



Capitalists' repressive influences on workers' life in *Of Mice and Men*

A final project

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

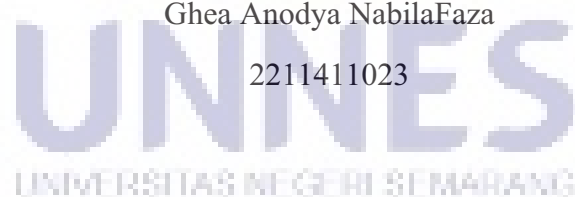
For the degree of Sarjana Sastra

In English

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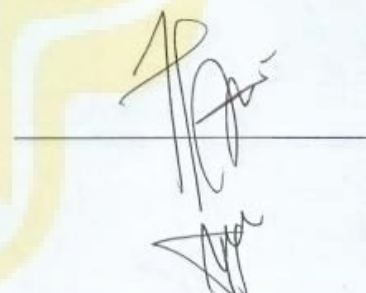
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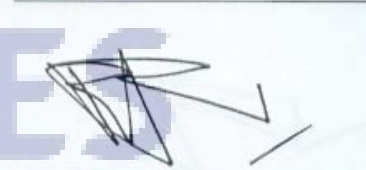
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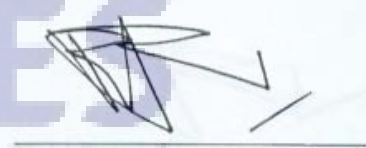
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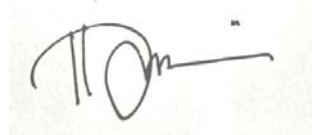
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Capitalists' repressive influences on workers' life in of *Mice and Men*

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Semarang, September 2017

Yang membuat pernyataan,



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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*“Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers,
not thunder.”*

(Jalaluddin Rumi)



*To my parents,
my siblings,
my beloved husband
and all of my beloved best friends.*

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My biggest salutation is the chairperson, secretary, and the examiners of my board examination. I also give my special honor to the head of the English Department and the lecturers in UNNES for the precious lesson, time, and also guidance during my study.

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Finally, I realize that my final project is not perfect. Therefore, I hope for criticisms and suggestions for the improvement. I also hope the final project report will be useful for the readers.

Ghea Anodya NabilaFaza

ABSTRACT

NABILAFAZA, GHEA ANODYA. 2017. **Capitalists' Repressive Influences on Workers' Life in *of Mice and Men***. Final Project. English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Semarang State University. Advisor: Prof. Dr. Dwi Rukmini, M.Pd.

Keywords: Capitalism, Social Class, Capitalists' Repressive Influences.

Capitalism is an economic system in which trade and industry are privately controlled for profit. It generated a higher price lead to higher profit. This system makes a class conflict between capitalists and workers. These two classes depended to each other as a source of profit. This study is aimed at analyzing Capitalists' Repressive Influences on Workers' Life in the novel. The object of the study is John Steinbeck's short novel "*Of Mice and Men*". *Of mice and Men* told a story about two workers named George and Lennie. They traveled from a ranch to others to find a job. During their searching, they found many troubles. They got troubles in every ranch they work. All troubles end up by being fired by their boss. The position of Capitalists and workers was discussed in this study. This study answered the statements of the problem about: how capitalists' repressive influences on workers' life revealed in *of Mice and Men*. In this study, I used a descriptive qualitative research method, in which the data are in the form words, phrases, sentences, narration, and dialogue from the novel. There were several steps in analyzing the novel Firstly, I read the novel several times carefully to understand in order to understand the whole content and identify the data. Secondly, I listed the data, which are related to Capitalist' repressive on workers life and identified them. The next step, I classified the data and analyzed it. Finally I presented the conclusion and suggestion. To come that purpose, I applied Marxism theory and Sociological approaches. The Marxism theory is used to get better understanding the novel. The Sociological approach is assumed that a literary text is portrayal of its contemporary society's condition. Based on the analysis, I can conclude that there many Capitalists' repressive on workers' life in the novel.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I present an introduction of the study which consists of a general background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the report. Description of each subchapter is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of the Topic

Literature, according to Rees (1983), is anything that is written which expresses ideas, emotion, feelings, and attitude towards life. This definition concentrates on written works. Its notion is based on the root meaning of 'literature' which is derived from the Latin *littera* which means 'letter'.

One of the results in literature is literary works. It includes novels, poems, short stories, comics, and the other works which expresses ideas, emotion, feelings, and attitude towards life. In this study, novel is taken as the object of analysis. The word 'novel' is derived from an Italian word, *novella*, which means 'a new story' or 'a new thing'. According to Tarigan (1986), novel is a long fictional prose narrative with a more or less complex plot or pattern of events about human beings and their feelings, actions, and thoughts. Based on this

definition, how novel represents events in real life, feeling, and thoughts will be discussed in this study.

Of Mice and Men told a story about two workers named George and Lennie. They traveled from a ranch to others to find a job. During their searching, they found many troubles. They got troubles in every ranch they work. All troubles end up by being fired by their boss. It is associated to their status as workers and the power of every owner of the ranches they work in. This condition reflected the life of workers and the power of capitalists in influencing it. In the novel, capitalists were reflected as owners of ranches and workers were reflected as workers.

