



**JOHN STEINBECK'S WORLD VIEW ON MASCULINITY OF THE MALE
CHARACTERS IN OF MICE AND MEN**

THESIS

Written by

**RAHMAT ADE DARMAWAN
NIM 100110101007**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
2016**



**JOHN STEINBECK'S WORLD VIEW ON MASCULINITY OF THE MALE
CHARACTERS IN OF MICE AND MEN**

THESIS

A thesis presented to the English Department,
Faculty of Letters, Jember University,
as one of the requirements to obtain
the award of Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English Studies

Written by

**RAHMAT ADE DARMAWAN
NIM 100110101007**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
2016**

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

1. My father, Izzuddin, a great breadwinner who always gives the best thing for the family.
2. My mother, Sri Wahyuningsih, a tough and tender woman who always gives a lot of affection and love to the family.
3. My brother Syahlan Tuntas Ramadhani who always makes me to be a good brother.
4. All my teachers and lecturers, who have taught me the precious knowledge.
5. All of my best friends, who have given the best moments in my life.
6. My Alma Mater.

MOTTO

“If it doesn’t challenge you, it won’t change you”

¹*(Fred Devito)*

¹ <http://addicted2success.com/quotes/21-superstar-quotes-from-the-worlds-top-athletes-and-coaches/>

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled *John Steinbeck's World View on Masculinity of The Male Characters in Of Mice and Men* is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications.

I certainly 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, 26th May 2016
The Candidate,

Rahmat Ade Darmawan
NIM 100110101007

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled John Steinbeck's World View on Masculinity of The Male Characters in Of Mice and Men has been examined in front of the board of examiners at the Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Day, Date : Thursday, 26th May 2016

Place : Faculty of Letters, Jember University

Chairman

Secretary

Dr. Eko Suwargono, M.Hum
NIP. 196511061993031001

Dra. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd.
NIP. 195105211981032002

The members:

1. Drs. Imam Basuki, M.Hum (.....)
NIP. 196309041989021001
2. L. Dyah Purwita Wardani, S W W (.....)
S.S., M.A
NIP. 197109282005012001

Approved by the Dean,

Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed.
NIP. 196310151989021001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise and thanks are due to Allah, and peace and blessing be upon His Messenger Muhammad (pbuh). By His blessing and mercy I am able to finish this thesis. I also would like to thank to those who give their contribution in finishing this thesis.

1. Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed., the Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Jember University.
2. Dra. Supiastutik M.Pd., the Head of English Department, Jember University.
3. Dr. Eko Suwargono, M.Hum. my first advisor who has guided me patiently and supported me in writing this thesis.
4. Dra. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd. my second advisor who has guided me patiently and gave me precious advice in writing this thesis.
5. Irana Astutiningsih, S.S.M.A. my lecturer who has given me all of the informations I need.
6. All of the lecturers of English Department who have taught me the precious knowledge.
7. All of staffs of Faculty of Letters, all of the librarians in Central and Faculty of Letters thank you for helping me during my study.
8. My friends: Eko, Sely, Surya, Iqbal, Fendy, Anton, Gunawan, Ansori, Rijal, Galang, Galuh, Fenti, Apit, Lidya, Wilda, Miftah, Nanda, Ade, Bili, and Avo.
9. All of my friends in English Department, Faculty of Letters academic year 2010.

Jember, 26th May 2016

Rahmat Ade Darmawan

SUMMARY

John Steinbeck's World View on Masculinity of The Male Characters in *Of Mice and Men*; Rahmat Ade Darmawan, 100110101007; 2016; 45 pages; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

The goal of this thesis is to understand John Steinbeck's world view on masculinity of the male characters in the *Of Mice and Men* by analyzing the America's condition on it and America's condition around 1937. Most of the characters in the *Of Mice and Men* are men. It shows strong sense masculinity of ranch workers at that time that John Steinbeck tried to show, as the response of the social condition in America especially in ranch worker society. The analyzing process uses Lucien Goldman's genetic structuralism to find the author's world view.

This research applies qualitative data that is categorized into two kinds. They are primary data and secondary data. The primary data are taken from the novella *Of Mice and Men* and the secondary data are taken from thesis, journal, books, and internet related to John Steinbeck historical background, genetic structuralism, some previous researches and masculinity.

