

**THE REFLECTION OF OBSESSION IN ETHAN'S CHARACTER  
THAT ENDED WITH DEATH INSTINCT  
IN NOVEL *THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT* BY JOHN  
STEINBECK.**

**Term Paper**

Submitted in Partial-Fulfillment Of The Requirements For Obtaining The Strata  
One (S1) Degree



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**JAKARTA**

**2013**

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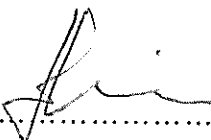
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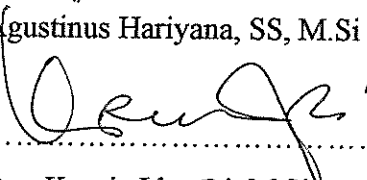
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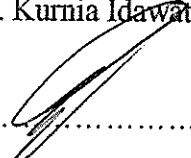
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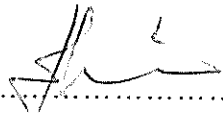
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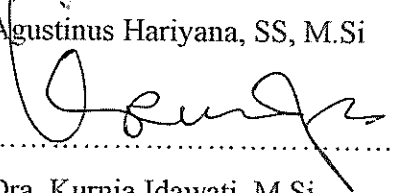
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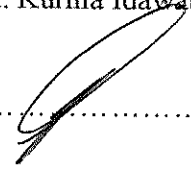
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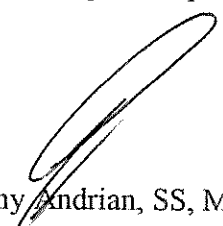
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## PREFACE

Alhamdulillah rabbil alamin, the writer express His gratitude to the God, Allah, who has been giving His blessing and mercy, so that the God can finish my writing in this term paper even by hard effort and long time. This research entitled *The Reflection of Obsession In Ethan's character That Ended with Death Instinct In The Novel The Winter of Our Discontent by John Steinbeck*.

This term paper is submitted to the Strata One English Department of Darma Persada University as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for obtaining the Strata One (S1) degree. However, the writer realizes that there are still many shortcomings in this term paper. Therefore she enthusiastically welcomes the objective criticism and constructive suggestion for the improvement of this paper. Finally, the writer hopes that this term paper will be useful not only for the writer herself but also for the readers.

In finishing this term paper, the writer really gives her regards and thanks for people who has given guidance and help. They are :

1. Agustinus Hariyana, SS, M.Si is the first advisor, thanks for his valuable guidance, encouragement, patient, correlation, advice, and suggestion which are very helpful in finishing this term paper.
2. Dra. Ida Kurniawati, M.Si is the second Advisor who has guided the writer with her worthy, correction and suggestion to improve the quality of this term paper. Thank you very much for your time to share your great knowledge and great experiences to the writer.
3. Tommy Andrian, SS, M.Hum is as the Academic Supervisor and the Head of Faculty of Letters, for his contribution and attention.
4. Syamsul Bachri, SS, M.Si is the Dean of Faculty of Letters.

5. All lecturers of English Department of UNSADA, who have transferred much knowledge to the writer. For guidance, instruction and help during study at the university.
6. All staff office of Darma Persada University, for the guidance.
7. The deepest appreciation goes to my beloved family. A lot thanks must be delivered to the writer's parents, Djoni Heriyanto and Ginah who has given love, pray, moral, material support and inspiration to keep learning especially in academic level as they desire. The writer's beloved sister Astri Susilawati and Dini Laraswati, for their support. The writer's brother in law Dimas Priyandoko and my nephew Kirei Alethea, for their prayers and support.
8. The writer's beloved boyfriend "Ahmad Muhammad", who always prays for the writer everytime and gives a thousands support.
9. The write's friend in the same struggle Lola, Nuri, Rima, Vya, Ary, Dolly and many more who cannot be mentioned here one by one.

Bekasi, July      2013  
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## ***ABSTRAK***

Nama : Lisnawati  
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Judul : The Reflection of Obsession in Ethan's character that Ended with Death Instinct In Novel *The Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck.

