Loneliness in John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*

A THESIS

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ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAM

FACULTY OF LETTERS

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ABSTRACT

John Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men reveals the life of two friends, George and Lennie, who travel all around the country to work on ranches. As they work on a ranch in Salinas, they meet other workers. Apparently, living together in a certain place like ranch does not guarantee an individual from being lonely. The novel implies cues that George, Lennie, Candy, Crooks and Curley’s wife are lonely characters in spite of the presence of other people around them. The study on loneliness in the novel has three objectives: to reveal the kinds of loneliness in the novel, to reveal the reasons of loneliness experienced by the characters in the novel and to find out the actions done by the characters to fight loneliness. In analysing the novel, a psychological criticism is applied due to the fact that loneliness is much related to the psychological conditions. The analysis finds that each character discussed has different kinds of loneliness: George Milton, Candy and Curley’s wife suffer from neurological loneliness, Lennie Small suffers from psychological and cognitive loneliness, while Crooks suffers from social loneliness. The novel also reveals that George Milton suffers from loneliness because of missing someone, Lennie Small suffers from loneliness because he is unable to fit in as well as being abused and rejected by others, Candy suffers from loneliness because he is unable to fit in, Crooks suffers from loneliness because he is being abused and rejected by others as well as missing someone, while Curley’s wife suffers from loneliness because she is being rejected by others. At last, this study finds that George Milton and Curley’s wife try to defeat loneliness by desiring for someone, Lennie Small tries to fight loneliness by crying and desiring for someone, Candy tries to get over loneliness by being inactive and fantasizing, while Crooks tries to overcome loneliness by hiding feelings and being inactive.
ABSTRAK