking Hats model in analysing *The Old Man and The Sea*. So, this paper concentrates on linking the six thinking hats with the major themes of the novel.

## 1. Literature Review

There exists a plethora of papers that has attempted to explore the six thinking hats, comprehend their significance, and utilize them to facilitate various tasks in organisations. Firstly, Aithal and Kumar, in their scholarly work “Ideal Analysis for Decision Making in Critical Situations through Six Thinking Hats Method,” sought to analyse if utilizing these six thinking hats could assist in the decision-making process during critical situations (2017: p.4). The key difference between this research and Aithal and Kumar’s work is whilst the former focuses on employing the Six Thinking Hats methodology for primary thematic analysis of *The Old Man and The Sea*, the latter is more concerned with decision making in complex cases. In this study, an effort to join up de Bono's techniques with literary study of the six themes of *The Old Man and The Sea* to illustrate how different hats can add to features of the primary themes of the novel is made.

Secondly, the decision-making process and its attitude is discussed through the six thinking hats methodology by Aithal & Aithal in their paper Using Six Thinking Hats as a Tool for Lateral Thinking in Organizational Problem Solving in which the paper attempts to use this technique to address the problem of organizational problem solving (2016: p.225). They concentrate on improving decision-making and problem-solving within organisational contexts, but this research aims to demonstrate how each hat can offer unique lens through which the main themes of *The Old Man and The Sea* can be interpreted.

Thirdly, many researchers have talked about *The Old Man and The Sea* in various research papers. For example, in his research, *The Role of Perseverance and Determination in Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea*, Mocbil explored the importance of perseverance and determination in Hemingway's work and how these characteristics impact the protagonist's journey (2023: p.35). In contrast, the current paper explores a new analysis by connecting the red hat to the theme of perseverance and resilience.

Fourthly, in *Analysis of Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and The Sea*, Sinha explained that the purpose of his paper was to explain the author's interpretation of this novel by carefully examining the author's decisions within the text (2022: p.1212). Comparing this study with the current research paper, the latter utilises de Bono's Six Thinking Hats method to examine the key themes in *The Old Man and The Sea* which are of Man versus Nature, Isolation and loneliness, Perseverance and Resilience, Wisdom and Experience, Symbolism, and Struggle.

Finally, in their paper, *The Old Man and the Sea, The Battle of Life for All Human Kind*, Bledar examined the symbolism used in *The Old Man and The Sea* and drew comparisons between the flow of historical and literary memory and consciousness of humanity, the world at large, and its author, Ernest Hemingway (2023: p.28). The current study applies de Bono's Six Thinking Hats method to analyse the primary themes of the novel by means of which the researcher attempts to show how each hat offers a unique perspective on the novel's main themes, providing an organized approach to literary analysis, whereas Bledar's study concentrates on the symbolic elements and their wider historical and literary significance.

## **2. Six Thinking Hats Method**

The effective Six Thinking Hats method was developed by Edward de Bono to enhance critical thinking and decision-making. It entails examining an issue or circumstance from six distinct angles, each of which is symbolized by a different coloured hat. These hats have different roles and are coloured-coded. Kachru explained that de Bono's Six Thinking Hats technique improves the quality and efficiency of thinking (2009: p.372). It helps people reach accurate conclusions more effectively. Each colour of each hat represents something, and they can be described separately. For instance, the white hat as explained by Kachru, concentrates on accurate information (2009: p.372). This hat encourages analytical and objective thinking. Furthermore, individuals concentrate on data, facts, and evidence while wearing the white hat, excluding feelings or personal opinions.

Van Dam and Marcus describes that the red hat includes intuition and emotions (2007: p.283). Individuals focus on expressing their

feelings, emotions, and reactions without needing to justify them by wearing the red hat. It enables people to express their emotions openly, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of a situation more thoroughly.

As far as the black hat is concerned, Van Dam and Marcus believe that the black hat focuses attention on risks and challenges (2007: p.283). The black hat is used to identify all the potential problems, risks, and downsides. This hat focuses on finding the potential pitfalls, weaknesses, and threats of a particular idea or plan. Using the black hat assists to make sure that decisions are thought out and prevents mistakes by critiquing all elements of a situation.

On the other hand, Gupta confirms that the yellow hat pursues the benefits and practical execution of ideas (2015: p.60). Individuals concentrate on identifying the benefits and positive aspects of a situation or idea by wearing the yellow hat. Therefore, the goal of the yellow hat is to promote positive viewpoints and to inspire creativity and innovation by exploring potential gains and benefit.

