

**THE STRUGGLE OF AMERICAN MINORITIES
DURING GREAT DEPRESSION IN JOHN STEINBECK'S
*OF MICE AND MEN***

THESIS

**BY
KHABIB MUSAFA'AT
NIM 0911110195**

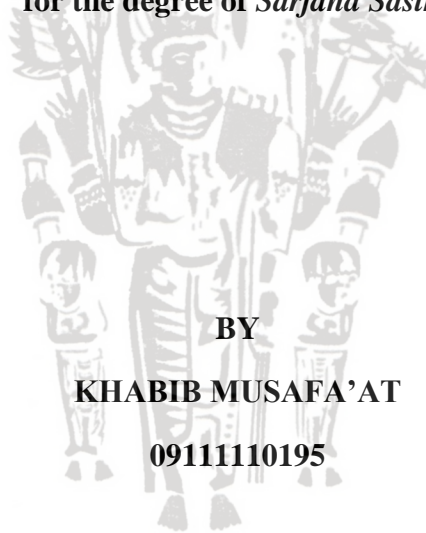


**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA
2014**

**THE STRUGGLE OF AMERICAN MINORITIES
DURING GREAT DEPRESSION
IN JOHN STEINBECK'S *OF MICE AND MEN***

THESIS

**Presented to
Universitas Brawijaya
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***



BY

KHABIB MUSAFAT

09111110195

**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

2014

DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

Herewith I,

Name : Khabib Musafa'at

NIM : 09111110195

Address : Jalan Bandar No. 16 RT XIV Kabupaten Pulang Pisau, Kalimantan
Tengah

declare that:

1. This *skripsi* is the sole work of mine and has not been written in collaboration with any other person, nor does it include, without due acknowledgement, the work of any other person.
2. If at a later time it is found that this *skripsi* is a product of plagiarism, I am willing to accept any legal consequences that may be imposed upon me.

Malang, 28 January 2014



Khabib Musafa'at

NIM 09111110195

This is to certify that the *Sarjana* thesis of **Khabib Musafa'at** has been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Malang, 28 January 2014

Supervisors



Juliati, M. Hum.

NIP. 19720929 200604 2 001

Malang, 28 January 2014

Co-supervisor




Melania Shinta Harendika, M.A.

NIP. 19840617 201012 2 005

UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA



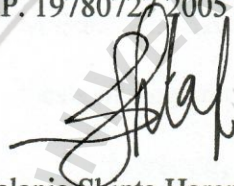
This is to certify that the *Sarjana* thesis of **Khabib Musafa'at** has been approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra*



Juliati, M. Hum., Chair
NIP. 19720929 200604 2 001




Dyah Eko Hapsari, M.Hum., Member
NIP. 19780727 2005 01 2 001



Melania Shinta Harendika, M.A., Member
NIP. 19840617 201012 2 005

Acknowledged by,
Head of Study Program of English



Yusri Fajar, M. A.
NIP. 19770517 200312 1 001

Sighted by,
Head of Department of
Languages and Literature



Syariful Muttakin, M.A.
NIP. 19751101 200312 1 001

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to thank God who always protects me and has given me strength and smoothness in conducting the research entitled “The Struggle of American Minorities during Great Depression in John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men.*”

In conducting this research, some people always give support and help me. Therefore, I would like to thank my supervisor, Juliati, M.Hum. and my co-supervisor Melania Shinta Harendika, M.A., and my examiner Dyah Eko Hapsari, M.Hum. who have given correction, suggestion, criticism and guidance during my thesis writing process.

Moreover, I would like to dedicate this thesis for my family, my lovely parents, and my beloved girlfriend who always give me invocation and support to finish this thesis. Besides, I also give a lot of thanks to all of my friends of English Department 2009, and all of the members of Flying Dutchman Futsal Team for giving support to fight together finishing this thesis in the end of 9th semester. A lot of thanks are also sent to all of the lecturers and administrative staff of Faculty of Culture Studies for the help and facilities during the lecturing process.

Malang, 28 January 2014

Khabib Musafa’at

ABSTRACT

Musafa'at, Khabib. 2014. **The Struggle of American Minorities during Great Depression in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men***. Study Program of English. Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Juliati; Co-supervisor: Melania Shinta Harendika.

Keywords: American minorities, struggle, Great Depression, Marxist

Novella is one of fictions which the event happens in the story does not really happen in reality. But since it is a literary work, it may depict the real condition of an era. In the era of Great Depression, it is known that United States of America suffered from big economic crisis. In this study a novella entitled *Of Mice and Men* is chosen as the object of the study. This study is purposed to identify about how the struggle of America minorities during Great Depression.

This study uses Marxist theory as the main tool of analyzing. In the process of the research, the theory of Marxist is correlated to the concept of minority also the concept of equality. The data is collected from the narration, characterization, and the dialogue of the characters. The procedure of analysis is started by collecting data, interpreting and analyzing related object of the study in the story, and drawing the conclusion.

The result of the study shows about the struggle of American minorities during Great Depression. The struggle can be found by classifying the object of the study based on their factors of minority. There are five classes found in the research: the struggle of minority group in terms of (1) economic, (2) race, (3) age, (4) sex, and (5) disability. Basically, every group struggles to get equality based on their terms of minority, but the analysis shows that some groups intend to get equality of respect as their main aim.

ABSTRACT

Musafa'at, Khabib. 2014. **Perjuangan Orang Amerika Minoritas pada Era *Great Depression* dalam Novella yang Berjudul *Of Mice and Men* Karya John Steinbeck**. Program Study Sastra Inggris. Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Juliati; Pembimbing (II): Melania Shinta Harendika.

Kata Kunci: Orang Amerika Minoritas, perjuangan, *Great Depression*, Marxisme

Novela adalah satu dari karya fiksi dimana setiap peristiwa tidak terjadi di dunia nyata. Namun, sebagai salah satu bentuk karya sastra, novela dapat memberikan gambaran tentang kondisi sebuah masa. Pada masa *Great depression*, diketahui bahwa Amerika menderita karena krisis ekonomi yang sangat parah. Oleh karena itu penelitian ini menggunakan sebuah novela yang berjudul *Of Mice and Men* sebagai objek penelitian. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap bagaimana orang Amerika minoritas berjuang di saat masa *Great Depression*.

Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Marxisme sebagai alat utama penelitian. Di dalam proses penelitiannya, teori Marxisme dikorelasikan dengan konsep minoritas dan juga konsep kesetaraan. Data diperoleh dari narasi, karakterisasi, dan dialog. Prosedur penelitiannya yaitu mengumpulkan data menginterpretasi serta menganalisa data di dalam cerita yang berhubungan dengan objek penelitian, dan mengambil kesimpulan.

Hasil dari penelitian menunjukkan bagaimana perjuangan orang Amerika minoritas pada masa *Great Depression*. Perjuangan yang dimaksud dapat ditemukan dengan cara mengelompokkan objek penelitian berdasarkan faktor yang menjadikan mereka sebagai kaum minoritas. Di dalam penelitian terdapat lima kelas yang berhasil ditemukan: yaitu perjuangan grup minoritas yang didasarkan oleh (1) ekonomi, (2) ras, (3) umur, (4) jenis kelamin, (5) cacat. Pada dasarnya, setiap grup ini berjuang untuk mendapatkan kesetaraan sesuai dengan alasan mereka menjadi salah satu kaum minoritas, namun hasil analisis juga mengungkap bahwa beberapa grup menjadikan kesetaraan rasa hormat sebagai tujuan utama mereka berjuang.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE	i
DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP	ii
APPROVAL PAGE (SUPERVISORS)	iii
CERTIFICATION PAGE (BOARD OF EXAMINERS)	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
ABSTRACT	vi
ABSTRAK	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Problem of the Study	4
1.3 Objective of the Study	5
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
2.1 Theoretical Framework	6
2.1.1 Novella	7
2.1.2 Great Depression in United States of America	8
2.1.3 The Concept of Minority	10
2.1.4 The Theory of Marxism	12
2.1.4.1 The Concept of Class Struggle	13
2.1.5 The Concept of Equality	18
2.2 Previous Study	20
2.3 Research Methods	21
2.3.1 Choosing the Object of the Study	22
2.3.2 Collecting Data	22
2.3.3 Interpreting and Analyzing	23
2.3.4 Drawing the Conclusion	23
2.4 <i>Of Mice and Men</i> : A Synopsis	24
CHAPTER III FINDING AND DISCUSSION	
3.1 The Struggle of the Poor to Reach Equality of Economic	27
3.2 The Struggle of the Black to Reach Equality of Race and Respect	30
3.3 The Struggle of the Elderly to Reach Equality of Respect	33
3.4 The Struggle of Woman to Reach Equality of Gender and Respect	36

3.5 The Struggle of Disabled Person to Reach Equality of Economic 39

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion 43

4.2 Suggestion 44

REFERENCES

46



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is intended to present the background, the problem and the objective of study. The background of the study explains the general idea of the topic, and the writer's interest and curiosity on the topic of study. The problem of the study is the formulation of question that leads this study to achieve its objective.

