

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

In society, the power and authority force men to abandon themselves obeying whom in charge of the power. It is because society makes people to organize power and authority to define regular permission and form or prohibition human behavior (Foucault, 2006). Mosca defines there are always two classes, "one that rule and the second that is ruled" (Soemarjan and Soemardi, 1964, p. 353). Thus, the organization of power and social system establish the two classes hierarchically between the ruling class and the class which is ruled.

Aristotle classifies the type of government into monarchies, aristocracies, and democracies. Additionally, democratic is the accepted system by mostly the modern nation, because its concept guaranteed the majority of citizen equally to engage in their political life (Mosca, 1964). In democracy, power and authority are decentralized. Power of government is shared into several power holders in politics, military, and economics (Soemardjan and Soemardi, 1964). The modern democracy manifests the value of humanity freedom from any form of restraint in all aspects.

In the other hand, totalitarianism is the opponent to the democracy. This system allows centralized power. The power and authority of government are in hand of one person, or class that coverage all aspect of functions as the

sovereignty. As consequence, the freedom of citizen to participate in politics is limited. Also the power imperatively ties up the society in a restraint position. As Arendt defines “the totalitarian aims to abolish freedom, even at eliminating human spontaneity in general“ (1979, p. 405). The ruling class becomes exclusive because the right of people to participate in ruling the country is restricted. The population remains outside the party and any political organization, it makes people less responsible toward government, in other words they are the apolitical majority (Arendt, 1979).

A particular society cannot be parted from the realm of literary works. Literary works can be a social document, and the writer may be the social agent, to represent the reality of a particular society. As Wellek and Warren argue “the relations of literature and society is the study of works of literature as social documents, as assumed pictures of reality” (1948, p. 97). While, the literary writer “should express the life of his own time fully, that he should be representative of his age and society” (1948, p. 90). Thus, study of a social discourses can be applied the literary works researches, it is because literature can reflect the reality in society.

George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a satirical novel toward totalitarian government. From *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*, Satire can be defined as “a mode of writing that exposes the failings of individuals, institutions, or societies to ridicule and scorn” (Baldick, 2001, p. 228). It means that satirical novel will present the failing of individual, institution,

and society, as ridicule or scorn. And *Nineteen Eighty-Four* becomes a satirical novel about the failing totalitarian government. As Posner states that the novel is “a warning about the totalitarian actuality of the Soviet Union and totalitarian tendencies that Orwell discerned in the West” (2000, p. 1). Stephen Ingle adds “the greatest influence on *Nineteen Eighty Four* was the obvious one; Orwell believed, from experience as much from reasoning, that totalitarianism threatened the very survival of Western values, and that the embodiment of that threat was Stalin’s Russia” (2006, p. 116). Orwell envisions the nightmarish of the threat of totalitarian in the world. As stated by Ingle (2006) that Orwell does not only concern of totalitarianism in the Europe only, but also the threat of totalitarianism as global terror. As it is known that totalitarianism still used by some governments in South America, Africa, Middle and East Asia during post World War II. Thus, It can be concluded that in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, Orwell is a satirist, in the purpose to expose the reality of totalitarian threats and vices through the irony.

Nineteen Eighty-Four is a novel about dystopian future when the totalitarian becomes the wielding system. It is released in 1949, then it makes Orwell is identified as a prophet with vision of apocalypse of modern future in 1984. The story contains the condition when individual is oppressed. It starts with Winston as the main character who walks in the domination of Big Brother. He lives in Oceania province of Airstrip One that has endless war with Eastasia. Everyday, Winston has to deal with the telescreen and the fear of Thought Police.

The telescreen is an electronic surveillance and propaganda device. It becomes the omnipresent surveillance and propaganda over the individual. While the Thought

Police is the government's apparatus, similar with secret agent, that responsible to operate the surveillance system in Oceania.

Winston is an outer party or middle class man who works in Ministry of Truth, which daily deals with media, news, literature, and entertainment. He secretly hates the Big Brother and the Inner Party (Ingsoc). On the diary, he writes "Down with Big Brother". Later, this action is called in as Thought Crime, it means the act or tendency to rebel toward government. One day he meets Julia from fiction department, it is followed with romance relationship and committing to throw the Big Brother together after join the underworld group called Brotherhood. However, it does not last long because they have unconsciously been under surveillance for first time. They consequently have to be imprisoned, tortured and re-educated for discipline to love Big Brother before being vaporized. So that, the struggle to advocate freedom and democracy in Oceania always fails since the government utilizes the telescreen and Thought Police to maintain the status quo.

Moreover, the government exercises the extreme social control, including total surveillance to make the population. The total surveillance is perfectly manifested by the thing called Telescreen that becomes ubiquitous. Also the Thought Police which becomes the government apparatus that recognizes the suspicion against Big Brother. It is sort of the special agent or secret police who has the right to arrest the suspicious person. The organization member can be an undercover people and walks among the citizen. Shortly, Oceania people are under the eye of the Thought Police, every activity and situation can be inspected

without warning. Thus, the Thought Police and telescreen are the government tools to control and dominate its population by the constant surveillances.

The discourse on surveillance is associated with panopticon. As Roy Boyne asserted that “the Panoptical principle is not fading away, and that developments in screening and surveillance require the retention of the Panopticon as an analytical ideal type” (Yar, 2003, P. 258). Therefore, in studying the telescreen and Thought Police in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, the writer will retain panopticism as the analytical frame to approach the surveillance.

The writer wishes by conducting the study of Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four* would give significant contribution to comprehend how people deal with a surveillance system. As today, surveillance devices are vastly used by any elements for its varied purposes, especially by the government. Government has utilized the surveillance activity to discipline the people. Hence the study about panopticon in literary works can also give a consciousness about the side effect of surveillance in real life.

1.2 Problem of Study

The writer views the power toward the surveillance perspective as the point of social control and domination. In conducting the research there is problem of study that the writer desires to take, as followed: how the telescreen and Thought Police play the roles as the media for surveillance that are used by the government in George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

1.3 Objective of The Study

Viewing telescreen and Thought Police as the surveillance media that are used by the government are closely associated with the aim of study that is, to analyze how the telescreen and Thought Police are used by the government play the roles in sustaining the power of totalitarian regime in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

