

# THE MOVING PIONEERS IN AMERICA ON THE NOVELS BY JAMES FENIMORE COOPER

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## **Abstract**

*This research is an attempt to reveal the life of pioneers in America in Cooper's novels "The Deerslayer", "The Pathfinder", "The Last of the Mohicans", "The Pioneers" and "The Prairie". There are two objectives of the research, namely the reasons why the pioneers move to the West and what things that they have to have in order to be successful in the West.*

*Using literary sociology, the two objectives of the research are discussed in the five novels as the main sources and the criticisms and the social condition in America as the secondary sources.*

*The result of the research shows that the pioneers in America have some reasons so that they move to the West. They want to have wide land to settle. Besides, they want to cultivate the land to fulfill their needs. Other pioneers have to move to the West because they have to defend the British territory. In order to be successful, the pioneers have to have the hard skills and soft skills. They have to be able to hunt the wild animals, to use weapons to defend their properties and themselves. They also have to have self reliance, hard work, spirit, and discipline as well as vigilance.*

**Keywords:** *pioneer, the West, movement, settlement.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Since John Smith landed in America and set up a colony in Jamestown in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, waves of displacement of the people of Europe, especially England, happened. A variety of reasons, from economic, political, even religious, encouraged the people of Europe to come regularly to America. America had become the land of opportunity for those who wanted to experience an improvement in their lives even though not a few of them stranded and died before reaching the ground of expectations.

It was these people who became pioneers to open the wilds of America (Wilderness) into new settlements with a very high risk. Without having enough stock, especially the skills to defend themselves and strong physical, they were unlikely to move to the West. They completely realized that they would not encounter such facilities already existing in the settlements they occupied before. Wild nature, attack of the Indians and wild animals occurred at any time, and scarcity of resources did not deter them to open American jungle.

The immigrants from Europe managed to make settlements along the east

coast of America, from Virginia whose land was good for agriculture and plantations until the Massachusetts which was barren and rocky. But they did not stop there. The settlement which was increasingly crowded as the continued arrival of immigrants from Europe and the opportunity to have land which was increasingly limited encouraged them to move toward the West which was at that time controlled by the Native American tribes, the Indians. They completely realized that the Indians did not receive them well, and even tended to hostile them and tried to kill all the white people in America.

Over the time, the motivation to explore the western region (Westward Movement) began to be complex. People who moved to the West did not merely look for new areas for residential anymore, but also political, religious or other social reasons. Some people moved to the West because they did not want to be bound by the rules or social norms. Some of them were indeed sent by the local government to make contact with the Indians in order to make fur trade more advanced. And some others were also people who really wanted to live far from established civilization. For the latest group, they usually

went themselves, did not invite their family or group, and lived like the Indians. However, the largest percentages of them were people who were looking for new settlements deemed to be cheaper and affordable.

The Westward Movement is important in American history. People from different cultural backgrounds, nations, and religions flocked to the West and established a culture which was different from their previous one. They no longer considered themselves as British, German, or other European people, but they already considered themselves as Americans.

By using the sociology of literature, researchers attempted to explain and disclose the reasons for the pioneers to go to the West, and explain and reveal what should be owned by every pioneer in order to be successful in the West.

To achieve these objectives, researchers have analyzed the works of James Fenimore Cooper in the form of novel. There were five novels studied by the researchers, namely "The Deerslayer", "The Pathfinder", "The Last of the Mohicans", "The Pioneers", and the last is "The Prairie."

#### LITERARY REVIEW

In his thesis, Riyatno (2005) talked about the lives of the frontier (frontiersmen) in America in the XVIII and XIX centuries. There were three things that were discussed in the study, namely what meant by frontier, the characteristics of frontier life in America, and the properties of the frontier, and the frontier life role in shaping the character and attitude of the Americans. In the study, he also divided the people who went to the West into three major groups, namely the long hunters, the backwoodsmen, and the pioneers. But once again, the topic of his research was the long hunter and the backwoodsmen.

