



**STEINBECK'S SATIRE AGAINST RACISM
DURING THE AMERICAN "GREAT DEPRESSION"
ERA
IN OF *MICE AND MEN***

a final project
submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Sarjana Sastra
in English

by
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PERPUSTAKAAN
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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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2010**

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STEINBECK'S SATIRE AGAINST RACISM DURING THE AMERICAN "GREAT DEPRESSION" ERA IN *OF MICE AND MEN*

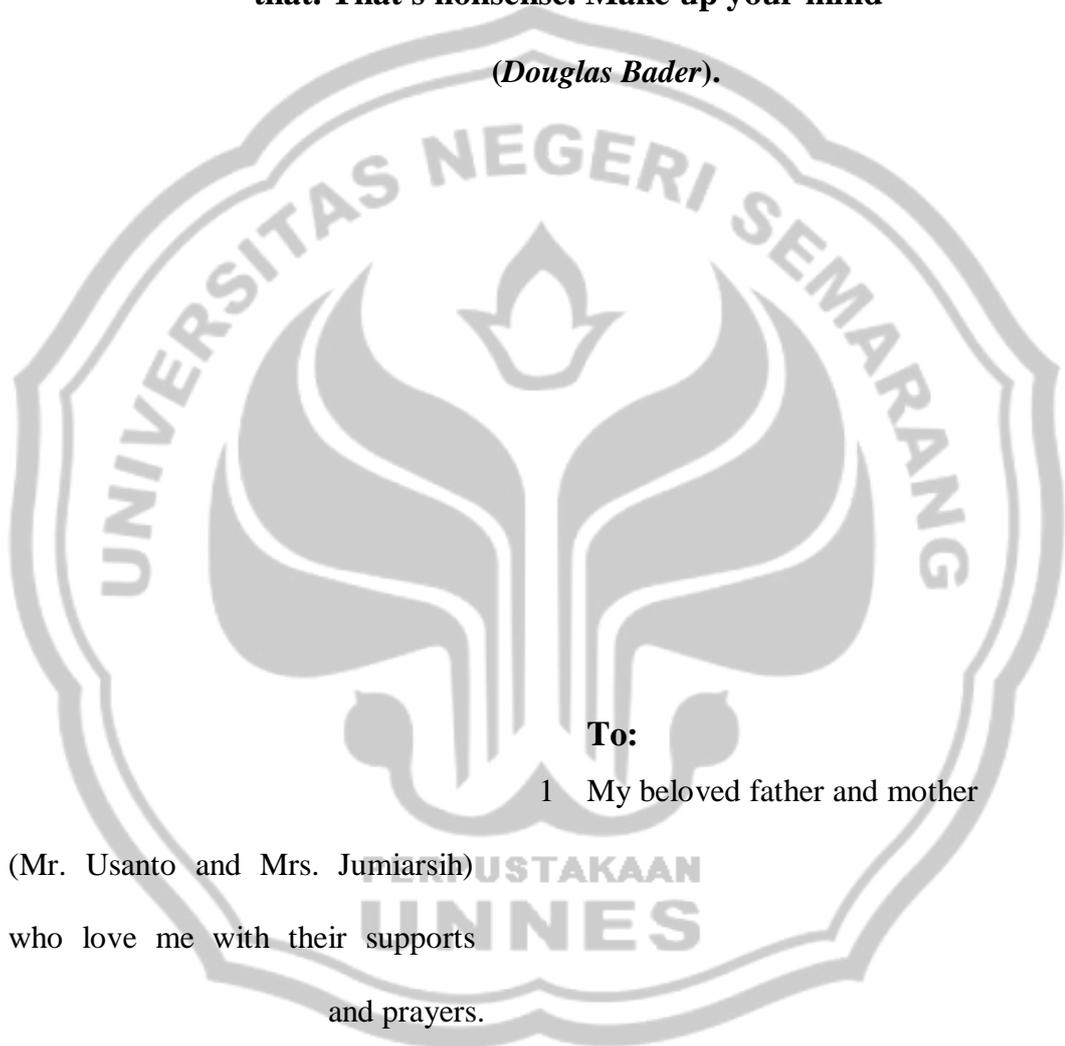
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Yang membuat pernyataan,

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Don't listen to anyone who tells you that you can't do this or that. That's nonsense. Make up your mind

(Douglas Bader).



To:

1 My beloved father and mother

(Mr. Usanto and Mrs. Jumiarsih)

who love me with their supports

and prayers.

2 My brother and all my family.

3 My lovely huni for the support,
endless care and love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillahirobbil'alamin, first and foremost, my greatest gratitude goes to Allah SWT, God Almighty for blessing and ease given me in completing this final project.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Dra. Sri Suprati, M.Pd., as my first advisor for her guidance, patience and advice in completing this final project, and Mr. Henrikus Joko Y, SS, M.Hum., as my second advisor, for his advice, correction and support in finishing this final project. I really appreciate every moment they have spend to support me.

A special honor goes to all lecturers of English Department and Language Faculty of Semarang State Univesity for their valuable knowledge and guidance during my study in Semarang State University and all members staff of the Languages and Arts Faculty for their help.

Next, I would also like to thank both my beloved parents for their untiring support, mentally and financially and for their patience. To my brother, and all my friends, last but not least, especially to my lovely huni thank you so much. I should also express my appreciation to those whose names cannot be mentioned one by one for their support and help leading to the completion of this final project.

Semarang, Maret 2010

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ABSTRACT

Diparingga, Agung Meina. 2010. Steinbeck's Satire Against Racism During the American "Great Depression" Era in Of Mice and Men. Final Project, English Department, Languages and Arts Faculty, Semarang State University. 1st Advisor: Dra. Sri Suprapti, MPd. 2nd Advisor: Henrikus Joko Y, S.S, M.Hum.

This final project is a sociological analysis on John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men*. This novel tells about a significant social problems of American society during the Great Depression in the 1930s, where Black people were discriminated and marginalized due to their social status.

This final project has three problems to be explored; those are: (1) type of satire used by John Steinbeck (2) the description of racism that happened in the American "Great Depression" era as revealed in the story (3) the impacts of racism on the life of the characters in the novella *Of Mice and Men*.

The method of investigation which was used was a qualitative method. In writing this final project, I conducted a library research. The data were in the form of words, phrases, sentences, and quotations which were related to the topic. The data are collected through appendices. There are seven appendices in this final project; they are A, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, and C3. The overall data can be seen in the Appendix A; Appendix B1, B2, and B3 contain the data to answer the first, second and third problems. The data that have been reduced can be seen in Appendix C. To answer the problems I employed the theory of satire by Roberts and socio-historical by Schaefer and Gusmorino.

The analysis results in several findings. I found that John Steinbeck used irony in writing his novel. I discovered that the discrimination to the colored people still happened during the American "Great Depression" Era. As the marginal class, Black people suffered from the malicious impacts of racial discrimination in many aspects of life in the society. Those impacts make a person develop prejudice and negative perception of something or someone, hate everyone, develop a phobia of a person, make someone commit crime, and also make a person unsecure, fearful and angry.

Above all, there is one thing which can be drawn in dealing with social problems. The importance of people's understanding that as the member of society in this world, people need to respect each other as equal human beings. Respecting each other can be used to reduce the social problems especially about racism, discrimination and also prejudice.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People use language to communicate their ideas and thoughts. Therefore, they are able to communicate and express their ideas and wishes toward life and the world through the words in the form of literature. Literature is learnt not only to get pleasure, but also helps us toward a better understanding of our lives and those of our fellow human beings. According to Rees (1973:3), “literature is defined into two: first literature in a broad sense is anything written (advertising, news, letters, travel brochures, literature about washing machine, etc); second, literature in a limited sense is a writing which expresses the writer’s feelings, thoughts, or ideas about life and it has permanent values (novels, short stories, plays).” Rees (1973:2) also states that literature is a writing which expresses and communicates feelings, thoughts and attitudes toward life. Based on what Rees said, I could infer that literature is a place where one could apply his/her life experiences as well as the reflection of his/her personal values or others.

There are many reasons why people study literature. According to some critics, people learn or read literature just to have pleasure or entertainment; others state that they want to get the messages and its moral values through the various expressions of the imagination. It is supported by Koesnosoebroto

who states that literature exists as a mirror to life in which we can feel the writer's vision of life as it is or as the writers think it should be. Another function of literature is to expand or to refine our minds and quicken our sense of life (1988:7).

There is a certain reason why I choose a novel for the study. Collie and Slater (1987:4) called a novel as a vivid imaginary world, because they suggest "a novel can quickly give a foreign reader a feel for the codes, and preoccupations that structure a real society. A novel offers a full and vivid context in which characters from many backgrounds can be depicted." By reading a novel, we can get more knowledge about human life since it leads us to learn about history, culture, psychology development of the characters, and so forth. At any given moment, there are many novels presenting various genres such as comedy, tragedy, horror, drama, etc. They usually tell about one or more characters in detail, especially their life stories. Most novels likely deliver a good moral value to the readers. However, there are also novels giving negative messages, which give bad impacts to the readers. One of novels depicting the bad impact is the novel showing racism that had become significant problem from time to time.

John Steinbeck is the author of *Of Mice and Men*. He wrote the novel based on the true significant social problem that happened in the Black American society during the Great Depression in 1930's. At that time, Black people were so discriminated and marginalized due to their social status that was not admitted by White people. They treat Black people as their slaves or

servants. As Spencer (1995: 238) states that “the greatest social problems before American people today is racism that has been for years, so that the presence of Negro was under slavery.” Their position in the society was less significant than the White was. They are always treated badly both physically and psychologically. This is what John Steinbeck wants to reveal, which might satirize racism in American society at that time. Hornby (1995:1042) defines satire as the art of practice of mocking people, institutions, etc and making them appear ridiculous in order to show how foolish, wicked, or incompetent they are. Satirists should deal with problematic subjects that are known by many people in their everyday life. They always use satire in order to respond to several events taking place in their environment.