Skripsi ini membahas tentang karya sastra novel dengan menggunakan pendekatan instrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Melalui pendekatan instrinsik penulis menggunakan perwatakan, latar dan alur. Melalui pendekatan ekstrinsik, penulis menggunakan teori psikoanalisis yaitu konsep obsesi dan naluri kematian oleh Sigmund Freud. Skripsi ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif yang mengkombinasikan pendekatan sastra dan psikoanalisis. Skripsi menggunakan novel *The Winter of Our Discontent* oleh John Steinbeck sebagai sumber primer, dan didukung oleh beberapa literatur yang terkait dengan teori, konsep, dan definisi yang relevan sebagai sumber sekunder.

Kata kunci : *psikoanalisis, obsesi dan naluri kematian.*

## ABSTRACT

Name : Lisnawati  
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Entitled : The Reflection of Obsession in Ethan's character that Ended with Death Instinct In Novel *The Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck.

This term paper discusses the literature a novel by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The writer uses the intrinsic approaches such as characterization, setting and plot. The writer also uses the extrinsic approaches through psychoanalytic theory such as obsession and death instincts concepts of Sigmund Freud. The term paper is a qualitative research that combines literature and psychoanalysis approaches. Those concepts are used in the novel *The Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck, as a primary source, and supported by some of the literature related to theories, concepts, and definitions that relevant as a secondary source.

Keywords: *psychoanalysis, obsession and the death instinct.*



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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Problem

Obsession is one of mental disorders, and in curing the mental problem, Freud uses an innovative procedure that is called as psychoanalysis. According to Freud's obsession usually occurs, because there is sexual suppression which followed by social aggression. Obsession can cause the death instinct. Obsession. The patients who has obsession can lead to death instincts because they feel disappointed with their desire that is not achieved.

John Ernest Steinbeck, Jr was born on February 27, 1902 in Salinas, California. His real name is Johann Adlof Grobsteinbeck who had shortened the family name to Steinbeck of his grandfather when he immigrated to the United States. Steinbeck was of German and Irish ancestry. So far, The family farm in German is Grobsteinbeck. In 1919, Steinbeck graduated from Salinas High School and he became collegier in Standord University, finally leaving without a degree. He traveled to New York City and he had a dream to be a writer but he failed to get his work published. Then in 1928, he returned to California and worked for a while as a tour guide in Tahoe City, where he met a tourist, Carol Henning, as his first future wife.<sup>1</sup>

Steinbeck became one of the famous American writers. He was an author of twenty-seven books, including sixteen novels, six non-fiction and five collections of short stories. He began the work on *East of Eden* (1952) which was his best work. Steinbeck's last novel is *The Winter of Our Discontent* (1961) that told about the moral decline in America. In 1962, he received the Nobel Prize for Literature. He has widely known for the Pulitzer Prizewinning novel *The*

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Steinbeck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Steinbeck) Wednesday, March 7 2012

*Grapes of Wrath* (1939), *East of Eden* (1952) and the novella *Of Mice and Men* (1937).<sup>2</sup>

*The Winter of Our Discontent* tells about Ethan Allen Hawley as a patriarch. Ethan's wife is Mary Hawley. He has a daughter and a son. His daughter's name is Ellen Hawley and his son's name is Allen Hawley. Ethan works as a grocery clerk. He works in Marullo's grocery. Marullo is an illegal immigrant from Italy that sometimes might be deported because of his status.

