

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1. Background of the Study

Literature or literary work, in particular, is said to be a part of human life. Man needs literature to satisfy his spiritual needs such as: beauty, truth, and dreams. Mostly, the characters, the conditions or the circumstances presented in literary works can be found in real life.

Literary work such as novel is an important human creation among other arts and work within life fully occupied by sets of activities that bring forth human culture. As stated by Graham Little in his Approach to Literature that literary work seems to deal with the deeper insight of human life. It contains the record of the people's values, their thoughts, their problems and conflicts, in short, their whole way of life. Literary work can broaden and stimulate our minds, make us people of wider human sympathy and enhance our enjoyment of life (1966: p. 3).

Novel as one of literary work is greatly concerned with characters. Because of its scope, a novel will be expected to present one or a few characters in outline. It is also expected that a novel will trace the development of characters as

a result of experiences of which the plot tell, and explore in some depth the personal relationships of character (very often the relationships of love in all its varieties and complexities) (Little, 1966: p. 101).

It does not exaggerate then, since the writer thinks in reading the novel entitled The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck is like watching the reflection of migrants' survival in the depression era. For there are good and bad conditions happened in this worldwide, she is then captured by Joads' struggle in order to get better life on the land which is crushed by drought and depression. There are about five thousand families, one of them is Joads, not just hungry but actually starving. They are described insecurity, low income, homeless, inadequate standards of living, impoverishment in matters of education and cultural opportunities, and a lack of spiritual satisfaction. By seeing the condition like that the writer wants to know how they live in their damaged or deteriorated place, how they stubbornly struggle to remain in that place. What makes them leaving Oklahoma is that they want to find a better life in California. That is why she is interested in writing literary appreciation on one of John Steinbeck's popular stories, The Grapes of Wrath.

This novel describes how difficult life the migrants experience. The standard of their living is very

low. They are still wishing for work, to have food for their children, and a shelter for their home, not a tent or cartons for their houses. They are very suffering. They don't know how long they will be able to keep their family alive at that rate. They are very poor and have not enough clothing to wear. Education is unknown for them because the only thing they must think is how to survive in that land.

The novel demonstrates how labor organizations grow from the desperation of the workers and how capitalism take the profit from machinery that will oppress and even destroy the laborer. The lower class usually bears a disproportionately large share of the costs of social change. When there are many people without jobs, competition among them leads them to accept lower wages for if they refuse to work for low pay, there is someone else desperate to take their place. Low wages, in turn, mean higher profits for the owner.

Oklahoma farmers who are wiped out by the Great Depression go to California in search of jobs in fruit orchads. In spring, all of the plants begin to grow up in California. When the harvest time comes the big canneries are owned by the big landowners and then they depress the prices and force whole sale of crops eventhough people are starving everywhere. Each day, the owners spread

rumors that large number of jobs are available; an enormous crowd gathers at the gate, and the owners announce a pitifully low rate of pay. The people looking for work can see that only a few of them will get jobs, that they are all hungry and homeless, and that even a low wage is better than no wage at all.

I.2. Statement of the Problem

As the writer stated in the background of the study this novel describes Joads' struggle in order to get better life in the depression era. They are described insecurity, homeless, low income, and inadequate standard of living. This novel represents how difficult life they experience during the drought and depression, and how they struggle to survive spiritually and physically.

Based on the explanation above her statement of the problem :

- How do Joads survive physically and spiritually in The Grapes of Wrath ?

I.3. Objective of the Study

The primary objective of this thesis is to explain how difficult Joads survive physically and spiritually on the land which is crushed by drought and depression.

The second is to fulfill the requirements for the Sarjana degree of the English Department, Faculty of

Social and Political Sciences, Airlangga University.

I.4. Significance of the Study

Hopefully this thesis is more valuable contribution to the student of English Department to know more on John Steinbeck's works especially his The Grapes of Wrath, so the students can broaden their view of literature in general and English literature in particular.

Besides this thesis will be useful to the study of literary work, especially on the intrinsic aspects of literature. By analyzing Joads' survival on the land which is crushed by drought and depression, we are able to understand about human sufferings and problems portrayed by their actions on this novel. By so doing we can study from them, and possible to apply it in our real life.

I.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope and limitation of this thesis lie on the study of Joads' survival in The Grapes of Wrath. In this case the writer wants to describe their struggle to survive spiritually and physically during the drought and depression. How difficult life even suffering from starving, disease they experience through this novel, and how they grow from the desperateness.

I.6. Theoretical Background

Dealing with the objective of the study in analyzing Joads' survival in this novel the writer would like to use the objective theory as the limitation of the scope of her analysis and literary approach as the basic principle to analyze the novel.

It means that she wants to make the intrinsic analysis based on the structure elements of the novel itself. However, she doesn't take all those intrinsic elements of her analysis, she takes plot, setting, and characterization, to explain Joads' survival in The Grapes of Wrath, how difficult Joads struggle physically and spiritually in the depression era. Based on the objective theory the writer wants to focus her attention in how the internal structures of the novel contribute to the subject matter that she will find.

I.7. Method of the Study

This thesis is a library research. The writer collects the datas and informations which support the analysis from the references or other printed materials dealing with the life of John Steinbeck.

After collecting the data from some informations, she also uses descriptive analysis. It means that she collects some words from the script as her datas. Sometimes she analyzes those datas and quotes them in pure form. But sometimes she describes those datas

or symbols ; which have conotative meaning by paraphrasing them, and quotes them. So there are many quotations to support her analysis. She analyzes her datas and arranges them in chronological order.

Dealing with background of the problem to analyze Joads' survival in this novel she uses interpretative analysis. In this analysis she wants to interpret what the novel means to him or illustrate his idea of the novel's meaning. To do this, she selects and arranges some of the incidents and dialogues from the novel which support her interpretation. Her selection and arrangement are subjective, guided by her individual view of the book. But her interpretation is reliable because it does not contradict the text or anything people know about John Steinbeck's intension in writing the novel.

I.8. Definition of Key Terms

Conflict is situation in which have two opposing forces, it means the conflict between the characters and their environment.

Survival is the state of continuing to live in spite of nearly dying or being destroyed or having to deal with very difficult circumstance.

Struggle is trying very hard to do in difficult condition in order to survive.

I.9. Organization of the Paper

This thesis consists of five chapters which are

related to each other. Chapter I explains about the background of this thesis, why the writer chooses Steinbeck's novel and what makes her interested in analyzing Joads' survival in The Grapes of Wrath. It also explains about the significance of this thesis, scope and limitation and methodology of this thesis.

Chapter II is about theoretical framework, which one theories she applies to analyze this novel, and further explanation about the reason why she uses those theories.

Chapter III is about biographical sketch of the author and synopsis of this novel. The readers maybe want to know the background of the author, therefore the writer wants to explain about author's biographical sketch.

Chapter IV is the analysis of this thesis. In this chapter the writer will explain Joads'survival in The Grapes of Wrath .

Chapter V is the conclusion which explain something she can get after analyzing this novel.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK