

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This last chapter of the research is divided into two sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter is the conclusion of all chapters that I have analyzed before and in the second sub-chapter is the summary of the thesis.

A. Conclusion

In this research, I conclude that the analysis of both¹elements, intrinsic elements through characterization, setting and plot and the extrinsic elements through sociological approach by using *The American Dream* concept consisting of *gold, glory and gospel*, can support the theme of this novel which is the failure of Clyde Griffiths Character to reach *The American Dream* ended with tragedy in *An American Tragedy*, a novel by Theodore Dreiser.

Based on the research analysis of this novel, it can be seen that *The American Dream* is a dream of people that want to be rich, admired and get success in America. So that, people tried hard to reach that dream. Sometimes, people wants to reach it by using the wrong way, such as doing the manipulation and doing the deceit to other people, or moreover eliminate the person that can hamper him in reaching *The American Dream*. There are two choices of the end of *The American Dream*, ironical or tragedy. Some of them can reach but others can't reach it. Like this novel tells us about the tragedy that happened on Clyde Griffiths character. He wanted to reach *The American Dream*, but in the end, he couldn't reach it. Clyde used many efforts whether its wrong or right way. Clyde Griffiths was a clever boy. He could manipulate people surround him. He used them to reach his dream easier. Moreover, he killed Roberta Alden after he had affair with other rich girl. But actually, Roberta was pregnant because of Clyde's wrong doing. He didn't want to marry Roberta because if he married her, he couldn't reach his dream. Finally, Clyde should undergo the death sentence as a

payment of Roberta's death. He died and he got nothing. This novel is quite rich and complex, so that it's still very possible to view this story from other perspectives or approaches.

B. Summary of the Thesis

Judul dari skripsi ini adalah "The failure of Clyde Griffiths Character to reach *The American Dream* ended with tragedy in *An American Tragedy*, a novel by Theodore Dreiser". Novel ini menceritakan tentang kehidupan seorang anak laki-laki yang bernama Clyde Griffiths. Clyde Griffiths hidup di keluarga miskin dan bertempat tinggal di Kansas City, Missouri pada awal abad ke-20an. Clyde Griffiths berambisi untuk menjadi seorang yang kaya raya, dihormati dan ingin sukses dalam kehidupannya. Pada masa remajanya, Clyde Griffiths bekerja sebagai penjaga toko obat dan sebagai *bellboy*. Untuk merealisasikan ambisinya, Clyde Griffiths berusaha keras untuk dapat bertemu dengan pamannya yang kaya raya, Samuel Griffiths di Chicago. Akhirnya Clyde Griffiths dapat bertemu dengan pamannya. Selanjutnya Clyde Griffiths meminta pamannya untuk memberikan pekerjaan di pabrik pamannya. Samuel Griffiths memberikan pekerjaan kepada Clyde Griffiths di pabriknya, New York. Selama ia bekerja di pabrik pamannya, ia mulai berulah dengan memiliki kekasih, Roberta Alden di tempat yang sama. Padahal pabrik tersebut melarang keras adanya hubungan spesial antar pekerja. Mereka menjalani hubungan cinta mereka secara diam-diam. Namun hubungan mereka terlampau jauh hingga Roberta pun hamil. Setelah Clyde mengetahui kehamilan Roberta, Clyde mulai menjaga jarak karena Clyde tidak ingin bertanggung jawab atas kehamilan Roberta. Selain itu, Clyde berselingkuh dengan wanita cantik dan kaya raya, Sondra Finchley tanpa sepengetahuan Roberta. Clyde pun ingin menikahi Sondra Finchley karena kekayaan yang ia miliki. Hidup Clyde semakin sulit dan dipenuhi banyak masalah. Clyde menyusun rencana untuk mengatasi salah satu dari masalahnya. Clyde mengajak Roberta untuk berlibur di Grass Lake Inn. Namun sebenarnya

