

TOTALITARIAN LEADER SEEN IN COLLIN'S *THE HUNGER GAMES*

Muhayah¹, Galang Kesatria Tama²
English Literature¹
English Education²

Muhayah@gmail.com

Abstract

The Hunger Games is chosen as the object in doing analysis because the novel describes about the world and life of the people under the totalitarian leader. The objective of this study is to find the action of totalitarian leader that conveyed by the author through her work *The Hunger Games novel*. This thesis aimed to reveal out the totalitarian leader as the main theme in this thesis. In order to accomplish this analysis, the writer applied approach and theories to support the analysis, it was sociological approach in order to help the writer in analyzing and in determining this analysis. Descriptive qualitative was applied to elaborate the ideas. The writer limited the analysis only about the characteristics and the goals of totalitarian leader based on Arendt's view. The data are narrations and dialogues in the novel *The Hunger Games* as data source. It focused on the characteristics and the goals of totalitarian leader done by the leader inside the novel. The result of this analysis revealed about how the totalitarian leader seen in Collin's *The Hunger Games*. In this analysis the characteristics of totalitarian leader used terror and violence, propaganda and censorship to get their goals. In this analysis the goals of totalitarian leader are to get total domination and total control all aspect of human life.

Key words: Totalitarian Leader, Hunger Games

INTRODUCTION

Leader is usually known as the someone who lead the organization or group (Ayu, 2020), (Andrian, 2021). The great leaders are passed down through generations and have contributed to the development of civilized societies (Schrape, 2018), (Tuhuteru & Iriani, 2018), (Nurkholis & Sitanggang, 2019), (Wantoro et al., 2021), (Choi et al., 2015). Leader is usually known as prophets, priest, chiefs, and kings. Doyle and Smith (2013:18) further observe that all social and political movements require leaders to begin their empire. Many people describe leaders as someone who is able to think and act creatively and who set out to influence the actions, beliefs, and feelings of others (van Eijck, Michiel; Hsu, Pei-Ling; Roth, 2009), (Novita & Husna, 2020), (Daun-Barnett & Affolter-Caine, 2005), (Mandasari, n.d.), (Purba et al., 2019), (Ruyani & Matthews, 2017), (Saifuddin Dahlan, 2013), (Ambarwati & Mandasari, 2020).

From those quotations the writer assumes that the leader is someone who has power to manage people and who set out to influence the actions, beliefs, and feelings of others (Sensuse et al., 2020), (Putri & Sari, 2020), (Rido et al., 2016), (Fernando et al., 2016), (Mandasari & Oktaviani, 2018), (Abudhahir et al., 2015). Leader in this context is someone who leads and controls the societies whom they want to control in economy and state. The control is also imposed into many aspects of citizen's lives (Sari & Sukmasari, 2018). There are many kinds of leader and one of them is totalitarian leader.

Totalitarianism is a political system in which the state holds total authority over the society and seeks to control all aspects of public and private life whenever necessary (Kaid, 2004),

(Isnain et al., n.d.), (Daun-Barnett & Affolter-Caine, 2005), (KUSWOYO et al., 2013), (Garrison & Wall, 2016), (Agustinus Bima, 2020). Totalitarian leader is a person who takes total, centralized, state control over every aspect of life. From Arendt statement the writer assume that totalitarian leader is a someone who has the power to control the people into every aspect of public and private life. Totalitarianism developed gradually in Nazi Germany; only in the last years of World War II did the state try to control virtually every area of life. This statement is also supported by Popper in *'The Open Society and its enemies'* and Carl Friedrich in *'Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy'*. They proposed that Russia and Germany should be labeled as totalitarian. The term totalitarianism was first coined as early as May 1923 in Italy. In 1925 Mussolini used the term fierce totalitarianism will to describe his movement in a positive way. During the twentieth century, many nations including Russia and Germany lived under extraordinarily brutal and oppressive governments. Over one hundred million civilians died at the hands of these governments, but only a small fraction of their brutality and oppression was necessary to retain power. Russia and Germany are the two most-studied totalitarian regimes. By modern calculations, the Russia killed approximately twenty million civilians, German twenty five million. This statement is also supported by Gregor in Caplan. He stated the main function of the brutality and oppression, rather, was to get the power. The goals and methods of these governments were so extreme as "total" or "totalitarian." (2006:1).