Capitalists and workers are two classes which face each other in capitalism. According to Phelps (2006:1), capitalism may be in order, is generally means a private –ownership system marked by great openness to the new commercial ideas and personal knowledge and idiosyncratic views among the wealth-owners and financiers who select the ideas to which to provide capital and incentives for their development. In Marx's analysis, the difference of capitalists and workers class is depended on ownership (capitalists) and non-ownership (workers) of the means of production. The relationship between these social classes was based on exploitation and class conflict. These two classes depended to each other as a source of profit. However, there is exploitation which suffered by workers by capitalists. It will be explained more in the result of the analysis.

One of the problems that usually appear in society is social class. Discussing on social class never reaches an end. The topic always exists as long as human

beings live in this world. Social class can be influenced by social status. People realize that the upper-class usually has the authority to control a society. Talking about social class, indirectly the researcher is also talking about capitalist society. Capitalist society is a group of people who are applying capitalism in their daily social life. Capitalism closely deals with the pursuit of profit, so it makes many individuals compete to gain profit for their own sake without regarding others.

1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic

The topic entitled Capitalist' Repressive Influences on Worker's Life in *Of Mice and Men* is chosen based on the following reasons.

Of Mice and Men is a novel which told a story about two workers who work from a ranch to ranch, George and Lennie. They always got fired because of every trouble which is caused by Lennie. George who takes care of his mentally challenged friend Lennie always says that his life would be better without his responsibility to take care of Lennie. Lennie who has a mentally-challenged depends upon George always making troubles because his attitude. He is a very kind guy, but he does not his own strength.

I want to show that *Of Mice and Men* novel is one of literary works which describing class struggles. The narrative "Of Mice and Men" is based on the capitalists' class and the workers class. It shows how the capitalists class over power the worker class. The novel represents ideas or concepts of social condition of capitalist people which are demonstrated by the author. The story in the novel makes me want to comprehend the way the author represent capitalists, which is

represented by every owner of ranches, and workers, which is represented by two workers as main characters.

Secondly, the novel is also interesting to be discussed because capitalists' repressive influences on workers' life is one of phenomena which happened in the past or now on. In this study I want to reveal how capitalists' repressive influences on workers' life in *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. John Steinbeck is a popular author whose works are well-known around the world. His works mostly highlight social class in a certain community.

Thirdly, the novel has many deep moral values that represent the recent issue which are represented through the novel, specifically about Social Class. This social class represented in the novel still exists in recent era. Therefore this study can help people to understand the condition of capitalists and workers social life. Thus, they can get a new knowledge about social phenomenon in life, especially about the power of capitalism which annihilates the existence of the lower class.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The problem of this study stated as follow: How does the effect of capitalist repressive influence workers' life revealed in *Of Mice and Men*?

1.4 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem discussed in this final project, the objective this study is to explain how does the effect of capitalists' repressive influences on workers' life revealed in *Of Mice and Men*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of this study, theoretically, is expected to be able to become an example of the implementation of Marxism theory in analyzing literary works. Then practically this study is expected to be able to give alternative interpretation toward John Steinbeck's works especially *Of Mice and Men*.

1.6 Outline of the Report

This study is organized into five chapters and sub chapters. Chapter one is the introduction, which consist of background of the study, reason for choosing the topic, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the study.

Chapter two is divided into two sub chapters. First, the review of previous studies related to the topic and the second, the review related to the theoretical topic.

Chapter three is research methodology. This chapter consists of three subchapters. First, it is the information about the object of the study, which consists of character of the story and synopsis of the story. Second, it is the information about source of data. Third it is information about method of collecting data, and the last is about the method of analyzing the data.

Chapter four is the analysis. I give the analysis of the *Capitalists' repressive influences on workers' life in Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck* novel and findings as well as the interpretation.

In the last chapter, I present some conclusion and suggestion dealing with the subject matter of my study. Assuring that the study is really valid, I give appendix and bibliography.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents theories associated to this study. This chapter consists of two subchapters namely review of the previous studies and review of the theoretical studies.

2.1 Review of the Previous Studies

In order to support this final project, I reviewed studies which discussed about (bourgeois and proletariat).

First, Darmadi (2015) conducted a study entitled *Influential Existence in the Novel Of Mice and Men Written by John Steinbeck*. This study talks about how the silent society is described in the novel. He used a sociological approach by Marx in concerned of analyzing proletariat and bourgeois reflected in the novel. As a result, Darmadi found that the main characters are representation of bourgeois and proletariat classes, and he revealed how silent society represented in *Of Mice and Men*.

Second is a study conducted by Han and Kubota (2014) entitled '*The Businessman in John Steinbeck's Fiction*'. It talks about businessman in Steinbeck's fiction including *Of Mice and Men*. This study aims to establish Steinbeck as an economic novelist by examining his predominantly negative representation of businesspeople in his fictions. They used sociological approach

of literature to finish their study. As a result, they reveal exploitation by bourgeois toward proletariat in Steinbeck's fiction.

The two studies mentioned above will be helpful to finish this study. Specifically, Darmadi's study will be a reference to analyze the representation of bourgeois and proletariat in *Of Mice and Men*, and study conducted by Han and Kubota will help me analyzing *Of Mice and Men* as an economic novel where they found businessman represented in the novel.

What makes this study different from the two studies mentioned above is that this study is going to reveal capitalists' repressive influences on workers' life in *Of Mice and Men*.

2.2 Review of the Theoretical Studies

2.2.1 Novel

The word 'novel' is derived from an Italian word novella, which means 'a new story'. Nurgiyantoro (2002) stated that the story created in the novel reflects an actual life that is mostly about human beings and their life. It is a result of dialogue which reveals many kinds of problem in human's life which has passed the intense exploration, and the selective and subjective perspective. It is processed by author's imagination. The author makes effort to direct the readers about what happen in real life in certain time through the stories in the novel.