The result of this thesis shows that John Steinbeck as the author of *Of Mice and Men* has the same tendency with worker class point of view in seeing a phenomenon related to the transition of masculinity in mid-nineteenth until early twentieth. It is showed by worker-class masculinity's trait that is found in male characters in *Of Mice and Men*. There are physical power, using outfit that is related with jeans and denim and using verbal abuse in daily communication.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FRONTISPIECE	i
DEDICATION	ii
MOTTO	iii
DECLARATION	iv
APPROVAL SHEET	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
SUMMARY	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	
1.1 The Rationale	1
1.2 The Research Topic	3
1.3 The Problem to Discuss	4
1.4 The Goals of The Study	4
1.5 The Scope of The Study	4
CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	
2.1 The Previous Research	5
2.2 Genetic Structuralism	6
2.2.1 Human fact	7
2.2.2 Literary work as the product of collective subject ...	8
2.2.3 World View	8

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHDOLOGY	
3.1 The Type of Research	10
3.2 Data Collection	10
3.3 Data Processing and Analysis	11
CHAPTER 4. DISCUSSION	
4.1 The America’s Condition in <i>Of Mice and Men</i> portrayed by John Steinbeck	12
4.1.1 Hard to find a job	13
4.1.2 Race discrimination	13
4.1.3 Protruding imbalance social class	15
4.1.4 American Dream	16
4.1.5 Physical ability is more important than brain	17
4.1.6 Strong sense of ranch worker masculinity	19
4.2 John Steinbeck’s World View Concerning With Masculinity in His Novella <i>Of Mice and Men</i>	23
4.2.1 America’s social and economic condition around 1937 dealing with masculinity at that time	24
4.2.2 John Steinbeck’s world view concerning with masculinity of the male characters in <i>Of Mice and Men</i>	28
CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION	44
REFERENCES	x
APPENDIX	xii

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Rationale

Literary works can be said as the representative of human life. According to Goldmann's statement (Goldmann, 1980:24), "The literary work is critical insofar as it displays the author's creativity and originality in his relation to society". It means that it is created by the author to show his point of view about human life or a society in a certain time. It could be an author's idea about seeing phenomenon in a society. It means everything the author thinks and feels are written in an imagination in a form of literary work. In the novella, the author puts the characters and setting with delineation of his perspective of the condition which they see surrounding them. It makes one aspect of the author that cannot be separated in making a novella or other literary works. It is the experience of the author. Because everything the author said in their literary work is an output of his thought as the response through the social phenomenon they experienced. Analyzing correlation of the author's historical background with his work will be so interesting because we will know what really happened in the society where the author lived at that time and compare it with his work. It makes us know how the author responded the condition at that time and poured his idea to a literary work.

The novella *Of Mice and Men* is the object of this thesis to analyze the relationship of the author's historical background and his work.

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. His family was wealthy, but it did not make him unaware of the life of poor people such as ranch worker. Instead, he was interested in the lives of them. He often spent his time work with them. It made him know well about the condition of the ranch worker.

Prior twentieth, the impact of industrial revolution that happened in The Great Britain also experienced in America. It resulted the increasing number of immigration and worker-class people. The increasing number of the worker-class gave the friction between the middle-class and the worker class in a society concerning with the behaviour and moral value. The friction continued until the twentieth.

In 1930, America was in financial depression. An event known as Wall Street Crash on 29 October 1929 led American to financial depression and crippled the country from 1930-1936 (Beeler, n.d.). People lost their savings because the firm and bank went bust. Many American were unemployed at that time. Then the droughts in southern mid-western states added to the series of problems which forced the farmer to move from their land and sold what they owed to pay the debts to the bank which loaned them money to buy the ranch. Many of them came to California looking for land which going spare, but they just became refugees who had nowhere to go back to and lived in huge camps in California valleys. Some of them also lived in shacks of cardboard and old metal. Many of them sought work as farmhands. Those conditions made John Steinbeck know well about the sufferings of worker-class especially ranch worker. Most of the ranch worker was the men who lived in bunk-house with low pay.

