

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

In this research, *Of Mice and Men* written by John Steinbeck is analysed by referring to Strain theory by Robert K. Merton and Robert Agnew. The analysis is focuses on how pressure of social expectations leads to violent and non-violent crimes during Great Depression era 1930s in United States toward several adaptation according to the theory. The Americans have different response to such repression because it depends on situation, emotion, and influence in society. For some people who cannot deal with the depression it turns to negative action. However, it can be a positive condition for those who can control themselves such as African American reflected in in the novella.

Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* had revealed several causes of crimes during Great Depression in United States 1930s which help readers to see the indication of people who commit crimes during this era through literary works, he implies were repressed by social expectations, as a reflection of Americans behaviour. There are several adaptations to strain found in this research. First is *emotion*, self indulging by going to brothel house is the way of workers to relax and neutralize their negative emotion or strain they experienced. Second is *innovation*, battery is providential action to masculine status committed by Curley . Third is *conformity*, this adaptation become a pressure demanded Lennie to defend it, which lead him to misdeed. The last is *rebellion*, George in this

adaptation reflects a new way to banished the barrier between individuals and their goals.

However, Steinbeck depicts that a crime is not committed by African American character named Crooks. He is the representation of *ritualism* which make him be spared from any factors that might pose him as a crime victim. He received a social purpose in general like living rich, but aware of the obstacles and prefer to keep working. In other words, stuck on job is the only thing he could does.

End of the note, I hope this research also can help and change the way readers, especially English Department Students of Andalas University, in seeing how crime is committed through deep analysis, deep interpretation of crime, and its adaptation reflected in literary works.

