

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the introduction of the present study: the background of the study, the research question, the purpose of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the brief description of the research methodology, the clarification of key terms, and the organization of the paper.

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Science Fiction is one of the genres in literature that has its own characteristics. It deals with stories about imagination which are based on science to tell a story in a different way, for example, the stories about the manipulation of time by using a certain machine, the exploration of the universe by using a special vehicle called spaceship, and the existence of unknown beings in the universe. In relation to the definition, Merrill (1966 as cited in Parrinder, 1999) states that Science Fiction is a speculative fiction which aims to explore, discover, and learn about the possibility of futuristic inventions, for example, future technologies, future society's structure, and the possible existence of other universe as narrated in the story. In view of this statement, Science Fiction literary works may expose their readers to science in a different way so that they may be fascinated by it. Westfahl (1999 as cited in Seed, 2005) states that Science Fiction becomes popular among readers around its initial emergence (early 90th century) since it entertains the readers by exposing them towards science, for instance, by giving explanation, imagination, and education about possible inventions and events of the future. Therefore, Science Fiction is considered to be popular among people because of its different way of telling stories by applying scientific aspects.

Because of its popularity, Science Fiction stories are written by authors to entertain readers by applying scientific aspects to them. For instance, Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot* (1950) and Hal Clement's *Mission of Gravity* (1954) entertain the readers by their unusual stories: *I, Robot* narrates the story of humans'

interaction with robots while *Mission of Gravity* narrates the story of the use of gravity in a certain place (Allen, 1973). Aside from these authors, another author that is considered to be influential in Science Fiction literature is H. G. Wells. He is known for his ability to create stories which speculate the possibility of advanced technology's existence and the future condition of society. According to Hardy (2003), H. G. Wells is considered as the 'father of Science Fiction' because of his continuous writings of Science Fiction stories that indirectly influence the development of science and his idea of creating stories which speculate the future condition of the world.

Wells' works such as *The Time Machine* (1895) and *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896) are considered to be his notable works since both of these narrate the possibility of manipulating time and altering human genes to produce a new species (Planinc, 2016). In addition, he states that another work of Wells that is also considered to be influential is *The War of the Worlds* (1898), which narrates the story of aliens' invasion to Earth and the war between humans and aliens.

*The War of The Worlds* also reveals the possibility of the advanced technology's existence at that time such as flying machine, laser beam, and the giant machinery owned by the aliens that are used to invade Earth. In relation to this statement, Rieder (2009) mentions that *The War of the Worlds* becomes a pioneer in the emergence of other Science Fiction stories featuring cyborgs, future humans, and extraterrestrial beings. In this view, this novel is known for the story which features the encounter between humans and aliens. Moreover, Hardy (2003) states that Wells' works often speculate the possibility of inventing new technologies and science. For this reason, the novel written by H. G. Wells is considered to be influential towards the emergence of other Science Fiction stories, particularly the stories about the encounter between humans and aliens combined with the possibility of inventing new technologies and science.

From the previous passage, it is stated that *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells narrates the war between the humans and the aliens. The war is considered to be a conflicting situation where two different sides confront each other to fulfill their own objectives by exchanging power. In relation to this, Freedman (2003) states that war can be clarified as the show of force and enforcement actions since

it triggers the conflict between two different sides. The show of force generates the exchange of power, and war is one of the situations in which power is exercised. In relation to this, conflict is also considered to be the site where power resides, as stated by Stableford (2003). He points out that the confrontation between two different forces results in the demonstration of power. By referring to George T. Chesney's *Battle of Dorking* (1871) which portrays the invasion of England by the German's army that result in the war between them, he claims that the conflict between two forces (England and German's army) symbolizes the demonstration of power between them. For this reason, the issue of power becomes the focus of this study since it reveals the power exercise in the war between humans and aliens that can be further analyzed.

According to Foucault (1995), power is an entity that can be found "everywhere since it comes from everywhere" (p. 221). To simplify the definition, Raven (2008) elaborates that power has a potential to be exercised, specifically by an individual which possesses power, towards others (subject of power). Moreover, the possession of power by an individual has a potential to influence its surroundings since power triggers resistance. According to Heller (1996), resistance may be considered as a reaction towards the exercise of power since it emerges during the process of power exercise, particularly in the less powerful person. Therefore, power is not a one-way process since the resistance is done by the less powerful person as a reaction towards the exercise of power.

In relation to the power issue, the war between humans and aliens in this story manifests the process of power exercise. The aliens' invasion of the humans triggers the conflicts between them, which also triggers the conflicts among humans. This phenomenon then proves that the issue of power is interesting to be studied since the process of power exercise creates another exercise. For this reason, this study is aimed to prove that power-related phenomena is not about someone or something in power blindly crushes others without power, rather it is aimed to discover other issues, particularly from the process of power exercise. Hence, the novel *The War of the Worlds* is studied by using the theory of power exercise, specifically by the theory proposed by Raven (2008), to uncover the way power is exercised in the war between humans and aliens which triggers the

conflicts, as well as the intention of the story that prefers the war between them as the site to manifest power.

