

STEINBECK'S WORLDVIEW TOWARD THE EFFECTS OF MATERIALISM IN THE MEXICAN COLONIAL ERA AS REFLECTED IN *THE PEARL*

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Abstract

This research has two objectives. The first is to describe the views or perspectives of John Steinbeck toward the effects of materialism in Mexican colonial era depicted through *The Pearl*. The second is to reveal the way John Steinbeck describes the phenomena through the literary elements of the novella. This research applies genetic structuralism theory that is proposed by Lucien Goldmann. The researcher used qualitative analysis. The research's main data were expressions taken from Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. To analyze the data, the researcher used deductive approach. To ensure the trustworthiness of the data, the researcher applied triangulation. The first result of this research is that there are Steinbeck's worldviews on the effects of materialism that can be explained into three categories. The first one is the trait of possessiveness. It can be defined as the desire to possess someone's things. The trait can be seen through the character of Kino, the neighbors, the doctor, the priest and the pearl buyers. The second trait is envy. It can be seen through the character of the neighbors and the doctor. The third trait is non-generosity. It can be defined as a reluctant feeling to share possession and it can be seen through the doctor and the pearl buyers. The second result is that there are three significant literary elements representing Steinbeck worldviews i.e. the character, the plot and the setting.

Keywords: Genetic structuralism, worldview, materialism, literary element, John Steinbeck, *The Pearl*.

INTRODUCTION

The impulse to buy and possess things is considered as a natural human beings' behavior. Once they are able to fulfill their basic needs, they still want to possess more things. As an impact, a lot of new products ranging from technology to cosmetic are advertised on media everyday. It even makes people become obsessed with material things. They are interested in spending their money on things projected as valuable images. As a result, they start to value material things based on the luxury image they project which is usually associated with materialistic manner. Materialism brings temporary happiness that cover fundamental unhappiness. As an example, people are often disappointed with things they

purchased after realizing that those possessions are unworthy compared to the effort to earn the money while those possessions only gave them temporary happiness. Things that they own often end up owning them and make them become less empathic. The correlation between materialism and the lack of empathic behavior leads people to become unaware to the values of humanity.

Humans are often driven by their desires to possess high-value goods that they believe can improve their status. In January 1848, a farmer in Sacramento found a glimmering piece of metal which turned out to be gold. Weeks later, the rumor spread and people who struck by the 'gold fever' began to gather around the area. Many people closed their shop and

abandoned their works to leave the town to find gold. In a year, new buildings were built by the new settlers and they started to create a community. As a result, the Native Americans of California were driven off their traditional hunting and gathering grounds. Their rivers were polluted by gravel, silt and toxin from the new mines. Some of the natives who tried to protect their land were slaughtered by the miners. Those who were not killed slowly starved to death and died from diseases. This savage materialism is a typical attitude of European immigrants in the new world who saw the native population as an obstacle that should be eradicated. In some ways, the miners' materialism behavior is understandable since they were living in a great poverty and for them, digging the gold seemed to be their last resort as an escape from starvation. Gaining wealth out of the new world became the colonist's main reason. Colonialism brings greater issues to the colonized society they live in.

Mexico experienced a colonialism era for over 300 years under the Spanish colony. The colonialism era in Mexico began in early 1511 until 1821. At first, the arrival of the white men in the Mexican land was regarded as a good sign and even some of them assumed that the white people were the incarnation of God. However, the arrival of the Spanish colonists to Mexico caused many conflicts, both the conflict between indigenous and colonizer and among indigenous tribes. The arrival of the Spanish also carried infectious diseases, one of them was smallpox.

During this era, they called Mexico as 'New Spain' and built settlement around the capital city of the native tribe. Many of them came to Mexico wanting to make fortune and bring natural resources to Spain.

Through the era of colonialism, many indigenous people became the victims of conflict caused by the colonizer. Due to the turbulent war, many cities were eventually destroyed and subdued in the hands of the colonizer. Technological advances brought by the Spanish influenced a great deal of victory in the battlefield. Many people died in the battlefield and even a great number of people died because of starvation and disease. The Spanish colonizer took natives as slaves. Moreover, they also took almost all of the supplies of silver and gold from their mines. The war brought misery and the great loss for indigenous people.

Spanish colonization in the land of Mexico brought many changes to the Mexican in a variety of fields including the field of social, culture, politic and economic. The indigenous people were marginalized because of the increasing number of settlements built by the colonizer. Several of them started to build settlements of indigenous people in the infertile area that are far away from colonizer civilization. There were also indigenous people who worked for a living under the oppression of the colony.

After several years, the relationship between colonizer and indigenous people society turned out to be a relationship between

two societies which inhabited two different castes. Mistreatment of the colonizer which formerly received poorly by the natives became an acceptable ordinariness for them. At least, the presence of colonizer also brought positive effects for them to learn the advanced agricultural and plantation technology. Another acceptable impact was the number of construction of public facilities built by them such as roads, bridges, public buildings and advance aquatic system. In this case, colonizer as a top class also serves as a regulatory or governmental system maker that includes laws and economic rules, arranged for the benefit of their families. Some natives became their accomplices who were loyal and obedient to their orders. The influence of colonizer toward indigenous society was able to reach up to the level of ideology. Consequently, they, who used to live the simple life and uphold the values of spirituality, started to move into a way of life based on a material possession and physical comfort or materialism. This phenomenon became a central theme in John Steinbeck's novella entitled *The Pearl*.