Ethan feels unsatisfied with his work as a grocery clerk because it is not enough to meet their family's needs and to bring his family to a better social and economic position. Because of that, Ethan gets a pressure to achieve more than higher level. Ethan keeps thinking the way to attain this better social and economic position of his family in a short time. Afterwards, Ethan makes a decision to gain wealth and power in an unusual way by following from his closest friends. He takes the advice from his friends, like Margie Young Hunt who urges him to believe her fortune-telling card, Mr. Baker a banker who urges him to be more ruthless, and Joey a bank teller who gives him a way how to rob a bank. Mr. Barker is very supporting to Ethan that can get what he wants. Mr. Barker gives the way to Ethan to kill Danny Taylor in order to get his airfield. Danny Taylor is Ethan's childhood best friend and a drunkard. He is rich. He has a big place. So, Ethan wants the land from Danny Taylor. The first action taken by Ethan, is robbing a bank by using gloves, *Mickey Mouse* mask, and etc. He robs the bank when the bank has closed but he fails because Mr. Barker comes. Nobody knows that he has robbed the bank except Joey. After that, Ethan is looking another way to do a crime. He has found the owner of the store that Alfio Marullo is an illegal Italian immigrant. They have an evil plan to let inform the local government to make him deported by Immigration and Naturalization Service. One day the government catches Marullo into custody and he gives the store to Ethan because he believes that Ethan is so honest.

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Thursday, March 21 2013

Based on the background explained above, the writer interested in analyzing *The Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck for several reasons, viz : 1) this story tells about American life; 2) full of struggle to gain a lot of wealth for the family with a various way so Ethan be obsession; 3) Obsession possessed by a protagonist give negative effect that ended with death instinct; 4) this novel teaches us about moral values so we are not doing cruelty which resulted in destruction of self.

#### **B. Identification of the Problem**

The writer identify that the problem of the research is Ethan Allen Hawley, as a protagonist has obsession to get a lot of wealth be better social and economic position of his family, but his obsession gives negative effects that to himself that eventually drives him to commit suicide. Therefore, The writer assumes that the theme of the paper is the reflection of obsession in Ethan's character that ended with the death instinct in the novel "*The Winter of Our Discontent*" by John Steinbeck.

#### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

The writer limits the problem with the analysis of the characters of Ethan Allen Hawley, and Mary Hawley. The writer uses to analysis this novel, such as : *characterization, plot, setting, and theme*, and extrinsic approach, such as: psychology of literature—obsession, and the death instinct by Sigmund Freud.

#### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

The formulation of the problem is whether the writer's assumption is true that the theme of this novel is the reflection of obsession in Ethan's character that ended with death instinct. The writer formulates the problem as follows :

1. Can the characterization method, setting and plot be used to analyze the theme?
2. Can the concept of obsession, and death instinct be used to analyze the theme?

3. Can the theme of this novel be reinforced by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

#### **E. Objective of the Research**

The writer aims to show that the theme of this novel is The Reflection of Obsession In Ethan's character That Ended with Death Instinct. To fulfill this purpose, the writer is divided into several stages :

1. To analyze the theme by using characterization method, the setting and plot concepts
2. To analyze the theme by using obsession and death instinct concept
3. To reinforced the theme by using the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches

#### **F. Framework of the theories**

The writer uses the theoretical framework consist of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Intrinsic approaches consists of characterization, plot, setting and theme. Extrinsic approaches consist of obsession and the death instinct.

1. There are some steps of intrinsic approaches :

- a. Characterization.

Characterization is a method to describe the character of each figure in the story. <sup>3</sup>In determining the character of the figure is using different ways , such as:

- 1) *Indirect method (showing)*, is the characterization through dialogue what the speaker said, identify of speaker, location, conversational situation, mental quality of the figure, tone, emphasis, dialect, and vocabulary.

- a) Characterization through dialogue

It is a rare work of fiction, whose author doesn't employ dialogue in any way to reveal, establish, and reinforce the character. For

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<sup>3</sup> Albertine Minderop. *Metode Karakterisasi Telaah Fiksi* (Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2005), p 2.

this reason the reader must be prepared to analyze dialogue in a number of different ways. I just use “what is being said”.<sup>4</sup>

b) Characterization through action

In short, the single most important and definitive method of presenting and revealing character is through action.<sup>5</sup>

2) *Direct method (telling)* is the use of the character’s name, performance, and author’s speech. <sup>6</sup> Telling relies on exposition and direct commentary by author. In telling, the guiding hand of author is very much in evidence.

a) Characterization by the author

In the most customary of telling the author interrupts the narrative and reveals directly, through a series of editorial comments, the nature and personality of the characters, including the thoughts and feelings that enters and pass through the characters’ mind. <sup>7</sup>

b. Plot

Plot is the emphasis falling on casualty in the story.<sup>8</sup> There are some elements of plot are exposition, complication, crisis, falling action, and resolution, as follow :

- 1) Exposition is in the beginning part of the author which the author provides the background of the story, situation, and time of incident.
- 2) Complication is the start of conflict between the characters that would be continue into climax.
- 3) Climax is when plot reaches the top of emotional in the story.
- 4) Falling action is the part after climax where the tension and found the resolution of the story.

