



THE REPRESENTATION OF CLASS STRUGGLE IN JOHN STEINBECK'S *THE PEARL*

THESIS

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the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree
In English Study

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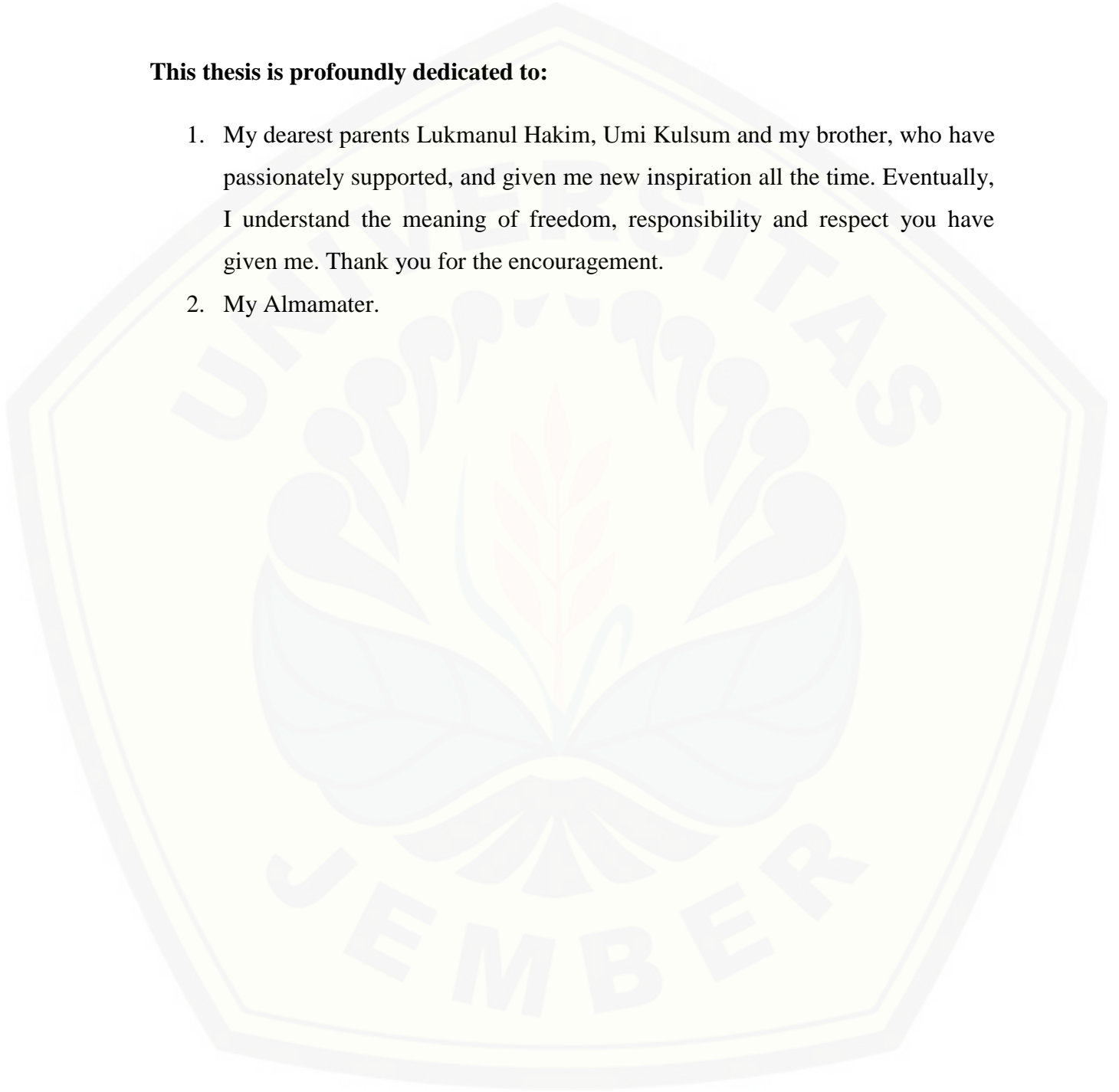
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DEDICATION

This thesis is profoundly dedicated to:

1. My dearest parents Lukmanul Hakim, Umi Kulsum and my brother, who have passionately supported, and given me new inspiration all the time. Eventually, I understand the meaning of freedom, responsibility and respect you have given me. Thank you for the encouragement.
2. My Almamater.



MOTTO

For it is said that humans never satisfied, that you give them one thing and they want something more

- **John Steinbeck, *The pearl***



DECLARATION PAGE

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “The Representation of Class Struggle in John Steinbeck’s *The Pearl*” is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the result described in this thesis have never been submitted for any degree or any publications.

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

Jember, March 13th 2015

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SUMMARY

The Representation of Class Struggle in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*; Ulfiatul Ifit Urfiani; 090110101089; 2015; 40 pages; English Department, faculty of Letters, Jember University.

The Pearl is a novel written by John Steinbeck. It is about class struggle by the main character, Kino. This novel tells about husband and his wife named Kino and Juana. Kino struggles to get his rights. Steinbeck pictures inequality in society and inadequacies of capitalism. He has exposed the exploitation of the poor class of society in America in his novel.

There are three problems to discuss in this thesis. The first question asks about how class struggle is reflected by the main character in the novel. The second is the causes of the main character's struggle in the novel. And the last is the impacts of struggle towards the main character in the novel. This research uses sociological approach. This research uses Karl Marx's theory especially Class struggle. Since this research is a qualitative research, a documentary method is used to collect the data, as well as the inductive method which is used to analyze the subject matters.

The result of study shows that Steinbeck tends to give explanation of the lower class that cannot do anything against capitalist systems. In this novel, Kino just gives up and cannot do anything; he realizes that he is always controlled by the bourgeois. This is proven by Kino's failure to struggle in achieving his great future.

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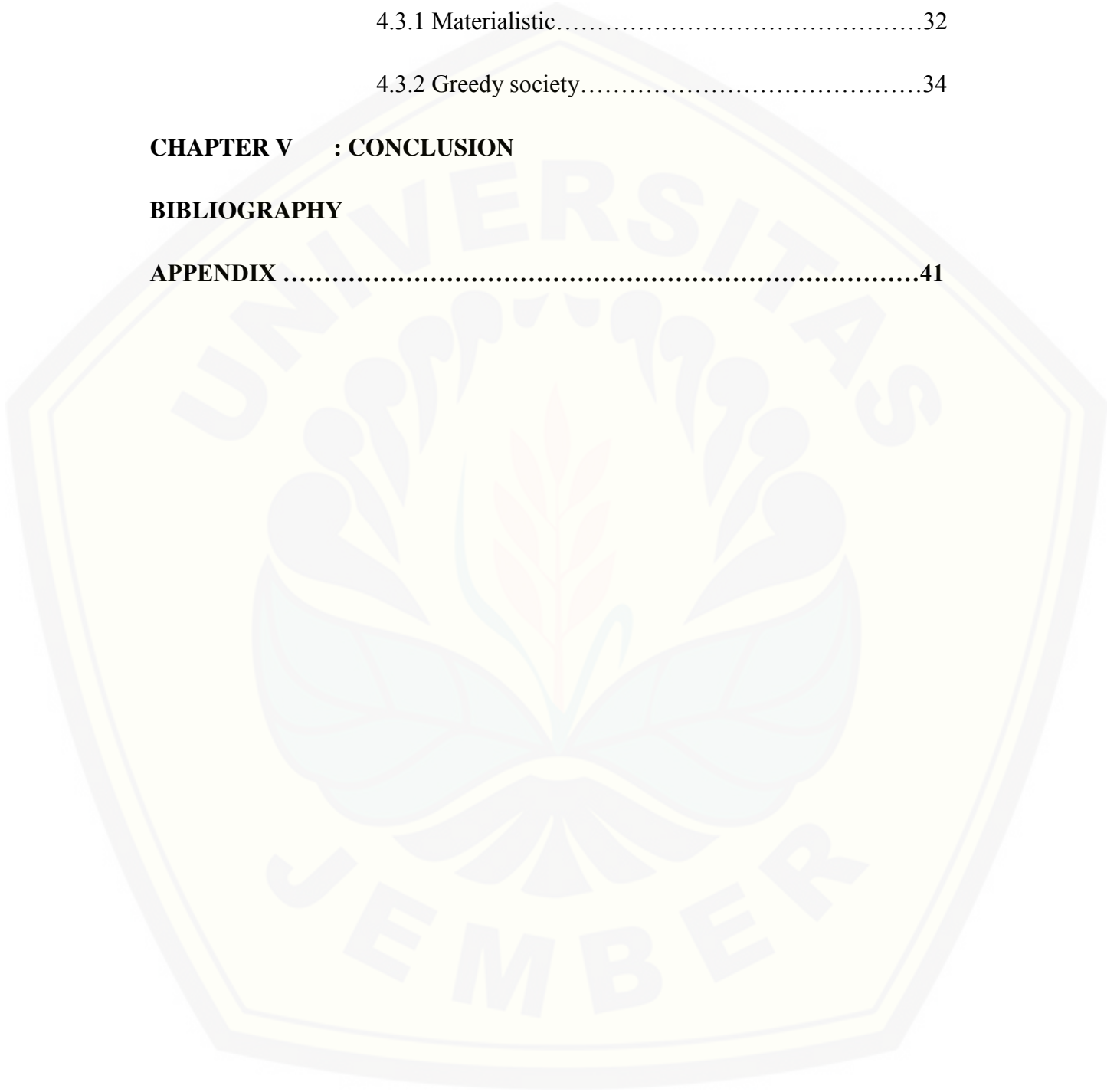
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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter shows the basic idea of conducting the research. The background of the study as the base in guiding how the research will be. It also presents the problems to discuss, and the goals of the study to provide the idea of this thesis well-understood.