In so far as, Kivunja describes that the green hat creates new ideas and develops existing ones (2015: p.383). In de Bono's Six Thinking Hats framework, the green hat represents creative thinking and new ideas. When wearing the green hat, individuals focus on exploring different possibilities and generating new concepts. Moreover, this hat encourages innovation, brainstorming, and the development of alternative solutions and approaches. So, the purpose of the green hat is to foster creativity and drive the exploration of novel ideas, helping to overcome challenges and find fresh perspectives.

Finally, Bodhankar declares that the blue hat frames the problem and organises the thinking process (2023: p.449). In de Bono's Six Thinking Hats model, the blue hat represents process control and organisation. When wearing the blue hat, individuals focus on managing the thinking process itself. This includes planning, structuring, and guiding the discussion. The blue hat is concerned with setting objectives, defining problems, summarising findings, and making decisions. Hence, it helps maintain discipline and order.

Subsequently, by wearing a single hat at a time, a group's energy seems to be concentrated on a specific goal, encouraging the open

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expression of opinions and ideas while preventing unnecessary conflicts (Kachru, 2009: p.372). Therefore, there are two basic ways of using the hats. The hats can be used singly to request a type of thinking, or they can be used in a sequence to explore a subject or solve a problem. A specific hat can be used by individuals or groups to move outside of habitual ways of thinking, try out different approaches, and think constructively about how to move forward. Hence, in the next six sections, the researcher will apply the six hats model by analysing six themes of Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. This will occur through linking each hat with one theme in the novel. For example, the analysis of the black hat is linked with the theme of isolation and loneliness in the novel. It will be shown in the next sections how each hat is connected with a different theme and why this link is significant.

### **3.1.White Hat: Theme of Man versus Nature**

The theme of Man versus Nature is central in Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*, depicting the enduring struggle between Santiago and the formidable forces of the natural world. Santiago's epic battle with the marlin is the most vivid representation of this theme, illustrating Santiago's immense physical and mental fortitude as he confronts the powerful fish. Furthermore, his deep respect for the marlin and the sea underscores his acknowledgement of nature's majesty and complexity. Even though Santiago catches the marlin after a tough fight, other sharks come and eat it. This shows how the nature is harsh and unforgiving. These predators symbolise the destructive forces that can undermine human effort and achievement, reinforcing the theme of Man versus Nature. Santiago's valiant, albeit ultimately futile, struggle against the sharks highlights the harsh reality that nature's power can often overwhelm even the most determined human spirit. Hemingway said that the old man was too simple to think about when he became humble, but he knew he was humble, and he realised it was not something to be ashamed of and did not take away his true pride (Hemingway, 2022: p.3). This connects to the theme of Man versus Nature, as Santiago's acceptance of his humility shows his strength in facing the challenges of nature. Santiago reflects on his own humility and the natural order of things, recognising his place in the world and his acceptance of his

struggles against the forces of nature. The following quote explores the theme of man's relationship with, and struggle against, the powerful forces of the natural world. It is said of Santiago that “He always thought of the sea as 'la mar' which is what people call her in Spanish when they love her” (Hemingway, 2022: p.11). This quote reflects Santiago's deep respect and affection for the sea, even though it presents numerous challenges, highlighting the complex relationship between man and nature.

In addition to that, Tanjung, Adistia and Khusniyah argued that the sea is shown as both beautiful and dangerous, and Santiago deeply respects it (2024: p.80). His struggle with the marlin symbolises his battle with the sea and nature itself (Tanjung, Adistia and Khusniyah, 2024: p.80). Hemingway's declaration, “He was comfortable but suffering, although he did not admit the suffering at all” (2022: p.28) illustrates Santiago's immense physical and mental fortitude as he confronts the powerful fish, embodying the theme of Man versus Nature. Hemingway writes: “Fight them,” he said. “I'll fight them until I die” (2022: p.54). This shows Santiago's brave struggle against the sharks and highlights the harsh truth that nature's power can sometimes defeat the human spirit. The following quote also connects to the theme of Man versus Nature: “They were hateful sharks, bad smelling, scavengers as well as killers” (Hemingway, 2022: p.50). This description of the sharks emphasises the relentless and brutal nature of the natural world, symbolising the destructive forces that can undermine human effort. Hemingway wrote that he felt sorry for the birds, especially the small, fragile terns that were always flying around, searching, but almost never finding anything (2022: p.15). This also reflects the theme of Man versus Nature, as it shows the struggles of both the birds and Santiago in the harsh natural world. Santiago's care for the birds and other sea creatures shows his deep connection to nature and his respect for its living beings. The white hat also documents the factual details of the natural elements depicted in the novel. Aithal, Shailashree and Kumar affirm that the white hat deals with actual information and data, with the goal of gathering and preparing information (2016: p.85). By cataloguing descriptions of the sea, weather conditions, marine life, and geographical features, a factual foundation for understanding the formidable forces of

nature that Santiago confronts can be created. The white hat approach provides concrete evidence of the power and unpredictability of the natural world.