1.1 Background of the Study

United States of America (USA) is known as a great country in the world. USA has the best economic of the world. Based on the most recent data from the World Bank, USA is on the top of the world Gross Domestic Product ranking (data.worldbank.org). But this condition is much different from the condition of nine decades ago was. A great economic crisis known as *Great Depression* began in 1929 and lasted about 1939. Great Depression is a condition happened in the United States because of the economic downturn. As explained by Rothbard in the book *America's Great Depression* (2000), the Great Depression began soon after the stock market crash of October 1929, which sent Wall Street (financial district of New York City) into a panic and wiped out millions of investors. As the result, many industries fired their workers because the number of the consumers was decreasing, and so their incomes. Several industries survived, but many of

them failed to remain and went bankrupt. As Margo (1993, cited in Yamashita 2007, p.2) reveals that:

“The era of the Great Depression is one of the most tumultuous periods in American economic history. Output declined by more than 40 percent between 1929 and 1932, and the unemployment rate exceeded 20 percent in 1932 and 1933. Unemployment was severe as the majority of those who were unemployed experienced a spell of unemployment longer than a year in certain parts of the country.”

Further effect of crisis caused by Great Depression in the United States is the swelling of social classes' gap. The term of social classes is considered as the economic condition gap. When social classes' gap happens, it may cause conflicts between one and another class. The conflicts may rise because one class feels that they are underestimated by another. In the differentiation of social classes, one class is often considered as the lower class, the one who struggles to get their economic up by working. The other one is upper class, the one who controls or the one who has economic power to rule his lower class. As written in the book

Manifesto of the Communist Party (1848, p.14), Marx and Engels found the following:

“By bourgeoisie is meant the class of modern capitalists, owners of the means of social production and employers of wage labor. By proletariat, the class of modern wage laborers who, having no means of production of their own, are reduced to selling their labor power in order to live.”

By considering the tragedy of Great Depression and its effects to the Americans, the writer found his interest to analyze a novella entitled *Of Mice and Men*, written by John Steinbecks in 1965, renewed edition from his first edition in 1937.

The novella is set in the Salinas Valley area of California. The time of the story is set during the Great Depression when people all over the world were

striving for something more. In particular, it takes place at a ranch in Soledad.

Migrant farm workers at that time had an extremely hard life. Families were often separated to find their own way of life, but it was difficult to find people to accompany their journey. They slept in shelters that were very seedy, with boards strapped together. They had little money on hand and little food. Lennie and George, the main characters of the story, experienced these problems constantly, which made their dreams of owning land even harder because it was clear they would never have the money to do so.

After reading and understanding the characterization of each character and the plot of the story, *Marxism Theory* is chosen for the analysis of how the story is basically built. By using that theory, the analysis will be focused more on how the real condition of Great Depression era, especially about the American minorities in 1929-1939 which is portrayed in each character of John Steinbeck's novella, *Of Mice and Men*.

In general, Marxism theory is determined by the struggles of the social class. In the term of social class, the upper class is usually named as the bourgeoisie and the lower class as the proletariat. The bourgeoisie is the one who commonly recognized as the owner of the factories, lands, or banks while the proletariat is the worker group. As Marx says in *The Communist Manifesto* (1948, p.12):

“The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.”

Marx believes that the system of social classes is just a dream for the proletariat to get what they deserve. In the Marxism perspective, it is only they who are strong will survive. As the main characters, George and Lennie experienced, they believe that they work to get some money to build up their economic condition, but they will never be able to reach their dream to have a proper life because they are living in lower class. The boss has their power to rule their life. Unconsciously, what they do is making their boss (the bourgeois) wealthier. George and Lennie have their dream, but their boss gives them work with a very low wage. Based on what Marx says above, this situation of slavery will never end even George and Lennie work hard in all time of their life. Because on this condition, Marx illustrates it as they are digging their own grave (the proletariat).

Furthermore, related to the term “minority”, the writer wants to analyze other types of American minorities that can be found in the novella *Of Mice and Men*. The other types of American minorities are black people, people with disability, women, and old people.

1.2 Problem of the Study

Related to the background of the study, the writer has one main problem focused for this study. That is about how the American minorities struggle to reach the equal condition as the majorities’ during Great Depression as portrayed by the characters in John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*.

1.3 Objective of Study

Related to the problem of study above, the purpose of this study is to reveal how the American minorities struggle to reach the equal condition as the majorities' during Great Depression as portrayed by the characters in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHODS

This second chapter is intended to present the related literature in conducting the research. It discusses the theory underlying the study such as Marxism and some relevant literature about American minority. This chapter also discusses about American economic condition during the Great Depression. Also, it states the previous studies.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Literature is basically divided into two, fiction and nonfiction (Rees, 1973, cited in Siswandari, 2013). This study will be focused on one of literary works named as novella which is included into fiction. In this study, the novella that will be discussed is entitled *Of Mice and Men* sets in the United States of America between 1929 until 1939, the time of the Great Depression. This study especially will analyze about how the American minorities struggle during that hard time. Furthermore, the theory of Marxism is chosen as the main tool of this study because the writer's intention to reveal the class' struggle (American minorities) to reach equality as depicted in the story. Therefore, before the analysis is done, the key terms and theory of this study will be defined.

2.1.1 Novella

Basically, novella is similar to novels or short stories. It is a fictional literary work that is developed based on such elements as plot, characters, setting, point of view, imagery, etc. One thing that makes novel, novella, and short story different is their scope. Golgeli (2012) says that novella, at this point, is different from novel with its smaller number of characters, its less varied setting, and its simpler plot. Based on Iwuchukwu (2012), novel is the longest genre of narrative prose followed by the novella and the short story.

Novels, novellas, and short stories are all fictional works which the plot developed in the story is not really happened towards the characters. Thus, the events presented did not occur in real life, although they may be real to life, because, all literary work should depict life of various types (Ade, 2008). Based on that definition, it can be concluded that novella has no relation with the real life in the term of the story. But it may have the depiction about how the real condition or situation of the people at the certain time based on the plot, the characters and also the setting written in the novella.

a. Plot

Plot is the sequence of events and ideas that occur in the story and how the ways those events relate to one another. These events are presented to the reader to show relationships and meanings. (Robinson, 2006).

b. Character

Characters are the actors in stories. Characters may also include people and animals or objects that are given human traits. A character is defined

by appearance, behavior, emotions, intellect, values and morals.

(Robinson, 2006).

c. Setting

The setting refers to where, when and how a story takes place.

(Robinson, 2006).

In this study, the writer will focus on some elements of novella. The elements of novella are going to be used are only plot, character, and setting in order to find about the event, the depiction, and the condition of the story which related to the objective of the study.

2.1.2 Great Depression in United States of America

Romer (2003) says that the Great Depression is the worldwide economic downturn that began in 1929 and lasted until about 1939. The effect of Great Depression is a serious problem for many countries, especially USA, which is the origin of Great Depression. The Great Depression results in deflation, more unemployment, and also social conflicts in this country.

The main cause of the Great Depression in the USA was a decline in spending, which led to the product reduction as manufactures and merchandisers noticed an unintended rise in inventories. As the impact, the American decline was transmitted to the other countries trough the gold standard (Romer 2003).

