

**JOHN STEINBECK'S THE GRAPES OF WRATH: A STUDY OF
ITS THEME THROUGH CHARACTER, PLOT, AND SETTING**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching**



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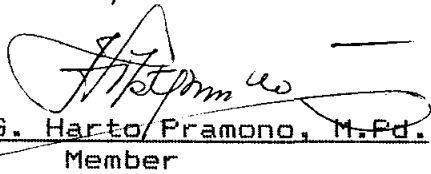
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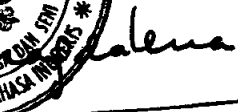
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ABSTRACT

Magdalena, Jenny. 1997. "John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath: A Study of Its Theme Through Character, Plot, and Setting" S1 Thesis, The Faculty of Teacher Training, The English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya. Advisor: (1) Drs. Antonius Gurito

Key Words: Analysis, Theme

Literature is eligible for high recognition of its great significance in life. As the reflection of an aesthetic use of language, its arrangement performs an exquisite art that delivers us into the wondrous kind of human nature. Thus, it serves as an effective mean of enhancing our understanding and broadening our horizon in relation to life itself. Disclosing the beauty of its works, beside knowledge, experience, and analytical ability, one's talents is explicitly required. In view of such matters, the writer performs a study of the theme in John Steinbeck's novel: The Grapes of Wrath.

Considering that Steinbeck is one of the recognized and influential authors in America history, the writer then chooses his awarded novel, The Grapes of Wrath as her thesis subject. To this point, Steinbeck's novel reflects his primary concern over humanity with all its nature and phenomena.

This study is expected to answer the following research questions: (1) How is the connection between character and theme. (2) How is the connection between plot and theme. (3) How is the connection between setting and theme. (4) What is the theme of the novel.

As this thesis deals with the revelation of the theme in The Grapes of Wrath, the use of the objective as well as the analytical method is needed. Such methods are essential to give a consistent objectiveness in conducting a deep analysis of the novel's elements, in this case, theme, character, plot, and setting. To consolidate further, historical approach is also applied regarding that authors respond to their own times and tend to be bound to these times. Since the work itself represents historical period in which it belongs to, such an approach is employed as to produce accuracy of reading and judgement.

In analyzing the theme, the writer tries to see its connection with the character, plot, and setting. Such contributions of those elements to the whole eventually

enable the writer to reveal the novel's main idea.

Upon further study, the writer comes to the central theme of the novel. Conclusively, The Grapes of Wrath is about the necessity of individual awareness to work as whole for the cause of human life and the sake of their own. It is obvious that people cannot separate themselves from others. Thus, people shall be a lot stronger to bear such a misery of life when they share it together through courage and perseverance.