Based on the purpose they went to the West, Liebman and Young (1966: 208) stated that the long hunters came to the West for the purpose of trading with the Indians. As such, they often associated with the Indians, and sometimes they looked just like Indians because they lived longer with the Indians. The second category is the backwoodsmen, those who cleared land and made a settlement. According to Liebman and Young (1966: 208), they cleared some of the forest and built homes. They did not live with the

Indians even though they sometimes were also involved in fur trade with the Indians. Both of these groups did not have family members and they lived alone in the woods. While the pioneers were people who proposed to stay and build homes for their families (Liebman and Young, 1996: 208). They had families and they usually looked for cheaper land, as stated by Todd and Curti (1972: 59) "many more became pioneers who moved farther inland where land was cheaper."

Meanwhile, in his thesis, Ceisy Nita Wuntu (1996) spoke of wilderness that was compared to civilization in two novel by James Fenimore Cooper entitled "The Last of the Mohicans" and "The Prairie". In this respect, he compared the white man who was said to have civilization and the Indians who still lived in conditions that were always close to the nature so that white people thought them as not civilized or whose culture had not been developed. For example, the Indians would scalp the enemy in a war or battle as proof that he had managed to defeat his enemy. According to the Indians, this was their culture, but for white people, such practices were obviously barbaric and inhumane.

Another study which was ever conducted by Rumiri Rotua Aruan (2002) is about the American pioneer family in the late XIX century in a work entitled "Little House on the Prairie." This work has ever been screened in the form of national television films in Indonesia in the 1980s. As stated in the title of the work, the pioneer family who became its study was a pioneer family living in grassland or prairie areas where the region was not as tough as in the woods or wilderness.

In another part, Hirmawan Wijanarka discussed the ideals or values of the pioneers through the work of Mark Twain's entitled *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In his analysis, he explained, what done by the main character of the novel, namely Huckleberry Finn represented 4 pioneer ideals, namely the ideal of conquest, the ideal of discovery, the ideal of self-development, and the ideal of democracy.

#### RESEARCH METHOD

This study is a qualitative research. Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 2001: 3), described the qualitative research as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in

the form of words, written or spoken, of people and behaviors that can be observed. Meanwhile, according to Myers (2004), the method of qualitative research is developed in the social sciences to provide a way for researchers to study the phenomena of social and cultural. In this study, the phenomena of social and cultural examined were phenomena that exist in the novel "the Deerslayer", "the Pathfinder", "the Last of the Mohicans", "the Pioneers", and "the Prairie" created by James Fenimore Cooper.

In this study, the approach used is sociology of literature proposed by Ian Watt. According Sapardi (in Faruk, 2003: 4), what became the focus of attention is the extent to which literature reflects society at a time of literary works were written. Meanwhile, according to Jabrohim (in Jabrohim, 2003: 159), the purpose of study using sociological approach to literature is to get a full, complete, and thorough picture about the reciprocal relationship between the writer, literature, and society.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Settlements that grew since the landing of immigrants along the east coast of America were increasingly filled with the arrival of other immigrants. At first, immigrants from England managed to make colonies in places like Jamestown, Portsmouth and others. Success stories to build colonies in America made the other nations in Europe such as the Netherlands, Germany, France and Ireland moved to become the new immigrants in America. Thus, America was no longer synonymous with the UK, but it was a group of people of many nationalities.

From the five novels by James Fenimore Cooper, researchers discussed one pioneer family in each novel. In the novel "The Deerslayer", researchers discussed the Hutter family. In the novel "The Pathfinder", researchers discussed the Dunham family. In the third novel, "The Last of the Mohicans", Munro family was discussed. Marmaduke family in the novel "The Pioneer" was a picture of pioneer families which was better organized than the three previous families. While in the last novel, "The Prairie", Ishmail Bush family became a representation of pioneer families who have moved far to the West.

As on the lives of people in America

in the 18th and the 19th century, the novels by James Fenimore Cooper which was on The Leatherstocking Tales also represents the societal conditions that existed at the time. Thus, the pioneer lives in America would be seen through literary works.

The lives of the pioneers in James Fenimore Cooper's novel began when settlements along the east coast of America had been dense. While livelihood and land to live were limited. If they insisted on staying in the settlements that already existed, they would get very expensive prices and the places were not extensive enough to be inhabited. Moreover, the pioneer relied their lives on cultivating the land so that the narrow land was not possible to support their family members. The best alternative for them was to make a living far out of existing settlements by moving to the West.

In the novel "The Deerslayer", the description of the life of the pioneer began in the New York area from 1740 until 1745 represented with the Hutter family. Hutter family consisted of Thomas Hutter, a father who had two daughters, namely Judith and Hetty. Meanwhile, Thomas's wife was dead. For Hutter family, building a house or a new settlement would certainly bring the risk that was quite dangerous because the Indians would attack the settlement. Settlements that already existed were also not spared from the attacks of the Indians, as depicted in the following quote:

"It is matter of history that the settlements on the eastern shores of Hudson, such as Claverack, Kinderhook, and even Poughkeepsie, were not regarded as safe from Indian inclusion a century since; and there is still standing on the banks of the same river, and within musket-show of the wharves of Albany, a residence of a younger branch of the Van Rensselaers, that has loopholes constructed for defence against the same crafty enemy, although it dates from a period scarcely so distant (Cooper, 1952: 2)."

The above quotation also shows that the role of river became very important because the settlement was located on the riverbank. This was reinforced by statements of Liebman and Young (1966: no page) who "No one can attack him here, without coming in a boat, and the plunder and scalps would scarce be worth

said, "Many of the early settlers built their homes close to the river." From economic reasons, the river provided low cost solutions for transportation and also the availability of water for daily life. In general, the pioneer family had farm animals such as horses and cows. From security reasons, they could escape into the river at any time if there was an attack from the Indians. In addition, the Indian attack by the river was rare that the pioneer did not need to worry about attacks by river.

In addition to the river, the lake was also a suitable place to make a home for the pioneer. The place was likely to be open to make the occupants could see clearly who came to their homes, whether friend or enemy.

To meet their needs, they provided it for a long enough period of time so that they did not need to frequently leave home. They could also stay at their homes in the night and during the day they worked as usual on their land. This is understandable because the Indians usually attacked at night when the occupants were asleep. "Muskrat Castle, as the house had been facetiously named by some waggish officer, stood in the open lake, at a distance of fully a quarter of a mile from the nearest shore (Cooper, 1952: 25)."

If there was an attack from the enemy, they could anticipate quickly because the lake water gurgling sound was heard clearly. Here, Tom, one of the pioneers had equipped himself with a variety of supplies, either for life or for survival. By itself, weapons and equipment were not missed, as described in the following passage:

"No one can attack him here, without coming in a boat, and the plunder and scalps would scarce be worth the trouble of digging out canoes. Then it's by no means certain which would whip in such a scrimmage, for old Tom is well supplied with arms and ammunition, and the castle, as you may see, is a tight breast work ag'in light shot (Cooper, 1952: 25)."

Construction of the building was also becoming an important element in creating security from attack by Indians and wild beasts. Aspect of the beauty of a building that was commonly seen in urban areas was no longer a matter that must be met. Most important was the aspect of the strength of the

building materials that could withstand an attack of arrows or spears. Even if there was a herd of wild beasts that hit the wall of the house, the house would not be easy to collapse and disintegrate. In addition, building materials were easily available, so no need to go to another place to get it. For this purpose, the pioneer used timber to make home.

"A good deal of art had also been modified of the timber of which the building was constructed and which afforded a protection much greater than was usual to the ordinary log-cabins of the frontier. The sides and ends were composed of the trunks of large pines, cut about nine feet long, and placed upright, instead of being laid horizontally, as was the practice of the country. These logs were squared on the three sides, and had large tenons on each end. .... The effect of this ingenious arrangement was to give its owner a house that could be approached only by water, the sides of which were composed of logs closely wedged together, .... (Cooper, 1952: 26)."

With such conditions, the pioneers were conditioned to always be vigilant and careful in their daily lives. If not, it was almost certain that their lives were at stake. In fact, every object around him would be scrutinized carefully to ensure that they were secure when they had to stop from traveling or wanted to take a rest. However, jungle stored various kinds of poisonous snakes and other dangerous animals. The following excerpt shows how a pioneer was very careful and meticulous in watching what was nearby.

"After proceeding near a mile, March, stopped, and began to cast about him with inquiring look, examining the different objects with care, and occasionally turning his eyes on the trunks of the fallen trees, with which the ground was well sprinkled, as is usually the case in an American wood, ... (Cooper, 1952: 17)."

With such a condition of the place where they lived, automatically the pioneers tried to adjust. View of life, attitude, and all aspects of life changed in line with the state that demanded for change. In other words, the environmental conditions in the American Wilderness created a new culture. The one clearly visible was the shape of the house and

the location The one clearly visible was the shape of the house and the location of a place to stay that was close to rivers and lakes. Other cultural output was in terms of household appliances, equipment for food and others because the food available was hunted animals. Consequently, tools of hunting became the main tool to meet the needs of everyday life, as well as a means to defend themselves. They also utilized the skin of hunted animals to be exchanged or sold in a sales or trading post to be exchanged or to buy ammunition and food ingredients that did not exist in the home, as disclosed by Harry on Deerslayer as follows:

“Old Tom has taken to a new calling, and has been trying his hand at the traps,” cried Hurry, who had been coolly examining the borderer’s implements; “if that is his humor, and you’re disposed to remain in these parts, we can make an uncommon comfortable season of it; for, while the old man and I out-knowledge the beaver, you can fish, and knock down the deer, to keep the body and soul together (Cooper, 1952: 30).”

The condition had also established women among pioneer to have a different character with the women who lived in urban areas. They became bolder to live a life where they had to rely on their own capacity. Although they had husbands or there were men who were ready to protect in case of danger, they were not whiny and just hid behind the backs of the men. In the novel “The Deerslayer”, Judith Hutter is described as a woman who has “the spirit and the experience that will make-her depend more on herself than on good-looking rovers” (Cooper, 1952: 59).

The character of the men also changed along with a hard life. Strong character before they went to the West looked when they did not care about the danger which threatened them if they insisted on opening new settlements. The character was getting established in a new place, such as the following quote:

“Hutter was much affected; for rude as he was by early habits, and even ruthless as he had got to be by long exposure to the practices of the wilderness, his nature was of that fearful mixture of good and evil that so generally enters into the moral

composition of man (Cooper, 1952: 81).”

But on the other hand, their life in the forest also sharpened their skills for something that was hidden behind the phenomenon existed. Ultimately these capabilities would increasingly make them managed to overcome the possibility that harmed them.

Along with the wave of immigration from Europe and the desire to seek a better life, the Westward Movement could not be stopped. Slowly but surely, Wilderness turned into residential areas. Pioneer families continued to move to the West, especially the young family. As already described in the novel “The Deerslayer”, the pioneer in the novel “The Pathfinder” also still looked for a settlement close to a river or lake. Even more specifically, this time they had moved into lakes Ontario, precisely in the eastern bank of lake called Oswego. In the novel “The Pathfinder”, a pioneer family was represented by Sergeant Dunham family with his daughter Mabel Dunham and settlements that had already been widely shown by various economic activities.

In the novel “The Deerslayer”, Hutter family earned his living by hunting animals for their skins. In the novel “The Pathfinder”, the hunt to get the animal skin reduced, even it could be said not existed anymore. The economy had shifted towards other activities. These changes were visible from the expression of Mabel Dunham to Charles Cap.

“See!” exclaimed the niece, who was more occupied with the sublimity and beauty of the “boundless wood” than with her uncle’s arguments, “yonder is a smoke curling over the tops of the trees—can it come from a house?”

“Aye, aye; there is a look of humanity in that smoke,” returned the old seaman, “which is worth a thousand trees; I must show it to Arrowhead, who may be running past a port without knowing it. It is probable there is a caboose where there is a smoke” (Cooper, 1961: 12).

By looking at the phenomena that exist, the smoke that rose high into the sky, Mabel Dunham could ensure that the settlement had begun to spread. Also it could be concluded that the smoke as a result of the activities of the settlers to meet their life's needs. Even smoke could also be summed up as the opening of a new settlement by burning forests, such as the expression of Arrowhead, one Indian from Tuscarora tribe, as the following: "Wet wood," returned the warrior, with the calmness with which the pedagogue might point out an arithmetical demonstration to his puzzled pupil. "Much wet—much smoke; much water—black smoke (Cooper, 1961: 14)."

On the other hand, with the opening of a new settlement, it meant that the conditions in the area were still dangerous by the presence of the Indian attack. Special skills were needed to live on or near waterways. This meant that a settlement on the outskirts or even in the middle of the lake would be different in terms of survival at any time if there was an attack on the Indian. "It isn't enough to know the channel, friend mariner," said Pathfinder, "it needs nerves and skill to keep the canoe straight and to keep her clear of the rocks, too" (Cooper, 1961: 41). Thus, everyone should have one important thing that was courage. Sufficient knowledge of the channels that existed in the lake was nothing without courage.

Life in the waters resulted a new culture. If in agriculture land people required carts, towing animals and agricultural tools, the Dunham and the other pioneers made water transportation, such as canoes, boats and other things that sustained life in the waters. Expertise that had to be owned also differed automatically. In addition, the ability to read the field should really be held in which they should be able to control the rate of their transport on waters.

"Very little exertion was required on the part of those who managed the canoes, except in those places where the swiftness of the current and the presence of rocks required care; when, indeed, not only vigilance, but great coolness, readiness, and strength of arm became necessary in order to avoid dangers (Cooper, 1961: 46)."

As Judith Hutter in the novel "The Deerslayer", Mabel Dunham was also conditioned as a pioneer family member who had to be brave in facing the problem. Fears which were usually attached to a woman were conditioned to be removed so that what would be done was more focused. In a state of fear, one can not use his mind properly. Therefore, Mabel Dunham tried to control his feelings in any situation, even though as humans fear would never been washed away from his heart.

"Spirited, accustomed to self-reliance, and sustained by the pride of considering herself a soldier's daughter, she could hardly be said to be under the influence of fear; yet her heart often beat quicker than common, her fine blue eye lighted with an exhibition of a resolution that was wasted in the darkness, and her quickened feelings came in aid of the real sublimity that belonged to the scene and to the incidents of the night (Cooper, 1961: 85)."

However, a military upbringing was very influential in the life of Mabel Dunham. The spirit and believe in ourselves become an important asset in taking life in an area that is still strange and dangerous. The spirit and confidence was also what made the pioneer would not give up on the ideals for which they fought despite the dangers and obstacles ahead.

As with the existing buildings on the novel "The Deerslayer", the existing buildings on the novel "The Pathfinder" were also designed to provide security for the people who inhabit the buildings. Timber was still the main building material for wall. Aesthetics of a building remained not to become a major concern. Overall, the pioneer preferred the function of each one they had for security. Therefore, the work of the pioneer had not given a high aesthetic value when compared to what was found in urban areas.

"A small blockhouse had been erected with some attention to its means of resistance. The logs were bulletproof, squared and joined with a care to leave no defenseless point. The windows were loopholes, the door massive and small, and the roof, like

the rest of the structure, was framed of hewn timber, covered properly with bark to exclude the rain (Cooper, 1961: 270)."

In the novel "The Last of the Mohicans", a description of the pioneer contained in Colonel Munro family with two daughters named Cora and Alice. Colonel Munro was a British officer who was assigned to defend the area to be annexed by France. From here it could be seen that the movement of the pioneers to the West to open new settlements created new conflicts in American continent. Britain which had held the east coast of America faced with France that sought to expand its territory from Canada towards the south west direction.

"It was a feature peculiar to the colonial wars of North America, that the toils and dangers of the wilderness were to be encountered before the adverse hosts could meet. A wide and apparently an impervious boundary of forests severed the possessions of the hostile provinces of France and England (Cooper, 1958: 15)."

Wars between the French and English lasted long and occurred several times, both in Europe and in America. From historical records, the war between England and France occurred from 1689 until 1763. In this case, what Cooper portrayed in the novel "The Last of the Mohicans" was a battle between British soldiers in the French army. Both Britain and France were helped by Indian tribes in America. It was explained that France was aided by the Huron while the British was assisted by Indian Delaware or Mohicans.

