

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After having analyzed the portrayal of the protagonist, McTeague in the novel, I arrive at a conclusion that Norris has constructed the portrayal of the protagonist very well because he manages to reveal each characteristic of the protagonist from static into dynamic very smartly and surprisingly. This conclusion comes from the fact that I, as the writer do not expect such changes of characters to be very frontal. It is because from the start, McTeague is depicted as a person who is not bright together with its sub characteristics such as being stammered, a slow thinker, unsociable and else. This makes me think previously that the story is likely to revolve around the protagonist's adventure or struggle over his not being bright. And yet, after a through reading of the novel, I find it surprising to discover that the protagonist undergoes an extreme change from not being bright into a man of violence.

Specifically, Norris depicts his static character very well. Norris cleverly portrays his being stammered, particularly when Mac repeatedly stammers in a number of different occasions and not being bright, particularly when he does not understand what people say to him and thus the people have to repeat it again.

Norris portrays such characteristics in a realistic way because this kind of character relates closely and can easily be found in daily lives. This is in accordance with Norris's being a naturalistic writer. One of the characteristics of a naturalist is that they conceive the world as it is and in a very realistic manner. The fact that Mac experiences certain changes of characteristics also goes along with Norris's being a realistic and naturalistic writer. In our daily life, very often we find that a person can totally change and become a new kind of person if having been oppressed so many things. A person, regardless of the characteristics that he or she has, will likely to change because that is what happens to people. It is a natural process and a realistic fact.

That is why, I find it necessary to point out and summarize that the aim of the author to present such a character is to portray a realistic character that is natural and exists in our daily lives. As regards for the application in the real life, I conclude that there is a kind of a moral lesson from this novel that is we should not to oppress a person to a certain extent that might become stressful for the person, and which may lead to a person's expressing his anger in an extreme way like McTeague does in the novel.

In terms of being naturalistic, I find that McTeague seems to be bounded by fate. He can seem to do anything or to make an effort to change his life when he is depressed by his reality of being unemployed, being ridiculed by his wife or his friends as well. He merely accepts such a reality defenselessly. This shows that he is the representation of a naturalistic character whose life is determined by fate and there is nothing that the character can do to change it.

In my opinion, I find it wrong for someone to simply rely on fate in life. We are the one that creates our own fate. If we work hard, never give ourselves up or come up with a number of excuses, we can create our fate. In life, we are confronted with a number of chooses in life, and we are entitled to choose who we want to become if we fight for it. Each choice that we have has its own benefits and losses and God gives us freedom to make up our own choice.

What happens in this novel actually from the characters' own choices of life. Had McTeague chosen to fight his fate, the result would have been much different. The same is also true of Trina. If only she had not been so thrifty and close-minded to help her own husband, he would not have been killed by her husband and her life would have been happier.

Trina chooses to be selfish and leads to her being killed by her husband finally. It applied to real life, I can gain a moral lesson from this novel that is, in our life, we must not surrender to our fate, instead we must fight for our fate and choose our own destiny, so that in the end we will not have a miserable kind of life, like what happens to McTeague, his wife or his best friend.