# Santiago's Strong Motivation in Hemingway's The Old Man and The Sea



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### Abstract

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The Old Man and the Sea mostly tells about the fight between an old fisherman, named Santiago, and a giant fish for three days on the sea. The interesting thing is that the old man is so stubborn that he keeps holding the line that links it to the fish which is towing his skiff. Here the writer is curious why this old man has strong motivation in catching the fish. Focusing on analyzing the main character, the writer formulates the problem as "What are the factors that affect Santiago's strong motivation in his three-day-battle with the fish?

The analysis is conducted in two steps. The first one is the intrinsic analysis based on Perrine's and Hawthorn's theory. In the analysis, the exploration is used as the basis of the second step in which the writer employs Maslow's theory of motivation and to find out the factors that affect's strong motivation in his three-day-battle with the giant fish.

From the analysis, the writer finds that there are four factors affecting Santiago's strong motivation. The first factor that affects his motivation is the physiological need. This is the most basic need of human being. The second factor is the need of security and love. Santiago feels intimidated in the village because of his failure to catch fish, here Santiago tries to be accepted in his society as a great fisherman. The third factor is the need of pride and honor. Santiago commits to catch big fish because his pride and honor as a fisherman is hurt. The forth factor that affects Santiago's strong motivation is the need of self actualization. As an experienced fisherman, Santiago is failed to catch a fish for eight-four days. In this case, Santiago's goal is an epic catch not for the money but to prove his skill and reassert his identity as a great fisherman.