

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is a written works that contain the expression of an individual life and society. The expression of an individual; opinion, point of view, emotions and aspiration are seen through language in the form of literature. According to (William J Long, 1945), Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty; it is the written record of man's spirit, of his thoughts, emotions, aspirations; it is the history, and the only history, of the human soul. The expression in literature can be conveying through poetry, drama, short story and novel.

The literary work which is going to analyze here is novel. Novel is a branch of literary works which often becomes an interesting object to be analyzed. People may find many things by reading literary works such as novel since its story related to the interaction of human toward their society and environment. According to (Whitla, 2010-60) novel is one of literary works which can be used to make a communication to other people which emotion that bring them into imaginary world. Through novel the writer convey their message to the reader like indirect communication to get the idea about life likeness. Besides that, novel contain stories surrounding portrait of the life of society therefore people can be enjoyed, understand and have function which can build character society.

In this research, the researcher analyze a novel entitled “Steinbeck’s of Mice and Men” to be analyzed. “Mice and Men” is a novel written by author John Steinbeck published in 1937. This book is set during the Great Depression in the 1930s. “Mice and Men” tells story of two displaced migrant ranch workers who move from place to place in California in search of new job opportunities during the Great Depression in the United States. In this period race and gender were very important characteristics that determined whether a person had the opportunity to make money. In this novel, the author demonstrates that man’s dream is destined to be destroyed by a cruel reality. That dream is eventually destroyed by an unfeeling, materialistic and modern society. The whole story of “Mice and Men” tells about how the main characters struggle in gaining their dreams.

The researcher chooses “Steinbeck’s of Mice and Men” for some reasons. Firstly, the story of “Steinbeck’s of Mice and Men” and the autobiography of John Steinbeck is one of many kinds of novel which showed about phenomena of similarity. Researcher also has experience from the characters, the settings and the social conditions which appeared in other novels and have kinds of relation with the real life of society. These phenomena are which want to be analyzed more deeply by researcher, especially about social condition which related in the social life and very important because it is a part of lives. Secondly, novel “Steinbeck’s of Mice and Men” is a popular story and a classic from American Literature. This novel shows some of characters feelings about the situations they are being put in. It portrays social condition of American’s society during the great depression.

Furthermore, this novel explains about the impossibility of the American Dream; the imbalance of social power structures in American society. Indirectly, this novel tells about the social issues that occur in the society during the great depression.

The writer of novel “Steinbeck’s of Mice and Men” is John Steinbeck. He is one of America's most beloved and honored writers. He started his career as a writer when he took a job as a caretaker in “Lake Tahoe”. His first work is novel “Cup and Gold”. This novel success and quite get good response from the public. “The Grapes of Wrath” is masterpiece of Steinbeck works. This novel won the “Pulitzer Prize” awards in 1940 as the best novel. John Steinbeck’s works always closely related to social life, such as “Mice and Men”. He describes environment about social condition which is related to sociological study. Steinbeck uses simple words to convey the story to make the reader easy to understand.

Normally, John Steinbeck's works usually related to the social discussion. In the social discussion we learn about sociological study. Sociology is the scientific study of society. This study examines how humans interact with each other and how human behavior is shaped by social structure (Group, Communities and Organization), Social Categories (Age, Race, Gender, Class) and social institution (Politic, Religion, education, etc). One of the founders of modern sociological study is Max Weber. Weber has a great influence on the development of social science in the twentieth century. Weber analyzed the economic, political, intellectual, historical, and religious factors that contribute to modern social realities.

Based the explanation above the researcher concludes that Weber's theory related to this research which analyzes social condition in society. The researcher uses Max Weber sociological approach theory to analyze social condition as reflected from their experiences as a migrant in the novel "Steinbeck's of Mice and Men". Weber's analysis of class is similar to Marx's, but he discusses class in the context of social stratification more generally. Class is one dimension of the social structure beside social status or social honor. Both are significant contributors of social difference. Weber's treatment of class and status indicates the manner in which the material basis of society is related to the ideological. Social conflicts may occur from one or both of them.