These are four main factors of Great Depression:

a. Stock market crash

The initial decline in output in the USA in the summer of 1929 is widely believed to have stemmed from tight U.S. monetary policy aimed at limiting stock market speculation. By the fall of 1929, U.S. stock prices had reached levels that could not be justified by reasonable anticipations of future earnings. The stock market crash reduced American aggregate demand substantially. Consumer purchases of durable goods and business investment fell sharply after the crash (Romer, 2003).

b. Banking panics and monetary contraction

The next blow to aggregate demand occurred in the fall of 1930, when the first of four waves of banking panics gripped the USA. By their nature, banking panics are largely irrational, inexplicable events, but some of the factors contributing to the problem can be explained. However, the Federal Reserve did little to try to stem the banking panics to face that condition. Scholars believe that such declines in the money supply caused by Federal Reserve decisions had a severe contractionary effect on output (Romer, 2003).

c. The Gold Standard

Some economists believe that the Federal Reserve allowed or caused the huge declines in the American money supply partly to preserve the gold standard. While there is debate about the role the gold standard played in limiting U.S. monetary policy, there is no question that it was

a key factor in the transmission of the American decline to the rest of the world (Romer, 2003).

d. International lending and trade

U.S. lending abroad then fell in 1928 and 1929 as a result of high interest rates and the booming stock market in the USA (Romer, 2003).

Supporting Romer's explanation, Margo (cited in Yamashita 2007) reveals that the output declined by more than 40 percent between 1929 and 1932, and the unemployment rate exceeded 20 percent in 1932 and 1933. There was a big number of severe unemployment because they should experience a spell of unemployment longer than a year in certain parts of the country.

In the novella *Of Mice and Men*, the era of Great Depression, especially in the USA, is set as the main time and place setting. Based on that consideration, the writer found his interest to analyze about how is the condition of American minorities at that time portrayed in mentioned John Steinbeck's work.

2.1.3 The Concept of Minority

Humans as social beings will not survive without other people to interact each other and also complete each other's needs. Humans will always live in groups within a particular group or association. As Marmaryan (2010, p.1) defines:

“My personal perception of the concept is that of a tree trunk with its numerous branches and sub-branches symbolizing various minority groups. Hence, the minority constitutes the following groups: ‘ethnic/national minority’, ‘religious minority’, ‘racial minority’, ‘gender minority’, ‘age minority’, ‘sexual minority’, ‘economic minority’, ‘disabled minority’, etc. Like trees which are an important

component of the natural landscape and play an essential role in producing oxygen, minorities too comprise a significant element or segment of any society and serve as material for building up society and for causing atmospheric changes within it.”

As described by Marmaryan, society is like a tree and its branches. Every section of the society has their own duties to develop what is needed in the society.

However, for certain people, living in groups may be difficult because they are *minority*. In a society which is an association of people with their own background, there will always be some people who are called as minority. “The minority is a subgroup within a larger society, and that its members are subject to disabilities in the form of Prejudices, discrimination, segregation, or persecution at the hands of another kind of subgroups, usually called a majority” Harris (1959, cited in Marmaryan 2010, p.1). Based on what has been said by Marmaryan, it can be concluded that there are several factors that might affect people or small groups to be minority. They are ethnic, religious, racial, gender, age, sexual, economic, and people with disability.

For the minorities in several countries, life could be tough. They will face several problems because of their basic differences they have to the majority group. From the several problems raised by the Marmaryan, isolation may be the most serious problem because when it happens someone will be excluded and likely that the person's presence is unwanted by the group.

As in the novella *Of Mice and Men*, the issue of minority is raised. By the concept of minority explained above, the writer wants to elaborate more about how the minority people especially the American minority is struggling to keep survive.

2.1.4 The Theory of Marxism

Marxism is one theory of social phenomenon which began to develop in the middle of 19th century. They are two Germany philosophers who become the first persons that introduce the theory of Marxism, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

The power of Marx and Engels intellectual influence become a great global phenomenon in the twentieth century. Their theory becomes more than just a reference of science, but all the ideas and theories of Marxism driven in a realistic action towards the situation at that time. Because of that achievement, they are at the 27th in the rank of the most influential persons in history (Hart, 1993). One of his best presents is about the concept of class struggle which becomes guidance for the labor to wake up and fight to get what their right and freedom back from the capitalist. As an ideology, Marxism is an inspiration for big party of social freedom and slowly become political movement in many countries in the world.

Marx analyzes the history of people from two aspects. The first is economic factor, which shows the steps of people economic development covers the principles of life needs that determine changes of people way to life Abidin (cited in Basir 2012). The second is social factor, which defines the people basic attitude that one always needs another to life. Ozinga (1991) on the other hand, says that social factor will not be balance without economic factor because social life needs to create a product for its needs. Marx believes that people are born in different era, so the way of their life should follow different applied rule by the one who has authority of material product in each era. However, one thing that must be the priority for those every rule is developed to extend their domination. McLellan

(1971) believes that one class will control properties, and the others work for it.

As the result, the social organization of labor born with new needs and finally their production power dramatically increased. Marx and Engels pointed out that social phenomena, including the conflicts happened in social class broke through a series of contradictions which is implemented from that concept of dialectic (McLellan, 1971).

This theory of Marxism is considered as the most suitable theory can be used to analyze John Steinbeck's novella, *Of Mice and Men* because the story is telling about the people who live as labor (proletariat) that work for the land owner (bourgeois).

2.1.4.1 The Concept of Class Struggle

One of Marx ideology that is considered as important by Marxist is his theory of class struggle. In the beginning of his work, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848, p.3), Marx states his slogan:

“The history of all hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggles. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an interrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended in a revolutionary reconstruction of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.”

According to Marx, the classes are the society fundamental that drags social conflict and gives impression of the economic substructure changes. Thus, a class is able to identify its importance in society as a whole through the revolutions that have happened before. Marx's statement above describes the history of humans

are marked by struggle or fight between groups. Marx himself admits that the class struggle or revolution broke out is not started as a class society, but it works as a representative of society to claims and gets mutual benefit of all members of society (McLellan, 1977).

Marx's tendency to analyze the ideas about class theoretical is featured in the last clause of his work, *Capital*. However, his death in 1883 interrupted the publication of the work. Generally, the concept of social class raised by Marx was translated in a version of Capitalism economic system. In that work, Marx had divided three main classes in the capitalist society structure. They are wage laborers, capitalist and landowner, but the structure is still not strong enough despite the middle-class efforts to eliminate the gap between the classes (Marx, 1867). However, the development of Capitalism industry structure only introduces two types of class, bourgeoisie, and proletariat. The consequences, all classes will be classified as mercenary laborers of the proletarian class, while the capitalist class and the landowners represent the bourgeois class. But both bourgeois classes had to face fierce competition to get profit and wealth, because they who lost will be placed as the proletariat class (McLellan, 1971).

Based on the statement above, the two classes of proletariat and bourgeoisie have different social functions, in which bourgeois owns production tools and dominates the production process, while the proletarian is considered as 'objects' in the production process to sell 'labor' and get low salary or wages (McLellan, 1977). That gap between the two classes becomes the root cause of struggle and conflict between social classes. Undoubtedly, the development of society is often

linked with class polarization which one class always at opposite positions with other class and creating dispute, then forming two blocks that fight each other (McLellan, 1977). Therefore, Marx describes history of humans are the history of class struggle between the oppressors and the oppressed. Sometimes, the conflict can be as hidden, but sometimes happens openly.

Regarding to the oppressed class, the proletariat, Marx in the *Poverty of Philosophy* (1847) asserts that the scenario of their exploitation has produced elements of “antagonism class” that stimulates the desire to be free from the shackles of oppression. The desire then becomes the main reason for them to create new system of society. After that, to be the authority of the production, they quit the cooperation with the two classes. Hence, their production power is becoming one new class known as the revolutionary class. This class will press for changes in the social structure through force and violence as a revolutionary seizure of power. It is because Marx’s expecting the proletariat class to be the ruling class and seize the bourgeois class position, and centralize all instruments of production under the grip of the labor class.

However, the new model class society to be established by the class of the proletariat is not characterized by social class system of feudalism and capitalism that existed previously. On the other hand, the freedom that will be enjoyed by the working class is only implemented for eliminate all classes of society. A society without class which is pursued by them is the starting point to the disappearance of the gap between classes, and production authority will fall into the hands of all people. Therefore, the authority system is no longer works as a tool of oppression

against people (McLellan, 1977). Meanwhile, the hostility and the conflict between bourgeoisie and proletariat are only deemed as a struggle of one class against another class to bring the *highest expression of total revolution*.

A new concept of revolution which Marx was named as *Revolutionary Praxisthe*, is the merger of the concept and action, a combination of objective and subjective elements and integration between theory and practice (Ozinga, 1991).