1.1 The Background of the Study

Everyone in his life always faces many kinds of problem. Those occur in various forms of experience, individual experiences and social experiences. All forms of individual experiences can be taken to be the materials of literary works. Jones states that “simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination” (1968:1). Through it, the author expresses his emotions, his experiences, and all his feelings about phenomena and problems of life that happen in a certain place.

Hudson says that literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they thought and felt about these aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us (1965:10). It means that literature can be defined as the reflection or the expression of human’s life.

A novel is one of the literary forms besides drama and poetry. According to Shaw, novel is lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and settings. (1972:257). He explains that settings and characters which are presented in the novel are fictional but the story is real and it happens in human life.

The Pearl is a novel written by a modern famous American novelist, John E. Steinbeck. The novel originally appeared in the magazine *Women's Home Companion* in 1945 under the title "The Pearl of the World." It was reissued as a novel in 1947 and also written during the time in which he is at the top of his popularity. John Steinbeck is an author who concerns with social problem. John Steinbeck's works reflected the issues of his era throughout his novels. It is proved by the fact that most of his writing talks about social problems happened around him at the time. John Steinbeck is an author greatly concerns with the struggle of the American working class.

Lihua states that "John Steinbeck is a writer who voiced his deep sympathy for the poor and the oppressed. Though nostalgic for the lost and primitive is felt in his writings, he nevertheless presents a majestic history through portraying believable characters. Since his return to California in 1930's, he learned to know the poor, in particular the migrant farm-worker, American and Mexican, and he wrote from their point of view" (2005:1). John Steinbeck wrote the novel *The Pearl* based on his own personal experiences. John Steinbeck also completed many other novels. He wrote *The Grapes of Wrath* prior to writing *The Pearl*. *The Grapes of Wrath* was an achievement for Steinbeck for he won many achievements for his writing. He won the annual National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize and was also rewarded with the Nobel Prize in 1962 for this novel.

John Steinbeck is one of the best American novelists in twentieth century, who write about social problem and economic problem. John Steinbeck wrote profoundly about the economic problems faced by the rural class during the Great Depression. One of his best works is *The Pearl*, John Steinbeck wants to show human manifestation for wealth and prosperity. In the novel *The Pearl*, Steinbeck writes about social class struggle. Class Struggle becomes a necessity in any society with a wide gap between the "have" and the "have not". Those people have their own dreams, problems, or their own struggle to reach what is the best for their life. Especially for the lower class of society who wants to climb into the

higher one by continuous and hard struggle to be successful. The main character, Kino, struggles to be accepted in society and to achieve better life because Kino belongs to the lower class and there are different social treatments for upper class and lower class in *The Pearl*.

The novel illustrates a class struggle. There are two kinds of classes in this novel; they are high class (bourgeoisie) and lower class (proletariat). This novel tells about husband and wife named Kino and Juana. They live near the gulf in La Paz. Coyotito the baby of Kino, a poor Mexican fisherman is bitten by a scorpion. When the baby falls ill, Kino tries to ask the doctor in the neighbouring town, but the doctor refuses him because Kino cannot pay. And then Kino struggles and he finds the Pearl. Kino believes the great pearl is his baby's ticket to health, an education, and a better life. However, superstitions of the village begin to make Juana fear that the pearl is evil and will bring them grief. Kino kills someone in order to protect the pearl. Kino fights against some trackers who want to get the pearl, Kino kills them all, but he has to lose his baby because his baby is shot by one of the trackers.

Karl Marx, a theorist and historian, he examined social organization in a scientific way; he believed that human history consisted of a series of struggle between classes. Those were between the oppressed and the oppressing. In short, the Karl Marx's theory focused on the struggle of some classes to get better status, power, socioeconomic situation between different social classes, so they could achieve an equal status and acknowledgement in society.

According to Petter Barry, Marxism sees struggles among the social class to get higher position (2002:157). It means that Marxism talks the struggles that happen among the class to get better life for the status they have because the more money someone has, and the power they can get in the society. Based on Marxism, many authors adopted Marxism to their literary work such as the novel *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. Karl Marx's theory especially class struggle can

also be found in John Steinbeck's novel. Class struggle becomes an interesting topic to discuss. It shows the efforts of the working class in getting better life.

1.2 The Problems to Discuss

The problems that are going to be discussed in this thesis are:

1. How class struggle is reflected by the main character in the novel?
2. What are the causes of the main character's struggle in the novel?
3. What are the impacts of the struggle towards the main character in the novel?

1.3 The Goals of the Study

This thesis has several purposes. The first is to know class struggle reflected by the main character in the novel, the second is to describe the causes of the main character's struggle in the novel; and the last is to find out the impacts of the struggle toward the main character in the novel.

Besides the main goals above, this study is expected to motivate and give advantages for a reader in comprehending literature especially about class struggle. The study is also expected to give a contribution or as a reference for anybody who writes the thesis related to this topic.

1.4 The Scope of the study

The scope of the study is the struggles of the main character in the novel *The Pearl*. I intend to analyze the social problems using Karl Marx's theory especially class struggle.



CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theoretical framework describes about the research, theories and concepts related to the topic. This chapter is divided into three subchapters. They are the previous research on the *The Pearl*, the approach to use, and theoretical reviews which consist of sociology of literature and Karl Marx's theory of class struggle.

2.1 The Previous research

Previous researches are the previous works that have relation to the main topic of this research. The previous research is important in this thesis to understand the gap of the following research. The previous researches also become references to establish the unanalyzed side of the subject matter. There are three previous researches taken as the guide of this discussion. The previous researches are found in Brawijaya University and Jember University. The first is *Kino's behavior change as reflected through John Steinbeck The Pearl* by Retno Sulistyowati (2013). The second previous research is *Anti Capitalism through the Adoption of Socialist Ideology Seen in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath* by Silviana Seliandita (2014). Then, the last is *The Representation of Class Struggle in the Movie Titanic* by Saputra Hadi.

2.1.1 *Kino's behavior change as reflected through John Steinbeck The Pearl* by Retno Sulistyowati

In her thesis Sulistyowati analyzes Kino's behavior change because of his vanity of human wishes. First, he wants Coyotito to go to school, the second he wants to give a proper marriage for Juana in a church, and the third, he wishes to have a rifle in order to have the same level with the Americans. The result of this study shows the change of Kino's behavior because of his vanity of human wishes after he

finds the giant pearl. In this previous research, the writer uses the theory of behavior change to find out Kino's behavior change as depicted in the novel.

I use this thesis as one of my previous researches because I use the same novel, *The Pearl* written by John Steinbeck. However I have different topic to discuss a class struggle.

2.12 Anti Capitalism through the Adoption of Socialist Ideology Seen in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath by Silviana Seliandita .

She concerned in the rejection of capitalism, how bourgeois and proletariat class in California are portrayed as two contradicted classes and how the novel reflected the conflict of bourgeois and proletariat in California as the matter of class struggle. Then to support this thesis, she uses Karl Marx's theory. The result of this study finds what Steinbeck intends to convey through the novel based on Marxist perspective. It can be concluded whether there is a need for universal kinship to overcome this mass oppression occurred by capitalist class. "This universal kinship will point to class struggle where at the end of the struggle, it emerges classless society" (Seliandita, 2014:55). We analyze different novel but the same author. From this research I know the background of the writer (John Steinbeck) about capitalism.

2.1.3 The Representation of Class Struggle in the Movie Titanic by Saputra Hadi

He uses sociological approach to relate between Marxism and his thesis. There are two elements that are analyzed in this thesis. They are the intrinsic elements which include narrative and cinematography aspect and the extrinsic element is to discuss the movie using Marxism approach. In this thesis, the writer employed some concepts in Marxism, namely the concept of bourgeois and proletariat, and class struggle to analyze the character, setting and conflict. The result of this study shows the class struggle between the upper class and the lower class in accomplishing their desire represented by the main characters: Jack and Rose.

I use this thesis as my previous research because I find that we have the same theory to discuss, we use Karl Marx's theory to analyze the data. Through this research, it will help my research because I can study more about class struggle and how to use Karl Marx's theory to analyze the data from different novel, *The Pearl*.

2.2 The Approach to use

According to Hornby in *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, approach is a way of dealing with somebody or something; a way doing something (1995:49). The approach is the general tool to solve the problem to discuss. In this research, I use a sociological approach. It is used to understand social and economical situation when the story was created or the problems connected to the society in general. It is an approach which is used to place the literature in the social atmosphere, and define the relationship between literature and society. Elizabeth and Burn in (Endaswara,2008:78) said that the important perspective of sociological approach is that literature is not only the effect of social causes but also the causes of social effect. It shows the relation between sociology and literature, these two influence each other.

Levin in *Five Approaches of Literary criticism* states that, "... the relations between literature and society are reciprocal. Literature is not only the effect of social causes, but also the cause of social effect" (Scott,1962:126). It means that the story in the literary work can give effect to the society; meanwhile the phenomena happen in society can be the inspiration of the writer to create literary works.

Sociological approach focuses on the problems of human being. Goldmann in Endaswara said that there are three characteristics of human struggles; they are the tendency of people in adapting their own self with their environment, the tendency in coherency of global structuring, having dynamic attitudes and the tendency to change the structure although they are in that structure (2008:78).

2.3 Theoretical review

2.3.1 Sociology of Literature

Literature is the product of human experience connected with the atmosphere when and where it is created, such as, family and environment. Literature concerns with human's social world, the conflict with family, social classes, and the solution to solve the conflict. Swingewood states that literature and sociology are not completely as disciplines but literature and sociology are complement each other in our understanding of society, historically, they have tended to remain apart (1972:13). In Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood's book, Swingewood explains the limits of sociology as a science then outlines the differences and similarities of sociology and literature. Sociology of sciences is study of man in society. It tries to answer how the society works and how people survive in the society. Sociology is to study social institution such as politics, religion, and economy. Sociology is also to study of social process in society. Sociology describes the mechanism man adapt himself to the society or socializing and culture learning process. Meanwhile, sociology of literature is concerned with man's social world or man relations. It is about his adaptation to the society and his desire to change the society condition such the culture and tradition of society as their wishes (Swingewood, 1972:11-12). It means that between sociology and literature is human being. It makes both sociology and literatures have mutual inter-relationship.

