

Study on Inner Conflict of the Main Character
in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching



Pedro Benigno

1213009059

ENGLISH DEPARTEMENT
FACULTY OF TEACHING TRAINING AND EDUCATION
WIDYA MANDALA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
SURABAYA

2013

APPROVAL SHEET

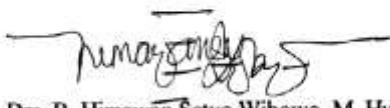
(1)

This thesis entitled "*Study on Inner Conflict of the Main Character in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath*" prepared and submitted by Pedro Benigno has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Sarjana Pendidikan degree in English Language Teaching by the following advisors:



Dr. V. Luluk Priambodo, M. Pd

First Advisor



Drs. B. Himawan Setyo Wibowo, M. Hum

Second Advisor

APPROVAL SHEET

(2)

This thesis has been examined by the Committee of Oral Examination with the grade of ____ on July 1st 2013.

Drs. M. P. Soetrisno, M.A

Chairperson

Maria Josephine Kriesye S., M.Pd.

Secretary

Johannes Leonardi Taloko, M.Sc.

Member

Dr. V. Luluk Prijambodo, M.Pd.

Member

Drs. B. Himawan Setyo Wibowo, M.Hum

Member

Approved by:



I. V. Dioso Asyawan, Ph.D.

NIK. 41.85.0118

Dean of the Faculty of Teacher
Training and Education



M. G. Yeano Palupi, M.Pd.

NIK. 121.95.0234

Head of the English Department

**LEMBAR PERSETUJUAN
PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH**

Demi perkembangan ilmu pengetahuan, saya sebagai mahasiswa
Unika Widya Mandala Surabaya :

Nama : Pedro Benigno
NRP : 1213009059

Menyetujui skripsi/karya ilmiah saya :

Judul :

“Study on Inner Conflict of the Main Character in John
Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*”

Untuk dipublikasikan/ditampilkan di internet atau media lain
(Digital Library Perpustakaan Unika Widya Mandala Surabaya)
untuk kepentingan akademik sebatas sesuai dengan Undang-
undang Hak Cipta.

Demikian pernyataan persetujuan publikasi karya ilmiah ini saya
buat dengan sebenarnya.

Surabaya, 23 Juli 2013

Yang menyatakan,



Pedro Benigno

NRP : 1213009059

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, the writer would like to express his deepest gratitude to God for His guidance and blessing to the writer to be able to carry out and to complete the thesis.

The writer would also like to express his gratitude and appreciation to those who have given their valuable time, knowledge, guidance, experience, and suggestions to the completion of the thesis especially to:

1. Dr. V. Luluk Prijambodo, M. Pd., the writer's first advisor, who has contributed his support, guidance, and time to spent on the process of developing and finishing the study.
2. Drs. B. Himawan Setyo Wibowo, M. Hum., the writer's second advisor, who has contributed his knowledge, guidance, and assistance in developing and finishing the study.
3. The writer's family and friends who have been a great support, motivation, and valuable resources in helping the writer to develop and to finish the study.
4. The librarians who have keenly helped the writer in looking for the resources needed for the development of the study

Without their help, the writer would have found great difficulties to complete the thesis. The writer lastly hopes that this thesis could be any of benefits for further studies and researchers, especially the ones who are interested in analyzing the same novel.

Surabaya, June 2013

The Writer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL SHEET	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
ABSTRACT	v
CHAPTER I– INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 The Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problems	4
1.3 Objective of the Study	4
1.4 Significance of the Study	4
1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study	5
1.6 Theoretical Framework	5
1.7 Definition of Key Terms	5
1.8 Organization of the Study	6
CHAPTER II– REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	7
2.1 The Underlying Theory	7
2.1.1 Literature	7
2.1.2 Novel	7
2.1.3 The Elements of Novel	8
2.1.3.1 Setting	8
2.1.3.2 Character	8
2.1.3.3 Plot	9
2.1.3.3.1 Physical Conflict	12
2.1.3.3.2 Social Conflict	12

2.1.3.3.3 Psychological Conflict	12
2.1.3.4 Theme	13
2.2 Objective Approach	14
2.3 Review of Related Studies	15
CHAPTER III – RESEARCH METHOD.....	18
3.1 Research Design	18
3.2 The Research Data	19
3.3 The Source of the Data	20
3.4 The Instrument of the Study	20
3.5 The Procedure of Collecting the Data	20
3.6 The Procedure of Analyzing the Data	21
CHAPTER IV – FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS	23
4.1 Setting	23
4.2 Characters	25
4.2.1 Tom Joad	25
4.2.2 Jim Casy	30
4.2.3 Ma Joad	32
4.2.4 Pa Joad	34
4.2.5 Grampa and Granma Joad	36
4.2.6 Rose of Sharon	37
4.3 Plot	39
4.3.1 Inner Conflicts Analysis	41
4.3.1.1 Tom’s Trait vs. His On-Parole Condition	41
4.3.1.2 Tom’s Trait vs. the Unity of the Family	46
4.3.1.3 Tom’s Trait vs. the Unity of the Family	53
4.3.1.4 Tom’s Fear vs. the Unity of the Family	57
4.3.1.5 Tom’s Desire vs. Ma’s Fear	64

4.3.2 Conflicts Overview	72
4.4 Theme	75
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	80
5.1 Conclusion	80
5.2 Suggestions	82
5.2.1 Suggestion for the Readers of the Novel	82
5.2.2 Suggestion for Teaching Literature	83
5.2.3 Suggestion for Further Study	83
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	85

ABSTRACT

Benigno, Pedro. 2013. “*Study on Inner Conflict of the Main Character in John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath*”, S-1 thesis, English Department Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya.

Advisors: 1. Dr. V. Luluk Prijambodo, M. Pd.

2. Drs. B. Himawan Setyo Wibowo, M. Hum.

Keywords: *Inner conflict, Character, The Grapes of Wrath*

Novel is the most popular kind of literary work that is able to portray people and places confronting events in real time up to now. The scope of inner conflicts, then, is chosen to be analyzed since people react differently towards conflicts; different conflicts will result differently on the hand of different people in the different places. This thesis aims to find out the inner conflicts faced by the main character of the novel, to discuss, and to analyze the causes of emergence and the resolutions taken to overcome the inner conflicts.

This thesis is considered a qualitative study in which the analysis is in the form of description. The theoretical framework of the analysis is based on the objective theory of M. H. Abrams, in which the analysis is viewed solely from the point of view of the intrinsic elements of the novel – setting, plot, characters, and theme. The analysis then shows that the novel takes place during the hard time of the America’s Great Depression around 1930’s. Steinbeck portrays Tom Joad, besides as a greatly devoted man towards his mother and his family, as an on-parole man who does

not like to be under pressure, tends to do what he wants, interested only in his own personal matters.

The analysis then finds that there are five kinds of inner conflict in the novel: inner conflict between (1) Tom's trait and his parole condition, (2) Tom's trait and the unity of the family, (3) Tom's trait and the unity of the family, (4) Tom's fear and the unity of the family, and (5) Tom's desire and his mother's fear. The inner conflicts emerge on five major causes: (1) Tom's stubbornness, (2) Tom's carelessness, (3) financial problem, (4) killing a cop, and (5) Tom's choice to hide in a cave. There are eight solutions taken to overcome the inner conflicts.

The writer would like to suggest that the readers should be able to manage their conflicts well. The writer would also suggest that students of literature class should analyze a literary work using objective approach as the basis. At last, the writer would like to suggest other researchers to go more deeply into the analysis of the novel. Hopefully, this thesis could be any of benefits for further studies.