

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel, I think it is clear that *Fahrenheit 451* contains social criticism towards the role of television in society that has replaced the importance of books and knowledge. The author shows how the characters live their lives and react to the situation that lead them to different ending as to make it easier and clearer for the readers to see the issue that is contained in the novel.

In the fantasy futuristic society that is shown in the novel, the government fills people's mind with mindless entertainment from TV walls and creates rules that dissociate people from knowledge and independent thoughts. People who disobeys the rules by owning and reading books will be punished. The fireman will come to their house and burn their books and house. As a result for watching the mindless entertainment from TV walls most of the time to the extreme, people's lives become empty. They do not value human life and are careless about their own lives as Mildred takes too much sleeping pills and forgets what she has done on the next day. Those who are not addicted to television and love to think like Clarisse are seen as antisocial by the society as she does not mix and conform to the society. Eventually, she dies because of being run over by a car which Montag thinks is

driven by young people who intentionally try to hit anyone they see walking on the road for fun. People become addicted to TV walls that they do not have much care and thought about other people and what is happening around them.

Mildred is the reflection of the citizen that conforms to the society by letting herself immersed in TV walls. She becomes obsessed with television because she spends most of her time in front of the TV walls watching and doing interactive plays with her virtual 'family' from the show. Owing to her obsession with television, she becomes simple-minded as the government gains control of the society by making the society simply receive all kinds of information and meaningless entertainment that the government provides. Mildred and her friends from the TV walls cannot appreciate human life as they consider life as merely process of nature. They think that they can easily replace their family if they die. Mildred is also not disturbed by the war as her friends and she does not understand how dangerous the presence of the enemy bombers flying over the city is. Spending so much time in her parlor watching TV makes her disconnected to reality. She cannot escape the danger as she is unable to sense the threat that comes to the city. Montag imagines that she dies when the atomic bombs destroy the city.

Montag, who has become a fireman for ten years, has been submissive and never questioned anything related to his job. Although he has curiosity inside him, living in the society that forbids people from reading and indirectly from having independent thoughts makes him unable to understand his feeling. After he meets Clarisse and talks to her, he begins to question a lot of things about himself and the society that makes him become restless. He ponders over the old woman, who is so attached to books and prefers to die. He can also sense the danger of enemy bombers

that overwhelms the city as he begins to have independent thoughts. He even feels astonished that people cannot notice if they are so close to danger. Those events become a trigger for Montag to become a rebellious person. After he becomes a fugitive because he accidentally kills his captain, who is about to find out about his plan with Faber, he decides to find a group of intellectual people in his escape. As he leaves the town, he is saved from the atomic bombs.

In conclusion, I think Bradbury's attempt to prevent such future to become real in our world is clearly seen from the novel. He shows the reader how dreadful a society can be when mindless entertainments from television replace the importance of books and knowledge from people's mind to the extreme. People are so addicted to television. As a result, they do not have much understanding towards everything that happens around them. The society cannot survive and are left with no hope and no future. Bradbury successfully and effectively delivers his social criticism through the portrayal of two major characters in the novel.

Having analyzed the novel, I reflect what Bradbury has shown in the novel to the reality around me. I learn that watching mindless entertainments from television repeatedly can gradually decrease our interest in books and knowledge and before we realize it, our mind has been filled with the TV shows that we have watched. However, not all the contents in the television are meaningless entertainments. We still can find some informative and educational programs that can broaden our mind in television. It is not a wrong thing to watch some entertainments from television. After all, people need some kind of pleasure or enjoyment in their life. However, we could not be absorbed too much in mindless entertainments that we lose our interest to be critical. It is an essential and important

thing for people to have knowledge and independent thoughts in life as without them life can be so empty and worthless.