On sociology of literature, literary works have relationship with society. Meanwhile, Swingewood states that:

The novel, as the major literary genre of industrial society, can be seen as faithful attempt to re-create the social world of man's relation with his family, with politics, with the State; it delineates too his roles within the family and other institutions, the conflicts and tensions between groups and social classes. In the purely documentary sense, one can see the novel as dealing with much the same social, economic, and political textures as sociology (Swingewood 1972:12).

The social structure of the novel deals with the social structure in the real life. The sociology of literature works by learning the structure of the society such as politics, economic, social and all of the social phenomena through literary work.

Each work is written based on facts and real social condition. Writers try to analyze the fact in written texts. The writers express the forms and the messages of the works through literature technique.

“The writer’s position in a mass society is extremely important as a contrast to his earlier social situation, and clearly likely to affect his creative potential in many ways; the links between this historical background and the development of literature constitute a key area in any literary sociology. It is essential for any thorough understanding of literature, as crucial support for textual analysis, great care has to be exercised in order to avoid the extremely crude forms of reductionism so obviously inherent in literature” (Swingewood, 1972:18).

The statement above means literary sociology concerns on the relation between historical backgrounds when the writers live. The writers in creating their works are affected by other aspects of social impacts.

Twentieth century writers and critics are interested in the class conflict in society. These writers write inequality in society and inadequacies of capitalism. Writers like Steinbeck have exposed the exploitation of the poor class of society in America in their novels (Ullah Rahat et al, 2012:2). When Steinbeck started writing novel, America has established its super power status. Unfortunately, on the other hand, the super power status also creates many conflicts and social problems such as disparity between social classes, poverty, individualism and materialism. The real situations influenced John Steinbeck in producing his writing. The application of sociology of literature in this thesis is to see Steinbeck’s background and ideas behind the creative process of this novel.

2.3.2 Class Struggle

Karl Marx (1818-1883) has been known as the father of Marxism. Marx analyzed not only the economy of capitalism but also the social and moral problems inherent to the capitalism system. His writings are typical of the mid-19th century. His theoretical writings deal much more with the explanation of existing social realities, and his central contribution to our understanding of society lies in his analysis of the economic causes of social conflict. A vital component of Marx's argument concerned the link between the ownership of the mode of production and the class struggle in capitalist society.

Gilbert states that “Marx saw class struggle as the basic source of social change. He coupled class conflict to economic change, arguing that the development of new means of production implied the emergence of new classes and class relationship. The most serious political conflict develops when the interest of a rising class are opposed to those of an established ruling class. Class struggles of this sort can produce a “revolutionary reconstitution of society” (2015:6). Class Struggle is the product of economic development. Marx regards classes and class struggle as a historical phenomenon which takes place at a given stage of historical development. He proves that the apportioning of wealth in the sphere of distribution is the product of the distribution of ownership in production. But before explaining further about class struggle, we must know the meaning of class. Lenin in Mbengo following Marx's argument says that:

“Classes are large groups of people which differ from each other by the position they hold in a given historical system of social production, by their relation to means of production for the greater part safeguarded and laid down by law, their role in the social organization of labor and thus by their methods of acquiring and the size of their share of social wealth at their disposal. Classes are such groups of people of which one can appropriate the work of the other, because it holds a different place in a given system of social economy” (1998:12).

The definition above describes not only the essential feature of Marxist teaching concerning class membership (relation to means of production), but it also takes into account also a number of further economic factors.

People live to make their lives better than they did before. They can change their fate and make life better as they have to struggle in order to reach the higher conditions of their lives and for being accepted by their society.

Karl Marx considers that major character in society is social classes. We have seen that human alienation is a result of an oppression of one class by other class. Emancipation from alienation only can be reached through class struggle. Marx's theory of class begins with a certain set of objectively defined interest, created by relations of exploitation and domination in production. The theory class struggle accords the central place to exploitation. In Marx's opinion, the struggle between classes is a dynamic feature of capitalist society, class conflict being a common thread throughout human history.

The ideological struggle manifests at the ideological level as a struggle between the ideologies of the exploiting class. In capitalist society, this struggle is a struggle between bourgeois ideology in all its manifest forms and proletariat ideology based on Marxist theory of history.

Social classes are often described as either upper, middle or lower based on income, wealth or estate. However, Marxist notion of class in a capitalist setting is based on the control of means of production. Karl Marx describes two main classes, bourgeoisie and proletariat.

One of the basic classes of the capitalist society is the bourgeoisie. In the note to the English edition of the Communist Manifesto, Friedrich Engels describes the bourgeoisie as follows "By bourgeoisie is to be understood the class of modern capitalist who owns the means of social production and exploit wage-labor" (Mbengo, 1998:16). It means that the capitalist system bourgeois who owns the means of production and exploited worker's salary.

Proletariat, in the Communist manifesto, which we have already quoted, Friedrich Engels describes the proletariat as follows “By the proletariat is understood the class of modern wage-earning workers, who, not having their own means of production, are forced, to be able to live, to sell their labor force” (Mbengo, 1998:16). The proletariat does not own any means of production and therefore forced to sell its labor force in order to live. That is the objective economic condition of its decisive hostility towards exploitation.

Marx states that “the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle” (1848:14). It cannot be avoided that this becomes the issue of life. It exists in society in history of human being. It somehow leads to an action where there will be clash in society as these classes interact to each other. The interaction existing in the society aims at what it is called class struggle. Karl Marx perceived human history to have consisted of a series of struggles between classes-between the oppressed and the oppressing. Class struggle then becomes the motive force of human history. Historically, these have been achieved exploitatively within a series of social systems, each marked by different forms of property relations and distinguished by the precise way which its ‘ruling class’ is able to extract the surplus from the direct producers.

All of struggles related to the material background are the struggle to get rank of class in society. The differences in material achievement make the wealth will get higher education and prestige than the lower. Everything is easy for the rich by using their wealth. Most of the rich societies have assumed that the poor society is bad society, low education, bad moral and a person who has nothing in his life.

Class differs from social strata by always forming two extreme poles of the given social structure of contradictory interests and the transition from one class to other is, in contrast from the strata, considerably limited. The characteristics which define a class have already been mentioned. The contradiction of classes and the struggle between them is therefore decisive for the mobility of the given social

structure. Each of the two classes consists of further strata and groups, the result of economic and other factors.

Elster argues that “the struggle actually comes from the division of class” (1986:177). This division can be seen from society classification. As being explained above about proletariat and bourgeois, this can be seen that these two societies are what Elster points as the division of class. The class itself can be divided into two groups, the ruling class and the ruled class. In this case, it is the bourgeoisie that becomes the ruling class and proletariat that becomes the ruled class. Beyond the issues facing these two different social classes, it is proletariat who makes changes for their life.

In society, there is ideology of ruling class that controls inferior class. Ideology is a term that turns up in Marxist discussion. It refers to a belief system produced by the relations between the different classes in a society (Marx, 1998:57). An ideology can be positive, leading to a better world for the people, or it can be negative, serving the interests of a repressive system. The latter rarely presents itself as an ideology. This ideology from ruling class must be criticized. Marx states that: “the class which is the ruling material force of society is at the same time its ruling intellectual force” (1998:67). It is class interest that the proletariat must oppose with revolution. Another benefit that communism has to offer is freedom from the means of production.

Lenin in Sparkes believes that “class struggle takes place on three levels, which correspond to the three levels or regional structures which form part of the overall structure. These are the economic struggle, the ideological struggle and the political struggle” (Sparkes, 2006:30).

The economic struggle is the confrontation which is produced between the antagonistic classes as a result of economic exploitation. This confrontation is characterized by the resistance which the exploited classes put up at this level against the exploiting classes.

Class struggle has been in existence throughout the period of history characterized by a division of society into classes. For a long time it had the character of a spontaneous struggle in which the suppressed classes aimed at the immediate improvement of their economic condition. Economic struggle, even though it is the earliest form of class struggle and is the immediate consequence of social contradictions and of the interests of the proletariat (by itself cannot lead to the economic liberation of the working class). However, the status of class becomes the main point dealing with certain society who owns the power of economy. Elster argues that “the class who is dominant in economy sector centralizes political power in their own possessing” (1986:157). It shows that those who have power in economy will also have power in other sector. As life is also related with political issue, it reflects that bourgeois who owns the power in economy will have the power to control other sector besides economy. The power which they have is because they have money. The fact that they gain power and supervise another class leads to class struggle by proletariat.

Conflict within a class of people, or intra class, is not an appropriate Marxist position. For Marx, a “class” is not an aggregate of all those with similar incomes or even possessions, but consists of all those with similar property relation to the means of production, and thereby to other classes who stand in a different property relation (Sparkes, 2006:36). Therefore the class struggle is appropriately inter-class, between those who own the means of production and those who are bound to it through the value of their labor. As Lenin argues,

To look the fundamental distinguish feature of the various classes of society in their sources of income is to give precedence to relations of distribution, which in reality are only a consequence of relations of production. This error was long ago pointed out by Marx, who described as vulgar socialist those who failed to see it. The fundamental criterion by which classes are distinguished is the place they occupy in social production, and, consequently, the relations in which they stand to the means of production. Appropriation of one part or another of the social means of the production and its application to private enterprise, to undertakings organized for the sale

of the product, is the fundamental distinction of one class in present society (the bourgeoisie) from the proletariat, which is deprived of the means of production and sells its labor power... it is the exploitation of wage-labor that leads to the division of society into irreconcilably opposed classes, and... only from the point of view of this class struggle can all other manifestations of exploitation be consistently gauged. (Lenin, 1918: 56-57)

Therefore, the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie arises from the latter's appropriation of the surplus product of the worker's labor is over and above that portion of the product required to replace the value of labor-power purchased in order to set production in motion. The struggle defined as a movement when the consciousness of a class occurs and activity within a class occurs.