In relation with the life of the worker-class at that time, people had a point of view dealing with masculinity. Masculinity is a part of the gender that has a gender identity. Gender identity is expressed through behaviour and the appearance. People thought that masculinity of worker-class was away from positive sense because it was contrary with the value of victorian moral standart. Victorian masculinity is closed with polite behaviour. That's why people especially middle-class parents at that time made every effort in order to protect their sons from the influence of worker-class masculinity. It forced the government to make a policy as New Deal Era arts programs to raise up the bad image of manual worker class masculinity.

Of Mice and Men is a novella written by John Steinbeck. This novella published in 1937. It is about a tragic story of two guys George Milton and Lennie Small who travelled around to get a job, but on their way, they got many problems because one of them (Lennie) just got mental delayed. It made them get many problems, because George also had to keep Lennie looked normal for other people besides struggling for himself. This condition causes George get agonized and dilemma in his life.

John Steinbeck talked about social problems and its impact to marginalize people in this novella. We will find so many discriminations to poor people, African-American people and social response of people who has mental delayed. He also talked about how relationship fulfilled every people's needs, including economy, social, and even psychological. He shows how hard the life of farm laborer with everything they got in the farm. They got no family, work hard for surviving in life, and get some problems from the owner.

The characterization in *Of Mice and Men* shows the domination of men as ranch workers. One interesting thing is most of the characters in *Of Mice and Men* are men. John Steinbeck just showed one active woman character in *Of Mice and Men*. The only woman character in *Of Mice and Men* gives bad role to the ranch workers. She is just a woman who can only give the problems to the ranch workers.

It such showed strong sense masculinity of ranch workers at that time. Thus John Steinbeck tries to show his idea as the response of the social condition in America especially in ranch worker society that showed strong sense of masculinity in ranch workers society point of view.

1.2 The Research Topic

The research topic in this thesis is masculinity of ranch worker. Genetic structuralism is used to analyze the author's world view on delineation masculinity on male characters in his novella *Of Mice and Men*. It can be started by

understanding the social condition that is portrayed in the novella and then finds the social condition surrounding him.

1.3 The Problems to Discuss

In accordance with the title of this thesis, there are two problems to discuss in this research.

1. How does John Steinbeck portray the America's condition in *Of Mice and Men*?
2. What is John Steinbeck's world view concerning masculinity in his novella *Of Mice and men*?

1.4 The Goals of the Study

There are two goals in writing this thesis. The First is to get the knowledge of the America's condition in *Of Mice and Men*. The Second is to get the knowledge about John Steinbeck's world view of his society through the delineation of masculinity on the male characters and the setting in his literary work *of Mice and Men*. So, I hope it gives contribution for the further analysis with the same topic.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

The discussion has a limitation. It just focus on John Steinbeck's historical background and his relationship deals with delineation masculinity in his literary work *Of Mice and Men*. The analysis just discusses about the social condition surrounding John Steinbeck and how he expresses his view in his work.

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter deals with two things. The first is the previous research that gives the information about *Of Mice and Men* and genetic structuralism that is needed in this research. Genetic structuralism is the tool to analyze the object of the research to solve the problem. The second is the brief explanation about genetic structuralism as the tool.

2.1 The Previous Research

Previous researches are the researches which have relation with this thesis. It has some contributions in processing this thesis. It gives the references, idea, and also thoughts. It also makes the differences with the other thesis. There are two previous researches that is used in this research. The first previous research taken is *Negotiating Modernity, Resisting Tradition: Genetic Structuralism Analysis On Buchi Emecheta's The Bride Price* by Yuliana Puspitasari, 2013. It tries to describe the binary opposition between modern and traditional discourse. It also discusses about the understanding of the author's world view through the female main character and structural description in the novel and also analyzing socio-condition of Nigerian society in 1950s until 1970s. The closest thing with this thesis is about the world view of the author through his literary work. The difference of this research with mine is the object that is analyzed.

