

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Every person has dream to be happy in their lives. Sometimes people regard a wealthy as a symbol of happiness, since persons see wealth in different ways; there are many definitions of “wealth”. For example there is a person who could eat three times a day then they already consider themselves as a wealthy person because they feel pleasant with their lives. On the other hand, there is a person who has a lot of houses, cars, and much money but they still consider himself as a poor person.

“Dream is condition or achievement that is longed for an aspiration; dream is a fantastic but vain hope” (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/dream>). When people do something to get their dream, they will struggle for it every time such as working hard, but there is also a person that has been working very hard and they also have a great optimistic, unfortunately some of them cannot reach their dream until the end of their lives. Their entire dream is fragile together with their failure. The fragility of dream usually happens to the poor persons, because they live in limited condition, they cannot get anything they need. So, they always dream to be better. But, because of many reasons, such as political condition, low education and few of position, they cannot reach their dream. In social fact, the fragility of dream also had happen to the American migrant workers in early twentieth century, when the Great depression happened.

Many people traveling to the ranches have the dream of having own land and having the ability to be in control of their own lives, unlike reality, where they abide by what the owner of the ranch says, but many of them dream is only as a nightmare. (<http://www.123helpme.com.preview.asp?id=119490>)

The Fragility of Dream in American migrant workers begun when most of the American Society has the Dream and it is called as “American Dream”. It is an American society dream to get a better life. American dream reflects that American society want to get their own land, their own house, or own farm. American Dream in <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/dream> meant as the widespread aspiration of Americans to live better than their parent did. The American Dream also can be described as follow:

“The American Dream is also an American nightmare, that underlying attitude in American, that if you work hard enough you will have money and prestige. There are millions of Americans working very hard and long hours that have neither money nor prestige, nor will they ever have it” (<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=1006041420204>.)

Cincotta (2004:246) states that as a free country, America is a good place to settle in order to get the better life; most of the immigrants came from Europe and Africa. Some historians explain that from the 17th century when the first settlers arrived, immigrants dreamed of a better life in America. People went there to escape from persecution or poverty and make a new life for themselves or their families. For many people the dream became nightmare, the horrors of slavery of the American civil war, the growth of towns with slums as bad as those in Europe, the corruption of the American political system led to many shattered hopes, and this was start of the Great Depression that would affect the world during the

1930s. (<http://kelibrary.hmccd.edu/decade30.html>). However the Dream survived for individuals, many of them made their way to travel in California to get a better life.

The author of literary work sometimes creates the work by seeing the fact, by feeling the reality and making up their consciousness to make movement. For the author realities are the source of inspiration to create literary work that can be taken from his social life or his personal experience. It is possible for the entire author and John Steinbeck is not an exception.

John Steinbeck is a good and great writer in that era. From many Virtual references explained that John Steinbeck's most famous books are set in California. They deal with the lives and problem of working people in Twentieth century. Many characters in his books are immigrants from Mexico or from other parts of the United States who want to California looking for work or a better life. Steinbeck first became widely known with *Tortilla Flat* (1935) - a series of humorous stories about Monterey *paisanos*. After his *Tortilla Flat* he moved to more serious fiction, often aggressive in its social critics on *Dubious Battle* (1936) and then this followed by *Of Mice and Man* (1937), *The Long Valley* (1938), *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939), *East of Eden* (1952), *The Winter of our Discontent* (1961), and *Travels With Charley* (1962).

Of Mice and Man is one of Steinbeck's very interesting novels because the content of the story is so wonderful and unfathomable. The reader will not stop to read before the end. It is not like majority of fiction that explore about miracle like in *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, etc, but it tell us about someone 'imbecile giant

Lennie' who never gets happiness until the end of his life. The story of this novel is about the fragility of people's dream or in short is fragility of dream. This novella's title comes from a poem "To a Mouse" by Scots poet Robert Burns (1759-1796). Burns shows how the plans of men are no more secure than those of mouse. And this is point of Steinbeck's title. The source of the character's dream is their discontent with their present. Steinbeck shows how poor their lifestyle is: they have few positions, fewer comforts, no chance of marriage or family life and no place of their own. (<http://www.azete.com.preview.98675>).

