

Pain and struggle of Migration in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of wrath*

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Abstract

"*The Grapes of wrath*" is popularly portrayed as a novel of social protest, for the basic conditions and problems of American workers, the migrants, farm workers family during the 20th century especially on 1930's. In 1930's America faced the great economic depression and it follow the poverty line. Maximum banks collapsed, families sold their lands for solving their needs. The Texas, Oklahoma and most of the famous cities went to the trend of new industrializing movement and hence the capital owners occupied and bought the Agricultural lands from small labours. Nearly Two hundred families moved from their own land to farm fields (cities) especially to California. Most of the novels of Steinbeck based on the contemporary view of social problems and migratory movements. He is one of the first famous novels written about the migration movements. They coded the different theme of route 66 between Oklahoma and California. Steinbeck also travelled and stayed in Route 66, so these experiences purify Steinbeck's mind to develop the nature problems and causes of migration, his own experiences described in "*The Grapes of Wrath*".

Key Words: Migration, depression, pain, struggle, social problems

Introduction

The Grapes of Wrath is strongly nurtured with social and political view, it provides exact details in all dimensions and also it critically described an era of American history.

The Grapes of Wrath transcend the clear documentary of novel, like Thoreau's *Walden*. The title *The Grapes of wrath* comes from Julia Ward Howe's *Battle hymn of the Republic* to be compared to Harriet Belcher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, both Works were Bitterly attacked the Americans heart and both travel the same theme, but "The Grapes of wrath"

Occupied a main role in 20th century, it make revolutionary thoughts to readers.

"Mine eyes have seen the glory
Of the coming of the lord,
He is trampling out the vintage
Where **the grapes of wrath** are
stored
He bath loosed his fateful lighting
Of his terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on."

-*The Battle Hymn of the Republic*

Migration in America

John Steinbeck's "*The Grapes of wrath*" opens with the vividpicture of American farmers in Oklahoma. It starts in the time of June, which is the month of weather

change from the hottest to mild hot. Here this climate change symbolises the farmers life changed from one climate to another, (E.g.) landowners' position become declined to farm workers. Hot sun ruined the sweet corn, so it's goes to waste food each and every family like that the position of the people changed. It is the major loss of workers, and every morning they have to meet this same occasion so they felt very downhearted in life.

Pain and struggle of Migration

Steinbeck introduces is to a particular major character from one family, he is Tom Joad, "The Grapes of Wrath" is a major novel of Steinbeck's series, and he gets Nobel Prize for this "the Joad family" occupy the maximum role in this novel. Joads' family represents the whole of America's state, during the Great Depression.

Tom Joad has been sentenced in prison for seven years for killing a man in a wrangle brawl on the mean time he comes back by parole.

Once Tom met a Driver, he fully speaks about the nature of Oklahoma problems and the situation of from workers next he met old preacher Jim Casy, who baptized Tom and Jim Casy is a known person of the old Oklahoma people, but now he behaves as an insane, meanwhile Tom takes a sip of whiskey from his pocket and he gives to Casy and continuously speaks about the migration problem of land workers and current situation of the mother land.

One turtle struggling under Tom's coat, Jim casy's action expressed like the turtle struggling under Toms coat the people of our counting struggling under the landlords the normal human beings life to

one Animal's struggle, most of the Animals migrate one place to another for searching of food meanwhile human beings migrate for solving their needs at that time they faced the uncountable problems in daily life.

Casy speaks about "Holy spirit"-but people never heard these things and they refuse to accept them. They need real revivals with plenty of Jumping and yelling.

In Tom's prison time his father does not call him or even mail him. Tom explains to Casy how he killed a man in Wrangle brawl.

"He drank too much when he could get it,
Ate too much when it was there,
Talked too much all the time"

Preacher moved to sleep in amble manner, Casy describes the good crop, but it never came again- "we lost all"... next morning Jim and Tom Joins with the migrants.

"How can we live without our lives?
How will we know it's us without our past?"

Steinbeck picturizes Tenant and land owners problems owners explain the systematic way to Tenant workers for how to work but Tenants not accept owners pledge, next minute tractor come to lands, it ploughs Tenants crop land, only then Tenants realize that they are going out to be "tractored out". At that time one man touched all people heart when he laid on land he sobs like child, he murmured.

"I am born on it,
Worked on it,
Dying on it"

My father and pioneer also born on it, died on it, so 'how am I go out from my land

this land is like my mother, I can't come out from my mother.'

It shows intolerable pain of migration. These words are inscribed in everybody's heart and remains as incurable scar.

The huge tractors ploughing tenants' lands.

In meanwhile a tractor was driven by the neighbours boy the tenants, they ask that you are my relation but how can you work for the owners, you don't have heart?

Driver replied to Tom's family, that he had also lost his land, already owners paid three dollars per day for his work, he needed money because he had a wife and children a want to provide food for them so I Joined this work. Driver ploughs Tenants land and home, Tenants go out from their land.

"Once Tom pushes the future on his pocket, here land owners from East push the Tenants to East for looking job, they occupied their lands for minimum amount."

