

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 . The Background of the Research

Technology has always developed for a long time, from the use of fire in the ancient age, to the use of Smartphone nowadays. Until today, it is still developing at a stunning pace. As a matter of fact, technology has touched every aspect of life; from the way we move by using a horse changed into automobile, from walking on the land to flying in the air and reach farther distance. The products we are using in our daily life also produced by the technology. Under those circumstances, including the economy, politics, and also society, are affected by technology.

Furthermore, the technologies that we are using have a great impact on the society. Technology has changed the way people live. In essence, this phenomenon was started from the time industrial revolution happened, where technology finally could be produced massively.

The picture of developing technology could be found in any writing document as well as a novel. From the using of technology for life on 1823 Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* through the imaginary future in *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley in 1932, literary works has explained the worst and best illustration of using technologies in our daily life from various authors. Specifically, one of the greatest authors who talked about technology in his works is Ray Bradbury.

Known for his specialized in technologies and scientific novel, such as *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), Ray Bradbury is one of the 20th century American writers who won Pulitzer Awards. He was born in a small-town Waukegan, Illinois and had written many works, including novels, short story, children's books, plays, screenplays, and poetry. Some of his works that quite famous are dark fantasy *Something Wicked This Way Comes* (1962), *The Martian Chronicles* (1950), and powerful dystopian *Fahrenheit 451* (1953) which is considered as his best works. He received recognition of his work from Special Award and Citation from the Pulitzer Prize jury in 2007: "...for his distinguished, prolific, and deeply influential career as an unmatched author of science fiction and fantasy" –Pulitzer Winner by 2007.

Definitely, Ray Bradbury not only has *Fahrenheit 451* in his name. Another work that enhances his specialization of science and technology is *Dandelion Wine*. Published 4 years after *Fahrenheit 451*, *Dandelion Wine* has shown how technology developed in the early 20th century in America. This is the time phase where America had been through enormous changes in term of technology.

Dandelion Wine is a story of twelve years old boy, who in his daily basis tries to find the meaning of life. Day by day he found a lot of machines are being and already invented. Through his life, Bradbury shows how the changes affect the people around him, including himself. Taken settings in fictional place Green town, Illinois, this novel portrays the life of people in one of the small city in America during the 1920s.

Douglas Spaulding, the main character, faces events that makes him badly ill and saved by a Junkman. In the end, after experiencing the incident involving his life, Douglas finds the meaning of life itself. Everything in this life started from a small kitchen of his own house where his grandma often cooks for the family. At the end of the novel, he depicts his entire time during the summer through the bottles of *Dandelion Wine*, where he could see every event flashing each day on each bottle.

Dandelion Wine is one of Bradbury's works that is different from the other works that he has ever written. To emphasize, this is a series of short story that later on made into a novel. Each chapter is originally one individual short story. Bradbury had written some new chapter when he decided to be made as a novel. Also, it is taken from his own childhood images. The name of the main character, Douglas, is taken from Ray 'Douglas' Bradbury middle name. Besides, the setting of this novel, a small Green Town, is also taken from his own hometown as well.

Although *Dandelion Wine* is not as famous as Bradbury's other works, it is totally a captivating one to be read and analyzed. This novel did not receive any awards but the writer thinks that this novel has something that needs to be submerged in to.

The writer chooses this novel for some reason; first, the writer assumes that this novel shows the American social lifestyle during the 1920s, which can be compared to the real life of American in that era. The American was on a phase where technology was rapidly changed, invented and developed which affected their lifestyle. The writer finds that the novel *Dandelion Wine* indicates the same thing as well. As technology is important and just a few amount of people that

discussed technology in literature, the writer choose to discuss this idea in this thesis.

Second, *Dandelion Wine* is showing pieces of Bradbury's life. The name Douglas is taken from his own name and Spaulding is taken from his father. As we count the year of the setting of the novel 1928, around that time Bradbury who was born, on 22nd August 1920, he must be eight years old. He has calculated the setting so it would fit his real age during that time. Also, the setting of the place is in the summer, exactly the same with the time when he was born, which is in August. Bradbury had represented that he had been living and experiencing living through the year of 1928, which is the same as the time setting in this novel.

Third, this novel did not show the living style of the high class explicitly which has become the main symbol of living in America during the 1920s, despite the fact that *Dandelion Wine*'s time setting is in 1928. Instead, this novel more likely indicates the life of the characters from the middle class.

Based on the main reason above, this research focuses on *The Effects of Technological Developments to American Society as reflected in Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury*.

1.2. The Identification of the Problem

Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury is displaying the condition of the society from the middle class of America in the 1920s. America was going through enormous changes in technology and was in a developing state to a more modern nation. The society was affected by these changes during the early 20th century, as shown in the novel that resemble the real life.

From the writer assumption, the novel forecast on how the society face the shifting and developing of the technology in America in 1920s. In this research, the writer tries to analyze the changes occurred and its affect to the society as shown the *Dandelion Wine*.

1.3 . The Scope of the Research

The writer focused on how the author represent the changing and developing of technology happened in American in early 20th century in Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* and differentiate or compare it with American history. Later on, the writer analyzed how the developing of technology affects American society as represented in *Dandelion Wine*.

1.4 . The Research Question

Based on the problems explained above, this research focuses on:

1. What are the changes and developments of technology that happened in America as represented in *Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury in the early 20th centuries?
2. How these changes and developments of technology in America affect the society of America, especially the middle class in 1920s as shown in *Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury?

