



# The Characters of Ernest Hemingway and the Shift in Their Literary Depictions in Relation to Biographical Accounts of Hemingway's life.

Matthew James Bonzi  
California State University, Stanislaus

## Research Question

How do the Characters in famous works of literature by Ernest Hemingway shift in relation to the criticism Hemingway faced in his personal life from literary and other influential reviewers on his writing career.

## Background and Literature Review

The novels, novellas, and short stories by Ernest Hemingway all contain thematic elements surrounding the consumption of alcohol. Biographical accounts of his life show changes in alcohol consumption that coincide with three famous works, *The Snow of Kilimanjaro* (Hemingway 1936), *Old Man and the Sea* (Hemingway 1952), and *A Farwell to Arms* (Hemingway 1929).

The work of Benson shows a possible acting out of the "what if" scenario in the mind of the writer are in order to establish better understanding about an event in their life (Benson 1989).

In an interview by Boisvert, Laing claims a lack of unhappiness in childhood drove the desire to use alcohol as a coping mechanism (Boisvert 2013).

Malone explains biographical events in Hemingway's life supported by correspondence and firsthand biographical accounts from those close to Hemingway (Malone 2017).

## Methods

### Participants

In the literary field of research, I will be conducting, experimentation in a qualitative method. The participants involved are the fiction characters created by Ernest Hemingway and biographers.

### Materials

I will use the works of Hemingway, mainly "A Farwell to Arms", "The Old Man and the Sea", and "The Snow of Kilimanjaro", as primary sources, along with biographies. I will use JSTOR and MLA International Bibliography to locate scholarly articles, adding to work by Benson, Laing and Malone.

### Procedure

I will thematically analyze Ernest Hemingway's stories in connection to the biographical events in his life at the time of said stories were written. I will examine biographical works about Hemingway looking for corroborating stories.

### Design

In order to conduct this research, I will follow the qualitative design mode. I will thematically analyze Ernest Hemingway's stories in connection to the biographical events in his life at the time of said stories were written. I will examine biographical works about Hemingway looking for corroborating stories.

## Expected Results

The expectation of this study is to establish reliable examples of Hemingway's life being depicted in the work of his literature in order to establish if there had been a change in the behavior of his characters within the works, especially the way they handle their hardships through the consumption of alcohol.

## Significance

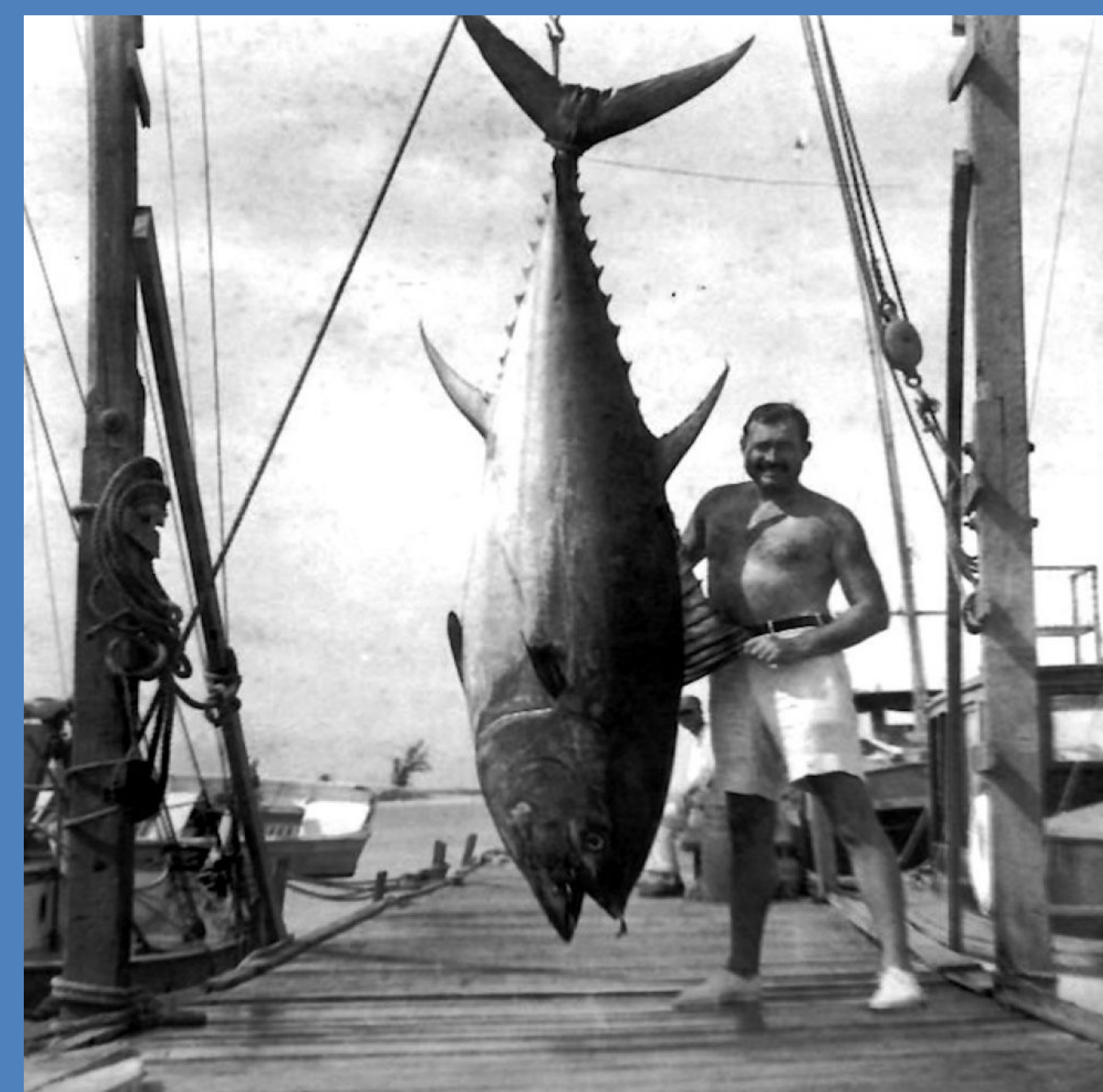
The significance of this research is to show the need of separation between the writer and the works that they produce. I hope to show a shift in the way Hemingway's characters are being portrayed in congruence with multiple accounts of his personal life at the time said works were written.

## References

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- Boisvert, Will. (2013). PW talks with Olivia Laing: Message in a bottle. *The Publishers Weekly*, 260(43), 45.
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## Introduction

Alcoholism was a prominent attribute said to be found in most Expatriate writers of the Modernist Era. This quality, naturally was also appeared in the characters they created. The possible connection between the two is a topic that has been under discussion since before the writers themselves even died. The personal life of Ernest Heming was put into print by the critics of his time and more biographers to follow. Hemingway's life was heavily scrutinized and whether the accusations were justified or not is not the sole purpose of this research. I will be looking at a shift in the characters and the way said characters behave in relation to Hemingway's own personal troubles with love, alcohol, and mortality through the course of his life. There are approximately three stories that I feel are representative of this struggle: *A Farwell to Arms*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and *The Snow of Kilimanjaro*.



## CONTACT

Matthew James Bonzi  
Email: Mbonzi@csustan.edu  
Phone: (209) 585-5110