

**THE DISCRIMINATION TOWARD NATIVE AMERICAN  
BY THE WHITE PEOPLE  
IN STEINBECK'S NOVEL *THE PEARL***

*A Thesis*

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**BY**

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## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisa novel *The Pearl* yang bercerita tentang diskriminasi terhadap penduduk asli Amerika. Khususnya suku Indian. Penelitian ini membahas masalah sosial pada awal abad ke-20. Permasalahan yang dibahas dalam novel ini adalah bagaimana karakter utama didiskriminasikan oleh orang kulit putih khususnya dalam bidang ketimpangan ekonomi.

Dalam menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan teori sosiologi sastra, khususnya perspektif pertama yang melihat karya sastra sebagai dokumentasi sosial. Penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi untuk mengetahui permasalahan yang terkait dalam kehidupan sosial. Kemudian, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif, dimana hasil penelitian dipaparkan dalam bentuk deskriptif, berupa kata – kata atau kutipan dari novel dan sumber – sumber yang terkait dengan masalah diskriminasi sosial terhadap Indian di Amerika pada abad ke-20. Permasalahan yang dibahas dalam novel ini adalah bagaimana karakter utama didiskriminasikan oleh orang kulit putih. Penelitian ini sendiri bertujuan untuk melihat adanya perlakuan diskriminasi terhadap suku Indian didalam novel yang dapat dilihat dari beberapa karakter yang ada didalam novel ini.

Dari hasil penelitian ini, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa penduduk asli Amerika (indian) terutama karakter utama mendapatkan perlakuan diskriminatif dari orang-orang kulit putih di dalam berbagai bidang dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Karakter utama yang diperlakukan tidak adil oleh orang – orang kulit putih dengan cara menipu, membunuh, dan mencuri hak – hak dari karakter tersebut. Adapun usaha karakter utama untuk menghadapi perlakuan diskriminasi itu yaitu dengan cara bekerja keras untuk mengumpulkan uang dan mempertahankan hak miliknya, serta merencanakan pendidikan untuk masa depan anaknya sehingga mendapatkan hak-haknya kembali. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan wacana baru juga sumbangan pada pembaca tentang masalah diskriminasi didalam kehidupan nyata dan bagaimana hubungannya dengan sebuah karya sastra, khususnya novel.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Nowadays, the tendency of the people especially in literature society to analyze the literary work is increased. Although the literary work is not an easy object to analyze, because it has complicated structure. These people need further explanation about it. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze literary work, as said by W.Kenny that, "the critic's duty is to keep communication open between reader and writer... (1903, p. 116). It means that a writer needs to do research on literary work in order to get more explanation and understanding toward it and it will be useful if the literary work is provided to common people.

In this research, the writer is challenged to discuss the novel entitled *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck is one of many greatest American authors who have written many great works on literature, especially novel. In most of his literary work, he used to pour his own experience into his novel, which makes them more interesting and acceptable since they touch people sense of life. His novels, sometimes, contain philosophy of being and their life in which not all writers could manifest them into writing excellently. *The pearl* is an interesting novel because it shows the reality that should be faced by human being in running their life. Hereby, the pressure faces in Indians life since the coming of the white people. That is why the writer tries to analyze this novel.

Steinbeck's Novel *The pearl* is a literary work discussing the discrimination problem in America. John Steinbeck writes this novel in 1947 reflecting the social phenomena in North America that is discrimination against the Native American - Indian by the white people. Started with a differentiated between Native American and the white people, different races also have the different perception to face the norm, habitually, and thinking in life. The differentiated make the reason why the discriminate happened. Based on the discrimination conflict, this novel discussed about discrimination gives mental and physical bad impact to the people. Physically it makes people underdeveloped in economic, politic, government, religion and education. Mentally it makes people feel jealous, inferior and isolated. As the result, this problem forces people to do something inhuman and illegal like robbing, killing and insulting.

Mentally, Discrimination influences the social condition of the people itself. (Sociological [wikipedia.org/wiki/List](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/List)). The people which become a victim in a discrimination condition, will show the under pressure description in all of their daily life. In one case, they cannot be the one who can get the freedom to enjoy this life.

The writer has several reasons in conducting the research using a novel titled *The Pearl*. First is because *The Pearl* is an old Mexican folk story, which Steinbeck tells about love of humanity. This novel shows the reality that should be faced by human beings in running their life. Second, is because John Steinbeck is one of the greatest American authors. He uses his own experience as a perspective in his works, which interest the readers since he describes the reality of life.

Since the writer would like to analyze this novel, she sees that Swingwood theory is appropriate to be applied in this research. It is correlation of Swingwood theory (his

first perspective on Sociology of Literature) that literary work is social document, which have reflection of the situation the work written. Swingwood states that literary approach also attempts to relate what happens in the texts to social events and focusing on the effect of the texts on human events as the effect of historical events in the texts. It means that literary work connected to social cultural evidence of society. Thus, the writer entitles this research "The Discrimination toward Native American in Steinbeck's Novel *The Pearl*"

### **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

The problem in this novel resulted from American's social condition in the past. As a big country with multicultural and ethnic groups, America has discrimination problem. This research found that the discrimination gives the bad effects in Native American life. White people usually think they are better than the native Indians are, because they usually have the better life than Indian does.

This research focused on the discrimination toward native America in Steinbeck's novel *The Pearl*.

Therefore, since the story concerns with the true story of the Indian people in the past, the writer applies sociological approach in order to prove the correlation between the true story and the novel.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing, John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* the writer realizes *The Pearl* is a novel that can be categorized as a historical novel because the events told in the story mostly can be found in the real during the time of the novel. Although there is no specific time told by the author in this novel, but he writer finds some phenomena that can lead to the conclusion about the time. It is in the early twentieth century that the story of this novel takes place. The novel tells about many growing cities, which indicates that the times are at the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Concerning with the analysis of this thesis, the writer can finally find out the Indian's life compare the European life is so different. They are close to nature and they live from it. That is why they respect the nature so much. The materials that they use in supporting their life and the tool for working are originally taken from nature. Their houses, clothes, canoe and weapon re mostly made from trees, wood, stone, leaves and so on. Those materials are originally produced by the nature. This condition keeps running in the Indian's life until the coming of the white people into that life. The differentiated between Native American and the White People, different races also have the different perception to face the norm, habitually in thinking life. The differentiated make the reason why the discriminate happen. The discrimination conflict gives mental and physical bad impact to the people. It makes people underdeveloped in economic, politic, government, religion and education.

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