It is because Marx expects drastic changes on the proletariat, especially the working class to rise and rearrange the society economic policy collectively and mobilize a socialist revolution in a big way (Marx and Engels, 1976).

Nevertheless, Marx still puts the success of the revolution depends on the efforts of progressive mobilization of the working class itself, not to look to the upper class modesty.

Therefore, Marx is against the middle-class historian's comments, who assume the class struggle, will end with the rise of bourgeois class. It is a response to the perception of classical economists that describes the system of capitalism is permanent and continuous. This is because Marx expects the rise of consciousness and the power that is owned by the industrial proletariat will be generated to be economic justice that still maintains the class struggle and revolutionary change.

Marx's statement is proved by the dispatch of his letter to Weydemeyer (5 March 1852) where he is so confident that the class struggle will not permanent in a society, but is determined by the development of production history. The class struggle will end only by the elimination of capitalism and the existence of a classless society.

Moreover, Marx in *Address to the Communist League* (1850) focuses more on the idea of permanent revolution. It becomes an important mission for the labor class to apply revolution until the authority is really for the proletariat class, although it is a bit difficult to adjust to the idea with the development of the political system that relies heavily on the basis of society economic. Nevertheless, Marx recognizes the importance of economic factors to determine the success of revolution, especially when anticipating economic crises which could provoke a revolution (Lichtheim, 1961). For example, the success of the proletarian revolution can be realized in a country with the majority of the population consists of farmers due to the global high cost of land security imposed upon them by the landlord.

Generally, the conclusion can be said that the attention of *Class Struggle* is on the effort of social classes based on economic condition. The concept of class struggle is relevant with this research analysis because in *Of Mice and Men* novella, the characters struggle to build his economic up.

In addition, to make a relation of the terms “oppressor” and “oppressed” stated by Marx into the concept of minority explained below. The terms of “oppressor” and “oppressed” will be defined as “majority” and “minority” because they have similarity that the majority and oppressor are the one who have power, otherwise the minority and the oppressed are the one who has to struggle more to life. Based on this conclusion, the writer expects that the object of the study will not just about the economic class, but it is also about ethnic, religious, racial, gender, age, sexual, economic, and people with disability.

2.1.5 The Concept of Equality

Based on Capaldi (2001) equality is both a descriptive concept and a normative concept. As a descriptive concept, equality is, by definition, an adjectival relation between entities that are identical in some specific respect. No two entities can be identical in all respects, for then, they would not be two entities but the same entity. The equality may be one of quantity or quality.

Equality may be predicated of things, persons, or social entities such as institutions, groups, and so on.

Supporting Capaldi's definition of equality, Baker (cited in Kenny, 2003) maintains that equality is a complicated idea and that it is not possible to state a satisfactory definition. For him, it is preferable to think of equality not as a single principle, but, as a group of principles which form the central belief system in the notion of "egalitarianism". He identifies the principles of egalitarianism as follows:

a. Equality of Basic Needs

Every person has the right to the satisfaction of his or her basic needs.

Egalitarians believe that it is indefensible for some to live in affluence while others face deprivation (Baker, cited in Kenny, 2003).

b. Equality of Respect

Egalitarians oppose any form of degrading treatment or degrading living standards. They reject the deference expected by the privileged and powerful and reject all hierarchies based on social position (Baker, cited in Kenny, 2003).

c. Equality of Economic

Huge differences in income and wealth found both within countries and between countries are opposed by egalitarian principles. Egalitarians seek equality in democratic control of production and the right to safe, dignified and engaging work. Boring, exhausting and disagreeable work should be shared equally, or people who do it should be compensated (Baker, cited in Kenny, 2003).

d. Equality of Politic

Political equality means more than the right to vote or stand for office. It implies greater democratic participation in government, industry, education, social services and family life, it also implies freedom from the experience of the excesses of arbitrary power and oppression, and seeks more individual empowerment (Baker, cited in Kenny, 2003).

e. Equality of Sexual, Racial, Ethnic and Religious

Egalitarians oppose difference in treatment of people on account of their gender, sexual preference, skin color or spiritual beliefs. They reject racial segregation, religious segregation, gender discrimination and intolerance which lead directly to negative differences in wealth, power and status for the people so discriminated against (Baker, cited in Kenny, 2003).

Based on this concept of equality, the writer want to reveal the issue of inequality happened in USA during the great depression. In John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, the writer believes that this issue is developed because the story tells about

the labor whom given low wage by the boss. In addition, when we talk about minority, the discussion will not just stop to the subject of economic problem. As the concept of minority which is explained above, beside of economic factor, people could also be considered as the minority by these factors: ethnic, religious, race, gender, age, sexual, disability. So by using the concept of equality, all the inequality issue happened related to the all types of minorities in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* will be revealed.

After understanding the theory of Marxism, the concepts of minority and equality, also the description of Great Depression, the writer than relates all of them as the tools of identification. The theory of Marxism will be the main tool of the analysis while the rests are used as the supports because the prime goal of the study is to reveal the struggle of American minorities. Besides, the Great Depression is also explained to understand how the real situation happened at that time. The concept of minority is used as an indicator which one is the object of the study will be analyzed because the writer does not want to make wrong assumption whether someone is minority or not. In addition, the concept of equality also learned because it is believed that equality is the reason and the purpose of what the American minorities struggle for.

2.2 Previous Studies

The researcher took two previous studies as the references of making research, the first is Fredrik Eliassons' study entitled *Naturalism and friendship in Of Mice and Men*. The study covers a discussion of how naturalism and friendship

are seen in the novel *Of Mice and Men* (1937) by John Steinbeck. The conclusion is that various common naturalistic themes may be seen in the novel. It is different from this study which the goal is to find about how American minorities struggle to build their condition up by analyzing the novella.

Next, the writer also found a study about the Marxism theory discussed in this study entitled *The Struggle of Low Class People: A Reading of Symbols in Ratatouille, The Movie* (by Margareta Silvia Sari, 2009). The different point is that in Sari's research, it is about the struggle of an animal (mouse) towards humans to get its right to be a famous chef. So it is more focused on the semiotics theory rather than the Marxist itself. In the other hand, there is similarity between her study and this study. Both of the studies emphasize on the problem of the characters who struggle against inequality and discrimination.

However, the interesting point of this study is that the writer will relate Marxism theory to the concept of minority to explore more kind of struggling classes such as black people, people with disability, women, and old people. It will be different from other researches which implements Marxism theory only for the economic issue.

2.3 Research Method

This sub-chapter will explain the method used to conduct this research. The research method is used to help the writer produce systematic research analysis. It is started by choosing the object of the study, collecting data, interpreting and analyzing, then drawing the conclusion.

2.3.1 Choosing the Object of the Study

The novella entitled *Of Mice and Men* is chosen as the material object because this novella highlights social phenomena in USA during Great Depression. *Of Mice and Men* reveals the issue about inequalities between majority and minority. This problem serves as the formal object of the research.

As the primary tool of the analysis, Marxist theory is applied to reveal the portrayal of American minority during Great Depression based on the John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men*. The main purpose of theory applied is to exam how American minorities struggle to get the equality towards their difficult situation at that time.

2.3.2 Collecting Data

After the object of the study is chosen, *Of Mice and Men* has been read many times. By this action, some story lines and dialogues that can be analyzed based on theoretical framework above. The chosen dialogues are the dialogues which are considered to have relation to the struggles of the American minorities.

By considering the explanation of theoretical framework above, the dialogues between George, Lennie, Candy, Crooks, and Curley's wife with other characters, which are found at chapter one until the end of story and which are strongly show the problem of the study, are chosen to be the data of the analysis. (1) George's dialogues are chosen as the representation of poor people who want to have their own farm land, (2) Lennie's dialogues are chosen as the representation of poor and mentally impaired person who also wants to build his economic up with

George, (3) Candy's dialogues are chosen as the representation of old and have physical disability person who wants to be useful at the end of his age, (4)

Crooks' dialogues are chosen as the representation of black people who feel to be alienated by others, and (5) Curley's wife's dialogues are chosen as the representation of the lonely women who wants attention from men.