Novel is included to fiction. Fiction itself has several elements; they are intrinsic and extrinsic. However, I only will use the intrinsic element. Intrinsic elements consist of theme, plot, character, setting, and point of view. Meanwhile,

in this study, I will only use plot, character, and setting to answer the research question.

2.2.1.1 Plot

According to Kenney (1966), Plot is what this seems to imply is that a simple setting down of events in temporal sequence is not the main concern of the writer of fiction. Plot reveals events to the readers, not only in their temporal, but also in their causal relationships. Plot makes the readers aware of events not merely as elements in a temporal series, but also as an intricate pattern of cause and effect.

In the broad sense, plot of the story is its entire sequence of events. The events are linked causally. The events are directly caused or result from other events. These events may include physical occurrences, like speech and action, a character's change of attitude, a flash insight, and a decision. Events which are not causally linked can be called "irrelevant" to the plot. Subplots are sequences of events at least partly distinct from the main plot. Often the form of a subplot parallels that of another section of the plot, so as to point up its significance by contrast of similarity. A common type of is the frame narrative. As the name implies, it frames or surrounds the central narrative, which thus becomes a story-within-a story (see Stanton, 1965).

The plot is the backbone of the story. It is more self-evident than some of the story's other elements. In analysis, plot is needed to be included, but without a clear knowledge of its events, its links of cause and effect, its degree of inevitability, the further story will not be understood. Like all others elements of a story, plot has its own laws. It must have a true beginning, middle, and end. It

must be plausible and logical. Moreover, it should occasionally surprise us. It must arouse and satisfy suspense (see Stanton, 1965).

The movement of a plot comes from its ability to arouse questions in our minds, appealing to our curiosity, hope, and fear. The simplest question is “What happens next?” However, the questions are often more specific than this, and their answers may be delayed for many pages.

Two important elements of plot are conflict and climax. Every work of fiction contains obvious *internal conflicts* between two desires within a character, or *external conflicts* between characters or between a character and his environment. These specific conflicts are in turn subordinate to the *central conflict*, which may be internal, external, or both (see Stanton, 1965).

The *climax* of the story is the moment at which the conflict is most intense and at which its outcome becomes inevitable. Sometimes the main climax is not a spectacular event, and sometimes it is hard to identify because the subordinate conflicts may have their own climaxes. In fact, if the central conflict of a novel appears in several forms or passes through several distinct stages, it may be impossible to fix on *one* main climax. However, looking for one is always worth the effort, even the search illuminates the structure of the story (see Stanton, 1965).

2.2.1.2 Character

The term character is commonly used in two ways. First, character designates how many individuals appeared in the story. Second, it refers to the mixture of interest, desires, emotions, and moral principles that makes up each of these individuals. It is about how we would describe one character. Most stories contain a *central character*, which is relevant to every event in the story. The event usually cause some change either in the character or our thoughts toward him. A character's reason for behaving as he does is his *motivation*. His specific motivation is his immediate reason, perhaps unconsciousness, for any particular speech or act. His basic motivation is an aspect of his general character. It is the continuing desire or intention that governs him throughout the story, the direction toward which almost all his specific motivations tend (see Stanton, 1965).

Every author wants the readers to understand his characters and their motivations properly, but no author can tell everything at once. Therefore, our initial impression of a character is usually lopsided or oversimplified, reducing him to some stereotype he happens to resemble.

In good fiction, every speech or every action is not only a step in the plot, but also a manifestation of character. It is important to go through a few major scenes in detail, speech by speech, action by action, to determine exactly what is meant or implied by each of these, remembering that the characters in fiction, like real people, often misunderstand or deceive one another. In brief, the readers would know the characters from their actions.

2.2.1.3 Setting

According to Stanton (1965), the setting of a story is the environment of its events, the immediate world in which they occur. Part of the setting is the visible background, such as restaurant in Bali, the Indonesia mountains, or others. Part of it may also be the time of day or year, the climate, or the historical period. Usually, the setting of a story is presented through descriptive passage. Many readers are impatient with these because, under stably enough, they want to get on with the narrative. However, during the second reading of a story, the readers should give the setting a careful and thoughtful look, out of all possibilities, why the author chose the background and stressed the details. The readers should imagine the setting changed or described with different details, and then to note how this change would affect the rest of the story. The readers would find the setting directly influences the characters.

2.2.2 Capitalism

Capitalism is an economic system in which trade and industry are privately controlled for profit. Karl Marx in his book *Capital Volume 1* argues, capitalism does not always involve the commodities' exchange, but capital development, in the form of money, with the purpose of generating profit through the purchase of commodities and their development into other commodities which generating more value of it so it generates a higher price lead to higher profit. In Marx's understanding, labor power is the only commodity which can generate profit that it is worth, and this reason known as variable capital.

Capitalism in its purest form is a society in which the market sets prices for the sole purpose of profits and any inefficiency or intervention that reduces profit making will be eliminated by the market.

Capitalistic ownership means two things to the private entities. First, they control the factors of production. Second, they derive their income from their ownership. That gives them the ability to operate their companies effectively. It also gives them the incentive to maximize profit.

Capitalism requires a free market economy to succeed. The market sets the prices of the components of supply. It also distributes them according to the laws of supply and demand.

The owners of supply compete against each other for the highest profit. They sell their goods at the highest possible price while keeping their costs as low as possible.