CHAPTER 3. RESEACRH METHODOLOGY

This chapter explains the research methodology conducted in this research. Method is a systematic way in conducting research. It functions to address certain problems in order to find the solutions. Research methodology is an organized set of method which is applied to make the research systematic. Research methodology involves the complete set of methods suitable for this research. This chapter is divided into five sub chapters. The method includes the type of research, the type of data, the data collection, the data processing and the data analysis.

3.1 The type of research

To conduct a good and valid research, research method is needed to be done. I use a qualitative method as the research method because the data are in the form of words and sentences. They are not in the form of numbers. The data are collected from the analyzed story. In this case the data will be in the written verbal form. Some supportive literary criticism books especially related to the class struggle theory by Karl Marx.

In this research, the texts are taken from variety of documents which related to the topic. The data needed in this qualitative research are in the narrative form. Description and interpretation are the way to analyze this qualitative research. In other word, the data from the novel *The Pearl* are selected and collected by quotation. In presenting the result of this analysis, it is described by taking some quotations from the novel of related data about class struggle to help and support this analysis.

3.2 The type of data

The type of data used in this thesis is qualitative data. Qualitative data are the form of opinion or words, not in the form of number, but in form of opinion or sentence. McMillan in Yunus (2014:15) stated that “qualitative data are based on research that focuses on understanding and meaning through verbal description rather than through number”. The data consist of verbal description of actual words or action. The common forms of the data are books, journals, articles and web sites. However, since the research conducted is library research, this research only needs writing as the source of the data such as books, journals, and articles.

3.3 Data collection

Documentary method is applied to this study. Blaxter et al (2006:154) stated that there are four methods of data collection. They are interview, observation, questionnaire, and documentary method. This research only applies documentary method of data collection. Documentary method is a method of collecting data by using written material as the source of the research. This method requires much information from written material. The data in this research are divided into two kinds: primary and secondary data. The primary data are collected from *The Pearl* novel as the object the study. The data in the form narrations and statement in the novel are collected according to the selected topic about class struggle. The sources of evidence are taking through the main character’s experiences. The secondary data are used to support the analysis. The secondary data are taken from the dictionaries, articles, journals, internet browsing and the previous research of the similar object but different topic. Three previous researches are chosen as the important information and guide in this discussion.

3.4 Data processing

As one procedure to solve the problem well, I begin the research by collecting the data. The data which is relevant gathered to support this analysis. Here, I take some steps. These steps are done to make a systematical data and keep the validity. The steps are begun by reading and understanding the Novel *The Pearl*. From this step, I find some general data relating with class struggle in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* in the form of paragraph, phrases, and sentences. After this step, I choose the data which only deal with the problem of the study, it is about class struggle in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. In this method, I select information which is needed and can support the analysis activity then the answer the problem of discussion. The data are taken from books, journal, and internet sources discussing about class struggle. The sources should provide the necessary evidences and preferences. Then, the next step uses a descriptive method to describe class struggle. These kinds of problems are as the causes of class struggle and the effect of class struggle that can be related to Marx's theory of class struggle.

3.5 Data analysis

The analysis uses inductive method. Inductive method is taken from the specific one to the general form. According to Shaw (1972:201), inductive method is a form of reasoning thinking from specific to general. It is a process of general thinking that is set out from particular data related to the novel to the general data. The inductive method of this research is initialized from the specific details describing about the main character of *The Pearl* novel, Kino. The details are collected and classified narrations about Kino's struggle. This is particularly done to answer how class struggle is reflected by the main character in the novel, what the causes of the main character's struggle in the novel, and to find out the impacts of struggle toward the main character in the novel

CHAPTER 4. THE REPRESENTATION OF CLASS STRUGGLE IN JOHN STEINBECK'S *THE PEARL*

This chapter discusses about the class struggle by Kino as the main character in *The Pearl*. The analysis is conducted by using Karl Marx's theory of class struggle. The discussion is divided into three parts. The first subchapter explains about the class struggle reflected in the novel. The next subchapter discusses the causes of the main character struggle in the novel. They are three causes of the main character to struggle; the unfair treatment, exploitation and to get better life. And the last subchapter explains the impacts of struggle toward the main character.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels produced a complete study of the problems of literature. Benn in Dobie said that their pronouncements on literature occur in the form of letters.

“Others Marxists, who assume that the superstructure is capable of shaping the base, recognize that literature (and art, entertainment, and such) can be a means for the working class to change the system” (Dobie,1998:84).

This knowledge is well understood by John Steinbeck to see his era. In America 1930s, Marxism became a good model of theoretical view to consider what happened to the reality.

“Marxism established itself as part of the American literary scene with the economic depression of the 1930s. Writers and critics alike began to use Marxist interpretations and evaluations of society in their work: As new Journal dedicated to pursuing this new kind of social and literary analysis, It became increasingly important to ask how a given text contributed to the solution of Social problems based on Marxist principles”(Dobie, 1998:81).

Based on the statement above, it shows that Marxism popular in America during economic depression of the 1930s. And many writers and critics are interested to use Marxist interpretations.

Steinbeck places his criticism of the American system which is about economic disparities. He writes about social problems with his own perspective on the state of rural American society. Steinbeck's character illustrates his experiences and circumstances that shaped his vision of America.

Steinbeck in creating his work is affected by other aspects of social impacts. He exposed the exploitation of the working class of society in his novel. Most of his character isolated and oppressed, and from his literary work he explains about struggle.

In the sixteenth century, the Spanish landed in Mexico and enslaved the native people of the area. The Spanish is rich people and more powerful than the Indian working class, and the white oppression of Mexican. The real situations influenced John Steinbeck in producing his writing such as *The Pearl*. Steinbeck wrote about working class people showing how powerless they were against the rich people. He explains the idea of social injustice.

Steinbeck's simple, touching novel *The Pearl* originally appeared in the magazine *Woman's Home Companion* in 1945 under the title "The Pearl of the World." The story explores the destructive effect of colonial capitalism on the simple piety of a traditional native culture (<http://m.sparknotes.com/lit/pearl/context.htm>). It explains that John Steinbeck examines of destructive effect of colonial capitalism in America, and he writes in his novel *The Pearl*.

John Steinbeck wrote *The Pearl* in 1947 while he was at the top of his career after winning the Pulitzer Prize for *The Grapes of Wrath*. By the time Steinbeck was writing *The Pearl* he already had become accustomed to the

popularity. The novel is a parable, which means give moral lesson. In the novel *The Pearl* Kino, the main character makes the pearl itself his priority and life.

The other inspiration for *The Pearl*, in the late thirties, Steinbeck and Ricketts became partners and make exploration of marine life along the shores of the Gulf of the California Baja, the setting of *The Pearl*. It was here that Steinbeck met the type of Indians who became the characters in the novel *The Pearl*, and it was here that he first heard the story of the pearl of great price. As result of his trip with Ed Ricketts, Steinbeck writes of these people in the novel *The Pearl*.

John Steinbeck adopted *The Pearl* from a legendary tale often repeated in California. The original story was about an Indian boy who found the great pearl. He thought that by owning the pearl, he could achieve all the happiness he wanted. He refused to sell his pearl until he could get the right price for it. But other people grew jealous of him for having the pearl. Because his pearl had turned into a torture, the boy threw it back into the Gulf.

In writing *The Pearl*, Steinbeck changes the original folk tale. The small boy has been replaced by father with different wants and needs. Kino wants to sell the pearl in order to give a better education to his son and to give a better life to his family, a life free from poverty and starvation. Additionally, Steinbeck adds characters to his story. Juana, Juan Tomas and his wife, the doctor, the priest, and the pearl buyers are all Steinbeck originals. Thus, while Steinbeck has borrowed from another story to form his own version of it, he has enriched it with his usual legendary style, giving it various nuances and levels of meaning.

Marx's idea on Steinbeck is clearly seen in the beginning of the novel. In *The Pearl* is illustrated that the different class causes class struggle. Class struggle then becomes the motive force of human history that finally conducts social revolution. "From forms of development of the productive forces these relations turn into fetters. Then begins the epoch of revolution"(Marx, 1867:20). In this case, the work of art is the part of social revolution where it is applied to spread

proletarian ideology. This scheme pushes Steinbeck to write his novel as the means of struggle. In explaining Marxist theory, Tyson conveys:

“For Marxism, getting and keeping economic power is the motive behind all social and political activities, including education, philosophy, religion, government, the arts, science, technology, the media, and so on. Thus, economics is the base on which the superstructure of social/political/ideological realities is built” (2006:53-54).

Steinbeck’s work of art in this case is categorized as the superstructure basis. It portrays the change of social system because of economic system called capitalism. This situation creates a huge gap between bourgeois and proletariat that drives the between class conflict. Moreover, in the novel *The Pearl* the very first words, “in the town” in the prologue, demonstrate that the novel deals with the capitalist activities as cities and towns are usually associated with economic competition of the capitalists and exploitation of the poor and marginalized class of society. In the novel *The Pearl* there are two classes that are the bourgeois and proletariat. The darkness of the Capitalist system and Kino’s resistance to it is evident from the start of the novel. Kino is the working class, and he is the victim of capitalist. He must struggle to get his rights.

4.1 The Representation of Class Struggle by the Main characters

In the system of capitalism, there are emergences of two classes: bourgeois and proletariat. The distinction shows the gap in social economic strata. We cannot avoid the fact that there is differentiation between these societies later becomes the major point of social strata. This is also the step which class struggle happens.

