

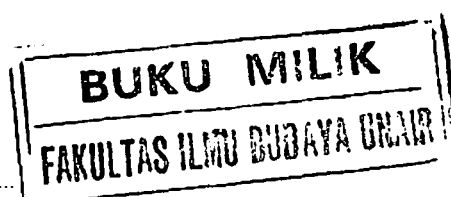
Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Every human being has the motivation to survive and fulfil his/her destiny. There are innumerable motivations to be achieved in this life. Motivation is the basis of a reason behind a person's actions or decisions. Another way to capture the concept of motivation is to think about typical achievement behaviour, such as studying for examination, and to view it as a temporal sequence that is started, sustained, directed, and finally terminated (Graham and Weiner 63). In life, human beings never stop relying on three basic needs: food, clothing and shelter. These three things are considered as human's most basic needs. In order to fulfil those basic needs, people work to make money so they will be able to afford their needs. This activity has become a pattern of life to most people nowadays; it also makes economy as the core of human's activity. Behind this action, there is motivation which urges people to succeed in fulfilling their needs.

Economy controls every aspect of life such as social, business, even politic. Imagine a situation where people cannot find a job and fulfil their basic needs. Most Americans who lived during the year of 1920-1930 experienced a difficult situation when they are not able to seek for enough financial sources for their basic needs. There was a time when American citizen could not have any job and foraged in a very hard way. It was caused by the fall of the American economy.



Great Depression is the American economy downturn that lasted for a decade. From 1929 to 1930, the level of industrial production fell farther and faster in the United States than in any countries (Bernstein 2). It started from the great fall of the stock markets in America which was then followed by the collapse of economy. This event made the economic cycles in the US slightly broken, so that the whole country affected as a result. Unemployment happened everywhere, finding a job was not as easy as before. According to Bernie, as for unemployment, the rate for the United States was, on average, the highest among all the industrialized nations throughout the thirties (12). There were a few people committed suicide because they could not think much on how to earn money to stay alive.

This economic depression weakened every business activity and affected the life of American citizen. People at that time were forced to work harder to earn some money to live. Every man had to keep making money with a very cramped of job opportunities. That was the most stressful situation for every individual. As explained above, money is being the basic need of human being. Once it cannot be fulfilled, people will be under pressure to find the way out. It was known that the Great Depression changed the way people think of producing money; they became individualistic since they had to compete with thousand jobseekers. People were struggling individually to avoid the anxiety that they would deprive for money.

The writer learns there is a literary text written by John Steinbeck which is related to the issue above, about how a stressful situation affects an individual's

anxiety. Anxiety will also affect on how an individual treats each other in order to stay alive. The literary text is entitled *Of Mice and Men*; it is a novel by a Noble Prize winning author, John Steinbeck. John Steinbeck is known for his notorious novels *The Grapes of Wrath* and *East of Eden*.

In this study, the writer chooses a novel written by John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men* because the novel has an interesting issue about human behaviour in difficult circumstances. *Of Mice and Men* is a novel about the life of the ranch workers in California, USA. Another consideration for choosing the novel is because it has an interesting main character named George Milton. The main character has a company named Lennie Small. George is a sharp and intelligent man, while Lennie is a big man with a limited mental ability. They both travel together from town to town to seek for a job. Lennie loves to pet soft things like small animals, silky dresses etc. While on a walk, Lennie pets a mouse and strokes it to death. George is very aware of this and warns him not to do it again. At the ranch in Soledad where they work, they meet other ranch workers and soon befriended with them. Until then there is an accident when Lennie accidentally kills the wife of the ranch owner's son. The whole ranch finds out the wife's body, and they quickly conclude who has done it. The son gets in a great anger, he commands everyone to go after Lennie and kill him. George goes to the place where he used to ask Lennie to go if he gets in any trouble. George tells him about the story of their imaginary farm and gets ready to shoot him in the back of his head. George quickly pulls the trigger and shoots Lennie to death.