Social action is motivated by both of them, though in some cases more one than the other. By bringing in status, Weber provides a more flexible view of the details of social differences, and their implications for the lived experience of social actors. Max Weber theory developed The Three Component theories of stratifications or three class systems. They are class, status and political power (party) as distinct ideas of types. This theory provides flexible view of the details of social differences, and their implications for the lived experience of social actors. Through his theories, he wants to reveals the social differences.

In here, the researcher is interested to conduct a research about social condition of American society during the Great Depression. At that time, American people were in worst economic depression in history. They started losing their homes and had to live on the street. Many American people do not prepared for major economic crisis. The Shock cause by Depression stemmed not

alone from lack experience. Another example of crisis economic happened in the society is crisis economic of Indonesia on 1998 that cause lack of trust to toward government. These phenomena happened in the society because of some factor which influences it. Through social study, people learn and know causes of the economic crisis and how to fill them. Therefore it is important for people to enrich their knowledge about social condition from a society such as social conflict because it is related to the social life and it is part of social life. Related to the explanation above researcher entitled this research “SOCIAL CONDITION OF AMERICAN’S SOCIETY DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION IN THE US AS REFLECTED IN STEINBECK’S OF *MICE AND MEN*; SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on explanation of background of the research above, there are some problems which found by researcher as the problem in analyzing social condition as reflected in the novel “Steinbeck’s of *Mice and Men*” by John Steinbeck such as:

1. The social status of American societies in 19th century during the Great Depression as found in “*Mice and Men*” by John Steinbeck.
2. The social class of American societies in 19th century during the Great Depression as found in “*Mice and Men*” by John Steinbeck.

3. The influence political power of American societies in 19th century during the Great Depression as found in “Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck
4. The social condition of the Great Depression in the US by American Society in 19th century as reflected in “Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck.

1.3 Limitation of the Problems

Based on the identification of the problem above, the reseacher needs to limit the problem in order to focus the topic of the research. Considering to the limitation of the time in conducting this research, The reseacher limits the problem to discuss about Social aspect from social condition, such as :

1. Social conflictsthat found in American Societiesin 19th century as reflected in “Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck.
2. The impact of social conflict during the Great Depression in the US to American Society in 19th century as reflected in“Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck.

1.4 Formulation of the Problems

Based on limitation of the problem above, lead these following questions:

1. What are social conflicts that found in American societies in 19th century as reflected in “Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck.

2. What are the impact of social conflicts during the Great Depression in the US to American Society in 19th century as reflected in “Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck.

1.5 Objective of the Research

The researcher in this research has some objectives in analyzing novel “Steinbeck’s of Mice and Men”. Based on the formulation of the problem above the formulations of the problem in this research are:

1. To find out social conflicts that found in American Societies in 19th century as reflected in “Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck.
2. To find out the impact of social conflict during the Great Depression in the US to American Society in 19th century as reflected in “Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck.

1.6 Significances of the Research

There are two major things related to the significance of this research; they are the significance in theoretically and practically. The first thing is theoretical for the researcher. This research is important to apply the theory into the data. The researcher reason’s to take this topic is because the researcher wants to enrich the studies of literature especially in sociological approach and also has becomes a bibliographical resource for the next relevant type of research.

The second things is practically for the researcher this research composed to complete the final thesis. For common people, the researcher wishes that the result

of this thesis can be enrich their knowledge about social condition of a society. For English student, the result of thesis can be used as guidance for the further analysis in sociological approach and the last for the lectures, the result of this thesis can be used as a reference in teaching social condition in a society.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

Below are the keywords for this research.

Social Conflict: The struggle for agency or power in society. Social conflict or group conflict occurs when two or more actors oppose each other in social interaction, reciprocally exerting social power in an effort to attain scarce or incompatible goals and prevent the opponent from attaining them.

Great Depression: The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic depression that took place during the 1930s. The timing of the Great Depression varied across nations; however, in most countries it started in 1929 and lasted until the late 1930s. It was the longest, deepest, and most widespread depression of the 20th century. In the 21st century, the Great Depression is commonly used as an example of how far the world's economy can decline.

Sociological Approach: An approach that examines literature in the cultural, economic and political context in which it is written or received,” exploring the relationships between the artist and society.