

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

Aside from its entertainment purposes, literature has been regarded as a tool for teaching moral values. Morality is relative to the culture or society where it exists, but literature works and fictions offer moral values associated with the noble qualities of humanity that apply universally. Throughout history, teaching moral values through stories, poems or literature has been a very old system of moral education (Khan 6). There remained a consensus that in literature could be found answers on the best way, the moral way, to live one's life (Pantic 401). Fictional work, such as novels, is one of the most common types of literature in the world today that presents moral teachings through a wide range of genres, to a multitude of audiences. Some of them are timeless. Many of the moral arguments presented in classic novels are still talked about today as they remain relevant through decades.

Once a literary work is published, it is up to the reader to interpret the values and points of view delivered by the author. Finding the author's moral view can be a challenging task since it might not be described explicitly in the narratives. Authors might present their values indirectly through dialogues, conflicts, characterization, or any other devices that they choose. Readers might find throughout their readings that things they perceive to be morally good in the beginning might result in infamy, and things they considered immoral might yield a favorable or ideal condition.

Such is the case with *Brave New World*, a science fiction novel by Aldous Huxley written in 1932. It is a dystopian fiction about a utopian society that lives in

the future, making it seem to be completely imaginary and distant from the society at the time. However, critics and readers around the world have regarded it as a cautionary tale as its moral warnings appear to be relevant to the modern-day society that we live in today.

Born in 1894, Aldous Huxley was an English writer and philosopher. His works include both fiction and non-fiction works that earned him nominations for the Nobel Prize in Literature. He is one of the most well-known intellectuals in the 20th century, through his work Huxley shared many of his thoughts on many things, one of which was about technology. Huxley believes technology has a big influence on our lives, whether good or bad. From a young age, Huxley was very interested in science; he had even aspired of taking up medicine as a career. That is why many of his works are related to science, including *Brave New World*.

The futuristic novel depicts a world where the advancement of scientific knowledge has completely altered the values previously held by society. In that world, technology is allowed to interfere with how individuals think, act, and feel, under the control of a supra-national totalitarian government. Human individuals are shaped and conditioned by technological instruments to conform to the rules made by the government from their births to their deaths. The people are given freedom, but one that is substantially different than the concept of freedom we know of today. They are not allowed to be alone, suggested to use drugs to escape from unpleasant realities, to be consumptive, and to frown upon the traditional way of life. Religion, art, history, and even science itself are banned in certain aspects due to them being dangerous to the sustainability of utopia. The government is even able to control

emotions, which had always been thought to be implausible due to it being the natural feature in humans, by promoting the artificial. The people believe in what the government says without any doubt.

Such conditions might sound horrid and immoral to readers, but the government in *Brave New World* repeatedly defends its actions in the name of pleasure and happiness. The people of that world also think that they are happy since there are no illness, sadness, old age, and poverty. *Brave New World* is a dystopian novel that presents itself in the form of utopia. It is remarkable literature that encourages its readers to contemplate morality in an era where technology becomes an integral part of life.

1.2 The Identification of The Problem

Moral lessons in a novel provoke readers to discuss and contemplate what is deemed to be right and wrong. In *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley presented the idea of a society absolutely interfered with by its government by using technology in order to maximize happiness. In doing so, the government feels it necessary to abolish the traditional moral rules and establish an entirely new moral contract. Individual freedom no longer exists, even deemed immoral.

In *Brave New World*, government interference is clearly apparent in matters of individual and social liberty. It is easily deemed immoral, but contradiction appears because it yields stable happiness and welfare that are the main criteria for something to be deemed morally right. The writer wants to explore this moral contradiction in the actions of *Brave New World's* government and their motivation. This will be analyzed using Mill's theory of utilitarianism to unfold the moral lesson

Huxley tried to deliver regarding government interference in individual freedom by the utilization of technological advancement.

1.3 The Scope of The Research

This research focuses on the moral problems that come with the technological interference individually and socially of life by the government to the society in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. The writer also seeks to analyze the moral contradiction in the novel based on the concept of Utilitarianism.

