

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Everyone in this world may have experienced a period of loneliness no matter who he or she is. It is one of problems in our life. It is a sense of emptiness and isolation, a sense of not belonging, a sense of being outsider, it is also indicating a sense of having no special to care about or be care about by. It ca be deep down ache of sadness or a scary alone feeling ([www.intouch.org](http://www.intouch.org)). From the idea above, it seems that loneliness concerns with people perception of their social interaction and the quality of that interaction, it can happen when someone move to a new place, or it can happen when he/she has no friends to share with. Peplau, Russel, and Heim confirm that 'loneliness occurs when a person's returned of social relations is smaller or less satisfying than his/her desire' (Peplau et al, 1979:55)

Loneliness is someone's feeling because of being ignored by his/her family or has no friends to share anything in his/her life. As such, loneliness can be felt even when surrounded by other people. The causes of loneliness are varied and include social, mental, or emotional factors. Loneliness is the condition of being lonely or being unfrequented by human beings or a feeling of depression resulting from being alone.

The loneliness is, on the one hand, real-none of the people wants to be alone. the people do not want to be alone with themselves and don't want to be left behind society. Zilboorg states that loneliness is an overwhelming, persistent experience. No matter what one does, loneliness is an "inner worm" that gnaws at the heart. (Zilboorg, 1930)

The problem above is also expressed in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, the novel tells about two migrant workers, George and Lennie. George is a small and dark man. Lennie, his friend, is big and strong man, unfortunately, he has a mentally retarded. He is deeply devoted to George and dependent upon him for protection and guidance. George complains that his life would be easier without having care for Lennie. It makes Lennie think that he should go and find a cave for live. George feels sorry and he asks Lennie to stay with him. The next day they are hired to work at the ranch. They meet Candy and Curley, the boss' son. Curley is just married, but he is very possessive and full of jealous because his wife flirts with the men at the ranch. One day, when George and Lennie are alone in the bunkhouse, Curley's wife flirts with them. George warns Lennie to stay away from her. They also meet the other hand of the ranch, Carlson. He does not like Candy's dog. He thinks that the dog is should not live with his poor condition, so he asks Candy to shoot his dog. The next day, Candy heard George and Lennie discussing their plans to buy a land. He join with them and give some money to George. One day, Curley's wife come to him and offers to let him feel her hair. When he grabs too hard, she screams. He wants to silence her, he accidentally break her neck. The men at the ranch know that Curley's

wife is killed by Lennie. George comes to Lennie and begins to tell the story of their dreams as he shoots Lennie in the back of the head.

Based on the fact above, the thesis' writer intends to analyze some characters in John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men that feel loneliness. The writer also describes how loneliness revealed in that novel. It is an interesting topic to analyze because it often occurs in our daily life.

## **1.2 Problem of the Study**

Based on the background discussed above, the problem of the study is "How is each character's loneliness revealed in John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men?"

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Related to the problem of the study above, the objective or purpose of this study is to analyze how each character's loneliness revealed in John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study is contribution to the development of literature studies, especially the study about loneliness which happens in some characters based on novel. Hopefully, the result of this research can give the readers more insight about theory which is related to loneliness as the topic; like the causes of loneliness,

the effects of loneliness, types of loneliness and the ways to overcome loneliness. It also can make them realized that loneliness sometimes could happen in our life.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

In order that the study enables to answer the formulated problems exactly, the writer needs to emphasize its scope and limitation. This study is focused on Lennie, Candy, Curley's wife, and Crooks' loneliness as described in John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men. In discussing this subject, the writer tries to study how loneliness revealed from those character.

### **1.6 Research Method**

In this thesis, the writer uses the qualitative research, "a research concerning with collecting and analyzing information in as many forms, chiefly nonnumeric form" (Blaxter, et. Al.,1996:60). The meaning of qualitative research is designed to reveal a target audience's range of behavior and the perceptions that drive it with reference to specific topics or issues. Qualitative research refers to the meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbol and description of things (Sanghara, 2006). According to the statement above, the ways used by the writer in this thesis are collecting, classifying and interpreting the data.

In this study, the writer uses the novel Of Mice and Men as the main data. After collecting the data, the thesis writer reads, classifies to find some characters who experience loneliness and then interpret it. The thesis writer also finds the theory

of loneliness to support the main data in order to get a complete and clear interpretation.

The writer also uses intrinsic and extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach means that analyzing a literary work based on its elements, such as: character, setting, theme, plot, etc. In this case the writer will focus on the characters of the novel. Extrinsic approach is a research dealing with other system, being astray from the world of literature (Darma, 1997:4). Psychological approach is also used it as deals with the topic of the analysis about loneliness that has correlation with aspects of psychology of human beings.

Furthermore, loneliness as the main topic corresponds to the matter that human being psychology uses in the daily life. So, the thesis writer thinks it is comparable to use psychological approach. It will be used to explore Lennie, Candy, Curley's wife and Crooks' loneliness. According to James H. Pickering in his book entitled An Introduction to Literary Approach, psychological approach is an approach which deals with behavior and mental process. Behavior includes not only what people do but also their feeling, thought, and reasoning (Pickering, 1993:35).

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

The study consist four chapters. Chapter I contains the introduction of the study. This chapter deals with the background of study, problem of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, research method and organization of the study. Chapter II discusses the review of related

literature which are about definition of loneliness, causes of loneliness, effects of loneliness, type of loneliness and the way to overcome loneliness. Chapter III concerns with analysis of Lennie's loneliness, Candy's loneliness, Curley's wife's loneliness and Crooks' loneliness. Conclusion is drawn in the last chapter, chapter four. It is followed by bibliography and the appendix consisting of synopsis of the novel and the biography of the writer.