Literary works perceived as a reflection or representation of society. A literary work is a perception of an author's idea of an observation towards social phenomena of the society such as the culture, the way of life of the people, belief and the economic and political systems. The ideas an author got from the observation are the genuine or personal thoughts of the author about certain phenomena on the society. Wellek and Warren

(1956: 64) say that a literary work cannot be separated from society, for the author himself is a part of the society. The relation of an author and his society cannot be denied because what author does to the society also affect the society itself and can also create new phenomena. However, the society it self cannot be separated from the author. The author's life and experience on social interaction in the society can also be seen on the author's works. Therefore, the literary work can be used as a medium in analyzing the society and certain phenomena in it.

Among the famous American authors, John Steinbeck is one of them. He wrote many literary works that reflect the society. He is well known as a naturalist or realism novelist. His works in writing the literary work brought him on receiving Nobel and Pulitzer Prize. He got Pulitzer Prize for his realistic and imaginative writings which are keen social issues. As a child, Steinbeck experienced the effect of the loss of money his family had when his father lost his job that caused his mother struggled to make sure that this loss did not affect much the family. As a result, he distrusted money and money's effect on people becomes the major theme in Steinbeck's works. His worldviews which represented on each of his literary work often criticizes society's dilapidation. According to his views and the depiction on his several novels, Steinbeck often associated as a leftist novelist. Through his works, he is able to penetrate his views toward the readers about the phenomena

and teach lesson about pursuing wealth while at the same time providing the realistic depiction of society. However, knowing more about his worldview that is represented on his literary works becomes important because one of the merits of literature is to enlighten the readers about phenomena happen in the society. Other significance in studying great author's worldviews, such Steinbeck, is their capabilities to transcend their views related to the social conditions so that the meanings within the text are unrelated to the conditions of the readers.

The Pearl by John Steinbeck is written while he and his friend, Ed Ricketts, traveled at La Paz, Baja Peninsula Sur, Mexico in 1940's and published in 1947. It tells a story of Kino, an Indian fisherman, who found a great pearl that people perceive as a legend of the pearl of the world. Kino's son, Coyotito, who stung by a scorpion is the cause of his father in finding the great pearl. Kino finds the pearl in a necessity of medicinal treatment cost of his son who needs to get immediate treatment of scorpion stung. The spreading news about Kino who found the great pearl along the city and Kino's settlement changed the way people on seeing his family. Juana, Kino's wife, sees that the pearl as a future threat that will bring calamity to his family but Kino denied. He believes that this pearl will bring great fortune for his family and his tribe. The pearl which associated with luxury, beauty and also wealthy caused the fluctuation in Kino's family and his society.

Steinbeck's *The Pearl* which brings social issues is chosen as the subject of this study because this novella conveys phenomena which are deceived by material things. It still exists till now and it almost happens anywhere and anytime due to any reasons. Even each person often encounters dilemma caused by the fluctuation of the economy, politic, education and cultural problem. The danger of seeking for the material is when it is overwhelmed someone's humanity side. In *The Pearl* itself, the conflict inside society caused several problems for Kino's family and society itself such as the loss of emotional control, desire, jealousy, greed, anger and inferior feeling. It becomes more complex while dealing with Kino's family and society condition and also the status of Indian people that represents indigenous tribe as the part of the society.

This research is conducted to reveal John Steinbeck's worldview toward the phenomena on the society inside *The Pearl*. Researcher attempts to discover the connection between the world view of John Steinbeck and the phenomena of the society inside this novella. By revealing the author worldview, the researcher tries to analyze the way the worldview depicted in the story. Thus, genetic structuralism approach is used in the attempt to trace the connection of social context and its influence upon literary work.

From the focus of the research above, the researcher develops it into two research questions. The first question is about John Steinbeck's view on the effect of materialism

which is depicted through the novella. The researcher sees that the effect of materialism becomes the prominent issue in this novella. Moreover, John Steinbeck's view has an important role as his acknowledgment from critics for his realistic writings. The second question is on the way of the author use to deliver his views. By analyzing on the elements of the novella such as character, plot, and setting, the researcher will be able to find the way author represented his worldview in the novella. By employing genetic structuralism approach, the researcher tries to reveal the worldview of the author depicted in the story. Genetic structuralism approach considered as a branch of the sociology of literature because of its analysis which derivate on social-historical context on the novella's origin.

To answer the research questions the researcher employs genetic structuralism theory postulated by Lucien Goldmann. Taine, a France literary critic, is believed as the source of the basic theory of genetic structuralism (in Laurensen & Swingewood, 1972:31). He argues that a literary work is not merely an individual imaginative work, but it records the actual events on its own era which manifests the author's worldview. The notion signifies the connection between literary works (coming out of author's imagination and his understanding towards society) and society's norms and collective consciousness (Wiyatmi, 2013:19). Through literature, the author is able to express the norms and collective consciousness of a society. Thus, genetic structuralism theory

has the role as a bridge in understanding the author's worldview implemented through literary works.

Genetic structuralism is an approach to study the relationship of literature and worldview expressed in a literary work. Goldmann (1975:156) states that the base of genetic structuralism is the hypotheses that all human behaviors are an attempt to give a meaningful response to a particular situation. All human behaviors try to create the balance between the subject and the object of the action, which is brought by the environment. Thus, this study is related to the views of human towards the happening issues around his environment. The environment includes socio-cultural, economic condition, political situation and also the institutions that create the society as a whole.