1.5 . The Objective of the Research

The writer assumes that this novel criticizes the effect of technology development phenomenon in society in late 20th centuries in America. A further

analysis is needed to find out whether the novel really shows how a certain change in technology had affected the society in America in 1920s. The main objective of this research is to study what is the condition of the society after the transformation of America as shown in *Dandelion Wine*. In the analysis, a comparison between the novel with the history is conducted to make sure whether the novel does represent the American society in the 1920s or not.

1.6 . The Review of Related Studies

Dandelion Wine is one of works from Ray Bradbury, the writer of the famous *Fahrenheit 451*. Yet, the essay or thesis on this novel hard to find. Therefore, essays or article on technology in literature used in this thesis, which have similar topic regarding this thesis. The writer also includes studies that related to the novel *Dandelion Wine*.

The first one is a journal by Bharat R Gugane entitled *Impact of Technological Advancement on Literature*. Gugane explain on how the past writers have written the relationship of literature and science. He said that “technology is a major player in this connection”, and that there something to fear for taking wider impact of technology in the written literature. There are positive impacts of the technology on literature. One of them is that technology has the ability to make an one on one correspondence between an author and a reader. Meanwhile, the negative impact it has upon the the human, on how they use technology. When it is aimed to destruct it may bring a war to us, just like the First and the Second World War. It may cause a lot of damage. Both of this can be seen in the literary work. The technological advancement itself perhaps benefit

some people, and bring harm to the other. Lastly, Gugane argue that technology is an important subject in literature. Technology is forged in to the literature by the creative writers. As conclusion, both literature and technology have impact on each other. Literary works may witness various changes that occurs for a long time and technology may changed the way human produces and receipts literature.

Second,

Third, this novel had been analyzed by John B. Rosenman, a retired English professor at Norfolk State University. He had written a journal entitled *The Heaven and Hell Archetype in Faulkner's "That Evening Sun" and Bradbury's "Dandelion Wine"*. He says that "both writers emphasize a hell", as Faulkner makes it in to a ditch and Bradbury makes a ravine as their symbol of hell. The children are not allowed to enter both the ravine and the ditch after the dark. These places have resemblance abyss, pitch, darkness, underworld, and other thing that image a hell. Another symbol that appears is the Eve, which represented by Lavinia Nebbs in *Dandelion Wine* and Nancy in *That Evening Sun*. Lavinia was running away from the Lonely One through the ravine, while Nancy also running away from her husband named Jesus that about to kill her through the ditch.

This journal shows that Rosenman analyzed *Dandelion Wine* by using archetype. He found that both of the writers, Faulkner and Bradbury were influenced directly or indirectly by the heaven and hell archetype Bodkin cites in Greek, Christian, and other myths. These two novels also work independently as they are not too related each other.

1.7 . The Theoretical Framework

The writer uses mimetic criticism to support the research. Abram, in *A Glossary of Literary Term* (1999) said that:

“mimetic criticism views the literary work as an imitation, or reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criteria applied to a work is the “truth” of its representation to the subject matter that it represents, or should represent.”

Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury has indicates the possibility of mirroring the condition of America in 1920s. The novel show there is relation between the works and the real events in America in the 1920s. In this analysis, the writer wants to compare the event based on the story in the novel. Given this points, the writer uses sociology of literature to analyze this novel.

Alan Swingewood in his book entitled *The Sociology of Literature* (1972) explains that Sociology is the scientific and objective study of man in society, where it seeks to answer the question of how society possible, how it works, why it persists. (11) Literature also reflects certain facts and emotions: ... a ‘portable mirror which can be conveyed everywhere and which is most convenient for reflecting all aspects of life and nature’. (32)

Therefore, the writer will apply the theory of sociology of criticism proposed by Swingewood in analyzing the way technology affect and the impact to society as reflected in *Dandelion Wine* by Bradbury. Swingewood in his books, sociology of literature has three perspectives:

1. Sociology of literature argue that works provides a mirror to the age.

Literature is a direct reflection of various facets of social structure,

family relationships, class conflict, and possibly divorce trends and population composition.

2. Sociology of literature emphasizes where on the production of literature has tie-in to the social situation of the author. The author's position and situation in the society is likely affecting his creative potential.
3. Sociology of literature can attempt to trace the ways in which a work of literature is actually received by a particular society at a specific historical moment.

From the three perspectives above, the writer uses the second perspectives in analyzing the works; as literature emphasizes where on the production of literature has tie-in to the social situation of the author. Swinge hood explain that "author's position and situation in the society is likely affect his creative potential" (18), which means the society around the author will affect the outcome of his work as well. The author will be able to depict the society where he used to live in his works, and also he could build his own critics of the society he lives in through the novel.

Through that perspective, the writer assured that one work may reflects the society in certain point of historical moment around the life of the author. Along with this statement, the effects of technological development to the society happened during early 20th centuries in America can be analyzed. The writer able to finds how the technology would affect the society and the impact as well.

1.8 . The Methods of the Research

In conducting the research, there are some steps to be followed. The first step is collecting the data. The writer does library research for this thesis. The primary data from this research is the narrative data from *Dandelion Wine novel*. The secondary data are taken from literary theory books and article related to this study. The data is also taken from the history books that related to this research. These data obtained by reading the books, articles, and browsing the internet.

The next step is analyzing the data. The referential method will be used to identify the codes that shown through the narratives in Bradbury's novel. It will apply socio-literary criticism proposed by Alan Swingewood that says literary works is the mirror of age. The writer uses the second approach where the social situation of the author has tie-in on producing one literature work. The position and situation of the author in the society will affect his creative potential. According to this theory, the novel reflected the real condition in the America when the technology was enormously developed and affect its society.

The third step is presenting the result of the research. In presenting the result of the research, the descriptive method will be applied, which is the qualitative one. Qualitative research is a descriptive research which is the data is collected in words rather than in numbers.