

# The Portrait of Expressions and Emotions in the Literal Works of John Steinbeck

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The current article investigates the moral of the works of John Steinbeck and the expressed feelings in the novels and writings pieces relatively. We can understand from the pieces of the works that main concept picture of his works is humanity, social issues, anger and love related to middle class living conditions. John Steinbeck implemented fades of wars and chaos in the life manner of each ordinary person involving special words and utterances, moreover special films were produced regarding to the works of John Steinbeck.

**Introduction.** Steinbeck's novels can all be classified as social novels dealing with the economic problems of rural labour, but there is also a streak of worship of the soil in his books, which does not always agree with his matter-of-fact sociological approach. After the rough and earthy humour of *Tortilla Flat*, he moved on to more serious fiction, often aggressive in its social criticism, to *In Dubious Battle* (1936), which deals with the strikes of the migratory fruit pickers on California plantations. This was followed by *Of Mice and Men* (1937), the story of the imbecile giant Lennie, and a series of admirable short stories collected in the volume *The Long Valley* (1938). In 1939 he published what is considered his best work, *The Grapes of Wrath*, the story of Oklahoma tenant farmers who, unable to earn a living from the land, moved to California where they became migratory workers. The 1940 film adaptation of the novel, starring Henry Fonda, is considered a Hollywood classic. Only a bitter legal dispute over the writer's estate (between Steinbeck's stepdaughter Waverly Scott Kaffaga and his daughter-in-law Gail Steinbeck) prevented Steven Spielberg from going ahead with his proposed remake of the movie in 2017.

Steinbeck was one of the American writers who wrote about American dream like, the American dream that is if one worked hard in America the land of the opportunity one would earn place in the growing and stable middle class. His earlier novels deal with many issues that facing Americans agriculture workers as well as Mexican immigrants who arrived in California searching about jobs as farmer on plants or orchards. He lived with workers for a few years as journalist; his experience encourages him to write about these issues. Steinbeck was one of the American writers who wrote about American dream like, the American dream that is if one worked hard in America the land of the opportunity one would earn place in the growing and stable middle class [2].

Literature review. Americans have the sense of protestation in their society that they felt disagreeable agony and burdens throughout the nation's history. The most dominant of such issues are slavery, racism, women inequality, political corruption, and the wealth sharing problems. The protest against such issues has been expressed literary and was known as "social protest literature". Examples of the American protest is the activist and reformist, Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle is a potential instance of a book that took up its position in the literary world to help radically shape the country's social and political fronts and commonly emphasized political issues. It is a tremendously effective, emotional abolitionist novel that touched many hearts as a response to its depiction. It is the hard feelings that put them into a group and release the terror with mindless violence. This anger is not only the anger of the workers but also of the novelists' against the violation of laborers' dignity. The strike is the eventual effect of the exploitation of the apple pickers who were suppressed by the landowners and the vigilantes assigned to watch the laborers. Led by Mac and the rules of communism, the strike is implemented with the objective of the workers' welfare and Mac sincerely as the leader is entirely dedicated to that reason

Steinbeck rarely gave interviews, but in 1952 he spoke to the radio network Voice of America about how he had been "filled with anger" at the ill-treatment of migrant workers. "People were starving and cold and they came in their thousands to California," Steinbeck said. "They met a people who were terrified of Depression and were horrified at the idea that great numbers of indigent people were being poured on them to be taken care of when there wasn't much money about. They became angry at these newcomers. Gradually, through government and through the work of private citizens, agencies were set up to take care of these situations. Only then did the anger begin to decrease and when the anger decreased, these two sides got to know each other and they found they didn't dislike each other at all."

Many years later, it emerged that the FBI file had begun to keep files on the writer at this time, justifying it with claims that "many of Steinbeck's writings portrayed an extremely sordid and poverty-stricken side of American life". Thankfully, more enlightened minds than FBI director J Edgar Hoover were in positions of influence when Steinbeck won literature's most illustrious award. It is notable that the Nobel committee praised his "keen social perception".

In this period of mental health problems, he produced some of the strangest work of his career. In 1955, he published a short story called *The Affair at 7 Rue de M*, a horror-like tale about a child who is unable to get rid of a piece of bubble gum. Wherever he puts it, the gum keeps finding its way back into the boy's mouth. In desperation, the father cements the gum to a dining table and it takes a week for the piece of gum to die. Steinbeck later burned dozens of stories from this period. He also abandoned a novel about a man who watches one too many westerns on television and then puts on a cowboy hat and heads out to be an urban vigilante.

Steinbeck wasn't always mad at the world, though. Ten years before his death, this conflicted genius wrote a memorable letter to Thomas Steinbeck, after his 14-year-old son revealed he had fallen desperately in love with a girl named Susan.

In other novel there is expressed, "There are several kinds of love," he wrote, signing the letter as "Fa". "One is a selfish, mean, grasping, egotistical thing which uses love for self-importance. This is the ugly and crippling kind. The other is an outpouring of everything good in you — of kindness and consideration and respect — not only the social respect of manners but the greater respect which is recognition of another person as unique and valuable. The first kind can make you sick and small and weak but the second can release in you strength, and courage and goodness and even wisdom you didn't know you had ... don't worry about losing. If it is right, it happens — the main thing is not to hurry. Nothing good gets away."

These tender and optimistic words of advice remain, like Steinbeck's best writing, an absolute joy, despite the flaws of the man.

**Materials and methodology.** The tone of a book is frequently described as how the author feels about what he's writing. Light-hearted, flowery words and phrases may tell you that the author is particularly happy or positive about the plot of a tale; angry, biting words tell you something else indeed. It's in the latter category where we find Steinbeck. Here are some tones you might pick up on while reading *The Grapes of Wrath*.

- 1. Anger: One thing is clear from Steinbeck's writing he's angry. Angry at the circumstances, angry at the treatment of the workers, angry at the conditions of the migrant camps and angry with the institutions (like the banks) he felt further oppressed people during the time period illustrated.
- 2. Sadness: Very early in the book, Steinbeck describes a bleak outlook for the Oklahoma terrain, mentioning the country being 'gray,' the earth being 'scarred' and the 'last rain' to paint a depressed picture of the state of the Joads' situation. There's no sunshine mentioned, no birds and nothing green in Steinbeck's speech.

The novel starts with the Joad family, advances to include the whole ailing, and landless farmers. Their survival is exposed to danger by the existing circumstances, thus the group is found first under the command of Casy and later in the commitment to his teachings by Tom. Steinbeck takes into consideration the above aspect as crucial to existence and survival. He says: Where there is little danger, there seems to be little stimulation. Perhaps the pattern of struggle is so deeply imprinted in the genes of all life conceived in this benevolently hostile planet that the removal of obstacles automatically atrophic' a survival drive. With warm water and abundant food, the animals may retire into a sterile sluggish happiness. This has certainly seemed true in man, Force and cleverness and versatility have surely been the children of obstacles [20]. This idea is portrayed in the novel where the individuals are in a perpetual struggle to survive. Steinbeck displays the struggle of his character against the difficulties which pinpoint his ultimate faith in the spirit of man who can get over all odds and also regains dignity and humanity. The novel is an exquisite arraignment of the oppressors who abuse the poor men for their own interest and selfish aims. However, that "Most important, unlike the two prior stories that comprise the Labor Trilogy, The Grapes of Wrath ends on a note of optimism and hope for the continuation of a boundless human spirit, no matter the setting or circumstances.

**Conclusion.** Steinbeck weighs what we are against the living reality — the living brutality — of other species, considering hope as our adaptive calibration of what is most brutal in our own nature. Writing two years before his humanistic reckoning with hope and despair. With an eye to a friend so skillful at receiving that "everyone felt good" in giving to him — "a present, a thought, anything" — Steinbeck writes. Couple with the visionary scientist and poet Lewis Thomas, writing another two decades later, on the wonders of possibility of this very choice — a choice that is still before us, and it is not too late for us to make wisely — then revisit Steinbeck on kindness, the discipline of writing, the crucible of creativity, and his timeless advice on falling in love.

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