In this thesis the writer got interested to analyze issue in Collins *The Hunger Games*. The issue is about the totalitarian leader known in the *Hunger Games* novel. In this thesis the writer wants to explore and give understanding to the reader about the characteristics and the goals of totalitarian leader based on Arendt's theory. The *Hunger Games* novel is a series of young adult science fiction adventure novels by Suzanne Collins. The story is set in the country of Panem, a post apocalyptic version of North America. Every year the president Snow as the leader live in the Capitol organizes an event known as the Hunger Games a bloody, gladiator style fight to the death battle between 24 randomly selected teenagers from the oppressed Districts of Panem. To top it all off, the carnage is broadcast live on television as entertainment for the residents of the Capitol and a reminder to the residents of the Districts of the totalitarian leader's ultimate power. President Snow works in a central city called The Capitol who is an overpowering government who control the people and all the resources by fear, cruelty and by withholding food and forcing children into killing themselves in the Hunger Games. The establishment of the Hunger games is a form of control by the Capitol.

When Katniss' sister Prim gets selected to play in the games, Katniss selflessly takes her place. She demonstrates a determined loyalty to herself and her family. She would rather put herself in the midst of danger in order to protect her family. Katniss despises the Capitol because while the people in the districts fight poverty and oppression, the people in the Capitol all live in comfort and luxury.

Regarding to the elaboration above, the writer got interested to explore and give information to the reader about the characteristics and the goals of totalitarian leader seen in *The Hunger Games* novel based on Arendt's view. According to Arendt in Inceoglu (2008:2), *The Origins of Totalitarianism* is a search to understand "the elements of the totalitarianism" which was published in 1951. Arendt argue that totalitarianism as a political concept can be seen as a system of government that is characterized by a single party that exercises power used terror and violence, propaganda and censorship and control over all aspects of the state affairs and life. It allows for no opposition.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Leader

Great leaders are passed down through generations and have contributed to the development of civilized societies. Leaders is usually known as prophets, priest, chiefs, and kings. All social and political movements require leaders to begin their empire. Many people describe leaders as someone who is able to think and act creatively in non routine situations and who set out to influence the actions, beliefs, and feelings of others.

From those quotations the writer assumes that the leader is the people who have power to manage people and who set out to influence the actions, beliefs, and feelings of others. Leader in this context is the people who lead and control the people or societies with they want, controls the economy and state controls are imposed onto many aspects of citizen's lives.

Arendt's View on Totalitarian Leader

Arendt is a political philosopher and theories of the twentieth century, her work considered historical and contemporary political events, such as the rise and fall of Nazism. The famous Arendt teaching is *The Human Condition*, published in 1958, was a study that investigated the fundamental categories of the *vita activa* (labor, work, action). In addition to these important works, Arendt published a number of influential essays on topics such as the nature of revolution, freedom, authority, tradition and the modern age. At the time of her death in 1975, she had completed the first two volumes of her last major work, *The Life of the Mind*, which examined the three fundamental faculties of the *vita contemplativa* (thinking, willing, and judging). The famous her political philosophy is *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, published in 1951, was a study of the Nazi and Stalinist regimes that generated a wide-ranging debate on the nature and historical antecedents of the totalitarian phenomenon. When Arendt published *The Origin of Totalitarian*, Arendt wanted to give her readers a sense of phenomenal reality of totalitarianism, of its appearance in the world as a terrifying and completely new form of government.

