

## ABSTRACT

The contents of a novel will signify the meaning and the function of it. A novel will be considered good if there are some values in it. The values, indeed, will judge whether the author is of high quality or not. For values are taken from and for human life, we can say that literature provides the materials for moral judgement in the same way that life does.

An author may be inspired by the situation in his time to write a certain novel. Then, the novel will deliver his ideas and responses towards the situation to his readers. John Steinbeck was an author who was inspired by the Depression time in the United States to write The Grapes of Wrath. His novel has values that influence the reader's, i.e., in seeing others' misery.

The topic idea of this thesis emerged when I wanted to know the way how John Steinbeck responded towards miseries. And so, the main purpose of this thesis is to know his attitudes towards the situations in the Nineteen Thirties, namely economy, society, politics, culture, moral and religion. To obtain more complete information, I include here the biography of John Steinbeck. Thus, the methods of analysis are Biographical Approach and Sociocultural-historical approach.

Having analyzed his novel, I discovered that John Steinbeck was an author who loved nature, and human being. This is reflected in his criticism towards the misuse of nature, technology, wealth, and chance. He focused on the decline of moral and belief of the society in the Depression time, i.e., profit system and capitalism in economy; greediness, selfishness, individualism, desperation and frustration in society;

improper policy taken by the government, stolen rights and injustice in politics; modernization in culture; pragmatism and secular ethics in moral; and disfunction of religion. In general, John Steinbeck asked the readers to think over the oppressed, to help them, and to strengthen the weakling to struggle and to survive in bad condition.