

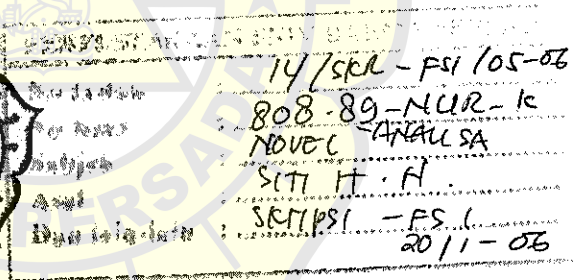
**KINO'S EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAM
WHICH IS TRAGICALLY ENDED FROM A NOVEL
THE PEARL BY JOHN STEINBECK**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for Bachelor of Art Degree

Presented By:

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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY OF LETTERS

DARMA PERSADA UNIVERSITY

JAKARTA

2005

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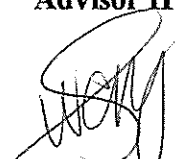


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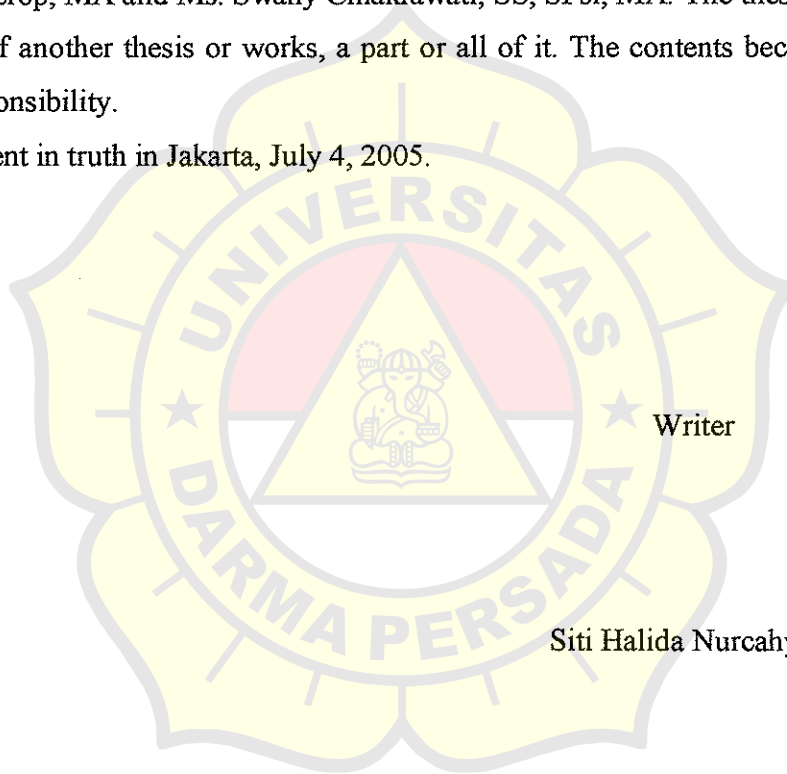
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This thesis is a scholarly work that is arranged under the guidance of Ms. Dr. Hajj. Albertine S. Minderop, MA and Ms. Swany Chiakrawati, SS, SPsi, MA. The thesis is not a plagiarism of another thesis or works, a part or all of it. The contents become fully my own responsibility.

I write this statement in truth in Jakarta, July 4, 2005.



Writer

Siti Halida Nurcahyani

PREFACE

First of all, I would to thank you to Allah SWT for blessing and giving me strength to finish this thesis titled “Kino’s Effort to Achieve the American Dream which is Tragically Ended”. The thesis is presented to complete the regulations to reach a bachelor’s degree for undergraduate program.

In this opportunity I would like to say my deepest thanks to:

1. Ms. Dr. Hajj. Albertine S. Minderop, MA as the Dean of Letters’ Faculty and advisor I of my thesis for all the directions and suggestions.
2. Ms. Swany Chiakrawati, SS, SPsi, MA as the Head of English Department and advisor II for reading and editing this thesis.
3. All lecturers in English Department of Darma Persada University.
4. My mother for all her supports and attentions so that I can finish my English thesis.
5. My beloved father in heaven. I dedicate this thesis mostly for you.
6. All my friends in English Department that I can not mention one by one.

For the last word, I realize that this thesis is not the perfect one. Therefore I hope that the examiners and readers would like to give some suggestions. And then in the future I can make the better one.

Jakarta, July 2005

Siti Halida Nurcahyani

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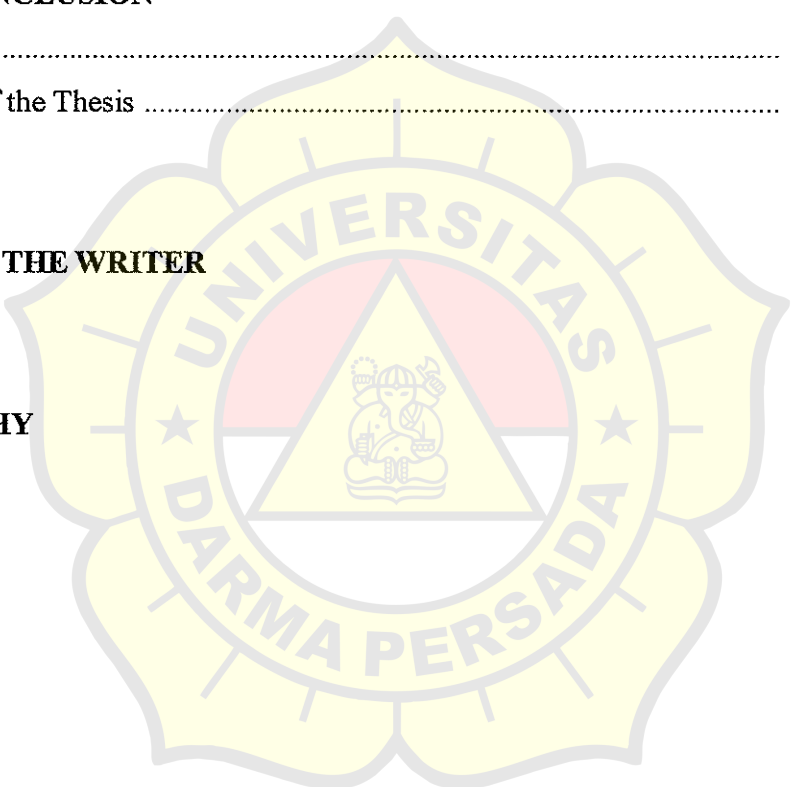
ABSTRACK

BIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITER

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SCHEME

AUTOBIOGRAPHY



CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Problem

John Steinbeck was one of famous writer, known as a radical California writer. He was born in Salinas, California in 1902. He grew up in an agricultural area about twenty—five miles from the Pacific Coast. In 1919 he went to Stanford University. It was the place where he enrolled in literature and writing courses until he went out in 1925 without any degree. For the next five years he worked as laborer and journalist in New York City to support his living cost. His first novel was *Cup of Gold* published in 1929.¹

After his marriage, he moved to Pacific Grove and published two California fictions. They were *The Pastures of Heaven* in 1932 and *To a God Unknown* in 1933. A ceaseless experimenter throughout his career, Steinbeck changed courses regularly. Steinbeck wrote three powerful novels on late 1930s focused on the California laboring class. The novels were *In Dubious Battle* in 1936, *Of Mice and Men* in 1937, and *The Grapes of Wrath*, was a runaway success, making him the target for hate mail and FBI security in 1939. Besides being a best—seller, *The Grapes of Wrath* won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1940. In the early 1940s, he became a filmmaker and presented *The Forgotten Village* in 1941 and *Sea of Cortez* also in 1941. He devoted his services to the war with writing about *Bombs Away* in 1942 and the controversial play—novelette *The Moon Is Down* also in 1942. In 1944—1945 he wrote a novel titled *The Pearl*. He also produced some dramas. They are *Burning Bright* in 1950, *the Log from the Sea of Cortez* in 1951, and *East of Eden*, an ambitious saga of Salinas Valley and his own family's

¹ John Steinbeck. "Biography of John Steinbeck". novelguide.com. Inernet. 18September2003

history in 1952. I choose *The Pearl* because the novel is about racialism and the American Dream.

The Pearl, which takes place in La Paz, Mexico, begins with a description of the seemingly idyllic family life of Kino, his wife Juana and their infant son, Coyotito. Kino watches as Coyotito sleeps, but sees a scorpion crawl down the rope that holds the hanging box where Coyotito lies. Kino attempts to catch the scorpion, but Coyotito bumps the rope and the scorpion falls on him. Although Kino kills the scorpion, it still stings Coyotito. Juana and Kino, accompanied by their neighbors, go to see the local doctor, who refuses to treat Coyotito because Kino cannot pay. Kino and Juana leave the doctors and take Coyotito down near the sea, where Juana uses a seaweed poultice on Coyotito's shoulder, which is now swollen. Kino dives for oysters from his canoe, attempting to find pearls. He finds a very large oyster which, when Kino opens it, yields an immense pearl. Kino puts back his head and howls, causing the other pearl divers to look up and race toward Kino's canoe. And then the news that Kino has found an immense pearl travels fast through La Paz.

B. The Identification of The Problem

Based on the background of the problem, I identify the problem as follow: Kino could not sell the pearl in the town, La Paz. It is because the dealers were cheating on him. The dealers did not give the suitable prize for his pearl. It insisted Kino to make a decision. Kino decided to sell his pearl in other town. Then I assume that the theme is Kino's effort to achieve the American Dream which is tragically ended.

C. The Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem I limit my research on the analyzing of characterization, setting and sociological approach through the American Dream.

D. The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the Limitation of the problem, I formulate the problem from the story. Is it true that the theme is Kino's effort to achieve the American Dream could be analyzed through the character and the setting to build the theme of the strong? To answer this question I would formulate the problem to question as follow.

1. How are the sociology of character and setting in the novel
2. Could the sociology approach through the American Dream be used to analyze the novel
3. Could all the analysis build the theme of the story

E. The Purpose

Based on the formulation of the problem I want to prove my assumption of the theme from the story. The assumption is the effort to reach the American Dream which is ended by tragedy. To reach the purpose I do the steps as follow.

1. To analyze the character and the setting of the story in order to present the effort of Kino and the tragedy.
2. To analyze the story through the sociology concept in order to present the effect that happened to the main character.
3. To prove that the theme could be build using the literature concepts and sociological approach.

F. The Theoretical of Frame Work

Based on the purpose of the analyzation I use the theoretical framework to support the research. The theories are characterization, setting and sociological approach through the concept of the American Dream.

1. Characterization

I use the method of characterization from *Concise Companion to Literature* by James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hooper to analyze the character in the

story. A character has close relationship to the personality and the life style of someone. Or we could say that a characterization is an intellectual quality. Character in a fiction work consists of the behavior, the character, the habit and the performance of the character. We usually easier to identify the protagonist character in a story. It usually becomes the major or central character.

Based on *Concise Companion to Literature* by James. H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hoepfer, they have methods to present and to establish the character. First the indirect method is showing. It involves the author's stepping aside to allow the characters to reveal themselves directly through their dialogue and actions. Second is a direct method. It is called telling. It relies on exposition and author is very attention. The direct methods of revealing character or characterization by telling include the following.²

a. Characterization through the use of name

Names are often used to provide essential clues that aid in characterization. Some characters are given names that suggest their dominant or controlling traits.

b. Characterization through appearance

Although in real life most of us are aware that appearances are often deceiving, in the world of fiction details of appearance such as what a character wear and how he looks often provide essential clues to character. For example *the Fall of House* by Poe. The character physically reflected a man who is lazy and unlucky.

c. Characterization by the Author

In this section the author assents and retains full control over characterization. The author not only directs our attention to a given character, but tells us exactly the attitude toward that character ought to

² James H. Pickering & Jeffrey D. Hoepfer, *Concise Companion to Literature*, (New York: Mac Millan Publishing, ,1981), page 27

be. Nothing is left to the reader's imagination. Unless the author is being ironic, we can do little more than assent and allow our conception of character to be formed on the basis of what the author has told us. For example the work of *Rip Van Winkle* by Washington Irving.