Through the white hat perspective, the impact of human activity on the natural world is shown in the novel. By noting moments when Santiago sees changes in the environment, encounters pollution, or reflects on the relationship between people and nature, and a factual record is created of how man interacts with his surroundings. Aithal and Kumar state that the white hat thinking method gives people the ability to think quantitatively while making choices that are objective (2017: p.4). The white hat focuses on three key questions: "What information do we have? What information do we need to gather? And how can we obtain that information?" (de Bono, 1992b: pp.57-58). In the novel, Santiago's life as a fisherman is shaped by the unpredictable power of the sea. Using the white hat thinking stimulates a closer look at the factual elements of Santiago's struggle with nature.

Hence, by counting instances where he faces adverse weather conditions, encounters dangerous marine creatures, or suffers physical injuries, we can create a factual inventory of Santiago's arduous journey. White hat thinking allows for the tracking of the magnitude of the challenges posed by the natural world. To illustrate, the wind does not help with Santiago's physical toil when he fights the marlin, as it exerts pressure on his aging body while trying to reel in the giant fish. In quantifying these physical antagonisms that arise, the price that Santiago pays in his strife against nature is made evident bringing out the magnitude of his obstacles. A person holding a white hat would rather centre threads along the survival techniques that Santiago employs in order to manoeuvre through the threatening dimensions of the ocean. Learning the techniques used by Santiago in fishing, navigation and other forms of innovation reveals the way he copes with the prevailing reality. Such examples show how different Santiago meets the needs of the environment and how innovative and active he has to be in order to cope at sea.

Additionally, the white hat view embraces the broad theme of the relation between nature and man by enriching the link that exists between man and the ecosystem. This approach also helps to understand

the intricate balance between human activities and the natural environment. For instance, Santiago wonders about the changes he sees in the ocean, especially how it has become less plentiful because of excessive fishing and various other myriad reasons. In conclusion, *The Old Man and the Sea's* theme of Man versus Nature can be explored in a structured manner thanks to the white hat's emphasis on factual information.

### **3.2. Black Hat: Themes of Isolation and Loneliness**

The themes of Isolation and Loneliness in Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*, as Santiago struggles with the harsh forces of nature and the inevitable fate awaiting him. There are many situations in the novel which incorporate this theme of Isolation and Loneliness. According to Hemingway, Santiago “was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish” (2022: p.1). This quote demonstrates Santiago's physical isolation and the extent of his solitary struggle, framing the narrative for the theme of Loneliness. Also, Hemingway declares, “He looked across the sea and knew how alone he was now” (2022: p.27). This quote depicts of the sea and Santiago's acute awareness of his isolation within it, highlighting the theme of loneliness. Additionally, there is another situation which emphasises the isolation of Santiago: “No one should be alone in their old age, he thought” (2022: p.20). This indicates that Santiago is conscious of the significant negative effects that loneliness has on his life, particularly as he ages.

Black hat analysis can help better explore Loneliness and Isolation depicted in the novelette, *The Old Man and the Sea*, by outlining potential issues, risks, and adverse consequences. Alone on a sailboat, he could encounter risks and serious challenges. The whole account of his adventure is wrapped up in deep solitude, which does not only lie in his disengagement with people but even in his emotions and psychological behaviours. This analysis will make use of the black hat in underlining risks, complications, and negative consequences for Santiago's isolation to make visible just how loneliness informs his decision-making and character to reveal deeper layers of meaning within the text. *The Old Man and the Sea's* theme of loneliness and isolation can be explored in

further detail to the black hat thinking, objectively analysing the emotional impact of Santiago's solitary existence and how he faces risks by himself and difficult conditions. Jožičić explains that the black hat is a token of logic, preventing disaster and danger (2022: p.72). Santiago is portrayed as a solitary figure in the vast expanse of the sea, cut off from human contact and society. Santiago's isolation is further emphasised by the absence of a reliable fishing companion. Using the black hat can critically analyse the absence of human connection in his life. Accordingly, Santiago sails alone into the wide ocean, without the companionship of fishermen, he struggles with his thoughts and challenges in Isolation, increasing his feelings of Loneliness. This solitude intensifies his psychological burden, reinforcing his profound sense of loneliness at sea. Kivunja argues that critical thinking and problem solving while wearing the black hat allows for the assessment of logical decisions and can save the expense of applying ineffective strategies (2015: p.382). Aithal and Kumar state that the best option regarding people involves wearing the black critical thinking hat, because it is concerned with the effects that a decision might have (2017: p.4). This causes negative thinking to increase in an effort to reduce risks that may result from such action (2017: p.5). However, by refraining from making a key decision, this hat can lessen the severity of a serious problem (Aithal and Kumar, 2017: p.5). Hemingway's portrayal of Santiago's isolation highlights the deep impact of being alone on the human mind and the strength needed to face life's challenges without support.

