

A STUDY OF TRICKSTERISM IN MARK TWAIN'S  
*THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN*

A MASTER'S PROJECT

BY

TAWEEWAT INREE

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Master of Arts Degree in English  
at Srinakharinwirot University

October 2008

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การศึกษากลวิธีเจ้าปัญญาในนวนิยายของมาร์ค เทเวน เรื่อง  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

บทคัดย่อ  
ของ  
ทวีวัฒน์ อินทรีย์

เสนอต่อบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ เพื่อเป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษา  
ตามหลักสูตรปริญญาการศึกษามหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาภาษาอังกฤษ

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ลิขสิทธิ์เป็นของมหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ

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งานวิจัยนี้มีจุดมุ่งหมายเพื่อวิเคราะห์ตัวละครเอก ฮัค ฟิน ในนวนิยายของ มาร์ค เทเวน เรื่อง *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* งานวิจัยนี้ศึกษาถึงสาเหตุสำคัญว่าทำไมตัวละครเอกจึงกลายเป็นเด็กเจ้าปัญญา ตัวละครเอกใช้วิธีการเจ้าปัญญาอะไรบ้าง และตัวละครเอกประสบผลสำเร็จตามที่หวังไว้หรือไม่ ในการวิเคราะห์ดังกล่าว ผู้วิจัยใช้ทฤษฎีกลวิธีเจ้าปัญญา มาประยุกต์ในการวิเคราะห์นวนิยายเรื่อง *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

ผลการศึกษาพบว่า ฮัค ฟิน เป็นเด็กเจ้าปัญญา ฮัคกลายเป็นเด็กเจ้าปัญญาเพราะว่าเขาต้องการอิสรภาพ เขาต้องการรอดพ้นจากปัญหา และเขาต้องการช่วยเหลือคนอื่น ฮัคสวมบทบาทเด็กเจ้าปัญญาโดยการใช้ปฏิภาณไหวพริบ การสร้างเรื่องราว การปลอมตัว การวางแผน และการแสวงหา ฮัคใช้สติปัญญาในการวางแผนหลบหนีจากพ่อที่โหดร้าย ฮัคฉลาดมากที่สร้างเรื่องราวให้ดูเหมือนว่าเขาถูกฆาตกรรม เพื่อให้ดูสมจริงและให้ทุกคนเชื่อ เขาได้สร้างหลักฐานและร่องรอยของการถูกฆาตกรรม ฮัคสามารถหลบหนีและได้รับอิสรภาพจากการที่เขาใช้กลวิธีเจ้าปัญญาในที่สุด ฮัคยังใช้กลวิธีเจ้าปัญญาเพื่อให้รอดพ้นจากปัญหาต่างๆ อาทิเช่น เขาปลอมตัวเป็นเด็กผู้หญิงเพื่อไปสืบข่าวในเมือง การปลอมตัวนับได้ว่าเป็นกลวิธีเจ้าปัญญาที่ได้ผลมากวิธีหนึ่ง เพราะไม่มีใครจำเขาได้เลย ฮัคมักจะสร้างเรื่องว่า เขาเป็นเด็กเคราะห์ร้าย และยังแสวงหาเป็นเด็กอ่อนแอ เพื่อให้ผู้อื่นรู้สึกสงสารและเห็นใจ นอกจากนี้ฮัคสามารถเอาตัวรอดจากปัญหาต่างๆ เขายังสามารถช่วยเหลือคนอื่น ๆ อย่างเช่น แมรี เจนด้วยกลวิธีการเจ้าปัญญาของเขา เหตุการณ์ที่สำคัญที่สุดคือเขาสามารถช่วยจิมซึ่งเป็นทาสที่หลบหนีมา เขาช่วยจิมจากอันตรายต่างๆ และ ฮัคยังสามารถช่วยให้ จิมได้พบกับอิสรภาพ

ผลการศึกษายังพบว่า กลวิธีเจ้าปัญญาที่ฮัคใช้จะขึ้นอยู่กับปัญหาที่เขาพบ ถึงแม้ว่าบางกลวิธีจะล้มเหลว แต่ฮัคยังสามารถใช้กลวิธีเจ้าปัญญาอื่นๆแทน เพื่อให้เขาสามารถประสบผลสำเร็จตามที่หวังไว้ ด้วยเหตุผลที่กล่าวมา จึงสามารถกล่าวได้ว่าฮัคเป็นเด็กเจ้าปัญญาอย่างแท้จริง

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*THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN*

AN ABSTRACT

BY

TAWEEWAT INREE

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This research aimed to study Huck Finn, the main character in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. This study examined why the main character became a trickster, how the main character used trickster strategies and whether the main character achieved his goal. To do so, the theory of tricksterism was applied to analyze *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

The result of this study showed clearly that Huck was a smart trickster. The reasons that Huck became a trickster were: he wanted to get freedom; he wanted to get out of troubles; and he wanted to help other people. In doing so, Huck played the role of trickster by using wits, inventing stories, disguising himself, creating plans and pretending. Huck used his wit to create a plan to escape from his brutal father. Huck also invented the story that he was murdered. Moreover, Huck was very smart to create reliable evidences to prove his fake story. Through these trickster strategies, Huck could run away and get freedom. Huck also employed trickster strategies to get out of troubles. Huck disguised himself as a girl to find his news in town. His disguising was another effective trickster strategy; therefore, no one could recognize him. To get him out of troubles, Huck usually created the story that he was a misfortune boy and pretended to be a weak boy to make people to feel sympathetic with him. Not only could Huck save himself but also he could help other people. Because of his trickster strategies, Huck was able to save other people such as Mary Jane. More importantly, he could save Jim, a black slave, from danger and could help him to have freedom.

In addition, this study also showed that trickster strategies that Huck used varied on the difficulties that he faced. Although some of Huck's strategies failed, he could adopt other trickster strategies to achieve his goal. In this way, Huck was a smart trickster.

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Taweewat Inree

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

After the American Civil War (1861-1865), a lot of people died and much infrastructure in the United States was destroyed. The worst hit area of the United States was the southern states. Therefore, it was time to reconstruct the whole country. The construction boom brought with it many new developments and innovations. Consequently, the United States became an industrialized society where material growth took precedence over morality and growth of moral values. (Baym 1). These trends had an impact on the literature of the time, authors were eager to create new themes, new forms, new subjects and new styles. One of the new styles of writing was realism. Realism was a way for writers to reflect the realities of life in a society (High 78).

One of the well-known realistic writers from this period was Samuel L. Clemens. He was better known by the pen name Mark Twain. He was considered one of the great American novelists. William D. Howells called Mark Twain “the Lincoln of our literature” (qtd. in Twain 1). Mark Twain had traveled extensively all over the United States and overseas throughout his life, from his early boyhood to his adult life. These extensive travels and the accompanying experiences became the resources he used to create his works. Reuben Post Halleck stated that even Sir Walter Raleigh’s life was no more varied, for Mark Twain was a printer, pilot, soldier, miner, newspaper reporter, editor, special correspondent, traveler around the world, lecturer, biographer, writer of romances, historian, publisher, and philosopher (358). This

could confirm that Twain had an immense wealth of experiences to create his valuable works from and thus enable him to be a great writer. Moreover, Twain's works have been read, studied, discussed and criticized from his time until nowadays.

William L. Phelps, a professor of Yale University, stated:

He has done something which many popular novelists have signally failed to accomplish— he has created real characters. His two wonderful boys, Tom and Huck, are wonderful in quite different ways. The creator of Tom exhibited remarkable observation; the creator of Huck showed the divine touch of imagination...Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn are prose epics of American life. (qtd in Halleck 361)

Obviously, Twain's works were more realistic than other novelists' works at that time. His works were also based on factual historical background and were able to attract readers to think about the morals and actions associated with the issues of that period. A number of Mark Twain's works had real settings based on his own experiences (Martin 187). Both real settings and spoken humor of the time were found in his works, for instance *The Innocents Abroad* (1869), *Roughing It* (1872), *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), which was his masterpiece.

In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain presented his young protagonist, Huck who faced many problems on his journey along the Mississippi River. This novel evoked strong images of escape and freedom. Moreover, Huck had to deal with and overcome the confusion in his own mind, when faced with such dilemmas as whether he should help Jim, a run away slave, or he should obey hypocritical societal standards and arbitrary rules. At the end of the story, Huck chose to help Jim to have his freedom. As a result of his efforts to help Jim, he became more mature and chose to be free too.

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was Mark Twain's masterpiece. It was also called the great American epic and the *Odyssey* of the Mississippi. Likewise, Ernest Hemingway acclaimed, "All modern American Literature comes from *Huckleberry Finn*" (qtd in High 83). This novel had also been described as the school of many late Western writers.

High also stated, "Twain's work is filled with stories about how ordinary people trick experts, or how the weak succeed in hoaxing the strong...Huck Finn, is a master at this" (80). In this sense, it was clear that Huck Finn was a clever trickster.