According to Laurensen and Swingewood (1972:68) "genetic structuralism seeks firstly to identify certain structures within particular texts, and secondly, to relate them to concrete historical and social conditions, to a social group or social class associated with the writer and to the world vision of that class." It means genetic structuralism approach consider to be used in analyzing certain structure inside of text and its relation towards the socio-historical context. The role of the author becomes important as the author who creates the structure of the novel. As well as author's social groups and class become the concern because its influences on author's worldview according to the issues. In this research, the researcher uses Goldmann

understanding in defining the theory while using Laersonson and Swingewood method for the basis of analyzing the text.

There are several concepts that need to be understood further in genetic structuralism i.e:

1. Human Fact

Goldmann postulates the concept of literary work as the product of human fact. According to Faruk (in Kurniawan, 2012:105) Literature is the product of activity or human behavior, physically or verbally, that science seeks to understand. Human fact is the result of human activity as the subject. To be the subject of human fact, human needs to assimilate and accommodate the environment. Goldmann divides human fact into individual fact and social fact. Individual fact relates to someone's libidinal behavior and dream which is individual and has no effect on the life of society. Meanwhile, the social fact is the human fact which is connected with the history and social life of society (Kurniawan, 2012:105). However, the literary work is the product of social fact because of the existence of literature as the product of human activity which has impacts on the life of society.

2. Transindividual or Collective Subject

In genetic structuralism, the author is regarded as the transindividual subject or collective subject that transcends individual boundaries, in which the individual is only a part (Goldmann, 1981:110). As the collective subject, the author is not a mere collection of independent individuals, but a unity, a

collectivity. Therefore, the literary work which the author creates is the product of the collective subject because it relates to author's relationship with others and the existing system in a society. In this case, the author is seen as a member of a particular social group in the society. However, the literary work is the product of collective subject because it is based on the relation of the author and society so that the literature itself can affect the society.

3. Worldview

According to Goldmann, (1975:17) worldview or world vision is a term used to identify the complex ideas, aspirations and feelings that become a social group identity which held together by each member of a social group. These vision usually opposed by another member of a social group (a group, in most cases, assumes the existent of social class). Worldview is a concept held by a group of people. Another group of people possibly has a different worldview to the others and they are also possibly opposed each other's world view. This case is relevant to the conflict of class society which from each class holds different value about things.

Goldmann states (1981:112) "as collective consciousness, the world view development as a result of social and economic situation face by collective subject holds." The statement led to the conclusion that the worldview is also influenced by economic and social situation face by a group of people. Therefore, the existent of socio-

economic issues become the prominent factor towards the group of people's worldview. In this respect, the author's role is as a subject who is important in transcending his views into literary work for he is also a member of society.

Based on the homology of the structure of literary work and the social structure of society, the literary work always has a coherent structure. The structure of literary works in genetic structuralism is seen as the expression of a worldview of an author's social group and in an attempt to express his perception; the author creates imaginary characters, objects and relations (Goldmann, 1981:55). The citation signifies that the structure of literary work according to Goldmann refers to the thematic notion which focuses on the relation between the character with other characters and the objects around them. Through the analysis of the relation above, literature as the imaginary expression is able to express the worldview of the author. The worldview correlates and mediates the homology of a literary structure with the realities of society.

The researcher also uses Russel Belk theory to categorize certain negative impacts which appear as a result of materialism behavior:

1. Envy

Envy considered as negative response or displeasure of other person achievements, success, happiness or other desirable possessions. Belk then explained that envy,

which focuses on another possession, is different with jealousy, while it focuses on own possession. He emphasizes that envy constructs involves desire of other's possessions and also identified with resentment of the envious person over the person who owns desired possession.

2. Non-generosity

Belk defines non-generosity as an unwillingness behavior to share or give the possessions to others. It includes reluctance to donate or lend possessions to others and negatives attitude towards charity. Non-generosity differs with possessiveness, it is stated by Furby (in Belk, 1985:268) that children tend to generous as they lend their toy while they also show possessiveness by refusing attempts of other to take the toys that have not been offered.

3. Possessiveness

Possessiveness defined as the inclination to retain or control ownership over something. Possessiveness related to possession which can be defined as real evidence of someone's ownership over objects such as person, car, house, money even ideas. It appears as evidence that the object someone possesses is important or essential for their life.

Those three traits signify the negatives outcomes from pursuing materialism wealth that is believed as a source of pleasure. People tend to measure happiness with the achievement of financial success. According to Kasser and Ryan (1993:411) people who value to attain financial success more than affiliation,

community feelings or self-acceptance are predicted to have negative profiles associated with psychological adjustment. In addition, when goals for financial success exceeded the value of affiliation, community feelings or self-acceptance, worse psychological adjustment was found. Thus, the researcher sees the importance of studying Steinbeck's worldview, which represented on his novella, about the impact of materialism.

To answer second research question, the researcher employs several theories on literary elements. There are three literary elements that the researcher found significant in answering the second question.

1. Plot

Each story has a beginning and ending, the plot is a device used by the author to construct the story from the beginning till the ending. The plot is scheme, design, or pattern of events in a play, poem or work of fiction; and further, the organization of incident and character in such a way as to induce curiosity and suspense in the spectator or reader (Cuddon, 1999:676). The plot usually consists of three parts; beginning, middle and ending. The plot structure of a story consists of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and denouement (Kennedy, 1976:9). Plot in literary work consists of actions of the characters and events which are ordered created particular emotional and artistic effect.