Clyde sudah merencanakan untuk membunuh Roberta karena Clyde tidak ingin semua ambisinya hancur apabila ia menikahi Roberta Alden. Akhirnya Roberta tewas di tangan kekasihnya sendiri. Peristiwa pembunuhan ini terjadi saat mereka sedang berada di perahu, saat itu Roberta terpeleset dan jatuh ke danau. Namun Clyde tidak mau menolongnya hingga Roberta pun tenggelam. Kemudian polisi menginvestigasi apakah Roberta tewas karena kecelakaan atau ada motif lainnya. Selama melakukan investigasi, polisi menemukan kejanggalan-kejanggalan sampai pada akhirnya Clyde Griffiths dinyatakan sebagai tersangka dan ditahan. Clyde berkelit bahwa itu murni kecelakaan dan bukan atas kesalahannya. Namun polisi memiliki bukti yang kuat sehingga hakim pun memutuskan untuk memberikan hukuman mati kepada Clyde. Clyde harus membayar kematian Roberta dengan nyawanya sendiri. Clyde gagal untuk menggapai impian-impianinya. Pada akhirnya Clyde tidak mendapatkan apa-apa dalam hidupnya.

Skripsi ini dibagi menjadi lima bab. Pada Bab I yaitu Pendahuluan yang terdiri dari latar belakang masalah, identifikasi masalah, batasan masalah, perumusan masalah, tujuan penelitian, landasan teori, metode penelitian, manfaat penelitian dan sistem penyajian.

Pada Bab II yaitu analisis intrinsik elemen melalui perwatakan, latar dan alur. Pada Bab II ini dibagi menjadi empat sub-bagian. Pada sub-bagian pertama merupakan analisis perwatakan melalui metode *Telling* yaitu perwatakan melalui pengarang dan menggunakan metode *Showing* yaitu perwatakan melalui dialog (apa yang dikatakan si tokoh, identitas si pembicara dan intonasi, tekanan, dialek dan perbendaharaan kata si pembicara). Pada sub-bagian kedua merupakan analisis latar dengan menggunakan dua fungsi latar yaitu latar sebagai latar belakang aksi dan latar sebagai alat pendukung tema. Pada sub-bagian ketiga merupakan analisis alur yang terdiri dari lima bagian yaitu eksposisi, komplikasi krisis, peredaan aksi dan penyelesaian. Pada sub-bagian terakhir merupakan rangkuman dari analisis Bab II itu sendiri.

Pada Bab III merupakan analisis ekstrinsik elemen melalui pendekatan sosiologi dengan menggunakan konsep *The American Dream* (*gold, glory* dan *gospel*). Pada Bab III ini dibagi menjadi tiga sub-bagian. Pada sub-bagian pertama mengulas tentang konsep dari *The American Dream*. Pada sub-bagian kedua merupakan analisis dari *gold, glory* dan *gospel*. Pada sub-bagian terakhir merupakan rangkuman dari analisis Bab III itu sendiri.

Pada Bab IV yaitu analisis tema dengan menggabungkannya dengan hasil analisis pada Bab II dan Bab III. Pada bab IV ini dibagi menjadi tiga sub-bagian. Pada sub-bagian pertama membahas tentang ide tema pertama yang dihubungkan dengan hasil analisis dari perwatakan, latar dan alur serta *gold, glory* dan *gospel*, sedangkan pada sub-bagian kedua membahas tentang ide tema kedua yang dihubungkan dengan hasil analisis perwatakan, latar dan alur serta *gold, glory* dan *gospel*. Pada sub-bagian terakhir merupakan rangkuman dari analisis Bab IV itu sendiri.