This critical thinking hat can be used to objectively observe the reality of Santiago's Isolation. In wearing the black hat, this hat has challenged the intricacy of human connection in congruence with the theme of Isolation. Santiago's relationship with the other fishermen and the young boy, Manolin, a friend of Santiago, underlines nuances within relationships and relationships forged despite distances apart. The black hat questions these relationships and their import in relation to Santiago's resistance against loneliness. The final paper will critically question the expression of the theme of Loneliness and Isolation in *The Old Man and the Sea* using the black hat approach of critical thinking. A better sense of the amount of critical thinking a person engages in while making

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decisions independently can be gained by putting on the black hat and exploring Santiago's loneliness and lack of human interaction.

### **3.3.Red Hat: Theme of Perseverance and Resilience**

In *The Old Man and the Sea*, the theme of Perseverance and Resilient nature of life is powerfully depicted through Santiago's fight against the impervious challenges of the sea. When Santiago is reflecting on the nature of the human spirit, he says that a person can be destroyed physically, but if a person does not give up, his spirit will unbreak (Hemingway, 2022: p.66). This brings into light the message of Perseverance and Resilience in the face of adversity. Hemingway's declaration, "He settled comfortably against the wood and took his suffering as it came and the fish swam steadily and the boat moved slowly through the dark water" (2022: p.28) shows Santiago's acceptance of pain and suffering as part of his struggle, highlighting his perseverance. Despite daunting odds, Santiago's resolve never falters. His hands become cut and cramped from holding the fishing line, yet he endures the pain and fatigue, driven by an unyielding determination to catch the marlin. This powerful statement epitomises Santiago's belief in the human capacity for resilience and the idea that true defeat lies in giving up, not in being physically beaten (Hemingway, 2022: p.27). When the sharks come and devour the marlin that he has struggled so much to catch, Santiago does not surrender to despair. He fights them with all his might, which again is a show of indomitable spirit. His profound knowledge of the sea, acquired through years of experience, has him act wisely in the face of challenges. In this vein, Santiago's perseverance is not just to survive but to maintain dignity and self-respect through adverse conditions as described here: "He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish" (Hemingway, 2022: p.1). Thus, Santiago has vast experience; his long streak of bad luck and persistence proves the opposite of his resilience and great knowledge of the sea. With a painful cramp in his left hand, Santiago works to loosen it slowly, showing his resilience and determination to keep going despite his physical struggles (Hemingway, 2022: p.27). With fierce resolve, he commits to defend his hard-earned catch against the attacking sharks,

even when the odds are against him (Hemingway, 2022: p.54). His unwavering spirit and resolve to fight through any challenge are reflected in this strength.

Expressing feelings and emotions by using the red hat plays a significant role in Santiago's character, he exemplifies unparalleled Perseverance and Resilience. So, the red hat allows for empathising with Santiago's emotional journey, feeling the weight of his struggles and the joy of his small triumphs. Despite facing immense hardship, Santiago refuses to give up, demonstrating the indomitable human spirit. Therefore, this section will discuss the idea of Perseverance and Resilience in *The Old Man and the Sea* through the emotional thinking approach of the red hat in relation to the strong fighting spirit Santiago embodies over the course of his journey. Aithal and Kumar state that the best course of action is to approach every problem and every potential solution through the red thinking hat (2017: p.5). There is a connection between the theme of Perseverance and Resilience and the red hat. By using red hat thinking, Santiago follows his emotions and feelings as he sails into the vast sea. Although he is old, he wants to prove his love for fishing. His perseverance grows as he decides to stay out for eighty-four days. The red thinking hat is the colour of humanistic thought, which is characterised by sentiments and emotions. The red hat prompts the reader to emotionally connect with Santiago, feeling the weight of his struggles and the challenges he faces at sea. Generally, readers empathise with his physical exhaustion, loneliness, and the emotional toll of his eighty-four-day streak without a significant catch. Santiago's determination to continue his fishing endeavours despite unfavourable circumstances evokes a deep emotional response from readers, stirring feelings of admiration and respect. Through the red hat lens, readers emotionally celebrate Santiago's small triumphs during his journey. When he finally hooks the giant marlin, readers experience his elation and hope for a successful catch. These moments of triumph, such as his ability to overcome the marlin initially, invoke a sense of joy and excitement. Kivunja argues that the red hat intensifies the possibility of personal expression to the critical thinking and problem-solving processes (2015: p.384). In a free-expression environment, feelings, hunches, and intuitive thoughts are exchanged (Kivunja, 2015: p.384).