The second previous research taken is "*Desire For Comradeship As The Theme In John Steinbeck's Of Mice And Men*" by Rudy Anggraito, 2007. That thesis tries to describe comradeship as the theme of John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and*

Men. Comradeship that is shown in *Of Mice and Men* is not only about George and Lennie, but also other characters that live in the farm. That research explains briefly about the condition at farm where George and Lennie live. It gives a big contribution to this research, because it concerns with the social condition in farm where George and Lennie live. The differences between this research with mine is the focus of the analysis, this research focuses on the desire for comradeship as the theme of *Of Mice and Men*, and mine is about the author's world view on masculinity of the male characters in *Of Mice and Men*.

2.2 Genetic Structuralism

Genetic Structuralism is a theory from a France philosopher and sociologist which gives a new way in analyzing a literary work. A literary work has two elements. There are intrinsic element and extrinsic element. Structuralism theory usually analyzes a literary work only from intrinsic element such as: character, plot, setting, theme, point of view, etc. Lucien Goldman "Genetic Structuralism" responed classic structuralism theory that only analyzes the instrinsic elements of literary and ignoring the historical background of it including the author's background with the setting was written. Goldman in *Essays on Method in the Sociology of Literature* states that:

The literary work, seen as a structure, must be related to historical subjects, not to some sphere outside history. It is in this way that a text's sociality and communicability can be captured, and it is here that one finds Goldmann's positioning of the relationship between art and society (Goldmann, 1980:11).

According to the Goldmann's statement above, Genetic Structuralism explains that literary work has other element besides intrinsic element which is also important to analyze as a totality of a literary work. It is extrinsic element. Extrinsic element is an element of literary work which has a contribution in the process of

making literary work through the experience of the author himself. It can be social condition, event or phenomenon surrounding the author. Goldman's ideas in Genetic Structuralism correlates between a literary work with its historical background as a unit that cannot be separated each other.

Analyzing a literary work by using Lucien Goldman "Genetic Structuralism" gives a chance to get complete understanding of a literary work and the values that want to be shared by the author. It tries to keep the value and message of the wholeness of a literary work especially related with its historical background.

2.2.1 Human fact

Genetic Structuralism explains that literary works as human fact. Literary work is a fact of the society. It is created to fulfill the need of human who creates it. The authors as a part of the society express their idea or their response of the conditions surrounding them through literary work. It means that literary work is not only just created without meaning or purposes. It is the same with everything that is created by human is to make the balance between human and surroundings. There are two basic processes in the effort of making balance, assimilation and accommodation. Assimilation is surroundings adaptability to make in line with human's mind scheme. On the contrary, accommodation is human adaptability to make in line with the surroundings (Goldmann, 1980:15). According to genetic structuralism, human always prefers to do assimilation than accommodation. Those processes show that human always makes efforts create the balance between them and surroundings.

The efforts that human do to make the balance between them and surroundings gives a dynamic activity in the society. It is because a society consists of many people that have different point of view upon their own classes in a society. An effort of a class in the society will be responded by another class. The response

can be rejection or even going along with it. The supporting and the rejection reaction have a collision and resulting a situation along with the social facts.

2.2.2 Literary Work as The Product of Collective Subject

In making a balance between human and surroundings, people do so many efforts. Genetic structuralism distinguishes those efforts through the subject's effort. There are two types of effort that people do to make a balance between human and surroundings. The first is an effort of the subject to fulfill his own needs. The second is an effort of the subject to fulfill the society needs, and it is collective. The great collective effort will not only fulfill collective needs, even it can create a history (Goldmann, 1980:19).

A great collective effort is like a connecting structure that takes a part in the historical construction process. It is because the great collective effort brings the power of so many people with the same point of view in seeing the phenomenon in the society. One of the ways in making a collective efforts is influencing people point of view through the literary work. A literary work is written as the response of the author as the part of a society in viewing the phenomenon that happens in the society they live. It can be said that literary work as the product of collective subject is written by the author as the member of a society.

2.2.3 World View

World view is a tendency of society in the way of viewing something collectively. It means that world view is created by parts of a social class who has the same tendency in viewing and understanding something happens in the society. It is explained by Goldmann's statement in *Essays on Method in the Sociology of Literature*:

World views are *historical* and *social* fact. They are totalities of ways of thinking, feeling and acting which in given conditions are imposed on men finding themselves in a similar economic and social situation, that is, imposed on certain social groups (Goldmann, 1980:112).