During the Great Depression, every man in America has to work harder to fulfil the basic needs. Most of men travel alone to earn some money, but in this novel George does not travel alone. He is accompanied by his friend who suffers mental backwardness, Lennie Small. This unusual behaviour compared to others is considered as unique characteristic. Besides, George also has an interesting way to survive which creates such a prominent ending in this novel. During the survival journey to earn a proper living, in the end of the story George has to kill Lennie since he always causes troubles in the place where they work. This makes the novel interesting because it portrays an unusual way of surviving that is done by the main character. John Steinbeck depicts George Milton as a dilemmatic character where he has to choose between his own life and his friend who always obstructs his path to earn a better life.

Commonly, there are many problems that must be faced within our life. While sometimes it makes our life looks complicated and complex, we as human beings have the intellect and feelings to deal with the problems. Apparently this novel is able to show the difficulty to make a decision in a state of complexity. The novel shows how human being can think, feel, and behave in a tight situation. This state of human behaviour is considered best to be analyzed with psychoanalytic approach, because the approach is concerned in characteristic of human behaviour. This novel has suited the discussion about how a certain situation can affect human behaviour.

Thinking and making decision are some instances of how people behave. The formation of the decision shows that each individual human being has

particular motivation within them. With various needs that are demanding to be met, this is where the negotiation against several priorities happens. The negotiation is influenced by motivation that a person carries and the context in which it occurs. Both of those can have a major impact toward the unconscious mind which is really prominent in shaping the behaviour of human being. Based on the explanation, the theory is very useful to assist the analysis of instinctual drives portrayed in the characters in *Of Mice and Men*.

1.2. Statement Of The Problem

As explained above, here is the statement of the problem that the writer thinks will be helpful in analyzing the occurrence of Eros and Thanatos in the literary work:

How is the negotiation between Eros and Thanatos developed by George Milton in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*?

1.3. Objective of The Study

This study will find out the development of Eros and Thanatos' negotiation performed by George Milton as the main character in the story.

1.4. Significance of Study

The significance of this study is to show the reader the representation of human unconscious which affects the behaviour. Human unconscious consists of the basic instinct that drives the action of human being. This unconscious mind

eventually builds the characteristic of one character which can affect his/her action toward other characters. Therefore, this topic will be analyzed with psychoanalysis theory.

The writer believes that each literary work contains of psychological elements that can be examined by psychoanalysis criticism, especially the characters. According to Bressler, we observe people in action, decisions making, struggling to maintain their humanity in often inhumane circumstances, and embodying for us a variety of values and human characteristics that we may embrace, discard, enjoy, or detest (14). Indeed, the writer has an expectation that this study will be useful for those who are interested in psychoanalytic issues which portray in literary works. Besides, this study will be a reference for students of English Department of Airlangga University who are interested in analyzing characteristic of characters in literary work by examining its psychological elements.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

A literary work usually has several characters with certain characteristic which support the story. In literary work we find stories about people with such imaginative idea which we cannot find in real life. Thus, the writer will focus on how the concept of human instinct works on the character in *Of Mice and Men* primarily on how the negotiation of Eros and Thanatos develops. The chosen work has two main characters in the story; however the paper will focus only on one character –George Milton. George Milton is considered as the focused subject

in this study because he has a prominent role in the story. He has an ultimate decision in his life which influences his future life. The act of making a decision which is done by George is one of a kind that the writer mentioned as human behaviour.

1.6. Theoretical Background

This study will focus on the workings of instinct in the main character in *Of Mice and Men*. The instinct in the work will be analyzed using Psychoanalytic Criticism approach. This approach itself will be narrowed to the psychoanalysis theory which is proposed by Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalysis believes that human behaviour is constructed from the deepest part of their mind. The idea of psychoanalysis establishes a particular human behaviour which is portrayed in the work.