From literary point of view such as in the novel, we can see any social problems in society with several approaches or theories. One of social sciences that studies about attitude, public opinion, and behavior in society is social psychology. Gerungan (1966) says that social psychology is a study which studies and investigates experiences and individual behavior of human beings that is influenced by social situations. Social interactions refer to the relationship between one person and another in a social situation. However, I only use social psychology of literature approach to solve the problem and choose a novella by John Steinbeck entitled *Of Mice and Men* as my research study for this final project.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

There are several reasons why I choose John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* to be discussed in this study. The reasons are:

- (1) The topic about racism in *Of Mice and Men* portrays the quiet, day-to-day life of members of the Black people with social satire and psychological insight. It is interesting to be discussed because, in fact, people have equal rights in this life so that people have to respect each other no matter what race, skin color, and language they belong to.
- (2) The attitude of the characters concerning racism can open our knowledge on how this value has a great influence on social life. When one race is dominated by another race, they will face life challenge and dehumanization both in psychological and emotional aspects.

1.3 Statement of the Problems

Based on the reason above, there are three problems formulated as follows:

- (1) What types of satire are used by John Steinbeck in his novella, *Of Mice and Men*?
- (2) How is the racism in the American "Great Depression" era portrayed in the novella, *Of Mice and Men*?
- (3) What are the impacts of racism on the life of the characters as revealed in the novella, *Of Mice and Men*?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- (1) To find out the types of satire used by John Steinbeck in his novella, *Of Mice and Men*.
- (2) To discuss the racism that happened in the American “Great Depression” era portrayed in the novella, *Of Mice and Men*.
- (3) To analyze the impacts of racism on the life of the characters as revealed in the novella, *Of Mice and Men*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to be able to give some benefits. First, I hope that this study will provide insight concerning racism in the American society in the American “Great Depression” Era as satirized by the writer, John Steinbeck. Furthermore, this analysis also aims at helping people comprehend the main idea of John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men* and its values to the readers. For students of English department, especially those of the English literature, this study is supposed to give a small contribution to the research work on literature.

1.6 Outline of the Study

This final project is organized into five chapters. Each chapter will discuss different matter as follows:

Chapter One provides introduction which consists of the background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, statement of the problems,

objectives of the study, significances of the study, and outline of the study.

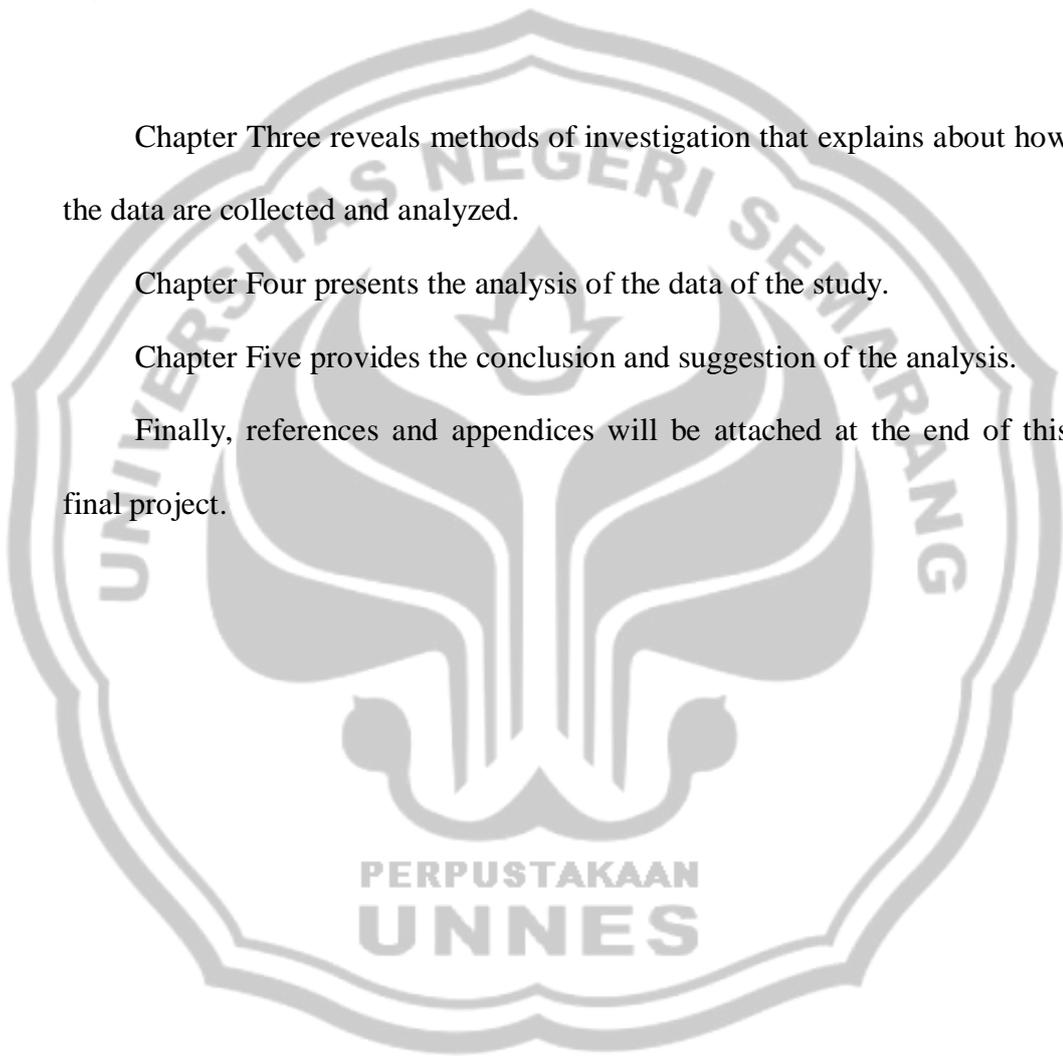
Chapter Two provides some review of the related literature. It consists of race and racism, racism in America 1930, the history and causes of “Great Depression,” satire, biography of John Steinbeck, and the plot of *Of Mice and Men*.

Chapter Three reveals methods of investigation that explains about how the data are collected and analyzed.

Chapter Four presents the analysis of the data of the study.

Chapter Five provides the conclusion and suggestion of the analysis.

Finally, references and appendices will be attached at the end of this final project.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

3.7 Race and Racism

Before I go discussing racism further, I will identify the word 'race' from which the term of the word 'racism' comes from.

3.7.1 Race

The term 'race' refers to the concept of dividing people into populations or groups based on various sets of characteristics and beliefs about common ancestry. The most widely used human racial categories are based on visible traits (especially skin color, facial features, and hair texture), and self-identification. According to Spencer (1985:266), races are categories that anthropologists set up for classifying human population by physical traits.

Samuel, et al. (1997:103-104) divided race classification into five as follows:

- a. Austroloid is Australian native (Aborigine)
- b. Mongoloid is Asian and American native, they are:
 - (1) Asiatic Mongoloid (North Asia, Middle Asia, East Asia).
 - (2) Malayan Mongoloid (Northeast Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippine, Taiwan native).
 - (3) American Mongoloid (American native).
- c. Caucasoid is European native, some of Africa and Asia, they are:

- (1) Nordie (North Europe, around Baltic Sea).
 - (2) Alpine (Middle Europe and East Europe).
 - (3) Mediterranean (around Middle Sea, North Africa, Armenia, Arabic, Iran).
 - (4) Indic (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Langka).
- d. Negroid is African native and some of Asia, they are:
- (1) African Negroid (Africa Continent).
 - (2) Negrito (Middle Africa, Malayan Peninsula which is known as Semang people, Philippines).
 - (3) Melanesian (Irian, Melanesia).
- e. Specific races are races which cannot be classified into four main races above, they are:
- 2 Bushman (Kalahari Desert, South Africa).
 - 3 Vedoid (Sri Langka remote area and South Sulawesi).
 - 4 Polynesian (Micronesia Islands and Polynesian).
 - 5 Ainu (Karafuto Islands and Hokkaido Japan).

Johnson (1986:353) noted that race as a biological concept refers to people who share genetic heritage that result in distinct physical features, such as the color of skin, eyes, and hair or the shape of the nose. The biological concept, however, is useful only if members of different races remain separate from each other and do not combine their genes in reproduction. From the concept above, it can be inferred that race is not only

a distinct features, but also determines social status on society. People who have different race from the majority will be regarded as a minority group and usually have low social status in society.

3.7.2 Racism

Racism has many definitions, the most prevalent today being the belief that human beings are divided into more than one race, with members of some races believing they are superior or inferior to members of other races.

In addition, though the term 'racism' usually denotes race-based [prejudice](#), [violence](#), [discrimination](#), or [oppression](#), the term can also have varying and hotly contested definitions. [Racialism](#) is a related term, sometimes intended to avoid these negative meanings. According to the [Oxford English Dictionary](#), racism is a belief or ideology that all members of each racial group possesses characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially to distinguish it as being either superior or inferior to another racial group or racial groups. [Merriam-Webster's Dictionary](#) defines racism as a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and those racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular racial group, and that it is the prejudice based on such a belief. The [Macquarie Dictionary](#) defines racism as "the belief that human races have distinctive characteristics which determine their respective [cultures](#), usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule or dominate others."

The term 'racism' usually deals with differentiation among groups of

people based on racial and ethnic background. What Spencer (1985:241) states below clearly shows that the practice of racism is caused by three assumptions including certain important abilities and social traits are passed on genetically not socially. Human groups that are socially defined as 'race' differ in their possession of these traits, and the hereditary differences between 'races' make some of them feel superior to others and give them special respect and rights. He defines the term 'racism' as follows:

Racism is a set of belief comprising three assumptions: (1) that certain important abilities and social traits are passed on genetically, not socially; (2) that human groups socially defined as "races" differ in their possession of these traits; and (3) that these hereditary differences between "races" make some of them superior to others and justify giving them special respect and rights.

3.7.3 The Impacts of Racism towards Society

Einfeld (1997:98) has found some effects of racism that happened in society.

- a. The smallest affects of racism and prejudice would include feelings inside the victim, feelings of insecurity, fear, and anger.
- b. Consequences of these strong reactions would include the victim developing a phobia of the racist group of people (i.e. fearing of Americans) or more likely, they end up despising the person as well as their nationality, and if the feeling within the person is strong enough,

the victim can end up lashing out and reacting quite violently.