Huck Finn has been studied from many different angles, until now; however, tricksterism in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* had not been studied in depth. Tricksterism is an important strategy that people use to enable themselves to survive in a world of confusion. It is obvious that tricksterism is a survival strategy that people use to exist and survive in a difficult world. Moreover, in everyday life, tricksters can be seen everywhere around us. Friends, colleagues, supervisors, managers, soldiers, police, nurses, farmers and members of the national assembly can be tricksters at any stage of their lives. Tricksterism is a survival strategy used by human beings.

This study aimed to study trickster strategies that Huck Finn used to survive in dangerous situations in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in order to answer the following questions:

- Why was Huckleberry Finn a trickster?
- How did Huckleberry Finn play a role of trickster?
- Did Huckleberry Finn always achieve his goal?

If not, what trickster strategies did he use to achieve his goal?

## **Purposes of the Study**

The purposes of this study are:

1. To study why the main character is a trickster
2. To explore how the main character plays the role of trickster
3. To study whether the main character always achieve his goal, if not what trickster strategies he uses to achieve it.

## **Significance of the Study**

The significances of the study are:

1. To promote a better understanding of trickstersim as the survival strategy in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
2. To be able to use this study as a tool for further studies or as a guideline for the review of the related literature.

## **Scope of the Study**

This study focused on the main character in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

## **Procedures of the Study**

This research was conducted in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Survey related literature:
  - 1.1 Study the theory of tricksterism
  - 1.2 Study the research on tricksterism
  - 1.3 Study Mark Twain's biography

2. Analyze of the main character as a trickster by using the theory of tricksterism in the following aspects:
  - 2.1 The reason why the main character becomes a trickster
  - 2.2 The methods that the main character uses in his role of trickster
  - 2.3 The achievements of the main character as a trickster
3. Give conclusions of the study
4. Suggest topics for further studies

### **Definition of Term**

Tricksterism is a survival strategy, which can be seen in many forms such as wit, cunning, masking, adaptation, flexibility, adjustment, variation, change, modification, tuning and disguise.

## CHAPTER 2

### REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter is an overview of the related literature, including the theory of tricksterism, research on tricksterism, research on *Huck Finn*, and the biography of Mark Twain.

#### Theory of Tricksterism

Theorists had different opinions on the term “trickster”. According to *The American Heritage Dictionary*, trickster was one that swindled or played tricks. Often, a trickster was a mischievous or roguish figure in myth or folklore, often an animal, which typically made up for physical weakness with cunning and subversive humor. In addition, tricksters, in *The Complete Dictionary of Symbols*, were figures whose principal characteristics were cunning, quick-wittedness and a propensity for mischievous or humorous behaviors. However, Joseph Campbell, in *Dictionary of Symbolic & Mythological Animals*, identified a trickster as a character who was a fool, a cruel cheat, an archetype of the principle of disorder, and culture bringer also. From this description, a trickster could appear under many guises depending on the situations that he encounters. In the sense of culture bringer, tricksters were culture heroes who maintained and developed their culture. Tricksters helped and taught the tribe to protect themselves from the threatening of the others. As Lewis Hyde pointed out, tricksters were in culture world-wide. In this perspective, tricksters could be found in all parts of the world, for instance, Coyote and Raven in North America, Brer Rabbit in the South America Eshu and Legba in Africa, the Monkey King in China,

and Krishna in India. In this sense, the trickster figures were known and shared in many myths and folktales all over the world; thus we should think of tricksters not only simply hero stories or animal folklores but also as the most deepest main element of mankind.

In early mythological times, there were a lot of tricksters, who were portrayed as cunning, mischievous cheaters, that were also very humorous. One of the most well-known mythical tricksters was Hermes or Mercury who made a fool of Apollo by making Apollo's cattle walk backward. In his role of messenger to gods, he could move and change swiftly. In Jung's view of Hermes, he explained, "his fondness for sly jokes and malicious pranks, his power as a shape-shifter...his exposure to all kinds of tortures" (255). From this view point, Hermes was the god who was mischievous and cunning and he was able to move swiftly everywhere that he wanted to go. With his cunning and his power, Hermes could make problems for others as well. Moreover, Hyde noted "A trickster lies in order to cover up his thefts...or simply for the fun of stealing or merely to fool people, or concoct stories, or stir thing up (71). It was clear that both Jung and Hyde's opinions on Hermes were the same that Hermes was a very cunning, mischievous and troublesome god. Another mythical trickster was Odysseus who played a role as a trickster to save his men from the Cyclops's cave by disguising themselves under the cover of goat skin. In early mythology, tricksters were not only those who cheat but also heroes. In addition, Hyde also pointed out, "in every culture that has a trickster god, it's the other gods who have made the various forms of perfection." In this case, there were many different versions of tricksters in different cultures all around the world.

In American folklore, tricksters were frequently the same as culture heroes. Consequently, Native American tricksters played a significant role in Native

American culture. There were a lot of Native American tricksters; for example in Yoruba myths, Eshu was a trickster-god of nature. Coyote was a trickster-teacher in American myths. One of the most famous Native American tricksters was Raven, the divine trickster in the Northern Pacific region. Paul Radin studied the Winnebago Indian in the Great Lakes Region. Radin also noted, “the outstanding characteristic of the overwhelming majority of trickster heroes wherever they are encountered... Trickster is represented as the creator of the world and the establisher of culture” (qtd. in Spinks 181). In his Winnebago trickster cycle, Radin pointed out tricksters maintained Winnebago culture:

From the ambivalence of a stupid and cunning explorer in the Trickster cycle (the first) to the more godlike discoveries and inventions of the Hare cycle (the second), trickster eventually becomes a cultural hero in the Red Horn cycle (the third) who struggles with giants to subdue the earth. In the Twins cycle (the fourth) he splits into the Twins (Flesh and Stump) whose familial adventures are preparatory to making the earth ready for habitation. (qtd. in Spinks 181)

Apparently, the trickster was not a fool; he was also a culture hero.

Campbell confirmed “he is also a Culture-Hero, bringing fire and light to humanity and founding its culture” (247). From this view point, tricksters played an important culture role. Tricksters helped and led the way for their tribes to survive and protect themselves from other groups, and subsequently their way of life and culture were able to survive and flourish. For example, the trickster Raven used his tricks to triumph over the enemy and stole fire for the benefit of mankind. Spinks pointed out that the functions of tricksters reminded human beings of how their culture received and where they came from. Tricksters also represented the fundamental processes of how human beings developed their way of life in their own culture (183). In this role, tricksters could be the symbol of evolution and development of mankind needed to

maintain and protect their culture. Thus, a trickster was an important archetype in the history of man because the trickster was the culture hero.

From the ancient times to the present, tricksters still exist globally as important characters in every culture. For instance, the Roadrunner was able to run away from Coyote using tricks. Bugs Bunny also represented the modern trickster. Bugs Bunny was a gray rabbit that was synonymous with being mischievous, smart and clever. When two dogs attempted to catch Bugs Bunny, the smart rabbit was able to survive by his tricks. In this way, a trickster could be seen as a Jungian archetype that was a clever, mischievous man or creature, who had the best chance of survival. Because of his wit, the trickster had a better chance of survival and could get over any difficult situation. In other words, tricksterism was a survival strategy.

Tricksters could be weak in appearances; however, they were strong inside and were able to survive by using their wit and cunning to overcome a bigger and more powerful enemy. The trickster used his skills to overturn oppressive ideologies that threaten their survival. From Hyde's view, tricksters were very smart and could survive and get over difficult circumstances by their tricks and wits. Similarly, Michel de Certeau mentioned, in *The Practice of Everyday Life*, the weak created tactics to conquer the strong and to stay alive in a society. These tactics of the weak could be seen as trickster strategies to achieve victory over powerful opponents. In addition, de Certeau "victories of the weak over the strong (whether the strength be that of powerful people or the violence of things or of an imposed order, etc), clever tricks, knowing how to get away with things, hunter's cunning, maneuvers, polymorphic simulations..." (qtd. in Yimwilai 71 ). In this sense, it is clear that the tactics of the weak are trickster strategies. Obviously, de Certeau's theory of tactics

was as close as a trickster strategy. Moreover, de Certuau also explained that a tactic of survival was an art of the trickster.

Trickster figures could be seen in literature worldwide. For instance, some African American authors usually applied the trickster strategies not only to themselves but also to their novels. Because they used these techniques in their writing implicitly, the readers had to infer the messages. In this sense, it is obvious that trickster strategy is a form of masking as well. Masking was described in *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*, as a deceptive role-playing and a cunning survival strategy. Additionally, White-Parks also mentioned in her essay, *Tricksterism in Turn-of-the-Century American Literature: A Multicultural Perspective*, that the trickster is “a survival strategy through which the oppressed groups or individuals may attain a certain degree of personal and political autonomy within the restrictions of an oppressive dominant system” (3). Consequently, tricksterism was a survival strategy of people or marginalized people to get away from hazardous circumstances and gain victory over the stronger opposition with clever tricks.

The researcher applied the theory of tricksterism discussed above to analyze the character of Huckleberry Finn in Mark Twain’s *The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn*.