Tom and Jim Casy looking down Joad's home, but it are smashed by the tractors. All the fences lie on the outside of land. The barn is empty, it occupied by mice and weapons used for agriculture Tom's land view like a deceit and he see one cat as alive on his old smashed home so he identified no one go out long, they crossed very few miles, then he released the future from his pocket, this action symbolized, the Tenants realised. From their own lands to East, but the turtle goes to southwest, it portrayed, no one knows their way is Right or wrong but everyone goes to East for seeking job.

Tom identified someone was coming here; he is Muley Graves –his old friend. Muley

explains how the land owners treated the Tenants, her Steinbeck expressed how land owners treat like "dirty sons-a-bitches", they don't feel little bit for Tenants, they always need only lands, done concern real heart; they smashed Tenants hearts in a single day. Finally Muley adamantly refuses to leave from his land, so he carries many pains from owners.

Tom's father and whole family moved Uncle John's place which Eight miles from their own land.

Muley reaction holds all readers heart because, his family members,-wife and children also don't eat anything and also they doesn't have anyMaterial for preparing food- he is totally upset after this occasion.

Migrants were always tortured by natives they were not even provided food which is necessary basic need for all humans.This is pathetic pain of migrant's life.

Tom cleans the rabbits and roasts it for their hunger. Muley's hunger portrayed that the migrants were hungry, because Muley lives very sophisticatedly and now he lives like a needy one. Even he cannot satisfy their families hungry. Co - incidentally that night is very dark it symbolizes not only night is dark but also the migrants life.

Next morning Ma Joad prepares food for whole family at the time Tom enters into house, unexpected Tom's arrival makes everyone happy. Two "strangers" come to behind their home and ask food for hungry suddenly Ma give food to them "It expressed the reality of poor's hospitality"- the family may not be satisfied with sufficient food but it gives, shares and helps others. Here Steinbeck introduces all characters in brief manner.

All are preparing to go for seeking job from Oklahoma to California that time Ma thought with fear if we missed Tom now, in future we cannot meet him. This occasion represents the struggle of mother's heart for real love to their children. At the same movement Grampa wants to go to famous place California and squash grapes all over his face and the child's face- This one portrayed the real meaning of title of the novel "The grapes of Wrath"- They want move first time from their near land unknowingly Grampa enjoys himself.

Here Steinbeck handled the opposite meaning of the ode to west wind's line.

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind"

Here we can know.

"If spring comes, can winter for behind"

Nothing is permanent in life, life gets changed every minute but migrants' life change every second.

Tenants sold their things for minimum amount and the family women behave like they are going to pilgrimage. No one knows their position in future they only rectified their daily needs and face much pains and struggles with owners. Owners treated like a Coyote.

The truck has start from their home. Ma Joad murmuring this is 2000 mile journey how can we come again here, we cannot come here- the truck position is very bad battery, tires are no good, and gearbox is replaced. – the truck bitterly symbolised Tom the truck travel with the family, if engaged the whole family Tom's like also like a shame he only responsible person of the whole family

The trucks are in very bad condition. Here Tom's life is also very bad because he comes by parole so police are searching Tom.

Ma remembers her old memories by letters, photographs, clippings and trinkets.

The dogs start to bark when Muley Graves comes - Muley refuses to go with the Joads, he want to live and to die in his own land. Muley emblemizes the real heart of migrants- his pain and struggle with the owners portrayed the legal power of migrants but it does not give pleasure for whole migrants' life and not only for Muley.

Grampa words about Oklahoma

"Oklahoma is no good, but it is my country"

Her no good means, Oklahoma occupied by owners so Oklahoma changes it too bad, but he proudly says it is my country.

Here Steinbeck emotioned by his words, migrants driven out only by the pressure of the owners not by own interest and self-satisfaction they want to live in their own lands but the money making society not allowed them to live.

Vacant lands of Oklahoma retreated as a new one when tractions replaced the old lands another side the Joad family near to Route Highway 66 at the mean time Joads faced a thunder in their family his Grampa is died in the time of migration.

Steinbeck pictured the realities of migration and what are the causes faced by migrants. This coming is a last one of Grampa he totally migrates from earth to sky. Tom and his family new kind of the owners did not show any members felt so sad but the next minute the owners called

the family members so they cannot do any funeral for Grampas death.

The entire Family to Highway66 this Highway66 is like a Mumbai Gate way of India, because all migrants enter to this way to seeking job in California. Highway 66 is called the "road of flight" nearly fifty thousand Jalopies transferred from Oklahoma, Texas, and Arknas to California Million migrants searching a job.

Al drives a car and he enters to big gas pumps side easy answers to gas owners questions so no her allow to stand the cards. Rose's dog wanders onto the highway and is run over by a big swift car. One man is died on the road side. Joad family totally involve that bury but no one knows who is the person the unaddressed body buried by Government. That time Steinbeck strongly used the sentence "the gov'ment's got more interest in a dead man than a live one".