- c. Racism can even lead to a person forever becoming withdrawn from the world, hating everyone and everything.

Racism affects everyone. It damages the communities by limiting the contribution of its members and disrupts peaceful co-existence and cooperation between groups. It damages individuals by destroying self-confidence and preventing them from achieving their potential. It is particularly damaging for children as it hampers social development and limits educational opportunities. The consequences of racism –social injustice, a less productive economy, and a divided community- are clearly detrimental, not only for its victims but also to society as a whole. Racism is a destructive and persistent evil that brings only harm. Sadly, it is often a misinformed response to economic hardship. Rather than solving economic problems, however, racism fuels the fire of suffering by intimidating its victims and corrupting its perpetrators.

From the explanation above, it can be inferred that racism gives negative effects, not only for the individual, but also for the society.

3.8 Racism in America 1930s

The 1930s was a turbulent time for race relations in America. African Americans were the primary target of most racist acts back in the 30s. Rights of African Americans were completely ignored. Around 1920s America had

“great migration”. At that time, America was a multicultural country, where many people came as immigrants. They came from Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Asia, Africa, etc. Most of American Africans worked as slaves and they were deprived of power and right to vote.

Schaefer (1983:207) states that, before twentieth century Black people came to America as slaves, they were forced to work hard and often ill-treated physically and mentally by the owners. Many African-Americans were paid less than the White was and the social status of White people was higher than Black people. Hornby (1995:957) defines it as the belief that some races are superior because they are of different races. Those bitter facts were indicative of racism in America in the 1930s.

In the early 1920, there was a big migration of Black people from South of America colonies (with its agricultural economy) to North America (growing industrial commercial base), and the population was more than double. Most of them lived in Detroit and Chicago. The increased presence of Black Americans in Northern cities (where many had migrated during World War II and especially during the Depression) resulted in increased tension between the races there as well. Some of Native Americans hate the new comers, because they have been considered as competitors to get job with less money and they gather only with the same race, continued to maintain their Old Culture and refuse to assimilate with American culture. As the result of over population, it makes the nationality spirit increased. Ku Klux Klan (White Native American Protestant) declares the spirit of Americanism 100

percent, and campaign to fight against their enemy such as Catholic, Jews, Immigrants, and Africa-American people.

3.9 The History and Causes of “Great Depression”

The Great Depression began in October 1929, when the stock market in the United States dropped rapidly. Thousands of investors lost large sums of money and many were wiped out, lost everything. The ‘crash’ led us into the Great Depression. The ensuing period ranked as the longest and worst period of high unemployment and low business activity in modern times. Banks, stores, and factories were closed and left millions of Americans jobless, homeless, and penniless. Many people came to depend on the government or charity to provide them with food.

3.9.1 The History of Great Depression

The Great Depression happened in the United States; historians most often use as a starting date the [stock market crash](#) on October 29, 1929, known as [Black Tuesday](#). The end of the depression in the U.S. is associated with the onset of the [war economy](#) of [World War II](#), beginning around 1939.

The depression had devastating effects in the [developed](#) and [developing](#) worlds. International trade was deeply affected, as personal [incomes](#), [tax revenues](#), [prices](#), and [profits](#). [Cities all around the world](#) were hit hard, especially those dependent on [heavy industry](#). Construction was virtually halted in many countries. [Farming](#) and rural areas suffered as crop prices fell by 40 to 60 percent. Almost of 13 million people became unemployed. Facing plummeting demand with few alternate sources of jobs, areas dependent on

primary sector industries such as farming, mining and logging suffered the most.

However, even shortly after the Wall Street Crash of 1929, optimism persisted; John D. Rockefeller said, “These are days when many are discouraged. In the 93 years of my life, depressions have come and gone. Prosperity has always returned and will again.” Then when Franklin D. Roosevelt from Democrat Party was elected as President of America, here comes a new age of change of economic and politic.

3.9.2 The Causes of Great Depression

The ‘Great Depression’ was a period in the United States history when business was poor and many people were out of work. There were multiple causes for the first downturn in 1929, including the structural weaknesses and specific events that turned it into a major depression and a combination of natural disasters and human miscalculation devastating American economy in the 1930s.

The Great Depression was the worst economic slump ever in U.S. history, and one that spread to virtually the entire industrialized world. The depression began in late 1929 and lasted for about a decade. Many factors played a role in bringing about the depression; however, the main cause for the Great Depression was the combination of the greatly unequal distribution of wealth throughout the 1920’s, and the extensive stock market speculation that took place during the latter part that same decade. The mal- distribution of wealth in the 1920 has existed in many levels. Money was distributed

separately between the rich and the middle-class, between industry and agriculture within the United States, and between the U.S. and Europe. This imbalance of wealth created an unstable economy. Essentially, what happened in the 1920's was that there was an oversupply of goods. It was not that the surplus products of industrialized society were not wanted, but rather that those whose needs were not satiated could not afford more, whereas the wealthy were satiated by spending only a small portion of their income. Gusmorino (1996) articulates the problems of this mal-distribution of wealth:

We still pray to be given each day our daily bread. Yet there is too much bread, too much wheat and corn, meat and oil and almost every other commodity required by man for his subsistence and material happiness. We are not able to purchase the abundance that modern methods of agriculture, mining, and manufacturing make available in such bountiful quantities.

3.10 Satire

In order to obtain a clear description and to avoid misconception, I present the definition of satire, the types and its classification, and the technique of creating satire.

3.10.1 Definition of Satire

To satirize the society or certain people through his or her characters in the story, an author often uses satire. The author may satirize the attitudes of

the society, or the values, which are professed by the society. Satire is a literary device employed in the 18th century. It can be defined as the literary act of diminishing or derogating a subject by making it ridiculous and evoking toward its attitudes of amusement, contempt, scorn, or indignation.

Hornby (1995:1042) defines satire as the art of practice of mocking people, institutions, etc and making them appear ridiculous in order to show how foolish, wicked or incompetent they are.

Bensel and Meyer (1992:312) state, "Satire is a type of writing that uses irony most often". Satirists are not just writers who make fun of others. They use satire to help readers or themselves see things from a different point of view. Satirists should deal with problematic subjects that are known by many people in their everyday life. They always use satire in order to respond to several events taking place in their environment. The main purpose of using satire is to attack and criticize intensely the target subject. Meanwhile, Johnston (1998: 4) offers reform as the purpose of satire. According to him, in criticizing something wrong, we will probably have at least two purposes in mind; first, to affect some changes in the behavior of the target (so that he or she reforms) and second to encourage others to behave in such manner.

Satire is literarily a manner that blends a critical attitude with humor and wit, which has the aim to improve manners in society. In other words, satire is a device that uses humor or ridicule to question human behavior or institutions.

Satire is funny, even when it is painful and designed to wound, there is always in it an intention to reform, which cannot be found in sarcasm.

3.10.2 Types of Satire

Abrams, as cited by www.freewebs.com, there are two kinds of satire, direct and indirect. Direct satire is when the satiric person speaks out in the first person. This is broken into two sub-groups. In Horatian satire, the speaker is an "urbane, witty, and tolerant man of the world...to evoke from readers a wry smile at human failings." Pope's *Moral Essays* is an example of this. In Juvenalian satire the speaker is "a serious moralist... evoke from readers contempt, moral indignation, or unillusioned sadness at the aberrations of humanity." Samuel Johnson's "London" 1738 is an example of this type of satire. The second type of satire, indirect satire's most common form is "that of a fictional narrative..." where the characters obnoxiousness is made even more obvious by the narrator's comments. John Steinbeck's novels are examples of this.

Juvenalian satire is biting, bitter, and angry, and it points with contempt and moral indignation to the corruption and evil of human beings and their institutions. In England, the satirist using most often the Horatian mode, the comedy of manners during the late 17th century acted as genial ironic comment on polite society. It has been in fiction; however, that satire has found its most common literary vehicle since the middle of the 18th century. Other powerful vehicles for satire in the late 20th century include motion picture and the political cartoon. Horatian satire is gentle, urbane, and

smiling, and it aims to correct apparent wrongs by gentle and broadly sympathetic laughter.

3.10.3 Techniques of Creating Satires

There are many ways to create a satire according to Robert Harris as cited in www.virtualsalt.com, among of them as follows:

a. Humor

Among the elements that contribute to the informality of writers tone, humor deserves a special attention. Humor can help attack a reader, breakdown his reserve, and soften the impact of unpleasant truths. It is a means of overcoming distrusts. A piece of writing seems to lack proposition when it treats the most trivial matters with the same deadly seriousness. There is something reassuring about detachment, that enables the writers to perceive everything that is maybe ridiculous or amusing about his subject.

b. Irony

Satiric humor usually involves some types of irony. According to Johnston, (1998:8) irony refers to a stylistic device or figure of speech in which the real meaning of the words is different from and opposite to the literal meaning.

Irony is usually knowledge held by the audience but hidden from the relevant characters. Performers may use words that seem to pertain to their situation and mean one thing to them but have a different meaning to the audience who has a complete understanding of the scene. Roberts (1969:115) divides irony into three major types; verbal irony, situational irony, and

dramatic irony.

The first type of irony is verbal irony. It can be defined as a form of indirection or ambiguity by which the opposite of what is said is usually intended. Often, verbal irony may be described as understatement or overstatement. The example of this type of irony is when a mother said “it is still early, isn’t it?” to her son who woke up at 11 a.m. what the mother said clearly shows the ambiguity since eleven o’clock is no longer early but is almost afternoon.

The next type of irony is situational irony. This kind of irony is usually employed to describe misguided hopes or misinterpreted motives about a given situation. The example of situational irony appears in the condition of a country in transitional era, which was expected to be better, but stayed the same with the condition under the former one although the leader had been already changed.

The last type of irony is dramatic irony. It applies when a character in a drama or fictional work perceives a situation in a limited way while the audience sees it as a greater perspective. The audience sees double meaning whereas the character sees only one. One example of dramatic irony is found in *Oedipus Rex* where Oedipus thinks that he is about to discover that someone else murdered his father, while the audience knows all along that he himself is the murderer and that as he condemns the murderer, he condemns himself.