According to Goldmann's statement above and in relation with world view explanation, it means that world view can be said as the ideology scheme which constructs imaginary building of the literary work which is created by the author as the member of the society.

The important point is that world view is created as a social class who has the same tendency in viewing and understanding something. The part of a society means that it is not the whole society in a place, but just a part. So, it can be a criticism to the commonly view in a society.

When world view acts as a criticism, it means that a class of the society tries to reconstruct the mind building of the society or the commonly people's point of view. The author as the part of society is one of the social classes in a society. But, it does not mean that the author's world view is always his class' world view in the society. It is because the author can be another class but he has the same idea with the class' world view and support it by pouring the idea into a literary work.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

A research needs method to analyze the data systematically through collecting the data and processing it to break the problem. This chapter discusses about the type of the research and also the methodology that is used to analyze and break the problem in this research.

3.1 The Type of Research

This research uses qualitative research method. It uses qualitative research method because this research is in a concern for descriptive and analyzing the data in the novella. This research will show the perspective of the subject that is guided by the theory through analyzing the data.

According to Gray's statement "Qualitative research can take many forms and results from the use of data gathering instruments such as observations, interviews, questionnaires and document analysis" (Gray, 2004:320), the qualitative research method collects every information in the data and processes it by interpreting it to support the analysis.

3.2 Data Collection

Qualitative data deals with collecting and analysis information from non numeric data. It means that qualitative data are in sentences or words. There are two kinds of data source, primary and secondary data source. The source of primary data are taken from *Of Mice and Men*. It can be dialogues, statements, narations from the novella related to the research questions. I collect the primary data by reading and understanding the story in the novella and finding the dialogues, statements, and also

the descriptions dealing with the research questions. The source of secondary data are from thesis, journal, books, internet material related to John Steinbeck historical background, genetic structuralism, some previous researches and masculinity.

3.3 Data Processing and Analysis

Data processing in this research started by sorting and categorizing every information obtained. I categorize three types information. The first is the data which have close relation with the social condition in the novella. It will give the contribution in understanding social structure that is built in the novel. The second is the data dealing with historical background of John Steinbeck to understand the social structure where John Steinbeck lives and the world view of John Steinbeck. The third is the data dealing with masculinity and genetic structuralism to understand about world view and everything related with, such as the role of collective subject in literary work, and also human fact.

Analyzing the data started with comparing the social structure in the novella and where the author lives through sociological approach and then analyzes with genetic structuralism perspective. Genetic structuralism analysis concerns with the world view of the author as the part of the society. Understanding the author's world view means analyzing the social condition where the author lives through sociological approach. Then the use of the author's world view is to find the similarity of the structure that is portrayed in the novella and the social condition where the author lives.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* is a novella that was published in 1937 as the author's response of the social condition in America at that time. It portrayed America's condition around early twentieth. There were six America's conditions portrayed in the novella. They are difficulties in finding a job, race discrimination, imbalance social class, the american dream, the importance of physical than mind ability, and the strong sense of ranch worker masculinity.

John Steinbeck's world view on masculinity through the male characters in *Of Mice and Men* is the same tendency with the worker-class in viewing, thinking, and understanding the transition process of masculinity in the nineteenth to twentieth century. The friction between middle-class and the worker-class concerning masculinity was dynamic process in a society. John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* brought the worker-class point of view concerning masculinity at that time. It shows the traits of worker-class masculinity through the male characters in *Of Mice and Men*. They are physical power, using outfit which is related to jeans and denim and the behaviour of saying verbal abuse in daily communication. Most of the male characters in *Of Mice and Men* show the importance of physical power. They also express their gender identity through the behaviour and appearance that is represented by the verbal abuse in daily communication and wearing outfit related to jeans and denim.

John Steinbeck also tried to touch the heart of the people at that time through *Of Mice and Men* by convincing them that the worker-class has a hard life. It created their behaviour. He indirectly persuaded the people to understand the condition of

worker class that the transition process of masculinity cannot be avoided because of the country's condition.

Thus, a literary work as the representation of the human life bring the author's idea as the response of the society's condition. John Steinbeck as the author saw the need of the society although they did not know what they really need.