This line naturally reflects all occasion in Migrants life. The government authorities think a migrant always create problems and give torture to government so they need pleasant life without migrants.

Grampa travelled three weeks in a car but before coming a minute to migrant home he died on car, it is portrayed migrants life is not a permanent one they face more Struggle in the time of migration.

Another side of American families borrowed money from the bank they are not repaid the amount so bank owned the land. The banks send tractors to the lands and plough the lands and smashed their homes-

Steinbeck argues about the role of government, landowners, and workers in

the time of great depression. "I lost my land" -slogan changed to "we Lost near land".

"The quality of owing freezes you forever in

"I" and cuts you off forever from the "we",

"I"- changed to "we"- Steinbeck portrayed migration is not a problem of individual one, it is a problem of the nation it give more pain to migrations.

In 1926 Nash Sedan one of the migrant stayed in migrant caravan, his whole family, his two boys need water and bread for their hungry pain, but the landowners not spend money for that family this occasion wounded Ma's heart.

"Migrants are treated like an animal, they only do their owners wore."

Joads and Wilson family towards to Next Mexico for searching job land owners collect fifty cents for parking, guards a car. If they don't give money for car police deputy will arrest the migrants as vagrants, so Jod family paid the concern amount to the owners.

Land owners advertised to migrants about job opportunity at that time Steinbeck pictured the reality of migrants' life and the level of family. Ragged man's life symbolized the level of itinerant farm workers the lost wife and two children to starvation. Starvation is important factor of itinerants life, all are live in Starvation some are getting solve their needs some are not solve their minimum needs, the current position in India is 300 million people don't have food in minimum needs they only eat one time per day even though migrators also fall the same problem in all countries.

Pa and Ma disturbed the man's sentence but easy said it is not real some are faced like this but we can manage and get a good job. Ma felt anxious about their future. Tom and Uncle John leaving from their home and searching job. Tom upset at that occasion is owner called Tom as a bum- it is radical view of racism. Owners feel they are giant in land so they treat migrants are the bastard.

Steinbeck first time used the word "Okie" in 18th chapter of the novel "The Grapes of Wrath" It means "from Oklahoma". Steinbeck described the long migration of Joad's family. Joad family enters in desert of New Mexico and Arizona and goes to California land here he described California is dream land of migrants. So Tom and his family move to California at that same time Granma's bodycondition is bad so owners and security not permit to go out from deserts but Ma and Joad got permission from owners she claims "Granma is fine now she is in deep sleep"

"Death was a friend, and sleep was Death's brother"

so Tom Casy and others drive car and next morning they reached to dream land, at that time Ma open her words, Granma was died yesterday night, but she want se California unfortunately it will not happen so family members stopped the next move, all are shocked. Ma justifies the words "if they discover dead body they not permit to come here so I am not open".

Conclusion

Steinbeck documentary novel of "The Grapes of wrath" give the historical and social documents in more chapters her he coded how many people cross their lands Maximum "Okies" shifted to California first American government calculated

20,000 migrants "Okies arrived her -, but very soon 30,000 arrived in California they are called "new barbarians". Migrants only need two things-land and food. Migrants lived in the edge of the California city, they were always called "Hooverville." Their house made by waste papers and cotton cloths. Twenty of securities protect the owner's lands-they simply shoot migrants on every day. Migrants killed by owners just shoot like rats. This is highly portrayed the level of nears freedom in the period of migration. Owners behave like a god for migrants.

Children were very hungry, so man proper food for her family but the neighbour's child's playing and asking food to Ma. Ma wants to share stew to all but it is not possible one- this situation mirrors how migrants lived in society.

"If you're in trouble or hurt or need – go to poor people.

They're the only ones that'll help – the only ones".

Tom and Floyd go out for looking job. By that time, Tom shoot's deputy police officer unexpectedly and hence his family vacates their house from the place to another. Camp near weed patch government camp, this government camp is best one when compared with other camps, but migrants don't get any job from this circumstance so they decided to move by next morning from this camp, all are prepare their things, next morning they reached now camp at that time Four police arrived and watch Tom and Casy they find out Tom is a man who come by parole and also he killed deputy police so they suddenly smashed Tom's rose and gashed his face but Tom is able to escape, continuous night Tom run without sleep.

Morning Ma rise and ask about Tom, tells his story to whole family and he wants to leave from his family, because everyone looking for the deputy, Ma does not allow tom to leave from her family. Ma decides the police smuggle Tom so she wants again migration to another camp.

“Migration is a pain of every one’s life it cultivate more struggle in every second”

They drive to north. Steinbeck concludes the migrants fall in more sickness and hunger; maximum people go out from

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camp. Tom goes out for police problem finally he leaves his home, Ma sees the road where tom has left their print of shadows.

Jim Casy, the Alphabet of the name J & C refers to Jesus Christ who sacrifices his life for the people even after he was tortured in many ways. Similarly Jim Casy also wants to save the life of migrants and was willing to returns their lands by fighting with force, against the owners. He is also ready to die for the sake of migrants.