From the explanation above, it is clear that in making critical comment by means of irony, the satirist replaces a topic into a new light or reversing a

perspective on it. Thus, he is distancing himself from the object being satirized. This also makes him free to attack his object.

c. Burlesque

Burlesque, a common form of satire performed physically, is a distortion of a form or genre in which the style of presentation is not suited, often the opposite, of the subject matter. A serious subject maybe treated frivolously or a frivolous one seriously. The sub line is made absurd: normal emotions are presented as extreme sentimentality vice verse. Johnston (1998:8) gives his definition of burlesque. According to him, burlesque refers to ridiculous exaggeration in language, usually one that makes the discrepancy between the words and the situation or the character silly. It creates a large gap between the situation or the characters and the style with which they speak or act out of the event. For example, to have a king speaks like an idiot or a worker speaks like a king.

d. Parody

Parody, as opposed to burlesque, is the distortion of a particular work or author for comic effect or ridicule. The parody may closely follow but either exaggerate or underplay the emotions and actions of the original works. Both literary fiction and performance satire are the most common forms of parody.

Satire presents the weakness of humankind and makes fun of them. Usually it attempts to cure foolishness by making people laugh at it. Satire is applied to writing that expresses or ridicules conducts, doctrines, or institutions either by direct criticism or more often through irony, parody, or

caricature. Many uses of humor go beyond witty sentences or clever phrases.

3.11 Biography of John Steinbeck

John Ernest Steinbeck was born on February 27, 1902, in Salinas, California. He was the third of four children-and only son-of John Ernst, Sr., and Olive Hamilton Steinbeck. Steinbeck's father managed a flourmill and later served as treasurer of Monterey County. His mother had taught in a one-room rural school. At the turn of the century, Salinas was a typical American small town. Located about one hundred miles south of San Francisco, near Monterey Bay, Salinas at the time had a population of three thousand. Steinbeck's father was a good provider, although the family was not affluent. Young John had to work to earn his own money.

During high school, he worked on nearby ranches during the summer. In high school, he earned mostly B's and B-pluses and, in his senior year, he was elected president of the class. He was also an associate editor of the school newspaper, although his articles showed none of the brilliance of his later work. In 1919, Steinbeck entered Stanford University in Palo Alto, about eighty miles north of Salinas. He made only average grades there, and after two years, he withdrew from the university. During the following two years, he worked on a ranch south of Salinas before returning to Stanford. He attended classes off and on, sometimes suspending his studies because of illness and his indecision about what field of study to pursue. When not at school, he worked several different jobs, including one as a clerk in Oakland

and as a laborer in the beet and barley fields of Salinas, an experience that he would write about fifteen years later in *Of Mice and Men*.

In 1936, Steinbeck began work on *Of Mice and Men*. Based on his ranch experiences and his firsthand knowledge of migrant workers, the novel was to be a realistic parable of farming conditions in Salinas Valley. Beginning with this novel, the works that would make him famous during the years just prior to World War II were concerned mostly with the dispossessed and farm laborers. Yet Steinbeck did not see the migrants in political terms.

Although he had great concern for the plight of migrant workers, he saw himself as an artist creating works that would have universal meaning and, as art, would stand the test of time. A kind and compassionate man by nature, Steinbeck's concern for people in trouble shows clearly in his work.

Shortly after *Of Mice and Men* was published, Steinbeck worked with playwright George Kaufman on the stage version of the novel. The night the play opened on Broadway, Steinbeck was living in a migrant camp, researching and working on the early version of the novel that was to be transformed into *The Grapes of Wrath* the following year. He never saw the Broadway play of this powerful work. In 1943, Steinbeck divorced his first wife, and then married a singer, writer, and composer Gwendolyn Conger in the same year. He and Gwendolyn had two sons, Tom and John, before they divorced in 1948. Steinbeck married his third wife, Elaine Scott, in 1950.

Steinbeck's many honors during his lifetime included the U.S. Medal of Freedom and the Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1962 Steinbeck became the

sixth American to receive the Nobel Prize. Steinbeck was elated and surprised to receive this honor, the greatest any writer can receive. His fiction of the 1930s gained national recognition, and *Of Mice and Men* and *The Grapes of Wrath* won acclaim in other countries as well. On December 20, 1968, after a series of strokes, Steinbeck died in his apartment in New York City. His ashes were buried in the family cemetery in Salinas. (accessed in <http://www.steinbeck.orgBio.html>)

3.12 Plot of *Of Mice and Men*

The story opened with two traveling laborers, named George Milton and Lennie Small, on their way to a job loading barley at a California ranch. It was Friday evening, and they spent the night along the Salinas River before arriving at their new place of work, a ranch, the next morning. Here, the reader discovered the main personality differences between George and Lennie. Because Lennie was slow mentally, George acted as Lennie's guardian, taking care of the large child. They'd been traveling together for a long time, since the passing away of Lennie's Aunt Clara. Also, it was stressed that Lennie's habit of petting soft things, such as a dead mouse or the dress of a woman, often got them into trouble - forcing the two men to continuously had to find new work. Their dream was to own their own place and be their own bosses in the future. There, Lennie would be able to "tend to the rabbits".

Upon arriving at the ranch, they were met by an old man named Candy

and his dog. It was Candy who explained to them the ways of the ranch and the other ranch hands. Soon, the boss entered the cabin to meet his new workers, quite angry that they had been too late for the morning shift. He asked both George and Lennie questions, which George proceeded to answer. Eventually, Lennie answered one question in his own, unintelligent way. George was angry, but the boss was a bit suspicious.

Then there was Curley's seductive wife. As usual, she was "looking for her husband" as an excuse to meet and attempted to seduce the other workers. Of course, George and Candy denied her attempt, but Lennie innocently defended her. As George warned Lennie to stay away from her, Lennie showed that he wanted to leave. George agreed to leave once they had enough money to attain their dream.

Slim entered and announced that his dog had had puppies. He discussed with Carlson the idea of killing Candy's old dog and replacing it with one of his puppies. In addition, George agreed to ask Slim if Lennie could also have one. Later, George confided in Slim his relationship with Lennie. He admitted that Lennie was not bright, but obviously a nice person. Lennie not only provided companionship, but made George feel smart.

Carlson entered and continued to pressure Candy to allow him to kill his dog. Candy gave in when Slim joined in the argument. Later, he overheard George and Lennie talking about their dream and asked to be part of it, offering to advance half of the money they needed. Finally, the dreams

appeared within reach.

Curley entered and began to taunt and hit Lennie. Lennie, in turn, refused to fight back until George told him to. Lennie grabbed Curley's hand and began to flip him about, until he crushed Curley's hand by accident.

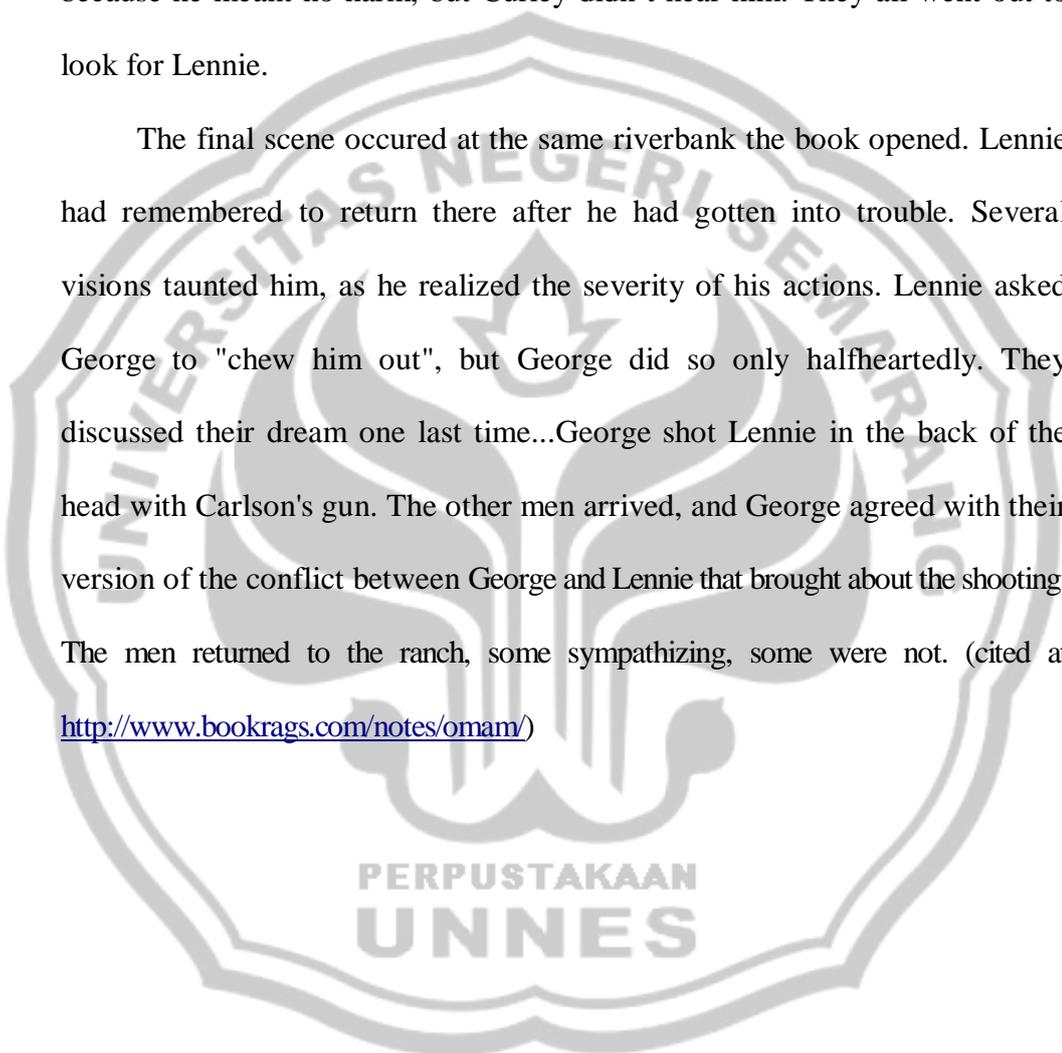
Later that night, while George and most of the other ranch hands were visiting a whorehouse, the outcast Lennie entered the room of the other outcast, Crooks. At first, Crooks objected to this invasion of privacy, but eventually Lennie won him over. Crooks described the difficulties of discrimination at the ranch, while Lennie spoke of the dream he, George, and Candy shared. When Candy enters and speaks of his part attempting to make the dream a reality, then Crooks wanted to join them. Curley's wife, looking for company, entered the room. Crooks and Candy argued with her, but she played up to Lennie. She leaved when George entered the room. George, in turn was angry to know that another man, Crooks, had entered their dream.