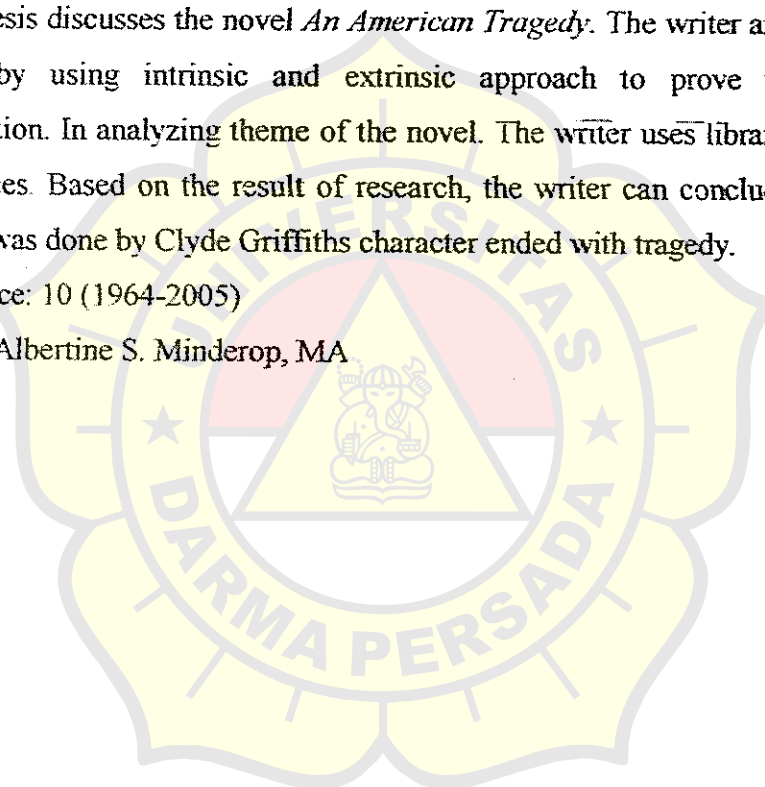
Pada Bab V yaitu kesimpulan. Pada Bab V ini terdiri dari dua sub-bagian. Pada sub-bagian pertama merupakan kesimpulan dari bab dan pada sub-bagian terakhir berisikan tentang rangkuman dari keseluruhan skripsi.

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ABSTRACT

- A. SELLY RATNANINGTYAS MUKTI (03130002)
- B. Theme analysis: The failure of Clyde Griffiths character to reach *the American Dream* ended with tragedy, in *An American Tragedy*, a novel by Theodore Dreiser
- C. V + Bibliography + 63, pages, 2007
- D. Key words: characterization, setting, plot, sociological approach: *The American Dream* concepts.
- E. This thesis discusses the novel *An American Tragedy*. The writer analyzes the thesis by using intrinsic and extrinsic approach to prove the theme assumption. In analyzing theme of the novel. The writer uses library research references. Based on the result of research, the writer can conclude that the failure was done by Clyde Griffiths character ended with tragedy.
- F. Reference: 10 (1964-2005)
- G. Dr. Hj. Albertine S. Minderop, MA



BIOGRAPHY

Theodore Dreiser (August 27, 1871-December 28, 1945) was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, and baptized as Herman Theodore Dreiser. He was the ninth of ten surviving children (three others died as infants) of Sārāh Schanab and Johann Dreiser. Dreiser's childhood coincided with the family's hard times. Consequently, his earliest memories included the joblessness of his father and older siblings, as well as the constant search for economic stability. In his first sixteen years he lived in five different towns in Indiana (as well as in Chicago for a few months). As a result, his youth was emotionally unstable, and he had few educational opportunities, which was a special hardship for such a bookish boy. He was sensitive to the plight of his mother, who took in boarders, washed clothes for her more prosperous neighbors, and suffered over her inability to feed and clothe her children properly. He often blamed his father for their condition, particularly as Johann often reacted to adversity by turning to prayer and a belief that true happiness was to be found only with God in the afterlife. Dreiser eventually extended these motifs to his portraits of other American families, such as those of the evangelical preachers in *An American Tragedy* (1925) and the Quakers in *The Bulwark* (1946).

