

Study on Inner Conflict of the Main Character
in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
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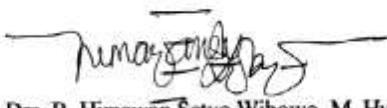
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The Writer

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ABSTRACT

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Novel is the most popular kind of literary work that is able to portray people and places confronting events in real time up to now. The scope of inner conflicts, then, is chosen to be analyzed since people react differently towards conflicts; different conflicts will result differently on the hand of different people in the different places. This thesis aims to find out the inner conflicts faced by the main character of the novel, to discuss, and to analyze the causes of emergence and the resolutions taken to overcome the inner conflicts.

This thesis is considered a qualitative study in which the analysis is in the form of description. The theoretical framework of the analysis is based on the objective theory of M. H. Abrams, in which the analysis is viewed solely from the point of view of the intrinsic elements of the novel – setting, plot, characters, and theme. The analysis then shows that the novel takes place during the hard time of the America’s Great Depression around 1930’s. Steinbeck portrays Tom Joad, besides as a greatly devoted man towards his mother and his family, as an on-parole man who does

not like to be under pressure, tends to do what he wants, interested only in his own personal matters.

The analysis then finds that there are five kinds of inner conflict in the novel: inner conflict between (1) Tom's trait and his parole condition, (2) Tom's trait and the unity of the family, (3) Tom's trait and the unity of the family, (4) Tom's fear and the unity of the family, and (5) Tom's desire and his mother's fear. The inner conflicts emerge on five major causes: (1) Tom's stubbornness, (2) Tom's carelessness, (3) financial problem, (4) killing a cop, and (5) Tom's choice to hide in a cave. There are eight solutions taken to overcome the inner conflicts.

The writer would like to suggest that the readers should be able to manage their conflicts well. The writer would also suggest that students of literature class should analyze a literary work using objective approach as the basis. At last, the writer would like to suggest other researchers to go more deeply into the analysis of the novel. Hopefully, this thesis could be any of benefits for further studies.