The next afternoon, all of the trouble George predicted began to come true. Lennie, by handling the puppy too much, had broken its neck. As he tried to hide the animal, Curley's wife entered the barn. She talked to Lennie about her life, seemingly seducing him. When she learnt of Lennie's love for soft things, she invited him to touch her hair. He did so, but as always, held on too tight. The woman began to struggle and yell. Lennie was panic, accidentally breaking her neck, just like his puppy.

After Lennie fled, Candy found the woman's body. He got George and asked for reassurance that their dream would still be fulfilled, even without

Lennie. He asked Candy to give him a few minutes head start before telling the others. In that time, he stole Carlson's gun - the same one used to kill Candy's dog. George reentered the barn with the others to discover the body and he attempted to convince the men that Lennie should only be put away because he meant no harm, but Curley didn't hear him. They all went out to look for Lennie.

The final scene occurred at the same riverbank the book opened. Lennie had remembered to return there after he had gotten into trouble. Several visions taunted him, as he realized the severity of his actions. Lennie asked George to "chew him out", but George did so only halfheartedly. They discussed their dream one last time...George shot Lennie in the back of the head with Carlson's gun. The other men arrived, and George agreed with their version of the conflict between George and Lennie that brought about the shooting. The men returned to the ranch, some sympathizing, some were not. (cited at <http://www.bookrags.com/notes/omam/>)



CHAPTER III

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

This chapter is divided into six parts that are object of the study, source of data, role of the researcher, procedures of collecting data and analyzing data. The object of the study discusses the subject that I am dealing with. The source of data contributes the important information I use to support my study. The procedures of collecting data refer to the steps that are taken in discussing this study.

3.1 Object of the Study

The object of this study is a novella entitled *Of Mice and Men* written by John Steinbecks. It is set on a ranch in the Salinas Valley in California during the Great Depression of the 1930s. It was the first work to bring John Steinbeck national recognition as a writer. The title suggests that *Of Mice and Men* often go awry, a reference to Robert Burn's poem *To a Mouse*. *Of Mice and Men* was selected for the Book of the Month Club before it was officially published for an honor that encouraged 117,000 copies of the novel to be sold before its official publication on February 25, 1937.

This novella actually tells about George Milton, small and smart, and his friend Lennie Small, a large man with mild retardation. They are on their way to jobs at a ranch. Both of them are having a dream that one day soon they will own a farm of their own, where they will grow their own food and

have rabbits Lennie can tend. However, they often get many problems in their journey. All of them are almost caused by Lennie's foolishness and his uncontrolled strength. That is why in the end of the story, George shoots Lennie in the head.

3.2 Source of Data

Before doing this research, I accumulated the sources to be discussed. I used a library and internet research to gather the resources. However, the sources are divided into two, namely, primary and secondary sources. The main data of the analysis are taken from the source. They are taken from the object of the study that is novella entitled *Of Mice and Men*. The second source is source from which the supporting data are taken. It involves theory of fiction and other related articles which are taken from books, encyclopedia, dictionary, and websites.

3.3 Role of the Researcher

I am as the researcher of this study has the role as the analyst of the novella. I analyze the data to answer the research questions.

3.4 Procedure of Collecting Data

In this study I use qualitative data since the data are sentences and utterances, not numbers. A qualitative data consists of words, pictures, clothing, phrase and sentences. I employed a library research to gather

resources in order to reveal satire towards racism during Great Depression Era in *Of Mice and Men*.

(1) Reading

The first step in collecting data in this study was reading the novella in order to gain a deeper insight about the whole aspect in the novel including the characters and the setting of the novel. First, I read the novella of *Of Mice and Men* several times to know the story inside, and then read it in part repeatedly to understand and find the relevant data.

(2) Identifying

The second step is identifying the data. It means the activity of separating between data and non data by marking, bracketing and underlining the data in the written text, then give them number. The brackets indicated the whole data. The underlines indicated the words, phrases, or sentences which answer the question. Meanwhile the numbers of data were used to make the classification clearer.

(3) Inventorying

The third step is about inventorying identified data into the table. This table consists of column of data number, form of data, the data location, and which questions are answered by the data. The result of all the identified data could be seen in Appendix A. The format of the table is shown below:

	Form of Data	age	P aragra ph	i n e	nsw er que stio n no.

(4) Classifying the data

The fourth is classifying the data. This step is done by grouping the inventoried data according to the research question being answered. The result of the classified data can be seen in appendix B and C.

(5) Simplifying

The data supporting each problem needs to be simplified because the data were too many to analyze. In this step the data is simplified by using reducing techniques.

(6) Selecting

Selecting the data is aimed at choosing more significant statements or sentences that are related to the topic. It means that only relevant data will be selected to answer the problem.

(7) Reporting

The last is reporting the data. The data which have been identified and

classified are reported in appendices.

3.5 Procedure of Analyzing Data

The last step is analyzing the data. It is the main part of the final project. The data for analysis are taken from the novella itself. Some of the data are in the form of quotations. After I get the data to be analyzed, I will classify them into four groups. They are attitude/behavior, dialogue, description, and setting. In reporting the result of the data, I used several steps in order to get a clear result of the analysis:

First, finding out the type of satire used by John Steinbecks in his novella, *Of Mice and Men*. In this step I used the theory of satire by Roberts.

Second, giving the explanation about racism in the American “Great Depression” era as portrayed in the novella, *Of Mice and Men*. In this step I used the theory of socio-historical approach by Schaefer and Gusmorino.

Third, analyzing the impacts of racism towards the life of the characters as revealed in the novella, *Of Mice and Men*. Socio-psychological approach supported me to do this step.

The last, finding the messages conveyed by Steinbeck in *Of Mice and Men*. I also used the theory of social-historical approach to do this step. Those messages hopefully would be beneficial for the readers.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the data presented in Appendix C are analyzed to address the issues of the study. They will be analyzed using the technique that is provided in chapter III. The problems will be analyzed one by one in the following three sub-chapters.

3.13 Types of Satire Used by John Steinbeck in His Novella, *Of Mice and Men*

This chapter discusses the irony found in *Of Mice and Men*. Each satirist has his/her own style to create a satire. From the observation of the novella *Of Mice and Men*, I found that John Steinbeck writes in indirect satire and he uses third person point of view because the story is told by the narrator as an observer. The satire here is restricted to the racism which can be seen in the character's attitudes. As has been explained in the previous chapter, irony provides the distinction between what the characters say and do and what the readers understand by their action. John Steinbeck uses a variety of verbal, dramatic, and situational irony through his novella in creating his satire against racism in American society during the Great Depression Era. It is impossible to cover all of them at once, so I just give some examples as follows;

a. Verbal Irony

Verbal irony is a disparity of expression and intention: when a speaker says one thing but really means something different, or when a literal meaning is contrary to its intended effect. Verbal irony is distinguished from situational irony and dramatic irony in that the speakers produce it intentionally. Verbal irony is a form of speech in which one meaning is stated and a different, usually antithetical, meaning is intended. It can be seen in the following sentence;

- e. “You got a nice cozy little place in here,” (Datum no.18)

This statement is said by Candy to Crooks as a ranch outcast. Both of them are workers in the same barn. The difference is that Candy is a white worker while Crooks is an Afro American. When that quotation is read ironically, the sentence means something other than its literal meaning. According to the story, it was the first time for Candy to be in the Crooks’ room. In fact, the Crooks’ room is inside a horse stable. It means that Crooks shares his room with the horses he is taking care of.

As we know, the room is not comfortable nor cozy at all and it is just an irony. We can imagine the circumstance there; that place is not suitable for people to live, but he does not have another optional place to stay because that horse stable is the only place left for him. In short, Candy says that statement only to pleasure the black man feeling. He feels a little bit unwell entering Crooks’ room for the first time.

- f. “It was nothing,” Crooks said dully. “You guys comin’ in an’ settin’ made me forget. What she says is true.” (Datum no.29)

Verbal irony says one thing, but means the complete opposite. From the quotation above there is also a hidden verbal irony at the expression of Crooks’ feeling. Candy is destined just to cover his feeling, pretending to be alright from the offense of Curley's wife. This statement is taken inside the room of Crooks. He was with Candy and Lennie when Curley’s wife came and she had a confrontation with all of them, and made Crooks be in psychological hurts. The readers know that the statement above is up side down with the Crooks’ feeling that may be sad and hurts so much.

There is also an irony when an old swamper welcomed Lennie and George, he described his boss they will work for. Here is his statement as follows;

- g. “Well, he’s a pretty nice fella. Gets pretty mad sometimes, but he’s pretty nice.” (Datum no.2)

From the quotation above, the old swamper gives a positive comment about his Boss. However, as we know that the Boss actually is not pretty nice as he said and it is just an irony. It proved later when the Boss was expecting of both George and Lennie in their first day work, but they did not work. It made him be a sore as hell.

b. Situational Irony

Situational irony typically takes the form of a discrepancy between appearance and reality, or between what a character expects and what actually happens. We can pick up the example of this kind of irony in the novella as follows;

- h. “Yes sir. Jesus, we had fun. **They let the nigger come in that night. Little skinner name of Smitty took after the nigger. Done pretty good, too.** The guys wouldn't let him use his feet, so the nigger got him. **If he coulda used his feet, Smitty says he woulda killed the nigger.** The guys said on account of the nigger's got a crooked back, Smitty can't use his feet.” (Datum no.3)

From the quotation above, the setting of the scene is in the bunkhouse. As we know, Crooks is isolated for long time because he is black. He is never wanted to be there, but this moment is an exception for him because his white friends allow him to get inside the bunkhouse, but it happens only in the Christmas night. Crooks does not expect all the good that he would be invited to join the celebration, because he does not belong to the White community. He expects that his white friends will be nice to him but in fact, what actually happens is not. We know from the bold sentences above which clearly explain that Crooks is not really accepted there. It is so ironic knowing the truth that his friends treat him in bad way at Christmas night, even one of them says that he will hunt Crooks like an animal and he would kill him anyway. It is a bitter fact that Crooks always becomes the victim of racism all

the time. However, White and Black cannot stand together side by side.

