

**The Impacts of Capitalism in America in Early Twentieth Century
As Reflected in John Steinbeck's The Pearl**

A THESIS



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By:

FIRMAN NUGRAHA
04985022



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
UNIVERSITY OF ANDALAS
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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini merupakan pembahasan tentang dampak dampak negatif yang timbul akibat sistem ekonomi kapitalisme yang diterapkan oleh Pemerintah Amerika Serikat pada awal abad 20-an. Dampak dampak negatif yang timbul tersebut digambarkan secara tegas oleh John Steinbeck dalam salah satu karya terbaiknya yang berjudul The Pearl. Didalam novelnya John Steinbeck menggambarkan kekecewaanya dan sindirannya terhadap perubahan sikap yang terjadi akibat sistem ekonomi kapitalisme dimana masyarakat Amerika terlalu mengagungkan sisi materi dan latar belakang ekonomi sebagai sebuah tolak ukur seseorang dalam masyarakat. Selain itu, sistem ekonomi kapitalisme secara tidak langsung telah menciptakan kelompok kelompok sosial dalam masyarakat Amerika dimana mereka saling bertentangan satu dengan yang lainnya serta kepentingan yang berbeda pula sehingga masalah masalah sosial tidak dapat dihindari.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan teori mimesis dimana teori ini digunakan untuk membandingkan kejadian kejadian yang sebenarnya dengan apa yang terjadi dalam novel. Selain itu, penulis juga menggunakan pendekatan Marxist dengan terminologi refleksi yang diusung oleh Geog Lukack untuk memeperlihatkan dampak dampak negative yang timbul akibat sistem ekonomi kapitalisme yang terjadi pada awal abad 20-an. Sementara itu, Metode kualitatif yang dijabarkan secara deskriptif digunakan penulis dalam menganalisa data karena data yang dianalisa dan hasil analisisnya berbentuk kata-kata yang berisi kutipan-kutipan untuk mengisi materi analisa.

Setelah menganalisa novel tersebut, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa memang terdapat beberapa dampak dampak negatif yang timbul akibat sistem ekonomi kapitalisme yang diterapkan oleh pemerintah Amerika Serikat pada awal abad 20-an. Dampak dampak negatif tersebut terlihat pada perubahan sikap masyarakat dimana mereka lebih cenderung menjadi individual dan materi sebagai orientasi utama sehingga tercipta beberapa sikap tak terpuji seperti ketidakpedulian terhadap kaum yang miskin. Selain itu, kapitalisme juga mengakibatkan kebodohan bagi kau Indian dimana biaya pendidikan yang begitu tinggi sehinga mereka tidak mendapati pendidikan. Perbedaan yang mencolok antara orang kaya dan miskin juga merupakan salah satu dampak negatif yang ditimbulkan oleh kapitalism serta kontak fisik yang terjadi akibat banyaknya pertentangan keinginan antar kelas.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Nowadays, enjoying literature becomes one of favorite activities for the people in spending their leisure time. Literature attracts all genders, ages, social status, and races. It means that, there is no discrimination in order to enjoy literature because literature is a kind of universal things. Generally, literature can be defined as the reflection or the expression of human's life. Literature describes or depicts some aspects or conflicts which happen around our environment such as social condition, political, economical, cultural, and historical. Therefore, by enjoying literatures the readers not only get the pleasures but also can enrich their knowledge. In fact, literary genre is divides into three parts, fiction, poetry and drama. Novel is one of the most popular literary genres rather than poetry and drama. It is proved by the fact that there are million books/novels were published a year in the entire world. Hudson, in his book An Introduction to the study of Literature, states that "Novel concern directly with life, men and women and their relationship. With thought and feelings, the passion and motivation, their joys and sorrows, their struggle, success, their failure are reflected" (1963:77). It can be concluded that, novel is a kind of writing that reflects the human being in facing their life.

. John Steinbeck is one the best American novelist who has received Nobel Prize. "it was largely responsible for his receiving Nobel Prize in literature in

1962 for realistic and imaginative writings, distinguished as they are by a sympathetic humor and a social perception”(1993). From the quotation it can be concluded that, John Steinbeck is an author who concerns to social perception. It is proved by the fact that most of his writing is talk about social problems which happened around him at the time. He emphasizes his writings toward social problems which exist in around his environment because it cannot be separated from human being. It can be seen from the following quotation “John Steinbeck merupakan salah satu penulis Amerika yang sangat peduli terhadap masalah masalah mengenai kesadaran sosial” (n.d:1973).

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California on 27 February 1902. His parents actually are the immigrant from Europe who moved to America for searching and seeking better living. At the time, the people were glorifying the America continent because it provided many expectations and dreams which make them moved to America.

When he started writing novel, America has established its super power status. Unfortunately, on the other hand, the super power status also creates many conflicts and social problems such as disparity between social classes, poverty, individualism, materialism and etc. The real situations influenced John Steinbeck in producing his writings.

As the writer mention before, John Steinbeck is one of American novelist who emphasized his writing toward social problems. One of his best works is The Pearl. Through his novel The Pearl, John Steinbeck wants to show

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing John Ernest Steinbeck's novel entitled The Pearl, the writer finds that the novel is reflected the socioeconomic condition of American people around twentieth century. American at the time was glorifying by the people around the word and had made them to move there. The economic system which applied in America at the time that is called capitalism has created any social problems within American society.

Through the analysis the writer concluded that, instead of bring the positive impacts toward the development of American land in many sectors rapidly and become leading country, capitalism also has created and left many social and economic problems among American society.

The first problem that writer analyzed about the social problems which exist in America is the impacts of capitalism. The social problems include the uncaring attitude of the bourgeoisie toward the proletariat. The bourgeoisie which represents by the doctor does want to do his job for free. The other social problem is the illiterate of the proletariat. In this case, the negative impact of capitalism has made people in proletariat hard to get education since they does not have enough money to pay. The last is about the disparity between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. The disparity is caused by the capitalism where it's easy to categorize people just by looking the type of their houses and the cloth that they are wearing

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