Another component of capitalism is the free operation of the capital markets. This sets the fair prices for stocks, bonds, derivatives, currency and commodities through the laws of supply and demand. Capital markets allow companies to raise funds to expand. Companies distribute profits among the owners. They include investors, stockholders and private owners.

Capitalism ensures that an economy will produce the most desired products at an acceptable price. That is because consumers will pay more for what they want the most. Businesses then provide what customers want to obtain the most profit. At the same time, they make their production as efficient as possible. This is because the companies that keep their costs low will receive more profit.

Capitalism has its own characteristics. First are two class systems. They are called capitalist class (bourgeois) and working class (proletariat). Bourgeois is a class which owns the means for producing and distributing goods. Proletariat is a class which works for bourgeois in exchange for wages. Second, in capitalism, all activities done is aimed to make profit. Companies do not solely exist to satisfy people's needs, but they will be available if the people have resources to pay for them. Third, Capitalist societies believe markets should be left alone to operate without government intervention. However, a completely government-free capitalist society only exists in theory.

2.2.3 Social Class

Marx's class theory rests on the premise that "the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles." According to this view, ever since human society emerged from its primitive and relatively undifferentiated state it has remained fundamentally divided between classes who clash in the pursuit of class interests. In the world of capitalism, for example, the nuclear cell of the capitalist system, the factory, is the prime locus of antagonism between classes--between exploiters and exploited, between buyers and sellers of labor power--rather than of functional collaboration. Class interests and the confrontations of power that they bring in their wake are to Marx the central determinant of social and historical process.

Marx's analysis continually centers on how the relationships between men are shaped by their relative positions in regard to the means of production, that is, by their differential access to scarce resources and scarce power. He notes that

unequal access need not at all times and under all conditions lead to active class struggle. But he considered it axiomatic that the potential for class conflict is inherent in every differentiated society, since such a society systematically generates conflicts of interest between persons and groups differentially located within the social structure, and, more particularly, in relation to the means of production. Marx was concerned with the ways in which specific positions in the social structure tended to shape the social experiences of their incumbents and to predispose them to actions oriented to improve their collective fate.

Yet class interests in Marxian sociology are not given an initio. They develop through the exposure of people occupying particular social positions to particular social circumstances. Thus, in early industrial enterprises, competition divides the personal interests of "a crowd of people who are unknown to each other. . . But the maintenance of their wages, this common interest which they have against their employer, brings them together." "The separate individuals form a class only in so far as they have to carry on a common battle against another class; otherwise they are on hostile terms with each other as competitors."

Class interests are fundamentally different from, and cannot be derived from, the individual interests imputed by the utilitarian school and classical British political economy. Potential common interests of members of a particular stratum derive from the location of that stratum within particular social structures and productive relations. But potentiality is transformed into actuality, Klasse en sich (class in itself) into Klasse fuer sich (class for itself), only when individuals occupying similar positions become involved in common struggles; a network of

communication develops, and they thereby become conscious of their common fate. It is then that individuals become part of a cohesive class that consciously articulates their common interests. As Carlyle once put it, "Great is the combined voice of men." Although an aggregate of people may occupy similar positions in the process of production and their lives may have objectively similar determinants, they become a class as a self-conscious and history-making body only if they become aware of the similarity of their interests through their conflicts with opposing classes.

To Marx, the basis upon which stratification systems rest is the relation of aggregates of men to the means of production. The major modern classes are "the owners merely of labor-power, owners of capital, and landowners, whose respective sources of income are wages, profit and ground-rent." Classes are aggregates of persons who perform the same function in the organization of production. Yet self-conscious classes, as distinct from aggregates of people sharing a common fate, need for their emergence a number of conditions among which are a network of communication, the concentration of masses of people, a common enemy, and some form of organization. Self-conscious classes arise only if and when there exists a convergence of what Max Weber later called "ideal" and "material" interests, that is, the combination of economic and political demands with moral and ideological quests.

The same mode of reasoning that led Marx to assert that the working class was bound to develop class consciousness once the appropriate conditions were present also led him to contend that the bourgeoisie, because of the inherent

competitive relations between capitalist producers, was incapable of developing an overall consciousness of its collective interests.

The classical economists picture the economic system of a market economy as one in which each man, working in his own interest and solely concerned with the maximization of his own gains, nevertheless contributes to the interests and the harmony of the whole. Differing sharply, Marx contended, as Raymond Aron has put it, that "each man, working in his own interest, contributes both to the necessary functioning and to the final destruction of the regime."

In contrast to the utilitarian who conceive of self-interest as a regulator of a harmonious society, Marx sees individual self-interest among capitalists as destructive of their class interest in general, and as leading to the ultimate self-destruction of capitalism. The very fact that each capitalist acts rationally in his own self-interest leads to ever deepening economic crises and hence to the destruction of the interests common to all.