2.3.3 Interpreting and Analyzing

The analyzing is done by reading the story of the novella very carefully. The writer reads the novella from bourgeois point of view because the main object of the study is about the American minority. After getting better understanding about the story, the analysis is continued by using theory of Marxism, the concept of class struggle, and also the concept of equality. These theory and concepts are used to analyze John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men* because in this novella is discussed about the struggle of American minority to build up their economic condition under the discrimination of proletariat class. The novella setting is based on the true condition of USA in 1929 - 1932 when the world is cursed by a big crisis known as Great Depression.

2.3.4 Drawing the Conclusion

The last step in this study is drawing conclusion related to the analysis which is done previously. This step is composition of all steps before and also the answer of the problem of study.

2.4 *Of Mice and Men*: A Synopsis

Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck's novella takes time setting during the Great Depression, the worst economic era in history of America. The story is basically about two immigrant workers named as George and Lennie. George is an unlucky smart guy who dreams of a precious future to own his own farm, but he can never get it. And Lennie, George's best friend, is a mentally impaired person who also dreams of his future with George.

The story began when they both were looking for a new job at a ranch in Soledad, California. In their new work place, George and Lennie met some other characters such as the Boss, Candy, Crooks, Carlson, Slim, Whit, Curly, and Curley's wife. For the information, the boss is the one who own the ranch; Candy is an old guy who got his hand in an accident; Crooks is a black man who rather being alienated by others; Carlson is a powerful and big stomached man; Slim is a leader and highly skilled mule driver; there is not many explanation about him except he is a ranch hand; Curley is an arrogant the boss' son; and Curley's wife is the only woman in the story. All of the characters except the Boss are the representations of American minorities.

Because of the difficult situation during the Great Depression, George, Lennie, and other characters with their characterizations in the story had his or her own problems. So the novella is telling about how each character struggles to solve their problems. For example are about George and Lennie's struggle to reach their dream, and about Candy's struggle to be useful in his old age.

However, there many more characters' struggles are told in the novella *Of Mice and Men*. In order to find all of the characters' struggles, this study was made.



CHAPTER III

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is intended to answer the problem of the study and also to reveal the objective of the study stated in Chapter I. The finding is obtained based on the collected data while the discussion talks about the correlation of the theory used in the finding. The discussion also talks about whether the theory could easily answer the problems proposed in previous chapter or not. This measurement is committed simply to know that the theory is proper to solve the problems. Besides, the researcher also states a little bit comparison between the finding and discussion of previous study and this study. It is committed in order to prove that the previous study could give contribution and help the process of finishing this research.

As it is explained in the previous chapter, the Great Depression started in United States after the great stock market crash in October of 1929; it lasted until 1939. Americans who lived through that era feel that it was the worst time in the nation's history. Like all major economic activities, the Great Depression affected some people more than others. People who lived in small towns had few chances to get a job and suffered greatly. This hardship was further enhanced by rigid class standards and racial segregation.

In the novella *Of Mice and Men*, the issues related Great Depression becomes the most influencing element to the story. There are problems caused by Great Depression in America especially for them whom were considered as the

minorities. Based on the analysis, there are some types of minorities in John Steinbeck's novella. He found at least five minorities types such as economic minority, racial minority, age minority, sexual minority, and disabled minority who should struggle to seek equality.

3.1 The Struggle of the Poor to Reach Equality of Economic

The Great Depression was the deepest and longest-lasting economic downturn in the history. In the United States, the Great Depression made Wall Street (bank district in U.S.) panic and wiped out millions of investors. Over the next several years, consumer spending and investment dropped. It caused steep declines in industrial output and increased the levels of unemployment as failed companies fired their workers.

Farmers found themselves in a very desperate situation during the Great Depression. They were already losing money because of greater industrialization in cities. For them, the Great Depression just made the bad to be a dismal situation. Many of these farmers were renting or selling their land and their machinery because of the loss of money in that era. At the beginning of the depression, prices on food that the farmers produced reduced so much that made the farmers were unable to make a profit from their land. As the consequence, they refused to sell what they produced. They could no longer make money of what they land provided. As the farmers' debt increasing and they could no longer make payments on their land and machinery, the banks where they loaned money from foreclosed on their land (Watkins, 1993).

The novella of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* tells a story about some characters that have economic problem. The plot of the story shows the reader how they have to struggle to face their problem. As explained in the previous chapter, the novella is set during Great Depression era, which is known the worst years ever experienced by American people because half of American have economic problem. As the major characters named George and Lennie had experienced. At the beginning of the story, it is described how George and Lennie's appearances. "Both were dressed in denim trousers and in denim coats with brass buttons. Both wore black, shapeless hats and both carried tight blanket rolls slung over their shoulders (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 1-2)." By the description of George and Lennie, it is known that they are poor people. By dresses and hats that they wear, it is described that they wear denim's outfits which are known as the hard worker dresses in the era of Great Depression. In addition, it is also told that they wear shapeless hats which show further evidence that they are the poor people. As the poor people in the era of Great Depression, George and Lennie have to struggle to build up their economic by looking for a job. Related to the struggle which George and Lennie have to do, the story tells about how they have to walk for almost four miles. They have to do that in purpose to search a new job.

Based on what happens in the story, we can see how George is desperate because of tiring condition. In his way to the ranch, George says, "'Jes' a little stretch. God damn near four miles, that's what it was! (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 2)" What George and Lennie do can be considered as his struggle they have to do. They want to have a job so they can get money and reach the equality of economic.

Because of the economic crisis during Great depression, the story also tells about how even eating becomes a problem to George and Lennie.

Lennie got up on his knees and looked down at George. "Ain't we gonna have no supper?"

"Sure we are, if you gather up some dead willow sticks. I got three cans of beans in my bindle. You get a fire ready. I'll give you a match when you get the sticks together. Then we'll heat the beans and have supper." (Steinbeck 1937, p. 4)

The dialogue between George and Lennie is the depiction of the minorities' condition that they have to struggle to build a fire first before they can eat by collecting dead willow sticks because they do not have a stove.

As the part of their struggle to get a better economic, George, Lennie, and Candy decided to work together. In order to make their own farm, they want to sum all of their money together. George and Lennie decide to save their all payment in a month without spending anything to reach the budget they need.

Candy interrupted him, "I'd make a will an' leave my share to you guys in case I kick off, 'cause I ain't got no relatives nor nothing. You guys got any money? Maybe we could do her right now?" George spat on the floor disgustedly. "We got ten bucks between us." Then he said thoughtfully, "Look, if me an' Lennie work a month an' don't spen' nothing, we'll have a hunderd bucks. That'd be four fifty. I bet we could swing her for that. Then you an' Lennie could go get her started an' I'd get a job an' make up the res', an' you could sell eggs an' stuff like that." (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 29)

The conversation above shows the reader that it is not easy task to get a good life in the era of Great Depression. They have to work hard and save the money they get as thrifty as they can to "buy" their dream. By saving their money, they intend to seek equality of economic because as the story tells, the wage of employment in the ranch is very low. They want to build their own ranch in order to get a better income. So they have no longer to work hard to live happily like the Boss.

However, for the American minorities at that time (Great Depression), reaching their dream is not as easy as making the plan. It is very complicated because they are working with very low wages. To make their dream comes true; someone might have to wait until they get too old. Furthermore, they usually cannot stay in one workplace for long time because they always need a better job.

As in Crooks' conversation with Lennie, he says

“You’re nuts.” Crooks was scornful. “I seen hunderds of men come by on the road an’ on the ranches, with their bindles on their back an’ that same damn thing in their heads. Hunderds of them. They come, an’ they quit an’ go on; an’ every damn one of ‘em’s got a little piece of land in his head. An’ never a God damn one of ‘em ever gets it.” (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 36)

After understanding the conversation above, the writer concludes just the same as what Marxist believe. As explained in Chapter I, although a labor struggles for their work, they will never reach an equal position as the Boss (in this term is equality of economic) because of the system that demands them work hard with low wage. Then, their dream will just be a dream forever.

3.2 The Struggle of the Black to Reach Equality of Race and Respect

Race is a social construct that divides people into groups based on characteristics such as physical appearance, or to be more specific is their color

(Cheney, 2006). However, Great Depression sure brought up so many problems to America. One of the problems caused by Great Depression was racism issue.

Cheney (2006) tells that “racism is any attitude, action or inaction, which subordinates a person or group because of her/his race/color/ethnicity. Racism is the systemic mistreatment experienced by people of color.” Racism is believed to

be the result of the long hard times American people should experience. Based on internet source, American Journey Online (1999), at the era of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the racial and ethnic minorities were always the last hired and first fired in the workplace, the number of minorities unemployment were far above whites as fierce competition for industrial work compounded traditional employer racism and discriminatory union policies.

