

ABSTRACT

Desperation is a negative characteristic of human being. It is a state of being filled with despair, it is an extreme form of reaction against another's action. It is considered to be a common problem of every human being as a reaction of a strong disappointment against undesirable surrounding.

Maggie Tulliver, the central character of *The Mill on the Floss* undergoes this desperate feeling due to her adoption to the distorted treatment of her surrounding that has effected her personality. Her different way of facing life make her live in suffering, for people in her surrounding are controlled by their emotional feeling to reach their ambition without any consideration as Maggie does.

In finding the facts in this study Todorov's structural theory is used, for the problems are dominants in the structure of the text. In detail Semantic aspect is used. It is aimed at explaining the cause and effect of her attitude related to her surrounding by using Sintagmatic and Paradigmatic elements.

The research outcome shows a coherence between theory used and the basic idea of the research. Through the structure of the text desperation in the novel can be revealed through the main character's presence, Maggie, from a childhood to the end of her life she never be free from psychological burden, her death means one thing the happiness is hard to find.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION