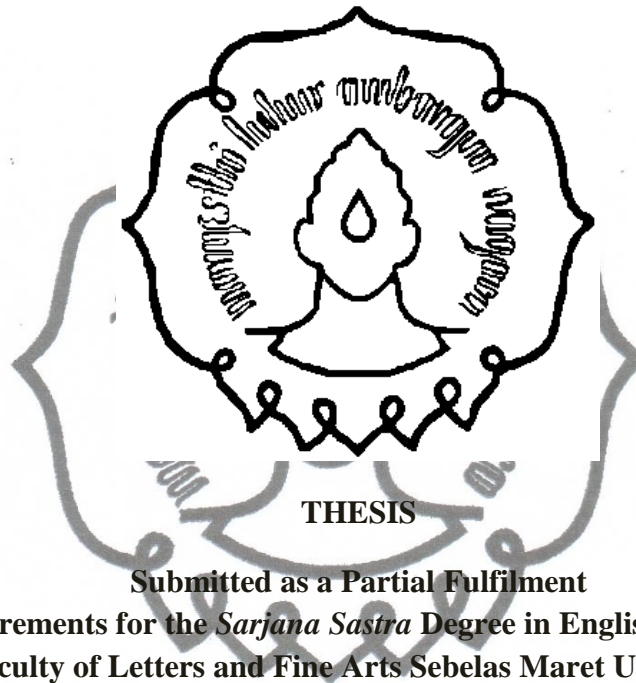


**Human as Commodity: The Effects of Capitalism as Reflected in
John Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath
(Sociological Approach)**



By:
Adiwena Yusuf Nugraha
C0308016

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND FINE ARTS
SEBELAS MARET UNIVERSITY
SURAKARTA

2013

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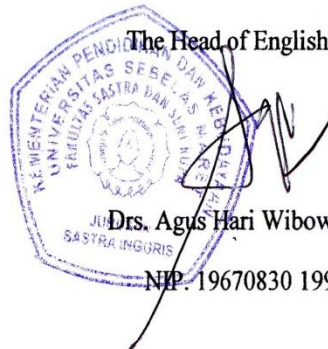
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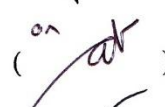

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I declare that this thesis entitled “Human as Commodity: The Effects of Capitalism as Reflected in John Steinbeck’s Grapes of Wrath” is not a plagiarism nor written by others. Any materials and theories used as references are written in direct quotation or in paraphrase. Otherwise, if it is proven that I cheat, I would take any consequences given from the Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts, Sebelas Maret University.

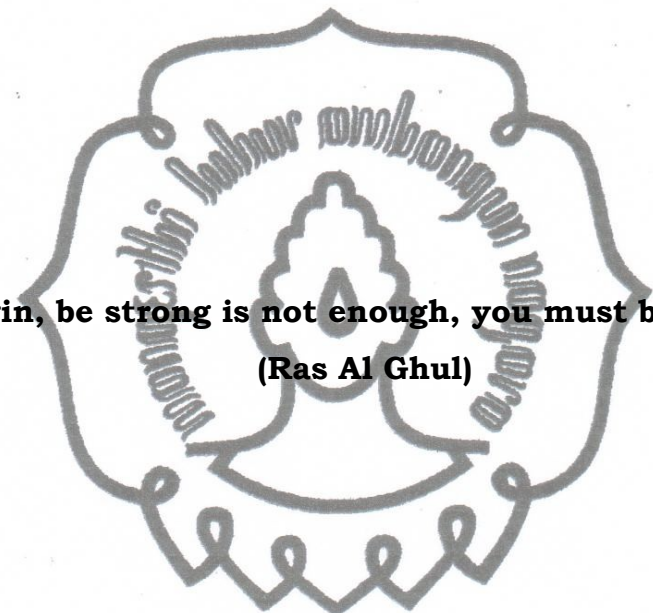
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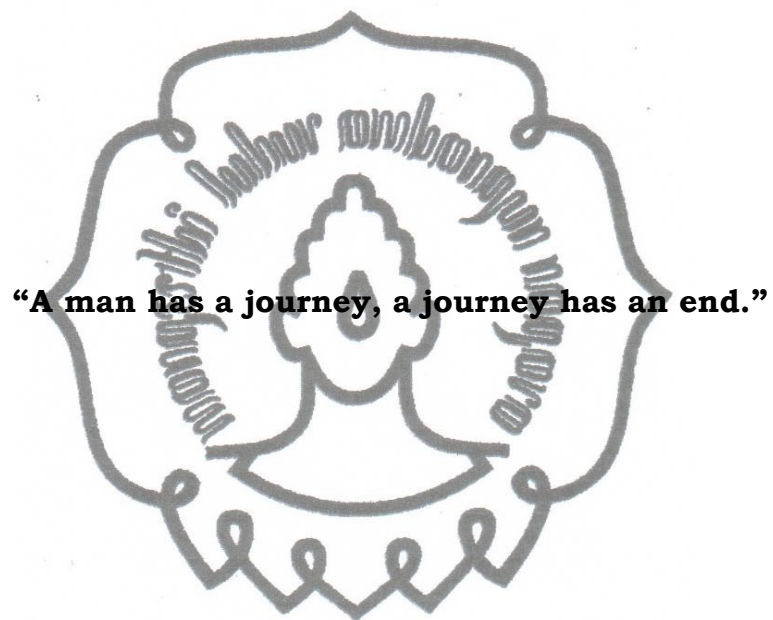
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MOTTO