With such conditions, the pioneers directly or indirectly were involved in the war because in fact the struggle for territory between England and France affected their existence. During the time the pioneers were more wary of attack of Indian tribes. With the conflict between England and France, they had to take a stand because the wars happened in the place where they would make a settlement.

"Perhaps no district throughout the wide extent of the intermediate frontiers can furnish a livelier picture of the cruelty and fierceness of the savage warfare of those periods than the country which lies between the headwaters of the Hudson and the adjacent lakes (Cooper, 1958: 15)."

Even in conditions of war, the pioneer, especially the men did not forget their obligations to women. Although the women were not members of their family, "the white man thinks none but cowards desert their women" (Cooper, 1958: 99). In any case, they would not leave women even though they could move freely without being penalized by women. They also tried to rescue the women first before saving themselves.

Based on the above explanation, it can be said that a man must be the protector of women, though women also have the courage and ability. In order to protect women, is only logical that he must possess the courage and ability.

In the further development, the battle began to subside after the French defeat of England that resulted in the departure of the French from the region of North America. After the conflict with the French ended, Americans struggled to gain independence from Britain and its culmination was the announcement of the Declaration of Independence from Britain on July 4, 1776. At the time of announcement of independence, the US was only made up of 13 states, namely New Hampshire, New York, Maryland, Connecticut, Virginia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Delaware, North Carolina, and Rhode Island. The thirteen states were located on the east coast of America. While the America region in the west of the thirteen states had not signed in the United States.

With the declaration of independence, Americans were trying to get and build the new settlements because of the increasing number of population. The Declaration also encouraged them to utilize the natural resources that existed, whether for agriculture or settlement, as depicted in the novel *The Pioneers*. "Very soon after the establishment of the independence of the States, by the peace of 1783, the enterprise of their citizens was directed to a development of the natural advantages of their widely extended dominions (Cooper, 1984:14)."

New settlements soon sprang up. Even one of the pioneers, Old Marmaduke "became the master of many thousands of acres of uninhabited territory, and the supporter of many a score of dependents" (Cooper, 1984: 24).

As settlements were built earlier, the pioneer still took an advantage of the banks of rivers and lakes as a place of settlement. The houses they built were still modest and did not show the high aesthetic value. Building materials derived from forests in the vicinity and done quickly so as soon be occupied. As soon as already been able to be occupied and be able to withstand the attack of arrows, spears, or beast, the pioneer soon inhabited it.

“Immediately on the bank of the lake and at its foot, stood the village of Templeton. It consisted of some fifty buildings, including those of every description, chiefly built of wood, and which also, by the unfinished appearance of most of the dwellings, indicated the hasty manner of their construction (Cooper, 1984: 33).”

Meanwhile, Indian tribes were driven by the arrival of immigrants from Europe. They were increasingly pressured toward the West and the place they left soon be occupied by white settlers from Europe. “As the natives gradually disappeared from the country of the Mohegans, some scattering families sought a refuge around the council fire of the mother tribe, or the Delawares Cooper, 1984: 66).”

The pioneer itself derived from a variety of ethnic groups in Europe. Thus the pioneer became heterogeneous, in terms of ethnicity and culture they came from. Their identity could be seen from their name taken from the name which was still commonly used in the country of their ancestors in Europe. One of them was Hartmann coming from Germany. “Major Hartmann was the descendant of a man who, in company with a number of his countrymen, had emigrated with their families from the banks of the Rhine to those of the Mohawk (Cooper, 1984: 76).”

In addition to Hartmann, another pioneer was Monsieur Le Quoi. From the name it was known that Monsieur Le Quoi country of origin was France. For political reasons, he with other French people went to America after King Louis 16th was beheaded. This political change made “thousands of Frenchmen were compelled to seek protection in distant lands” (Cooper, 1984: 75). Thus, the pioneers who inhabited the new settlements after the declaration of independence were not only from the UK. Nonetheless, they were united as Americans because they had a common desire.

