

**ANALYSIS OF CENSORSHIP  
IN RAY BRADBURY'S *FAHRENHEIT 451* NOVEL**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

**Presented as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements  
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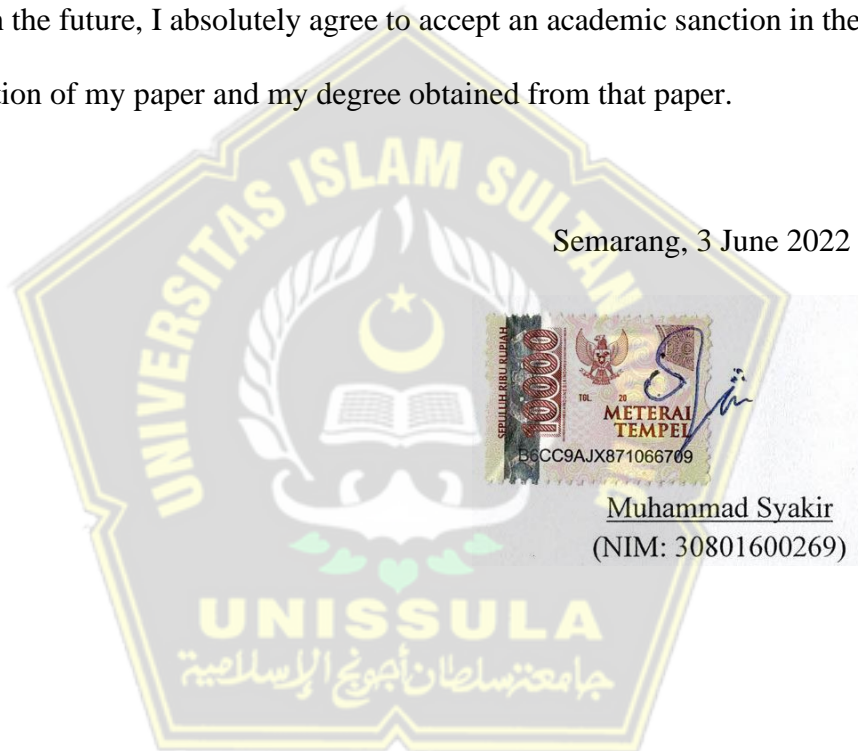


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Semarang, 3 June 2022



The history has already witnessed a lot of great comebacks.

As a sports fan, avid football lover, and someone who repeatedly tries to convince

himself to never give up, there is a saying that I dearly hold to remind me to

believe that even when you hit rock bottom or get left behind,

the opportunity is always there.

No matter how small the odds are.

***“It ain’t over till it’s over.”***

I dedicate this final project to all of you who supported me throughout the process

of making this project and all of you who always believe in me.



## ABSTRACT

**Syakir, Muhammad. 30801600269.** Analysis of Censorship in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* Novel. Final Project in English Literature Department, Faculty of Language and Communication Science. Universitas Islam Sultan Agung. Advisor: Diah Fitri Wulandari, S.S., M.Hum.

Freedom of speech is one of the basic human rights protected by constitution in various organizations and countries. Censorship as an effort to limit information is one of the things that impede the accomplishment of freedom of speech. Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451* illustrates this phenomenon well. This study focuses on censorship as the main theme of the novel. The purpose of the study is to analyse how censorship is portrayed in the novel and the effects of censorship on the society in the novel.

The study uses descriptive qualitative as the research method. The data is collected from *Fahrenheit 451* novel as the primary source and other writings such as journal articles, books, and reports as the secondary sources.

This study finds that both general types of censorship are represented in the novel, which are state-imposed censorship and self-censorship. State-imposed censorship is depicted through the existence of the main character, Guy Montag, as a fireman whose job is to burn books, the thing which the state ban. Firemen as representatives of the state also carry out censorship by silencing and giving punishments such as imprisonment and death penalty. Self-censorship is carried out by some characters in the novel to avoid conflict and for their safety. The effects of censorship demonstrated in the novel are security & morality, public curiosity, rumours potential, poor policy decisions, and international effects. The portrayal of censorship and its effects is well presented in the novel through the journey of its main character.

**Keywords:** freedom of speech, censorship, book burning, authoritarian, *Fahrenheit 451*

## INTISARI

**Syakir, Muhammad. 30801600269.** Analisis Penyensoran di dalam Novel *Fahrenheit 451* Karya Ray Bradbury. Skripsi untuk Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Ilmu Komunikasi. Universitas Islam Sultan Agung. Pembimbing: Diyah Fitri Wulandari, S.S., M.Hum.

Kebebasan berbicara adalah salah satu hak dasar manusia yang dilindungi oleh konstitusi di berbagai organisasi dan negara. Penyensoran sebagai upaya untuk membatasi informasi merupakan salah satu hal yang menghambat tercapainya kebebasan berbicara. Novel karya Ray Bradbury berjudul *Fahrenheit 451* dengan baik menggambarkan fenomena tersebut. Penelitian ini berfokus pada penyensoran sebagai tema utama di dalam novel tersebut. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis bagaimana penyensoran ditampilkan dan efek dari penyensoran terhadap masyarakat di dalam novel tersebut.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan dari novel *Fahrenheit 451* sebagai sumber utama dan tulisan lain seperti artikel jurnal, buku, dan laporan sebagai sumber sekunder.

Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa kedua jenis umum penyensoran digambarkan di dalam novel, yaitu penyensoran oleh negara dan penyensoran diri. Penyensoran yang dilakukan oleh negara digambarkan melalui keberadaan tokoh utama, Guy Montag, sebagai petugas pemadam kebakaran yang memiliki tugas untuk membakar buku, sesuatu yang keberadaannya dilarang oleh negara. Petugas pemadam kebakaran sebagai perwakilan negara juga melakukan penyensoran dengan melakukan pembungkaman dan memberikan hukuman berupa penjara dan hukuman mati. Penyensoran diri dilakukan oleh beberapa karakter dalam novel untuk menghindari konflik dan demi keselamatan pribadi mereka. Efek penyensoran yang ditunjukkan dalam novel ini adalah keamanan & moralitas, keingintahuan publik, potensi rumor, pengambilan kebijakan yang buruk, dan efek internasional. Penggambaran sensor dan pengaruhnya disajikan dengan baik dalam novel melalui perjalanan karakter utamanya.

**Kata kunci:** kebebasan berbicara, penyensoran, pembakaran buku, otoriterisme, *Fahrenheit 451*

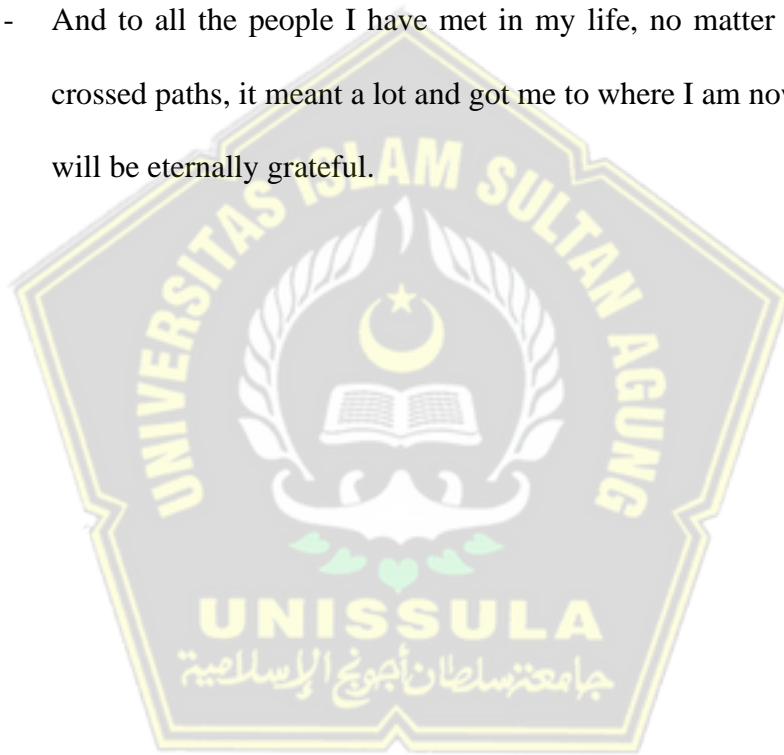
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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Freedom of speech, or freedom of expression, is basic human right that should always be protected, but it continues to be threatened. Various cases occur in many parts of the world that restrict and violate the protection of this right. Freedom of expression as part of the indicators in assessing the quality of countries' democracy reflects this. According to a report from The Economist Intelligence Unit on the Democracy Index, 2020 was the worst year for the sustainability of democracy since the data was first recorded in 2006 (The Economist 4). The biggest factor in the decline was due to the increasing restrictions on freedom of expression and the increasing number of cases of suppressing individuals and the press in various countries.

