

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the view on the utopian society in Looking Backward 2000-1887 by Edward Bellamy and News from Nowhere by William Morris in the previous two chapters, I come to the conclusion that there are several similarities and differences in these two novels.

I find that these two novels have the same subject, that is utopian society. They present the view on the utopian society or the so-called ideal society in the future. I find that there are some similarities in the two novels. Each novel presents two periods: in the past and the future. In addition, each novel uses two major characters from two different eras, that is past and future. They function as representations and narrators of their own society both in the past and the future. In Looking Backward 2000-1887, Dr. Leete explains future Boston society to Julian West who comes from past Boston society and vice versa. While in News from Nowhere, Hammond also explains his future London society to William Guest, who wakes up in future London and William Guest does the same thing to Hammond. From their narrations, I find that the society condition in the past is completely different from that in the future. Moreover, I find that in the past

period, both societies, particularly the many poor in both novels, live in a miserable condition and face many problems. In Looking Backward 2000-1887, the society in past Boston, particularly the many poor, are oppressed and have to work hard for the few rich. This situation causes problems such as the gap between the few rich and the many poor and frequent strikes by the many poor. Besides, past Boston is also a period of fierce business competition which happens among the rich. The past London society in News from Nowhere is also in a miserable condition. The society, particularly the laborers have to work hard in producing wares.

Furthermore, problems occur since the invention of machines such as unemployment of laborers and frequent riots. These two novels describe the past societies in slightly the same condition. In addition, the conditions in these past societies have resemblance with the societies in which both authors lived and inspired them to make the novels about the utopian society.

There is also another similarity in both novels namely the spirit of equality and liberty in the way society works. In Looking Backward 2000-1887, all citizens have equal obligation to work at industrial service collectively or to give intellectual service for the nation and they have freedom to choose types of work that are suitable for themselves. In News from Nowhere, all citizens have equal right to work at the factory called Banded Workshops. Over there, together they do traditional work which is suitable for them.

Besides the similarity, I find differences in the two novels. The differences are obviously seen in the governmental and industrial system. The novel Looking Backward 2000-1887 describes a centralized governmental and industrial system.

The government with its industrial system becomes the sole employer in the nation. Besides, the government also becomes the sole producer as well as the sole distributor which regulates all the economic system. On the other hand, News from Nowhere depicts a decentralized governmental and traditional production system. The government applies the decentralized governmental system without any defence system like the army, navy and police. Moreover, the nation implements its economic system based on traditional industries and traditional work.

There are also other differences in both novels concerning the grades of the workers. In Looking Backward 2000-1887, the workers in industrial service are classified into two grades which consist of classified and unclassified grades of workers based on types of work and periods of work. On the contrary, News from Nowhere does not classify the workers who work in Banded Workshop based on grades. All citizens have equal right and are free to do pleasurable work.

News from Nowhere, which is set in England, is actually a criticism toward Looking Backward 2000-1887, which is set in America. William Morris, the author of News from Nowhere, criticizes the industrial system described by Edward Bellamy in Looking Backward 2000-1887. According to Morris, the utopian society is built upon the decentralized governmental and traditional production system while Bellamy's idea is upon centralized governmental and industrialization system. Besides, Morris also criticizes the Industrial Revolution which happened in the Victorian period, a period in which he lived.

I notice that Looking Backward 2000-1887 and News from Nowhere have different ideas in conveying the utopian society which comes from the vision or

imagination of the author. In these two novels, the major characters help revealing the view on the utopian society. I find that Bellamy is more successful in describing the view on the utopian society while Morris is less successful. Bellamy has a vivid concept in describing his view on the utopian society, while Morris seems to be slightly obscure in describing his view on the utopian society.

Finally, by analyzing the two novels, I think that the views on the utopian societies presented by the two authors do not seem to be relevant to present society. But, I find that both authors have brilliant ideas in conveying the utopian society.