## **Research on Tricksterism**

A large number of researchers have studied tricksterism. One example is Litasha Rochelle Dennis’s “Genre Tricksterism: Subversive Form in the Fiction of Alice Walker and Randall Kenan.” In this study, Alice Walker and Randall Kenan used the subversive form which could be categorized into generic, linguistic and

cultural. This technique called the readers' attention to the author's underpinning in the novel. Dennis concluded that Alice Walker and Randall Kenan were more tricksters than characters in the text.

In another example, Victoria Gay Simmons, in "Tricksterism in Popular Traditions", studied the trickster figure. She exclaimed that the trickster figure was a type of personality whose characteristics we could normally see in stories or in real people of folk traditions. The research studied the tale of *Fled Bricrenn* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. *Fled Bricrenn* showed the official trickster tradition; on the other hand, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* showed the unofficial trickster tradition. She discovered that trickster figures were usually seen as productive figures in popular tradition; moreover, the tricksterism of the unofficial tricksters was able to be more troublesome and creative for appropriating the dynamic situations than the official trickster.

In addition, Laurie L. Ferguson, in "Trickster Show the Way: Humor, Resiliency and Growth in Modern Native American Literature", explored the resiliency factors of trickster in Modern Native American literature. The factors were expressed through humor, flexibility and survival of trickster figure from traditional myth. This study analyzed the works of Louise Erdrich, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Sherman Alexie. Laurie also concluded that these resiliency factors were as important as the necessary elements for survival for those tricksters in Native American literature.

The next researcher, Heather O'Neal Morrison, also examined the role of the trickster figure in Native American storytelling and Native American Myth in "Trickster Treats in Native American Myth." Heather explained that from those stories, trickster could be found in many forms. Moreover, trickster was in the role of

creator, provider and teacher of Native American cultures. Accordingly, Heather concluded that trickster figures played a significant role for the fundamental part of Native American culture, and also trickster figures were able to be seen as the basic characteristics in human being and nature.

Sheila Hancock-Sheridan, in “The Trickster Archetype and Women’s Development”, studied the importance of the trickster archetype for women’s development. Sheila found that women transformed themselves to be tricksters who were able to raise their voice like men in the society. Women had more their voices and opinions, and they could be more accepted in the society by being a trickster. Moreover, this trickster archetype was another important character in furthering women’s development.

In addition, Thomas Green, in “Tricksters and the Marketing of Breakfast Cereal”, studied trickster figures in breakfast cereal products. Green found that trickster figures such as Kellogg’s Tony the Tiger had the ability to create a brand-image that convinced children and adults wanted to choose one particular cereal over another. Green also concluded that breakfast cereal products were added their value of brand-image by using trickster characters.

Jan Kreidler, in “Reviving Julia Peterkin as a Trickster Writer”, studied Julia Peterkin’s works and claimed her as a trickster writer. Julia Peterkin (1880-1961) was a southern writer who wrote about rural Afro-American community, Gullah. Moreover, she was an Anglo-American writing. Kreidler found that through trickster techniques, Julia Peterkin could blur white community as a Southern white woman writing cross-cultural fiction from the black perspective. In her portrayal of Gullah life, she secretly criticized her own white culture. Because Julia Peterkin employed trickster techniques, Kreidler called her the earliest and most successful Anglo-

American writer to cross racial borders by writing from the minority view, particularly Gullah.

In Thailand, Siriporn Sriwarakan, in “A Comparative Study of Till Eulenspiegel and Srithanonchai as Trickster Tales”, compared the tales between Till Eulenspiegel and Srithanonchai. Sriwarakan found that Till Eulenspiegel and Srithanonchai had some characteristics in common such as literal interpretation, tricks impossible tasks and uncleanness. They also had similar techniques of jokes which were namely word playing and conceptual witty jokes. However, they were also different. Till Eulenspiegel acted as an outsider and led a free lifestyle, whereas, Srithanonchai acted as an insider and became a famous nobleman.

### **Research on *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

There have been many studies on *Huckleberry Finn*. For instance, Linda Cabiness, in “Freedom as Theme in Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*”, examined the topic of freedom as the major theme. Accordingly, Cabiness discovered that freedom had many meanings. She concluded that not only the body was free, but also thought and expression were free. Likewise, Huck chose to be free from the hypocritical society and arbitrary rules.

In addition, Matthew Hurt, in “Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*”, studied Huck Finn’s moral development on his journey with Jim. Huck faced a big moral problem. Huck had argued with himself, whether he should disclose Jim’s whereabouts to the society or whether he should help Jim. In the end, Huck realized Jim was not a “thing” but a “human being”, so he helped Jim to escape from slavery.

Bong Eun Kim, in “Race and Rhetoric: Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* & Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*”, studied racism and rhetoric

in the novels of Stowe and Twain. In this study, Kim discovered that both Stowe and Twain applied the same rhetorical techniques, namely the use of racist language and an anti-racist message to stimulate readers to reconsider the racial issues of the time.

Bennett Kravitz, in “Reinventing the World and Reinventing the Self in ‘*Huck Finn*’ ”, studied the growth of Huck and Jim’s friendship and solidarity. Kravitz found that Huck and Jim considered that their solidarity and friendship were the only way to face and to lessen the horrors of human condition.

Besides, Axel Nissen, in “A Tramp at Home: ‘Huckleberry Finn,’ Romantic Friendship, and the Homeless Man”, studied the fiction of romantic friendship and the public discussion on the homeless man in the novel. In this study, Nissen found that Twain created the character that reversed the ideal middle class man in Victorian America as a homeless person. This innovation made the characters more common and attracted readers at that time.

In addition, Gladys Carmen Bellamy, in “Roads to Freedom”, explored how Huck developed himself when he faced several incidences along his journey. Bellamy found that Huck’s character was represented to the natural man who was simple and free. Moreover, Bellamy also found that Huck was a developing character. Bellamy claimed that Huck’s development related with Jim, and Huck was more and more respect Jim as a human being rather than a faithful dog. Bellamy stated “*Huckleberry Finn* was a wise book, as all great books are wise”. Bellamy concluded that not only could Huck get freedom but also Huck could develop himself to respect Jim as his friend.

In conclusion, there are many studies on Huck Finn. However, trickster strategies used by Huck Finn has not studied in dept yet.

## Biography of Mark Twain

Mark Twain wrote *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* based on the scene and events of his boyhood in Hannibal during the 1840s. Thus, to better understand the character of Huck Finn in the novel clearly, readers need to know Mark Twain's biography.

Mark Twain was the pseudonym of Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He was born the sixth child of the Clemens in the village of Florida, Missouri on November 30, 1835. When he was four, his family moved to Hannibal on the Mississippi River which was the setting in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Halleck 356).

The personality of young Twain and the character of Huck Finn were in common. Both Twain and Huck were playful and cunning. Laura Hawkins mentions in her memory that young Samuel was a humorous and playful boy. Sam shared his candy and oranges with her and carried her books to school. Samuel missed class and ran around with a gang of boys (qtd. in Fishkin 32). Similarly, young Twain and Huck Finn attended school for a while because they preferred to learn the real world around them. In addition, Huck's surname was derived from a drunkard in the Hannibal town, Jimmy Finn; moreover, the model for Huck Finn came from one of his friends, Tom Blankenship. The model of Jim was derived from the slave of Samuel's uncle John, Uncle Dan'l. The setting was also from Samuel's young time such as the Mississippi River, St. Petersburg, Cardiff Hill, McDougal's cave and Jackson's Island.

The most memorable scenes of Samuel's boyhood were in Hannibal. He was very playful and mischievous boy. He went to several schools, but he was usually absent from classes. In addition, he went to school merely to run around with friends. Consequently, he learned to smoke when he was nine. Moreover, he set up a gang of boys which was similar to Huck Finn's gang. Along with the gang, he loved to do

boy activities such as swimming and boating in the river, playing Robin Hood in the wood and marching in uniforms. The most preferable pleasure was visiting his Uncle John Quarles' farm which he claimed that it was a wonderful place for a boy. He was also friendly with many slaves on his uncle's farm. From here, then he heard the superstitious tales which were also presented in *Huckleberry Finn* (Fishkin 32).

However, Samuel encountered difficulties of a boy's life too. He saw the murder of a drunkard who looked like Pap Finn in the main street of town. This horror experience later served as the source for the Boggs murder in *Huckleberry Finn*. Moreover, when his father died, he was only eleven. He had to work as a printer's apprentice to support himself and the rest of the family (Halleck 356). Then he worked for his brother's the *Hannibal Journal* as a typesetter and humorous sketches in 1851. After that, he went to St. Louis, New York, Philadelphia, Keokuk (Iowa) and Cincinnati. In 1856, he came back to Hannibal and worked as a river pilot along the Mississippi River. This career fulfilled his childhood dreams of adventure. Afterward, he convinced his youngest brother to work with him on the Mississippi River. Then his brother died in 1858 because the boat exploded; consequently, Twain felt guilty with his youngest brother's misfortune. However, he continued to work on the river, and his dream was ended by the Civil War in 1861.