Freedom of expression is basic right that has been established in various legal instruments. The United States, as one of the superpower countries in the world, protects the right in its constitution. The United States Bill of Rights, which contains the first ten amendments to their constitution, includes them in the first article. The article reads “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances” (US Const. amend. I). Stating

it as the first article shows how important it is for them to protect the right of freedom of expression.

The United Nations convened the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10 1948. The meeting resulted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration aims to be a legal basis for the protection of human rights universally. Freedom of expression is protected as stated in article 19 which reads “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers” (UN General Assembly art. 19). Therefore, these rights must be protected by countries that have ratified the declaration and adopted it their domestic laws.

Freedom of expression and freedom of opinion are principal rights that protect the personal and social aspects in a society (Howie 1). These rights are essential in human development as an individual, where his freedom to express will subsequently bring out opinions which are present in society. Various opinions that arise from various individuals will influence social dynamics as control in a society. Therefore, these rights are considered as the foundation to establish a free and democratic society (UN Human Rights Committee 1).

The United Nations through the Human Rights Committee session agreed that states as a democratic entity must guarantee the right to seek, receive, and convey information and ideas in various forms without restrictions.

This right includes the expression and receipt of communications of every form of idea and opinion capable of transmission to others...

...It includes political discourse, commentary on one's own and on public affairs, canvassing, discussion of human rights, journalism, cultural and artistic expression, teaching, and religious discourse. It may also include commercial advertising. (UN Human Rights Committee 3)

The rights are protected and guaranteed by international covenants and domestic laws. However, it is not considered without any limits (Govindu 2). There are some exceptions when a government is authorized to place restrictions on information or expression. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights or ICCPR, as quoted on *Understanding the Right to Freedom of Expression*, agrees that there are conditions to a degree that restrictions on these rights are considered legitimate and do not violate the law. The terms are “provided by the law and necessary (a) for the respect of the rights or reputation of others; (b) for the protection of national security or public order, or of public health or morals” (IHRP 30). Nevertheless, the right to freedom of expression itself cannot be undermined by the occurring restriction.

Efforts to guarantee these rights does not go without challenges. Individuals and organizations often have to deal directly with other parties that are disrupted. Those parties believe their interests are threatened by the presence of opinions freely expressed about them. One of the parties trying to limit these freedoms is

government. Recently, several governments around the world have issued policies which aim to reduce civil liberties to participate in public discourse (Howie 2). Among some of the indicators of this trend are the emergence of anti-protest regulations and surveillance of citizens by the government.

Challenge to defend the right to freedom of expression take many forms. Researchers come under pressure from authoritarian governments, big industry, and political organizations. They are restricted to express their opinion to the public (Valiverronen 3). This phenomenon is growing by the influence of the rise of authoritarian populism around the world. In addition, there is an increasing number of cases of criminalizing defamatory statements that are used solely to suppress freedom of speech and press (Youm 395). Many individuals were arrested for protesting and many organizations were banned for spreading ideas contrary to the establishment.

The challenge can come in the form of more preventive and less violence. To assert power, knowledge, and moral value, the destruction of books and libraries is done to oppose freedom of thought (Knuth 2). This approach can be run by destroying libraries, destroying books, confiscation of books, and the earliest stage of the method, censorship.

Censorship is the process of suppressing communication to deliberately prevent the dissemination of information that is deemed valuable or harmful (Evans 1). Information in this matter usually has objectionable value according to the censor, such as political, military, moral, religion, or other principles. It is often done with the power possessed by the government or the authority that controls the

dissemination of information (Sweeney 189). The forms of censorship that are carried out also vary, from prohibiting the publication of books, screening and government approval before an information is disseminated, access restrictions, and news selection.

Human civilization has reached to the era of information transparency, yet with the abundant number, most of it had already gone through the censorship stage. It is sorted in a particular way until it reaches our hands. Apart from observing it directly in daily life, this phenomenon can be seen from numerous cultural products, one of which is literature. A novel entitled *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury very well describes how censorship takes place and influences the society.

*Fahrenheit 451* is a novel by Ray Bradbury, an American writer, published in 1953. This novel, in a dystopian setting in future America, tells the story of a fireman named Guy Montag. Unlike firemen in general, the job of the firemen in the novel is to burn books, where its existence is prohibited and considered outlaw by the authorities. The story develops when Montag begins to question his work, the values that surround him, and his curiosity about books.

Censorship as means of control by the authority is properly portrayed in the novel. This study will analyse how censorship is carried out by the authorities and how it affects the society in novel *Fahrenheit 451*. The analysis of this novel suggests to provide a deeper perspective on how censorship works and to see its context in the real world.

## **B. Problem Formulation**



This study of censorship in Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451* tries to answer the following problems:

1. How is censorship portrayed in the novel?
2. What kind of effects does censorship give to the society in the novel?

### **C. Limitation of the Study**

One of the main themes of *Fahrenheit 451* is censorship, which is one of the means used by the authoritarian regime to control the society in the novel. Therefore, this study focused on how censorship is depicted and the effects of the imposed censorship to the society in the novel.

### **D. Objectives of the Study**

The aims of this study are:

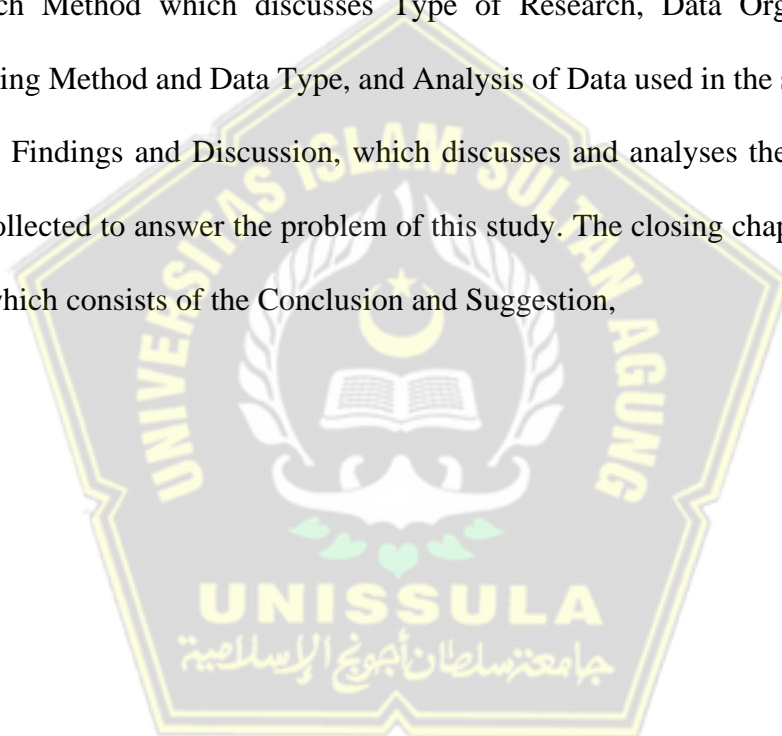
1. To analyse the censorship portrayed in *Fahrenheit 451*.
2. To analyse the kind of effects which censorship gives to the society in the novel.

### **E. Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to help the readers and the prospective researchers who are interested in censorship to add their reading resources regarding the matter. It hopefully works for them to understand more thoroughly about how censorship works, so that they can compare and reflect it on the real world. This study also explains the effects caused by censorship towards society which hopefully provides an adequate consideration for readers to proceed the mentioned phenomenon.

### **F. Organization of the Study**

This study is presented in five chapters. Chapter One is Introduction which begins with Background of the Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Organization of the Study. Chapter Two is Review of Related Literature. It provides information about the synopsis of the literary works discussed, Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451*, and summary of the main theme used in discussion, censorship. Chapter Three is Research Method which discusses Type of Research, Data Organizing, both Collecting Method and Data Type, and Analysis of Data used in the study. Chapter Four is Findings and Discussion, which discusses and analyses the data that has been collected to answer the problem of this study. The closing chapter is Chapter Five, which consists of the Conclusion and Suggestion,



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### A. Synopsis of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*

*Fahrenheit 451* is a novel written by Ray Bradbury and published in 1953. This novel, with a dystopian setting in the United States, tells the journey of a fireman named Guy Montag who, unlike firefighters in general, has duties to burn and destroy books. The whole story is divided into three chapters, namely: The Heart and the Salamander, The Sieve and the Sand, and Burning Bright.

The story begins when Montag is on duty. He wears a black overalls uniform and a helmet with number 451 on it. The number 451 is a symbol of 451°F, the temperature at which the paper from the books they destroy is scorched. Montag is happy with what he does and feels that it is in that work that he finds his true self. His confidence is so high with a smile that continues to expand after arriving at fire station after finishing his work.