In life, we often experience dreams with an irrational storyline and the presence of something which is abstract and even bizarre. In this case, psychoanalysis believes that what appears in our dreams is actually a symbol of the projection from our unconscious mind. As well as how our dreams work, our behaviour everyday also casts the same idea. Our actions and words come out according to what our unconscious wish. Each individual has different mind or ideas that also bring to different characteristics. The concept of Psychoanalytic Criticism which is going to be discussed is based on the psychoanalytic principles promoted by Freud.

The idea of psychoanalysis by Freud concerns in human behaviour. Freud proposed a model of human psyche to elaborate the system of human behaviour; the consciousness, the preconscious, and the unconsciousness. The least one is the deepest part of human and it consists of instinct and drives. The drives are; *eros* (the instinct of life) and *thanatos* (the instinct of death). The drives have a significant role in determining the actions which are taken by human. Thus, this deepest level is the most important part in shaping human behaviour.

According to the explanation above, Psychoanalytic Criticism approach is the most appropriate theory to use in analyzing the instinct of the main character in the chosen work, *Of Mice and Men*. It has prominent principle which proposed by Freud that a literary text is a part of human being; it produces certain characteristic drawn from real human being life. By examining the characteristic of the main character, the writer will be able to observe how the instinct works on a character primarily in the negotiation of Eros and Thanatos.

1.7. Method of The Study

The study is conducted using qualitative research since it deals with qualitative data. The writer analyzes one of John Steinbeck's novels; *Of Mice and Men*. It is the primary source in this paper. The analysis focuses on examining the instinct of human behaviour in the main character of the work with Psychoanalytic Criticism approach. The method that is used is library research. The writer conducted a data collecting through library research; collecting data from books that is associated with the analysis. Besides that, the writer also

conducted a library research from some reliable websites. The online sources assist the understanding in both the text and the theory used for the analysis. All the sources that are selected from books and internet are gathered to provide the analysis in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.

After performing the data collection, the next step is analysing the data. Since the writer used Psychoanalytic Criticism approach, a character analysis is important to be done. The character analysis is conducted to all the data collected from library research; those data considered as the secondary source. The individual of characters in the work becomes the focus in the process of analyzing. According to Tyson's *Critical Theory Today* a character's motivations and actions became more complex than attributing them to the author's ideas. Therefore, interpreting a character in literary work became an integral part of the text's interpretation. As explained before that human behaviour is a part of literary work, in this level the writer will conduct a supportive analysis with psychoanalysis concept to reveal the characteristic of instinct in the main character. Since the analysis will use Psychoanalytic Criticism approach in examining the human psyche and the structure of personality of a character. The study will only focus on Freud's psychoanalysis concept in human behaviour of instinctual drives. The writer will breakdown the characteristic of the prominent character, then by using the Psychoanalytic approach she will elaborate the characteristic of human behaviour in the literary work. After performing the elaboration, the negotiation between *Eros* and *Thanatos* will be examined using the concept of id, ego, and superego.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

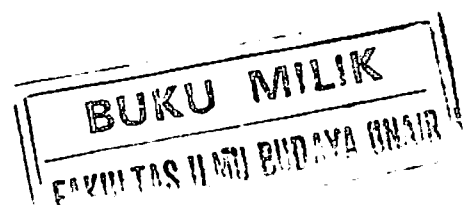
Eros: the sum of life-preserving instincts that are manifested as impulses to gratify basic needs (as sex), as sublimated impulses motivated by the same needs, and as impulses to protect and preserve the body and mind—called also *life instinct*.

Human being: a man, woman, or child of the species *Homo sapiens*, distinguished from other animals by superior mental development, power of articulate speech, and upright stance.

Instinct: an innate bodily state of excitation that seeks expression and tension release. For Freud, mental representations of innate bodily excitations are reflected in the form of wishes.

Negotiation: official discussions between the representatives of opposing groups who are trying to reach an agreement.

Thanatos: an innate and unconscious tendency toward self-destruction postulated in psychoanalytic theory to explain aggressive and destructive behavior not satisfactorily explained by the pleasure principle—called also *death instinct*.



CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW