

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The word 'utopia' was coined by Thomas More. The word 'utopia' refers to the Greek word: *eutopia* (good place). (<http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Utopia>). This word has a positive meaning. *Eutopia* is considered a good place. Moreover, it is the reflection of perfection and of an optimistic place.

People are used to having the image of utopia because people want to have happiness and a perfect life, so it is natural that the image of utopia in one's mind is parallel with that person's real life. Moreover, the image is almost too perfect. Nevertheless, this image has dystopia. 'A dystopia is a [fictional society](http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Dystopia), usually portrayed as existing in a future time, when the conditions of life are extremely bad due to deprivation, oppression, or terror.' (<http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Dystopia>). When there is utopia, there is also dystopia. Both the positive (utopia) and the negative (dystopia) sides cannot be separated from each other.

In both these novels, the readers can see the elements of dystopia within utopia, which is represented by the differing perspectives of the government and society. The government wants to create a perfect, orderly society so they create and apply perfect rules for the society. Ironically, not all citizens see the government's efforts as being a utopia. Some see themselves in a dystopia because every man has a different standard of happiness. While the government serves society, the government also imposes authority over the society. It is common for the government to use the name of the society's advantageous in order to create a perfect society. They force their will on the society but the government itself does not want to know that they have actually made the society suffer. In applying perfect rules and wanting their aims to be successful, it is unavoidable for the government to limit individual freedom. In other words, they might repress individuals' rights in a society in order for the government to achieve utopia. This condition is potential to generate conflicts.

Such conflicts can be seen in Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 and George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four. These novels show dystopian elements which build a fearful atmosphere for the reader.

I will analyze the theme of dystopia in these novels by using formalism. I will elaborate the theme through social and inner conflicts. Theme is 'the meaning of the story' (Kenney, 1996:88) and 'social conflict is a struggle between man and man....inner conflict is a struggle between desires within a person.' (Shaw, 1972:91-92). The analysis of these conflicts reveals some dystopian elements (imperfections) and later these elements will reveal the theme in each novel.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems are:

1. What are the themes of Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 and George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four?
2. How do the conflicts help to reveal the themes of these novels?
3. How are the dystopian elements developed in these novels?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purposes of this study are:

1. To show the themes of Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 and George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four.
2. To show how the conflicts reveal the themes in Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 and George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four.
3. To show the development of the dystopian elements in these novels.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method I use in analyzing these novels is formalism. In the analysis, I want to elaborate the theme through the social and inner conflicts that happen in both these novels.

I use library research, reading Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 and George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four as the main texts. Besides the novels, I use some information from the internet sites.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The present writer divides the thesis into four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, where the present writer states Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two deals with the analysis of theme of dystopia in Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451. Chapter Three contains the analysis of theme of dystopia in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four. Chapter Four contains the conclusion of the analysis of both literary works. At the end of the thesis, she inserts the synopsis of Fahrenheit 451 and Nineteen Eighty-Four, and the biographies of the authors, Ray Bradbury and George Orwell.