The problems of the Great Depression affected virtually every group of Americans. No group was harder hit than black American, however. By 1932, approximately black American was out of work. But whites called for blacks to be fired from any jobs as long as there were whites out of work. Racial violence again became more common. In John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, the racism issue happens to the character named as Crooks. Crooks is the only character known as the black people in the story. He gets his name from his crooked back.

The story tells that Crooks is being isolated from others because of the color of his skin. At the beginning of the chapter four of the novella is described how the portrayed of being "nigger", that he has to be differentiated to sleep in the harness room while others are in the bunkhouse.

Based on the writer's interpretation, he finds that even the Boss also does racism to the poor Crooks. It is revealed when Candy tells to George that the Boss is looking for him and Lennie. In the dialogue, Candy says "he was sure burned when you wasn't here this morning. Come right in when we was eatin' breakfast and says, 'Where the hell's them new men?' An' he give the stable buck hell, too. (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 36)" "The stable buck" that Candy tells to George refers to

Crooks. It means that the boss is looking for George and Lennie this morning, and gives Crooks hell or particularly something bad. George is asking for the explanation of why the boss does such thing, Candy answers "Sure. Ya see the stable buck's a nigger. (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 10)" It means that the Boss does bad thing to Crooks just because he is a nigger. So he feels that he has the right to treat Crooks in the different way, because he is different.

Furthermore, the depiction of how actually Crooks feels towards the discrimination is told when Lennie comes is to his private room. After Lennie gets in, Crooks shares him how is actually what he feels to be so lonely. He expresses how that he actually gets jealous to Lennie because Lennie has a great friend figure as George. He wants Lennie to know how sad he actually is.

"S'pose you didn't have nobody. S'pose you couldn't go into the bunkhouse and play rummy 'cause you was black. How'd you like that? S'pose you had to sit out here an' read books. Sure you could play horseshoes till it got dark, but then you got to read books. Books ain't no good. A guy needs somebody to be near him." He whined, "A guy goes nuts if he ain't got nobody. Don't make no difference who the guy is, long's he's with you. I tell ya," he cried, "I tell ya a guy gets too lonely an' he gets sick." (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 36)

Crooks states his compliment to Lennie that he actually does not want to be alone. Unfortunately, no one of the characters in the story understand about the equality of racial, that it should not there a differentiation base on skin color. Crooks says that he wants to play rummy together with other people too, he wants to socialize. He wants equality of respect. He wants to be treated like other people. Crooks suffers because he gets mistreatment from other characters in the story. It is just because he is black so they give him no respect. Because of the racism, he must feel the suffering. He has to be so lonely and feeling sick.

However, as explained in Chapter II, Marx says that the classes are the society fundamental that drags social conflict. In the story *Of Mice and Men*, the class conflict between black and white people happens to Crooks and other characters. As the black man, Crooks undergoes the discrimination very hard. Other characters do not let him to join them even just for playing cards. This issue is shown by what Crooks says to Lennie as his complain to be the victim of racism.

“Well, I got a right to have a light. You go on get outa my room. I ain’t wanted in the bunkhouse, and you ain’t wanted in my room.”
 “Why ain’t you wanted?” Lennie asked.
 “‘Cause I’m black. They play cards in there, but I can’t play because I’m black. They say I stink. Well, I tell you, you all of you stink to me.” (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 33-34)

Based on the dialogue between Crooks and Lennie above, it is known that other characters (white people) differentiate him because he is black, and black person is considered to be stinky. However, Crooks will never accept the perception which has given to him by other characters. He wants other characters treat him like others. He wants the equality of respect. So as his struggle to get equality that he wants, the narration tells the reader that Crooks always keeps his room clean and neat. By this situation, the writer believes what Crooks doing is to show other characters that their perception of black people is wrong. He wants to proof to other characters that he is not stinky like what they has been thinking.

3.3 The Struggle of Elderly to Reach Equality of Respect

Critical condition occurred dramatically during the worst year of Great Depression. Job opportunity becomes harder and harder to find. The crisis forced

the industries to fire their workers because they cannot maintain their income. As the result, industries have to cut off the number of their employment. The recruitment of new workers had been tightened in the way of their selection. For some industries, their age is one of the important considerations.

Table 3.1 Employment by Gender and Age, 1930 and 1940

Gender and Age	Number employed (numbers in thousands)		Employment as a Percent of Population	
	1930	1940	1930	1940
Total	44,953	45,338	50.5%	44.8%
<i>Men</i>	34,997	34,099	77.6	67.5
14-19 years	2,575	1,752	36.9	23.7
20-24 years	4,409	3,961	82.5	69.6
25-44 years	16,652	16,456	91.2	83.6
45-64 years	9,645	10,256	86.2	76.7
65 years and over	1,716	1,674	51.5	38.0
<i>Women</i>	9,956	11,239	22.6	22.2
14-19 years	1,445	961	20.7	13.1
20-24 years	2,222	2,263	40.1	38.4
25-44 years	4,264	5,515	23.8	27.6
45-64 years	1,786	2,243	17.4	17.6
65 years and over	239	257	7.2	5.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population: Estimates of Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment in the United States, 1940 and 1930*, Washington, DC, 1944.

As written in the table above, we may conclude that the most employments are between their ages of 25-44 year old. In other hand, the lowest numbers of employments are in the ages of 65 or over. It means that as people become older, they will be harder to get a job.

The condition happened in the Great Depression above is shown in the John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. By the writer analysis, it can be found that the difficult condition happened to the character named Candy. Candy in the story is described as the old man who always worries about his future in the ranch. But

this man is sure has courage. He always wants to work, he tries to be as useful as he can even his age is getting old.

Candy's struggle can be found in the story when he tries to make George and Lennie believe about his intention of making farm together. Candy says to George, "I ain't much good, but I could cook and tend the chickens and hoe the garden some. How'd that be? (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 29)" From this statement, Candy tries to state whatever he can do if George and Lennie accept him as the part of their future plan. It means that Candy wants to be useful. He wants to do everything he can do with his capacity.

Not only once, in another opportunity, Candy states again about his intention to make a future together with George and Lennie. At this time, he says again that he will do everything he can do if George and Lennie let him joins them. By the writer understanding, Candy is believed that he wants to give all of his capability for joining George and Lennie because he wants to get equality or respect. Candy does not want to be considered as useless person in his remain days. Although he is already in the old age, still he wants to get equal portion of work like others.

"Maybe if I give you guys my money, you'll let me hoe in the garden even after I ain't no good at it. An' I'll wash dishes an' little chicken stuff like that. But I'll be on our own place, an' I'll be let to work on our own place." (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 29)

In addition, the age problem does not just happen to person. The story also tells about old dog. The dog is Candy's. It is described as an old stinky dog. Its condition is thoughtful. Its eyes are half open because it is too old. In order to end

its suffering, Carlson says to Slim that he wants to kill it by shoot it off with a gun. Carlson wants the dog suffers no more. Carlson said thoughtfully to Slim,

“Well, looka here, Slim. I been thinkin’.

That dog of Candy’s is so God damn old he can’t hardly walk. Stinks like hell, too. Ever’ time he comes into the bunk house I can smell him for two, three days. Why’n’t you get Candy to shoot his old dog and give him one of the pups to raise up?” (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 17)

It is right that the example above is just about a dog. Nevertheless by this tragedy happened, it proofs that the age can be one factor of one becomes a minority. In the story, it is considered as the symbol that one who has less power will better to be eliminated. Even the story tells that one which is killed by Carlson is only a dog, but the dog might be the visible image of someone who is old aged, he may be considered as not good anymore.

