

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

Freedom is an important part of human life and it is always related to happiness. People need freedom to achieve happiness. Aldous Huxley in Brave New World and Lois Lowry in The Giver deal with this issue. In the two novels, freedom is something that the protagonists try to achieve as freedom is being limited by the government.

In Brave New World and The Giver, the protagonists are directly involved in the government so that they know how the government limits and controls the people. Both governments in the novels want to make a perfect world although in reality a perfect world is an impossibility. Drugs are also used in both novels to control people. Although both novels seem pessimistic, actually the novels teach people to be watchful and they reveal how important freedom is.

The author of Brave New World, Aldous Huxley, is famous for works of utopian and dystopian genre and Brave New World is his most famous work. “In Brave New World Huxley portrays a society operating on the principles of mass production and Pavlovian conditioning” (“Aldous Huxley”). His literary goal is to make the public think by “shocking” them, and it makes his works interesting to

analyse (Bakke). I agree with Bakke that “in his most popular of novels, Brave New World, Huxley shows a grim and bleak view of a future utopia, most likely reflecting his personal interpretation of where the world was going in 1932.” Huxley’s work is an illustration of what may happen in the future and to warn people about it.

The second novel that I am going to discuss is The Giver by Lois Lowry. “Some of Lowry's works have been controversial because they tackle difficult subject matter” (“Lois Lowry”). The Giver is one of her most famous works. The novel is known as “rich in levels of meaning, so daring in complexity of symbol and metaphor, so challenging in the ambiguity of its conclusion, that we are left with all of our neat little everyday categories and judgments hanging useless” (Lord). The Giver is also criticized as “the book was a real eye opener and really made you think of the possibilities for tomorrow” (“A Critique of The Giver”).

In my major thesis, I am going to analyse the social and inner conflicts in Brave New World and The Giver using formalism. Conflict itself is defined as “the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction” (Shaw 91) and Stewart states that “Conflict is not limited to physical altercation, but involves any plot twist, turn or ploy that causes emotional, spiritual or physical distress” (Chaze). There are three kinds of conflict which are elemental or physical, social, and internal or psychological conflicts. Elemental or physical conflict is defined as “a struggle between man and the physical world” (Shaw 91); social conflict is defined as “a struggle between man and man” (Shaw 91); and internal or psychological conflict is defined as “a struggle between desires within a person” (Shaw 92). The reason for analyzing social and inner

conflicts in these novels are I personally think that analysing conflict is something interesting for me and I would like to analyse it deeper in order to find out how social and inner conflicts of the protagonist could emphasize the issue of the author in both of the novels. On top of that, I would analyse the conflicts that have happened to the protagonists, the cause of the conflicts, and the resolution of the conflicts.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The statements of the problem are as follows:

1. What are the social and inner conflicts found in each novel?
2. What are the causes of the conflicts?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purposes of the study are as follows:

1. To show the social and inner conflicts found in each novel.
2. To show the causes of the conflicts.
3. To show how the conflicts are resolved.

### **Method of Research**

The method of research that I use in my thesis is library research. First of all, I read the two novels which are going to be analysed. Then, I browse some information from the Internet to support my analysis. I also read text books and

search for literary criticism. Finally, I draw some conclusion of what has been discussed.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

The thesis consists of four chapters, preceded by the Acknowledgments, the Table of Contents, and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the Analysis of Social and Inner Conflicts in Brave New World, followed by Chapter Three, which is the Analysis of Social and Inner Conflicts in The Giver. Chapter Four is the conclusion of the two previous chapters, followed by the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the synopsis of each novel and the biography of the two authors.