

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Recently, people saw the news on television channels and newspapers about physical abuse leading the victim into death. Sometimes people are wondering about how people could do such actions towards the others. Sometimes, the reason behind these actions that the perpetrators gave to the police does not seem to make sense, either it is simply too naïve or too senseless. Most of the times, for the perpetrators, the motivation of trying to do something right for themselves will drive them to harm other people rather than to do something beneficial.

Besides, when people are talking about motive and motivation, they usually come in differently. Further, to define the motive and motivation accordingly, the writer will use Freud's Theory of Psychology. In Bootzin, Loftus, Zajonc, Freud says that "*Id is unrecognized energy that moves an individual to fulfill his biological needs based on pleasure principle (Freud In Bootzin, Loftus, Zajonc (1940;412).*" Since *id* is presented in an individual since his birth, it defines the personality of individual which is followed by biological needs expression called instinct. When instinct drives and directs an individual's behavior to seek for pleasure, it can be defined as motive. *Id* or motive is always followed by ego. Unlike *id*, ego is a conscious state when part of personality is recognized and accepted. Ego is based on reality principle which uses reason, memory, and judgment to satisfy the needs of the *id* and to

achieve the goal, which can be defined as motivation. After focusing on the desire of satisfying the needs, an individual will move into superego, a stage which defines either the desire violates moral value or not. The decision of executing the desire then goes back to the ego. If the desire executed by ego violates the moral value, an individual usually has gone through the stage of defense mechanism of personality dynamics, which function is to justify or to consider that the desire is for goodness.

The writer, being interested in knowing deeper reason why people can do harmful things towards others, tries to carry out a study about analyzing motive and motivation of an individual in committing a crime action, which in this study is limited into a murder action. To carry out the topic into the study, the object to analyze chosen by the writer is a novel as a piece of literary work. The writer is aware that literature is not only interesting to learn, but also improving readers' vocabulary and grammar, as well as broadening our information about other people's culture and ways of life in different countries. Reading literature also improves people's knowledge and outlook of life and world, which can be said as an indirect experience. Literature, as what Abrams (1953) says, can be described as a reflection and illumination, mirror and lamp of the human experience. As literary works are the reflection and illumination of human life, people will also learn about the feelings, emotions, dreams, and struggles of life written there. Literature varies one from another, as it is related to human's life, whereas human has different emotion from one another; joy, sadness, love, hatred, pleasure, pain, hope, and despair. These emotions form one to be unique and personally different, and provide essential character of living.

The writer, furthermore, is very interested in a novel written by John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*. The novel is chosen because the writer is interested in its storyline. *Of Mice and Men* tells an ironical story about hopes and dreams of people during America's Great Depression, especially of these two childhood friends: George Milton-a worker type of man, and Lennie Small-a huge yet mentally disabled man. These two men are pursuing their dreams of owning a land and they seem to be able to find motivation to pursue the dream on each other, even though George seems to be in a burden for having to take care of Lennie all the time. As they get closer to the dream, Lennie causes one disastrous thing to happen, messing up the hopes, efforts, and dreams they are waiting for. George feels Lennie being a great obstacle for the dream, and decides to get rid of him by shooting him on the back of the head. The point that interests the writer is that the action of George on killing Lennie; how George changes from a friend who always protects Lennie and living their dreams together, into somewhat like enemy who considers Lennie as a burden and a dead end towards the dream. The writer wants to know what George feels in the story, especially during the time of conflict. Furthermore, the writer needs to know the reason or the motive behind George's decision on killing Lennie.

Besides the storyline, the writer is also interested in the setting of the novel. Published in 1937, *Of Mice and Men* takes the story background into a time when there was a great economic crisis in America called the America's Great Depression. This was the time when people really depended on hopes and dream of having a better life. As portrayed in the novel, *Of Mice and Men* also tells a story about the dream

of two childhood friend during the time of crisis, George Milton and Lennie Small, but their dream will somehow go away as George kills Lennie. The writer sees that the novel ends ironically, even though these two childhood friends seem to get over all of their problems together at the beginning of the story.

