

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter serves as an introduction to the study. It consists of the background of the study, the research question, the purpose of the study, and a brief description of the research method, including the data collection and analysis. This chapter also includes the clarification of key terms and organization of the paper.

1.1. Background of the Study

Literary works consist of various genres that become the base of their creation. Genres such as mainstream fiction and romance tend to have a happy ending in their stories (Orr & Herald, 2013). Usually, genres with positive vibe, such as romance, build up by having the main characters grow into better people with hopes that they can finally achieve their main objectives. Also, the way the stories told give readers hopes and make them believe that anyone can become better and that dreams can be achieved. Dystopian genre, on the other hand, does not provide the readers such a hopeful content. Sar and Murni (2012) state that dystopia tells readers about a chaotic and despair-filled future that could happen because of mankind themselves. It helps people realize that that kind of dreadful future is a possibility that could happen in the near or far future. Yet, dystopia can also provide an inspiration for its readers to prevent such future to happen.

George Orwell's *1984* is an example of a dystopian novel that becomes an apprehension toward the future conditions. In *1984*, the society is portrayed to be under the rule of a totalitarian government which forbids the existence of private lives, private relationships, and any kind of activities that do not give any contributions to the ruler. Regarding this situation, the main character, Winston Smith, tries to revolt against the government to preserve his humanity in an oppressive society. During the process, Winston met Julia, a woman whom he shares his concerns with. However, at the end of the story, all his efforts failed after the torture he experienced and the realization that every action he has taken

is something that is planned by the Party, including the existence of Brotherhood, a secret anti-government organization which Winston joined. Then, Winston's rebellion ended up in failure when he has been brainwashed and he only felt love toward the Party and the Big Brother himself.

Through the struggle of the main character in the story, Orwell represents the idea of control and resistance as one of the core themes in the dystopian novel. Accordingly, representation has an important role in constructing a story. Hall (1997) states that representation refers to a way to provide others with meaningful information by the use of language. Yet, how a particular idea is represented depends on the intention of the writer. For example, in a dystopian novel, some elements may appear different since in a dystopian world, the reality has gone awry. Therefore, many dystopian novels explore the negative portrayal of a society that has one horrible flaw. However, dystopian genre is not all about power and rebellion. There is also another theme that can appear in the dystopian genre, such as the theme of love or romance.

According to Firestone (2013), to love is to appreciate and to accept who people really are. While the previous paragraphs have specifically referred to love in the romantic sense, which emerged between the characters, 'love' itself is a universal concept that can manifest differently across different cultures and generations. Love exists among family members and friends; there can even be love for one's pet. These kinds of love do not need to involve romantic feelings, since love can also be defined as a strong affection that people have towards others (Bender, Vogt, & Copenhaver, 2014). Meanwhile, romantic love normally focuses on being in love with an individual who is believed to be one's life-long partner.

Generally, love or romance in utopian literature refers to romantic love between the main characters that lead to a happy ending. On the contrary, in a dystopian novel, love or romance can be represented in different ways, such as becoming a weapon in order to control people. That is to say, romance is portrayed as something dangerous which can harm people. Nevertheless, love can also be represented positively in the dystopian world. The interaction between

each element in dystopian novel is something that builds the attraction of this genre. Thus, it also enriches the dystopian novel with issues which can be explored.

Dystopia, being the dark side of utopia (Moylan & Baccolini, 2003) usually portrays situations and conditions which are worse than the reality we are living in. A dystopian society has some characteristics that make them different from a utopian society: the society has a figurehead that the people worship deeply, the society is being watched by the government most of the time, and the society does not have any kind of freedom in their lives. Being unable to express themselves, the citizens are no different from tools used by the government to enrich themselves.