The conditions of work and the roles of workers dispose them to solidarity and to overcoming their initial competitiveness in favor of combined action for their collective class interests. Capitalists, however, being constrained by competition on the market, are in a structural position that does not allow them to arrive at a consistent assertion of common interests. The market and the competitive mode of production that is characteristic of capitalism tend to separate individual producers. Marx granted that capitalists also found it possible to transcend their immediate self-interests, but he thought this possible primarily in the political and ideological spheres rather than in the economic. Capitalists,

divided by the economic competition among themselves, evolved a justifying ideology and a political system of domination that served their collective interests. "The State is the form in which the individuals of a ruling class assert their common interests." "The ideas of the ruling class are the ruling ideas." Political power and ideology thus seem to serve the same functions for capitalists that class consciousness serves for the working class. But the symmetry is only apparent. To Marx, the economic sphere was always the finally decisive realm within which the bourgeoisie was always the victim of the competitiveness inherent in its mode of economic existence. It can evolve a consciousness, but it is always a "false consciousness," that is, a consciousness that does not transcend its being rooted in an economically competitive mode of production. Hence neither the bourgeoisie as a class, nor the bourgeois state, nor the bourgeois ideology can serve truly to transcend the self-interest enjoined by the bourgeoisie. The bourgeois reign is doomed when economic conditions are ripe and when a working class united by solidarity, aware of its common interests and energized by an appropriate system of ideas, confronts its disunited antagonists. Once workers became aware that they are alienated from the process of production, the dusk of the capitalist era has set in.

The upper class or bourgeois is the most powerful and wealthiest class that ever occurs in England. Mostly, the members of this class are the royal family. This class is rooted from the old aristocracy which means it still controls the nation's wealth. Their incomes come from inherited land and investment, not from their wage or their struggle of making money. The upper class is always closely

related with aristocracy. As Smith argued, the aristocracy is the highest grade of society apart from royalty (1953: 270). The upper class here are the elite whose wealth and position are based on property and its title.

The lower class of the society is dominated by unskilled workers (blue collar workers) (1981: 20) in which they work and struggle so hard for their life. They have no certain level (1860: 4) of development. Stratification, as a form of social reality, is not an organized interaction system (a group), the system developed by a society (or community). Social stratification is essentially the organization of inequalities within society, the distribution of rewards, the allocation of scarcities, and the formalization of positions in some hierarchical order.

2.2.4 Bourgeois and Proletariat

In Marx's analysis of capitalism, he distinguished 2 classes, bourgeois and proletariat, where the class depended on ownership (bourgeois) and non-ownership (proletariat) in the purpose of production. The classes were based on exploitation and class conflict. The two social classes depended upon each other as a source of profit.

The term *bourgeois* arose in medieval France, where it denoted an inhabitant of a walled town. Its overtones became important in the 18th century, when the middle class of professionals, manufacturers, and their literary and political allies began to demand an influence in politics consistent with their economic status. Marx was one of many thinkers who treated the French Revolution as a revolution of the bourgeois.

In Marxist theory, the bourgeoisie plays a heroic role by revolutionizing industry and modernizing society. However, it also seeks to monopolize the benefits of this modernization by exploiting the propertyless proletariat and thereby creating revolutionary tensions. The end result, according to Marx, will be a final revolution in which the property of the bourgeoisie is expropriated and class conflict, exploitation, and the state are abolished. Even in Marx's lifetime, however, it was clear that the bourgeoisie was neither homogeneous nor particularly inclined to play the role that he had assigned to it. Indeed, in many countries the middle classes could not usefully be described as bourgeois.

In the theory of Karl Marx, the term proletariat designated the class of wage workers who were engaged in industrial production and whose chief source of income was derived from the sale of their labor power. As an economic category it was distinguished in Marxian literature from the poor, the working classes, and the *Lumpenproletariat*. Because of its subordinate position in a capitalist society and the effects of periodic depressions on wages and employment, the proletariat as described by Marxists was usually living in poverty. But it was not therefore identified with the poor, for some members of the proletariat, the highly skilled or labor aristocracy, were recognized as not poor, and some members of the entrepreneurial class were not wealthy. Despite synonymous use in agitation literature, the term proletariat was distinguished from the working class as a generic term. The former referred to those engaged in industrial production, whereas the latter referred to all who must work for their living and who received wages or salary, including agricultural laborers, white-

collar workers, and hired help occupied in the distribution services. The *Lumpenproletariat* consisted of marginal and unemployable workers of debased or irregular habits and also included paupers, beggars, and criminals.

2.2.5 Marxism and Literature

Marxist literary theory cannot be separated from cultural theory, though it may be distinguished within it. This is the central challenge of any social theory of culture. This challenge has to be sustained at every point, in general and in detail. However, it is important to be precise about the modes of distinction which then follow.

There are two modes of distinction in this theory. These are distinctive categories of 'literature' and 'aesthetic'. In Williams' book entitled *Marxism and Literature* (1977), he stated that he had examined the historical development of the concept of literature from its connections with literacy to an emphasis on polite learning and on printed books, and then, in its most interesting phrase, to an emphasis on 'creative' or 'imaginative' writing as a special and indispensable kind of cultural practice.

The interpretation of 'creative' or 'imaginative' becomes the specialization through the weak and ambiguous concept of 'fiction'. The containment partly followed from this specialization, but it was decisively reinforced by the concept of 'criticism'. It is also the key shift from creativity and imagination as active productive processes to categorical abstractions demonstrated and ratified by conspicuous humanistic consumption.

Neither the specialization nor the containment has ever been completed. Indeed, in continuing reality of the practice of writing this is strictly impossible. However, each has done significant harm, and in their domination of literary theory and practice in looking at actual writing, the crippling categorizations and dichotomies of ‘fact’ and ‘fiction’, or of ‘discursive’ and ‘imaginative’, or ‘referential’ and ‘emotive’, stand regularly not only between works and readers but writers and works, at a still active and shaping stage (see Williams, 1977).