2. Setting

Setting is places or locations and times

depicted in a story to answer the questions when and where the story happens. Setting used by the author to tell the readers about the conditions of surrounding of the stories. It often associates as a medium to create the atmosphere of a story. The setting is the depiction of the general locale, historical time and social circumstances in which the events happen; setting of place is about geographical conditions such as town and villages while setting of time has something to do with the socio-historical background of a story (Abrams, 1999:284).

3. Character

Character is the figures inside of the story and it can be depicted as a human or non-living thing or even abstract entity. The reader invents the characters through the basis of what author tells the reader about the characters and on the basis of what the characters do and say. Through the actions and dialogues told by the characters, the reader can interpret its significances to the story. The characters are part of the broader pattern: they are members of a society and author's distinctive view of how people relate to society will be reflected in the representation of every character (Cuddon, 1999:126). The author requires more than descriptions of their physical appearances, actions and dialogue to make the characters more believable. Therefore, to make the characters alive the author develops and describes the character into the details such as their response to an event, their views and also such things as

thought and emotion (Murfin and Ray, 2003:53). According to its role, the character is divided into two i.e. protagonist and antagonist. Protagonist character is the main hero of the story (Cuddon, 1999:706) while antagonist character is a character who works against protagonist struggles (Cuddon, 1999:41)

RESEARCH METHOD

This research employs a descriptive qualitative method since it involved the collection of data for the purpose of analysis. According to Vanderstoep and Johnson (2009:167) this method focusing on social, cultural, personal identity and its goal is more descriptive than predictive. Moreover, Strauss and Corbin (1998:11) stated that qualitative research is achieved not by means of quantification or statistical technique. It can give more complex detail about particular phenomena which are difficult to be explained through the quantitative method. The findings of a qualitative research are presented in the form of words and particular expressions rather than in the form of statistical and numerical data that are frequently encountered in the quantitative research. In this research, the qualitative method was chosen by the researcher due to its characteristics that are appropriate for the study.

Besides that, the deductive approach is employed by the researcher as an appropriate method in this research. According to Vanderstoep and Johnson (2009:168) the deductive approach is a process of research

begins with the process of reasoning from a hypothesis or theory before conducting an empirical observation and reaching the conclusion. The observation of the studies was based on the data sheets. The data sheets include sentences and utterances which contain the data needed.

The research data are expressions in the novella entitled *The Pearl* which selectively chose by the researcher. The data are presented in the form of expressions related to the objectives of the research. The data are displayed into data sheets which are categorized into certain criteria to answer the objectives: (1) to explain the Steinbeck's worldviews toward the effect of materialism in the Mexican colonial era depicted through *The Pearl*, and (2) to reveal the ways John Steinbeck describes the phenomena through elements of the novella.

In conducting the research, the researcher considered as the main instrument. The researcher planned the research, collected the data, scrutinized and interpreted the data and reported the result of the analysis in accordance with the procedures. Furthermore, the table list was used by the researcher as the secondary instrument. To make the identification of the data easier, the researcher also arranged the data and the interpretations into the table list, which helps the researcher to scrutinize the data. The table lists contain quotations, pages, category and explanations or meanings.

In gaining data trustworthiness, the

researcher used peer debriefing to check the validity of the findings. The strategy involves other people to examine, ask and review the research (Creswell, 2009:192). In order to achieve this, the researcher consulted the data to the thesis supervisor. Besides, the researcher discussed the research to the peer-review. The discussion is conducted to get some suggestions, input and criticism related to the research.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this part, the discussion is divided into two main sections, i.e (1) the effects of materialism represented in the novella and (2) the analysis of literary elements. The objectives are represented through the description and explanation of data findings.

A. The Effects of Materialism Represented in the Novella

1. Possessiveness

The most dominant trait the researcher found as the result of pearl discovery is possessiveness. In term of materialism, the trait of possessiveness can be hold by anyone who has the desire to own someone's things. Almost all of the characters in the novella possess this trait though there are different motives which trigger each character to show it. The trait can be seen in their dialogues, and their way of thinking and acting through the story.

This dominant trait is shown by Kino, the main character, in the novella. Kino is a simple sailor who lives with his wife Juana and

son Coyotito. Kino comes from the Indian tribe of La Paz, the native who inhabited the area long before the colonies came and marginalized their existence. For Kino's tribe, their main problems are three namely poverty, disease and hunger. When Coyotito is stung by a scorpion, Kino's family is suffered and confused with the baby's condition. Besides, Coyotito is their only child who is everything they have. Therefore their effort to bring the son to the doctor and desperately seek the pearl for the treatment fee can be seen as a worthy effort for his son's healing. Knowing the great pearl he found is more than enough for medical expenses, Kino put his dreams and hopes on that pearl.

"My son will read and open the books, and my son will write and will know writing. And my son will make numbers, and these things will make us free because he will know - he will know and through him we will know." And in the pearl Kino saw himself and Juana squatting by the little fire in the brush hut while Coyotito read from a great book. "This is what the pearl will do," said Kino."(Steinbeck, 1947:13)

Kino prioritizes education as the main thing his son should have, so he hopes with this pearl he can send his son to school. He hopes the education will make his family and his people free from the oppression of the colonialists. In this case, the author reveals that education is one of the means of domination of the colonialists. By seizing access to education, the indigenous people will never get enough knowledge about freedom. Therefore

education is very vital for their people and through the pearl Kino will be able to acquire what they want.

