

**THE LEVEL OF MENTAL RETARDATION OF LENNIE SMALL in
JOHN STEINBECK'S *OF MICE AND MEN***

A THESIS



By

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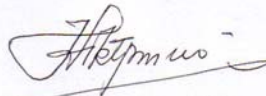


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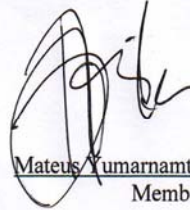
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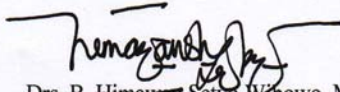
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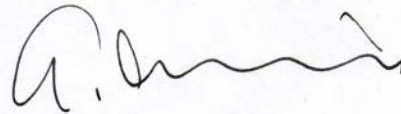
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ABSTRACT

Tandio, Samuel. 2009. **The Level of Mental Retardation of Lennie Small in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men***. Thesis. Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa FKIP Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya.

Key Words: Mental Retardation, The Level of Mental Retardation

Literature is one of the fields of English curriculum that the students should learn. Literature is so essential to be learnt since it contains people's values, problems, thoughts, and the other realities of life. There are several forms of literature. One of them is novel.

The novel entitled *Of Mice and Men* is one of the popular novels, which contains the characteristics of a mentally retarded person. In this case, Lennie becomes the mentally retarded person. That is why the writer conducts this research to know Lennie's characteristics as a mentally retarded person and his level of mental retardation. Besides, the writer also finds out how Lennie Small with his level of mental retardation copes with the other characters.

The writer's study belongs to a qualitative research. To gain the data, the writer reads the novel several times in order to get the meaning of the content of the novel. Then, the writer finds facts in the novel in order to get the chronological starting point until the last point. Next, the writer lists the main characters and the other characters. After that, the writer notes the verbal expression of the main characters. For analyzing the data, the writer does the following procedures: (1) uses intrinsic approach only; (2) uses parameters of characteristics of a mentally retarded person. This parameters include the main character's physical appearance, intelligence, social skill, communication skill, academic skill, independence, self-care skill, and behavior; (3) categorizes the facts found in the novel based on the parameters; (4) determines the main character's level of mental retardation based on the main character's characteristics; (5) finally, sees how the character with level of mental retardation copes with the other characters

Based on the analysis, Lennie Small belongs to moderate mental retardation because Lennie's communication skill is still good and he can travel alone in familiar places without supervision. Although he is a moderate retarded person, he can still know how to cope with the other characters in order that he is not treated badly by the other characters. How Lennie Small with his level of mental retardation copes with George Milton, Curley, and Curley's wife is discussed. Firstly, how Lennie Small with his level of mental retardation copes with George Milton. When Lennie is asked a question by George Milton about something happened before, he always tries to remember it. He does not want to give up remembering it although his intelligence is low. He also imitates George's action in order that his action is right as a normal person. Secondly, to cope with Curley, Lennie does not speak anything or respond Curley's questions. He also keeps away from Curley if Curley approaches him. Thirdly, to cope with Curley's wife, Lennie refuses Curley's wife's invitation to do sexual intercourse.