

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Utopian literature began in 1516 with the first edition of the book of Sir Thomas More entitled Utopia. In its most common and general positive meaning, utopia, ‘...refers to the human efforts to create a better society, a perfect society that does not exist (yet).’ <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia>>.

There are many utopian novels that have emerged not only in the United States but also in England with their amazing story. On this occasion, I am going to analyze two utopian novels written by two different authors; Looking Backward 2000-1887 by Edward Bellamy and News from Nowhere by William Morris. Both Edward Bellamy and William Morris got their fame soon after the publication of their utopian novels. Edward Bellamy, ‘...a lawyer and writer from western Massachussets, who wrote, in simple, intriguing language, a novel called Looking Backward, in which the protagonist falls asleep and wakes up in the year 2000...’(Zinn, 1995: 258), while William Morris, ‘...was a writer of poetry and fiction, and a pioneer of the socialist movement in Britain.’ <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Morris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Morris)>.

In a utopian novel:

The author imagines a society with a given set of social conditions, few in numbers, which are decidedly different from those of his own society; they are decidedly different, there is discontinuity between the author's actual and his imagined society, but the difference is not so great as to render his imagined utopian society unrecognizable to his fellow citizens. <<http://oregonstate.edu/Dept/philosophy/club/utopia/utopian-visions/spencer-lec.html#Condorcet>' s>.

By analyzing utopian novels I can know about the ideal society which is imagined by the authors. Looking Backward 2000-1887 and News from Nowhere share a similar idea that these two novels do tell about a utopian society but in a contrastive way. The novel entitled Looking Backward 2000-1887 gives a picture of a utopian future society which is built upon the implementation of centralized governmental and industrial system, while News from Nowhere describes a utopian future society which is built upon decentralized governmental and traditional production system. These two novels are also set in two different places, the former is in the United States and the latter is in England. Moreover, ‘..William Morris’ News from Nowhere was written partially in response to the industrial nature of Bellamy' s utopia, which Morris criticized. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia>>. Owing to the fact that the two novels describe the utopian society, it is essential for me to analyze the view on the utopian society and the background of the view on the utopian society. In analyzing these two novels, I focus on the two major characters of both novels, which help me in showing the view on the utopian society.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The problems which will be analyzed in this thesis are stated as follows:

1. What is the view on the utopian society in Edward Bellamy's Looking Backward 2000-1887 and William Morris' News from Nowhere?
2. Why do Edward Bellamy's Looking Backward 2000-1887 and William Morris' News form Nowhere have such a view on the utopian society?

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

Based on the statements of the problem that have been mentioned, the purposes of the study are:

1. To show the view on the utopian society in Edward Bellamy's Looking Backward 2000-1887 and William Morris' News from Nowhere.
2. To explain why Edward Bellamy's Looking Backward 2000-1887 and William Morris' News form Nowhere have such a view on the utopian society.

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The method I use is library research. I begin my research by reading the primary texts, Edward Bellamy's Looking Backward 2000-1887 and William Morris's News from Nowhere. I then analyze the primary texts by using some references and information from the internet sites, which help me in writing my thesis. Finally, I draw a conclusion of what has been discussed.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I present the thesis in four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two consists of analysis of the view on the utopian society in Edward Bellamy's Looking Backward 2000-1887. Chapter Three consists of analysis of the view on the utopian society in William Morris' News from Nowhere. Chapter Four contains the Conclusion of what has been analyzed in the previous chapters. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendix.