

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

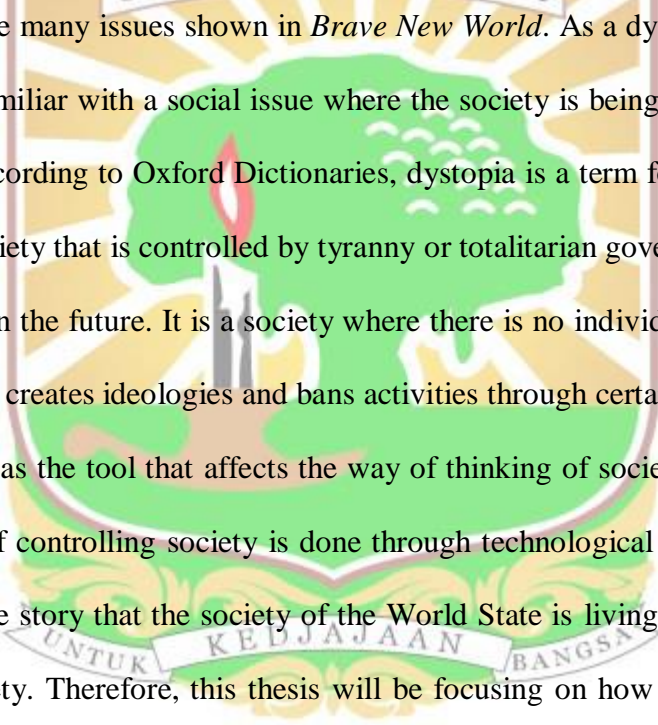
#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

Technology impacts society in many significant ways. When talking about progress, most people think of advancement in the scientific fields, believing that most discoveries and technologies are pleasant and beneficial for their daily life. As we can see in this era, people are trying to determine whether technology can bring a better life as they want or it will contribute or corrupt and caused a downfall of humanity when it is being misused. This concern is seen in Huxley's novel *Brave New World* where technology plays a big role in the society in the hand of government in order to create an 'ideal society'.

*Brave New World* is a classic-dystopian novel written by Aldous Huxley and published in 1932. The novel describes the society in the 26th century called the World State, when technology becomes dominant and the society has become futuristic. It is a scientifically stable and controlled life that allows no personal emotions or individual freedom. Even though the society is happy, but they have to pay a great cost to gain happiness.

Aldous Huxley was a poet, novelist, short-story writer, critic, philosopher, and also regarded as a social prophet. It was due to his ideas that he outpoured in *Brave New World* about the danger of technology that somehow can be related to today's

society. It is no wonder that this book is also regarded as a prophecy against human society nowadays. It illustrates a scary depiction that could soon be our future. In his early years, Aldous Huxley had a great interest in the field of science and technology, and he also envisioned a future career as a scientist until he partially lost his eyesight by disease and began to write books. This is why many of his works including *Brave New World* has scientific issues.



There are many issues shown in *Brave New World*. As a dystopian novel, the theme is very familiar with a social issue where the society is being oppressed by the government. According to Oxford Dictionaries, dystopia is a term for a dark, broken, or oppressed society that is controlled by tyranny or totalitarian government, in which usually happen in the future. It is a society where there is no individual freedom. The government also creates ideologies and bans activities through certain discourses, and uses technology as the tool that affects the way of thinking of society. In *Brave New World*, the act of controlling society is done through technological control, in which we can see in the story that the society of the World State is living under an illusion of Utopian society. Therefore, this thesis will be focusing on how the technological progress discourse is constructed in the society and the bad impacts caused by the it. It shows how technology is responsible for the society that affects it morally, politically, and spiritually when it is being abused by the government through the discourses. In the 21st century, the rapid development of science and technology has taken over the world. Although it brings some benefits, mostly it has a bigger

consequence too, which is terrifyingly deprived the value of humanity and make them far from nature. “A love of nature keeps no factories busy” (23). The government creates discourses and ideologies in the society. They also put aside morals and personal aspiration of the people only for one goal: technological progress, by controlling and manipulating for the sake of keeping the social order in line.

### 1.2 The Identification of the Problem

Along with the progress of modern time followed by the social movement in society, science and technology have become popular and being part of its culture. Everything becomes practical and people begin to think rationally. However, in *Brave New World*, Huxley criticizes and gives pictures of how technology has become dominant in society and causes many impacts. The discourse about technological progress is spread by the government in order to gain social stability and to maintain happiness.