The multiplicity of writing is its second most evident characteristic, the first being its distinctive practice of the objectified material composition of language. The main point is the severe limitation ‘literary’ and ‘non-literary’ forms of writing. Pre-bourgeois categorization was normally in terms of the writing itself, as in the relatively evident distinction between verse and other forms of composition, usually drawn in characteristically feudal or aristocratic terms of ‘elevation’ or ‘dignity’. It is significant while distinction held, verse normally included what would be called ‘historical’ or ‘philosophical’ or ‘descriptive’ or ‘didactic’ or even ‘instructional’ writing, as well as what would now be called ‘imaginative’ or ‘dramatic’ or ‘fictional’ or ‘personal’ writing and experience (see Williams, 1977).

In the mid-eighteenth century, ‘literature’ was a body of polite learning which was used to unite ‘practicality’, ‘effectiveness’, or ‘accuracy’ intentions other than these were willingly conceded. This concept of ‘literature’ broke down in the late eighteenth century and in the early nineteenth centuries. ‘Literature’

became sphere of imagination or fancy. It became a medium to express emotional substance and effect. It was at insistence of its authors.

The multiplicity of productive practice was in one way acknowledged, and then effectively occluded, by a transfer of interest from intention to effect. The replacement of the disciplines of grammar and rhetoric by the discipline of criticism is a central intellectual movement of the bourgeois period. Each kind of discipline moved, in the period of change, to a particular pole of grammar and rhetoric to writing and of criticism to reading.

Besides multiplicity, in the relation between Marxism and literature, it is necessary to pay attention to 'convention'. According to Williams (1977), the meaning of convention was originally an assembly and then, by derivation, an agreement. In any social theory of art and literature, a convention is an established relationship, or ground of a relationship, through a specific shared practice of the making of actual works can be realized. A social theory, with its emphasis on distinct and contrasting traditions, institutions, and formations, related to but not identical with distinct and opposing social classes, is thus well placed to understand the shifting evaluations of conventions and the reality of conventions. Negatively it can uncover the characteristic belief of certain classes, institutions, and formation that their interests and procedures are not artificial and limited but universally valid and applicable, their methods then being 'true', 'real', or 'natural' as distinct from the limited and limiting 'conventions' of others. Positively it can show the real grounds of the inclusions and exclusions, the styles and the ways of seeing, that specific conventions embody and ratify. For any

social theory insists on seeing, within all established relationships and procedures, the specific substance and its methods, rather than an assumed or claimed 'self-evidence' or universality.

2.2.6 Great Depression Era

The Great Depression was the greatest and longest economic recession of the 20th century and, by some accounts, modern world history. By most contemporary accounts, it began with the U.S. stock market crash of 1929, and didn't completely end until after World War II, in 1946. Economists and historians often cite the Great Depression as the most critical economic event of the 20th century.

After the short depression of 1920-1921 – known as the Forgotten Depression, even though the stock market fell by nearly 50% and corporate profits declined over 90% – the U.S. economy enjoyed robust growth during the rest of the decade, furnishing much of the roar of the Roaring '20s. Along with an extremely loose money supply helping to fuel unprecedented rises in asset prices were high levels of margin trading by investors: This was a period when the American public discovered the stock market and dove in head first. Speculative frenzies formed in both the estate markets and on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The NYSE bubble burst violently on Oct. 24th, 1929, a day that came to be known as Black Thursday. The following week brought Black Monday (Oct. 28) and Black Tuesday (Oct. 29th, 1929)

The 1929 stock market crash wiped out a lot of nominal wealth, both corporate and private, and sent the U.S. economy into a tailspin. In early 1929, the

measured U.S. unemployment rate was 3.2%; by 1933, it had soared to 24.9%. Despite unprecedented interventions and government spending by both the Herbert Hoover and Franklin Delano Roosevelt administrations, it was still above 18.9% in 1938. Real per capita gross domestic product (GDP) was below 1929 levels by the time the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, in late 1941.

While the crash likely triggered the decade-long economic downturn, most historians and economists agree that it alone did not cause the Great Depression, nor explain why the slump's depth and persistence were so severe. Instead, there were a variety of specific events and policies that set the country up for the Great Depression and then helped prolong it during the 1930s.

Sweeping into office in 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt promised massive changes, and indeed the New Deal he initiated was an innovative, unprecedented series of domestic programs and acts designed to bolster American business, reduce unemployment and protect the public. Loosely based on Keynesian economics, specifically on the idea that government can (and should) stimulate the economy, the New Deal set lofty goals to create and maintain the national infrastructure, full employment, and healthy wages through price, wage, and even production controls, but one could argue that, essentially, Roosevelt continued many of Hoover's interventions – just on a larger scale. He kept in place a rigid focus on price supports and minimum wages, and took the U.S. off the gold standard, forbidding individuals to hoard gold coins and bullion. He banned monopolistic (some would say competitive) business practices, instituted dozens of new public works programs and other job-creation agencies,

and paid farmers and ranchers to stop or cut back on production (one of the most heartbreaking conundrums of the period was the destruction of excess crops, despite the need of thousands for cheap food).

The Great Depression was the result of an unlucky combination of factors – a flip-flopping Fed, protectionist tariffs and inconsistently applied government interventionist efforts. It could have been shortened or even avoided by a change in any one of these. While debates continue as to whether the interventions were too much or too little, many of the reforms from the New Deal, such as Social Security, unemployment insurance and agricultural subsidies, exist to this day – as does the assumption that the federal government should act in times of national economic crisis. This legacy is one of the reasons the Great Depression is considered one of the seminal events in modern American history.

2.2.7 Sociology of Literature

One of the approaches in analyzing literary works is sociological approach to literature. The main aspect in the sociological approach to literature is the understanding of literature as a social mirror. The main point of analyzing the sociology of literature is to find out the interrelation among society which is reflected in a literary work.

