

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Genres as the essential element in literature are inevitably considered as the main layer of a work of literature. Besides giving uniqueness of one work by firming the story, each genre definitely captures the purpose of each work it conducted by. On the other side, reality of the real world is unavoidable to be considered as a unity that can't be separated from literature. Reality sometimes bases the literature and from the reality that is manifested, the purpose of one work will probably be revealed. The drama that is manifested probably has the aim to entertain, but when the manifestation of reality captures one phenomena explicitly, it is considered as the form of critic as the opinion of the author of the work. Furthermore, as in literature each genre defines the purpose of each one of them, explicit manifestation of a phenomena and criticizing are seized by the genre that is called dystopia.

Sargent defines dystopia as a non-existent society described in considerable detail and normally located in time and space that the author intended a contemporaneous reader to view as considerably worse than the society which that the reader lived (in Moylan, 2000: 74). Furthermore, the fiction society with the considerably worse social phenomena is not mean to merely be an entertainment and it is not about the future world prediction. Instead, Peter

Firchow (in Babae, 2015: 66) states, “The most of the memorable dystopian fiction of our time are largely pessimistic- not of course about the future, but really about present”. Additionally, the aim of the explicit manifestation of the social phenomena is straighten by Baccolini and Moylan that states, “The author of dystopia fiction is tend to use future dystopias to internalize present problem and provide a critique of political, social and economic structures” (in Sar, 2013: 2). For instance, one of the most popular dystopian works is George Orwell’s *1984* (1949). Several studies found out that there are direct parallel between the book and the political issues that one of them is the totalitarian regime at that time. Regarding the purpose of this work, Babae (2015: 65) found and states that this George Orwell’s work is a criticism of Stalin’s totalitarianism. Though politic, social and economic issues are classical problems in human history, but within each era, it is considered of having different specification of it and certainly, its manifestation in literature will be different as it is.

Nowadays, many dystopian works are published and had taken the world’s attention. It is observed that most of the issues evoked is discrimination, especially class discrimination. Class discrimination can be defined as prejudice and discrimination on the basis of different social class. This kind of discrimination emerges as the act of control owning show, where the practices are set up to benefit the upper class at the expense of the lower class. But the point is how this phenomena occurs and what exactly causes it, indeed it is undeniable that class discrimination is attach to political, economic and social aspect. When these three social aspects do not run as they supposed to, then there must be some

problems it causes. On the other side, the fear of the bleak and terrible experience of this social problem is not perceived by the imaginary society as the literature depicted only, in reality people have facing and wrestling with this social problem instead. One of oppressions as the distribution of discrimination perceived by the lower class people is the powerlessness that can be noticed from their inability to make themselves prosperous while in the other side, simultaneously the prices is rising as the policy made by the authority owners and indeed it is a form of lack of self-authority they perceived. This phenomenon that based on the economy inequality that capture the attention of many dystopian author.

Andrew Niccol as an authors, producers which all at once is a screenwriter is one among that makes a dystopian works that takes the class discrimination issue. *In Time* (2011) is one of Niccol's work that holds the theme about economic inequality that then proceed to the class discrimination phenomenon. *In Time* is a film which depicts the situation where in the future world, time will be the currency. The rich have million time while the poor will struggle with the time they own. But it is not merely about time is money, instead it means money is the life time in which how much time they own means how long they will live.

One of oppression that is *powerlessness* experienced by the lower class people can be interpreted from the statement of one of the character *Will Salas* that is “*the rich can live forever, and the rest of us?*” it depicts the situation where he has no choice but to follow the life controlled by the power owner. In the other side this grief is not has no cause, it can be interpreted form Henry Hamilton's statement, a rich man form the New Greenwich that is “*for a few to be immortal,*

*many must die. Why do you think taxes and prices go up the same day in the ghetto? The cost of living keeps rising to make sure people keep dying*". Indeed it is a critique of social phenomenon where the lower class people have to struggle in living the day and under the policy that the power owner (the upper class) made, they face some faces of oppressions that ironically this poor's grief is what brings the prosperity to the power owner (the upper class). Clearly, the phenomenon depicted is a form of critique of injustice in which the involvement of politic, economic system and social are inevitable.

The given materials above are what initiate this research to be conducted. Class discrimination is distributed by some faces of oppressions in which the action can be said as the cause of social, economic and politic failed system. Therefore as it is said that dystopia fiction is conducted to criticize the world, in this research it would be analyzed the kinds of oppression that experienced by the lower class people as the subordinate group as the manifestation of class discrimination and internalize the social critique the author would like to convey.

Eventually, dystopian fiction is not worthwhile for the imaginary future world, instead it is worthwhile as the media for the present society to realize and make a better differences for the future or at least for the recent time. As the statement of Babae (2015: 66) that is "however for us, dystopian fiction do not have a pessimistic tone as severe as the one Firchow states; instead they hold largely critical attitudes towards the status quo and ask for change." Because, literature does not only mean to entertain by showing the world, it is a way for the human to see, understand and think about this world instead.

## **B. The Problems of the Study**

The problems of the study in this research are formulated as the following:

1. How is class discrimination issue manifested in Andrew Niccol's movie *In Time*?
2. What social critiques found in Andrew Niccol's movie *In Time*?

## **C. The Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are constructed as the following:

1. To provide description of how class discrimination manifested in Andrew Niccol's movie *In Time*.
2. To find out the social critiques which are being conveyed in Andrew Niccol's movie *In Time*.

## **D. The Scope of the Study**

Economic inequality and class discrimination is the theme of Andrew Niccol's movie entitled *In Time*, but as a study must specify its focus in order to find out of how class discrimination is manifested and find out the social critique would like to be conveyed, there must be a scope of this study. This study will be focused on the oppression experienced by the lower class people in Andrew Niccol's movie entitled *In Time* as the form of class discrimination manifestation and give the interpretation of social critiques that have been restricted and adjusted to the focus of dystopian fiction those are the critique of political, economy and social aspect in which both problems will be analyzed from the

statements, dialogues, or actions of both the lower and upper class characters in Andrew Niccol's movie *In Time*.

#### **E. The Significances of the Study**

The findings of this study is expected to be useful in expanding the knowledge in literature by knowing that genre as the element of literature considerably provide clarity of the purpose of one work in which the purpose is probably have specific purpose directly towards human life. In addition, the findings of the study specify its purpose theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to be useful as the provisions of the truth regarding dystopia fiction and its interrelatedness to social phenomenon which specifically in this case is class discrimination. And practically, this study is expected to give more contribution for the next research regarding dystopia, class discrimination issue or social criticism.