After Crooks allows Lennie to come in his room, he is revealing about his past childhood memories to Lennie:

- i. "I ain't a southern negro," he said. "I was born right here in California. My old man had a chicken ranch, 'bout ten acres. The white kids come to play at our place, an' sometimes I went to play with them, and some of them was pretty nice. **My ol' man didn't like that.** I never knew till long later why he didn't like that. But I know now." (Datum no.12)

As specifically described, Crooks was born in California so he is not a Southern Negro. As we know, the setting of the novella portrays the time when a big migration of Black people from South of America to North America colonies and racism was as strong as ever in the Southern states. Eventhough, Crooks is a native black Negro but it still does not give him any special rights of it.

The irony of that quotation above defines that Black people prohibits their children to make such a relation with White people, because Blacks are different. They feel miserable for being Black in the middle of White, and it places them as the second class under the White. It creates boundaries for them so they cannot enjoy their own place as well. From the bold sentence, we know that his parent does not like Crooks to have white friends, and demands him to play with them. It is not suitable with Crooks willingness, he likes to have friends a lot no matter they are. This friendly Crooks is proved by his attitude of allowing Lennie to get inside his room.

There is also an irony in the bitter truth feeling of Curley's wife about his husband. She thanks Lennie:

- j. **“I'm glad you bust up Curley a little bit. He got it comin' to him. Sometimes I'd like to bust him myself.”** (Datum no.26)

Curley's wife inside the Crooks room says this statement after she is satisfied with crushing Crooks. Her husband has a fight with Lennie in the previous day and Lenny finally breaks Curley's hand but Lennie does not tell the truth. He lies that Curley's hand has caught into the machine.

We relish the ironical flavor of this statement much later when we know that Curley is her husband, and he is still her husband. She should be angry with Lenny for hurting her husband, but on the contrast, she thanks Lenny for warning her arrogant husband. Take a look at the bold sentence above, she is not supposed to be said that of her husband, even though she expects that. It indicates that her marriage is not happy.

c. Dramatic Irony

Dramatic irony is a disparity of expression and awareness: when words and actions possess significance that the listener or audience understands, but the speaker or character does not. Dramatic irony is a situation, or the irony arising from a situation, in which the audience has a fuller knowledge of what is happening in a drama than a character does.

Steinbeck describes the wrong excuses of Lennie as an irony. Later that night, while George and most of the other ranch hands are visiting a

whorehouse, Lennie enters the room of the outcast, Crooks. But he does not even realize that he has already trespassed the other's privacy, especially because Crooks is a Black.

Lennie tries to explain his reason more by saying the statement as follows;

k. ... "I ain't doing nothing," Lennie said. "Just come to look at my puppy. And I see your light," he explained. (Datum no.6)

and,

l. "Nothing---I seen your light. I thought I could jus' come in an' set." (Datum no.10)

From the two quotations above, we can know that Lennie is typical of an innocent man. He does not understand why he is forbidden to enter Crooks' room but the readers notice that he does not any rights to come in at Black's room at all.

After that Crooks asks Lennie a question about his job in the ranch, as follows:

m. "I don't know what you're doin' in the barn anyway,"(Datum no.11)

Crooks says this underestimated statement to Lenny. He wants to know what Lennie is doing in the barn. It means that Crooks is in doubt of Lennie's capabilities in the barn. Even though Lennie has a big body but it does not

help him, much to convince Crooks that Lennie deserves being there, too. Apparently, Lennie can do nothing in the barn, because Lennie has a slow mind and is childish. Nevertheless, the readers know that Lennie works at in the ranch as a skinner together with George.

There is also an irony in the witty utterances of Curley's seductive wife. She is lonely so she sometimes looks for a company, and then she enters the Crooks' room. She asks a rhetoric question to the people who are in there:

- n. "Any you boys seen Curley?" (Datum no.21)

The readers notice that she just looks for excuses to get somebody to talk with, because she feels so lonesome and bored at home. Indeed, she does not really mean to seek her husband actually. This statement is supported by the quotation as follows;

- o. "They left all the weak ones here, "she said finally." Think I don't know where they all went? **Even Curley. I know where they all went.**" (Datum no.22)

People in Crooks' room do not want to tell where Curley is. Moreover, Crooks and Candy have a big argue with her. They are not glad to have her existence there because it will cause a lot of trouble that they will get. No one of them wants to tell her; they mean to keep their distance away and try not to make any relations or communication with her. From the bold

sentence, we know that in fact she already knows where Curley is. In addition, she feels disappointed because in fact they ignored her and do not appreciate her at all, then she teases all of the men in the Crooks' room. She comments as like:

- p. "If I catch any one man, and he's alone, I get along fine with him. But just let two of the guys get together an' you won't talk. Jus' nothing but mad."
(Datum no.23)

From the quotation above, the readers know that Curley's wife is so overwhelmed by her loneliness; she seeks friendship from other men. She is looking for her husband as an excuse to meet and attempt to seduce the other workers. It is so ironic knowing the fact that she has been married, and her husband does not like to see her with somebody else even having chat with other people. It is suitable with the statement of she said in the following:

- q. "You're all scared of each other, that's what. Ever' one of you's scared the rest is goin' to get something on you." (Datum no.24)

Actually, there is nothing to be afraid of; all of them are only scare of Curley, the son of the Boss. They just have nothing to do with her in as much as they want no trouble. The readers know it well, and it is an irony.

We experienced another irony of Curley's wife statements since we notice when it happened in Crooks' room. She gets no right coming in colored man's room and makes a mess around. Crooks as the owner of the

room stands for his right and against to move her out of the room immediately. It is no advantages of her being inside among the men, because he knows that Curley is kind of a tempered man and he does not like his wife out of the barn. This rejection drives her into madness. Here is the conversation between Crooks and Curley's wife:

r. She closed on him. "You know what I could do?"

Crooks seemed to grow smaller, and he pressed himself against the wall. "Yes, ma'am."

"Well, you keep your place then, Nigger. I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain't even funny."

Crooks had reduced himself to nothing. there was no personality, no ego—nothing to arouse either like or dislike. He said ,"Yes, ma'am." and his voice was toneless. (Datum no.25)

The irony of the quotation above is that Curley's wife threatens Crooks not to tell the boss in order to let her never come in the barn anymore. She harshly reminds him that he is just a worker, and a Black worker at that. She regards him as kind of a man that she can easily handle. Racism makes her have an authority to be able to do anything whatever she likes to him. Crooks realized whom he is dealing with then he manages to control himself. Unfortunately, he cannot anticipate it well and it is better for Crooks to be silent facing the terrible protective dignity of the Negro. It is all the best than less significant he can do. Crooks silently hangs his head to let her take

everything from him without any struggle.

It becomes an embarrassing moment in his entire life for sure. Soon after she walks away, he just wants to be alone right now. Therefore, he asks Candy and Lennie to leave him sarcastically as follows:

- s. Crooks avoided the whole subject now. “Maybe you guys better go,” he said. “I ain’t sure I want you here no more. A colored man got to have some rights even if he don't like 'em.” (Datum no.27)

Crooks feels that it is not necessary for them to be inside his room longer. In that point he feels so weak and numb, he regrets himself that he has failed to stand up his own dignity and defend his rights; there is no more worse that a man can live with.

Here is also the dramatic irony found in the utterance of Old Candy to Crooks’ misfortune, as follows;

- t. Candy said, “That bitch didn’t ought to of said to you.” (Datum no.28)

From that quotation we know that Candy is giving a sympathy to Crooks and also regret in the same time. It is also an irony; Candy knows an unproper thing but he does nothing to make it stop. Although, Candy wants to tell the Boss about Curley’s wife framing Crooks but Candy notices that nobody will listen to him.

Dramatic irony can also be found in the end story of the novel, when George has to take his best friend’s life, Lennie. Here the narrator tells the

chronology how George does it;

- u. And George raised the gun and steadied it, and he brought the muzzle of it close to the back of Lennie's head. The hand shook violently, but his face and his hand steadied. He pulled the trigger. The crash of the shot rolled up the hills and rolled down again. Lennie jarred, and then settled slowly forward to the sand, and he lay without quivering. (Datum no.30)

From the novel we know that Steinbeck often stresses how ranchers are loners. George and Lennie are the only ones who travel in pairs. George and Lennie share a bond so strong that when one is destroyed, the other will inevitably back him up. They seem to be two halves of the same person, and they know how special they truly are. The readers guess at the first time that George supposed to look after Lennie forever. At the end of story, Lennie murders Curley's wife accidentally, they have a small confrontation and makes her killed. He does not commit it on purpose. Then he runs away to the safe place he used to hide whenever he gets a trouble. George meets him that is scared in the banks of the river but ironically, Lennie does not know actually, what George will do to him this time. There is no way out to help his friend, because all the ranch workers chase after him angrily. Then George shoots Lennie's head to help him to escape from a brutal lynching.

We may say that John Steinbeck's main concern was irony. He uses irony to shake the major figures of their self-deception and expose the

hypocrisy and pretentiousness, absurdity and insanity of some of his minor figures. It is definitely possible to figure out from his work, a scheme of moral value.