The writer wants to explore how the government has gone far ahead in using technology as their weapon in their system to create a stable society through discourse. But they use it excessively and turn the society into a corrupted society instead. This is where the totalitarian regime is contested which influences the values, the norms, and behavior, as well as leads into the corruption for the rest of the society itself even for humanity. This problem is analyzed using the theory of *Foucauldian*

*Discourse Analysis* by Michel Foucault to expose how technological progress discourse works and influences society in the novel.

### 1.3 The Scope of the Research

This research emphasizes on technological progress discourse and how it is constructed by the government in society in the novel. This thesis also explains the impacts of progress when technology has taken over and led to corruption and dehumanization, as it is being abused by the government as their tool to control the society. It will be explain along with the strategies that they use as found in the story.

### 1.4 Research Questions

1. How is technological progress discourse constructed in the novel as seen in *Brave New World*?
2. What are the bad impacts of technological progress on the World State society in the novel as seen in *Brave New World*?

### 1.5 The Objective of the Research

The main goal of this thesis is to analyze the tendency of the government to abuse their power to control the people, in this case using technology by spreading discourses about the technological progress. Then, this thesis explains how it consequently affects both sides; the government and the people of the society. It influences the government to abuse their power and turns them into a corrupted

totalitarian regime. For the people, technological progress has prevented them to live normally as a human being as they sacrifice their humanity values for the sake of social stability and technological advancements.

### 1.6 Reviews of Preview Studies

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley is considered as one of the phenomenal works in the world due to its vulgar satire and scary depiction about future society. However, the story has been reviewed and analyzed by researchers using various literary critical approaches. Most of the issues that being analyzed are regarding the social and political point of view showed in the story.

The first research comes from a journal article by Luma Ibrahim Al-Barznji and Lamiaa Ahmed Rasheed entitled “Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*: Ignorance and Failure to Recognize the Purpose of the Human Spirit” in 2008. The writers of the articles assume that the way Huxley writes this novel he sees himself as ‘a voice crying in the wildernesses because he points out the accuracy of his presentation and terrifying envision towards Utopian world. According to them, Huxley concludes that humanity has no chance to save itself from rapid movement into its self-destruction. Another similarity of the idea that the writer of this thesis finds in this article is the statement that *Brave New World* can be considered as a prophecy of our society in the future. They say that this novel presents prophetic elements because we can see the

world that Huxley constructs is more than a mere fantasy and our society are moving towards that kind of Utopian Society.

There is also an analysis from International Journal of English and Literature by Ahmed Abdelaziz Farag, a student of Department of Language and Translation, Umluj University College, Tabuk University in Saudi Arabia. It is entitled 'Enslavement and Freedom in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*' published in 2016. Generally, the author of the article explained the topic symbolically in a good way. He focused on the subject of enslavement and freedom in the novel. He stated the irony that the Utopian world symbolizes the enslavement and the primitive world symbolizes the freedom. He said that Huxley left the message in the novel that warns us against the self-satisfaction.

The next study is an article by Rebecca Johnson who entitled "The Use of Satire in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*" in 2011. The article mainly focuses on the satiric elements described by Huxley. I agree with her statement saying that Aldous Huxley is one of the most famous satirists in the 20th century. She states so due to the way he employs such tactics in *Brave New World* and any other of his famous novels and essays. She also states that there are certain satires that are appealing in the obvious disgust of humanity and the presentation of a more realistic situation in this novel.

Last but not least is a journal by Izzaty Irsyad in 2015, which also applied Discourse Analysis by Michel Foucault in *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. The theme of the novel itself also has similarity with *Brave New World*, about a future world where the government controls its society by forbid them to read books. Irsyad has a good perspective in explaining her points which give a big contribution to help the writer of this thesis in order to comprehend the theoretical framework.

### 1.7 The Theoretical Framework

According to M.H. Abrams (1989), there are four critical approaches in conducting a literary study: mimetic, pragmatic, expressive, and objective. Thus, in this analysis the writer uses the mimetic approach, which focusing on how the work related to universal truths about the world and teaches the reader moral values. As in this case, this analysis discusses about the misuse of technological progress by the government as the form of oppression.

This thesis focuses on technology as the tool of the government in *Brave New World* to control society as they gain more power by abusing it to create the world of their version. Therefore, the writer applies Foucauldian Discourse Analysis proposed by Michel Foucault. In general, discourse is the use of language or words in a certain context which they are being used. It is also used to exchange thoughts and ideas (Meriam-Webster Dictionary). According to *Handbook of Discourse Analysis volume 4* edited by Teun A. Van Dijk (1985), discourse analysis gives

precise and subtle insights to find out the manifestations and displays of social problem in interaction and communication.

