

Abstract

Eros and *thanatos* are the instinctual drive that are known to have a very distinct characteristic. Yet, they influence each other in the development of human behavior in the unconscious. The instinctual drives are believed to be shaped by the children development as one of the internal factors that affect them. Not only the internal factor appears to influence the development of human behavior but the external factor also has the same portion. By drawing the historical background of Great Depression as the context, the writer explored the negotiation between *eros* and *thanatos* affected by the external factor. A novel by John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*, can be seen as a literature which portrays human behavior toward others during a depressed time. Focused on George Milton's characteristic as the prominent determinant in the story, the writer used psychoanalytic approach to reveal the negotiation of the instinctual drives. Thus, the study has explored three findings; the Great Depression as the historical background, the relationship between George Milton and Lennie small, and the last is the negotiation between *eros* and *thanatos*.

Keywords: *eros; thanatos; great depression; human behavior*



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION