



**THE EXPLOITATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN
SEEN IN *THE PEARL* BY JOHN STEINBECK**

THESIS

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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

PADANG

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*Submitted to Fulfill a Partial of Requirement for S1 Degree
In the Department of English Faculty of Humanities
Bung Hatta University*

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Dengan ini saya menyatakan bahwa di dalam tugas akhir yang saya buat ini tidak terdapat karya yang pernah diajukan untuk memperoleh gelar kesarjanaan pada suatu perguruan tinggi manapun. Sepanjang pengetahuan saya, juga tidak terdapat karya atau pendapat yang pernah ditulis atau diterbitkan oleh orang lain, kecuali dikutip atau secara tertulis diacukan dalam naskah ini dan disebutkan atau terdaftar.

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Padang, 19 Februari 2015

Rizki Roy Fadli

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah SWT, the lord of the world and the almighty, for blessing me in finishing this thesis. Peace and blessing of Allah SWT be upon the entire Prophet and Messenger, especially on Muhammad SAW, the last Prophets, and on all who follow his rightness until the day of recompense.

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mrs. Femmy Dahlan, S.S., M. Hum. as my first supervisor. I really thank her very much for her patience in guiding me from the beginning until I complete it. I know that it's very hard for her to guide me, but she keeps patience in guiding and advising me, and I am really thank you very much to Mrs. Suci Humairah, S.Pd., M. A. who have given a lot of knowledges and help for my thesis even though I always make her confuse, but she always support me to process my thesis. This thesis would not finish without all of your suggestion.

I would like to thank my examiners Mrs. Villia Yusraini, S.S., M.Pd., and Mrs. Dra. Mariati, M. Hum, who have given correction and suggestion to make the thesis complete. Moreover, I would like to thank Dra. Nova Rina, M. Hum., as the head of English Department who given much attention during my study.

I dedicate this thesis for my beloved mom, father, grandma who always support me in processing this thesis. Especially my mom who always remind me to keep health and be in high spirit while herself in sickness in the hometown. Thank you mom, this thesis is a proof of my love for you, although it is not balance with

your sacrifice. I will make you proud of me as much as possible for you. I love you mom. To my father, thank you for your sacrifice along my life. I know that I will not be able to repay your sacrifice. I would not make you all regret with my presence in your life. To my sister, Vivin, keep studying and make our parents proud, and to my youngest sister, Iga, keep your achievement. I love you all, this thesis is a proof of my love to you all.

My gratitude also for my friends who has accompanying me along the process of this thesis. I will not forget our moments. They always help me in my stress with their joke. They will be present in my heart forever. It is unforgettable moment in my life.

Finally, I recognize that this thesis is far from perfections. So the writer accepts any criticism and suggestion for improvement of this thesis.

Padang, 26 January 2015

RIZKI ROY FADLI

ABSTRACT

RIZKI ROY FADLI (2015) The Exploitation of American Indian Seen in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. Faculty of Humanities, English Department, Bung Hatta University

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This thesis discusses about the exploitation of American Indian pictured in *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. In attaining the purpose, writer applied Marxism literary criticism by Karl Marx which emphasizes on issues in socioeconomic and historical approaches is applied to connect the relationship of the work on history. Moreover, the writer applies close reading technique and descriptive method to analyze and understand the novel. From the analysis, the writer found the exploitation toward American Indian is caused by the white in socioeconomic. The impacts of exploitation on the American Indian are they become poor and uneducated.

Keywords: exploitation, American Indian, socioeconomic, impact

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for choosing the Subject

American Indians are the Native people who live in America. Yet, American Indians changes after the white arrival in America. Their lives become so bad because the white treats them unfairly as the Native people. It is an exploitation toward American Indians by the white. American Indians are exploited in economic and education. As a result, they become poor and uneducated. As Wright in *Class, Exploitation and Economic* (2000) states “exploitation is thus a diagnosis of the process through which certain inequalities in income are generated by inequalities in rights and power over productive resources”.

In supporting the quotation above, the writer uses definition Oxford Dictionary. According to Oxford Dictionary states “exploitation is treat somebody selfishly and unfairly, for profit or use of somebody, often in an unfair way”(155). From the quotation above, it explains about the white’s exploitation toward American Indian, meaning American Indian treats unfairly by the white from American Indian rights as Native America which leads the exploitation to them.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is motivated and interested to study *The Pearl* written by John Steinbeck who received a noble prize. Steinbeck represents about the life of American Indian who lives in poverty and exploited after the white arrival in America. The main character is named Kino. He lives in poverty as the other American Indian did. The poverty makes their race social status being low. It is

seen when he comes to doctor to cure his sick baby from Scorpion stung and it is caused of their prejudices that makes them like animal. Luckily he finds the pearl, so that he can pay the doctor treatment to his son and he will change his prejudices through with schooling his son, his social status will be changed. Yet, it is just a dream, on the contrary the pearl just bring the misery on him, because the white efforts to steal the pearl until his son get killed from his desire to defense the pearl. Finally, he realizes and throws the pearl into to sea and his social status does not become true.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of the Study

As mentioned previously, the object of the research is a novel entitled *The Pearl* which is written of John Steinbeck. It is published in the Penguin Group. Subject matters of the novel are the performance of American Indian and the White in twentieth century. The main objective of this study is to describe the American Indian treated by the White in twentieth century.