Then he went to Nevada with his brother. After that he worked for a newspaper in California. In 1865, he wrote a short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" which based on stories he heard in the California mining camps. This short story was very famous. In 1867, his first major book, *The Innocents Abroad*, was published. This book was also well-known as a humorous book about travel in Europe. After that, he wrote many books, for instance, *Roughing It* (1872), *The Gilded Age* (1873), *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *Life on the*

*Mississippi* (1883). Next his greatest work, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), was published. This novel was called Twain's masterpiece which was read world-wide. After that, his following works were rather unsuccessful as *Huckleberry Finn*. Moreover, he had to travel to many places as a lecturer to pay his debt. However, Twain is one of the great American literatures and has influences on a number of writers (Fishkin 45).

**CHAPTER 3**

**AN ANALYSIS OF A STUDY OF TRICKSTERISM IN**

**MARK TWAIN'S *THE ADVENTURES OF***

***HUCKLEBERRY FINN***

This chapter is an analysis of the main character, Huck Finn, as a trickster in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In this chapter, the researcher also examines why the main character becomes a trickster, how the main character plays a role of trickster and whether the main character achieves his goals as a trickster. To this end, the researcher applies the theory of tricksterism to analyze Huck Finn.

The reasons that Huck became a trickster were: he wanted to get freedom; he wanted to get out of troubles; and he wanted to help other people. Huck was merely 12 years old, but he was a really clever trickster. Although Huck Finn was very young in his age, he became mature from step to step through his adventures. Huck Finn also preferred freedom to the restriction of the society. In doing so, Huck Finn would finally find his way out of uncomfortable and dangerous situations by his wits. From being a smart boy, Huck Finn was actually a trickster. When Huck Finn encountered various hazardous circumstances, he was able to use tricks to get away from them safely. Like Peter B. High stated in *An Outline of American Literature*, "Twain's work is filled with stories about how ordinary people trick experts, or how the weak

succeed in hoaxing the strong...Huck Finn, is a master at this" (80). This survival strategy became Huck Finn's character and was useful for Huck Finn to be alive.

After Huck Finn came back from his adventure with his close friend, Tom Sawyer, he had found some money and he took the money to Judge Thatcher so that the Judge would keep money for him. Later, Widow Douglas and Miss Watson adopted Huck, and they tried to change Huck Finn to behave as a good boy following their ideas. For example, Widow Douglas usually forced Huck to wear new and clean clothes, "She put me in them new clothes again, and I couldn't do nothing but sweat and sweat, and feel all cramped." (11) Huck was not used to it, so he felt uncomfortable. Huck also hated the dinner bell ring. Huck also felt that he was limited to eat when only the bell rung,

The widow rung a bell for supper, you had to come to time. When you got to the table you couldn't go right to eating, but you had to wait for the widow to tuck down her head. (12)

Huck did not understand his new life styles and why he had to do something like this. These new life styles were tough for Huck. However, the event was fine for Huck until his father who was an aggressive drunkard appeared.

Huck became a trickster to get away from his brutal father and from hazardous situations. Huck's father knew about the money, and he did everything to get some; however, he was unsuccessful. Then the drunken father kidnapped his own son because he did not want Huck to have a better life than himself. In doing so, Huck was locked in a cabin which was in the woods. Quite often, Huck's father hit him, and he was almost killed once when his father was very drunk. Finally, Huck Finn was unable to bear this dangerous situation anymore; therefore, he decided to escape.

To get freedom, Huck Finn employed the method of tricksterism to escape from his father. In the morning, Huck's father told him to catch some fish for

breakfast, and Huck unintentionally found an empty canoe floating along the river, “just a beauty, too, about thirteen or fourteen foot long, riding high like a duck” (38). Consequently, Huck had to get down into the river and hid the canoe under a bush. When the drunken father angrily asked Huck why he took so long to do the task he arranged, Huck swiftly replied that he fell into the river. Huck’s answer was a trickster strategy which he employed to get out of this trouble. Because Huck did not want his father to doubt why he was thoroughly wet, he made up a story saying that he fell into the river. Huck’s answer showed his witty trickster character to get over difficult situations. According to *The Complete Dictionary of Symbols*, trickster characters were often cunning and quick-wittedness. These trickster characters were undoubtedly seen in Huck from the way he answered his father quickly that he had fallen into the river and that was why it took him such a long time. Because of his swift trickster characteristic, Huck was not beaten by his father this time; moreover, his father did not have any doubt that Huck had found the canoe. This clearly showed that Huck used a trickster strategy to get over the difficult situations.

Unquestionably, the process that Huck employed to escape was also a trickster strategy. Huck’s father left Huck alone in the cabin in order to sell some logs in town; as a result, Huck took this chance to escape. Firstly, Huck prepared foods and tools for his journey. He took some bags of corn, bacon, whisky-jug, coffee, sugar, ammunition, wadding, bucket, gourd, cup, saw, blankets, skillet, coffee-pot, fish-lines, matches and other things “that was worth a cent”. Huck took these things because they would be necessary for him along his journey. After Huck dragged many things to the canoe, there were several tracks along the way to his canoe. As a smart trickster, Huck thought that it was necessary to cover those tracks by “scattering dust on the place, which covered up smoothness and the sawdust”. This also confirmed

that Huck was a careful trickster. As a result, Huck successfully concealed those trails, “It was all grass clear to the canoe, so I hadn't left a track.”

Secondly, Huck created a clever plan to give evidence that he was murdered. In doing so, Huck went to the woods and shot a wild pig. He took the pig to the cabin, then took an axe, “smashed in the door”, and “beat it and hacked it”. Huck smashed the door because he wanted everybody see the evidence of a fighting. In addition, he spread the pig’s blood on the ground so that people would believe that Huck had been murdered and his blood had scattered on this floor.

Thirdly, to trick everybody that Huck’s body was dragged to dump into the river, he made some tracks from the blood to the river. Huck then put a number of rocks into an old bag and started to drag it from the pig’s blood “to the door and through the woods down to the river and dumped it in, and down it sunk, out of sight” (41). These tracks of blood from the cabin to the river enabled Huck to convince people that he was dead and his body was dumped in the river.

Lastly, as a smart trickster, Huck added more evidence to trick people. Huck pulled out his hair and stuck it on the axe; in addition, Huck also lifted “the pig and held him” to his jacket. Both his hair on the axe and the blood on his jacket were excellent evidence to show that he was killed. As a clever trickster, Huck aimed that not only his father but also town people believed that he was really dead. In

*Tricksterism in Turn-of-the-Century American Literature: A Multicultural Perspective*, White-Parks explained that the trickster is “a survival strategy through which the oppressed groups or individuals may attain a certain degree of personal and political autonomy within the restrictions of an oppressive dominant system” (3). In this sense, a survival strategy is the technique of tricksters when they were in dangerous circumstance. Like White-Parks’ statement, Huck was really in trouble

because his drunken father not only locked him in a cabin but also beat him. In addition, Huck thought that he was restricted and unsafe. To get out of this dangerous situation, trickster Huck eventually employed a trickster strategy. By his cunning, he created plan to escape. From step to step of Huck's plan, it showed that he was a smart trickster. Moreover, trickster Huck considered it would be better to let everybody thought that he had died. This clever plan enabled Huck to escape from father and town people successfully.

After Huck took a rest for a while, he headed the canoe to Jackson's Island which was situated in the middle of the Mississippi River. Huck intentionally planned that he was murdered because he wanted nobody to follow him.

“they'll follow the track of that sackful of rocks to the shore... and down the creek that leads out of it to find the robbers that killed me... They won't ever hunt the river for anything...and won't bother no more about me” (42).

Consequently, both Huck's drunken father and the villagers believed that Huck was murdered and dead. If Huck did not plan like this, people would look for him especially his drunken father. Huck finally found freedom and a new life, “I knowed I was all right now. Nobody else would come a-hunting after me” (46). His ability as a young clever trickster demonstrated clearly that he was able to take care of himself not only in the hazard situations but also in the larger world. Whenever Huck faced problems, he would employ trickster strategies to solve those problems like this clever plan.

Huck also employed a trickster strategy by disguising himself as a girl to get out of problems. On Jackson's Island, Huck accidentally met Jim who was Miss Watson's slave. After a few days, Huck wanted to know the situation in town. After thinking for a while, Huck had an idea that he had to search for his news in town. Huck had to disguise himself in order to avoid being remembered by villagers. Huck

finally decided to dress himself as a girl; he wore female clothes that he found at a floating house, “I turned up my trouser legs to my knees and got into it...it was a fair fit. I put on the sunbonnet and tied it under my chin” (60). Jim said “nobody would know me, even in the daytime, hardly.” It was necessary that Huck had to get used to female clothes, so he practiced all day, and “by and by I could do pretty well in them.” However, Jim commented that Huck did not walk like a girl, so Huck practiced more following Jim’s words and he did better. In this sense, the disguising as a girl of Huck was a trickster strategy. Huck disguised himself by wearing a girl’s clothes and made the disguise more convincing by putting on the girl’s manner and movement.

The example of the trickster who employed this survival technique like Huck was Onoto Watanna. Watanna was a half-Chinese writer. In the nineteenth century, American people had bad attitudes toward Chinese people. Therefore, it was difficult for Chinese writers to publish their works. In that period, the society preferred Japanese to Chinese. To survive at that hard time, Watanna adopted a Japanese pen name. Watanna also made people believe that she was a half-Japanese. In doing so, Watanna usually wore a Japanese kimono in her frontispiece to make people thought that she was Japanese, “This frontispiece displays a photograph of obviously posed Watanna dressed in a Japanese kimono, reading a book, and standing before an Oriental screen” ( qtd. in Yimwilai 20). In fact, trickster Watanna was a Chinese, but she disguised herself as a Japanese novelist in order to publish her works and survive from difficulties. Yimwilai stated in “Onoto Watanna: a Trickster Author”, “Under the guise of Japanese persona, Watanna was able to publish her writing and to become one of the best-selling writer of her time...her trickster strategy helped her enter the fictional space” (32). Watanna was another example of a smart trickster. Her trickster

strategy was successful. Moreover, Watanna became a well-known writer by her disguising. Like Watanna, Huck disguised himself as a girl; hence, villagers could not recognize that the girl was Huck Finn. Trickster Huck was very cunning and smart to disguise as a girl. In these female clothes, no one could remember Huck

Apart from disguising as a girl, Huck had an ability to invent stories to overcome difficult situations. This ability was considered an essential character of a clever trickster. Huck usually employed this crafty ability when he faced several difficulties. Once, Huck went into town in the dark. He found a woman whom he had never seen before in this town. Therefore, Huck decided to ask this woman about his news. “Now this was lucky... I was getting afraid I had come; people might know my voice and find me out. But if this woman had been in such a little town two days” (61). From this incident, apparently Huck was a smart trickster. Huck chose to ask the woman who just came in town but not people who lived in town long time ago because Huck thought they may recognize his voice. Huck also kept in his mind that “I wouldn't forget I was a girl.” After that, the woman let Huck come into her place and Huck introduced himself to the woman as “Sarah Williams”; moreover, Huck told the woman that he was from Hookerville. Huck also added that “my mother's down sick, and out of money and everything, and I come to tell my uncle Abner Moore. He lives at the upper end of the town” (62). Huck made up a story that he came to this town to inform his uncle that his mother was really sick. Finally, Huck's plan was successful. The woman talked to Huck for this and that for a while, and finally, she talked about the news that Huck was killed. In addition, she told him that people suspected either Huck's father or Jim was the murderer. The rewards being offered for Huck's father were 200 \$ and for Jim were 300 \$. Furthermore, she told Huck that she saw some smoke from Jackson's Island, so she was sure that Jim was there. Not only

was she certain that Jim was on the Island, but also she was going to tell her husband and other people to search for Jim there. After Huck heard about this frightening news, Huck felt uncomfortable and nervous so that the woman wondered about his behavior. She curiously asked Huck's name again. Because Huck was too worried about the news, Huck wrongly replied that he was Marry Williams. Therefore, the woman was more curious about Huck and found something wrong about the name Huck told her before. It was not "Marry Williams". Because Huck was worried about Jim, this trick failed; however, as a smart trickster, he employed another trickster strategy on the woman.

Huck tricked the woman again by creating a new story to get out of the difficult situation. Huck invented another story which was more reliable. Huck then had to reveal that he was a boy. However, Huck did not tell the woman his real name, but he was George Peter. Huck continued telling his story that both father and mother were dead, and he had to work in a farm. He also told her that his master treated him badly; hence, he stole clothes from his master's daughter and ran away to find his uncle in Goshen. Before being here, Huck met a drunken man who told him this was Goshen, but this was St. Petersburg. From hearing this story, the woman finally believed Huck and said "if you get into trouble you send word to Mrs. Judith Lotus, which is me" (67). After Huck left the woman, Huck urgently went to the Island to inform Jim what he had known from the woman. Once again both Huck and Jim could get away and were safe from the hunters who wanted rewards because of Huck's witty trickster. Although Huck was caught that he was not a girl, he could create another story to get out of this trouble. Because of this trickster strategy, Huck was safe again. Jim was also safe because Huck told Jim in time before villagers

came to search for Jim on the Jackson's Island. Eventually, Huck was able to protect not only himself but also Jim with his wittiness in the figure of a trickster.

Later on, Huck created a story to help three robbers. There was a heavy storm one day. Huck saw a wrecked steamboat in the middle of the river. With Huck's curiosity, he wanted to go on board and discovered something on that boat.

Unfortunately, three robbers were on the boat; moreover, two robbers were going to kill the third one by sinking the poor one along with the wrecked steamboat. Having heard those robbers' conversations, Huck and Jim were very frightened. Huck and Jim hurried to their raft and stole the robbers' boat in order to prevent them from running away. The steamboat and the robbers gradually sank into the river. However, Huck felt sympathetic with the robbers' lives, and he had to do something to help them.

Huck thought that he might not be different from those robbers and "become to be a murderer" if he did nothing. When Huck saw a light, he went ashore to find someone to help them. When Huck saw a watchman, he quickly adopted a trickster strategy. In doing so, trickster Huck went to see the watchman and swiftly made up a story. To make his story more sympathetic, trickster Huck pretended to cry. Huck began to tell the story that he and his family ran into the wreck to help Miss Hooker, the niece of the richest man in town, while traveling down the river. Unluckily, all of them struck on the wreck, and Huck was the only one who could swim and "somebody got to get shore and get help" (79). Huck also said that Miss Hooker's uncle would give a reward to whoever could save her life. When the watchman heard the story, he immediately took his ferryboat to rescue Miss Hooker. According to Lewis Hyde's idea, trickster was so smart that he could survive and get over the difficult circumstance by his tricks and wits. With Huck's clever trickster strategy, the watchman instantly went to that wrecked boat to rescue those robbers' lives because

the watchman believed Huck's story without any doubt. Therefore, Huck's trickster strategy was successful again.

Trickster Huck used his wit many times to get out of troubles. Huck employed another trickster strategy when he met Buck, the youngest Grangerfords. After Huck accidentally separated from Jim because of the storm, Huck was rescued by the Grangerfords. Actually, the Grangerfords and the Shepherdsons were two big families who had had a quarrel with each other for a long time. Therefore, when Huck woke up at the Grangerfords' house, they asked Huck whether he knew the Shepherdsons or not. They asked Huck such question because they did not want to help their enemy's friend. Huck replied that he did not know the Shepherdsons. To cover his real name, Huck told them that his name was George Jackson. Consequently, they took good care of Huck. After that, Huck and Buck became friends because they are in the same age. One day in the morning, Huck forgot his fake name which he had told them before. Huck tried to recall what his fake name was for a long time: "laid there about an hour trying to think". As a smart trickster, Huck instantly employed a trickster strategy. Huck made Buck to reveal his fake name instead. First of all, Huck said "Can you spell, Buck?", and Huck then also stimulated more to say "I bet you what you dare I can"; therefore, being challenged in this way, Buck promptly spelled Huck's fake name "G-e-o-r-g-e J-a-x-o-n -- there now," (102). As a result, Huck could remember his name again without any suspicion from Buck. This incident could obviously prove again that wherever Huck was and whatever Huck came across, Huck was able to get out of those difficult or dangerous situations successfully. It was no doubt as well that the trickster strategies were seen as survival strategies to stay alive and overcome the dangerous conditions. As a smart trickster, Huck usually employed trickster strategies to cope with his difficulties.

Huck used his tricks again when he met the king and the duke, the humbugs and frauds. After all members of the Grangerfords were killed including Huck's new friend, Buck, by the Shepherdsons, Huck and Jim left the cruel incident and continued their journey along the river. One day Huck and Jim helped the king and the duke from people chasing after them. The king and the duke asked several questions including whether Jim was a runaway slave or not. To protect Jim, Huck pretended to be an orphan traveling with his only slave. Huck again had to invent another story. Huck began his story with the death of his father and mother, and his family was very poor which "warn't nothing left but sixteen dollars and our nigger, Jim". He and Jim had to travel at night because, "people was always coming... and trying to take Jim away from me (Huck)...they believed he was a runaway nigger"(127). Michel de Certeau mentioned, in *The Practice of Everyday Life*, the weak created tactics that were the ways to conquer the strong and to stay alive in the society. Precisely, these tactics of the weak could be seen as trickster strategies to victory upon the powerful opponent. This idea was well applied to trickster Huck. Huck considered that the king and the duke were two white men. In addition, Huck was merely a white boy who traveled with a black man. Adults were definitely stronger than a child. To be safe, Huck used a trickster strategy. Huck could get out of this trouble by inventing a story that he was a misfortune boy. When Huck encountered other people who might be a trouble for him, Huck usually pretended to be the weak such as an orphan or a poor child in order to survive and protect Jim. Eventually, the king and the duke believed in whatever Huck had told them. This showed that Huck's trickster strategy worked.