Montag's confidence immediately changed after he meets Clarisse McClellan. On his way back home, he feels something strange. The trip that usually feels lonely and cold this time feels different. There he meets that 17-year-old girl who is also his neighbour, just next to his house. Her openness and unfamiliarity make Montag uncomfortable, but it raises his curiosity about something interesting from her. When she asks if he is happy, he cannot answer and the question keeps on haunting his mind. He finally realizes that the answer to that question is no.

Montag arrives at home to find Mildred, his wife, lying unconscious. There are "Seashells" in her ears, a radio earplug she has been wearing for the past few

years. Still in shock, he accidentally kicks the empty bottle containing sleeping pills. He suspects that his wife has overdosed and immediately calls the hospital for help. Not long after, two officers come to save Mildred. By using a machine, one officer tries to remove the fluid in her stomach and the other officer tries to replace her blood with newly fresh blood. Montag is surprised when the next day, Mildred tells him that she only spent last night watching television shows. She has absolutely no recollection of her attempt to commit suicide by drinking a full bottle of sleeping pills.

Down at the fire station, Montag sees and tries to touch the Mechanical Hound. It is a mechanical machine made in the form of a dog that functions to detect suspicious things and perform actions that have been arranged according to orders. Unusually, the Hound barks and attacks Montag. Montag senses something is wrong with it and reports it to his superior, Captain Beatty. Beatty assures him that it is fine and will check it again.

Montag sees Clarisse frequently in the following days. The topics of discussion are increasingly diverse. She tells him that she no longer comes to school because she thinks it is useless and boring. The meeting continues until after a week, when he does not see her anywhere. He starts to wonder. At the fire station, he gets a story from his colleagues that in the manual there is a history about the origin of firemen. It is explained that it was founded long time ago to burn books containing influences from the British Empire. Suddenly, the alarm buzzes and they immediately rush to the house of an old woman who has hidden books in her attic. While examining the books, without thinking Montag takes a book and hides it

under his uniform. Montag tries to convince the women to get out of the way just as Beatty is about to start a fire. The woman refuses and instead sets herself on fire along with her books and the rest of her house.

After the incident, Montag returns home. He looks at Mildred who looks weird at that time. They talk and try to remember how they first met. But they both fails to remember. Even Mildred seems unconcerned. She goes to the bathroom to take her sleeping pills, and Montag worries that she might overdose again. He contemplates his feelings and everything about his life. His relationship with his wife, the house, entertainment on tv, and so on. Then he asks Mildred if somehow, she knows how her neighbour, Clarisse, is doing. She informs him that their family has moved and it looks like Clarisse has died in an accident. The next day, Montag feels sick and is unable to go to work. He feels nauseous at the constant smell of gasoline, something he used to think was something he loved.

Montag is still trying to convince Mildred to get her interested in books. He feels that something in the book is the answer to his anxiety all this time. Mildred is reluctant to listen to him and chooses to spend time with her friends to watch television shows. Then Montag remembers a professor named Faber whom he accidentally met last year. He knows that Faber understands something about books and he will visit him to ask him to teach him to understand more about books.

At Faber's house, Montag tells of his plan to give another book to Captain Beatty, because he still wants to learn the contents of the bible. However, worries that Beatty would already know what book he takes, he wants to ask Faber if he could make a copy of the book. Faber agrees and would ask his friend who has a

printer for help. In addition, he provides Montag with a two-way communication tool that they will use to communicate. The device is a radio that is attached to the ear. From the corner of Faber's house, the news on the radio announces that the country is about to enter war.

Captain Beatty welcomes Montag's return to the fire station. Then, he receives the book Montag hands to him and immediately throws it in the trash without looking at it first. He talks about some quotes from books, which confuses Montag. Beatty says that he has read several books and convinces him that they are useless and should be burned. Suddenly, the alarm buzzes and they rush to a reported house. Upon arrival, Montag is surprised to find that it is his own house which is reported.

Montag sees Mildred rushing out of the house with a suitcase, which makes him realize that it is Mildred who has reported the presence of his books to the fire station. Captain Beatty orders Montag to burn his own house. The Mechanical Hound has been on standby to watch him if he refuses and flee. After he burns down the house, Beatty arrests him. He suspects a device which is stuck to Montag's ear, picks it up, and warns him that he will investigate the device. He is caught off guard, and Montag takes advantage of the opportunity. He takes the flamethrower, aims it at Beatty and sets him on fire. The Hound attacks and cripples him, but he manages to save himself by burning the Hound down. The other firemen are unable to react much. Montag manages to escape in a hurry.

