

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses some aspects that deal with the topic of research, background of study, research question, objectives of the study, and scope and limitation of study

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Dystopian fiction becomes popular nowadays, since this genre presents the unique story inside. Dystopia, formed by the combination of two Greek words, the prefix “dys” signifying “ill”, “bad” or “abnormal” and “topos” meaning “place” literally means “bad place”. Following Setyorini defines the term of “dystopia” is used to describe an “unpleasant futuristic society inhabited by a number of people or a population” (2016:101). Dystopian fiction is presented for adolescent, it often provides a young protagonist agency and power to change their surroundings (Virtanen, 2012: 4). This fiction uses the protagonist’s perspective to show the readers the negative aspects of the world that protagonist lives in. The antagonist itself could be seen as the destructive society, as Souza stated that it is usually has internal conflict; political and social issues (2012:3). It is related to Basu et al in Setyorini explained that dystopia has its own convention related to their aesthetic value and political orientation (2016:101). Through these issues this fiction criticize social and political system that threaten the society and its people (Virtanen, 2012: 9). Those conflicts often appear in a society or widely in a state as an effect of ruling class domination.

Not only containing political and social conflicts as the characteristics of dystopia, this genre also derives the technology as the center theme of the story. The role of technology in dystopian story is to manipulate and dictate the lives of people inside the society. The society is controlled by government which uses advanced technology (Wolk, 2015: par. 1) to operate the system that they have made. One of the literary work discussing dystopia is *The Giver* (2014). It shows the operation of control system which is practically employed; surveillance and punishments. The people of this society are strictly observed through CCTV and

use loudspeaker to remind people of proper behaviour. It means that the society lives without free will and individual thought. Furthermore, technology units are used to control every aspect of their lives: assigns jobs, housing, family unit, sexual desires, and people are “released” the terms to murdering in this society (Lowry, 2014).

Those phenomena are portrayed in novel of *The Giver*. It tells the society who lives in seemingly utopian world where everyone appears to be happy and it is supposed to be ideal place (Morris and Kross,2009:207). The sense of harmony is created by a strictly engineered existence where the community is derived of the so called burden of memories. Memories of basic human emotions such love, hate, and empathy have been completely suppressed in the populace; and defining cultural features including art, music, literature, and even color, have also been completely erased. To maintain this environment of total security and equality, a council of Elders regiments people’s lifestyles down to the last detail to prevent them from making the “wrong choices”. Everything from a person’s permanent profession to one’s intimate spouse is planned and assigned by the Elders. In addition, social norms have been so successfully programmed into the populace that it is, as Jonas instinctively understands, “considered rude to call attention to things that were unsettling or different about individuals”. Absolute equality was finally achieved, but at the heavy price of individual humanity.

The society in the novel does not want to experience fear and anxiety because that leads to other emotions, which have no place in the community. Not only for the “bad” emotions, but also for “good” emotions such as love, the community is unrecognized the the word “love” they omitted that word and change it to “comfortable” those are when the community decide to censor the language even the colors and animals has no existence in this community. Hence, it is only one receiver who gets the memories in order to keep get the wisdom for the community. The receiver employed to remember entire histories, in particular traumatic events on behalf of the community. Although some memories are wonderful to accept, the giver also provide memories of war, genocide, and starvation. He does not only receive memories from these events, but also the emotions and feelings associated with them. By those treatments, it shows the

system that have been existing. It means that power system controlled their community by giving them a doctrine that emotions; hatred, envy, anxiety, love, happiness, and others can make them being uncontrol, act without logic and would make the community faces the conflicts (Lowry, 2014).

Through the story, the power system as an agency of state apparatuses which take a role in various manner to show the dominance toward society (Clark and Dear, 1984: ch. 2). State apparatuses are employed to maintain the dominance of government as the author proposes:

“The capitalist power system is supported employed of Repressive State Apparatuses (e.g., the police, the law, the army), which function by real or implied violence, and Ideological State Apparatuses (ISAs), which function to promote and spread ideology; ways of thinking and doing that promote the existing power system including the church, the school, the family, the courts, the media” (Althusser, 1971:16).