As a smart trickster, Huck could protect not only himself but also other people by using trickster strategies. For example, he could help Mary Jane, the niece of Peter

Wilks, from two greedy cheaters. One day in a town, the king and the duke had heard the story of Peter Wilks who just died and left a lot of properties to his two brothers, Harvey and William, who were traveling from England. Having heard that, the king and the duke disguised themselves as Harvey and William hoping to get Peter Wilks' property. The King and the duke were very good at acting; therefore, Mary Jane and townspeople had no doubt about their appearance. The King and the duke got a lot of money from the Wilks' property. They gave Mary Jane and her sisters some money to show that they were generous. In fact, the money was stolen from Mary Jane and her sisters. Mary Jane was very kind to Huck. When Joanna, Mary Jane's sister, had done an inappropriate manner to Huck, Mary Jane told her sister to apologize to Huck right away, "it wasn't good of you to say it...you oughtn't to say a thing to another person that will make them feel ashamed" (271). Huck could see how good Mary Jane was. When the king and the duke planned to take away all of the Wilks' property, Huck decided to help Mary Jane and her sisters, "I says to myself, my mind's made up; I'll hivy that money for them or bust." Thus, trickster Huck had a clever plan to help them.

To do as he planned, Huck first stole the money which belonged to Peter Wilks from the king and the duke, and he hid it in the coffin of Peter Wilks. When the king and the duke asked Huck about the stolen money and where he was last night, trickster Huck created a story in order to avoid troubles. Huck told them that "I'm telling you the truth. I hain't been a-near your room since Miss Mary Jane took you and the duke and showed it to you." Huck also added a more believable story that "I see the niggers go in there several times. Both of them gave a little jump, and looked like they hadn't ever expected it, and then like they HAD" (179). Huck also invented another story: some slaves stole the money of the king and the duke. In addition, the

king and the duke had no chance to ask those slaves for the money because the king and the duke just sold all slaves away. Huck's answers showed that he was really a smart trickster.

Next, trickster Huck created a plan in order to make Mary Jane leave her house for a while. When Huck saw Mary Jane cried and was very upset about her slaves, Huck decided to tell Mary Jane the truth that the king and the duke were the two cheaters who were greedy for her property. Mary Jane was very angry with the king and the duke. Then Huck asked Mary Jane to leave the house and stay with a friend for a while. Huck also drew a map showing where the money was and gave it to Mary Jane. It would be better to make Mary Jane go away from her house because the king and the duke might see Mary Jane's angry face, and Huck's plan might fail at last.

Finally, Huck repeatedly employed a trickster strategy to create a believable story about Mary Jane. To prevent any doubt from the king and the duke and Mary Jane's sisters, Huck told them that Mary Jane had to cross the river in order to buy a house. Because Huck created a believable story, the king and the duke believe him. White Park mentioned that trickster strategy was applied by the person who was in trouble and danger to survive and get out of them. Similarly, Huck could help Mary Jane to get out of this danger. Huck could also protect the Wilks's property for Mary Jane. Moreover, when the real Peter Wilks' brother came, the evil masks of the king and the duke were disclosed. At the end, the plan to get the Wilks' property of the king and the duke failed.

The last and the most important incident which showed the clever trickster strategy of Huck was when Huck helped Jim. At the beginning of the story, Jim was merely Miss Watson's slave. Huck used to say, "Jim was most ruined for a servant"

(16). Huck always played trick on Jim. For instance, Huck used to play trick on Jim by leaving a dead rattlesnake under Jim's blanket. Huck did not believe what Jim had told him that, "it was the worst bad luck in the world to touch a snakeskin" (58). Huck also thought it would be fun when Jim saw a dead rattlesnake under his blanket. Unfortunately, the bad luck was true. When Jim went to his bed, "the snake's mate was there, and bit him". Jim was tortured from the bite nearly four days. To see Jim's suffering from his tricky behavior, Huck was very sad and felt sorry for Jim. Huck said "I made up my mind I wouldn't ever take a-holt of a snakeskin again with my hands" (59). Like Huck, Mark Twain was also playful. When Mark Twain was a boy, he usually missed classes and ran around with his gang.

Another example of Huck and Jim's relationship was that Huck and Jim accidentally separated in the fog. During this time, Huck played trick on Jim again. When they separated in the fog, Huck spent a long time calling and looking for Jim. The fog was so thick; Huck could not see anything. Moreover, Huck felt "like ... lying dead still on the water." Huck was so lonely and began to consider more on his and Jim's relationship "If you think it ain't dismal and lonesome out in a fog that way by yourself in the night, you try it once -- you'll see." (86). In the morning, Huck found Jim and woke Jim up. Accordingly, Jim was very happy to see Huck alive, but Huck played such a fool trick on Jim by telling him the events that Huck and Jim were separated by the thick fog over night before were just a dream. Finally, Jim knew that Huck played a trick on him again, and Jim was so angry,

"What do dey stan' for? ... When I got all wore out wid work, en wid de callin' for you, en went to sleep, my heart wuz mos' broke bekase you wuz los' ... En when I wake up en fine you back agin, all safe en soun', de tears come, en I could a got down on my knees en kiss yo' foot, I's so thankful. En all you wuz thinkin' 'bout wuz how you could make a fool uv ole Jim wid a lie." (87)

Hearing what Jim said, Huck felt ashamed of what he had done to Jim, “I could almost kissed HIS foot to get him to take it back.” Huck felt very sorry about what he did, and Huck apologized to Jim. Moreover, Huck realized about Jim’s concern and friendliness. Huck said to himself “I didn't do him no more mean tricks.” Huck could see how much Jim cared for him, so he decided not to play anymore tricks on Jim again.

Along the journey, Huck always had a conflict in his mind: whether to reveal Jim or to help Jim. When Jim said he was going to be free each time, Huck felt more and more guilty. Because Huck knew that helping a slave was breaking the law, and it was against the society rules. According to the rules during that period, a slave was only a property of an owner. Therefore, he had no right to steal someone’s property. In this sense, Jim was Miss Watson’s property, so helping Jim to run away was definitely against the law. Moreover, Jim planned to steal his children, and this plan terrified Huck. “Let up on me—it ain’t too late yet—I’ll paddle ashore at the first light and tell.” (92) Huck then decided to reveal Jim whenever their raft reached ashore, and Huck felt more comfortable when he had decided this way, “easy and happy and light as a feather right off.” Having a decision to reveal Jim, Huck relieved his guilt.

However, Huck could not betray Jim; on the other hand, Huck helped Jim. He decided to protect Jim because Huck realized Jim as a “person” not a “thing”. Jim said, “I couldn't ever ben free ef it hadn' ben for Huck; Huck done it. Jim won't ever forgit you, Huck; you's de bes' fren' Jim's ever had; en you's de ONLY fren' ole Jim's got now.” (92) After hearing these words, Huck realized he would feel even worse if he reveal Jim to the society “when he says this, it seemed to kind of take the tuck all out of me.” In Matthew Hurt, he studied Huck Finn's moral development along his

journey with Jim. He found that Huck faced a big moral problem that he argued with himself whether he disclosed Jim to the society or he helped Jim. In the end, Huck realized Jim not a “thing” but a “human being” and helped him. Huck’s view on Jim as a slave changed to be Huck’s best friend at the end. Therefore, Huck decided it would be the best to help him escape.

Along the journey, Huck helped Jim many times by using trickster strategies. First, when Huck saw two men “with guns”, he felt very scared. With his ability as a smart trickster, Huck pretended to be a weak boy living with a sick family on the raft. The slave hunters asked whether someone else was on the raft. Huck told them that his father, mother, and sister were on the raft. Huck eventually created a convincing story that his father on the raft was sick with the smallpox, “because it’s pap that’s there, maybe you’d help me tow the raft ashore. He is sick”. Huck also pretended to beg for their help because nobody willingly helped him to pull the raft ashore. Huck pretended that he was too weak to pull the raft into the land by himself. Consequently, the slave hunters were so terrified with the smallpox. They said, “Keep away boy...Your pap’s got the smallpox, and you know it precious well” (93). At this time, one of the elements of the clever trickster to invent stories enabled Huck to save Jim in time from those slave hunters. Michel de Certuau stated on the tactics of the weak that were “victories of the weak over the strong (whether the strength be that of powerful people or the violence of things or of an imposed order, etc), clever tricks, knowing how to get away with things, hunter’s cunning, maneuvers, polymorphic simulations...” (qtd. in Yimwilai 71 ). Huck was only a boy, but those slave-hunters were strong adults. Like de Certuau’s idea, the only way to triumph over the strong was a trickster strategy. Huck pretended to be a weak boy for more sympathy, and he

also invented a fantastic story. Because of Huck's trickster strategy, Huck was able to save Jim successfully. In other words, he was a very skillful trickster.

From the above examples, Huck and Jim's relationships were very close, and they became best friends. Both Huck and Jim encountered several difficulties along the river, and Huck gradually realized that Jim cared for him as a person. Therefore, Huck finally saw Jim as a friend not a slave anymore. Huck also promised to help Jim afterward.