A number of studies have been done in analyzing dystopian novels. Such as the study conducted by Wolk (2015). In her study, she focuses on the role of technology in American and British dystopian novels regarding cold war. The result of the study indicates that those who are in control of the latest technology is capable of controlling the population. Another study conducted by Sar and Murni (2012) focuses on the political aspect of a dystopian world. Their study uses *The Hunger Games* novel as their object of study. The result shows that there are five aspects of political dystopia that occurs in the novel. Those five aspects are Totalitarian Government, Political Repression, Dehumanization, Restrictions of Freedom, and Oppression Which Led to the Rebellion. Based on the aforementioned studies, it can be inferred that a study regarding dystopian novels is worth conducting, as it can shed light on other dimensions of life. Yet, there are many elements of dystopian genre that have not been explored much, such as how the idea of love is represented in a dystopian novel.

Thus, from the explanation above, representation of love in dystopian genre is interesting to analyze knowing how romance can flourish within a dark dystopian world. Seeing that dystopian setting tends to have the common people oppressed by the government, love can be seen as a way the people fight back against the government. For this reason, the present study attempts to analyze the representation of love in the dystopian novel entitled *1984*. George Orwell's *1984*

is chosen due its popularity that has re-emerged in 2017 (de Freytas-Tamura, 2017). In analyzing the representation of love in the novel, the frameworks of Rimmon-Kenan's (1983) narratology and Sternberg's (1986) theory of love are employed in the study.

1.2. Research Question

This study focuses on the representation of love in the dystopian novel *1984*. The research question has been formulated as follows: How is love represented through the main characters' progression of love in the dystopian novel entitled *1984*?

1.3. Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to explore how love is represented in the dystopian novel *1984*. In order to answer the research question, however, the researcher needs to first reveal how the main characters' love relationship progressed in the story.

1.4. Scope of the Study

The present study regarding the representation of love in the dystopian novel *1984* (Orwell, 1949) is limited to Part Two and Part Three of the book. This is because the characters' love relationship can only be found in these parts. The characters analyzed are the main characters in the novel: Winston Smith and Julia.

1.5. Significance of the Study

It is expected that the result of this study can contribute to the field of critical literary analysis. This study is also expected to contribute to the literature on dystopian genre outside the theme of power.

1.6. Research Method

This study is done by using textual analysis study to uncover the representation of love in the dystopian novel *1984*. Brainbridge (2008) believes that textual analysis was done first in Barthes's work in 1960. Textual analysis method is done by following Barthes's point of view which shows that by understanding signs found in text, one can interpret many kinds of cultural product. From the explanation, textual analysis is chosen because it is suitable for the present study, which aims to uncover the representation of love in the dystopian novel.

1.7. Data Collection and Data Analysis

The data for the study are collected through a close reading of the *1984* novel (Orwell, 1949). The collected data are parts of the book which illustrate events with romantic love elements that happen between the main characters, Winston Smith and Julia. The events themselves are chosen by using Rimmon-Kenan's (1983) framework on narratology. The data are then put into a table and classified according to the three components of love using Sternberg's (1986) framework on theory of love.

1.8. Clarification of Terms

1. **Representation:** A way to provide meaningful information by the use of language to others (Hall, 1997). The use of signs or symbols to replicate the reality which are presented in our everyday lives (Mitchell, 1990).
2. **Dystopia:** A chaotic and despair-filled future that could happen because of mankind themselves (Sar and Murni, 2012).
3. **Love (Romantic Love):** to fully appreciate the other person by accepting who she/he truly is and to give her/him generous compassion and kindness in return. (Firestone, 2013).

1.9. Organization of the Paper

This paper is organized in the following composition:

1. CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of the study, the purpose of the writer in doing the analysis, the research questions, brief information about the research design, and the clarification of several terms used in the study.

2. CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

This part of the study will explain the bases of theories used in the study, describing the object of the study, and the result of the earlier studies.

3. CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section reveals the methods used in the study and also the details of the source of the data, how the data are collected, and how the data are analysed.

4. CHAPTER IV: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter deals with the explanation regarding the findings of the analysis.

5. CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This final chapter informs the conclusion of the results along with several suggestions offered for further studies.