In his escape, Montag observes through the windows of some houses that all the residents are watching his search being broadcast live on television. He sees

that the Hound has arrived at Faber's house. When the television broadcast asks all residents to check the situation outside the house if they find Montag, he has managed to throw himself into the river. He drifts into the river and follows the current to disappear from the spotlights of the search team helicopter. The current carries him far to the edge of a field and the helicopter and the Hound are no longer following him. He finds a rail track and walks along it.

At the end of the tracks, he finds five men sitting around a bonfire. One of them approaches Montag and asks him to join. He is the leader of the group and his name is Granger. Turns out, they are gathering to watch the television broadcasting the search for Montag. In the broadcast, it appears that the search party is looking for a scapegoat and catches someone walking alone on the streets. The authority announces that the person is Montag, and with the death of this fake Montag, they assure the public that they are safe from threats.

Granger says that all five of them have developed the ability to memorize the contents of books. This ability is very important in the midst of conditions where books are prohibited. They are also part of a network of many groups whose goal is to save the knowledge and contents of books around the country. He also says that Montag's presence is very important to preserve the contents of the other books.

The group tries to survive until the community has returned to a better state and is ready to accept the existence of books again. They have to accept the possibility if the time will come longer. They must believe that the time will come and give them the opportunity to pass on the knowledge from books to the next generation.

From a distance, they see jet planes flying over the city. The plane flies fast and drop bombs that instantly destroy the entire city. In the midst of the shock, they prepare for breakfast and urge to walk towards the city. Along the way, Montag continued to recite and memorize the contents of the books he has previously studied. In the downtown, they help people who survive from the bomb attack. They have been crumbled and lost the war, but there is hope of restarting everything again.

## **B. Review of Related Literature**

### **B.1. Historical Context**

Ray Bradbury wrote *Fahrenheit 451* and published it in 1953. This novel is the result of the development of his previous writings, the short story entitled *Bright Phoenix* in 1948, *The Pedestrian* in 1951, and the novella entitled *The Fireman* in 1951. These three works are his way of conveying his disappointment towards the political and social circumstances in the United States at that time.

Joseph McCarthy is an American senator from Republican Party. In the early 1950s, he initiated a strict supervision of various works of art and literature in an effort to prevent communist influence as a result of the cold war against Russia. Jack Zipes in *Mass Degradation of Humanity and Massive Contradictions in Bradbury's Vision of America in Fahrenheit 451* explains,

The McCarthy witch hunts, the Cold War, the Korean War, the rapid rise of television as a determinant in the culture industry, the spread of advertisement, the abuse of technology within the military-industrial complex, the frustration and violence of the



younger generation, the degradation of the masses —these are the factors which went into the making of *Fahrenheit 451* as an American novel, and they form the parameters of any discussion of the dystopian and utopian dimensions of this work. (Zipes 4)

At that time, there was strict censorship of various works such as films, plays, novels, magazines, and various other information media. In fact, a number of writers and artists were detained by the government on suspicion of having influence in spreading communism and disobedience to the government. This reason was later revealed as mere excessive fear from the authority. Zipes added that *Fahrenheit 451* was a reflection of the social conditions in the United States at that time, as well as showing the potential for social crises that could occur worldwide (4).

Bradbury's writings were also influenced by events he witnessed earlier. He discovered news about how German Nazis burned books, Stalin's government in arrested and punished writers and artists in Russia, the cruel effects of the World War Two, to the threat of nuclear war that could destroy human civilization. Eventually, the novel shows how Bradbury imagined the terrible conditions in the future when society is curtailed and freedom is taken away at a further stage. (Wood 43)

## **B.2. Censorship**

Censorship is an activity to restrict any kind of expression. Michael Sweeney in *Encyclopaedia of International Media and Communications* argues that restricted expression in censorship usually contains information that is "considered

objectionable on moral, political, religious, military, or other grounds" (189). These restrictions can be carried out in various forms, but the main purpose is to prevent the spread of information or even prevent information from being created or merely existed. It is not quite clear to determine to what extent an information meets the criteria to be the object of censorship or not, but the action will be done when certain expressions are believed to be contrary to established moral purpose (Sweeney 189).

The term censorship comes from Latin word *censor* which means magistrate or critic, and *censere* which means to assess. Censor originally was the name for public officials in ancient Rome whose job was to record or census the citizen and assess the properties (Green 96). This role then evolved and gave them the authority not only to oversee the moral in public but also to determine someone's social position. This important role gave them a strong influence in society.