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p 22.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p 49.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 4.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 15.

<sup>8</sup> Pickering and Hoepfer. *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York: Macmillan Publishing co. Inc, 1981), p 16



5) Resolution is the last part where settlement of the conflict has discovered<sup>9</sup>.

c. Setting

Setting helps the reader visualize the action of the work, it helps the reader to understand the purpose of the analyze the story like revealing of character and to provide background for the action. <sup>10</sup>There are some elements of setting, follow as :

1) Setting as Background for Action

We speak of setting as background and we have in mind a kind of setting that exists by and large for its own sake, without any clear relationship to action or characters, or at best a relationship that is only tangential and slight.

2) Setting as Antagonist.

Setting in the form of nature can function as a kind of casual agent or antagonist, helping to establish plot conflict and determine the outcome of events.

3) Setting as a Means of Creating Appropriate Atmosphere.

Many authors manipulate their setting as a means of arousing the reader's expectations and establishing as appropriate state of mind for the events to come.

4) Setting as a Means of Revealing Character.

Very often the way in which a character perceives the setting, and the way he or she reacts to it, will tell the reader more about the character and his state of mind than it will about the actual physical setting itself.

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<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 16-17.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, p.37.

## 5) Setting as a Means of Reinforcing Theme.

Setting can also be used as a means of reinforcing and clarifying the theme of a novel or short story.<sup>11</sup>

### d. Theme

Theme is one of those critical terms that mean very different things to different people. To some, who think of literature mainly as vehicle for teaching, preaching, propagating a favourite idea, or encouraging some form of correct conduct, theme may mean the moral or lesson that can be extrapolated from the work.<sup>12</sup>

## 2. There are some concepts of extrinsic approaches that I use to analyze this novel :

### a. Psychology of Literature

The term Psychology Literature has four terms, the study of psychology as a type or a personal author, study the creative process, the impact on the reader and the study of literature and the types of law, namely the law of psychology as applied to literary works. Latter sense is most related to the field of literature.

Literature. A vague term which usually denotes works which belong to the major genres: epic, drama, lyric, novel, short story, ode. If we describe something as "literature", as opposed to anything else, the term carries with it qualitative connotations which imply that the work in question has superior qualities; that is well above the ordinary run of written works.<sup>13</sup>

Psychology novel. A vague term to describe that kind of fiction which is for the most part concerned with the spiritual, emotional and mental lives of the characters and with the analysis of character rather than with the plot and action.<sup>14</sup>

### b. Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is a new view of man, in which the unconscious plays in a

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<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, p. 38-40.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, p 61.

<sup>13</sup> Albertine Minderop. *Psikologi Sastra*, (Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2010) hlm: 2.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, p 3.

central role. The term, "Psychoanalysis" is used to indicate a method of research on psychological processes (such as dreams) that had barely reached by scientific research. This term also shows a technique for treating psychological disorders experienced by neurotic patients.<sup>15</sup> Freud indicated that the greatest challenge which must be faced is how to control the aggressive impulse. For Sigmund Freud, feeling restless and anxious person it has to do with the fact that they know that the human race will be extinct. The Psychodynamic theory in science that interesting is ID, EGO and superego.

#### 1. Obsession

Definiton of obsession is an idea and motion which are attached to the mind and heart, and they will not go away. The individual concerned is always aware of trying to eliminate them.<sup>16</sup> The ideas that emerge and disrupt the normal mind. In usually , thus ideas are not pleasant, not rational but can not be eliminated. The origin of obsession is unknown by people themselves.