Of Mice and Men fulfilled the society need at that time by giving an understanding about the worker class' point of view as a consideration. It was expected to give the solution about the problem in the society related to the friction between the middle-class and the worker-class concerning with the transition of masculinity.

REFERENCES

- Anggraito, R. 2007. *Desire For Comradeship As The Theme in John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men*. Jember: Jember University.
- Carrol, B. E. 2003. *American Masculinities : A Historical Encyclopedia*. London: Sage Publications.
- Connel, R. W. 2005. *Masculinities : Second Edition*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Goldmann, L. 1980. *Essays on Method in the Sociology of Literature*. St. Louis, Mo: Telos Press.
- Gray, D. E. 2004. *Doing Research in the Real World*. Great Britain: Tj, International, Padstow, Cornwall.
- Haywood, C. and Gaill, M. M. G. 2003. *Men and Masculinities*. Philadelphia: Open University Press.
- Puspitasari, Y. 2013. *Negotiating Modernity, Resisting Tradition: Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Buchi Emecheta's The Bride Price*. Jember: Jember University.
- Steinbeck, J. 1974. *Of Mice and Men*. London: Pan Books.

Website :

Beeler, n.d. John Steinbeck. <http://bbeeler.weebly.com/of-mice--men.html> accessed on 1st April 2015.

<http://addicted2success.com/quotes/21-superstar-quotes-from-the-worlds-top-athletes-and-coaches/> accessed on 20th May 2016.

<http://www.steinbeck.org/pages/john-steinbeck-biography> accessed on 29th March 2015.

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/sexual-orientation-gender/gender-gender-identity> accessed on 14th May 2015.



APPENDIX

John Steinbeck's Biography

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California in 1902. He is from wealthy family the third child of Olive Hamilton, a former school teacher, and John Ernst Steinbeck, a Monterey County treasurer. His house in Salinas styled with a Victorian sense, because Victorian influence was very strong at that time. Although he was born in a wealthy family, did not make Steinbeck unaware of poor people. Salinas in the early 20th century well known as farming community. It was also as the center of trading and shipping for the lower part of Salinas Valley. The geography and demographics of John Steinbeck's hometown is an area with valley that related to little towns, the farms, the ranches and wilder hill. His hometown's environment made him understand about the life of farm laborer. He, had an interest on their life. We found many strong influences of it in his works that made the characters of his novel was related to land. "I think I would like to write the story of this whole valley, of all the little towns and all the farms and the ranches in the wilder hills", Steinbeck writes to George Albee in 1933. "I can see how I would like to do it so that it would be the valley of the world." (Steinbeck 73).

John Steinbeck spent his childhood in Salinas. When he was child he had his own pony, named Jill. It gave him an inspiration for his novel "The Red Pony" later. Steinbeck's family got setbacks when he entered a teenager age. His father lost his job as a manager of Sperry flour. After that moment, John Steinbeck's father opened a feed and grain store but it was failed. Therefore, he eventually became Monterey county treasurer. That was the moment that gave a great effect in John Steinbeck's writing career. It was when he got a gift in his ninth birthday. He got a copy of

Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*. It gave a strong influence in his imaginary thinking and brought him to his writing career.

In early of his adolescence, John Steinbeck started to show strong interest in writing. When he was a high school student, he often spent his time for working all day long in his attic room in Salinas. He thought about many things and wrote stories. He sent his writing to the magazines at that time, but he put the false name without an address too. During high school, he also wrote for his high school newsletter. His friends admitted his writing skill and finally became familiar as a writer in college.

In 1919, John Steinbeck tried to increase his writing skill majoring in English by enrolling himself to Stanford University. He left Stanford University at 1925 without receiving any degree. It was because he attended college off and on for five years. In early years of his career after leaving Stanford, while continuing writing, John Steinbeck also worked for some jobs such as construction worker, a newspaper reporter, tour guide, and even as a laborer in a sugar factory. He got a hard life in New York as his attempt to support his writing. Finally, impoverished and malnourished forced him back to California and finished his first novel *A Cup Of Gold* (1929). His first novel was a critically and commercially unsuccessful novel.

After finishing *A Cup Of Gold*, he worked for Tahoe City fish hatchery in California. At the same time, he met Carol Henning and married her on January 14, 1930. This couple had sufficient time in Los Angeles, then they moved to John Steinbeck's father's cottage in Pacific grove, California Peninsula bordering the city of Monterey. He was financially bad but he felt very well in spiritually.

After he got personal disappointed of his own novel, he continued to write with a nervous feeling. He made a term called "monomania". It is his single-minded obsession about writing. He felt his monomania was little bit adapted from how he felt it when he was in Stanford. He got a hard moment in writing and it brought him to seriousness. He made a great efforts to handle that situation and hammering away

for two years on a novel and things related to it. His efforts resulted a publication of *To a God Unknown* in 1933 after four years of writing and revision. In March 1932, John Steinbeck's manuscript of *Pastures of Heaven*, a part of short stories set collection of Salinas Valley was accepted by Cape and Smith which later rebranded to Jonathan Cape and Robert Ballou, Inc. Furthermore, John Steinbeck's collection publication brought him to the beginning of his successful writing career, later followed-up by some novels with serious tone.

After publication of *To a God Unknown*, *The Red Pony* became his next work he wrote in 1933 and 1934. Somehow *Pastures of Heaven*, *To a God Unknown* and *The Red Pony* portrayed John Steinbeck's hometown very well. It was regarded as John Steinbeck's growing talent. Those three novels were inspired from his hometown. The story of *Pastures of Heaven* takes a setting in around Salinas Valley, whereas *To a God Unknown* was inspired by San Antonio Valley, a place near King City where John Steinbeck spent some of his adolescence there. Furthermore, *The Red Pony* takes a setting on a ranch outside Salinas, partly on a friend's Salina ranch, partly on his grandparents' ranch near King City. Mixed with some events and imagery that he experienced when he was a boy there, John Steinbeck is a writer who has strong interest of fascination with the culture and geography of Salinas Valley. This is because he had a happy childhood that formed his appreciation to his hometown Salinas Valley, California. It is proved by his early works which demonstrate and inform the culture and geography of Salinas Valley clearly.

John Steinbeck's next novel was *Tortilla Flat* (1935). It is a rough and earthy humor about peasants life, a group of friends in Monterey region. It was also adapted to be a film under the same name and starred Spencer Tracy and Hedy Lamarr. This novel got John Steinbeck achieved a real success and got him become widely known.

After humorous *Tortilla Flat*, John Steinbeck moved to a serious fiction which brought social issues in it. He was being more aggressive in criticism of social problems especially in California. It was showed in next few works such as *Dubious*

Battle (1936), *of Mice and Men* (1937), and *The Long Valley* (1939). Those works set in California such as some his previous works. Whereas the social issues of those all were about agricultural labor issues deal with the rights and the rising influx of migrant workers in California and its relation with rural labor's economic problem. *Dubious Battle* talks about activists for "The Party" who plan to organize a massive strike among migratory fruit-pickers on California plantations. *Of Mice and Men* was Steinbeck's first experiment with his own developed form. It was the play-novelette. *Of Mice and Men* tells a tragic story of two migrant workers who travel around to get a job during the great depression in America. They travel around bringing a fact that one of them is a big imbecile strong guy who always gives a problem to the other. However, this novella talks a lot about the life of agricultural social labor that contained race discrimination, protruding imbalance social class, masculinity, prosperity and American dream. However, it simply has a strong relation to rural labor's economic problem. Besides, *The Long Valley* is a volume that contains of admirable short stories which take a place in California too.

In 1939, he published a novel based on personal observations of the life of migratory workers in California. It also considered as his best work. It was *The Grapes of Wrath* which tells the story about the struggle of a family in Oklahoma who work as farmer to get a better life by being migrant agricultural worker during the height of the great depression. In the process of making this novel, Steinbeck also launched a series of newspaper articles titled "The Harvest Gypsies" which talked about the condition of people he witnessed in California. The condition also forced him to write to Elizabeth Otis in 1938 about people's misery, plight and suffering.