**“To win, be strong is not enough, you must be an idea.”
(Ras Al Ghul)**



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DEDICATION

This thesis is sincerely dedicated to my beloved

Mother,

Father,

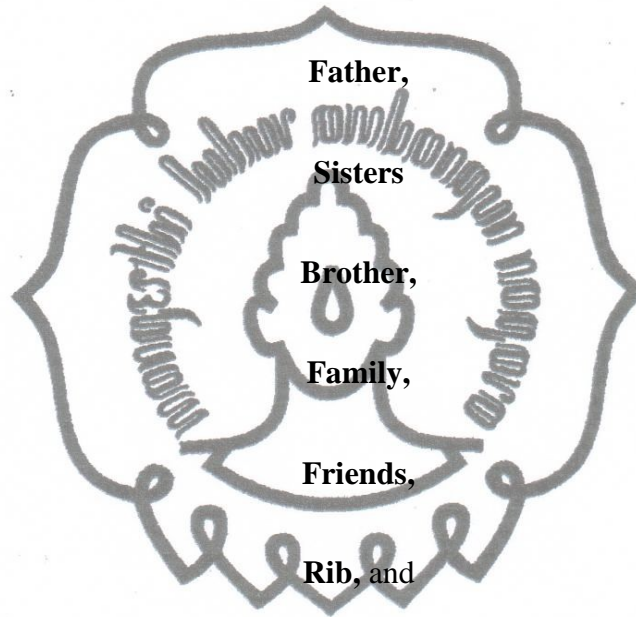
Sisters

Brother,

Family,

Friends,

Rib, and



People of this nation, **Republic of Indonesia**

*Until the government be unbeholdant to the corporate interests, we will
never have a well governed republic.*

(Col. Lawrence Wilkerson-The Former Chief Collin Powel's Staff)

*Democracy is government by people. Plutocracy is government by the
rich. What are we?*

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Praise to Allah SWT, God of the universe, and Muhammad SAW, his messenger who guide my life including in finishing this thesis as one of the requirements to achieve the undergraduate degree in English Department. Therefore, I would like to express her gratitude, particularly to:

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5. My mother, Masyrifah Mulyani, who loves and had been delivered me through her *gua garba*.
6. My father, Sutan Syahrir Zabda, who made me realize that I am a man.
7. My family, Risky, Amalini, Lena, Pitoyo, Farid, and Andri for physically and mentally support me all the time.
8. My everlasting love that have melt in the deep of dew.
9. My beloved, I am the dog that loving you.
10. My beloved brothers in this ridiculous world, Sidik, Tori, Edwi, and Bara.
11. My beloved friends in PELOPOR BEM FSSR, the first and always be the first.

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12. SKI FSSR, my soul temple. By the way, please continue my *Hitam Putih* movie series. Start the fourth project!
13. BEM UNS *Totalitas Perjuangan*, rasah abot-abot~.
14. FORKOM ORMAWA, aye!
15. BTB, God save the drama!
16. IPC and the members of *Pertapaan Kendalisada Wanara P.L.E.K* KAUMAN, Mahameru is waiting for us!
17. Langit Sastra, a place that save my physiological condition through writing.
18. GARUDA, a man has a journey, a journey has an end. You have become an idea. Now, let the time belong to your idea.
19. All of classmates in English Department 2008. Don't committing suicide guys! Keep fighting!

Surakarta, February 22, 2013

Adiwena Yusuf Nugraha

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ABSTRACT

Adiweni Yusuf Nugraha. C0308016. Human as Commodity: The Effects of Capitalism as Reflected in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Undergraduate Thesis. Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts. Sebelas Maret University.

This research explores how the capitalism system degrades the human values into just a commodification as reflected in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. This is a descriptive qualitative research. The main data is a novel entitled *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck (1939) that is published by The Viking Press. Secondary data involves books, articles, journal, and other resources that give information about the human commodification in capitalism system.

This research uses sociological and applies Karl Marx materialist theory to explain the danger of social implication of uncontrolled capitalism toward society. The theory focuses on the social phenomenon analysis, especially human commodification to uncover the illusionary hope that is sounded in the capitalism system.

The result shows that the existence of human commodification is the effect of anarchical practice of capitalists in the simultaneous error of capitalism system in their making profit intention such as the replacement of labor with unskilled labor and machinery, providing the huge number of production, and put the wage the rates down. The cause of human commodification in the simultaneous limp capitalism system is portrayed implicitly in *Grapes of Wrath*.

The human commodification existence in capitalism system is institutionalized through human alienation that makes human can be positioned as private property. The first one is the human alienation from nature as exterior object that basically source of his life. The second one is the alienation of human toward his species-being that make human is human. The third one is the alienation of human from human being of man, his own body, nature, thinking, and human essence. The last one is the alienation human from human and his products that finally leads to human commodification. The human commodification in the capitalism system stimulates labor exploitation that makes the society trapped in lack of education, lack of health, famine, and life in suffers.