Although Dreiser was a serious student, he never finished high school. The conduct of his siblings, especially the sexual adventures of his sisters, entered into his decision to leave school. Depressed over his family's poor social standing in the small northern Indiana town of Warsaw, he decided at age sixteen to seek work in Chicago. There he held a number of nondescript jobs, until he was rescued by a former teacher, Mildred Fielding, who paid his way to Indiana University at Bloomington for one year (1889-90). Another kind of education began when he landed a job as a reporter in Chicago. In June 1892, two months before his twenty-first birthday, he wrote his first news story for the *Chicago Globe*. Three years later, he abruptly abandoned journalism by walking out of Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World*. In 1898 Dreiser married Sara Osborne White but the marriage ended in divorce in 1910. Dreiser began writing his historic first novel, *Sister Carrie*. The Doubleday company

published *Sister Carrie* under protest on November 8, 1900. It is perhaps the most famous story in American publishing history. It is worth noting that although he is remembered primarily for his novels, he wrote in many genres. In fact, of his twenty-seven published books only eight are novels--and two of these, *The Bulwark* and *The Stoic* (1947), were published posthumously. Besides journalism, which he wrote throughout his life, he published volumes of poetry [*Moods, Cadenced and Disclaimed* (1928), *Moods, Philosophical and Emotional* (1935)]; short stories [*Free and Other Stories* (1918), *Chains: Lesser Novels and Stories* (1927)]; plays [*Plays of the Natural and Supernatural* (1916), *The Hand of the Potter* (1918)]; travel books [*A Traveler at Forty, A Hoosier Holiday* (1915), *Dreiser Looks at Russia* (1928)]; autobiographies [*Newspaper Days* (1922), *Dawn* (1931)]; philosophical essays [*Hey Rub-a-Dub-Dub* (1919)]; social criticism [*Tragic America* (1932), *America is Worth Saving* (1941)]; character sketches [*Twelve Men* (1919), *A Gallery of Woman*, 2 volumes (1929)]; and *The Living Thoughts of Thoreau* (1939).

Dreiser decided that he needed a trilogy to explore this figure, and it came to be called "The Trilogy of Desire." The first book, *The Financier* (1912), was followed by *The Titan* (1914), but Dreiser had difficulty completing the third book and was still working on the final chapter of *The Stoic* when he died in 1945. The trilogy is generally considered to be among the finest historical novels in America. Dreiser left New York in 1938 and permanently settled in California, where he lived his final years with Helen Richardson, whom he married in 1944. In 1944 he traveled for the last time to New York to receive the Award of Merit from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. They cited *Sister Carrie*, *Twelve Men*, and *An American Tragedy* as his greatest books. He sold the movie rights to *Sister Carrie*, which was made into a film with Jennifer Jones as Carrie and Lawrence Olivier as Hurstwood. Dreiser died of heart failure on December 28, 1945, before completing the last chapter of *The Stoic*.

SYNOPSIS

This novel consists of three books. In book 1, on a summer evening in Kansas City, Missouri, in the early years of the twentieth century. There is Clyde Griffiths and his family live in Kansas City. That family was poor evangelists that run a mission in a shabby city. As teenager, Clyde Griffiths gets a series of jobs. He gets jobs from street corner (as a newsboy) to department store basement to drugstore that takes him farther from his parents' dingy life. All the while Clyde daydreams about his rich uncle – Samuel Griffiths – who owns a factory Lycurgus, New York.

He works as a bellhop at the Hotel Green-Davidson, Clyde makes friend with other young men whose desires match his own. They involve in alcohol, prostitutes, and other illicit pleasures together. Clyde lies to his family about his activities. Then, Clyde has a relationship with Hortense Briggs, a coarse girl who has sexuality to manipulate Clyde. Clyde goes on a car trip with his friends by using stolen car. His friend drives so badly and recklessly. He hits and kills a pedestrian. From that accident, Clyde runs away from the car to avoid sharing responsibility for these crimes.

