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
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in English

by
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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.