“Marxism sees progress as coming about through the struggle for the power between different social classes. The view of history as class struggle regards it as ‘motored’ by the competition for economic, social, and political advantage” (Barry, 2002:156).

The statement above shows that the different social class appears, because the higher class is more powerful than the lower class in economic, social, and political affairs.

Related to the life of lower class society in America *The Pearl* is one of the novels that describes about class struggle in the American society. Class Struggle is reflected through Kino because he belongs to the lower class and there are different social treatments from the upper class. Kino is a poor Indian who lives near the town of La Paz, Mexico, on the Gulf of California. The conflict starts when Kino's son is stung by a scorpion, Kino tries to ask a doctor in the city to help his son, but the doctor refuses him because Kino has no money to pay him. And then Kino struggles, he finds the Pearl and is able to get medical help for his son. When Kino finds a great pearl, he is overjoyed and begins to aspire to a better life, a grand wedding, clothes, guns and he announces that he will send his son to school, which will liberate Coyotito from the yoke of colonialism.

4.1.1 Getting Better Treatment (service)

The Pearl shows the way Kino's struggle to get his rights, having a good medical treatment for his son Coyotito. At the doctor's house, Kino knocks at the gate. He both fears and resents the doctor, a powerful man not of his own people. Presently, the gate opens to reveal one of Kino's own people, employed in the doctor's service, but the doctor rejects him because he has no money.

“Has he any money?” the doctor demanded. “No, they never have any money. I, I alone in the world am supposed to work for nothing- and I am tired of it. See if he has any money!” (Steinbeck, 1973:6)

The doctor is refusal to cure Coyotito because Kino lacks of the money to pay him represents colonial arrogance and oppression. The doctor is a rich man. He only gives medication to the rich; for the poor like Kino's family, he will treat Coyotito only if they have money to pay. In doctor's system of priorities, money counts more than human life or professional pride. The doctor

also represents the biased behavior of persons of Spanish descent toward the Indian Mexico.

After he was refused by the doctor, Kino takes their family canoe, an heirloom, out to estuary to go diving for pearl. And he finds the great pearl, perfect like a moon as large as the seagull's egg.

“Kino, in his pride and youth and strength, could remain down over two minutes without strain, so that he worked deliberately, selecting the largest shells. Because they were disturbed, the oyster shells were tightly closed. A little to his right a hummock of rubbly rock stuck up, covered with young oysters not ready to take. Kino moved next to the hummock, and then, beside it, under a little overhang, he saw a very large oyster lying by itself” (Steinbeck, 1973: 9).

“Kino deftly slipped his knife into the edge of the shell. Through the knife he could feel the muscle tighten hard. He worked the blade lever-wise and the closing muscle parted and the shell fell apart. The lip-like flesh writhed up and then subsided. Kino lifted the flesh, and there it laid the great pearl, perfect as the moon. It captured the light and refined it and gave it back in silver incandescence. It was as large as a sea-gull's egg. It was the greatest pearl in the world.” (Steinbeck, 1973:10).

In the quotation above, Kino tries to struggle to get their rights by looking for a lot of pearls, and then he can help his son's treatment. He finds a pearl which has never been seen before and extremely much more precious than the others. After finding that pearl, Kino hopes his wife's happiness and his son's better education. He wonders that the pearl will be worth.

4.1.2 To get good price

However, Kino is not fortunate when he sells the great pearl. He faces so many troubles because the price of the great pearl is beyond his thought. He thinks that the price of the pearl can be expensive, but the fact the buyer can only offer a low price.

The pearl buyers had hatched a scheme to deceive Kino that his pearl was not valuable.

“You have heard of fool’s gold, “the dealers said. “This pearl is like fool’s gold. It is too large. Who would but it? There is no market for such things. It is a curiosity only. I am sorry. You it was a thing of value, and it is only a curiosity.” (Steinbeck, 1973:25)

The pearl buyer explains after a careful examination that the pearl is worthless because of its abnormally large size. Kino thinks that he is cheated by some buyers. He suspected their conspiracy and refused to sell the pearl. He decides to take the pearl to the capital in order to sell it on fair price.

‘I am cheated’, Kino cried fiercely. ‘My pearl is not for sale here. I will go, perhaps even to the capital. ‘The dealers glanced at each other quickly. The first offered fifteen hundred pesos, but Kino was already pushing through the crowd with Juana beside him (Steinbeck, 1973:27).

The statement above explains that Kino feels that he is deceived by the buyer just because the buyer wants to get more profit from that pearl, but Kino still struggles to get higher price in the other places.

The pearl buyers in the village have cheated the pearl divers for years. They agree in advance to buy pearls for much below their true value. Marx shows that it is a strategy of capitalist calls for getting more profit. Marx explains this strategy as “The capitalist maintains his rights as a purchaser when he tries to make the working day as long as possible, and to make, whenever possible, two working days out of one” (Marx, 1867:161).

4.1.3 Defending his property

Kino has found the great pearl heard by the towns. Kino and his family are threatened because some people want Kino’s pearl. Someone attack Kino to get the pearl.

That night Kino goes without supper. He sits awake to protect the pearl. He rises, feeling for the knife under his shirt, and moves toward the doorway as Juana stifles a desire to restrain him. From the darkness, a man assaults Kino, and a struggle ensues. By the time Juana reaches the fray, the attacker has fled. Bloodied and cut and with his clothes torn, Kino lies sprawled on the ground, only half conscious.

“I will fight this thing. I will win over it. We will have our chance.” His first pounded the sleeping-mat. “No one shall take our good fortune from us,” he said. His eyes softened then and he raised a gentle hand to Juana’s shoulder.” Believe me,” he said. “I am a man.” And his face grew crafty. (Steinbeck, 1973: 30)

The quotation above explains that Kino struggle to defend his pearl, because the pearl is good fortune for him in get better life.

Without delay, Juana helps Kino inside to care for his wounds. Kino admits that in the dark he was unable to tell who attacked him. After Juana washes out his last cut, she begs him in desperation to discard the evil pearl. But, more fiercely than ever, Kino insists that they must capitalize on their good fortune. He explains that in the morning they will set out in the canoe for the capital.

Kino killed a man while protecting the pearl. He ran from the men who wanted his pearl and once they caught up to him and he killed them too. Kino acted wildly and killed a man who tried to steal the pearl, “He heard the rush, got his knife out and lunged at one dark figure and felt his knife go home...” (Steinbeck, 1973: 31). Kino’s attempt to safeguard the pearl predisposes him to violence in defense of his property.

Kino’s intelligence and growth in social awareness help him realize that he and other Indians have been exploited by the rich and powerful. At first, instinctively, he senses the danger with the pearl buyer, but it is only after his brutal encounter with the trackers that he becomes aware of the extent of this exploitation. He comes to realize that human being will kill in order to gain money and power.

Through this paragraph, one can see that money, instead of bringing happiness, creates a danger for the people who detain it. Thus, wealth is associated with monster and those who desire to get money can't help resorting to violence to get it. Likewise in *The Pearl* Steinbeck shows that the simple fact to obtain a treasure can bother one's life as it is visible through the example of Kino who puts in danger his family while keeping the pearl.

4.2 The Causes of the main character's struggle

4.2.1 The unfair treatment

In capitalist society, based on the result of economic conditions, two basic classes emerge: the bourgeois and the proletariat. Marx in Mbengo defines class as “groups of people of which one can appropriate the work of the other, because it holds a different place in given system of social economy” (Mbengo,1988:10). The first class, bourgeois class, is characterized with its financial power. “By bourgeois is to be understood the class of modern capitalist who own the means of social production and exploit wage-labor” (Mbengo,1988:16). This bourgeois class is exploiting and repressing proletariat class.

In the beginning of the novel, Steinbeck shows the doctor's life is very different with Kino, the doctor is a white person who has luxurious and glamorous life. The upper class people can often get what they want.

The doctor as the high class tends to be selfish and never cares with the others especially the lower class because they only think that money is the most important thing for him. And doctor's life is among the high class society, it is proven by his lifestyle.

In his chamber the doctor sat up in his high bed. He had on his dressing-gown of red watered silk that had come from Paris, a little tight over the chest now if it was buttoned. So delicate that it looked silly when he lifted it with his big hand, lifted it with the tips of his eyes rested in puffy little hammocks three fingers wide to get them out of the way.

The doctor had once for a short time been a part of the great world and his whole subsequent life was memory and longing for France. "That," he said, "was civilized living"-by which he meant that on a small income he had been able to enjoy some luxury and eat in restaurant. (Steinbeck, 1973:6)

The fat and wealthy doctor, who surrounds himself with all sorts of luxuries, is interested only in money. The obese doctor is in bed eating sweet biscuits and drinking hot chocolate. It is very different with the life of lower class.

Kino is lower class, he exploited by the bourgeois class. He is a pearl diver who goes down to the sea to find oysters every day. Kino's life is among the lower class society, it is proven by the place he lives.

"The town lay on broad estuary, its old yellow plastered building hugging the beach. And on the beach the white and the blue canoes that came from Nayarit were drawn up, canoes preserved for generations by hard shell-like waterproof plaster whose making was a secret of the fishing people."

"The beach was yellow sand with rubble of shell and algae close to the water. It was inhabited by lobster, crabs and a variety of fish. Hungry dogs and pigs roamed the beach searching for dead fish. A hazy mirage hung over the landscape. The brush houses of the fishing people were from the beach on the right side of the town where their canoes were also drawn up (Steinbeck, 1973:7).

The statement above reflects the differences between high class and lower class society that are shown by the life condition.

In the life of the lower class society there are so many discrimination, pressure, and unfair treatments. As Kino, he tries to get his rights, when his son Coyotito is stung by a scorpion. Kino looks for help since he is poor and not able to afford the medical expense, but the doctor rejects him because he has no money.