Other characters affected by possessiveness are Kino's neighbor. The neighbors are having a close sense of togetherness. This sense of togetherness also appears in the case of the discovery of the pearl by the Kino's family. Instantly when they heard the news they speculated about their imaginations on having that pearl.

They spoke of what they would do if they had found the pearl. And one man said that he would give it as a present to the Holy Father in Rome. Another said that he would buy Masses for the souls of his family for a thousand years. Another thought he might take the money and distribute it among the poor of La Paz; and a fourth thought of all the good things one could do with the money from the pearl, of all the charities, benefits, of all the rescues one could perform if one had money (Steinbeck, 1947:22).

The quotation above explains about the people's reaction after they found out that Kino had found the pearl. Their dreams and hopes which are attached to Kino's pearl lead to the conclusion of people's interests in Kino's great pearl. They hope that they were supposed to have a similar fate with Kino. They have different dreams but the same way to achieve that dream is by having the great pearl. By selling the great pearl, which certainly has a doubled sale price or even more than a regular pearl, they will get a lot of money that will eventually fulfill their dreams.

The feeling of possessiveness leads them to the desire to have the same thing with Kino. Moreover, it is strengthened with a sense of togetherness that makes the neighbors believe about the luck brought by the pearl. The pearl that they have never seen might as well be sold for money that they never had. "The needs, the lusts, the hungers, of everyone and only one person stood in the way and that was Kino, so that he becomes curiously every man's enemy" (Steinbeck, 1947:11-12). Their interest in Kino could be said to have the same reason as the colonists do. They can see the pearl that everybody wants with their own eyes. This, of course, gives rise to the turmoil within them arising in the form of schemes, plans and dreams.

The news about pearl is not only known by the indigenous people but also people of the descendants of colonists, including a pastor of a church located in the middle of town. "It came to the priest walking in his garden, and it put a thoughtful look in his eyes and a memory of certain repairs necessary to the church. He wondered what the pearl would be worth. And he wondered whether he had baptized Kino's baby, or married him for that matter" (Steinbeck, 1947:11). The priest immediately imagined what he can do with the pearl owned by Kino. He tries to remember about the deeds he has done to Kino's family that make him worth to get the benefit of the great pearl. This shows that the pastor

has been affected by the same thing. One of the colonialism's missions is gospel or spreading the religion. In this sense, the spirit of religious propagation underlying colonialism is another form of colonialization. In addition, the colonization is not only in the form of wealth property but also in term of religion or belief.

It is not only Kino's neighbor who are trying to connect themselves to him, but the priest and the doctor who are descendants of the colonialists. The doctor, who previously refused to treat Kino's child and even refused to come to the territory of the indigenous settlement, changed his attitude after he had heard the news.

The news came to the doctor where he sat with a woman whose illness was age, though neither she nor the doctor would admit it. And when it was made plain who Kino was, the doctor grew stern and judicious at the same time. "He is a client of mine," the doctor said. "I am treating his child for a scorpion sting." And the doctor's eyes rolled up a little in their fat hammocks and he thought of Paris. He remembered the room he had lived in there as a great and luxurious place (Steinbeck, 1947:11).

The doctor previously mentioned that Kino came from the indigenous race that is lower class than him, but after hearing the news his opinion about him changed. Instead he tells others about his patients who found the pearl. The doctor can be said as a person who can afford and have money and status as an educated person was still enamored by the pearl. His ambition is shown by his change of attitude towards Kino and his speculations that

come after he hears the news.

As with the doctor and the pastor, the existences of the pearl buyers are very important for the lives of native citizens. The pearl buyers are the only place to go for Indian people after they finished all day long looking for the pearl. They have full power over the price of each pearl brought by pearl divers. They signify colonial dominance in the economic realm of the pearl divers. "And when the day had come, in the offices of the pearl buyers, each man sat alone with his little black velvet tray, and each man rolled the pearls about with his finger-tips and considered his part in the picture" (Steinbeck, 1947:21). After hearing the news about Kino's great pearl, they just know what he will do with his pearl. The pearl buyers plan something against Kino's pearl, so they can make as much profit as possible from the pearl. For that, they need to work together to fool the pearl diver so that they share a role in planning price game to get inexpensive but good quality of pearl.

2. Envy

The second trait appears as an impact of materialism the researcher found is envy. Envy is a resent feeling about someone's possession of something. The feeling of envy is characterized by the inherent sense of possessiveness towards materials that other people have while they do not have. "The neighbors, close pressed and silent in the house, nodded their heads at his wild imaginings. And a man in the rear murmured: A rifle. He will have a rifle" (Steinbeck, 1947:13). The

neighbors know that Kino can get whatever he wants through the pearl. And what he will dream becomes everyone's attention. It includes his desire to own a rifle. It is an object that rarely possessed by a native. Normally they prefer to buy clothes and foods but since the amount of money he can get will be more than enough to buy them, Kino desires something else. Besides of its necessity, the rifle is a thing they have seen and closely related to the colonialist descendants. It is often attributed as the symbol of power that Kino will have as a man and as a native.

Not only Kino's neighbors but also the doctor who are envy to see him founding a pearl. Another example of a sense of envy is experienced by doctor who in fact is an educated colonialist descendant.

