

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the background of the study, statement of research problem, objective of the study, significance of the study and the scope limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Since the beginning of human civilization up until the present, there has been many constant changes in the human society and those changes are caused by many factors such as crisis, war, and disasters that became tough challenges which would determines the path or the fate of a society to the better one or to the worse one. The past human of societies are recorded in literatures because literature is knowledge and can never be separated from the history and human life. There are records of the past human societies shown that they are prospered because they succeed to overcome the challenges. While some records show that some human societies are fallen because they failed to overcome the challenges. Those past records of human societies are written as a way to warn the present and future human societies (Diamond, 2019:05).

Many novel writers started to write their works on dystopian fictions to provide visions and to explain the difference and the “what if” between reality and imaginary. The term dystopia itself came from Greek word that means “bad place” as in imaginary place and reality which influenced by historical events. The concept of dystopian genre has been developing. Dystopia itself is one of the elements of postmodernism and it links with the society conditions, while postmodernism itself is closely related to criticism and social terms (Abrams, 1999:328).

There have been many novelists who wrote dystopian literature works to remind and warn about something that already happened in the past or might happen in future, for example, Jo Nesbo who slightly includes dystopian genre in his works. Jo Nesbo is a Norwegian author which focuses his works in writing about crime fiction. Jo Nesbo's first work, *Flaggermusmannen* (1997) translated into English: *The Bat* (2012) got an annual award of The Riverton Prize 1997 for Best Norwegian crime novel of the year. Following his first work, he wrote another novel entitled *Macbeth* in 2018, this novel is a remake/retold of Shakespeare's plays with the same title: *Macbeth* for modern audience.

What makes the *Macbeth* novel interesting is that not only this is the first novel he writes about Shakespeare's legendary play with the same title, but also the way Nesbo delivers the concept of dystopian genre in his narrations. This made the researcher interested to study this matter by reading the novel and then analyze it. According to Syed Hunbbel Meer, there are story books with 3.500-7.500 words, novelette with 7.500-17.000 words, novella with 17.000-40.000 words, and novel with more than 40.000 words. Based on Meer's statement, the researcher chooses to analyze a novel entitled *Macbeth* because the book has more than 40.000 words.

The novel setting is in the 1970s, in an unnamed town crippled with a drug problem, gang wars, unemployment, robbery, and corruption from the former chief commissioner regime. The novel begins on a note of hope with good cop Duncan taking charge as the new chief commissioner with his retinue of honest men, which includes SWAT unit head Macbeth. Besides being an efficient and popular officer, Macbeth is also a survivor who has put a troubled childhood and drug addiction behind him to start a new life with Lady, the charming owner of a local casino called Inverness. The fear of a drug crackdown under Duncan's regime pushes the Obelisk casino owner and a drug lord, Hecate, to set a trap for Macbeth and Lady.

The bait is a prophecy which promises absolute power. As in the play and so in the novel, everything goes downhill from here.

From the summary above, it can be seen that the novel is full of interesting problems from the characters and their social life that can be analyzed. For example, the powerful drug cartel roled by Hecate, former prostitute and mentally ill roled by Lady, infamous corrupt former chief commissioner Kenneth, justice upright chief commissioner Duncan, official governor usurper and new corrupt chief commissioner Macbeth. *Macbeth* by Jo Nesbo was published in 2018, and the researcher only found one previous study using Jo Nesbo's *Macbeth* as a source of data before. However, some researchers from the past have been using the dystopian concept and its elements as their basic theories such as in "Control and Resistance in A Young Adult Dystopian Fiction: A Foucauldian Reading of Marie Lu's Legend" (2015) by Amalina, N., The writer of this study analyzes how a young adult dystopian novel entitled Legend by Marie Lu portrays a totalitarian government controls its subjects and the way young adult characters resists to it.

"The Dystopian elements in Suzanne Collins's The Hunger Games" (2019) by Nikoloso, A., The writer of this study aim to single out the dystopian elements in The Hunger Games such as; inequality, technological control abuse, oppression, etc.

"Education in Fictional Dystopian Societies: The Case of Veronica Roth's Divergent" (2021) by Stefanopoulou, S., Kechagias, C., and Malafantis, K. This study focuses on roles and aspects of education and portrays some representations of the educational system in force in *Divergent*.

This study focuses on the dystopian society characteristics depicted in Jo Nesbo's *Macbeth*, because it provides suitable data for this study. In this study, the writer will analyze the depicted characteristics in the novel.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study which has been described, a problem is stated as follows:

1. What are the dystopian society characteristics depicted in Jo Nesbo's *Macbeth*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research of question above, the objective of this study is:

1. To describe the dystopian society characteristics depicted in Jo Nesbo's *Macbeth* through a literary work.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to give a better understanding about dystopian genre and dystopian society characteristics.

Practically, this study is expected to give a better understanding about dystopian genre which is often used in literary works, movies, and play and contribution by the next studies which analyze similar theory or source of data especially for the students of English Department.

1.5 Scope of Limitation

The scope of this study is dystopian society characteristics by Margaret Atwood through Kuznicki's book *Margaret Atwood's Dystopian Fiction: Fire Is Being Eaten* and by Jo Nesbo's novel *Macbeth* as the main object of the analysis. To concentrate on the main point which is analyzed, this study is limited on the author's narrations and characters' utterances which are taken from the novel that describes the dystopian society characteristics depicted in the novel.