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The red hat thinking approach uncovers the themes of hope and resilience in the novel. Despite the numerous obstacles faced and his advanced age, Santiago remains undeterred. His determination instils hope and inspires others to face challenges with similar strength and courage. The red hat allows the reader to form a strong emotional connection with Santiago as a character.

Setyaningtyas and Radia explained that the red hat's function is to express existing feelings and that it represents an emotional aspect (2019: p.85). People use it to communicate their intuitions, impressions, and emotions. When using the red hat, the thinker examines their feelings regarding a particular topic, such as support or opposition to a particular plan or question (Setyaningtyas and Radia, 2019: p.85). To summarize everything, the red hat's thinking strategy evokes a strong emotional understanding of the theme of Perseverance and Resilience in *The Old Man and the Sea*. The reader understands Santiago's undaunted character and attitude by reading and visualization every moment spent in connection to the attempt of overcoming his solitary and self-sufficient hardships and little victories, feeling the strength intertwined within. Santiago's journey in the masterpiece is vividly characterized; as a result, one is able to gauge the depth of human resilience to great pressures and odds.

### **3.4. Yellow Hat: Theme of Wisdom and Experience**

The theme of Wisdom and Experience is woven into Santiago's character and his journey as an ageing fisherman in *The Old Man and The Sea*. Santiago's deep knowledge of the sea, built up by many years of fishing, shows the wisdom that results from experience. According to Hemingway, "Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is" (Hemingway, 2022: p.51). Santiago adopts a pragmatic outlook, focusing on making the best of his circumstances rather than lamenting what he lacks. This demonstrates his wisdom gained through experience, emphasising the theme of embracing one's knowledge and using it to navigate life's challenges effectively. Hemingway tells of an elderly lone fisherman, who spent eighty-four potential fishing days at sea in the gulf stream without a catch (2022: p.1). He is skilled in dealing with the challenges that the sea

presents: Santago possesses a well-developed knowledge of oceanic currents the action of fish, and the intricacies of the weather. Throughout the text, the protagonist Santiago recalls certain circumstances from his life, and shares what he has learned from his victories and defeats. The author clarifies that Santiago's understanding of the world and its creatures – the respect for the world and its creatures – helps him to comprehend the life of the ocean together with the other animals, such as dolphins or flying fish he once caught. Hence, with the interaction with the young boy Manolin, he portrays Santiago as a mentor with numerous life experiences, sharing valuable lessons and unforgettable stories. Santiago declares that he remembers all of it when he went out the very first time (Hemingway, 2022: p.3). Santiago's reflections on his past experiences highlights the lessons he has learned over a lifetime of fishing. Santiago's role as a mentor to Manolin is highlighted by his recollection of their shared experiences, emphasising the wisdom he imparts through his stories and teachings. It is stated in the novel that: "He always thought of the sea as 'la mar' which is what people call her in Spanish when they love her" (Hemingway, 2022: p.11). Because of his extensive experience, Santiago has a deep respect and connection to the natural world, which is reflected in his loving term for the sea.

The yellow hat's positive thinking approach encourages learning from the wisdom represented by Santiago. His insights into the sea and the art of fishing have been honed over many years, offering valuable life lessons. The yellow hat perspective prompts us to celebrate the transferring of knowledge from one generation to the next and appreciate the wisdom that comes with age. Jožičić affirmed that the yellow hat represents optimism and promotes good thinking as it emphasises benefits, constructive thinking, and getting things done (2022: p.72). Moreover, the yellow hat appreciates Santiago's wisdom, which comes from a lifetime of experience at sea. Despite his old age and physical challenges, Santiago's deep understanding of the ocean and its inhabitants enables him to outsmart and outmanoeuvre his opponents. His knowledge and intuition become invaluable assets during his battle with the marlin. Moreover, Bodhankar argued that yellow hat thinking brings optimism and commitment to the critical thinking and issue solving process (2023: p.450). It emphasises the capabilities and the

opportunities that circumstances provide (Bodhankar, 2023: p.450). Furthermore, it aims to build on current strengths and triumphs in order to reach higher heights of success.