"The doctor never came to treat the poor villager, so Juana decided to go to the doctor. Kino and Juana reach the doctor's house, but he refused to see them because he knew about Kino's poor financial condition." (Steinbeck, 1973: 4).

From this quotation, that the lower class usually does not get better treatment, because he is a fisherman and doesn't have money to pay the treatment. To struggle to get his rights, Kino and his wife Juana decide to meet the doctor, but the doctor does not respond and refuse to treat Kino's son Coyotito.

The doctor is a contrast with Kino: he is dressed in opulence and is lying in bed, sipping chocolate and dreaming of a past time when he lived in Paris. Upon hearing about Kino's request, he immediately sends the servant down to see if Kino can pay. Steinbeck then portrays that this economic contradiction between the bourgeois and proletariat creates the condition for the organization of proletariat leading them to become aware of their suffering and the need for revolutionary action.

“Have I nothing better to do than cure insect bites for ‘little Indians’? I am a doctor, not a veterinary.”

“Yes, patron,” said the servant.

“Has he any money?” the doctor demanded. “No, they never have any money. I, I alone in the world am supposed to work for nothing-and I am tired of it. See if he has any money!” (Steinbeck, 1973: 6).

The doctor says, implying that Kino and his baby are animals because they are not rich like he is. The doctor says that he will not treat Coyotito unless Kino can pay him. The doctor is very attached to money so far as to transgress the oath of his profession. Thus, his only concern is how to get wealth. It is just the way of human nature. Thus, the common weakness that everyone shares is the quest for money. But most people get caught up in the selfish illusion that money is able to solve all their problems.

Class struggle happens because there are any resistance that causes from the different social condition, because of that case arises to struggle their rights. Marx in Soekamto states that:

“Marx hypothesis is about the proletariat who feel that they have been exploited because of their position in their class of capitalist society, so they will rise up to stop the oppressor from the other class who has higher position” (Soekamto, 1982: 184).

The statement shows the gap in social economic strata. We could not avoid the fact that there is different of social classification as it exists. This difference between these societies later becomes the major point of social strata. This is also the first step the class struggle happens.

The condition of life of the upper class is different with the lower class, and the lower class tends to be discriminated by the high class. The high class is easily to get their needs but the lower class must struggle to get better life.

The doctor finds a different social class between them. Kino's son does not get a good treatment from the doctor, because they come from different races.

“This doctor was not of his people. This doctor was of a race which for nearly four hundred years had beaten and starved and robbed and despised Kino's race, and frightened it too, so that the indigene came humbly to the door.” (Steinbeck, 1973: 5).

The explanation above is about the confrontation between the two races. Immediately, Kino regards the doctor as an enemy. The doctor is a member of the race who for nearly four hundred years had beaten and starved and robbed and despised Kino's race. But in spite of the hatred Kino feels, he still takes off his hat out of forced subservience.

Bourgeoisie and proletariat show that these classes are different from each other in the way that the one becomes the ruler and the other becomes the ruled. These differentiations of class later lead to class struggle which occurs because of class stratification.

4.2.2 Exploitation

Karl Marx says that all Marx's thought are based on assumption that the main agent of the society is social class. It means that social class has brought improper differences and the lower class is always the victim of it.

The differences of social class between the upper class and the lower class can be seen in the novel *The Pearl*. Kino as the main character, he is a poor man

and having family to be happy and prosperous. One day the news that Kino has found the great pearl are heard by the towns and the pearl buyer wants to buy it.

The pearl buyer used to exploit the poor fishermen for their owner to gain their commission out of the profit: “They waited in their chairs until the pearls came in and then they cackled and fought and shouted and threatened until they reached the lowest price the fisher man would stand”(Steinbeck, 1973 :11).

All the pearl buyers in the village have cheated the pearl divers for years. They agree in advance to buy pearls for much below their true value. He offers Kino a thousand pesos.

“On the contrary,” said the dealer, “it is large and clumsy. As a curiosity it has interest: some museum might perhaps take it to place in a collection of seashells. I can give you. Say, a thousand pesos.” Kino’s face grew dark and dangerous. “It is worth fifty thousand,” he said. “You know it. You want to cheat me.” (Steinbeck,1973:25).

In anger Kino refuses the offer, stating that the pearl is worth fifty thousand pesos. He announces that he will take the pearl to the capital, where he can get a fair price for it. The pearl makes him think great thoughts and makes him wish to break free from the oppression of the rich people who have abused the Indians for so many years.

“And when the buying was over, these buyers sat alone and their fingers played restlessly with the pearls. For there were not many buyers really- there was only one, and he kept these agents in separate offices to give a semblance of competition. The news came to these men, and their eyes squinted and their finger-tips burned a little, and each one thought how the patron could not live forever and someone had to take place. And each one thought how with some capital he could get a new start.” (Steinbeck, 1973:11)

In *The Pearl*, pearl buyers want to get Kino's precious pearl. In reality, there are not many buyers, there is one boss and he has kept his agents in separate offices to give semblances of competition. Thus, each of the pearl buyers pretends

to bargain the pearl with a very low price. This tactic is only a way to depreciate the value of the pearl whereas pearl buyers' real aim is to acquire the valuable pearl very cheap. Therefore, the competition prevails among pearl buyers. Thus, pearl buyer resort to deception and they can make more profit.

“Marx’s calculations determine that, the amount of surplus value equals the degree of exploitation performed by the capitalist” (cited in Balci, 1987:20). In other words, the capitalist intrinsic motive for exploitation his /her worker is to gain profit.

Since the pearl dealers cannot think of a way that can deceive Kino, they burn down his house in revenge, which makes Kino’s family become homeless.

“He stumbled toward the beach and he came to his canoe. And when the light broke through again he saw that a great hole had been knocked in the bottom. And a searing rage came to him and gave him strength. Now the darkness was closing in on his family now the evil music filled the night, hung over the mangroves, skirled in the wave beat. The canoe of his grandfather, plastered over and over, and a splintered hole broken in it” (Steinbeck, 1973:32).

“He saw a little glow ahead of him, and then without interval a tall flame leaped up in the dark with a crackling roar, and a tall edifice of fire lighted the pathway. Kino broke into a run; it was his brush house, he knew. And he knew that these houses could burn down in a very few moments” (Steinbeck, 1973:33).

The capitalist is blind sighted by the goal to maximize profit that he is capable of doing everything necessary to reach the goal, including treating fellow humans as objects and possessions. Through *The Pearl*, Steinbeck succeeds to release the awareness of capitalist’s oppression toward proletariat class.

Kino tells as the idea of Marx that the task of human being is to destroy exploitation by uniting in a group which results in classless society. Proletariat is the victim of capitalist system conducted by Bourgeois class. Benn in Dobie states that the bourgeoisie becomes the holder of the authority.

“The Marxist is aware that the working class does not always recognize the system in which it has been caught. The dominant class,

using its power to make the prevailing system seem to be logical, natural one, entraps the proletariat into holding the sense of identity and worth that the bourgeoisie wants them to hold, one that will allow the powerful to remaining in control” (Dobie, 1998:85).

Based on explanation above, the proletariat class is always controlled by the Bourgeois because the Bourgeois becomes the dominant class and more powerful than the Proletariat.

4.2.3 To get better life

Kino’s struggle to get the pearl to change his life and get better social status is the struggle to get the same rights from the society to avoid exploitation and oppression. Class consciousness appears, Kino as a lower class feels oppressed and exploited by the higher class, so he consciously struggles for his rights.

Marxist theory focused on the struggle of some classes to get better status, power, and socioeconomic situation between different classes, so they could achieve an equal status and acknowledgement in society.

In the novel *The Pearl*, Kino’s struggle to get the great pearl is a kind of struggle to survive and to fulfill his daily needs. Kino tries to sell the great pearl in order to get the big benefit, the pearl is related to good fortune and hope weaken and the pearl becomes associated more strongly with human plans and desires. Kino hopes he can fulfill his needs wearing new clothes because their clothes are far from good and can give education for his children.

“Now that Kino has the pearl he can dare to let himself dream of things that were before impossible. Kino’s brother Juan asks “What will you do now that you have become a rich man?” Kino thinks carefully. “We will be married—in the church.” Kino can see Juana and himself standing before all the others in the church. “We will have new clothes,” Kino says. From there is is but a small leap to further extravagance: The rifle breaks down all barriers in Kino’s mind. If he can have a rifle then he can have anything he wants, all thanks to the pearl.”(Steinbeck,1973:12)

From the statement above shows that the pearl association with good fortune and hope, and the pearl becomes associated more strongly with human plans and desires. Kino hopes that he and family get better life. Kino details his plans: a proper marriage in the church, new clothing for the family, a harpoon, and a rifle. Kino's new boldness amazes Juana.

In the pearl he sees how they dressed Juana in a shawl stiff with newness and a new skirt. It is in the pearl the picture glowing there.

In the pearl he saw his son sitting at a little desk in a school, just as Kino had once seen it through an open door. And Coyotito was dressed in a jacket, and he had on a white collar, and a broad silken tie. Moreover, Coyotito was writing on a big piece of paper. Kino looked at his neighbors fiercely. "My son will go to school," he said, and the neighbors were hushed (Steinbeck, 1973:13).

The statements above show that Kino hopes that the great pearl would be worth. Kino hopes he can baptize his son Coyotito and marries his wife in the church, and to get better education for his son Coyotito.

4.3 The impacts of struggle towards the main character

4.3.1 Materialistic

In the nineteenth century, American people were interested in material. From this case, John Steinbeck wrote the story from his environment where the man is the victim of the materialistic life. Steinbeck shows how American society adopts a materialistic behavior. This yearning to acquire more wealth presses on property owners to resort to violence in order to achieve their purposes.

Kino started to believe when he found the pearl is the most important thing. He becomes a materialistic person because his desire is to get much more money from the sale of the pearl and he hopes his life will be better. He is so absorbed by material worth that he goes rigidly into possession by the great pearl. He becomes possessed by the material significance of the pearl. He is possessed by the idea of his family and he can have anything he wants.

Juana says to Kino after the first night's attacker has bloodied Kino's head, "Kino, this pearl is evil. Let us destroy it before it destroys us. Let us crush it between two stones. Let us-let us throw it back in the sea where it belongs. Kino, it is evil, it is evil!" (Steinbeck,1973:30). Even though Juana warns Kino that the pearl will bring misfortunes to the family and advises him to throw the pearl away, Kino neither takes the advice nor listens to what his wife says because Kino's mind is already overtaken by his dreams. Kino puts the pearl before his family and even if his wife takes it, he attacks her to reclaim it. When Juana tries to get rid of the pearl, Kino acts violently towards her.

"And rage surged in Kino. He rolled up to his feet and followed her as silently as she had gone, and he could hear her quick footsteps going toward the shore. Quietly he tracked her, and his brain was red with anger. She burst clear out of the brush line and stumbled over the little boulders toward the water, and then she heard him coming and she broke into a run. Her arm was up to throw when he leaped at her and caught her arm and wrenched the pearl from her. He struck her in the face with his clenched fist and she fell among the boulders and he kicked her in the side." (Steinbeck,1973: 31).

Kino's possessiveness for the pearl causes him turn against his family that he loves.

Through his materialism, "Marx recognized that humans are like other animals and live in and through inorganic nature, in practice; this interaction with material objects is a direct means of life" (Marx, 1844:63). Kino hits his wife and becomes more evil after he has found the pearl. Also, Kino has lost his humanity and becomes like an animal. He will not consider his family anymore like he used to because he has turned evil and he is overtaken by his dreams.

"I was attacked in the dark," said Kino. "And in the fight I have killed a man."

"Who?" asked Juan Tomas quickly.

"I do not know. It is all darkness - all darkness and shape of darkness."

"It is the pearl," said Juan Tomas. "There is a devil in this pearl. You should have sold it and passed on the devil. Perhaps you can still sell it and buy peace for yourself." (Steinbeck, 1973 : 34).

It is shown how people are destroyed by materialism very well in *The Pearl*. There are some people who are very poor and will do anything for money, like killing somebody for their possessions. Such as Kino destroyed by materialism.

In fact, it is this excessive materialism which is the source of social troubles such as crime, poverty, and oppression. The main concern is that materialism is unable to offer a peaceful existence. Although their lives are determined only by having material possessions, they do not have peaceful life. In this respect, materialistic behaviors create a situation in which everyone focuses on one's selfish interest.

Kino reflected materialism when he became so obsessed with the pearl that he would have killed people for it. Before he found it, he never would have killed for a material object because of his moral beliefs. He knew the difference between rights and wrong, which was illustrated by the way he felt his race was treated unfairly by the white people. He had been corrupted so much by the power of the pearl brought with it, that he would take someone's life in order to protect it.

When he first found the pearl, he wanted to help his son with the profit he would make from it. After having kept it for a while, though, Kino put his own needs before those of his son. He was so obsessed with the pearl, which he had to keep it from being stolen at all costs.

Motivated by a feeling of obsession to material achievement Kino goes so far as to kill one of the tracker. This passion to keep the pearl drives him into animosity. This state of cruelty is the product of a materialistic society that reflects only its negative aspects.

As Kino shifts his focus to providing for his son in material rather than emotional ways, he makes a corresponding shift from peaceful coexistence in his

village to violence, paranoid suspicion of his neighbors. Now that Kino has acquired wealth, he is obligated to defend that wealth is from potential usurpers.

4.3.2 Greedy Society

The story focuses on a poor man and his wife who find an enormous pearl, for which their entire village becomes greedy. In a town, news spreads very quickly faster than anyone can even tell. La Paz was no different. Even before Kino's own fellow fishermen all knew about it, the news of the pearl was already in the animal's mouths. Kino had found the Pearl of the World. The town feels that it too wants a share of the wealth of the pearl.

“All manner of people grew interested in Kino—People with things to sell and people with favors to ask. Kino had found the Pearl of the World. The essence of pearl mixed with essence of men and a curious dark residue was precipitated. Every man suddenly became related to Kino’s pearl, and Kino’s pearl went into the dreams, the speculations, the schemes, the plans, the futures, the wishes, the needs, the lusts, the hungers, of everyone, and only one person stood in the way and that was Kino, so that he became curiously every man’s enemy. The news stirred up something infinitely black and evil in the town; the black distillate was like the scorpion, or like hunger in the smell of food, or like loneliness when love is withheld. The poison sacs of the town began to manufacture venom, and the town swelled and puffed with the pressure of it.” (Steinbeck, 1973:12)

The greediness of *La-Paz* village is visible through Kino's pearl which becomes also everyone's wish. Thus, Kino has what the whole community needs. Greed drives some people in the town to commit acts of violence against Kino in attempting to steal the pearl.

After Kino discovers the pearl, each person is consumed by greed and imagines himself as the one who has found the pearl. Everyone fantasizes what he or she would do with the wealth that the pearl represents, including the doctor, who previously refused to help Coyotito but now says that the baby is a patient of him.

The news came to the doctor where he sat with a woman whose illness was age, though neither she nor the doctor would admit it. And when it was made plain who Kino was, the doctor grew stern and judicious at the same time. "He is client of mine," the doctor said. "I am treating his child for a scorpion sting." (Steinbeck, 1973:11)

The danger from the scorpion poison has already passed, but the doctor takes advantage of Kino and Juana's ignorance to tell them that the baby is in mortal danger. The doctor gives Coyotito a medicine. The doctor reenters and pretends to cure Coyotito, but Kino is suspicious of him.

The doctor said, "I was not in when you came this morning. But now, at the first chance, I fear too, for the hundreds of years of subjugation were cut deep in him.

"The baby is nearly well now," he said curtly.

He said: "sometimes, my friend, the scorpion sting has a curious effect.

"Sometimes," the doctor went on in a liquid tone, "sometimes there will be a withered leg or a blind eye or a crumpled back. Oh, I know the sting of the scorpion, my friend, and I can cure it." (Steinbeck, 1973:15)

The doctor has no interest in Kino's people. He has come only to make money, and his greed distorts his human values. As a physician, the doctor is duty-bound to help human life, but when is confronted with someone whom he considers beneath him, the doctor feels no such duty.

The doctor was closing his bag now. He said, "When do you think you can pay this bill?" he said it even kindly.

"When I have sold my pearl I will pay you," Kino said

"You have a pearl? A good pearl?" the doctor asked with interest.

The doctor shrugged, and his wet eyes never left Kino's eyes. He knew the pearl would be buried in the house, and he thought Kino might look toward the place where it was buried. "It would be a shame to have it stolen before you could sell it." the doctor said, and he saw Kino's eyes flick involuntarily to the floor near the side post of the brush house (Steinbeck, 1973:18).

The quotation above explains that the doctor wants to give medical treatment for Coyotito after he knows that Kino found the great pearl, and the doctor hopes that he is paid more by helping Kino.

Since the pearl buyers all work for only one man, they will not make any personal profit from the purchase of a great pearl such as Kino's. Getting the greatest pearl for the lowest price possible is now beyond a simple thrill. Escaping from one to the other of the buyers, it almost seems a mouse trying to get away from the hungry felines. Kino feels that he is being cheated, for they have agreed not to push up their price.

“Kino has found the pearl of the World. In the town, in little offices, sat the men who bought pearls from the fishers. They waited in their chairs until the pearls came in, and then they cackled and fought and shouted and threatened until they reached the lowest price the fisherman would stand. But there was a price below which they dared not go for it had happened that a fisherman in despair had given his pearls to the church.” (Steinbeck, 1973: 11)

The pearl buyer looks casually at the pearl and shows no expression on his face, yet his hands, hidden behind him, are trembling. Then the buyer offers a very small sum, a thousand pesos, for the Pearl of the World. He maintains that the pearl is too big and no one will buy. Kino knows that he is being cheated; meanwhile, the pearl buyer sends for the other buyers to confirm his offer. While they are waiting for the other buyers, the neighbors discuss the offer. They are puzzled; in contrast, the pearl buyer cannot keep his eyes off the pearl. The pearl buyers probably have planned out that whole scene where Kino is trying to sell the pearl to them because they wanted to the pearl.

According to Steinbeck, money has a strong influence that force people to use sometimes brutality for competition to wealth, loss of self, individualism and internal conflict.

“Kino did not move nor ask for his supper. She knew he would ask when he wanted it. His eyes were entranced, and he could sense the wary, watchful evil outside the brush house; he could feel the dark

creeping things waiting for him to go out into the night. It was shadowy and dreadful, and yet it called to him and threatened him and challenged him. His right hand went into his shirt and felt his knife; his eye were wide; he stood up and walked to the doorway.

Juana willed to stop him.

“Kino,” she said huskily, “I am afraid. A man can be killed. Let us throw the pearl back into the sea.” (Steinbeck, 1973:29-30)

When trackers attempt to steal the pearl, Kino is described as he defends his home and the pearl in complete darkness. The trackers cannot be seen directly by him for there is no light within. Kino is struck on the head by the trackers, but he is unconcerned by it. Juana now realizes what she feels inside her is fear. She realizes that this great pearl is the source of evil because the desire has awakened in the people surrounding them. She tells Kino of the evil he has brought and as a great sin which should be got rid of immediately. Kino is determined more than ever that the pearl will change their condition and status in the society. He sets himself against the will of the townspeople.

This incentive is visible through the trackers who after vain temptations force Kino to kill one of them. Thus, materialism can keep man from behaving like animal. And according to the trackers, the quest for money has a great significance that even necessitates violence.