The doctor shrugged, and his wet eyes never left Kino's eyes. He knew the pearl would be buried in the house, and he thought Kino might look toward the place where it was buried. "It would be a shame to have it stolen before you could sell it," the doctor said (Steinbeck, 1947:18).

The above quotation shows the doctor's thought that Kino does not deserve to possess the great pearl. He considered himself to be the one who suits for possessing the great pearl. He subtly states that he is richer and more capable to keep the pearl. This feeling also becomes the motive of his great desire to get a share of the pearl by treating Kino's son.

The second trait, envy, is mainly shown

by the neighbors and the doctor. Basically the trait of envy is triggered by the displeasure towards someone's material possession. The neighbors are envy because of their discontent with Kino's great pearl and his dreams. This circumstance led them to assume about bad things that will happen to Kino's family. While the doctor's envy caused by his displeasure on seeing the great pearl on Kino's hand. He considers himself much worthy on keeping the great pearl than Kino.

3. Non-generosity

The impact of materialism can also lead to non-generosity trait. Fundamentally, non-generosity is based on a person's tendency not to share what he has to others. The attitude of non-generosity arises because of someone who always prioritizes himself or their own selfish interests. The example of non-generosity is shown by the doctor character. His character reflects a money-oriented figure. "Has he any money? The doctor demanded. "No they never have any money. I, I alone in the world am supposed to work for nothing- and I am tired of it. See if he has any money" (Steinbeck, 1947:6). As a doctor, he thinks that the knowledge he has cannot be shared freely to anyone even though that person is in urgently need of it. He thinks that his work can only be exchanged with the appropriate amount of money. When Kino came to his mansion, the doctor question is about payment or money that emphasizes his orientation toward material possession.

The economy of the native depends

on the colonialists. The colonials are supporters of financial for the native who work as pearl divers. Nevertheless, the pearl buyer is not a bunch of good people they can hang on to in the field of pearl trading. Therefore, the existence of pearl buyer is very important for the survival of the natives. "Quite apart from any reward they might get, from any word of praise, from any promotion, a pearl buyer was a pearl buyer, and the best and happiest pearl buyer was he who bought for the lowest prices" (Steinbeck, 1947:21). The quotation underlies that through their bargaining expertise, a pearl buyer has full power over the pearl price.

The third trait is shown by the doctor and the pearl buyers. The doctor does not want to share his knowledge or skill to treat Kino's son because of Kino's lack of money. The doctor only treats the patient who has money to pay his deed. While the other character, pearl buyers, are reluctant to share a fair profit between them and the people who sell their pearls. These people are trying to manipulate Indian people's ignorance to the pearl's price. This way, the pearl buyers can monopolize the market and the pearl's price.

The researcher found that Steinbeck's views on the effects of materialism in this novella are leaning towards the negative side. The author tries to remind the audience of the materialistic behavior that leads to certain negative impacts toward an individual or even a society. Through the points above, the researcher explains the data found which divided

into certain categories. The first trait, possessiveness, explains about the effect of materialism on the desire of someone to own other's thing. The desire becomes the drive of someone to do anything in order to obtain the thing. In fulfilling this desire, sometimes someone is losing himself in the path of unknown. It can be seen in Kino's character through his lost and regained consciousness to the value of a material thing.

B. Literary Elements Representing Author's Worldview on the Effects of Materialism

1. Character

a. Kino

Through the protagonist, the author articulates his view about American Indians response towards the materialism phenomenon. Kino is the major character who experienced the lost and regained consciousness toward his understanding on material possession. He is an Indian fisherman who lives in a coastal village in La Paz. He has a wife named Juana and a son named Coyotito. "Kino was young and strong and his black hair hung over his brown forehead. His eyes were warm and fierce and bright and his mustache was thin and coarse" (Steinbeck, 1947:2). It depicted clearly about the physical description of Kino. By looking at the description, the author represents Kino as an Indian. The great pearl, the representation of material possession, that Kino found turns his simple life completely into a complex life.

Kino, as a modest fisherman, had never before found such a pearl. The pearl

instantly conjures up his hidden ambitions. "Kino's face was set, and his mind and his will were set. "This is our one chance," he said. "Our son must go to school" (Steinbeck, 1947:20). Through the citation, it can be seen that Kino's ambition is indicated by his eagerness to send his son to a school. It is also proved by saying that this is their only chance, that the pearl is the only way to be able to send their child to school. The ambition is also based on his intention to make his son as the first literate man in his tribe.

By employing Kino as a major character the author tries to give vivid illustration towards the effect of materialism through American Indians' perspective. Through Kino, the author depicts the effects of materialism especially on someone's motivation on pursuing materialistic things. After he got the pearl, he wants to sell it and own other things such as clothes, a rifle and sending his son to school. Thinking that by selling the great pearl they will get a lot of money, he believes it brings the fortune to his family. His belief led him to be brave and confidence in facing every threat that comes after his pearl. He has made up his mind to sacrifice anything even himself to earn a lot of money through selling the pearl. In the end, his decision on keeping the pearl led the family into a misfortune. He realized his effort becomes fruitless when his only child killed in the journey of selling the pearl. The presence of material which symbolizes with the great pearl gave them certain impacts on their perception of things. Every his course of action that is

driven by his ambition on pursuing material possession led him to a destruction. Through Kino's character, Steinbeck tries to show to the audience on the destructive impact of materialism.