Alternative choices for improved performance are explored using this hat (Bodhankar, 2023: p.450). Through the yellow hat's positive thinking approach, the theme of Wisdom in *The Old Man and the Sea* is emphasised to highlight the value of Santiago's lifetime of knowledge. Having spent most of his life as a fisherman, Santiago possesses a deep understanding of the sea and its creatures. His knowledge allows him to make informed decisions and navigate the challenges that come his way. The yellow hat perspective invites us to celebrate the wisdom gained through experience and how it shapes Santiago's actions. Aithal and Kumar indicated that the best solution with the yellow hat is that the outcome of a decision can be uncertain, especially in unclear situations (2017: p.4). In urgent cases, decisions often need to be made quickly with little information available (Aithal and Kumar, 2017: p.4). Santiago has been resilient with his unwavering spirit. He has faced numerous challenges, but with experience in hand; the odds seem even. His intellect is what enables him to progress during his difficult times. Santiago's yellow hat shows the importance of Wisdom and Experience and using them as motivation to conquer new challenges. Santiago's refusal to bow down to difficulties goes on to show the potential strengths one already possesses. The yellow hat reveals about courage and determination. Santiago is portrayed as an experienced fisherman by Hemingway, displaying how Santiago's journey is a testament to how wisdom solidifies the human spirit, and experience makes it stronger. Santiago is a perfect example of that, for he has lost time and time again but refuses to quit. He builds on each loss and learns what it takes to win. He has transformed his losses into invaluable experiences and is set out to conquer. Balancing optimism and pessimism are an art that many cannot master. The yellow hat does emphasize how Santiago can see the silver lining and has the ability to envision a better tomorrow by using Wisdom and Experience.

### **3.5.Green Hat: Theme of Symbolism**

*The Old Man and the Sea's* Symbolism gives the story a great deal of depth; the sharks, the sea, and the marlin all stand in for wider

existential themes and the complexities of life's challenges. For instance, the marlin symbolises the ultimate challenge and is a worthy adversary for Santiago. According to Hemingway, “He is two feet longer than the skiff,” Santiago said (2022: p.28). This quotation emphasizes the marlin's extraordinary size and strength, symbolising the pinnacle of Santiago's fishing career and his extraordinary talents. The sea is a difficult and complicated symbol for the vast and erratic powers of nature. Also, the novel's Symbolism emphasizes themes of human dignity, a struggle for survival, and the deep interconnectedness of all living things.

Another example of Symbolism can be seen in Hemingway's declaration, “The clouds were building up now for the trade wind and he looked ahead and saw a flight of wild ducks etching themselves against the sky over the water, then blurring, then etching again and he knew no man was ever alone on the sea” (2022: p.27). This observation underscores the sea's vastness and its unpredictable nature, symbolising the complex forces of life. It represents Santiago's resilience and connection to the natural world, suggesting that his spirit remains unconquered despite his outward appearance. Hemingway explains that “They were hateful sharks, bad smelling, scavengers as well as killers” (2022: p.50). So, the description of the sharks highlights their destructive nature, symbolising the challenges that threaten human efforts. Hemingway's declaration that “Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same colour as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated” (2022: p.1) describes Santiago's eyes as being like the sea—cheerful and undefeated, despite his age and the hardships that he faces.

The green hat represents creative thinking and new ideas that explore the symbolic significance of the sea and the marlin. The sea epitomises both the source of Santiago's livelihood and a vast and mysterious entity that represents the complexities of life. Kivunja stated that the green hat introduces new thoughts, options, suggestions, and proposals to critical thinking and problem-solving processes (2015: p.384). As a result, it signifies for inventive and original thinking. De Bono describes the green hat as follows: “This means moving forward to possibilities and new ideas” (1992d: p.72). The green hat allows for an exploration of the intricate relationship between man and nature, as seen in the struggle

between Santiago and the marlin. The green hat perspective prompts the reader to contemplate how the battle is not just a physical confrontation but a deeper connection between two forces of nature. The marlin's power mirrors the strength of the sea, highlighting the inseparable bond between man and the natural world. The green hat approach interprets how Santiago's time at sea serves to cleanse him of past failures and rejuvenate his spirit. Hence, by using the green hat of creative thinking, the reader can view the sea as more than just a physical setting in the novel. Gupta argues that the best way to use the green thinking hat is to find solutions for both old and new problems, as it encourages a love for challenges and creating new ideas (2023: p.450). Using the green hat's creative thinking approach helps to explore the symbols of the sea and the marlin in *The Old Man and the Sea*, uncovering the story's deeper meanings. Through creative thinking, Santiago perceives the marlin as more than just a large fish. It symbolises Santiago's pursuit of greatness and the potential for achieving extraordinary feats. The green hat approach explores how the marlin embodies Santiago's dreams, aspirations, and desire to prove himself as a skilled fisherman.