The phenomenon of making money as a priority is characterized by quick and short options: selfishness, exploitation and assassination. All these misdemeanors lead inevitably towards brutal behaviors. These oppressors like all oppressors first have to dehumanize poor people in order to better exploit them. In reality, it is always easier to exploit people once you debase them just as the black people were degraded under the slavery. This is what provokes the murder of people among themselves in order to survive.

In the end of story Kino lost his son, when he protected the pearl. Later, Kino lays down the pearl, takes out the pearl and throws it into the water. He fails

to struggle in achieving his rights. He realizes that he cannot do anything against capitalism system.

“And in the surface of the pearl he saw Coyotito lying in the little cave with the top of his head shot away. And the pearl was ugly; it was gray, like a malignant growth.” (Steinbeck, 1973: 47)

“And Kino drew back his arm and flung the pearl with all his might. Kino and Juana watched it go, winking and glimmering under the setting sun. They saw the little splash in the distance, and they stood side by side watching the place for a long time. And the pearl settled into the lovely green water and drooped towards the bottom. (Steinbeck, 1973:47-48).

Steinbeck criticized capitalist system who belief that money is important thing. Steinbeck analyzes the impact of materialism in morality. Therefore, materialism brings jealousy and opposition which drives as well people to adopt worthless behavior. Materialistic people try to gain much profit and make unfair competition for wealth.

The injustice of his dispossession is also considered like a tragedy as one can see through *The Pearl* story which is an allegory of materialism and failed struggles against the capitalism system. All these facts demonstrate the danger of prosperity in a society where people think every method is good to reach one's goals even if it is necessary to use violence. It is interesting to notice that Steinbeck relies on Marxist predictions that capitalist domination creates its loss through its own victory. In other words, the excessive materialism of landowners leads to their ruin.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

The Pearl is a novel written by John Steinbeck which was published in 1947. He portrays the life of the lower class society. *The Pearl* is one of the pictures of class struggle in the American society. It tells about the hard life of an Indian man named Kino with his little family. He and his family live in poverty. When his baby is stung by a scorpion, he tries to get the doctor's treatment, but his doctor rejects to help it. Kino struggles to get his rights and he finds 'pearl of the world'. This pearl gives a hope to Kino that his family's life will be better.

Steinbeck was a social observer, he criticize about capitalist system where the proletariat oppressed by bourgeois class. It can be seen in most of his characters isolated and oppressed. Marx's idea on Steinbeck is clearly seen in the beginning of the novel. In *The Pearl* illustrates that the different class causes class struggle. The concept of class struggle defines the history of all human civilization. In capitalism two basic classes confront each other, the proletariat and bourgeois. The contradiction between these classes is immediate reflection of the fundamental contradiction of capitalism.

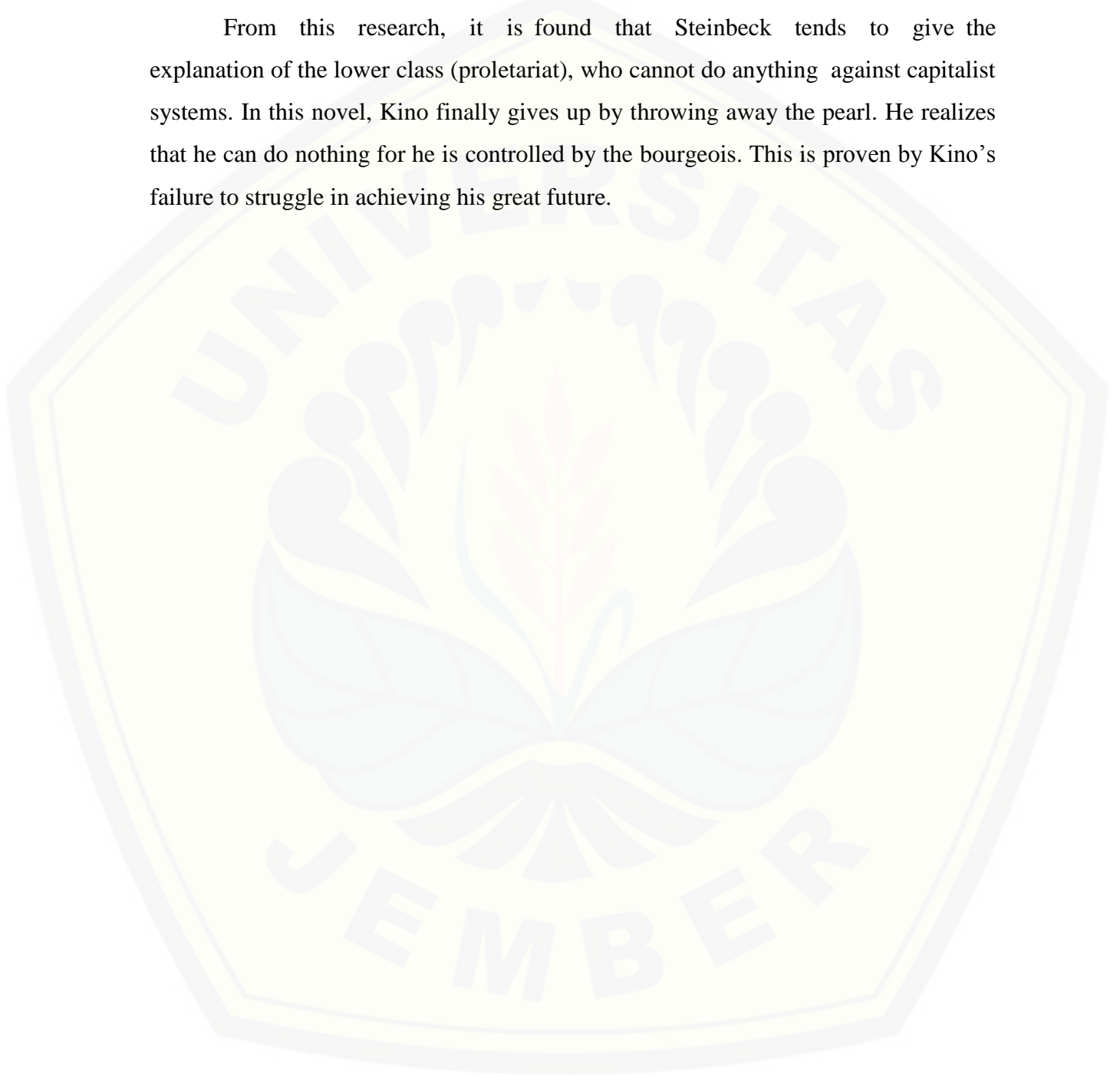
Based on the thought of Marxist about social class (Bourgeois and Proletariat) the conflicts that appeared; injustice because the high class is more powerful than the lower class especially in economic system. So the effects of different class influence the social life of people such as the emergence of class struggle.

The characters in the novel *The Pearl* strictly comprises of two classes that is bourgeois or the-have and proletariat or the have-not. The darkness of the Capitalist system and Kino's resistance can be seen from some evidences which are illustrated from the start of the novel. Kino is the lower class who is exploited by bourgeois class. So he must struggle to get his rights.

Bourgeois takes control of life because they have money power. It is definitely different from the situation of proletariat who does not have money so that they have no power. Proletariat always becomes the subordinate group. It can be

inferred that proletariat becomes the victim of the bourgeois. These differentiations of classes later lead to class struggle which occurs because of class stratification.

From this research, it is found that Steinbeck tends to give the explanation of the lower class (proletariat), who cannot do anything against capitalist systems. In this novel, Kino finally gives up by throwing away the pearl. He realizes that he can do nothing for he is controlled by the bourgeois. This is proven by Kino's failure to struggle in achieving his great future.



APPENDIX

The Biography of John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas; California on February 27 1902 came from a middle class family of German and Irish descent. He attended Stanford University but left without graduating. He went to New York in 1925 trying to establish himself as a writer, but he failed and returned to California. His experiences among the working classes in California lent authenticity to his depiction of the lives of the workers, who remain the central characters of his most important novels. He is arguably the most prominent literature of his generation to have adopted the cause of working class America.

Steinbeck's first novel, *Cup of Gold* (1929), and followed by the novels *The Pastures of Heaven* (1932) and *To a God Unknown*. However, his first three novels were unsuccessful. Steinbeck had his first success with *Tortilla Flat* (1935), an affectionate and gently humorous story about Mexican- Americans. It was made into film of the same title in 1942. *Tortilla Flat* was followed by *In Dubious Battle* (1936), a story about a strike by agricultural laborers. This was followed by *Of Mice and Men* (1937), a tragic story about the strange, complex bond between two migrant laborers.

In 1930, John Steinbeck published his most critically acclaimed novel, *The Grape of Wrath*. A bestseller, the book won Steinbeck the Pulitzer Prize in 1940 and was released as a film in the same year. The story is a portrayal of the merciless agricultural economic system.

In 1941, Steinbeck collaborated with freelance marine biologist Edward F. Ricketts to publish *Sea of Cortez* which contained information gathered during Steinbeck's trip to the Gulf of California with Ricketts in 1940. During the course of the World War II, Steinbeck served as a war correspondent and also wrote about Norway under the Nazi regime in his book, *The Moon is Down* (1942). While still containing the elements of social criticism that marked his earlier work, the three novels Steinbeck published immediately following the war, *Cannery Row* (1945), *The Pearl*, and *The Bus* (both 1947).

Among his later works should be mentioned *East of Eden* (1952), *The Winter of Our Discontent* (1961), and *Travels with Charley* (1962). Many of his stories were made into films of which *East of Eden* (1955), *The Pearl* (1948) and *Red Pony* (1949) are well known.

Steinbeck's books generally deal with the desperation and resilience of poor Americans in the early decades of the twentieth century. He represents the "struggle" theme of his novels principally the struggle between the poor and the wealthy, the weak and the strong, good and evil, and between cultures or civilizations. In 1962, Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, and died in New York City in 1968.

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