

The Reflection of Economical Depression in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

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Abstract

In the novel "The Grapes of Wrath" John Steinbeck has very beautifully depicted the unemployment, depression and national disputes in different locations of America. Many writers have voiced about depressive issues but John Steinbeck in an intuitive and lucid manner. In spite of other writer's outstanding and enterprising interpretations of economical crises of American country, John Steinbeck's work on economical depression of American society portrays the adverse status of the people of the country. In addition to, the government remains irresponsible for these crises. People are starving and become ravenous. It is clearly displayed that all the people are lock, stock and barrel not gratified with their present status. That is to say, everyone in the novel is dying of illness, scarcity, famine, joblessness, poverty and so on. Moreover the novel shows the beautiful and pleasant friendship betwixt John and Jim. When comparing this novel with other novels in American literature this one sounds persuasive whereas remaining novels sound imaginary and fictitious. This novel talks not only about the external depression of the country but also internal depression of the pathetic citizens.

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Steinbeck does not focus on the same concept of the subject he is multi talented in dealing with different types of literary subjects. He gives significance to the moral values and temperament of every human being dwelling throughout the world. According to his contemporary writers like Denial Aaron, Steinbeck acquires timing sense, descriptive skill, pivotal content and power of diction. John is a leading character in the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* who encounters lots of adverse scenario in his life. It is very obvious that he is mentally and physically distracted due to illness, scarcity, famine, joblessness, poverty and so on.

Steinbeck through his powerful verbosity persuades his readers as regards the financial and pragmatic complications of people belonging to Oklahoma. His ability of explaining things has been highly appreciated. There was a rumor prevalent among people of Oklahoma that Californians would hate them and also call them *okies* so as to humiliate them to show their adversity against them but later it was proved to be true. Only because of this negative aspect of the Californians john happened to face the music along with his family members.

The migrants, suffering to work, dying to live, look, dug, manufacture comfortably for delightfulness and hungry for entertainment. They look out into the dark side of the life. They have to beg for food; do have to take away others possessions sometimes. The migrants are taken pity on, become destitute and eventually and hated by

the sheriffs. They are carloads, caravans, homeless and hungry, streamed over the mountains, restless as ants, for food and land.

They hoped to find a land but found only hatred. The powerful show hatred feeling towards them because they know they are polite and, the Okies are hard working. The powerful have learned about from their grandfathers how easy it is to take away land from a soft man if they are sharp, hungry and armed. They have nothing to obtain.

They are ordinary homeless, hardened, intent and dangerous, driving the roads with their wife and young babies can look at the fallow fields which might produce food but not profit, desire to take these fields and make them grow strength for their children and a little comfort for their wives. The little bankers, laboring people, the wage payer thinks that a hungry man should toil as they have no money to spend. The Californians need many things, accumulation, social success, entertainment, luxury and a curious banking security. They are a little paid for their work. But no misfortune is too great to bear, if the men are whole.

Through the character Jim Casey readers can ken as for the downfall of the spiritualism and piousness of divinity for he gets rid of preaching his religious principles to the laymen. Thenceforth he stands by the people to be entitled with their democratic rights in order to escape financial crisis. The voices of the feminists were not high then. We comprehend that from the sequence of events that take place in the family of Tom which deeply affects his sister Rose of Sharon, abandoned by her unscrupulous husband at the time of her pregnancy. Women were oppressed by men and also by women.

In California John had to take up the responsibility of looking after his family economically and medically which clearly shows that unemployment prevailed and unjust employers were dissatisfactory to the workers without being paid as per the norms.

Secularism was highly not prevalent in the American society. Having said that, capitalism really oppressed people without paying their due wages. Throughout the novel readers are not able to find even a single sign of delightfulness or gratification in the leading character. He hopes for the fortune in California. On the contrary, his anticipations become vain. Basically, the reason that people of Oklahoma are hated by Californians because Okies are stronger than them. As financial trouble overtakes John's family he does have to work in an orchard as a fruit picker that gives bread and butter to the entire family each day but wages are not issued as per the norm which kindles him to fight against the capitalist.

The migrants who had just known meaning the lexicon "hunger" in sooth experienced the pain of hunger on the highways. Land problems are major once in the novel the group of wrath hatred hostility, bitterness and contemptuousness towards middle class are in an axiomatic manner depicted temperately by Tom Steinbeck. All the families are brought to the force due factiousness. All the roads in California occupied by homeless and pathetic destitute of Oklahoma.

There is an association which makes a scheme to breakout a riot to settle all the disputes regarding land, wages, employment and to get entitled with democratic power, California exploited the agricultural industry by cheating the dust bowl migrants. The new comers are treated very badly like that of foreigner and also entreated implacably banana, orange and grapes are abundantly all over the world but the *Okies* do not experience the abundance of ever throughout the novel.

In *The Grapes of Wrath* the migrants become furious at the conditions in California and Steinbeck exploits the biblical allusions to express this: "*In the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. In the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy for the vintage*". [Steinbeck, 1967: p. 369]

The migrants will free themselves from repression and take revenge upon their oppressors, and their triumph will prove to be as unavoidable as God's judgment because the "*great owners ... ran to their destruction, and used every means that in the long run would destroy them. Every little means, every violence, every raid on a Hooverville, every deputy swaggering through a ragged camp put off the day a little and cemented the inevitability of the day*".] Steinbeck, 1967: p. 25] the biblical allusions imply that in their wrath the migrants act as an agent of God's wrath and judgment.

Jim is brutally mutilated and killed by cop in front of Tom which provoked him and had a verbal assault with officer which led him to hide himself up and put up. Eventually very extraordinary motherliness is shown with effective verbosity by making the reader shed their tears emotionally while running through the denouement of feeding the starving man with Rose Shoran breast milk.

The Grapes of Wrath is a travelogue of Joad's family members and their souls. Mexicans are described as industries workers Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas are suffering from drought and poverty. The entire novel talked about the homeless Americans. Loss of life, race hatred, riots and killing broke out. A women's anticipation such as

love, care, concern, affection and fondling are not accomplished which leads her to become depressed, frustrated and diffident till the end of the novel.

CONCLUSION

Steinbeck the grapes of wrath is concerned to homelessness and it is about exploitation of an underclass people along with American incorrigible experiences. A national level and a personal level are categorized from the experience of immigrants. In fact the problems cannot be considered to be national but international. Migrations take place due to people's displacement, changes of boundaries socio-economic issues and political problems. In Germany, the people of turkey are ill-treated and Indians are tortured in South Africa. Like that of this, Oklahomans

are misused, exploited, ill treated and oppressed in California. Eventually, we can come to a conclusion that the versatile American novel Steinbeck went on to write what is generally regarded as his finest novel. *The Grapes of Wrath* is the historically authentic story of the Joad family; Oklahoma farmers dispossessed of their land and forced to become migrant farmers in California. The book aroused public sympathy for the plight of migratory farm workers and established Steinbeck as one of the most highly regarded writers of his day.

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