The most significant strategy Huck used was when he planned to help Jim from Aunt Sally's house. When Huck, Jim, the king and the duke reached Pikesville, the king planned to sell Jim. With the brutality, the king could finally sold Jim and "got forty dollars" to the person in town who was Tom Sawyer's Auntie, Aunt Sally. Huck cried, "SOLD him?" I says, and begun to cry; "why, he was MY nigger ... Where is he? -- I want my nigger." (209). Huck was so sad that Jim was sold. To keep his words and to help his best friend, Huck searched for Jim everywhere. Huck finally found that Jim was at Aunt Sally's house. When Aunt Sally saw Huck, she thought that he was Tom Sawyer because she had been waiting for Tom Sawyer for a visit that day. As a smart Trickster, Huck grasped this opportunity to pretend to be Tom Sawyer. Like Peter B. High also stated, "Twain's work is filled with stories about how ordinary people trick experts, or how the weak succeed in hoaxing the strong...Huck Finn, is a master at this" (80). Huck was very cunning and smart, and Huck could see the way to help Jim. "I was feeling pretty comfortable all down one side and pretty uncomfortable all up the other. Being Tom Sawyer was easy and comfortable" (216). Moreover, Uncle Silas did not recognize Huck until Aunt Sally told "It's Tom Sawyer!" Huck pretended to be Tom Sawyer in order to help Jim. In addition, to be safe, Huck immediately went to meet Tom before Tom would meet

Aunt Sally. When Tom saw Huck, Tom was frightened because Tom thought he saw a ghost. Then Huck told his entire story, and Tom promised and agreed to save Jim as well. To help Jim, not only did Huck pretend to be Tom but also Tom acted as Sid Sawyer, Tom's brother.

Firstly, Huck and Tom had a plan to dig Jim out. As Huck and Tom's tricky plan, they were going to dig a hole for Jim to crawl out. Huck and Tom then used case-knives to dig the hole, but it did not work. They eventually used shovels to get it done.

After that, to make a perfect plan, Huck and Tom also stole a sheet, a shirt, six candles, a spoon and a brass candlestick. Aunt Sally noticed that there were many things missing because Huck and Tom stole those for their plan,

“And the shirt ain't all that's gone, nuther. Ther's a spoon gone; and THAT ain't all. There was ten, and now ther's only nine. The calf got the shirt, I reckon, but the calf never took the spoon, THAT'S certain" (242).

To get out of this trouble, Huck and Tom used a trickster strategy again. Huck and Tom made Aunt Sally confused with the number of those things. Tom and Huck hid one of spoons when Aunt Sally counted them, and Huck then put it back when Aunt Sally counted again, Aunt Sally finally had no idea exactly how many spoons she got; in addition, Huck and Tom could take one without any trouble. Huck and Tom also used the same trickster strategy with other materials such as sheets and candles to get out of difficulty. This example could indicate clearly how clever tricksters Huck and Tom were.

Then Huck and Tom created a story to help Jim out. In doing so, Huck and Tom made Nat, Aunt Sally's slave, believe that Jim was bewitched and “The nigger Nathe only just hollered "Witches" once, and keeled over on to the floor amongst the

dogs, and begun to groan like he was dying” (240). Nat was so terrified “I didn't b'lieve I see most a million dogs, er devils, er some'n, I wisht I may die right heah in dese tracks.” Huck and Tom then suggested Nat baked “a witch pie” to fix this spell. Nat did not know how to bake “a witch pie”. Therefore, Huck and Tom baked a pie, and they also hid a rope inside the pie. As a result, this clever plan was successful; moreover, Huck and Tom could give Jim the materials which he would use to escape without any doubt from Nat. This incidence also showed that Huck was a clever trickster.

Next, Huck and Tom again employed a trickster strategy by inventing an anonymous letters from mysterious thieves to stop Uncle Silas. Uncle Silas advertised Jim as a runaway slave in a local newspaper. In addition, Huck and Tom, as the clever tricksters, finally found a way to get out of this trouble. To stop Uncle Silas action, Huck and Tom planned to make up a warning letter “Beware. Trouble is brewing. Keep a sharp lookout. UNKNOWN FRIEND” (257). Apparently, Aunt Sally and Uncle Silas were terrified with this mysterious letter, especially, Aunt Sally. Aunt Sally always bewared of the strange thing. Huck and Tom then continued their tricky plan by sending another mysterious letter. Huck and Tom wanted Aunt Sally and Uncle Silas thought this letter was from a member of a gang who are planning to steal Jim from the family,

“Don't betray me, ... There is a desprate gang of cut-throats from over in the Indian Territory going to steal your runaway nigger to-night, .... I do not wish any reward but to know I have done the right thing. UNKNOWN FRIEND” (258).

Receiving another mysterious letter, the family was very horrified. Consequently, Uncle Silas stopped advertising Jim in the local newspaper. However, the family did not know what to do. They asked fifteen farmers to help them at the house.

Finally, Huck and Tom could help Jim to runaway from the cabin. Huck, Tom and Jim crept out of the hole that Huck and Tom had dug, and all of them could runaway from the hut. According to Lewis Hyde, trickster was very smart that he could survive and get over difficult circumstance by his tricks and wits. Huck pretended to be Tom; besides, Tom pretended to be Sid. Huck and Tom dug the hole and created many stories. Because of these trickster strategies, Huck and Tom could help Jim. Unfortunately, Tom was shot at his leg. Being concerned about Tom's wound, Jim decided that Tom had to see a doctor. It was clear how a good person Jim was. Huck said "I knowed he was white inside, and I reckoned he'd say what he did say" (263). In the end, Tom told everybody that Jim was free as the Miss Watson's will. Therefore, Jim was free from the slavery.

Huck was really a smart trickster. He employed many trickster strategies to survive and get himself and others out of troubles. He was able to stay alive from any difficulties because he always employed a lot of trickster strategies whenever he encountered trouble situations. His trickster strategies were disguising, masking, cunning, inventing stories and so on. With these trickster strategies, Huck was able to overcome difficulties successfully. Huck could protect not only himself but also other people. Some circumstances were very easy, but some conditions were difficult to get out. Trickster Huck had also learned that "what's the use you learning to do right when it's troublesome to do right and and ain't no trouble to do wrong, and the wage is just the same" (94). In this sense, Huck realized that trickster strategies could help him and others from many dangers but the right way which followed society rules may not. Huck's trickster strategies were not for cheating someone else; on the other hand, his trickster strategies were for getting out of troubles as survival strategies.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESIONS**

#### **FOR FURTHER STUDIES**

My study of trickster strategies of Huck Finn illustrates that Huck was a smart trickster in order to get freedom, to get himself out of troubles, and to help other people. Huck played the role of trickster by using wits, inventing stories, disguising himself, creating plans and pretending. Although some of Huck's strategies failed, he could employ other trickster strategies to triumph over those difficult circumstances as a smart trickster.

Huck employed many trickster strategies along his journey. His using trickster strategies depended on the difficulties that he faced. Huck could employ the trickster strategies to achieve his goal. Firstly, trickster Huck usually made up a fascinating story. For instance, when Huck did not want his father doubted why he was wet thoroughly, he created a believable story that he fell into the river. In fact, Huck found the canoe and hid it for his escape.

In addition, trickster Huck was very smart to create reliable evidence to prove his fake story. It is clearly shown when he planned that he was murdered. Huck shot a wild pig, and he took the pig to the cabin. He spread the pig's blood on the ground and also put his hair on the axe. Huck then smashed the axe at the door. All was done to convince people to believe that he was murdered. Thus, he could escape, and everybody believed that he was dead because of his tricky plan.

Apart from inventing believable stories, Huck used disguising as another clever trickster strategy. Huck disguised himself as a girl to find news about himself

in town. From this incidence, Huck could show readers about his smart trickster character well. His disguising was definitely one of the techniques of a clever trickster. Huck dressed himself as a girl. He also practiced a lot to imitate a girl's manners. Although Huck was caught by the woman that he was not a real girl, he then created a sympathetic story which could convince her to believe him. Huck was able to get out of this trouble because he was a real smart trickster.

Another example of his great story telling is when Huck tricked Mrs. Judith Lotus. At first, Huck told her that his name was Sarah Williams and from Hookerville. He searched for Uncle Abner Moore in order to tell his uncle that his mother was really sick. He did not have money too. When the woman realized that Huck had told a lie, Huck then created a more reliable story. He continued telling a story that both father and mother were dead, and he had to work for a living in a farm. His master treated him badly, so he decided to run away. He stole clothes from the master's daughter to look for his uncle in Goshen, but he got lost and was here. The woman believed Huck this time, so she was willing to help him.

Huck also pretended to be a weak boy to make people feel sympathetic to him. To see a weak and poor boy, many people would not doubt anything and would feel sympathetic to him. For example, when Huck faced the slave-hunters, he pretended to be a weak boy living with a sick family on the raft. Huck also pretended to beg for their help because nobody helped him to pull the raft ashore. Huck pretended that he was too weak to pull the raft to the land by himself. Therefore, to employ several trickster strategies, Huck had more and more chances to get out of troubles successfully.

The reason why Huck was a trickster is Huck wanted to get out of troubles. When Huck encountered many troubles, Huck usually employed trickster strategies to

get out of them. This study revealed that to get out of troubles, Huck employed a lot of trickster strategies. Huck disguised himself as a girl to find his news in town. Huck also made up the stories. Huck usually created the story that he was a misfortune boy and pretended to be a weak boy to make people to feel sympathetic to him. Because of his trickster strategies, Huck could get out of troubles. Trickster Huck was smarter and stronger than the boys in his own age. Huck never gave up easily although he might fail for the first time. As the smart trickster, Huck swiftly employed another trickster strategy to solve problems. For example, when Huck disguised himself as a girl to search his news in town, the woman noticed that Huck was not a girl. The woman knew about this because Huck was too worried about the news from her. Huck quickly invented a reliable story to make the woman believed. This was the second time that he could convince the woman successfully. When Huck planned to escape from his drunken father, he could run away to Jackson's island safely. This event indicated clearly step by step of Huck's trickster plan until it was accomplished. Another incidence was when Huck went to find his news in town. In this time, Huck employed many trickster strategies to succeed his goal. In this way, to get out of troubles, it was necessary for Huck to be a trickster.