The scope of the study is limited to analyze the exploitation that faced of main character in the novel, around the treat of the White toward American Indian in twentieth century.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

The writer tries to identify the problems of the research. To identify them, the writer formulates it in the form of research questions as stated below :

1. How is the exploitation of American Indian by the white in socioeconomic as described in *The Pearl*?

2. What are the impact of the exploitation toward American Indian life in *The Pearl*?

1.4 Theoretical Framework

1.4.1 Marxism Theory

In order to achieve a good analysis in analyzing this literary work, the writer uses the theory that relevant with the topic and the research. In this study the writer uses a Marxism theory as the main theory of this study. Then it would lead the Writer to do this analysis.

Marxism theory is a tool of critical analysis in literary works that focus on economics. Besides, Marxism also focuses in history, philosophy in the literary works, as Booker states (72),” Marx Focusing on history, philosophy, and economics, has proved of special interest to critic of literature and culture”. Moreover, Marxism focuses in social condition of the human society. As Booker states (73),” Marx’s model of human society suggests that culture reflects economic, political, and social condition as a whole”.

Marxism is critical of literary works in specific issues like racial in the society, as Murfin states “Marxism is form of critique or discourse for interrogating all societies and their terms of certain specific issues-including race, class, and attitude shared within a given culture”(268).

This analysis also relates with socioeconomic between American Indian and the white, as a result it reveals of exploitation toward American Indian by the white. According to *American Psychiatric Association* (2012) states “ socioeconomic is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation. It it

commonly conceptualized as the social standing or class of an individual or group. When viewed through a social class lens, privilege, power, and control are emphasized. Furthermore, an examination of SES as a gradient of continuous variable reveals inequities in access to and distribution of resources. SES is relevant to all realms of behavioral and social science, including research, practice, education and advocacy”(1)

1.4.2 Historical Approach

In order to achieve a good analysis in this analysis. The writer also combines the historical approach to sustain the theory inside the analysis. According to Busha in *Research Method in Librarianship: Techniques and Interpretations*, states that:

Historical approach is “defined as the relationship of the literary work to history. It is also defined as the impact of the work on history and the importance of historical knowledge in understanding a work and how history and literature inform affect each other become the main point of applying this approach“(91).

Historical approach aspects which is explained about the relationship of literary work toward history. The sources can find from informations, documentations, track records and image which is happened in real life. Yet, There is a reciprocal relationship between literature and history can't separated. Because the work is commonly created by idea which is reflected from events in real life. However, the work is not always related with historical knowledge. It depends on the theory that is

used like Marxism and Post-colonial. It is caused the theory always connected with history of real life, therefore these theory can uses historical approach.

Moreover Busha states that “historical approach reveals relationship between the literary work and cultural aspects and ideology which affect and create human history. It is also suggest that to criticize the library the literary work is written” (91).

Basically, the historical approach connects the literary with historical aspect which is based on time, nation, ideology, and cultural. Those all affects human history, especially in literary work. Beside, different time makes different human history and ideology. Therefore historical approach helps people in analyzing about ideology of the past. So it is suggested to use historical approach about literary work which wrote by author in the past.

1.5 Method of The Research

In this research, the writer analyzes it with using technique of collecting data. It is the collect data that writer conducts close reading of the novel then writer interprets it into the research. According to Jacobus in *Literature An Introduction to Critical Reading* states that “Close Reading technique is form of writing, discussion or silent observation. It should be based on questioning the text. Close reading requires that you take the text seriously enough to study it, to read and read it. Search for detail that might otherwise go unobserved, examine the text special words and term and refer to the dictionary to be sure of the meaning when necessary”(6). Based

on the statement, it convinces the writer to read and read again the novel deeply, seriously, and as detail as possibly to do an analysis with supporting by using of dictionary in help ensure the writer. Then writer can find the topic of the novel.

The writer uses the descriptive method to analyze the research. According to Whitney said that “descriptive method is the existence of fact with correct interpretations. Descriptive research studies about the problem of society, with the system which acts in society together with certain situations including the relationship, activities, behavior, point of view with the process which happened and the influences of phenomenon” (193). Based on the statement, it can assume that this method research is the way of observation the research from the problem in the society such relationship, activities, behavior and point of view. Therefore, it convinces the writer to use the descriptive method to insist in analyzing the research and also it relates with the theory that uses by the writer as it is Marxism.

In addition, Based on Robert in *Writing About Literature* state that” character may be defined as a verbal representation of human being. To find out the data about the character, the writer sees from the action and speech of the main character, the description and commentary of the narrator and the other character about the main character” (153). From the statement above, it clearly explains about the analysis of the data follow such the actions, speech, description, commentary and the other character that supporting the main character to be analysis of the writer.

The main data of this research entitles *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. The writer chooses Marxism theory of Karl Marx. Writer chooses Marxism theory to

analyze the data because the analysis relates with economic problem in nineteenth century such race, socio-economic and exploitation.

In addition, writer needs many data to support this research because it can't conduct with one or some supporting data only, the research needs enough data to convince and complete the research such the books that relates with the topic so that it will be the perfect research. Then, it classifies all of the data according to the topic. Finally, the writer makes conclusion for analyzing the novel.