3.14 The Racism in the American “Great Depression” Era Portrayed in *Of Mice and Men*

John Steinbeck’s novella *Of Mice and Men* described the social conditions of American society in many aspects of life. One of those social conditions is racism to Black people. As Spencer (1985:267) states that discrimination is the acting out of prejudice by depriving minority group members of equal access, privileges, and opportunities. By regarding the social condition of America at that time, there is a correlation with the social condition of the novella. The story of this novel took place in Salinas River, California. It has a correlation with the author, John Steinbeck who was born in American small town Salinas. It is located about one hundred miles south of San Francisco, near Monterey Bay.

Here, Crooks as the main character in this story was described as an ugly Black man, who always experienced racism and discrimination in the society and even in the place he works at. The old swamper tries to elaborate the misery of Crooks to the new employee both George and Lennie in their first visit in the ranch. Below are the quotations that support the idea above:

v. “Give the stable buck hell?”he asked.

“Sure. Ya see the stable buck’ a nigger.”

“Nigger, huh?”

“Yeah. ... **The boss gives him hell when he’s mad.** But the stable buck don’t give a damn about that. ...” (Datum no.1)

From the quotations above, we can know that the Boss treats Crooks in a different way, which did not give an equal treatment as what his other friends got but Crooks did not really care about it. This unequal treatment was the kind of racism and discrimination that was represented by Crooks as the minority class. Look at the bold sentence; we know what Crooks has been through is not easy. Because of his blackness, the Boss always scoffed and mocked him. He never gets the same treatment and right from the Boss as his workmates in the ranch. Therefore, he always becomes the object of humiliation in his society, but he does not take it personally because it happens all the time so that he finally gets used to face it.

The quotation below would explain about the other evidences of racism found in the novel as follows:

w. “... You go on get outa my room. I ain’t wanted in the bunk house, and you ain’t wanted in my room.” (Datum no.7)

This statement is taken when Crooks gets Lennie away from his room. From the quotations above, we can see that Crooks is never really accepted by his environment. As a Black man, he never gets the same right from the other workers. His friends always ignore him and let him live alone in his

room. He cannot enter the bunkhouse because White people try to make relation never and communication with Black people. It is because of the negative images of them.

The narrator explains the conditions of Crooks' room:

- x. ...Crooks' bunk was a long box filled a straw, on which his blankets were flung. ... (Datum no.4)

The proof of the statement above showed that it is a kind of comparison. The narrator tries to compare the Black man room with other white workers room in the ranch, these conditions are not good and comfortable with their room.

3.15 The Impacts of Racism on the Life of the Character as Revealed in *Of Mice and Men*

Racism in the novella *Of Mice and Men* gives some impacts on the life of the character. Those impacts make the character experience social devastation from others, segregation, loneliness, underestimated by society, and insult. I would explain the data, which represent the effects above.

6 Social Devastation

One of social consequences Crooks has to face because of his Blackness is he experiences social devastation in which all his friends leave him, as can be seen in the quotation as follows:

- y. "Cause I'm black. They play cards in there, but I can't play because I'm

black. ...”(Datum no.8)

From the analysis of the third problem statement, we can conclude that racism really influences and has big impacts in Crooks' life. Those unprivileged conditions create Crooks to be a proud, aloof man. He keeps his distance and demands that other people keep theirs.

- z. Crooks said sharply, “You got no right to come in my room. This here's my room. Nobody got any right in here but me.” (Datum no.5)

The dialog above is between Crooks (black) and Lennie (white), it happens in Crooks' room. Crooks seems not to be happy with Lennie's visit in his room, Crooks considers Lennie the same with other White people in the barn that treat him bad. This social devastation makes Crooks not be easily allowing a stranger especially White people to enter the room. It is some kind of a private vengeance; Crooks warns Lennie not to come in his room. Crooks probably wants to show Lennie that Crooks can also do the same what the White people did to him. In addition, Crooks feels insulted because Lennie has broken out his privacy. But the readers know that Lennie comes in a good purpose. Lennie is just in an attempt to make friends with Crooks.

7 Segregation

We can clearly see this condition by looking up the dialogue in the story taken when Candy meets Crooks in the first coming of Crooks' room;

aa. “An’ Crooks been here a long time. This’s the first time I ever been his room.”(Datum no.19)

and then Crooks replaid sarcastmly:

bb. ...”Guys don't come into a colored man's room very much. ...”(Datum no.20)

From the quotation above, it reveals the bitter truth that Crooks has been an outcast in the place he work and has no friend for a long time. The only men who ever come into his room are only the Boss and Slim.

8 Loneliness

The other impacts of racism in the novel make someone feel lonely.

cc. “...A guys goes nuts if he ain't got nobody. Don't make no difference who the guy is, long's he with you...”. (Datum no.15)

(4)

(5) From the quotation above, we know Crooks’ statement is about somebody who always needs someone else or he will go crazy when he has nobody to share with. However, it is important to realize that people cannot live alone and need others to talk to survive. Racism he experienced makes him feel this way. Somebody will be meaningful a lot, as long as he can communicate and interact with others.

(6) There is another Crooks expressing his feelings of loneliness, as follows;

dd. ... I tell ya, “he cried, “I tell ya a guy gets too lonely an’ he gets sick.”

(Datum no.16)

These last two Crooks' statements show the readers that he does not want to be alone no matter how he is. His loneliness is the representation of his friends' rejection and it is a proof that his existence is not needed in his surroundings. However, it affects a big influence on his psychological condition.

ee. ... I was talkin' about myself. A guy sets alone out here at night, maybe readin' books or thinkin' or stuff like that. (Datum no.17)

From the quotation above, we can assume that Crooks regrets himself about the misery of his life. The fact that he is black makes him terrible and disappointed. Finally, as a buffer that fights against loneliness, Crooks changes his mind and joins in the dream of Lennie and George. So that he will not be lonely anymore. There may be a place for him on the farm.

9 Underestimated

The effect of racism will bring someone in the underestimated acts. If someone always becomes the object of racism, he losses an equal right and opportunities as a human being that actually have the same right in every chance. The quotations below describe the portrait of Black people:

ff. ... "If I say something, why it's just a nigger sayin' it." (Datum no.13)

Then Crooks said again:

gg. ..."This is just a nigger talkin', an' a busted-back nigger. So it don't mean nothing, see? ..." (Datum no.14)

Both statements are taken when Crooks expresses his feeling to Lennie about the difficulties of racism at the ranch. As revealed in the story, we have known that Crooks is frustrated because of his faith of being Black, so that he does not care about his feeling and rights to deliver his utterances even if he is right. Those conditions lead him to become disoriented and passive.

10 Insult

The last impacts of racism is that one member feels to be insulted by other members. Racism develops people's negative perception of someone. Let us see the example of insult by examining the quotation below;

hh. "... They say I stink. Well, I tell you, you all of you stink to me." (Datum no.9)

The form of racism could also be seen from the attitude of his friends, there is always a reason to keep Crooks away from them. From the quotation above, Crooks really has a difficulty in order to be accepted in his surrounding. It is because the status of the black, his friends does not really adore his existence. The evidence of Crooks friends' rejection shows that the Black does not have equal right as White; Blacks are weak, and are always ignored by the society.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter, first, talks about the conclusion that I draw from the analysis; and second it discusses my suggestion for next researchers.

5.1 Conclusion

According to the interpretation and description of the analysis, there are three conclusions that can be drawn from the analysis. First, I find in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, that he writes an indirect satire and he uses third person point of view because the story is told by the narrator as an observer. The satire here is restricted to the racism which can be seen in the character's attitudes. Based on the observation of the novella, John Steinbeck uses a variety of verbal, dramatic, and situational irony through the novel in creating his satire against racism in American society during the Great Depression Era.

Second, as we know that Steinbeck writes the novella in the setting of time when the Great Depression happened in the United States; known as Black Tuesday when the stock market crash on October 29, 1929, and lasted for about a decade. Many factors played a role in bringing about the depression; there were multiple causes including the combination of natural disasters and human miscalculation. Business was poor and many people were out of work.

Finally, from the analysis of the novella, the 1930's was a crucial time for race relations in America. At that time, America was a multicultural country, where many people came as immigrants. African Americans were the primary target of racism and their rights were completely ignored. There are many negative impacts of racism that happened in society. According to Einfeld (1997:98), the smallest affects of racism and prejudice would include feelings inside the victim, feelings of insecurity, fear and anger. Whereas, the consequences of racism are social devastated from others, segregation, loneliness, underestimated by society, and insult. It is not only for its victims but also to society as a whole. Racism is a destructive and persistent evil that brings only harm. However, racism fuels the fire of suffering by intimidating its victims and corrupting its perpetrators.

From the explanation above, it can be inferred that racism gives negative impacts, not only for the individual, but also for the society.

5.2 Suggestion

Based on the conclusions above, I would present some suggestions to the readers. I hoped that the readers could appreciate works of literature not only as an entertainment but also as a lesson. The works of literature contain education that can be applied in real life and it can enhance the quality of a person.

I also hoped that the readers could increase their awareness on racism matters and gain the positive perception and opinion to others, so that racism

in society can be reduced. I expect that this research can be used as a reference for those who would conduct a further discussion on the racism and its impacts to human being.