For Michel Foucault, as quoted by Stuart Hall, discourse is ‘a group of statements which provides a language for talking about – a way of representing the knowledge about – a particular topic at a particular historical moment. Discourse is about the reproduction of knowledge through language. But since all social practices entail *meaning*, and meanings shape and influence what we do – our conduct – all practices have a discursive aspect’ (291)

From the quotation above the writer gets the idea that discourse is everywhere and very influential. Through discourses we give the world meaning and we can understand the world. Our social practices today are the result of discourses as they shape and influence it but constitute it as well. It has some kind of power or force that circulates in social field which give structure and order through languages and thoughts. Thus, it shapes knowledge and way of thinking of people. “Discourse transmits and produces power; it reinforces it, but also undermines and exposes it, renders it fragile and makes it possible to thwart” (100). He also added that ‘discourse is created and perpetuated by those who have the power and means of communication’, such as government of a society. Foucault looks at how power operates in society through people and their discourses. On the other hand, discourse and power are somehow connected and able to create rules and hierarchies in society.



For Foucault, discourse is a way of constructing knowledge and ideas that structures social institution and its relation through collective understanding of the discursive logic that will become the acceptances and social facts. However, the discourse is produced by the effects of power in the social order, which prescribe the rules and criteria to legitimate the constructed knowledge and truth.

The writer decides to apply Foucauldian Discourse Analysis approach since it is related to the topic. The government of the World State, with their power they create a political discourse about technological progress that can bring stability, which later the discourse regarding the idea becomes the culture and main ideology for the people.

## 1.8 The Methods of the Research

In conducting this research, the writer applies library research. It involves the processes of gathering information in order to write papers, do presentation, and conduct research. Those processes are collecting data, analyzing data, and presenting data.

### 1.8.1 Collecting Data

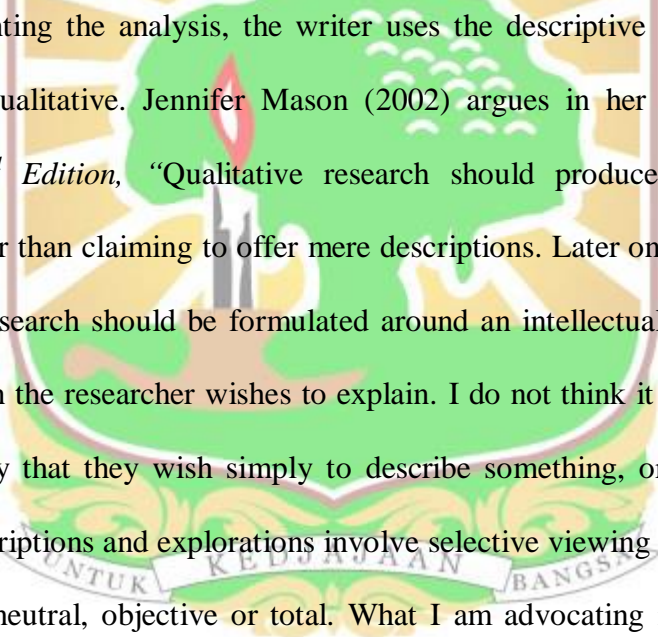
The writer collects the data uses the library research method with two kinds of data; primary and secondary data. Primary data is the main data, which are taken from the work itself, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. The secondary data or the extrinsic data are obtained from the materials that have correlation to the main

data, such as international journals and article, along with internet browsing to find other materials to support the topic and the theory.

### 1.8.2 Analyzing Data

In analyzing data, the writer explains the main topic of the subject. Then she will apply the theory in order to strengthen the analysis of the topic.

### 1.8.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis



In presenting the analysis, the writer uses the descriptive method since the research is in qualitative. Jennifer Mason (2002) argues in her book *Qualitative Researching 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, “Qualitative research should produce explanations or arguments, rather than claiming to offer mere descriptions. Later on I shall argue that all qualitative research should be formulated around an intellectual puzzle – that is, something which the researcher wishes to explain. I do not think it is sufficient for a researcher to say that they wish simply to describe something, or explore what is happening. Descriptions and explorations involve selective viewing and interpretation; they cannot be neutral, objective or total. What I am advocating is that qualitative researchers recognize that they are producing arguments, and are explicit about the logic on which these are based” (7)

Therefore, the writer presents the data by elaborating the topic with her arguments, and opinions supported by quoting the sentences from the book that are relevance with the analysis.