Terror and Violence

totalitarian states use terror and violence to force obedience and to crush opposition. Terror is a person or thing that causes such fear, violence or threats of violence used as a means of intimidation or coercion. The most famous aspect of totalitarian leader was the Terror. This grew from his desire to be an absolute control. Arendt (1951: 427) claims, the secret police further protects the power sustenance of the totalitarian rule from enemies attacks. Secret police are intelligence agencies and or police agency, law enforcement office which operates in secrecy and also quite often beyond the law to protect the political power of totalitarian leader.

Arendt in Robert Fine and Charles Turner (2000;5) entitled *Social Theory after the Holocaust* argues in 'Understanding and Politics', that the uses of terror is violence, violence is exercised as a means either to retain power, or to intimidate enemies. Totalitarian states use terror and violence to force obedience and to crush opposition. Normally, the police are expected to respond to criminal activity and protect the citizens.

In a totalitarian state, the police serve to enforce the central government's policies. They may do this by spying on the citizens or by intimidating them. Sometimes they use brutal force and even murder to achieve their goals.

METHOD

In this analysis researcher used library research and descriptive method with reason that this method is more suitable for analysis (Indriyanto et al., 2017), (Kurniawan et al., 2019), (Unggul & Gulö, 2017). In library research the writer got some data from books which has correlation to the topic discuss. The writer also applied the descriptive qualitative method with reason that this method is more suitable to use for analysis. Data can be numbers, images, words, figures, factor or ideas. Data elaborate in this thesis were in the form of dialogue and narration that explore the characteristics and the goals of totalitarian leader. Data sources are one of the most important and vital aspect of any research studies which is analyzed and interpreted to get information. In this case the data source of this research is novel of *The Hunger games* by Suzanne Collin.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Terror and Violence

Terror is a person or thing that causes such fear, violence or threats of violence used as a means of intimidation or coercion. The first point of the traits of totalitarian leader which writer found in Collin's *The Hunger Games* novel is terror and violence. In the novel, The hunger game is the name of a yearly competition which was designed 75 years earlier, called the Dark Days (in which the 13th district was supposedly annihilated). The Capitol, by these games, wants to make the people aware that they can never again be unified, and forces them to stand always against each other. In these competitions a young girl and boy between the ages of 12 and 18 are selected from each district. These contestants are called tribute. They are taken to an arena and forced to combat with each other until all of them are killed except one. The last remaining tribute is the victor. The games are televised live for all of the citizens of Panem to see.

The most famous aspect of totalitarian leader is the terror and violence. This grows from leader desire to be a total control. The president Snow as the leader not only uses the hunger games to terror the people but also use secret police to become the informant to the government. Arendt (1951: 427) points out that terror in totalitarian movements use the secret police as the informers in maintaining law and order. Secret police are intelligence agencies and or police agency, law enforcement office which operates in secrecy and also quite often beyond the law to protect the political power of totalitarian leader. Police are specifically intended to operate beyond and above the law in order to suppress political dissent through acts of terror and intimidation such as kidnapping, coercive interrogation, torture, internal exile, forced disappearance, and assassination targeted against the society who perfidious.

Odds are given on their ages, whether they're seam or merchant, if they will break down and weep. Most refuse dealing with the racketeers but carefully, carefully. These same people tend to be informers, and who hasn't broken the law? I could be shot on a daily basis for hunting. (Collin: 2008:16)

Katniss said that *"these same people tend to be informers, and who hasn't broken the law"* is including to the terror done by the leader. The leader uses secret police or the informers to get the leader goals. In this novel the leader goal is to dominate and control of the people, to keep the people in order to remain in compliance with regulations. Leader relies on a massive police or the informer force that is always ready repressing any kind of uprising. A totalitarian leader would use terror and violence to ensure that people in order. *"I could be shot on a daily basis for hunting"* from Katniss statement informer would not hesitate to resort to violence or killing those deemed to have violated the rules. Besides using police to terror and give violence for the Panem, the leader also uses the history of Panem in the past uprising of the district against the Capitol and the treaty of treason to give the district law to guarantee peace.

"I'd have thought, in District Eleven, you'd have a bit more to eat than us. You know, since you grow the food," I say.
Rue's eyes widen. "Oh, no, we're not allowed to eat the crops."
"They arrest you or something?" I ask.
"They whip you and make everyone else watch," says Rue. "The mayor's very strict about it." (Collin, 2008:193)

From the conversation between Katniss and Rue from district eleven the writer assumes that using violence make the people to obey the law. From the quotation above, the word of *"They whip you and make everyone else watch"* the leader gives hard punishment for the people who break the rules and make sure that everyone else watch it. If every person watches, she or he will never be brave to break the rules. If the people do not have the brave, it is easy for the government to control the people. In this novel the leader uses violence to control the people still in order. From the conversation above, the word of *"Oh, no, we're not allowed to eat the crops."* From this word the writer takes a point that the leader controls the food. In this novel district eleven is grow the food, but the leader control full of the food, so the people in district eleven cannot eat their crops. They are still hungry because the leader controls the food.

Propaganda and Censorship

The second traits of totalitarian leader that writer is going to analyze propaganda and censorship. Propaganda is the information, ideas, or rumors that are deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation. The aim of propaganda is to influence people's opinions or behaviors actively, rather than merely to communicate the facts about something. The novel *The Hunger Games* Collins shows that in totalitarian country the leader uses propaganda and censorship to influence the people believe.

Besides basic reading and math most of our instruction is coal-related. Except for the weekly lecture on the history of Panem. It's mostly just a lot of blather about what we owe the Capitol. I know there must be more than they're telling us, an actual account of what happened during the rebellion. (Collins, 2008:39).

The statement above shows clearly that the government monitors education. Katniss as the main character and the narrator says that in the school the teacher only give the knowledge about the history of panem and about the coal. Capitol also provides the lies of districts to the capitol. It seems clear that the capitol would like to change the people way or thinking, especially for the children who are in school so they will believe that the capitol is very good because it has helped them. Katniss describes a very basic level education that deals

with the necessities of the individual districts. From the quotation above, the word of “Besides basic reading and math most of our instruction is coal-related. Except for the weekly lecture on the history of Panem.” In this quotation the writer thinks that the leader control and censor education, because there are many knowledge that the leader does not give to the people in district. The leader uses censor knowledge to control the people to make the people in district do not know many others think and to make people only know about basic reading, math and about coal. as well as some general propaganda featuring the portrayal of the Capitol as laudable.

CONCLUSION

After discussing and analyzing the main problem of this research and also applying the concept and the data to gather in chapter four. The researcher finally can make the conclusion based on the analysis in the previous chapter. The researcher takes the crucial point based on the analysis about totalitarian leader seen in Collin’s *The Hunger Games*.

Regarding the analysis in the previous chapter the writer found the totalitarian action that done by President Snow as the leader. In *The Hunger Games* novel president Snow as the leader uses terror and violence, propaganda and censorship to get their goals in this analysis the totalitarian leader goals are to get total domination and control all aspect of human life. Totalitarian leader committes to achieving unmediated control of his people would aim to exercise complete control on all matters or, at least, on as many as possible. The most famous aspect of totalitarian leader is the terror and violence. This grows from leader desire to be a total domination and total control. Totalitarian leader uses terror and violence to keep the people in order to remain in compliance with regulations, the uses of terror and violence is exercised as a means either to retain power, or to intimidate enemies. Totalitarian states use terror and violence to force obedience and to crush opposition. Besides uses terror and violence to get their goals, President Snow as the leader also uses propaganda and censorship. Totalitarian leader uses propaganda and censorship to influence the people believe. would like to change the people way or thinking. In totalitarian country, propaganda is really important to won the mob. The leader has changed people perspectives to get the masses. Totalitarian leader controls over the media and every broadcast completely fabricated by the government to serve the interests of the government itself. It makes the government easier to control the people ideology. Totalitarian leader uses media to propaganda and censorship because media is the tool most often used to broadcast Capitol supporting messages (Ariyanti & Iswardani, 2020).

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