The Grapes of Wrath was really influenced people's mood during that period. In 1939, it reached the bestselling book of 1939 on The New York Times. It could be sold about 10.000 copies per week. Moreover, on February 1940 it was printed for about 430.000 copies and also won a National Book Award. Still in the same year, the attainment of this book also brought Steinbeck to a popularity by winning

Pulitzer Prize for fiction. However, the succession of this novel made John Steinbeck become controversial too. In the same time, *The Grapes of Wrath* was banned by Kern County Board of Supervisors from school and libraries until 1941. Actually, all of his responses were based on his sympathy of migrant workers' condition that full of plight and misery, especially in his hometown, California.

During the popularity of *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck decided to join a voyage expedition to the Gulf of California with his friend Edward F. Ricketts to collect the marine specimens. Ricketts was a marine biologist who collected marine specimens for living and sold them through his laboratory, Pacific Biological along 1930s. It also had influenced Steinbeck in writing and thinking. The voyage expedition had resulted a book "The Log from the Sea of Cortez" which tells the life of marine in the Gulf of California. Later Ricketts died because of injuries from an accident on May 11, 1948. He was hit by train while trying to cross the tracks in Monterey. Steinbeck was living in New York when heard a bad news about Ricketts. He hurried visit Ricketts but he was late. Ricketts' death brought Steinbeck into a depression.

In the same time around the expedition, John Steinbeck's marriage was not in a good condition that finally it ended to a divorce in 1943. Therefore, he married Gwyndolyn "Gwyn" Conger in the same month. He has two children from Gwyn; they are Thomas (Thom) Steinbeck and John Steinbeck IV.

Around 1943-1945 John Steinbeck became a reporter of World War II which was hired by New York Herald Tribune. He was hired to report a war in Europe. His decision to engage in an effort of war showed his patriotism. From this moment, he resulted many letters which addressed to Gwyn that finally published under the title *Once There Was a War*.

In 1945 post World War II, John Steinbeck published his next work Cannery Row. In this work, Steinbeck was back to the old subject telling an adventure of the characters in Monterey, such as in *Tortilla Flat*. After the war was over, then,

Steinbeck published *The Pearl*. It was inspired by a story when he was in expedition to Gulf of California with his friend Edward F. Ricketts. The next work was still related with Ricketts. It was *The Outer Shores* which tells about marine life near Alaska. It was inspired by another collecting expedition that Steinbeck had planned together with Ricketts just before Ricketts' death.

In 1948 around the time just after attending Rickett's funeral, Gwyn asked Steinbeck for a divorce. That moment really hit him hard; he got two blows in around of a time. The first was Ricketts' death and the second is Gwyn's longing for divorce. It brought Steinbeck to a deep depression.

In 1949 he met an actress Ann Sothern in Pacific Grove. Steinbeck found his third wife through Ann. He married Ann's friend Elaine Scott who accompanied Ann in Pacific Grove. John Steinbeck and Elaine Scott married on December 28, 1950. Then they moved to New York.

After moving to New York, Steinbeck started to continue his passion on writing. He began to write *East of Eden* in early 1951, a novel that he had planned for years. He dedicated it for his sons. It takes setting place still in Salinas Valley. Steinbeck tried to say what he had to say to his sons about the background of the country he grew up in, through *East of Eden* that was published in 1952. The story of this novel actually based on the history of Steinbeck's own family and his ancestors. Further, *East of Eden* became John Steinbeck's last novel which tells about his hometown.

In 1961 John Steinbeck published his last novel *The Winter of Discontent*. The setting of novel takes place in New England. Steinbeck focuses on American moral decline include the corruption.

In 1962 John Steinbeck published a book based on his chronicles trip roughly 10.000 miles across the outer border of United States accompanied by his standard poodle Charley. He did the trip because he felt no longer knew about his country. He felt improper when he was American writer, write about America, but he only knew

the changes of America only from books and Newspaper and he had not felt his country for about twenty-five years.

In the same year, John Steinbeck got Nobel Prize for literature for his “realistic and imaginative writing, combining as it does sympathetic humor and social perception”. Another attainment that he got is when he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964.

In 1967 John Steinbeck travelled to Vietnam for Newsday to report on the war during the Vietnam War. He also managed his younger son who engaged in war.

In the mid of sixties Steinbeck health was decline. It was followed by mini-strokes and eventually died of heart disease in his home New York city on December, 20th 1968.