3.4 The Struggle of Woman to Reach Equality of Gender and Respect

In the minorities’ point of view, Great Depression could be the worst experience they had ever seen. The Great depression is often seen as the era of struggle. In fact, it is not just about to life hard, consists of a wide array of social and political issues. Especially the women, they are considered as the minority in the term of sex. Most people think that women is weak, so they should do light job. As the result, women are always under men authority. As women, they

usually have their own job to keep in home and doing the house job. Based on Table 3.1, we can see that the number of women employment in every age is all lower than men. It means that industries do the gender discrimination because they do not give equal opportunity for men and women to work. The statement

that women have been discriminated in terms of social and politic issue above is strengthened by Armstrong as the following:

“The Great Depression is often seen as a time merely of economic struggles, but in reality, consists of a wide array of social and political issues. This was the same, if not more so, in the case regarding women. The Great Depression era for women was not merely a large-scale economic struggle, but a time centered around a variety of social issues and politics, taking precedence in every aspect of life.”
(Armstrong, 2013)

Issues related to work outside the home during the Great Depression were becoming the hardest dream that women faced during this time. Based on Milkman (1976) in his book entitled *Women's Work and Economic Crisis: Some Lessons of the Great Depression*, he states that “American culture clearly defines men as the ‘breadwinners’ and women as the people socially responsible for managing housework and family life.” It means that during the era of Great Depression, women were rather being home than to be out for work. Because of this condition, women were lack of interaction with other people which made them to be lonely. Because of their loneliness of being at home all the times and also because there is nothing to do for women, they are often stressed. The feeling of loneliness is depicted perfectly in John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men* by Curley’s wife. Women struggle during Great Depression can be seen in the characterization of the character Curley’s wife. The men on the farm refer to her as a “tramp,” a “tart,” and a “looloo.” Nevertheless, she still wants to make friend with them to vanish her loneliness.

In the story, there is a moment when Curley’s wife meets George and Lennie for the first time. It is described very clearly about how Curley’s wife

looks like and how she behaves at the front of guys. The narration says that she had full, rouged lips and wide-spaced eyes, heavily made up. Her fingernails were red. Her hair hung in little rolled clusters, like sausages. She wore a cotton house dress and red mules, on the insteps of which were little bouquets of red ostrich feathers. She put her hands behind her back and leaned against the door frame so that her body was thrown forward (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 15). By this description, it can be seen how she is “active”, which means that she does everything to catch someone’s attention. But the writer believes that what she was doing is caused by her loneliness because of less attention from her husband, Curley.

The writer found other evidence that Curley’s wife does need men attention from Whit’s conversation with George. In their conversation, Whit explains to George, “Ever’ time the guys is around she shows up. She’s lookin’ for Curley, or she thought she lef’ somethin’ layin’ around and she’s lookin’ for it. Seems like she can’t keep away from guys” (Steinbeck, 1937, p.25). The writer believes that what Curley’s wife does is the result of her marriage condition. Curley as her husband gives her less attention because he is too busy to do his own business. As Whit says, Curley’s wife cannot keep away from guys. But it is not because she is a whore; the writer thinks she does it because she needs friends to chat with.

As a woman, Curley’s wife is being discriminated by men. She struggles to gather with other people in the ranch, but everybody always avoid her presence. Furthermore, Crooks regards her as a problem. This situation is revealed when the conversation between them happens in the story. Crooks asks Curley’s wife to go back to her own house because he does not want trouble. Then Curley’s wife tells

Crooks how her feeling is to be the only woman in the ranch, she tells Crooks that she needs to talk with somebody once in a while just like other people do too. By the story elaborated, the writer considers it as Curley's wife struggle as the minority to get equality of gender and to get same treatment from other people.

The lonely Curley's wife finally meets Lennie. At the first time, Lennie scared that he is going to get trouble with Curley. But Lennie, who is mentally impaired, he never think Curley's wife as a threat. Curley's wife can easily make him throw his scary feeling away. "Listen," she said. "All the guys got a horseshoe tenement goin' on. It's on'y about four o'clock. None of them guys is goin' to leave that tenement. Why can't I talk to you? I never get to talk to nobody. I get awful lonely. (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 43)" By this dialogue between Lennie and Curley's wife, the writer once again finds an evidence about how actually Curley's wife is struggling to get friend. Based on the analysis, the writer understands what Curley's wife does to everyone is only her way to make friend with others. She is considered as the victim of discrimination because she is a woman. So she has to struggle to get equality of respect. Although she is a woman, she wants to be treated as men. She does not want there is segregation between men and women in her society.

3.5 The Struggle of Disabled Person to Reach Equality of Economic

Basically, all people want to get equal treatment in their society or in their workplace. But it will be different case when someone has physically or mentally disability. People with disability are rather being discriminated in all of the times

by other people in their society even by the system in their workplace. In the society, people with disability are usually regarded as a laughing stock. They often get mistreatment from other people because they are different. In the workplace, they usually get less payment than a normal people. Furthermore, industries are rather to fire people with disability because normal people might have more profit.

In order to protect people with disability, in 1990 there is a law named as America with Disability Act (ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, State and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. It also applies to the United States Congress. Someone which is protected by the ADA should have a disability or have a relationship or association with an individual with a disability. An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such impairment.

The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered (U.S. Department of Justice, 2009).

However, in the Great Depression era, there was not a kind of law like explained above. Based on Barret, cited in Nolan 2009, in the 1889 Committee on Colonies for Segregation of Defectives launched a campaign that stated disabled were dangerous. The campaign was eventually successful. As the result, in 1920 many states segregated disabled people by passed laws. Thus, it is believed to be

carried out to the era of Great Depression. People with mentally handicapped was banned from public school system. The medical profession generally recommended incarceration and/or strict supervision for them.

As in the John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, the representations of people with disabilities are portrayed as the characters Lennie and Candy. Lennie is a mentally impaired person. He has simple minded just like a child. He loves soft thing very much. His hobby for petting soft thing sometimes is like an obsession.

On the other hand, Candy is described as an old man who gets his hand in an accident. Because of his age and his only one useful hand left, the writer believes that he can be considered as the people with disability.

As the man who is mentally impaired, it is defined that Lennie gets difficulty to remember whatever he did and experienced. But to be the part of his struggle to reach his dream for having a beautiful life, Lennie follows wherever George goes. Lennie follows George because he believes that George may help him to get what he dreams. He always tries to be obedient to George and do whatever he asking for. Lennie's struggle is known when he and George want to meet the Boss for applying job proposal.

"That ranch we're goin' to is right down there about a quarter mile. We're gonna go in an' see the boss. Now, look- I'll give him the work tickets, but you ain't gonna say a word. You jus' stand there and don't say nothing. If he finds out what a crazy bastard you are, we won't get no job, but if he sees ya work before he hears ya talk, we're set. Ya got that?"

"Sure, George. Sure I got it."

"O.K. Now when we go in to see the boss, what you gonna do?"

"I... I..." Lennie thought. His face grew tight with thought.

"I... ain't gonna say nothin'. Jus' gonna stan' there."

"Good boy. That's swell. You say that over two, three times so you sure won't forget it."

Lennie droned to himself softly, "I ain't gonna say nothin'... I ain't gonna say nothin'... I ain't gonna say nothin'!" "O.K.," said George. "An' you ain't gonna do no bad things like you done in Weed, neither." (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 3-4)

By this conversation, it is also known that Lennie struggles to against his condition of being mentally impaired. He does not want to forget what George talked to him, so he says it many times.

It is not just Lennie, Candy the old man is also underestimated. Candy said, "I ain't much good with on'y one hand. I lost my hand right here on this ranch. That's why they give me a job swampin'." (Steinbeck, 1937, p. 29)" In this term,

Candy is not given an equal job because he got his hand in accident. As the result, he is given a light job with a cheap wage by the boss.

By the analysis above, Lennie and Candy struggle to get a job even with their conditions. Lennie who is mentally impaired struggle when he is looking for job by trying to follow all of what George says to him, and Candi who is one handed struggle to do whatever he can to maintain his position as the worker.

Both of their struggles are related to job. Based on the writer's interpretation, what Lennie and Candy do could be considered as their struggle to reach equality of economic.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

The Great Depression brought up so many problems in its history. Even it is basically the economic problem, but the effects of Great Depression are various.

From the economic problem, Great Depression turns into social and cultural problem. Many people suffer because of the Great Depression, but the most suffering class is the minority class. Besides they have not much power to face the era, they also have to accept inequality treatment by the majority.

As the result of the analysis of the object of the study, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, the minority can be divided into five types, such as economic minority, racial minority, age minority, sexual minority, and disabled minority.

Based on the discussion which uses theory of Marxism, the writer concludes that each minority will struggle to get equal position as the majority. Each minority type has their own way to reach what they dream of. There are different types of minority; each of them will also face different kind of mistreatment.

George and Lennie are identified to be the poor people with low wage that have to struggle to reach an economic equality with the majority (upper class).