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Appendix A

The List of Overall Data

No	Form of Data	Page	Paragraph	Line	Answer question no.
1	<p>“Give the stable buck hell?”he asked.</p> <p>“Sure. Ya see the stable buck' a nigger.”</p> <p>“Nigger, huh?”</p> <p>“Yeah. ... The boss gives him hell when he's mad. But the stable buck don't give a damn about that. ...”</p>	243	5	2	2
2	<p>“Well, he’s a pretty nice fella. Gets pretty mad sometimes, but he’s pretty nice.”</p>	244	5	1-2	1a
3	<p>“Yes sir. Jesus, we had fun. They let the nigger come in that night. Little skinner name of Smitty took after the nigger. Done pretty good, too. The guys wouldn't let him use his feet, so the nigger got him. If he coulda used his feet, Smitty says he woulda killed the nigger. The guys said on account of the nigger's got a crooked back, Smitty can't use his feet.”</p>	244	7	1-7	1b
4	<p>...Crooks' bunk was a long box filled a straw, on which his blankets were flung. ...</p>	286	1	5-6	2
5	<p>Crooks said sharply, “You got no right to come in my room. This here's my room. Nobody got any right in here but me.”</p>	287	5	1-3	3a
6	<p>... “I ain't doing nothing,” Lennie said. “Just come to look at my puppy. And I see your light,” he explained.</p>	287	6	1-3	1c

No	Form of Data	Page	Paragraph	Line	Answer question no.
7	"... You go on get outa my room. I ain't wanted in the bunk house, and you ain't wanted in my room."	287	7	1-3	2
8	"Cause I'm black. They play cards in there, but I can't play because I'm black. ..."	287	9	1-2	1a
9	"... They say I stink. Well, I tell you, you all of you stink to me."	287	9	2-3	3e
10	"Nothing---I seen your light. I thought I could jus' come in an' set."	288	2	1-2	1c
11	"I don't know what you're doin' in the barn anyway,"	288	3	3-4	1c
12	"I ain't a southern negro," he said. "I was born right here in California. My old man had a chicken ranch, 'bout ten acres. The white kids come to play at our place, an' sometimes I went to play with them, and some of them was pretty nice. My ol' man didn't like that. I never knew till long later why he didn't like that. But I know now.	289	13	1-7	1b
13	... "If I say something, why it's just a nigger sayin' it."	290	1	1-2	3d
14	... "This is just a nigger talkin', an' a busted-back nigger. So it don't mean nothing, see? ..."	290	3	5-6	3d
15	"...A guys goes nuts if he ain't got nobody. Don't make no difference who the guy is, long's he with you...".	291	10	8-10	3c
16	... I tell ya, "he cried, "I tell ya a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick."	292	1	1-2	3c
17	... I was talkin' about myself. A guy sets alone out here at night, maybe readin' books or thinkin' or stuff like that.	292	3	2-3	3c

No	Form of Data	Page	Paragraph	Line	Answer question no.
18	“You got a nice cozy little place in here,”	294	1	1-2	1a
19	“An’ Crooks been here a long time. This’s the first time I ever been his room.”	294	4	3-4	3b
20	...”Guys don't come into a colored man's room very much. ...”	294	5	1-2	3b
21	“Any you boys seen Curley?”	295	5	1	1c
22	“They left all the weak ones here, “she said finally.” Think I don't know where they all went? Even Curley. I know where they all went.”	296	1	4-6	1c
23	“If I catch any one man, and he's alone, I get along fine with him. But just let two of the guys get together an' you won't talk. Jus' nothing but mad.”	296	3	2-4	1c
24	“You're all scared of each other, that's what. Ever' one of you's scared the rest is goin' to get something on you.”	296	3	5-7	1c
25	She closed on him. “You know what I could do?” Crooks seemed to grow smaller, and he pressed himself against the wall. “Yes, ma'am.” “Well, you keep your place then, Nigger. I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain't even funny.” Crooks had reduced himself to nothing. there was no personality, no ego—nothing to arouse either like or dislike. He said ,”Yes, ma'am.” and his voice was toneless.	299	4	1-8	1c
26	“I'm glad you bust up Curley a little bit. He got it comin' to him. Sometimes I'd like to bust him myself.”	300	2	1-3	1b

No	Form of Data	Page	Paragraph	Line	Answer question no.
27	Crooks avoided the whole subject now. "Maybe you guys better go," he said. "I ain't sure I want you here no more. A colored man got to have some rights even if he don't like 'em."	300	7	1-4	1c
28	Candy said, "That bitch didn't ought to of said to you."	300	8	1	1c
29	"It was nothing," Crooks said dully. "You guys comin' in an' settin' made me forget. What she says is true."	300	9	1-2	1a
30	And George raised the gun and steadied it, and he brought the muzzle of it close to the back of Lennie's head. The hand shook violently, but his face and his hand steadied. He pulled the trigger. The crash of the shot rolled up the hills and rolled down again. Lennie jarred, and then settled slowly forward to the sand, and he lay without quivering.	321	21	1-7	1c

Appendix B1

List of Classified Data: Answering Question Number One

No.	No. Data	Page	Paragraph	Line
1	2	244	5	1-2
2	3	244	7	1-7
3	6	287	6	1-3
4	8	287	9	1-2
5	10	288	2	1-2
6	11	288	3	3-4
7	12	289	13	1-7
8	18	294	1	1-2
9	21	295	5	1
10	22	296	1	4-6
11	23	296	3	2-4
12	24	296	3	5-7
13	25	299	4	1-8
14	26	300	2	1-3
15	27	300	7	1-4
16	28	300	8	1
17	29	300	9	1-2
18	30	321	21	1-7

Appendix B2

List of Classified Data: Answering Question Number Two

No.	No. Data	Page	Paragraph	Line
1	1	243	5	2
2	4	286	1	5-6
3	7	287	7	1-3



Appendix B3

List of Classified Data: Answering Question Number Three

No.	No. Data	Page	Paragraph	Line
1	5	287	6	1-3
2	9	287	9	2-3
3	13	290	1	1-2
4	14	290	3	5-6
5	15	291	10	8-10
6	16	292	1	1-2
7	17	292	3	2-3
8	19	294	4	3-4
9	20	294	5	1-2



Appendix C1

List of Reduce Data: Answering Question Number One

No.	No. Data	Data	Page	Paragraph	Line
1	2	“Well, he’s a pretty nice fella. Gets pretty mad sometimes, but he’s pretty nice.”	244	5	1-2
2	3	“Yes sir. Jesus, we had fun. They let the nigger come in that night. Little skinner name of Smitty took after the nigger. Done pretty good, too. The guys wouldn't let him use his feet, so the nigger got him. If he coulda used his feet, Smitty says he woulda killed the nigger. The guys said on account of the nigger's got a crooked back, Smitty can't use his feet.”	244	7	1-7
3	6	... “I ain't doing nothing,” Lennie said. “Just come to look at my puppy. And I see your light,” he explained.	287	6	1-3
4	8	“Cause I’m black. They play cards in there, but I can’t play because I’m black. ...”	287	9	1-2
5	10	“Nothing---I seen your light. I thought I could jus' come in an' set.”	288	2	1-2
6	11	“I don’t know what you’re doin’ in the barn anyway,”	288	3	3-4
7	12	“I ain’t a southern negro,” he said. “I was born right here in California. My	289	13	1-7

		old man had a chicken ranch, 'bout ten acres. The white kids come to play at our place, an' sometimes I went to play with them, and some of them was pretty nice. My ol' man didn't like that. I never knew till long later why he didn't like that. But I know now.			
8	18	“You got a nice cozy little place in here,”	294	1	1-2
9	21	“Any you boys seen Curley?”	295	5	1
10	22	“They left all the weak ones here, “she said finally.” Think I don't know where they all went? Even Curley. I know where they all went.”	296	1	4-6
11	23	“If I catch any one man, and he's alone, I get along fine with him. But just let two of the guys get together an' you won't talk. Jus' nothing but mad.”	296	3	2-4
12	24	“You're all scared of each other, that's what. Ever' one of you's scared the rest is goin' to get something on you.”	296	3	5-7
13	25	She closed on him. “You know what I could do?” Crooks seemed to grow smaller, and he pressed himself against the wall. “Yes, ma'am.” “Well, you keep your place then, Nigger. I could get you strung up on a tree so easy it ain't even funny.” Crooks had reduced himself to nothing.	299	4	1-8

		there was no personality, no ego— nothing to arouse either like or dislike. He said ,”Yes, ma'am.” and his voice was toneless.			
14	26	“I’m glad you bust up Curley a little bit. He got it comin’ to him. Sometimes I’d like to bust him myself.”	300	2	1-3
15	27	Crooks avoided the whole subject now. “Maybe you guys better go,” he said. “I ain't sure I want you here no more. A colored man got to have some rights even if he don't like 'em.”	300	7	1-4
16	28	Candy said, “That bitch didn't ought to of said to you.”	300	8	1
17	29	“It was nothing,” Crooks said dully. “You guys comin' in an' settin' made me forget. What she says is true.”	300	9	1-2
18	30	And George raised the gun and steadied it, and he brought the muzzle of it close to the back of Lennie’s head. The hand shook violently, but his face and his hand steadied. He pulled the trigger. The crash of the shot rolled up the hills and rolled down again. Lennie jarred, and then settled slowly forward to the sand, and he lay without quivering.	321	21	1-7

Appendix C2

List of Reduce Data: Answering Question Number Two

No.	No. Data	Data	Page	Paragraph	Line
1	1	<p>“Give the stable buck hell?”he asked.</p> <p>“Sure. Ya see the stable buck' a nigger.”</p> <p>“Nigger, huh?”</p> <p>“Yeah. ... The boss gives him hell when he's mad. But the stable buck don't give a damn about that. ...”</p>	243	5	2
2	4	<p>...Crooks' bunk was a long box filled a straw, on which his blankets were flung. ...</p>	286	1	5-6
3	7	<p>“... You go on get outa my room. I ain't wanted in the bunk house, and you ain't wanted in my room.”</p>	287	7	1-3

Appendix C3

List of Reduce Data: Answering Question Number Three

No.	No. Data	Data	Page	Paragraph	Line
1	5	Crooks said sharply, "You got no right to come in my room. This here's my room. Nobody got any right in here but me."	287	6	1-3
2	9	"... They say I stink. Well, I tell you, you all of you stink to me."	287	9	2-3
3	13	... "If I say something, why it's just a nigger sayin' it."	290	1	1-2
4	14	..."This is just a nigger talkin', an' a busted-back nigger. So it don't mean nothing, see? ..."	290	3	5-6
5	15	"...A guys goes nuts if he ain't got nobody. Don't make no difference who the guy is, long's he with you...".	291	10	8-10
6	16	... I tell ya, "he cried, "I tell ya a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick."	292	1	1-2
7	17	... I was talkin' about myself. A guy sets alone out here at night, maybe readin' books or thinkin' or stuff like that.	292	3	2-3
8	19	"An' Crooks been here a long time. This's the first time I ever been his room."	294	4	3-4
9	20	..."Guys don't come into a colored man's room very much. ..."	294	5	1-2