

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature holds a unique position among the disciplines. It serves as a point of convergence for issues that concern aesthetics, psychology, history, and so on. Literature comes from Latin *Litteratura* meaning writing formed with letters. Literature most commonly refers to work of the creative imagination, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, journalism, and sometimes it uses in some instances, song. Literature represents the culture and the tradition of a language of people. The writer finds the culture and the tradition from the arts that people make, such as in a poetry, drama, and etc. From that arts the readers can differentiate the culture from anything.

Literature can explain everyone's minds and senses of life. Therefore, Hudson in *An Introduction to Study Literature* states,

“Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is their fundamentally and expression of life through the medium of language” (1965:10).

Further, among the literary forms, novel is the most popular one. Novels can give form to a set of attitudes regarding society, history, the general culture which the novel is a part. The readers read a novel because it gives a complete enjoyment, besides providing men hunger of information. The novel is the one which can offer personal experience about the entire social world with all its activities and problems. Novels tell the whole story in which many characters

bound one another, while short story only focuses on limited characters. Novel gives a portrait of character or social background. According to Kennedy, novel is a book length story in prose whose author tries to create the sense that, while the people read, the reader experience actual life (1966: 180). By reading the novel, the reader not only enjoys the plot of the story, but also known about the events which happen in society.

The researcher chooses the novel entitled *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck as the object of the study. John Steinbeck is an american author of twenty seven books, including sixteen novels, six non-fiction books, and five collections of short stories. The most popular novel by John Steinbeck is *The Pearl*.

This John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* talks about the oppression in Mexico in 1854. At that time, the project due to lack of US support and pressure from the Mexican government to retake the region. *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 son, Coyotito. Coyotito stings by a scorpion, then Kino and Juana go to see the local doctor who refuse to treat Coyotito because Kino can not pay. When they down near the sea, Kino founds a very large oyster, when Kino opens it, he founds a big pearl. The news that Kino has found an immense pearl travels fast through La Paz. The doctor who refused to treat Coyotito decides to visit Kino. {www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/p/the-pearl/book-summary (accessed on April 8th, 2017 at 04.40 pm)}

In this novel, John Steinbeck paints an incredibly simplistic portrait of greed and oppression in *The Pearl*. In this research, the researcher would like to analyze the oppression and the effects of Kino. It is always give story about the man who suffers from all of his problem. It never gives a happy story but always evil and suffer. All competition in this novel is unhealthy, and everyone who is motivated by self-interest rather than concern for others is bad news bears. The humanity is not important here, because money always goes first. People does not

have an empathy anymore with other human, they just look for money without caring others.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This research aims to analyze literature used in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*.

The study deals with the following problems :

1. What are the oppression suffered by Kino in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* ?
2. What are the effects of oppression toward himself ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This research aims to analyzed literature used in the novel entitled *The Pearl*. The objectives of the studies are as follows :

1. To describe the oppression suffered by Kino in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*.
2. To describe the effects of oppression toward Kino.

1.4 Scope of the Problem

Related to the John Stenbeck's *The Pearl*, this research will focus on the oppression toward the american natives. This discussion also concentrate on Kino's family characters and the oppression suffered by Kino's Family.

1.5 Significance of the study

This research by John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* is arranged for some purposes. First, the writer wants to show to the readers about the society's oppression toward American natives in Mexico in 1854 when the project collapsed due to lack of US support and pressure from the Mexican government to retake the region. Next, the writer needs to get a clear understanding about the characters and the characteristics of human being, for instance the desire, ambition, disappointment, happiness, greed and so on. Last, the writer wants to get the clarification about Kino who suffered in the oppression. So the readers will understand more about the John Steinbeck's novel *The Pearl*.