

**The Domination in *Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck;
An Objective Study**

A thesis

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ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini penulis membahas dominasi yang ditunjukkan oleh beberapa orang tokoh dalam novel *Tortilla Flat* karya John Steinbeck. Dominasi muncul karena adanya kekuatan dari tokoh sebagai satu satunya pemilik rumah diantara teman temannya yang lain.

Dalam menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan teori hegemoni oleh Antonio Gramsci melalui pendekatan objektif. Untuk mengetahui dominasi yang muncul penulis menunjukkan jenis dominasi dan cara yang digunakan oleh tokoh untuk mendominasi tokoh lain. Dalam pengumpulan data, penulis memakai metode kajian pustaka dengan cara mencari dan mengumpulkan buku-buku serta essai-essai yang berkaitan dengan topik analisisnya. Sedangkan untuk menganalisis data, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif yang kemudian dijabarkan dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif.

Setelah menganalisa novel ini, penulis dapat mengambil kesimpulan bahwa dominasi dapat terjadi karena adanya sesuatu yang membuat tokoh mempunyai kekuatan untuk mendominasi. Dalam hal ini rumah Danny menjadi sumber kekuatan untuk melakukan dominasi. Meskipun yang melakukan dominasi dan yang didominasi adalah teman, justru hal itulah yang membuat dominasi menjadi lebih mudah dilakukan dengan mengatasnamakan kepentingan bersama, atau untuk kepentingan tokoh yang didominasi. Tapi mereka tidak menyadari apa tujuan dari kepentingan tersebut.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

I.I. Background of the Research

Literature is a vital record of human experiences, dream, and thoughts that stated in artistic way to get readers interest. As Hudson (1963) states, "Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought, and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interests for all of us" (10). Therefore, by reading his/her literary works, readers will know about the author's idea.

Currently, domination appears to be a serious issue that is argued and discussed by society. There many people want to dominate their social surroundings by being a leader for certain group. In getting the position, they undertake various ways, by telling something false to society that they claim themselves to appropriate and credible as the leader.

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California. *Tortilla Flat* is the first Steinbeck's successful novel. It won the Gold Medal of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, as the book of the year by a Californian in 1962. (www.wikipedia.author/steinbeck) From the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing John Steinbeck's novel entitled *Tortilla Flat* because writer sees the simple situation about domination, how the characters do

something by someone order. Today, not all people realize the domination. They do not know what the domination means, but the fact is domination close to them.

This novel begins when Danny (Paisanos) get inheritance two houses. Then Danny told his friend Pilon to stay with him, but he must pay the rent. Pilon rent that house to another friend (Big Joe Portagee and The Pirate) in order he can pay the house to Danny. Many things happen in that house until two of the house fire. Danny die and his friends go away from that place.

Another consideration, the writer chooses this novel to be analyzed because this novel has a close case with our life. Everybody does activities for a better life, because, when they have something like material as a power to dominate others, it is better.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

One of the characters in *Tortilla Flat* name Pilon, dominates the other characters (his friend) because of economic problem to fulfill his basic needs. His friends including Danny as the owner of the houses, does not realize that Pilon use them with his ideology to do his entire plan.

Danny also shows his domination to his friends, because he has power to do it. However, he just has property as a power to dominate others. He has no ideology or something else. Indirectly, Pilon and Danny will compete to show their domination.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the domination in the novel *Tortilla Flat* by using hegemony theory, the writer concludes, even though the novel tells about the tight friendship between them, it does not make their life easily. In their life, there are some problems that make their life are full of the obstacles. However, they are showing the domination between them. It does not change the feeling from the others to the person who did it, but it is some problem makes their friends be unbelief to him. Even though their life are full of it, they apply it in their life is softly and the others is difficult to understand it.

The important thing in *Tortilla Flat* is, all the characters always try to make the other under they power. They will do anything to make it real, even though it was silly. However, one thing that John Steinbeck wants to tell us is we can show our domination to the others, but to apply it we must do it softly and make the people whom be the victim. It is difficult to understand but they receive this action.

The domination in this novel occurs because of power. What is the power in this novel? The power is the house. It all begins when Danny gets two houses from his grandfather. One by one, Danny's friends come in to the system, and Danny takes the control because he is the owner the houses.

But there is one of Danny's friends wanted to take the power event though he has no house but he can dominate other because he has strong

characteristic with strong ideology. In the end of the novel, the house was burnt and there is no power anymore. At last, all of the people at the house were free from the power. So domination cannot be used if there is no power.

The characters that uses domination always makes his idea looks rational, universal, and important for other character, so the dominated characters do not realize the meaning of the oppression behind the idea. Characters that have no critics in their life which are called common people. So they to be location of ideology of domination made. They were easy to be tricked because their mind is empty from all the critics of life. The last thing that the writer wants to tell is if we want to dominate others, we have to use the right way and find the right time to do it.

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