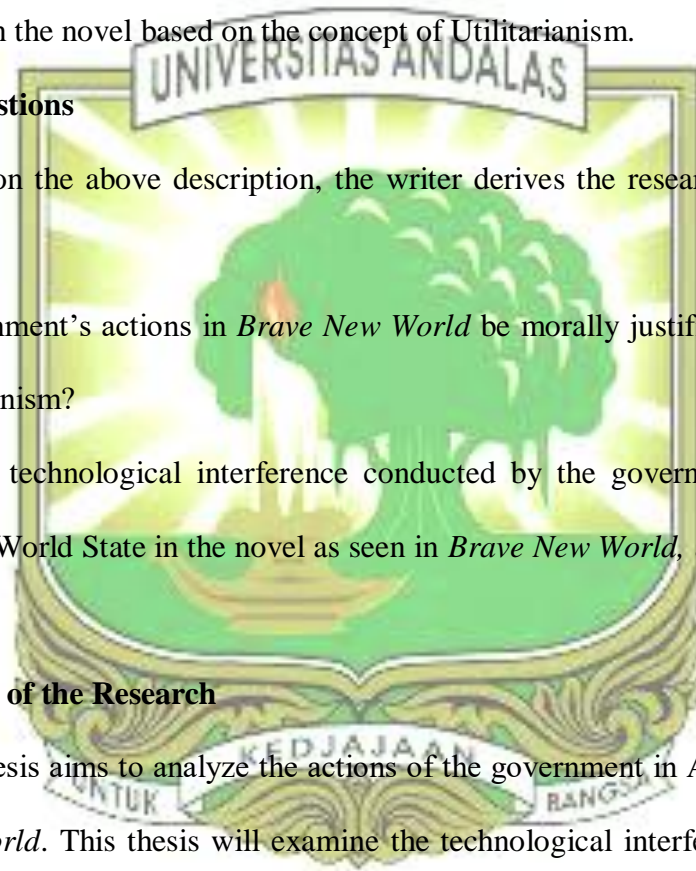
1.4 Research Questions

Based on the above description, the writer derives the research questions as follows:

1. Can the government's actions in *Brave New World* be morally justified according to Mill's utilitarianism?
2. How does the technological interference conducted by the government affect the society on the World State in the novel as seen in *Brave New World*, and what are the impacts?

1.5 The Objective of the Research

This thesis aims to analyze the actions of the government in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. This thesis will examine the technological interferences done by the government and their reasons to do it based on Mill's Utilitarianism principles, to see whether they are morally justified. Then, this thesis will also assess and explain the impact of technological interferences on the society in the novel, which causes a lot of changes in the way humans live.



1.6 Reviews of Related Studies

In writing this research the writer needs to review and take a look at previous studies on *Brave New World* and other literary works within similar topics. The first research is by Faishol Ghoni from Gajah Mada University in 2014. His study discusses the symbol of politics and significance in Huxley's *Brave New World*. Ghoni uses an Objective approach by M.H Abrams. For the politics review, Ghoni uses the Cultural Hegemony theory by Antonio Gramsci. He uses two methods of approach theory for his study. This study aims to find symbols about politics in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* novel and to inquire about the meaning of these symbols. Based on the research, eight symbols are associated with the political theme and correlate each other namely comparative idea between World State and Reservation, and between in-group and out-group of the society. The symbols are Ford, Soma, bottle, and belt. Whereas the symbols of reservation are snake, whip, knot, and warden.

Another researcher in the previous study is Fakhruddin Arrozi from the Faculty of Humanity, Malang State Islamic University in 2016. He discusses the manipulation of social classes in Aldous Huxley's novel *Brave New World*. Arozzi analyzed the problem based on Karl Marx's perspective in Marxism about how the social classes were manipulated in a society based on Huxley's novel. The results of his study are the manipulation of social classes carried out by the bourgeois who engineered the social class of an embryo in different tubes. The process of social class manipulation is being called the process of Bokanovsky that cloned humans into five castes; Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon.

The next review is an article from Luma Ibrahim Al'barznji from Diyala University in 2008 who writes that the *Brave New World* brings other descriptions of future life. The novel shows that a utopian society has achieved a state of stability, but human nature must appear inevitably. Through his novel, Huxley replaces freedom and morality with a wrong obsession with identity and physical pleasure, as the payment of human desire for a perfect life. The paper deals with dehumanization and symbolic characters, also analyze the novel as foresight into the destiny of the future. The author tries to explain through this journal how stability is achieved in the future, but the price that society will pay when the need for progress denies human identity and considers it worthless compared to the importance of a machine. This research paper tells about the negative side of the novel, and *Brave New World* novel as a study of dehumanization. The journal concluded that the defective force did not come out of scientific progress, but rather the abuse of this progress when moral standards had been lowered and replaced by dehumanization, love and emotions that were abused, and ignorance of individuality.

In 2019, Najah Fahilah Ilyas also wrote a thesis entitled “The Discourse of Technological Progress as a Tool of Government to Control Society in Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*”. It analyzes how the government in the novel constructs its technological progress discourse and points out the bad impacts of it on society. It concludes that technology is only as good as the people who use it, and if people forget to appreciate the values in life, technology can have bad impacts. It also says that the government in *Brave New World* uses speeches and ideologies, tools and programs, and also rules and law to construct its discourse.

The last is Martin Franzen's research in 2019 entitled "Deconstructing Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World's* Ambiguous Portrayal of the future". The research analyzed the society portrayed in *Brave New World* and argued that it has both the utopian and dystopian tendency, therefore to say that the novel is completely dystopian is not entirely correct. Franzen continued to explain that *Brave New World* tried to show how a utopian state can only be achieved if some dystopian elements are allowed to exist, much like the two sides of a coin that complements each other.