In *Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck creates characters to have an optimistic dream. They have a desire to fulfill their dream. For example, Lennie and George both work to get their own land. Almost every time they always talk about their dreams in having own land. Candy and Crooks, the minor characters in this novel, also try to share in their dream. Candy is desperate and ready to trust his fortune to this plan. He also invests all his money to buy their dreaming land. But Crooks is most cynical about the dream. He often says that no body ever gets to heaven and no body gets any land. The end of this novel seems to confirm Crooks's pessimistic view. None of the character achieves his or her dream.

In this novel, Steinbeck also presents unusual character. He is Lennie. His body is like giant man and very strong. He can put up a four hundred pound bale and can resell grain bass. But his mental is child out look. He always forgets something important happened in his life. He also gains pleasure from "pet" soft thing even dead mice. He is emotionally and dependent. Panic in others makes Lennie panic too. It happened when he tried to pet a girls dress in Weed, when he

was attached by Curley and when he stroked Curley's wife's hair. In all of his limited condition, he also has dream to have his own land and takes care his own rabbits, although his dream is fragile.

From the illustration above, the writer is interested in analyzing the Fragility of Dream in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* by using Genetic Structuralism Approach, developed by Lucian Goldmann. Genetic Structuralism is the theory that not only focuses on structure of the literary work, but also the sociological aspect of the work.

B. Literature Review

The writer presents the previous study dealing with the study of this novel. Dheny Ratna (2005) Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta's Student in her thesis entitled "Ambitions of Lennie Small and George Milton in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*; An Individual Psychological Approach" analyzed the Major character's ambition that have a great influence in their personality, by using individual psychological approach. While in this research the writer focuses on analyzing The Fragility of Dream that happen in the major character's life in *Of Mice and Men* Novel by using Genetic Structuralism Approach which not only focuses on intrinsic structure of the literary work, but also the sociological aspect that explain the historical background when the work is created.

C. Problem Statement.

The main problem of the study is "How the fragility of dream is reflected in John Steinbeck's *of Mice and Men*?".

D. Limitation of the Study

This study is focuses on the Analysis of American society in early Twentieth centuries as reflected on the major character in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. This study uses the theory of Genetic Structuralism developed by Lucian Goldmann.

E. Objective of the Study

1. To analyze the novel based on its structural analysis.
2. To analyze the novel based on sociological perspective, (Genetic structuralism).

F. Benefit of the Study

The Benefits of the study are stated as the following:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To improve the knowledge in studying literature and give contribution to literary studies John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.

2. Practical Benefit

To fulfill the requirement for getting Bachelor of Education in English Department.

G. Research Method

Dealing with research method, there are at least four points that need to be involved as follows:

1. Object of the Research

The object of the study is the novel *Of Mice and Men* written by John Steinbeck

2. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

There are two kinds of data resources namely primary data and secondary data sources

a. Primary Data Sources

The primary data sources are the data taken from the text of *Of Mice and Men*. It covers such things as words, phrases, sentences, events, and narration.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary are the data sources deals with the novel and the other books which have relation with this research, usually it taken from Books, article in internet and Magazine.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

Technique of data collection is library research that is by collecting and selecting both primary and secondary data.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique of data analysis used by the researcher includes two techniques. First is Descriptive technique. In which the researcher explores some information, stated implicitly within both of primary and secondary data sources. Secondly is Hermeneutic technique that involves the researcher effort in interpreting the text of the novel.

H. Paper Organization

This thesis consists of six chapters. Chapter I is introduction dealing with background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the

study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II contains underlying theory explaining Notion Genetic Structuralism used to analyze the novel, Major principle of Genetic Structuralism, Structural elements of the novel and theoretical application. Chapter III dealing with Social Historical Background in the 1937's that consist of Social aspects, Economic aspects, Political aspects, cultural aspects, Science and Technological aspects, Religious aspects and then background of the Author's life. Chapter IV presents the structural element of the novel consisting of character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme. Chapter V deals with a genetic structuralism or sociological analysis. Chapter VI is the conclusion and suggestion of the study.