Crooks is the only black man in the story. He has to struggle to reach the equality of race and equality of respect because he is discriminated by other characters.

Candy is considered to be the elderly because he is described as the old character in the story and there is not much he can do for his job anymore. To reach equality of respect, he is the one who should struggle to be as useful as he could for the

rest of his life. Curley's wife is the only woman in the story. She is the character who has to struggle to reach equality of respect with other characters (men) by looking for friend. She always tries to make friend with other characters to vanish her loneliness. Lennie is considered to be a disabled person. Besides Candy is also considered as one class with Lennie since his left hand got an accident. Someone who is considered to be in the minority group in terms of disability such as Lennie and Candy should struggle harder to reach equality of economic because they has weaknesses which is caused by their condition.

4.2 Suggestion

John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* is a novella which is set during the real time setting, Great Depression. By reading the novella, the readers will learn what actually happened during that era. The story tells us much about the minority point of view of being underestimated. By reading the novella, the readers will know how hard their life during Great Depression. One interesting point that can be found in the novella is that it also gives us the meaning of life, which life is not easy, and whoever wants to life, they should struggle, and never give up.

Furthermore, in the process of analyzing of John Steinbeck's novella, the writer indentified some symbolization in the story. For example, the title of the novella is *Of Mice and Men*, but the story main idea is not about mice. The writer believes that the "mice" used as the title has an explicit meaning. As suggestion for the next researchers, it will be interesting to analyze this novella by using

Semiotics theory. The writer believes that Semiotics theory will be suitable in order to understand deeper about the message of the story.



REFERENCES

Ade, Olaofe I. (2008). *An Introduction to Literature and Literary Criticism*. Nigeria: National Open University of Nigeria.

American Journey Online. (1999). *Minorities in the Depression: The Great Depression and the New Deal*.

Armstrong, Holly. (2012). *Women in the New Deal Era: An in-depth study of women's roles and attitudes during the Great Depression*.

Cheney, Carol. (2006). *Tri-County Domestic & Sexual Violence Intervention Network Anti-Oppression Training for Trainers*.

Ismail, Indriaty and Basir, Mohammad K. (2012). *Karl Marx dan Konsep Perjuangan Kelas Sosial*.

Capaldy, Nicholas. (2001). *The Meaning of Equality*.

Elliason, Fredrik. (2010). *Advanced Undergraduate Level Research Essay: Naturalism and friendship.in Of Mice and Men*. Sweden: University of Gothenburg.

Golgeli, Murat. (2012). *English/American Literature – 1*. Turkey: Anadolu University.

Hart, Michael H. (1993). *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History*. United States of America: A Citadel Press Books.

Iwuchukwu, Onyeka. (2012). *Introduction to Prose Fiction*. Nigeria: National Open University of Nigeria.

Kenny, Michael. (2008). *Gender Equality & Social Exclusion Issues in Rural Development*.

Levine, Linda. (2009). *The Labor Market during the Great Depression and the Current Recession*.

Lichtheim, George. (1961). *Marxism: A Historical and Critical Study*. London : Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Marmaryan, Naira. (2010). *Minority Concept and Related Issues*.

Marx, Karl. and Engel, Fredrick (1848). *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. German: Forgotten Books.

Marx, Karl. (1847). *Poverty of Philosophy*. Moscow : Foreign Language Publishing House.

Marx, Karl. (1867). *Capital Vol. I*. Moscow: Progress Publisher.

McLellan, David. (1971). *The Thought of Karl Marx: An Introduction (2nd Edition)*. London : The Macmillan Press Ltd.

McLellan, David. (1977). *Karl Marx: Selected Writing*. London : Oxford University.

Ozinga, James R. (1991). *Communism: Story of the Idea and Its Implementation (2nd Edition)*. London : Prentice-Hall International Ltd.

Romer, Christina D. (2003). *Great Depression*.

Rothbard, Murray N. (2000). *America's Great Depression*. United States of America: The Ludwig von Mises Institute.

Sari, Margareth S. (2009). *The Struggle of Low Class People: A Reading of Symbols in Ratatouille, The Movie*. Indonesia: University of Brawijaya.

Steinbeck, John. (1937). *Of Mice and Men*. United States of America: Penguin Books.

Siswandari, Yulmi. (2013). *Rhetorical Style in Longing Expression Found in Willian Saroyan's Going Home*. Indonesia: Universitas Negeri Semarang.

Thompson, Chris. (2010). *Depression, Disability and Employment*.


























The World Bank. *DATA: GDP Ranking*. Retrieved November 4, 2013, from <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/GDP.pdf>.

Watkins, T.H. (1993). *The Great Depression: America in the 1930s*. New York: Little, Brown And Company.

Yamashita, Takashi. (2007). *The Effects of the Great Depression on Educational Attainment*. United States of America: University of Nevada.

BERITA ACARA BIMBINGAN SKRIPSI

1. Nama : Khabib Musafa'at
2. NIM : 09111110195
3. Prodi : Sastra Inggris
4. Topik Skripsi : American Minorities
5. Judul Skripsi : The Struggle of American Minorities during Great Depression in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*
6. Tanggal Mengajukan : 11 September 2013
5. Tanggal Selesai Revisi : 3 Februari 2013
6. Nama Pembimbing : I. Juliati, M. Hum.
II. Melania Shinta Harendika, M.A.
7. Keterangan Konsultasi :

No.	Tanggal	Materi	Pembimbing	Paraf
1.	11 September 2013	Persetujuan Judul Skripsi	Pembimbing I	
2.	11 September 2013	Persetujuan Judul Skripsi	Pembimbing II	
3.	12 September 2013	Pengajuan Draft Awal	Pembimbing I	
4.	13 September 2013	Konsultasi Bab I	Pembimbing I	
5.	16 September 2013	Konsultasi revisi Bab I	Pembimbing I	
6.	18 September 2013	Pengajuan Bab I	Pembimbing II	
7.	20 September 2013	Konsultasi revisi Bab I	Pembimbing II	
8.	23 September 2013	Konsultasi revisi Bab I dan pengajuan Bab II	Pembimbing I	
9.	25 September 2013	Konsultasi Bab II	Pembimbing I	
10.	26 September 2013	Pengajuan revisi Bab II	Pembimbing I	
11.	30 September 2013	Pengajuan Revisi Bab II	Pembimbing II	
12.	16 Oktober 2013	Konsultasi Bab I, II	Pembimbing II	
13.	26 November 2013	ACC Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing I	
14.	28 November 2013	ACC Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing II	
15.	2 Desember 2013	Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing I	
16.	2 Desember 2013	Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing II	
17.	6 Desember 2013	Pengajuan revisi Bab I, II	Pembimbing I	
18.	16 Desember 2013	Pengajuan dan konsultasi Bab III	Pembimbing I	
19.	20 Desember 2013	Konsultasi dan pengajuan revisi Bab III	Pembimbing I	
20.	23 Desember 2013	Konsultasi dan pengajuan revisi Bab III	Pembimbing I	
21.	24 Desember 2013	Konsultasi dan pengajuan revisi Bab III	Pembimbing II	
22.	26 Desember 2013	Konsultasi dan pengajuan revisi Bab III	Pembimbing II	
23.	20 Januari 2014	ACC Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing I	
24.	20 Januari 2014	ACC Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing II	
25.	24 Januari 2014	Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing I	

26.	24 Januari 2014	Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing II	Sh
27.	27 Januari 2014	ACC Ujian Akhir Skripsi	Pembimbing I	Sh
28.	27 Januari 2014	ACC Ujian Akhir Skripsi	Pembimbing II	Sh
29.	28 Januari 2014	Ujian Akhir Skripsi	Pembimbing I	Sh
30.	28 Januari 2014	Ujian Akhir Skripsi	Pembimbing II	Sh
31.	3 Februari 2014	Revisi Setelah Ujian Akhir	Pembimbing I	Sh
32.	3 Februari 2014	Revisi Setelah Ujian Akhir	Pembimbing II	Sh

8. Telah dievaluasi dan diuji dengan nilai:

B+

Malang, 3 Februari 2014

Dosen Pembimbing I



Juliati, M.Hum

NIP. 19720929 200604 2 001


Dosen Pembimbing II



Melania Shinta Harendika, M.A.

NIP. 19840617 201012 2 005

Mengetahui
Ketua Jurusan



Syarifal Muttaqin, M.A.
NIP. 19751101 200312 1 001