There are some kinds of obsessions. First, intrusive obsession is a thought of using that seems to enter our minds from out of nowhere. Then reoccurring obsession is a thought of using that enters our minds repeatedly throughout the day. Fighting with this thought consumes all of our energy. Third, circumstantial obsession we are presenting with the opportunity to use and cannot think of any good reason not to, even though we have everything to lose. The fundamental obsession may not be experienced as a thought of using at all. Instead, we experience this obsession as a basic preoccupation with ourselves and how we feel. It is

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<sup>15</sup> K. Bertens. *Sigmund Freud Memperkenalkan Psikoanalisa*. (Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 1991) pp. 7-8.

<sup>16</sup> Kartini Kartono. *Psikologi Abnormal dan Abnormalitas Seksual* (Bandung: Mandar Maju, 1989), p 120.

usually hard for us to identify the fundamental obsession at first, because it is so much a part of how we experience the world.<sup>17</sup>

Causes :

- a. According to Freud: There isn't suppression of sexual experience that followed by social aggression
- b. Conflict between the tendency to do something because the act of lust driven, against great of fear to do so. There is also a conflict between the elements of the distressed.

The Impact of obsession are :

1. Kleptomania-impulse that cannot be prevented to steal or take something
  2. Megalomania-impulse that cannot be prevented to become ruler
  3. Homicidal Maniac - impulse that cannot be prevented from killing
  4. Suicidal Maniac impulse - that cannot be prevented from suicide.<sup>18</sup>
2. Death Instinct (Thanatos) is death drive underlying aggressive and destructive. Both of these instincts, even though they remained a force in nature subconscious motivation. Instincts can lead to suicide or self destruction or being aggressive to others.<sup>19</sup> Freud believes that was determined by two basic energies. The life instincts which found expression in sexual behavior and the death instincts which underline aggressive acts. These instincts, though unconscious, were powerful motivational forces. Both psychoanalytic theory and instinct theory were influential in turning interest way from a rationalistic conception of people toward a motivational view that saw behavior as the result of unconscious, irrational forces within the individual.

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<sup>17</sup><http://stepstudy.org/2008/11/01/four-kinds-of-mental-obsession-a-brief-excerpt-of-becoming-recovered-10/> . Sunday, May 16 2013

<sup>18</sup> Yustinus Semiun. *Kesehatan Mental 2* (Yogyakarta: Kansius, 2006) ,p 334.

<sup>19</sup> Albertine Minderop. *Psikologi Sastra* (Jakarta : Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2010), p. 27.

Sometimes, death instinct presents itself openly as suicide and suicidal wishes.

### **G. Method of the Research**

The theoretical frame work explains that there are some steps that the writer uses to analysis this novel, such as : the research of literature, the method of data collection from novel *The Winter Of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck as the main source, and several theories are needed to analyze this novel.

### **H. Benefits of the Research.**

The method of the research explains that The benefits of this research is it can be give knowledge to the students and the readers who want to explore about *The Winter Of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck. The research is expected to be useful because it uses psychology concepts like obsession and death instincts.

### **I. Systematic Presentation of the Term Paper.**

The benefits of the research explained above, Systematic presentation is structured as follows :

#### **CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

consists of : Background of the Problem, Identification of the problem, Limitation of the problem, Formulation of the problem, Purpose of the research, Theoretical Frame Work, The method of the research, Benefits of the research, organizational presentation.

#### **CHAPTER II : THE ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEL THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT BY USING THE INTRINSIC APPROACH.**

The chapter consists of the analysis of characterization, plot, setting in the novel a titled of *The Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck.

### **CHAPTER III : THE REFLECTION OF OBSESSION THAT ENDED WITH DEATH INSTINCT IN ETHAN'S CHARACTER IN NOVEL *THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT* BY JOHN STEINBECK.**

The theme of the novel by using the result of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The extrinsic approach consisting of: glimpse of the psychology literature like an obsession, and death instincts.

### **CHAPTER IV : CLOSING**

Consists of : attachment which show the theme of this novel "The Reflection of Obsession in Ethan's character that ended with the death instinct. It presents an overview of the research subjects in the previous chapters as well as implication from studies of other variables.