

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel by John Steinbeck entitled Of Mice And Men and that of Stephen Crane entitled Maggie: A Girl of the Streets, I finally come to a conclusion that the protagonist's life in the first novel is controlled by heredity, fate and the stereotypical thinking; while the latter protagonist's life is controlled by fate, chance and the environment she lives in. Here, I would like to discuss these factors in relation to their life.

The protagonist in John Steinbeck's novel is a man named Lennie. His life is controlled by heredity, fate, and the stereotypical thinking at that time. In my opinion, these aspects control his life. The first aspect, heredity, is the main aspect that controls his life. He has hereditary features of having a big body as well as mentally retarded. This features cannot be changed; therefore, Lennie has to accept these facts even though he does not like it. In addition, he is not able to choose not to be someone with such imperfection.

Lennie's hereditary features are having a big body as well as mentally retarded. The first feature of him makes the society hates him; while the latter results in the society does not want to accept and recognize his existence. In my

opinion, it is his fate to be hated by the society besides to be unaccepted and not recognized by the society he is in.

Lennie is fated to be hated by the society. Personally, the society's hatred towards Lennie is caused by Lennie is big. The fact that he has a big body results in his being hated by the society, in this respect, the people where he works. Lennie is hated simply because he is big; therefore, perhaps if Lennie is a small man, the society will love him instead of hating him. Yet, the real condition is totally different. Because of his having a big body, the society hates him even though he does not do anything bad. In my opinion,. this is not rational to hate Lennie just because of his physical features. Lennie is not wrong because he does not ask to be born with big body. Furthermore, it is not his mistake to be born big. If he can choose, of course he wants to have a small body rather than a big one so that he will not be hated by other people. Nevertheless, he has no power to do that, to change his big body into a small one.

Besides being hated by the society, Lennie is also fated to be unaccepted in the society he is in. I think this can happen because Lennie is a mentally retarded person. This fact makes the society does not want to accept him; furthermore, they do not recognize his existence because the society thinks that they are normal whereas Lennie is not. Thus, I think it is his fate to be not appealing to the society. If he can choose, of course he wants to be a 'normal' person instead of being a person who is mentally retarded.

The society's hatred towards Lennie is caused by not only it is Lennie's fate but also it comes as a result of the stereotypical thinking which develops in the society at that time. Lennie's hereditary feature of having a big body makes people hate him because they are already stuck to the stereotypical

thinking at that time which says that ‘a big person is a bad person’. I think this kind of principle also controls Lennie’s life because if such principle does not exist, I am sure that he will not be hated by the society even though he is big. However, since they are already believed in that stereotypical thinking, they just hate him no matter how good and kind Lennie is.

The protagonist in the second novel is a girl named Maggie. Her life is controlled by the fate, chance and the environment she lives in. Maggie is fated to be a girl who has a bitter life and to face poverty. Every body wants to have a good life and to be rich. The same is also happen to Maggie. However, she has no power to choose her life since it has already determined. Therefore, she has to accept the reality even though she does not like it.

Maggie is also fated to become a street prostitute because she has no other choice. In other words, she is given no chance to be a better person. Because of being born poor, she needs money. She has no other choices but to be a prostitute since she lives in a needy condition. If she is given a choice to be a worker with good salary, of course she will not have to become a prostitute. However, she has no choice and she is also given none.

The environment matters the most in Maggie’s life. I think she is the product of the environment. She has to become a street prostitute because the environment she lives in does not help her to be a better person. Maggie lives in a slum area, thus her surroundings has the role to make her a street prostitute. I think if she does not live in that area, she will not become a prostitute. However, Maggie lives in a slum area, not in a good one. Therefore, she becomes a street prostitute.

In conclusion, Lennie's life is controlled by heredity, fate, and the stereotypical thinking at that time; while Maggie's life is controlled by fate, chance and the environment she lives in.