With hard work, the pioneer who came from various tribes built settlements. The economy started to run with the opening of agricultural lands. With the opening of the agricultural land, the pioneer no longer moved along the edge of a river or lake, but had moved to clear forests on the slopes of the mountains.

“Elizabeth saw many large openings appear in the sides of the mountains during the three succeeding months, where different settlers had, in the language of the country made their pitch; while the numberless sleighs that passed through the village, loaded with wheat and barrels of potashes, afforded a clear demonstration that all these labors were not undertaken in vain (Cooper, 1984: 166).”

In the fifth novel entitled “The Prairie”, the pioneer had already far gone to the West, even passing the Mississippi River when the US government purchased Louisiana from Spain in 1803. The reason for opening new settlements and agricultural land is no longer visible. They tried to find “the mines of the virgin territory” (Cooper, 1955: 2). There is a reason that settlement in the Eastern region have started to be claustrophobic “getting crowded” (Cooper, 1955: 10) so that they went to the West. It is even said that they will keep going to West until they “come to land more suitable for a settlement” (Cooper, 1955: 19).

Compared to the East, the West was not good for farming. The climate in the region in western part of the Mississippi was heavily influenced by the climate of dry grasslands. According to Ishmael Bush, “this is a hard country to make a crop in (Cooper, 1955: 79).” Meanwhile, according to his son, “the rifle is better than the hoe in such a place as this” (Cooper, 1955: 80). Because it was not suitable for agriculture, they had to keep moving to find a suitable place for their lives. If not, they had to change their lifestyle to be a hunter to meet their food needs. On the other hand, they were not accustomed to hunting. Ishmael was reminded by Leatherstocking that he had moved too far to the West if he wanted to find land for farming. Leatherstocking said to Ishmael, “If you have come in search of land, you have journeyed hundreds of miles too far, or as many leagues too little” (Cooper, 1955: 80). Leatherstocking

said based on his experience to explore the United States so he knew all the areas that could be used as residential and agricultural land.

But Ishmael did not care about the words of Leatherstocking. His desire was strong to go to the West, and he would not be reversed back simply for getting arable land. "There is then a better choice towards the other ocean?" demanded the squatter pointing in the direction of the Pacific" (Cooper, 1955: 80). Even when Abiram intervered, Ishmael said this to show his will that can not be prevented.

".... I tell you, Abiram, there is need of moving, for more reasons than one. You know I'm a man that very seldom enters into a bargain, but who always fulfils his agreements better than your dealers in wordy contracts written on rags of paper. If there's one mile, there ar' a hundred still needed to make up the distance for which you have my honor" (Cooper, 1955: 94).

If explored further, Ishmael Bush did is not merely look for land for settlements, but there was something else that he would like to accomplish. Ishmael and the other pioneers would not stop even though they reached the west coast of America. Even if viewed from a historical fact, after they reached the edge of the Pacific Ocean, the pioneer still did not stop to move. Westward Movement even reached the Hawaiian Islands, continued towards the west to the Philippines. In fact, the pioneer spirit was still inherent in the American people with their constantly moving to the West to Iraq. West regions were being sought by the pioneer even though they had been around the Earth.

## CONCLUSION

There were several reasons for the pioneers to go to the West. At first they went to the West area to find somewhere cheap and vast settlement for all the East coast of America was filled with immigrants who had already settled. With the limited land along the eastern shore, they might not be able to open farmland. But the condition in the West was different from the conditions of the area which had been used as a settlement. They did not directly open new land for farming, but they should condition themselves so that they could still survive by hunting.

The pioneer who became a member of

the British army went to the West and occupied certain posts because they were assigned to guard its territory from possible usurped by other nations. Their family members were not allowed to participate before the conditions of their post was possible to be occupied by his family members.

Each pioneer should have a spirit to work hard for their success in the West. Without having the passion and hard work, they would not be able to live in areas of deprivation. In addition, they had to have the ability to use the equipment, particularly equipment for hunting and to defend themselves if there was an attack from wild animals or Indian. Having self-confidence, independence and prudence and vigilance will provide convenience to be able to obtain a better life.

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