Kino's character is an embodiment of Steinbeck's worldview on the effect of materialism that can change the human's perception about the value of material possession. Kino's struggle in keeping the pearl becomes an illustration of human reliance on material thing or possession. He believes his great pearl is a manifestation of the miracle that can get him out of misery. Unconsciously, his commitment to bring his family into a better life blinded him upon other important things. Through the character of Kino, Steinbeck attempts to criticize overly devotion to material possession. This over devotion often led human into unending thirst for worldly gaining. Thus, some of them, such as Kino, turned into a greedy person and ended up in suffering.

b. The Doctor, The Priest and The Pearl Buyers

Those three characters are the portrayal of colonial force that oppressed Indian people. They are the antagonists of the story. The characters are important because they represent colonial attitudes toward American Indian people. Each character holds special role inside the society that makes their presence is essential for Indians people. The doctor symbolizes oppression to access to health, the pearl buyers symbolize the oppression in the

economic field and the priest symbolizes the infiltration through their belief system.

The author uses these three characters to convey his worldview on the materialism effect towards the drive of material possession. He uses these antagonist characters to provide another point of view in facing the phenomenon. Their antagonist behaviors are shown by their similar drive that is to get the benefit of the great pearl Kino has, even though each character has their own way to achieve it, the doctor through his ability to cure the sick person, the pearl buyers through their filthy tricks and the priest through empowering his influence. Those behaviors become evidence, that they put more values into material possession and gaining rather than for the sake of humanity. Thus, their eyes cannot see the unfairness, oppression and other inhumane acts around them because it is blinded by material matters.

2. Plot

a. Conflict

Through the conflict, the author utilizes Kino's character to show his worldview on the obsession of material thing. For Kino, the presence of the great pearl can be regarded as a trial for his stance on valuing material thing. His views on other important values are starting to blur once he glorifies his pearl by attaching his dreams and hopes. Moreover, Kino's role as a father figure of the family affects his decision on the fate of the great pearl. As a father, he has the ambition to improve the extent life of his

family. Aside from the pressure he got from his ambitions, Kino gets another pressure from Juana that demands him to abandon the pearl. Juana's character is a representation of consciousness that resists the great pearl's seduction. She has the role to oppose Kino's foolish dreams. She chooses to live peacefully without the pearl rather than to live uncomfortably. Juana can sense the danger, the evil force, behind the desirable great pearl that attracts everyone. Kino ignores his wife's suggestion because he is already obsessed with the great pearl. Here shows that Kino's obsession made him loses his sense of understanding the phenomenon. His rejection of Juana's suggestion signifies his submission towards fulfilling his obsession.

b. Falling action or denouement

The part is mainly focusing on author worldview on the impact of over obsession towards the material thing. The death of Coyotito becomes the turning point for the family. It is the only thing that can stop Kino's ambition. The event shows his negligence towards the other thing that is more valuable than his foolish dreams. Coyotito can be seen as the embodiment of their real hopes and dreams. Moreover, his presence in the middle of the family is earlier than the great pearl they have and he is the motive of their struggle. The death of Coyotito can be regarded as their great loss, their calamity, even compared to the loss of all the great pearl the world possesses. In pursuing less valuable material

thing, humans often forget the price they offer by sacrificing valuable things such as family, innocent life, and so on.

Furthermore, this part also shows the regaining consciousness of Kino's perception toward material value. The death of Coyotito can be seen as a meaningful death. The aftermath certainly brings the family into a miserable circumstance. On the bright side, the event leads them to the consciousness of perceiving material value. The journey of selling the pearl which is experienced by them is not about the pursuing the material things but it is about gaining consciousness on valuing matters. It is showed by their acceptance towards the consequences befall upon them. Throwing the great pearl back to the sea represents the renunciation over the obsession of material things.

The arrangements and correlations between the events can be shown through revealing the plot. The author uses the plot to deliver the meaning of the story. Through revealing it, the researcher is able to articulate the themes and views represented by the author. The plot is focusing on Kino's family journey starting from before founding the pearl till the loss of the son. The development of Kino's family in taking the response from the events becomes the center of the story. The great pearl used by the author as a plot device to drive the plot to its conclusion. At the beginning of the story, it becomes a valuable thing which can be used by Kino to accomplish his dreams. Its presence becomes

the trigger of conflict happened in the Kino's family and the society. In the end, after their child killed by the people who want to own it, both husband and wife agreed that the great pearl is a manifestation of evil force. This, the plot is representing author view on the bad effect of obsession on material things.

3. Setting

a. Setting of Time

The setting of time is used by the author to convey his views on the effect of materialism that happened in the certain period of time. The era of colonialism utilizes as the backdrop by the author brings the audience closer to the depiction of his worldview on the effects of materialism. It strengthens with the evidence that can be seen through the motive of colonialism reflected through its slogan; gold, glory and gospel. In this era, there are a lot of events that caused by the human's drive on pursuing matters. One of them is the colonization of Spanish Empire to the land of Mexico. As the result of the human greed, there arise the events of oppression, deprivation of right and other inhumane acts happened in that era. Thus, in this novella, the author uses the late of colonialism era to show the influence of colonialism motive that is still carried by its descendants. It can be concluded that the author believes the effect of materialism or the human obsession of wealth cannot be easily separated and it has become human nature for over hundreds years.

b. Setting of Place

Through the setting of place, the author explains on how the materialism effect works on a certain area. Historically, La Paz is a well-known place for its pearl quality. This reputation attracts people from around the world to come to the city and exploit its natural wealth. It signifies that the view of the author about the power of attraction radiated by material things. The arrival of people from the outside of La Paz certainly brings new problem for the natives. It raises wars and conflicts between them that lead to the domination of colonists over natives. The authority role hold by the natives elicits certain issues such as oppression, unfair treatment and segregation. The colonist and the indigenous people residential areas are divided. The colonists are mainly live in the city and their residential area characterized by luxurious things. In contrast with the indigenous people who live in the outskirts area which illustrates poverty and simplicity. Besides of its merit in depicting the attraction of a place in abundance with natural wealth, the setting of place also accurately illustrates the impact of materialism behavior on segregation and oppression.