In that same village there lived A simple good-natured fellow by the name of Rip Van Winkle.....I have observed that he was a simple good-natured man: he was, moreover, a kind neighbor and an obedient henpecked husband. To the latter circumstance might be owing that meekness of spirit which gamed him such universal popularity.

d. Characterization through dialogue

The task of establishing character through dialogue is not a simple one. Some characters are careful and guarded in what they say. They speak only by indirection and we must infer from their words what they actually mean. Other is open and candid. They tell us or appear to tell us exactly what is on their minds. Some characters are given to chronic exaggeration and overstatement and other to understatement and subtlety. It is a rare work of fiction, whose author does not employ dialogue in some way to reveal, establish and reinforce character. For this reason the reader must be preferred to analyze dialogue in a number of different ways. The ways are what is being said, the identity of the speaker, the occasion, the identity of the person or persons the speaker is addressing, the quality of the exchange and the speaker's tone of voice stress, dialect, and vocabulary.

e. Characterization Through Action

Character and action are often regarded as two sides of the same coin. To establish character on the basis of action, it is necessary to scrutinize the several events of the plot for what they seem to reveal about the characters, about their unconscious emotional a psychological state as well as about their conscious attitudes than values. Some actions are inherently more meaningful in this aspect than others. A gesture or a facial expression usually carries with it less significance than some longer and over act. But this not always the case very often it is small and involuntary action by very virtue of its spontaneous and unconscious quality, that tell us more about a character's inner life than a longer, premeditated act reflecting decision and choice. In either case, whether the action is large or small conscious or unconscious, it is necessary to identify the common pattern of conduct and behavior of which each separate action is a part.

2. Setting

I take the method of setting from Burhan Nurgiantoro. The setting supports the story very well. The setting is very important to build the readers imagination about the condition when the story is taken. The setting becomes the background. The theory of Burhan Nurgiantoro divides the setting in to three sections.³

a. The Physical Setting

The setting consists of settings' place and time. The place means the location where all the things happened. It becomes the supporter of the

³ Burhan Nurgiantoro, *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*, (Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada Universiti Press, 1995), page 227

place in the story. This setting is pointing out the physic object. The time setting has connectivity with the place setting. It is because the physic objects are different time to time.

b. The Social Setting

The social setting describes the social life in a community that is built in the story by the writer. Usually the act of the community based on the physical setting. It has close relationship. The social setting relates to the social behavior of a community.

c. The Spiritual Setting

The spiritual setting is the combination between physical setting and social setting. The spiritual setting is pointing out the culture's value in the society from the story. For the examples are their images, characters, habits and their philosophy of life.

3. The Theory of Sociology

I use the theory of sociology to analyze the story besides the theories of characterization and setting. The relation between literature and sociology is that the sociology has a straight relation with the society. It is the effort to elaborate and to change the society. Literature and sociology share the same formulation. The sociology analyzes literature work using sociological approach. Sociology it self has some concept as follow.

- a. The theory of Structuralism genetics
- b. The Theory of Hegemony
- c. The Theory of Marxism
- d. The Theory of American Dream

From the four theories above I choose the theory of American Dream to analyze the story of *The Pearl*. I use the theory of the American Dream based on the history as follow.

Pencerminan konsep the American Dream berangkat dari mitologi dan latar belakang sejarah yang memberi warna pada nilai-nilai budaya Amerika. Masuknya pemahaman tentang konsep ini terhadap karya-karya sastra Amerika dianggap sebagai keunikan karya-karya tersebut. Hampir seluruh karya sastra pada awal abad 16 mengumandangkan ilusi dan disilusi tentang the American Dream. Kedatangan para koloni membawa harapan di Amerika mereka dapat mendapatkan kesejahteraan ekonomi dan dengan tekad yang ingin melepaskan diri dari kemiskinan, tekanan hidup, peperangan, dan tekanan politik serta agama di Inggris. Karya sastra yang muncul di awal abad ini diwarnai dengan kisah eksplorasi dan penemuan. Umumnya tentang daya tarik Amerika.⁴

The American Dream is about American mythology. Almost all literature works in the early sixteen centuries talked about illusion and delusion about the American Dream. The new colony brought new hope that if they moved to the new land they would get better life. They wanted to release their poorness, the life pressures, war and political problems and also religion conflict in England. The atmosphere of the story presented explorations and now inventions and generally about the American's appeal.

