



**THE INFLUENCE OF REALISM
IN JOHN STEINBECK'S *CANNERY ROW***

THESIS

**ISHOMUDDIN
000110101136**

**UNIVERSITY OF JEMBER
FACULTY OF LETTERS
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
2006**

DEDICATION PAGE

This thesis is dedicated to:

1. My alma mater.
2. My beloved parents (Ma'shum Syafi'i and Ma'shumah), who pray me, give me affection and act wisely.
3. My beloved brothers and sisters, who give attention, help, and kindness.
4. My little nephews and nieces.
5. My students at "At Thoybah" Holy Koran Kindergarten. You give me awareness that educational transformation is important.

MOTTO

“Realism is nothing more and nothing less than
the truthful treatment of material.”

(William Dean Howells in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, November 1889)

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled **The Influence of Realism in John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*** is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have not already been submitted for any other degree or any publications.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, February 21, 2006

The Writer

Ishomuddin
000110101136

APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and accepted by the Examination Committee of English Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Jember.

Jember, February 28, 2006

Examination Committee,

Secretary

Chairman

(Agung Tri W., S.S., M.Pd.)

(Dr. Samudji, M.A.)

The Members:

1. Drs. Ridak Yunus ()
2. Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A. ()
3. Drs. Eko Suwargono, M.Hum. ()

Approved By,
The Dean of Faculty of Letters
University of Jember

Dr. Samudji, M.A.
NIP. 130 531 973

ABSTRACT

One of literary characteristic is reciprocal. It means literature and society has strong relation. The both influence each other. Literature is a fiction and society is a social reality. Commonly, the author takes the phenomena happen in society as the material to create literary work.

This thesis tells about the influence of realism in John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*. As literary term, realism is "a theory of writing in which the familiar, ordinary aspects of life are depicted in a matter of fact, straight forward manner designed to reflect life as it actually is (Shaw, 1972: 315-316)." Shaw also says that, "realism means treatment of subject matter in a way that presents careful descriptions of everyday life, often the lives of so-called middle or lower classes." Furthermore, realism insists on accurate documentation, sociological insight, an accumulation of the details of material fact, an avoidance of poetic diction, idealization, exaggeration, melodrama, etc.... (Drabble, 1995: 824).

Meanwhile *Cannery Row* is an example of realistic work. In other word, it is influenced by realism in his technique of writing. John Steinbeck is an author that applies realism as his perspective in treatment of social reality. Almost of his work is realistic. As we know, Steinbeck is an author that works in modernism era. Modernism is a literary period inspired by realism and naturalism. Modernism shares with realism and naturalism the conviction that literary work should describe social reality.

There are some indications of realism influence in *Cannery Row*. They are setting of places, people character, and historical event in Depression 1930s in United States of America (USA). Steinbeck tries to describe setting of places of Monterey City, California, USA, and other places located in there. In giving characters in the novel, he is inspired by people who have relation with him. Beside that, he also tries to reflect people sorrow because of Depression 1930s through some of sub-story in the novel.

From the explanation above, it proves that realism –as literary term- gives quite attention on the portrayal of real fact in literature. Even though a literary work is realistic or it practices realism in its portrayal, it remains a fiction. It is sure that the author also uses his/her imagination and creativity in creating literary work. But, at least, the realistic work quite contains factual phenomena in a certain part. Thus, the reader can search and find out social reality inspires the work.

But, although a literary work is very realistic or naturalistic, it remains a fiction. This dilemma insists the readers to maintain the equilibrium and suspense between social reality inspires the work and reality in the fiction (Teeuw, 1988:236).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I express gratitude to Allah SWT who gives me the power of physics and soul; and knowledge. So I can finish my thesis.

In this opportunity, I would like to thank people who have helped me in the preparation and accomplishment of this thesis. They are:

1. Dr. Samudji, M.A., as the Dean of Faculty of Letters and Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A., as the Head of English Department who have given me the chance to accomplish the thesis.
2. Drs. Ridak Yunus, my first advisor, and Drs. Syamsul Anam, MA., my second advisor, who give me advice, guidance, and correction in doing my thesis.
3. All of the lecturers of Faculty of Letters, University of Jember, who have given me knowledge.
4. The Staffs of the Central Library of University of Jember, the Library of English Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Jember and the Library of Christian University of Petra, Surabaya, who provide necessary references to support my thesis.
5. KH. Drs. Sahilun A. Natsir, M.Pdi., The Head of “Al Jauhar” Moslem Boarding House, who gives me care, advice, attention and education.
6. KH. Drs. Misrawi, The Head of “At Thoybah” Moslem Boarding House, who gives me motivation and advice.
7. My friends at the class of 2000 of English Department, Al Jauhar Moslem Boarding House, PMII, LPMS, other UKMF/HMJ, and Riau boarding house. You give significant influence in my life and make it meaningful. Keep your idealism and be consistent!

Jember, February 21, 2006

Ishomuddin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| PAGE OF TITLE | i |
| DEDICATION PAGE | ii |
| MOTTO | iii |
| DECLARATION | iv |
| APPROVAL SHEET | v |
| ABSTRACT | vi |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | vii |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | viii |

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

| | |
|--|---|
| 1.1 The Rationale | 1 |
| 1.2 The Problem to Discuss | 2 |
| 1.3 The Scope of the Study | 3 |
| 1.4 The Goals of the Study | 3 |
| 1.5 The Approaches to Use | 3 |
| 1.6 The Method of Analysis | 4 |
| 1.7 The Organization of the Thesis | 4 |

CHAPTER II: THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR AND THE SYNOPSIS OF THE NOVEL

| | |
|--|---|
| 2.1 The Biography of John Steinbeck | 6 |
| 2.2 The Synopsis of <i>Cannery Row</i> | 9 |

CHAPTER III: LITERARY REVIEW

| | |
|--|----|
| 3.1 The Meaning of Realism in Literature | 14 |
|--|----|

| | |
|--|----|
| 3.2 The Development of Realism | 16 |
| 3.2.1 The Development of Realism in Europe | 17 |
| 3.2.2 The Development of Realism in America | 21 |
| | |
| CHAPTER IV: THE INFLUENCE OF REALISM | |
| IN JOHN STEINBECK'S <i>CANNERY ROW</i> | |
| 4.1 The Setting of Places Inspires the Novel | 25 |
| 4.1.1 The Natural Condition of Monterey Bay and Great Tide Pool | 25 |
| 4.1.2 The Situation of Monterey Town and Sardine-Canning Industry in Cannery Row | 26 |
| 4.1.3 Salinas | 28 |
| 4.1.4 Western Biological Laboratory | 29 |
| 4.1.5 Lee Chong's Grocery | 29 |
| 4.1.6 Bear Flag Brothel | 30 |
| 4.1.7 Palace Flophouse | 31 |
| 4.2 The Character of the People Inspires the Novel | 32 |
| 4.2.1 Character of Edward Ricketts which Inspires Doc | 32 |
| 4.2.2 Character of Flora Woods Adams which Inspires Dora Flood | 34 |
| 4.3 The Social Condition During Depression in 1930's Reflected in the Novel | 34 |
| | |
| CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION | 41 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 43 |