Those are the power of society to make the people being submissive and make the condition is safe as they thought.

These stories occasionally use violence as a tool of repression, as Althusser stated that the “Repressive State Apparatus functions massively and predominantly by repression (including physical repression)” (1971:145). It cannot be ignored that the agents of repressive state can exist through the ideology which is believed and have been learned, Althusser (1971:8) claims that it will provide the domination of the ruling class by bringing the ideology for the agents of exploitation and repression. Indeed, these conditions are accommodated by an agency. According to Edward:

“...by ‘Agency’ in this sense which is meant something like the capacity of human beings to make and act on decisions that are in an important respect derived independently of ideology in its subject-constituting function, and from social determination more broadly understood” (2007:49).

It can be underlined that the term agency in this research is as the state apparatuses, since it becomes the agent of the ruling class to maintain the dominance. Althusser (1971:143-144) proposes that state apparatuses are divided into two; repressive and ideological apparatus functioning as system that ruling class used to take dominance. Ideologically, the state judges if the people is right

or wrong, whether their action is acceptable or not based on the rules which has been giving (Clark and Dear; 1984). Continuing the judges, the state makes the people being submissive and obedient to rules by functioning violence through repressive way. Indeed, those apparatuses cannot be separated since they support each other to run the particular part.

In addition, the settings are close realistic to the reader, because the conflicts described could be seen as potentially realistic. The story represents the social phenomena which found in a real life such as the violence, the politics, the power state, conflicts between oppressor and oppressed that always derived in the dystopian novel.

The researcher is interested to study *The Giver* novel as the object of research for some reasons. Firstly, this novel is popular among other dystopian novels. This novel published in 1993, the novel won the prestigious Newbery medal in 1994, and remains a staple in middle schools. It is spent 188 weeks in USA today's top 150; its highest ranking was No. 23 in September 2008. (McClurg ,USA Today's 2014 ), even the writer is called as "Mother of Dystopian" it is proven that her works are accepted to the reader.

Secondly, the issue is current where many teenagers or people are really concerned about uniformity in society and feel in danger in the diversity. It can be seen from the phenomena in our country; the diversity becomes national problem where people tend to express their ideology through communities, ethnics, religion, opinion and other, without realizing that the diversity can make them unite as a nation. The ideology embedded in media, religion and other makes them faces the conflict in society .

Thirdly, the portrayal of rules in this novel related to the concept of state apparatuses proposes by Althusser which is a keyterm of this study. Thus, the researcher concerns to make the study about the conflict as seen as the effect of the practices of state apparatuses that depicted in *The Giver* novel functioning state apparatuses theory by Althusser. Furthermore, as far as researcher concerns that there is no thesis for novel *The Giver* as a research subject, and also state apparatuses as the theory to conduct the thesis. Therefore, the researcher thinks the study on the topic is important to do.

## **1.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

Based on the background of the study above, there are several problems should be taken in consideration:

1. How does the Ideological State Apparatus operate within the society in *The giver*?
2. How does the Repressive State Apparatus operate within the society in *The Giver* ?

## **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Based on the research question above, the objectives study are follows:

1. To explain how the “Ideological State Apparatus” operates within the society in *The Giver*.
2. To explain how the “Repressive State Apparatus” operates within the society in *The Giver*.

## **1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY**

The researcher expects that this study can give positive contribution to the educational field. It gives useful understanding about diversity, ideology, power domination surrounding us. It is also expected that it is useful for students of English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya or other students who study about ideology, and state apparatuses.

## **1.5 LIMITATION OF STUDY**

In this scope, the researcher only focuses on *The Giver* novel written by Lois Lowry. *The Giver* is the first part of a free trilogy (every novel of the trilogy can be read as a stand- alone novel without losing the meaning). The researcher just limits the study on the state apparatuses which are depicted in the novel.