Talking about sociology, it never can be separated from society. Definitely it also learns about the interaction and the relationship between people within society. Definitely, it also learns about the interaction and the relationship between people within society. There are some definitions of sociology by experts or sociologists. According to Rose (1968:3) “Sociology is the science of

interaction among people and the effects of this interaction of human behavior". It means that human behavior is influenced by the relation and the interaction which happened in the society. People socialize and communicate each other every day. This communication will influence and form people behavior. In line with Rose, Timhaseff (1967: 4) states that sociology is defined as the science of the society, and society must be defined from sociology. From etymology, "Logy" means study of high level, "Socio" points to society, and thus I conclude that sociology is the highest level which learns about society. It also deals with social structures and institutions such as class, family, community, etc. Therefore, sociology learns how people interest, cooperate, persuade, imitate, or compete with others.

At the same time, literature which sometimes discusses about society is a part of human life. Talking about society is also about people interest in life. Wellek and Warren (1956: 94) mention that "Literature itself is simply a reflection of life, and life is in large measure, social, reality, even though the natural world and her inner or subjective world of individual have also been objects of literary imitation". Sociology and Literature are different branches of science. However, both of them have the same object of study that is human being. As Endaswara (2003:77) states that sociology of literature is branch of literature research which has reflection of characteristic. In other words, sociology and literature can be said as the perfect combination of the basis in developing an analysis of a literary work. Furthermore, Damono (1979: 3) defines sociological approach to literature as a kind of approach which considers social aspects and culture society in literary work. While Wellek and Warren (Ibid: 95) define that

“Literature is an expression of society”. Hence based on the statements of the experts, it can be concluded that a literary work can reflect the life of society. By reading or analyzing a literary work can reflect the life of society. By reading or analyzing a literary work, people can get a picture of what happens in the society since literature is a reflection of life.

Critics toward literary works must be approached in terms of their inner structure. However, external structure of them needs to be described to be a necessary background. Sociology does not always lighten on certain literary problems, but without it, there could not be complete understanding.

Sociology is an objective study of people and social process. It seeks to answer the questions of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists. The way individuals or social groups accept adapt to mechanism of socialization and the process of cultural learning affect their acceptance of their role of social structure. Sociology is concerned with the process of society changes and its effects on social structure. Study of society's problem such as conflict between classes, between groups, and even between individuals become concern in sociology.

As with sociology, literature is concerned with people's social world, their adaptation to it, and their desire to change it. Thus, novel, as the major literary genre of industrial society, can be seen as a faithful attempt to re-create the social world of people's relation with their family, with politics, and with the state. It delineates the conflicts and tension between groups and social classes. As documentary, one can see novel as dealing with same social, economic, and

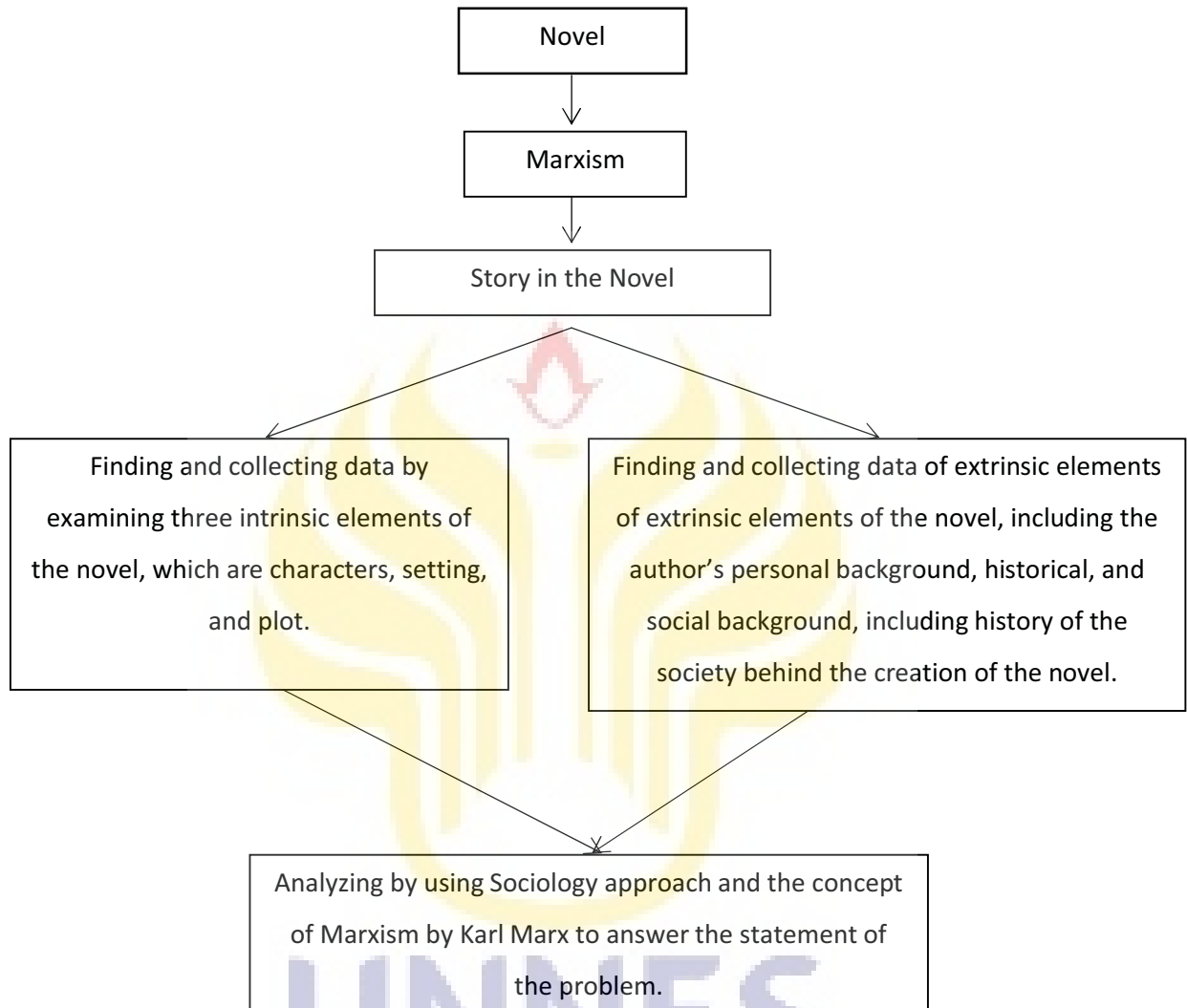
political texture as sociology. As art, literature transcends description and objective scientific analysis, penetrating the surfaces of social life, showing the ways in which people experience society as feeling (see Swingewood, 1972:12).

