

## ABSTRACT

The two problems which become the basis of the writing of this thesis are the influences of the "timshel" doctrine on the changes of the major characters' moral category and the symbolism of the major characters. Thus, the objectives of this study are, firstly, to find out the influences of the "timshel" doctrine which are experienced by the major characters, and, secondly, to find out the moral messages that Steinbeck tries to reveal to us through the symbolism of the major characters.

This thesis employs a desk research or library research, includes an analysis of the author's life and his works. The major characters in the novel are analyzed from three points, namely, the characterization, the changes that are caused by the "timshel" doctrine, and the symbolism.

From the study of the major characters' changes which are influenced by the "timshel" doctrine, it is found out that man is actually born with two characteristics in him, good and bad. It is not true if man thinks that he is born inherited with sin, so that he cannot be a good man. Actually, man is free in deciding whether he wants to be a good man or to be a bad man.

From the discussion of the symbolism, it is found out that no one is perfect in the world. An absolutely good man and an absolutely bad man are not found in the reality, where good and bad are complementary. Even a very good man needs a little bad in him.

This thesis also suggests the implementation of literature in teaching and learning activities. This is suggested as an alternative to raise students' reading interest, so that the students do not only read for studying but also for getting pleasure.