In book II tells about three years later that happened with Clyde's life. Clyde is now living in Lycurgus moves to Chicago after the car accident. He works at the Union League. In this time, Clyde started to find his rich uncle, Samuel Griffiths. He wanted to get same life with his rich uncle. In the end, he could find his rich uncle, Samuel Griffiths. Samuel Griffiths gave his nephew a job in his shirt factory.

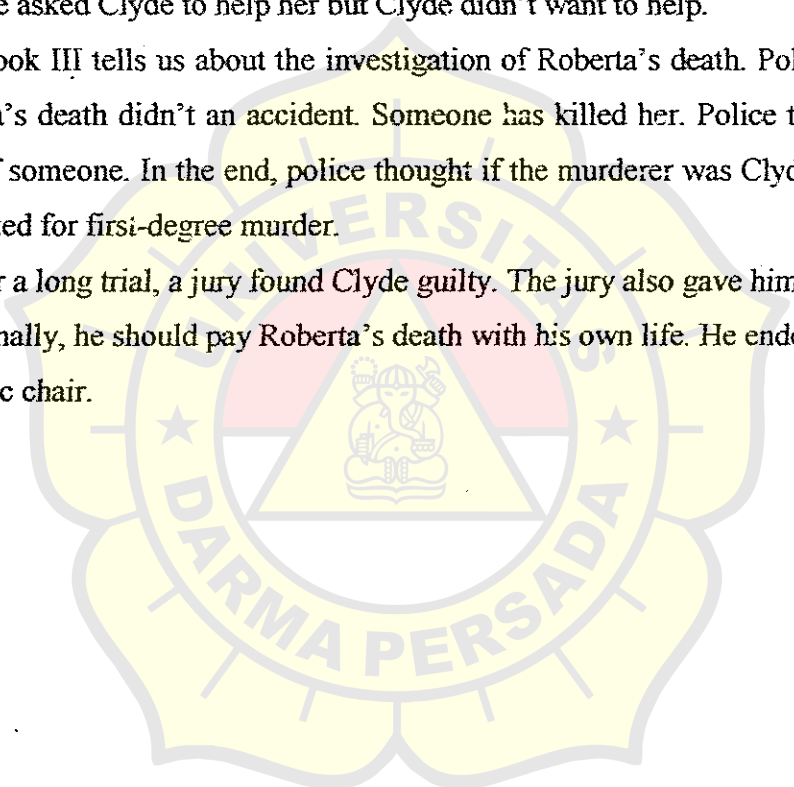
Samuel Griffiths has a son, Gilbert Griffiths. Gilbert resented him. Clyde thought that his life as same as other rich Griffiths family. Being a nephew of the factory owner makes Clyde the social superior of the workers. But most of his relatives see him as an inferior. The factory has strict rules and regulations which one of them is forbid all of workers have romantic involvement each other. But Clyde broke that rule. Clyde started to make romantic relationship with other new worker, Roberta Alden, when he was a supervisor in recruiting new employee in that factory. Roberta Alden a poor but pretty girl. During Clyde ran that romantic relationship with

Roberta Alden, he meets other rich and attractive girl, Sondra Finchley. He is infatuated with Sondra's wealthy and her beautiful. Clyde wanted to have her but he has already impregnated Roberta. Roberta forced Clyde to marry her. But Clyde didn't want to responsible of his wrong doing.

Desperate at the thought of losing his opportunity for being wealthy person, Clyde agrees to marry her but instead plans to kill her. He persuaded Roberta to go and stay in Grass Lake Inn. He wanted to kill Roberta by drowning her. He made Roberta's drowning like an accident. Things do not happen as Clyde has planned. He changes his mine about killing Roberta but it's too late, because Roberta slipped away from the boat and jumped in the lake. Roberta was coming surface and cried out for help. She asked Clyde to help her but Clyde didn't want to help.