Another reason is that Huck wanted to get freedom. This study also revealed that to get freedom, Huck used his wit to create a plan to escape from his brutal father. Huck also invented the story that he was murdered. Moreover, Huck was very smart to create reliable evidences to prove his fake story. Through these trickster strategies, Huck could run away and get freedom. When Huck's father took Huck to the cabin, Huck was locked in the cabin. So, Huck felt that he was limited and restricted. Sometimes, Huck's drunken father beat him badly. Huck eventually employed various

trickster strategies to search for freedom. Huck created a fantastic plan to escape. Huck also invented a wonderful story in order to prevent everybody from following him. Therefore, Huck's trickster strategies enabled Huck to get freedom finally.

Not only could Huck save his own life but also he could help several people by using his trickster strategy. This study revealed that to help other people, Huck used his wits to create plans and made up stories. Huck also pretended to be other people. Because of his strategies, Huck could save not only himself but also other people. For example, Huck could help Mary Jane from the king and the duke who attempted to take her property. Because of the smart plan of Huck, the king and the duke could not take any money from Mary Jane's family. More importantly, Huck also could save Jim several times by his trickster strategies. First of all, Huck disguised himself as a girl to search for his news in town. Because of his disguising, Jim and Huck could run away safely in time. After that, Huck was able to save Jim from the slave hunters by inventing a clever story to scare them. Finally, Huck helped Jim from Aunt Sally's house because the king and the duke sold Jim there. Jim could run away from Aunt Sally's hut successfully because of Huck and Tom's plan. Therefore, Huck and his friends could be free and safe from all dangerous situations because of his trickster strategies.

Although some of Huck's strategies failed, he could adopt other trickster strategies to achieve his goal. One important example was when Huck disguised himself as a girl to search his news in town. In the beginning, Huck's disguising was successful because townspeople could not recognize him. Unfortunately, Huck was caught by the woman that he was not a girl because he was too worried and nervous about the news from her. Huck's disguising finally failed this time. As a smart

trickster, Huck swiftly used other trickster strategies to cope with this problem. In doing so, Huck used his wits to invent a story to make the woman believe him. In addition, Huck pretended to be a poor boy who ran away from his cruel master. Huck's creating story was usually an effective trickster strategy. Like other times, Huck could convince the woman to believe him successfully. Huck could get out of this trouble and achieve his goal because of his effective trickster strategy.

Obviously, there are numerous studies on Huck because Huck is an interesting main character. For instance, Linda Cabiness found that Huck wanted to be free from the hypocritical society and arbitrary rules. Freedom had many forms which reflected in body, thought and expression of Huck. To compare with Cabiness' results, the findings of this study also showed that Huck really wanted freedom. Moreover, the method that enabled Huck to be free was trickster strategies. Huck usually employed trickster strategies to search for freedom. Huck's using trickster strategies was the best way for him to survive and free from bad people, the chaotic society and troubles. Therefore, Huck expertly adopted trickster strategies as a means to search for his freedom.

One more researcher who studied Huck was Matthew Hurt. Hurt studied Huck Finn's moral development along his journey with Jim. He found that Huck faced a big moral problem whether to help Jim or to betray Jim. Like Hurt, this study also found the same thing that Huck realized that Jim was not a "thing" but a "human being" and helped him to be free from slavery. Huck and Jim's relationship was better and better along the river. Huck could see and feel how much Jim cared for him. Huck could feel love, concern, and friendship from Jim. These feelings touched Huck because he had never got them from his own father. Huck finally saw Jim as a person and friend, not Miss Watson's slave anymore. In addition, Huck also employed

trickster strategies to help Jim many times. From these examples, it is clear that Huck was not just an ordinary boy but he was a smart trickster. He also learned to love other people and attempted to help them when they were in trouble. Thus, his humanity had been developed.

The result of this study demonstrated that the trickster strategy is a survival strategy which Huck usually employed to get out of a lot of troubles safely. It can be concluded that trickster strategies is a significant technique not only for Huck but also for everybody to employ in his/her life in order to survive and get out of any difficulties from the chaotic world. Although a trickster is a wit, smart and cunning character, it is also dangerous if someone uses trickster strategies in the wrong way. For example, the king and the duke always used tricks to do bad things in the story. They were very mean and greedy because they fooled everybody along the journey in order to get money when they had a chance. In the end, because of being terrible tricksters, the king and the duke were caught and punished badly. The king and the duke is an example of bad tricksters. On the other hand, an example of good tricksters is Huck because he always employed the trickster strategies not to harm people but to help them such as Mary Jane and Jim.

In conclusion, the examples of tricksters illustrate well what kind of tricksters readers should follow. Being tricksters as the king and the duke, one might be happy for a while, but he/she will be worried and unhappy for the rest of his/her life. Therefore, being a trickster like Huck will be the best way for everyone to employ to survive in the society nowadays.

## **Suggestions for further studies**

There are still many interesting aspects to study in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. It will be interesting to compare Huck with Tom as tricksters. For example, why are they tricksters? Do Huck and Tom employ the same trickster strategies? In addition, whose trickster strategies can achieve the goal effectively?

Furthermore, protagonists who employ trickster strategies in other Mark Twain's novels or other American novels might be studied.

It will also be interesting to compare trickster Huck with trickster of main character in writing of other cultures like Sun Wukong, a well-known Chinese trickster. Sun Wukong can transform himself into various animals and subjects. Trickster Huck may not transform himself to be a bird or a book. Trickster Huck may employ some strategies that he is expert at to cope with troubles.

In addition, trickster strategies can also be found in Thai writings. It will be interesting to compare trickster Huck to tricksters in Thai writings such as Srithanonchai.

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## **APPENDIX**

## **A Synopsis of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

This novel is a continuous story of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The story begins in St. Petersburg after Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn find the money of robbers from the previous adventures. Then Huck is adopted by Widow Douglas and her sister, Miss Watson. They attempt to civilize Huck with his new life of cleanliness, manners, church and school, but Huck feels uncomfortable with his new lifestyle. Huck's life seems fine until his drunken father appears; moreover, Huck's father kidnaps and holds him in a cabin. One day, when Huck's father leaves Huck alone, he plays a trick that he is dead, and then he escapes and takes a boat down the Mississippi River.

Hiding on Jackson's Island, Huck coincidentally meets Jim, a slave of Miss Watson. Jim runs away after hearing Miss Watson talk about selling him down the river. Huck and Jim stay on the Island for a while after Huck disguises as a girl to find some news in town and he finds out that someone suspects that Jim is on the Island. Moreover, townspeople believe Huck is dead. They are hunting for his father and Jim. Huck and Jim decide to take a raft to Cairo.

On the raft along the Mississippi River, Huck and Jim encounter many difficult situations. The more problems they face, the better relationship they develop. Huck and Jim encounter the slave hunters, and Huck helps Jim by telling them his father is on the raft suffering from smallpox. This scared them away. Before hurrying away, they give Huck some money. The following night, Huck and Jim are separated by the crashing of the steamboat. In the morning, Huck meets the Gangerfords and they help Huck. Then Huck becomes friend with Buck Grangerford and Huck knows the Grangerfords has had conflict with the Shephersons for 30 years. Later on, the Shephersons kill all members of

the Grangerfords even Huck's friend, Buck. This is a tragedy. Then Huck escapes and accidentally finds Jim and they get on the raft further south along the Mississippi River.

A few days later, Huck and Jim save the duke and the dauphin who are two cheaters. Huck and Jim continue down the river with them. The duke and the dauphin scam in the small towns along the river. They happen to know that Peter Wilks was dead and left an inheritance to English brothers. Then the duke and the dauphin pretend to be Wilks' brother and Huck has to play along with them. Huck then admires the Wilks' sister and reveals the truth to the oldest Wilks' sister. Later on, the towns are very angry with this scam and the duke and the dauphin fortunately came back to the raft just as Huck and Jim are pushing off.

Then the duke and the dauphin commit the worst scam that Jim is sold to a local farmer. Huck finds out where Jim is and at the house where Jim is held, a woman calls Huck as Tom. Huck then knows that she is Tom's aunt and Huck goes along with her mistake. Huck finds Tom and tells him everything and Tom pretends to be his younger brother. Tom sets the weird plan to help Jim. Huck and Jim play along with Tom's plan; unfortunately, Tom is shot in the leg. Then Jim sacrifices his freedom to help Tom. As a reward to Jim's goodness, Tom reveals that Jim is free according to Miss Watson wishes. Then Jim also tells Huck that the dead body in the floating house is Huck's father. Tom's aunt wants to adopt Huck but Huck at last intends to be free and sets out for the West.

## **VITAE**

## VITAE

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