

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

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Literary works have a great influence in human life. In every period of time in life mankind have different kind of culture, it evolves into a better form. Through literary the reader can get a clear picture of human culture in certain time. It describes the condition of people and how they struggle in order to cope the condition given to them. By analysing a literary works the readers can get knowledge about human life which the positive aspects can be applied to real life. "Of Mice and Men" is a story of the harsh reality of American migrant workers in the time of Depression in 1930's. The story of migrant workers is often left untold because many refuse to hear it. But John Steinbeck, the author of "Of Mice and Men", wrote about these people who were misunderstood and taken for granted in their most vulnerable time. The reader can learn how these people live their life as rough labourer and how they react toward the world that often underestimate people like them.

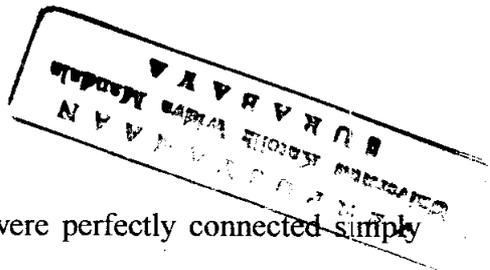
George Milton and Lennie Small were the main characters of the story. George and Lennie had been travelling together for some times. They did not have family and possessions to be proud of. They worked as nomadic farmhands. The story starts when George and Lennie went to the nearby farm for harvesting jobs. Lennie has difficulties in remembering things, so George reminds him not to say

anything when they go for the job. Lennie also likes to pet soft things, and frequently kills them because he can not control his huge power. The next day when they arrived at the ranch, the boss of the farm becomes curious when George answers all the questions asked to Lennie. Finally George explained that Lennie is not bright but he is a strong worker if one only shows him what to do. Curley, the boss' son, who is a small tempered fellow comes into the bunkhouse and teases Lennie. Lennie is worried about something bad going to happen. The next day, Curley and the other farmhands comes to the bunk house and Curley notices that Lennie is grinning. Curley was mad and begins hitting Lennie. George directly tells Lennie to defend himself, and Lennie reaches out and crushes Curley's hand. The next day, Lennie, as always, accidentally kills a puppy because playing too hard with it. Curley's wife comes in and notices about the dead puppy. She also discovers that Lennie likes to pet soft things and allows Lennie to rub his soft long hair. Yet, Lennie strokes it too hard, and when Curley's wife becomes frightened, Lennie holds her so tightly to keep her from screaming, and accidentally breaks her neck. Lennie knows that he has done something bad and he must go to the hiding place near the river. When Curley and the other farmhands found Curley's wife dead, they soon came to the conclusion that Lennie was at fault. They set out to tract him down and ultimately kill him. This put George in a bad situation because he had to decide whether to kill Lennie before Curley did or to let him run away. When he found Lennie, he sat beside him and calming his nerves. When Lennie was persuaded everything was going to be all right, Lennie was at ease. That was when George pulled out a gun, aimed it

at the back of Lennie's head and pulled the trigger. There was nothing more he could do but to let Lennie go in a way Lennie knew how. Lennie could be at peace without the ignorance of the society that would never accept someone different like Lennie.

In categorising the characteristics of the down-trodden people the writer had to measure out the aspects of the main characters' life into three parts, namely: mental qualities of the main characters, the relation between the main characters, and the occupation of the main characters. The writer must decide if the events in the story consistently refers to the significant idea, emotion or quality of the down-trodden. Roberts and Jacobs (1986: 326) stated that in determining whether a particular object or person symbolizes a certain meaning, one need to make decision based on one's own judgement of its total significance. If it appears to be a major importance, one can claim it has symbolic values as long as one can show its scope and sustained reference beyond it.

After determining the aspects, the writer classified the evidence from the story that will support his opinion. The writer determined the mental qualities of the main characters which shows how they react toward certain situations, how they look at themselves and how they treat themselves. In fact their mental qualities, George and Lennie, presents the true identity of the down-trodden. The writer then analyses the relation between the main characters, finds out what they have inside their relationship, their expectations from each other and their role in the relationship. George and Lennie lives their life from day to day working for the accomplishment of the dream to have their own ranch, where they can lift their



social class in the society. George and Lennie were perfectly connected simply because they need each other. Lennie need George to do all the talking for him and organizes his life. George needs Lennie to fulfil his sense of being responsible. The description above indicates the lack of friendship and loneliness which become the integral part of the down-trodden people. Finally the writer analyses the occupation which contains the dominant symbol of the down-trodden. It described clearly the condition of their life and how poor George and Lennie are, they have only few possessions. They lived moving from town to town looking for a job; they work as farmhand which is not a respectful job.

The characteristics of the down-trodden may be defined as something that means more than what it is. A characteristic of the down-trodden is standing on the events which happen in the story, trying to represent through continued use and common understanding. These characteristics possess its own reality and meaning, and possess the same meaning in the real life situations. It gives a deeper impression to the value that the author of the novel intends to deliver to the readers.

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