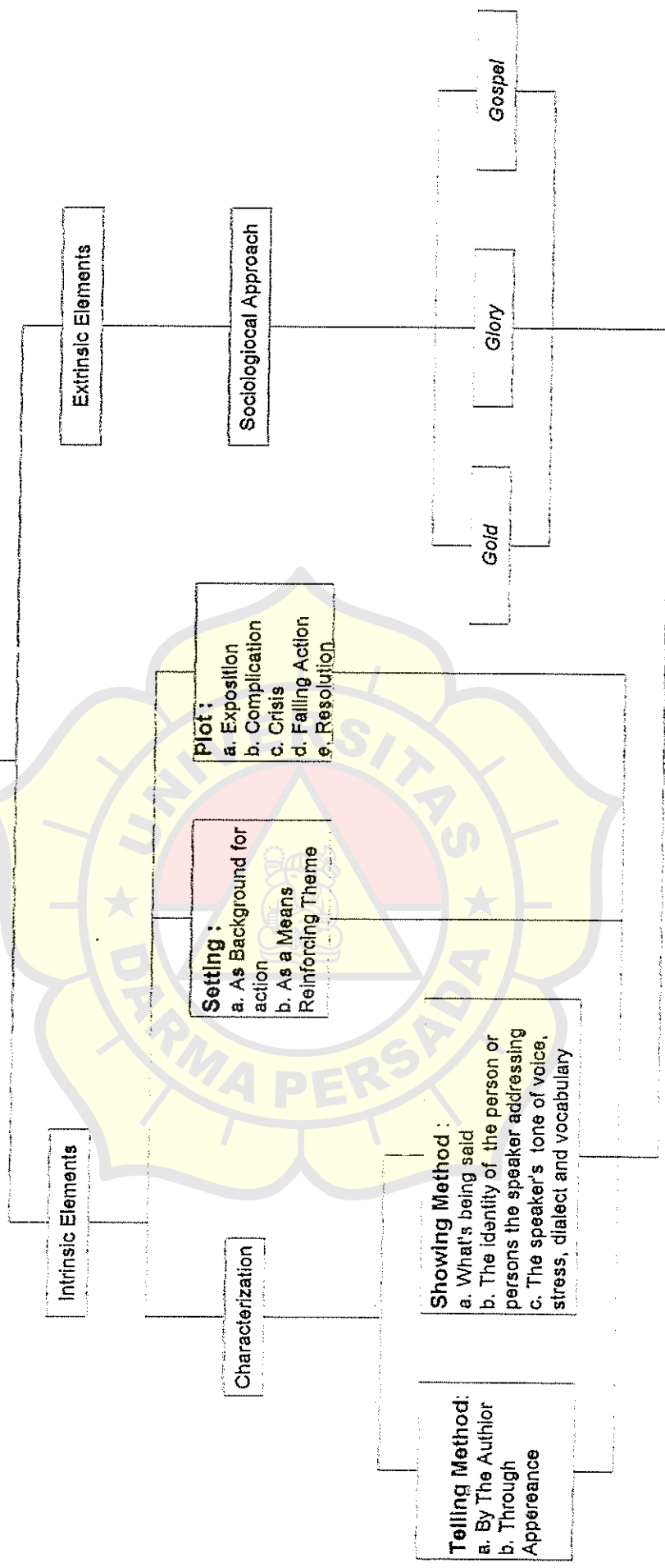
In book III tells us about the investigation of Roberta's death. Police thought that Roberta's death didn't an accident. Someone has killed her. Police tried to find any clues of someone. In the end, police thought if the murderer was Clyde Griffiths. Police arrested for first-degree murder.

After a long trial, a jury found Clyde guilty. The jury also gave him death sentence. Finally, he should pay Roberta's death with his own life. He ended his life on an electric chair.



SCHEME OF THE THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

THE FAILURE OF CLYDE GRIFFITHS CHARACTER TO REACH THE AMERICAN DREAM ENDED WITH TRAGEDY



THE FAILURE OF CLYDE GRIFFITHS CHARACTER TO REACH THE AMERICAN DREAM ENDED WITH TRAGEDY

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