The concept of American Dream consists of three supported elements. They are gold, glory and gospel. Each of the elements has their own purpose. The explanations of these three concepts are as follow.

a. Gold

“Gold tidak selalu diartikan secara harfiah yang berarti emas tetapi dapat juga diartikan sebagai kekayaan dan jua dapat melambangkan kekayaan Amerika yang melimpah.”⁵

⁴ Albertine Minderop, *Sosiologi Sastra: Teori Strukturalisme Dan Konsep the American Dream dalam Telaah Sastra*, (Jakarta: 2003), page 24

⁵*Ibid.* page 34

Based on quotation above I conclude that gold is not always about the valuable yellow stone. It also means as the wealth. Or it could present the American Treasure. In the Columbus first voyage, he observed that the local community wore gold earring and pearl necklace. Since that observation many people wanted to go the American continent. They were motivated to find “gold”. The concept also means that the rich want to be richer as quotation below.

“There were a thousand varieties of finite dreams within the encompassing dream. Many of the poor come dreaming to be rich, many of the rich, dreaming to be richer.”⁶

b. Glory

“*Glory adalah impian Amerika untuk meraih kejayaan, dihormati dan dikagumi oleh orang lain.*”⁷

Based on quotation above I conclude that glory means victory. It is the American Dream’s concept of being respected and being adored by others. If someone is rich and famous, many people will know him. They like to be his friend and have good relationship. It is the dream of American to be respected and adored by others as quotation below.

“....., when he shall make us a praise and glory, that men shall be as a city upon hill, the eyes of all people are upon us.”⁸

⁶ Frederick Gentles and Melvin Steinfield, *Dream on America*, (New York: Random House, 1971), page 366

⁷ *OpCit.* page 36

⁸ Jane L. Sheiber and Robert Elliot, *In Search of The American Dream*, (California: New American Library, 1974), page 1

c. Gospel

“Gospel tadinya diartikan sebagai penyebaran agama Kristen dengan tema bahwa orang-orang Kristen adalah orang yang rajin dan orang yang malas adalah orang yang berdosa. Tetapi sesuai dengan perkembangan orientasi keduniawian yang beresensi keberhasilan”⁹

Based on quotation above I conclude that gospel describes as the spreading of Christian’s doctrine under the meaning of Christians are diligent people. And the lazy people are sinners. But following the development of human’s orientation; it has changed to the unspiritual orientation which pointed to the honor and pride of the successful people as quotation below.

“A Christian should follow his occupation with industry.....It seems a man slothful in business, is not a man serving the Lord. By slothfulness men bring upon themselves, what? But poverty, but misery, but all sorts of confusion.....in the other side, a man by diligence in his business, what may he not come to? A diligent man is very rarely indigent man.”¹⁰

G. The Method of Research

To analyze the story I take the quality method and I do the activity consciously, guided and armed to get information that is needed. The data source that I use is the written source or genuine text of the novel titled *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. I interpret the text that is supported by connected source such as the Biography of the writer, introduction from the novel and many other data.

⁹ Albertine Minderop, *Sosiologi Sastra: Teori Strukturalisme Dan Konsep the American Dream dalam Telaah Sastra*, (Jakarta: 2003), page 39

¹⁰ Moses Richin, *The American Gospel of Success*, (Chicago: Quarangle Books), page 25 et seq.

H. The Advantage of Research

The advantages of the analysis are to have better understanding about the concept of American Dream and to apply the concept to analyze a literature work that shows the reflection of social life in the community at the time. According to meaning we can broad our minds and share more knowledge about the concept it felt.

I. The system of presentation

Finally based on the all explanation above I present the system of presentation as follow.

Chapter I

In this chapter contains of the background of problem, the identification of problem, the limitation of problem, the formulation of problem, the purpose of problem, the theoretical frame work, the method of research, the advantage of research and the system of presentation.

Chapter II

This chapter analyzes the literature unsure of *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck using the characterization and the setting analysis.

Chapter III

This chapter analyzes *The Pearl* using sociological approach through the American Dream: Gold, Glory, and Gospel.

Chapter IV

This chapter analyzes the theme from *The Pearl*, Kino's effort to achieve the American Dream which is tragically ended.

Chapter V

This is the closing chapter consists of the conclusion, the summary of the thesis.