Government is the institution that generally carries out censorship the most. However, this is usually also done by other groups that have the power to regulate certain values, such as religion, culture, or military. They assume that "certain ideas and forms of expression are threatening to individual, organizational, and societal well-being... hence must be prohibited" (Marx 1582). Offending material is kept away through censorship because they assume that people are vulnerable and cannot filter any ideas and information independently. Therefore, they need protection (Marx 1582).

Censorship implies an attempt from a certain authority to demonstrate its power to control the public (Williams 406). They seek to maintain the established

moral standard and restrict alternative values. This understanding underlies the long purpose of censorship as “forms of information control at legal, moral, or other beneficial purposes” (Sweeney 190).

Censorship is generally categorized into two basic forms; state-imposed censorship and self-censorship. The names itself represent that these forms are distinguished based on who carrying out the censorship.

State-imposed censorship is a form of censorship which is carried out by an institution that has the power on its members (Sweeney 189). The attempt is usually carried out by preventing access and distribution of information through a series of supervision and selection. In addition, penalties and other forms of punishment can be given if the unauthorized information has already been circulated.

Self-imposed censorship is a form of censorship that is carried out voluntarily by individuals (Sweeney 190). They seek to limit their own self-expression based on their values. This form is also influenced by state-imposed censorship, in which individuals will impose self-censorship to avoid punishment from the authority that oversees them. The parties involved in the form “can vary widely, from group-to-group communication to person-to-person communication” (Sweeney 190).

### **B.2.1. Censorship Target**

Various types of media can be the target of censorship. It varies from printed material, journalistic broadcasts, films, or mere casual speech. These communication channels will undergo a censorship process, particularly if

there are materials that are considered threatening to the established order (Sweeney 191).

Throughout history, various mediums have been targeted to censorship. A play by Aristophanes was banned by the Roman Empire in the past. The Italian Empire in the 15th century destroyed books and works of art. Both reigns at different times did so based on moral grounds (Sweeney 191).

The Catholic Church faced tough challenges during the renaissance. Books and other scientific publications were banned and burned. Ownership of books and scientific writings will be categorized as a criminal act. Previously, Martin Luther's writings were also prohibited from being seen in public because they threatened the establishment of church doctrines (Sweeney 191).

Sweeney stated that censorship has a very important role when a country is in wartime (191). During World War II, the United States military conducted strict checks on letters sent using the US Mails service. On the other hand, Nazi Germany censored radio broadcasts. People were forbidden to listen to radio broadcasts and threatened those who violated the rules with the death penalty. These things are done to prevent a chaos on information, breach of confidential information into enemy hands, and to maintain control over citizens. Public speeches and marches are also prohibited.

The targeted mediums continue to grow following technological advances (Marx 158). In the past, censorship was imposed on speech, poetry, and play. With the existence of printing machines, books, newspapers, magazines, and other forms of publications also become targets of censorship. In modern times like today, the target of censorship has expanded to broadcast television, radio, films, songs, and internet as well.

### **B.2.2. Censorship Method**

The methods to impose censorship are quite varied. To explain them, there are two approaches that can be used to categorize them. The first approach is based on the time of implementation, while the second is based on the actor of censorship.

The time-based approach divides censorship methods into two, prior restraint and suppression after publication. Prior restraint has a preventive purpose, which “to stop materials deemed unacceptable from appearing, or if that is not possible, from being seen or heard by prohibiting their circulation” (Marx 1584). Through this method, censorship is carried out through a prepublication review, monopolization of publication, and licensing and registration process. Strong authorities usually have the power to exert their means in doing so.

The suppression after publication involves punishment, blocking or destroying communication media, to *de-licensing*. Restrictions that are carried out after the information is published are carried out because in some cases, prior restraints are not possible to implement. Marx argued that,

“unlike most other legally regulated subjects, most communications cannot be legally prohibited before they were offered, but once offered, legal penalties may apply” (1586). This will be a paradox if the target of censorship is not clear in the agreed regulations. The threat of punishment given has an impact on self-censorship.

The second approach is based on the actor of censorship. From this approach, methods for censorship are divided into two, which are state-imposed censorship and self-censorship.

### **1. State-imposed Censorship**

State-imposed censorship is a form of censorship which is carried out by an institution that has the power on its members. The attempt is usually carried out by preventing access and distribution of information through a series of supervision and selection, as well as penalties and other forms of punishment if the unauthorized information has already been circulated. There are seven methods to enforce state-imposed censorship.