## **1.2 Research Question**

This study focuses on the issue of power exercise that is found in the novel to answer the following question:

- How is power exercised in the novel?

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

This study aims to uncover the meanings behind the way power is exercised in the novel throughout the story. The analysis is conducted according to the conflicts that are found in the war between the humans and aliens, particularly between the Martians and the Earthlings, as well as the conflict among Earthlings.

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This study is limited to the analysis of the conflicts between characters as narrated in the story, particularly between the Martians and the Earthlings, as well as the conflict among Earthlings. The way the characters exercise power to other characters and the reaction towards the power exercise are also investigated to uncover the meanings behind the way power is exercised in the novel.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to give insights in investigating and understanding power-related phenomena, especially in the way power can manifest itself in literary works. By conducting this study, the writer encourages the readers to see that the power exercised in literary works can be another way to understand power as a concrete concept despite its abstract definition. Moreover, the writer wants to prove that power is not a one-way process as it needs subjects to manifest itself in every occasion. At last, the writer wants to explain that the power exercised in the war between humans and aliens reveals something that can be utilized to study about power-related phenomena, particularly power exercise in literary works.

## **1.6 Research Methods**

This study employs the descriptive qualitative method which is conducted by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the data to draw conclusion. In relation to this, Glaser and Strauss (1965) mention that the process of employing qualitative methods to judge and interpret the data consists of three initial steps: the collection of the relevant data for conducting the research, the analysis of the data and the presentation of the data. The process of analyzing the data involves the application of power theory proposed by Raven (2008). By employing these methods, it is expected to obtain the result of the analysis—the way power is exercised in the novel, as well as the reaction towards the exercise of power.

### **1.6.1 Data Collection**

The data are taken from the novel entitled *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells. The first step involves the intense close reading which is done approximately five times in order to collect the data and to obtain the required data which reveal the issue of power exercise.

Afterwards, the obtained data are highlighted in accordance with the way the conflict is presented. For instance, the conflict between the Martians, the Main Character, and the Curate is highlighted since it reveals the issue of power exercise done by the Martians towards the Earthlings, specifically the Main Character and the Curate.

The textual evidence is then grouped and categorized to the context in which conflict happens. For instance, the isolation of Martians serves as the context of the conflict between the Martians and the Earthlings. Furthermore, the evidence is also grouped in accordance with the theory of power proposed by Raven (2008), which is six bases of power: coercive power, reward power, legitimate power, referent power, expert power, and informational power. However, the bases of power that are applied in this study are the coercive and informational power. The reason is that the exercise of power identified in the conflicts does not include the rest of bases; the coercive and informational power are the only visible bases of power. For this reason, it is expected that the

highlighted evidence falls into these categories in order to analyze them by using the theory of power to uncover the way power is exercised in the novel.

### **1.6.2 Data Analysis**

The data are analyzed by using the bases of power proposed by Raven (2008), particularly coercive and informational power, to uncover the way power manifests itself in the novel. The reason is due to the consideration of the story which narrates the story about aliens' invasion and the conflicts between two opposing sides. Further, the findings of the analysis are elaborated and interpreted to discover the meaning of the power exercise, particularly the power that is exercised through the conflict between the Martians and the Earthlings, as well as the conflict among the Earthlings.

### **1.6.3 Clarification of Key Terms**

Below are the lists of key terms that can be found in the study:

1. Conflict in Fiction

According to Dibell (1988), conflict is the confrontation between the characters in the story, particularly between a protagonist and an antagonist, since these two opposing sides have their own goals.

2. Power

Power is an entity that can be found in every place since it makes itself visible, specifically in the social interaction since it serves as the potential site to identify the power (Foucault, 1995; Raven, 2008).

### **1.6.4 Organization of the Paper**

This paper consists of the sections that are elaborated in the following structure:

1. Introduction

This section deals with the background of the study which explains the reason of the writer in analyzing the chosen topic, the purpose of the study which may include personal intention of the writer in conducting the study, the significance of the study which describes the result of the study, and the statement of research questions as a guide to conduct the study.

## 2. Literature Review

This section presents and elaborates the theoretical frameworks that are used in the study, as well as the previous study in which other researchers have found in their earlier studies.

## 3. Methodology

This section presents the methods that are used in the study and also the details of the data presentation which encompass the process of collecting and analyzing the data.

## 4. Findings and Discussion

This section presents the findings of the study as a result of the data analysis in accordance with the research question, and the findings are discussed to interpret the findings.

## 5. Conclusion

This section sums up the study by concluding the results that are obtained through the process of analyzing the data. The suggestion for future study is also presented in this section to inspire future researchers by the present study that uses a certain framework.