The green hat of creative thinking prompts to explore the marlin as a test of Santiago's character. The green hat perspective considers how the marlin's formidable presence challenges Santiago not only physically but also morally and spiritually. The struggle becomes an internal battle, representing Santiago's quest for personal growth and redemption. Jožičić explained that the green hat stands for creativity and new ideas. It shows a way of thinking that focuses on coming up with fresh ideas and solutions (2022: p.72). Hence, when wearing the green hat, individuals suggest practical steps to overcome challenges and accomplish tasks (Jožičić, 2022: p.72). The green hat approach draws parallels between Santiago's journeys at sea and broader human experiences, making the novel's themes resonate on a universal level. In conclusion, the green hat's creative thinking approach unravels the symbolism of the sea and the marlin in *The Old Man and the Sea*. Therefore, by interpreting the sea as a symbol of a mysterious entity, and the marlin as a symbol of greatness, the reader can gain a deeper understanding of the novel's profound themes.

### 3.6. Blue Hat: Theme of the Struggle

The struggle is the main theme in *The Old Man and the Sea*. It narrates the epic fight of the protagonist, Santiago, against the strong forces of nature and his inner self. The struggle of Santiago is many-dimensional; it is his fight with the marlin and his fight with the sea. The physical struggle of Santiago with the marlin is the most obvious manifestation of this theme. This is not only a struggle for survival, but he wants to prove his skill and retain his pride as a fisherman. There are also some struggles in regard to the interaction of Santiago with the sea as his enemy and friend; in that respect, the sea was always so unpredictable and hostile by its weather and strong currents with sharks, coming the way of Santiago. With such adversities, the respect and comprehension of the sea demonstrated by Santiago demonstrate the complex connection between man and nature. Ultimately, the struggle within *The Old Man and the Sea* is a powerful exploration of human endurance, resilience, and the dogged human pursuit for meaning and purpose. Hemingway described that Santiago expresses his intense determination and struggle with the marlin and he has hooked when he declares, "Fish, I love you and respect you very much. But I will kill you dead before this day ends" (2022: p.23). This statement reflects the physical and emotional battle that he faces, illustrating the theme of a struggle against the elements and his own limitations. Santiago's declaration, "I'll stay with you until I am dead" (Hemingway, 2022: p.23) exemplifies his unwavering determination and commitment to the struggle, highlighting his willingness to endure immense hardship. When sharks attack and devour the marlin, he has fought so hard to catch, Santiago does not succumb to despair. Instead, he fights the sharks with everything he has, demonstrating his indomitable spirit. Mogeia argued that Santiago faces constant struggles; even though it is risky for an old man and he is alone in the vast sea, he never gives up (2023: p.70). His deep knowledge of the sea, accumulated over years of experience, informs his actions and strategies, allowing him to confront challenges with wisdom and skill. Santiago's profound statement "A man can be destroyed but not defeated" (Rao, 2007: p.116) highlights his pride and determination, demonstrating his belief that real defeat is not in losing physically but in giving up on one's spirit. This feeling is reflected in

how he describes the constant challenges that he faces from nature: “They were hateful sharks, bad smelling, scavengers as well as killers” (Rao, 2007: p.117). Santiago's perseverance is not just about survival but also maintaining dignity and self-respect in the face of adversity. His internal monologue “You did not kill the fish only to keep alive and to sell for food, he thought. You killed him for pride and because you are a fisherman” (2022: p.49) reveals Santiago's deeper motivations and the internal struggle that he faces, highlighting the theme of pride and the existential quest for meaning.

