

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Totalitarianism is a system of a government in which “the political authority exercises absolute and centralized control over all aspects of life, the individual is subordinated to the state, and opposing political and cultural expression is suppressed.” (“Totalitarianism”) In totalitarian countries, “individual rights count for nothing. Citizens must obey the government without question, and critics are silenced.” (“The Rise of Totalitarianism”) An example of a totalitarian state is Russia when it was ruled by Joseph Stalin, Italy when it was ruled by Benito Mussolini, Germany when it was ruled by Adolf Hitler and present North Korea, which is ruled by Kim Jong Un (despite the popularity of democracy which has increased over the years, North Korea is still a totalitarian state up to the present time).

Totalitarianism has become the main subject of interest for some well-known authors. George Orwell is one of those authors. He wrote one of his most famous dystopian novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, which is the book that I am going

to analyse in my thesis, to criticize totalitarianism. Dystopia itself means a community or a society, set mostly in the future, that in some important ways undesirable and even frightening. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a success. It has managed to make it into *Time Magazine*'s list of 100 best English novels since 1923 and some of the phrases from the novel like 'doublethink' and 'thoughtcrime' even made an impact in English language. They have become common phrases in the subject of totalitarianism. Having been through some bitter experiences with totalitarianism when he was volunteering as a soldier in the Spanish Civil War, "Orwell was not only inspired to write, but he made his goal in writing to reveal the faults of a totalitarian system." (Sedlak)

I chose *Nineteen Eighty-Four* to be analysed because the novel is filled with issues concerning totalitarianism. Through this thesis, I intend to make people understand that totalitarianism is a horrible and dangerous government system.

The setting of place and time in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* takes place in a dystopian society somewhere in the future. Since the system of totalitarianism aims to take control over its citizens, conflicts are inevitable among people under the totalitarian government systems.

Using formalism, I am going to analyse *conflict*, which is "the struggle between two opposing forces." (Flanagan) There are three types of conflict: physical/elemental conflict, which is conflict between man and the physical world, social conflict, which is conflict between man and man, and psychological/inner conflict, which is conflict between desires within a man. (Murphy) The conflicts that appear in the novels and that I will analyse are the

social conflicts and inner conflicts. I am going to use formalism, with the help of some understanding about totalitarianism, to analyse the social and inner conflicts in the novel.

Statement of the Problems

The problems that I am going to analyse are as follows:

1. What kind of conflicts happens in the novel?
2. What is the cause of each conflict?
3. Is each conflict resolved?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study in my thesis are formulated in the following phrases:

1. To show what kind of conflicts happen in the novel.
2. To show what the cause of each conflict is.
3. To show whether each conflict is resolved.

Method of Research

I used the library research, in which I first read the primary text, George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. In addition, I got some information from the Internet to support my analysis. I used formalism to analyse the social and inner conflicts in the novel. Finally, I drew some conclusions from my analysis and wrote the research report.

Organization of the Thesis

My thesis consists of three chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, there is the analysis of social and inner conflicts in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Chapter Three contains the Conclusion; it is followed by the Bibliography and the Appendices, which include the synopsis of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and the biography of George Orwell.