

CHAPTER IV

C O N C L U S I O N

Steinbeck's The Pearl has, so far, been discussed in three chapters. In this following chapter, a conclusion will be summarized based on all the previous discussions.

The Pearl is one of Steinbeck's works which can be considered as a literary work of a good quality. Firstly, its intrinsic elements have been composed in such a smart way so that it can yield an admirable artistic quality. Secondly, The Pearl imparts valuable knowledge on some crucial problems and aspects of human being life.

The plot of The Pearl has been structured keenly so that it may bring the story move forward smoothly, and this is reinforced by the inclusion of various kinds of conflicts. This incorporation has given a sense of causal relationship in each of the story's events, and, at the same time, a sense of logical coherence.

The portrayal of the story's characters in The Pearl is done so comprehensively so that it creates a sense of plausibility. Through the characters of the story we know a great deal of human personality. Steinbeck leads us to understand that human personality can be learned from the place where the organism lived, from the way the organism lives their life, and, in short, from all aspects of the

organism themselves. Steinbeck gives a view that the people of the village who usually lives close to nature and shares a good relationship with both neighbors and God will show such characteristics as honesty, loyalty, helpful, and thankful to God. Whereas, the individuals who usually live in the town will mostly show such characteristics as dishonesty, unfaithfulness, cruelty, arrogance, greedy, and egoism. This is reinforced further by the appropriate setting's specifications and by the use of the musical device.

The setting itself is important not only in its relation to the story's characters but also in its roles both in giving sociological as well as cultural informations and in giving a sense of lively quality of nature.

The setting, the musical device, and the characters' portrayal is reinforced more by the uses of imagery and figurative language. The uses of imagery and figurative language can give a stronger emphasis upon the other intrinsic elements of the story. Besides, by using imagery and figurative language Steinbeck can arouse the emotion, imagination, senses, and intuition of the readers from the beginning to the end of the story. In short, by using all these literary devices Steinbeck leads us to see things not only based on their physical outlooks but to see them from their imaginative impressions as well.

The use of the pearl as a symbol in The Pearl makes the readers feel freer and easier in understanding and in interpreting the story's meaning and essence.

It is clear enough that The Pearl's intrinsic structures are related to each other very closely, and that each of these elements can not be separated one from another. In other words, all these elements are structured in such a way so that they can together create both the aesthetic quality and the total meaning of the story. In short, a separation of one element from the others can destruct the meaning and the essence of the story.

By bringing the main theme of the story, "The Vanity of Human Wishes", Steinbeck has presented a very crucial aspect in human life. It teaches us that human being must not hope to gain things in life more than the need, human being should be satisfied with everything they had. In short, in this life human being must not be greedy, such a greediness can even destroy ourselves.

In the sense of sociological concerns, Steinbeck has described social problems that can possibly— it often happen—exist in the real life. Steinbeck portrays how in a social life there can be a discrimination among people of different social statuses or different races, there can also be a certain pattern of social or cultural relationships, and, finally, in life there can be a social oppression, exploitation, and also injustice.

Through The Pearl, Steinbeck has imparted too some psychological matters. Steinbeck brings the readers into an understanding that different motivations can lead and direct someone to behave in relatively distinct ways. The author of The Pearl makes us aware that human being can be motivated to behave either by internal or external factors. Steinbeck tells us too that an individual may fight each other due to these different motivations. In other words, a conflict will appear whenever there is an incompatible preference of action between two person. The conflicts can be a physical one and can also be a moral conflict. A conflict can arise too in a human being self because of different crucial options to decide.

In the term of philosophical or moral concern, Steinbeck gives us a description about two different forces in this world. The first world represents the innocent world and the other is the world of evil. There will always be an eternal moral conflict between these two contradictory forces. The innocent world will value the worth of life based on non-material achievements. This world of innocence values that a happy life will be gained by having the safety, the unity and the warmth of the family life, sharing a good and helpful relationship with the neighbors and with the natural surroundings, and also by maintaining a good relationship with God. On the con-

trary, the evil world considers that physical pleasures and material gains are the only aim of life, and that is the happiness in itself. The world of evil will do everything in order to meet or to gain this need.

In this way, Steinbeck wants to give a message to us that we, human being, must not value the worth of life in the basis of material orientations, but human being should focus the main attention mostly on spiritual sides of life. Steinbeck views that human being should be satisfied enough with all things they have possessed. We must be thankful to God who has given us life, and we should enjoy everything we have been rewarded by Him in our lives.

Steinbeck has warned the readers not to have dreams, hopes, and wishes too high, in the sense that the wishes beyond their capability of achieving it.

Finally, we understand too that The Pearl has been structured in such a smart way so that both intrinsic and extrinsic elements can create a sense of structural coherence and unity. Both intrinsic and extrinsic elements, thus, has given helps in grasping the total meaning of the story.