Another aspect that interests the writer is the type of the novel. *Of Mice and Men* is classified into objective-third person novel since the author of the novel does not provide the readers with any direct access into the thoughts and feelings of the characters in the novel. The writer feels it very challenging to discover what inside the mind of George, the main character of the novel, in doing the such homicide action; the reason or motive behind George's action as well as his feeling, especially the thing that makes their great dream ironically turns into a tragic murder.

Considering several points of interest above, the writer of the study focuses on analyzing George's motive through the inside of the novel, regardless of other factors that come in from outside of the novel. The writer needs to really understand and to discover the 'life' inside the novel without interference from any extrinsic factors. Considering that the writer needs to analyze the novel objectively, the writer chooses a theory of Objective Method stated by Abrams. According to Abrams in his book *The Mirror and The Lamp* (1953;26), an objective method of novel analysis should go through the analysis of the novel as it is; that is the novel's intrinsic elements. The novel's intrinsic elements then, are divided into four categories: setting, character, plot, and theme (Little, 1963;97). Proceeding further to the analysis of motive, the writer uses the

theory of psychology developed by Sigmund Freud, covering two areas of analysis: personality structure and personality dynamics.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In line with the title and background of the thesis, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What is the motive of George in killing Lennie?
2. How do the motivation and the motive of George change from protecting Lennie into killing Lennie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In relation with the research questions above, the purpose of the study is to find out:

1. The main character's (George's) motive to kill Lennie.
2. How the motivation and motive change from protecting Lennie into killing Lennie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

First, the researcher hopes that this study will inspire teachers in conducting literature class to enable students to see a piece of literary work through its intrinsic elements, so that students will fully understand the basic elements of a literary work before they proceed their analysis further into the extrinsic elements.

Second, considering the increasing crime rates, the researcher hopes that this study encourages readers of this study, as an individual, to be willing to contemplate every action before done. By contemplating the action beforehand, the writer hopes that the individual is able to fully understand the motive of an action, and to move further into stage of reasoning the moral value of the action. By considering the stages of motive, motivation, and moral value, the chance destructive desires and actions may be reduced, or even stopped, especially the desire and action of killing people.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

To be relevant with the title and the research questions, this study is focused on the analysis of the motive and motivation of the main character of the novel, George Milton. The writer uses objective approach to analyze the intrinsic elements of the novel covering setting, plot, character, and theme to be able to get through the motive and the motivation of the main character using Freud's theories of personality structure, covering the analysis of id, ego, and superego, and personality dynamics.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

According to the topic of the study, some underlying theories are needed to be discusses. They are: (1) Literature, (2) Novel, (3) Objective approach: the elements of novel: character, plot, setting, and theme, and (4) Psychological theory: personality structure and personality dynamics.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

1. Novel

“The novel is one of the largest of literary forms, the average novel running to 300 pages” (Little, 1966:97). Further, Little also explains that a novel is greatly concerned with character, unfolding plot and theme. As a literary work that is worth saying, well said, and has a matter of human importance, a novel will be expected to present few characters, in which one of them will develop through the plot and experience, which may result in several outcomes of the theme.

2. Motive

Motive, according to Bootzin, Loftus, Zajonc (1940;385), means something that organizes behavior and defines its end state. Further, it is explained there that human behavior is organized and best understood by inferring that it is guided by a purpose and that it leads to an end state.

3. Motivation

According to Bootzin, Loftus, Zajonc (1940;385), motivation cannot be observed directly, but must be inferred from behavior. It means motivation is a process. They note that motivation accumulates in psyche energy. Psyche energy operates in the id. Hence, it means that motivation operates in the id.

4. Main Character

A main character is a character that plays an important and prominent role in the story. (Bain, Beaty, and Hunter, 1977:500)

5. Of Mice and Men

A Novel which is written by Steinbeck, John on 1937, and published by Penguin Books on 1949 in Great Britain.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I deals with the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms, and the organization of the study. Chapter II deals with the review of the theories used in analyzing of the literary work as well as the review related literature. Chapter III views the research method of the study. Chapter IV presents the findings and the analysis of the study. Chapter V presents the conclusion of the study and the suggestion.