Through the blue hat lens, Santiago's skiff transforms into a microcosm of organisation and planning. Aithal, Shailashree and Kumar declared that blue hat thinking brings a unique perspective to problem solving, assisting in the definition and articulation of the nature of the problem (2016: p.86). They also explained that setting clear goals or targets is essential to finding a solution, as well as planning and organising each step to move steadily toward the intended outcome (Aithal, Shailashree and Kumar, 2016: p.86). Under the blue hat, a strategic approach guides the analysis of Santiago's struggle against nature and fate. The blue hat approach focuses on carefully planning and organising a study of Santiago's journey through the tough challenges of the sea, highlighting the theme of struggle. Bodhankar explained that, since managerial thinking involves planning and organising using structured methods to solve problems, it aligns well with the blue hat thinking approach (2023: p.450). Through the blue hat, Santiago's reactions to challenges in his fight against nature and fate are organised. Each response, from planning his fishing trip to using the rope to catch the marlin, and his actions during shark encounters, are carefully analysed and sorted. Such organising and planning enable a deeper understanding of how Santiago's actions are shaped by his efforts to overcome the formidable obstacles in his path. Jozić argued that blue hat thinking emphasises discipline in summarising, reviewing, and concluding by focusing on planning, organising, and taking responsibility (2022: p.72). Wearing the blue hat prompts the development of strategies for defying fate within Santiago's narrative. This analysis can be organised into the Struggle against the elements, confrontation with marine predators, and resilience in the face of

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adversity. Santiago faces the raw forces of nature, such as the vast sea and unpredictable weather. Putting on the blue hat allows the developing of tactics to overcome these barriers hence providing Santiago's struggle towards physical barriers that nature poses. As such, Santiago's encounters with sharks, and all forms of creatures in the ocean turns to be a test of his relentless spirit. So, the blue hat adds the necessary coherence to this dimension by asking how devotion and strategic ingenuity sprouts in Santiago during the shark's onslaught. In fact, it is this form of strength that Santiago finds and helps him goes on when all is lost and hopeless. The blue hat permits to this preparation for Struggle categorising how Santiago exerts with all his energy against the brutal harshness of nature.

In blue hat terms, the tactics that Santiago employs to stay alive bodily in the ocean are systematically decomposed. Every technique described from preparing the fishing techniques to rationing on the little deck is broken down and classified. To sum up the focus that blue hat places on planning and on organization offers the most effective means to examine the struggle of nature and fate as it is portrayed in *The Old Man and the Sea*. This in turn enhances the meaning of Santiago's Struggle with the natural elements and destiny that happened. At last, if a reader applies the *Six Thinking Hats* technique to the key aspects of *The Old Man and the Sea*, it will enable them to adopt a more profound understanding of the rich philosophy of the human nature and human existence it seeks to encompass.

Finally, the main themes of *The Old Man and the Sea* can be better understood through an analysis using the *Six Thinking Hats* method. This will give readers profound insights into the novel regarding human nature and the human condition. These different thinking hats offer perspectives complementary to one another, adding to a holistic interpretation of Hemingway's timeless work.

#### 4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Looking through the lenses provided by Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats method on *The Old Man and The Sea* gives a whole different and more systematic coverage of its leading themes. Thus, the application of every type of hat focusing on various areas of interest during Santiago's adventure will let a reader grasp greater subtleties within the book. It is with this method that themes of Man versus Nature, Isolation and loneliness, Perseverance and Resilience, Wisdom and Experience, Symbolism, and Struggle have been brought to the fore as interwoven into the narrative of *The Old Man and the Sea*. The link between the white hat and the theme of Man versus Nature indicates a balance between human activities and the natural environment. Santiago demonstrates resourcefulness and survival skills by adapting tools and techniques to problem-solving, particularly when he loses his sail. As far as the relationship between the black hat and the theme of Isolation and Loneliness is concerned, it is a better sense of the amount of critical thinking a person engages in while making decisions independently can be gained by putting on the black hat and exploring Santiago's loneliness and lack of human interaction. On the other hand, the importance of the red hat and the theme of Perseverance and Resilience lead to an important conclusion that can be perceived when Santiago follows his emotions and feelings as he sails into the vast sea. For the connection between the yellow hat and Wisdom and Experience theme, this link appreciates Santiago's wisdom which stems from a lifetime of experience at sea. As for the green hat considers Symbolism by interpreting the sea as a symbol of a mysterious entity, and the marlin as a symbol of greatness. Finally, the relevance between the blue hat and theme of Struggle led to the developing of tactics to overcome barriers such as sharks and forms of creatures in the ocean hence providing Santiago's struggle towards physical barriers that imposed by nature. So, the results of the study indicate that it is possible to apply the six thinking hats theory to literature in which main themes of *The Old Man and the Sea* are revealed by the analysis of The Six Thinking Hats.

As for the recommendations, the researcher concluded two recommendations: first, both teaching and management may gain greatly from Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats. This approach to education encourages students to think creatively, and comprehend subjects more

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fully. Second, the Six Thinking Hats in management can enhance collaboration and decision-making by enabling individuals to exchange ideas and come up with better answers. This approach improves the organization and efficiency of learning and working.

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