It would seem that literature and sociology are not wholly distinct disciplines but, on the contrary, complement each other in our understanding of society, historically they have tended to remain apart. It is possible to characterize two broad approaches to a sociology of literature. The most popular perspective adopts the documentary aspect of literature, arguing that it provides a mirror of age. On this view, literature is a direct reflection of various facets of social structure, family relationships, class conflict, and possibly divorce trends and population composition. As one of the more distinguished writers in the sociology of literature has well expressed, it is the task of the sociologist of literature to relate the experience of the writer's imaginary characters and situations to the historical climate from which they derive.

2.2.8 Theoretical Framework

To answer the research questions in this study, I use an approach to sociology of literature this was developed by Karl Marx. Marx's theory, which is called Marxism, is fusing structural analysis with analysis toward social class (Williams, 1977). By using this approach, I analyzed (Capitalist repressive toward workers' life) revealed in the novel.

Scheme 2.2.6 Theoretical Framework



The scheme I have drawn above explains that novel is the main source of data which are used in this study. To analyze the story of the novel using Marxism, I need to know how the author presented the story. I analyzed the structure of the novel and social class revealed in the novel to know repressive of capitalists' influences on workers' life.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents conclusion and suggestion of this study. The first sub-chapter contains the conclusion of the interpretation to answer the problems in the study. The second sub-chapter consists of some suggestions for further study.

5.1 Conclusion

Capitalism is what I found when I was starting to analyze *Of Mice and Men*. I found two classes represented in the novel, capitalists and workers.

In the novel, Curley and his wife are the representation of capitalists. Curley is the boss' son. He is an arrogant man. He likes to pick fight with those he perceives as weak in the ranch. It is one of the reflections of power differences between the two classes. On page 81 on the novel, Curley's wife make a statement to Crooks that she can easily get Crooks strung up on a tree. From this statement, Curley's wife is trying to make her socioeconomic status over Crooks known. It reflects the reality that class of capitalist is far above of working class in term of socioeconomic status.

The working class is represented by George and Lennie. They are migrant workers who travel from ranch to another ranch to find a job. This is what the real workers do in real life. It is represented clearly in *Of Mice and Men* through George and Lennie.

The reason why John Steinbeck wrote *Of Mice and Men* is, he was born and raised in the heart of an agricultural society managed by capitalism. Steinbeck saw the effects of capitalism clearly. As the reader, I clearly see the connection between Steinbeck's stories and his personal background. Steinbeck applied his personal experience in his novel. It makes the story comes to life.

In *Of Mice and Men*, it is told that George and Lennie have a dream of having their own land, where they are their own masters. However, they know that it is almost impossible to chase their dream of having their own land since they are only migrant workers who are taken advantage of by capitalists. There are no labor contracts for them. Migrant workers would never know if the salary can make them wealthy. They also would never know if the wage that was first promised by the boss would be given at the end.

Working class, which are represented by George and Lennie know what kind of job which they will get by seeing the machine used in the ranch. They know the expectation of the boss. They know that their dream benefits the boss. They know that it is almost impossible to chase their dream when they are following the system run by capitalists. However, they do not have a choice but follow. At least, they can live their life longer. This is how capitalists' repressive influences workers' life in *Of Mice and Men*. The workers almost have no hope of being wealthy. This is the reflection of what happened during the era when Steinbeck wrote the novel.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the conclusion and the analysis above, I would like to present some suggestions related to the analysis. First, in studying literature, it is better for people to study not only for literary study and appreciation but also for finding some values which consist in a story. The values in a story can help people to know more about what are Capitalism and Workers' life which happened during the era and make people become a better self. Later, in order to get the value of a literature, the readers should understand and know the intrinsic and extrinsic meaning of the literary work so that they can improve their ways of reading novels by understanding and getting the meaning of the author's idea and the story itself.

Second, for the purpose of student's development in criticizing literary works, I suggested that reading and investigating literary works are recommended for students since it will sharpen their intuition about literature and it will improve their skill in studying literature.

Third, for students who want to analyze *Of Mice and Men*, it is better to seek for the other angle to view the work objectively and look for the different facts about this work. It will enrich our knowledge about *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.

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