The setting of time and place are used by the author as the backdrop in illustrating his views in this novella. These backdrops, however, strengthen the issues of the novella. The period of colonization appears emerges as a response to the needs of power over material things that can be seen from the slogan of gold, glory and gospel. Spanish colonization

era in Mexico is a periodization that affects the world economic upheaval. At that time Mexico, as a colonized region, has an important role for the Spanish troops who won the war in some places. Moreover, Baja peninsula which became the setting of place in this novella is one of the areas known for its pearl quality. Both, setting the place and time, show that the view of materialism is rooted long ago and became the foundation of building a civilization. Its presence can also illustrate that Baja peninsula is an eyewitness to the greed of mankind at that time.

CONCLUSION

Based on the previous chapter, there are some conclusions related to the objectives mentioned in the first chapter.

1. John Steinbeck's worldviews on the effects of materialism that can be found in the novella can be grouped into three categories. The researcher found Steinbeck's worldviews on the effects of materialism in the novella are leaning to the negative side. The first one is possessiveness. Possessiveness is a trait triggered by the desire to own someone's thing. This trait can be seen through the characters of Kino, the neighbors, the doctor, the priest and the pearl buyers. By possessing the great pearl, Kino wants to own things the colonists have such as sending his son to school, buying nice clothes and a rifle. Meanwhile, other people are obsessed with the great pearl Kino has that they believe can materialize their dreams. The second trait is

envy. This trait is prompted by the feeling of annoyance towards other's possession. The trait is represented by the neighbors and the doctor characters. Both characters are envied Kino's great pearl. The neighbors assume the great pearl brings misfortune and it will turn Kino into an arrogant person. At the same time, the doctor considers Kino family does not deserve the great pearl. The third trait is non-generosity. It is represented by the doctor and the pearl buyers. Non-generosity can be defined as the feeling of reluctant to share the possession to others. The doctor does not want to help to cure Coyotito because his family is poor. Meanwhile, the pearl buyers are do not share the fair profit to the sellers who are consists of the indigenous people. Through those traits, the author shows his stance toward the effects of materialism which are experienced by the characters inside the novella. By analyzing those trait the researcher found the way the author represented his worldview towards the effects of materialism.

2. The researcher also talks about the way Steinbeck uses literary elements to represent his worldview. There are three literary elements which are important in representing the worldview of the author. The first literary element is character. In this part, the researcher found four significant characters. Those characters are divided into two regarding to its perspectives, portions and roles. The first perspective is Kino. He is the main character and the protagonist of the story. He is depicted

as a young American Indian fisherman. Through Kino's character, Steinbeck illustrates his worldview through the perspective of the indigenous people. Kino is an embodiment of author's worldview on the effect of materialism that can change human's perception about the value of material possession. The second perspectives are through the antagonist characters which consist of the doctor, the priest and the pearl buyers. Those characters are the depiction of colonial force that oppressed the Indigenous people. Each character's occupation has essential role inside the society that is needed by the Indigenous people. Thus, the author uses their presence as the embodiment of his worldview on the effect of materialism toward the drive of material possession. It proved by their motives in providing their services and their responses towards Kino's great pearl. Those behaviors become the evidence that material possession and gaining have blinded them.

The second literary element is plot. The researcher divided the plot into two significant parts i.e. conflict and denouement. In the conflict part the author gives depiction on the conflict that arises in the society. The conflict is about the discovery of material thing which is symbolized by the great pearl. Later on, this discovery becomes pivotal moment for Kino in deciding his commitment to pursue his obsessions. The conflict part represents author worldview on materialism phenomenon that triggers the conflicts and influences someone on pursuing obsessions. The denouement part tells

about the decision family made after their child is killed. The death of Coyotito becomes the pivotal moment for the family. The author shows the impact of obsession over material things. Furthermore, this part also shows Kino's regaining consciousness which is previously lost towards the perception on the value of material things.

The third literary element is the setting. The researcher divided the setting into two i.e. setting of time and place. The setting of time shows author's worldview on the phenomenon that happened in a certain period of time. In the novella, the late colonialism era setting is used by the author to signify the influence of colonialism motives that cannot be easily separated from the human nature. The setting of place signifies a geographical area of the phenomenon happened. The author describes the setting of the story in a place which is in abundance with natural wealth. La Paz is well-known for its pearl quality. Therefore, there are a lot of people try to exploit La Paz natural wealth at colonial era. However, the arrival of colonist brings tension to the society and it causes segregation and oppression toward the Indigenous people. The setting of place represents his worldview of the impact of materialism on the exploitation of natural wealth and oppression over powerless people.

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