#### **a. Limits on Access to Information**

Restricting access to information sources is considered quite effective in preventing the spread of information. The government can make rules to place information as confidential or limit its access to only a few people who meet certain criteria (Sweeney 196). Hendrick Smith, a journalist, believed that “the most effective censorship of all is not the deleting words, sentences, and paragraphs but the denial of access, which is stopping information

at the source before I could learn it” (qtd in Sweeney 196). When the access to information is blocked, people cannot determine whether they need the information or not, because they do not even know its existences.

**b. Limits on Distribution of Information**

Governments can make rules to control access to information as well as control the channels to distribute. Through the licensing process, the government can regulate which media are entitled to use radio or television frequencies, which newspapers can be published, and so on (Sweeney 197). They can revoke the permit if the agreement is violated. This process possibly can give great power to the authorities, if they issue the licenses only to a few numbers of group, thus creating a monopoly of information, and resulting in uniformity of views in society (Marx 1585).

**c. Prior Restraint**

Control owned by the government can get into the process of publishing an information. They can release a regulation to give them the right to review and screen to determine which information can be published and which cannot be (Sweeney 197). When an information is assumed to violate the rules, they can revise it. This process threatens press freedom. It can create an authority that is not challenged, because information that is considered different will fail to pass the selection process (Sweeney 198).

**d. Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions**

Authority can exercise control over an information and expression and limit it based on time, place, and manner (Sweeney 198). The imposition of a curfew is one example of a time-based restriction, where any activity carried out during that hour will be considered unlawful. Expressions can also be restricted by setting whether or not places have permissions. In addition, one of the restrictions on expression is through the prohibition of certain gestures and clothing.

**e. Post-publication Penalties and the Chilling Effect**

One of the censorship methods can be done when an information has been published through the punishment and chilling effect. This method is done by giving a penalty, so it does not actually fit the close definition of censorship to limit an expression. However, the threat of the existence of such punishment will result in a chilling effect (Sweeney 199). People will be afraid to communicate their expressions and opinions because of fear of getting punishments given by the authorities, such as fines, imprisonment, and others. Such threats can result in a significant reduction in freedom of expression.

**f. Silence through Capital Punishment**

An authoritative government has tendency to implement its policies to an extreme degree. In carrying out censorship, the



authority can silence a certain source to prevent information from being conveyed. Executions and the death penalty are the most extreme forms of silencing (Sweeney 196). This action is considered necessary by the authority when someone as a source of information is regarded as dangerous and threatens the establishment of society.

**g. Religious and Other Group Censorship**

In a society, an authority is sometimes not only controlled by a secular government. There are other groups that have control over the common values, one of which is a religious group (Sweeney 199). The group will have greater authority if most people share the same values. Great authority will give the group control over the prevailing values, one of which is through censorship.

**2. Self-censorship**

Self-imposed censorship is a form of censorship that is carried out voluntarily by individuals (Sweeney 190). They seek to limit their own self-expression based on their values. This form is also influenced by state-imposed censorship, in which individuals will impose self-censorship to avoid punishment from the authority that oversees them. Self-censorship can be done in personal and interpersonal relationships as well as in the mass media as a single entity.

**a. Personal and Interpersonal Expression**

Self-censorship can be implemented in communication relationships from one individual to another and between one

individual and himself. A person can choose to hide information, remain silent, or even try to deny the existence of information.

- **Cognitive Dissonance**

Self-censorship can occur at the earliest stage in an individual to prevent the emergence of an idea. Cognitive dissonance, as suggested by Sociologist Leon Festinger, is an attempt by an individual to limit himself from exposure to concepts and ideas that make him uncomfortable because they conflict with his values (Sweeney 200). Because of these contradictions, an individual chooses to stay away from these ideas, fearing that they will affect his views. A person performs cognitive dissonance to prevent value conflicts that exist within himself so that he will maintain his psychological comfort.

- **Spiral of Silence**

An individual tends to do self-censorship when interacting with others to avoid conflict. Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann introduced the spiral of silence theory and argued that “people practice self-censorship in the arena of public opinion if they perceive that expressing their opinions would cause social isolation” (qtd in Sweeney 201). When a person expresses an opinion and then gets support, he will have greater confidence in his opinion. This will encourage other people who have similar opinions to become more confident to share their opinions. The opinion will have great power

and form the majority. To the contrary, when an opinion gets contradicted, the confidence will decrease and expression will be limited to avoid conflict. Other people with the same opinion will be influenced to limit their expression until the idea becomes a minority and try to avoid isolation from the group with stronger opinion.

- **Hate Speech and Political Correctness**

Heterogeneous society consists of a wide variety of diverse groups and individuals. Each of these groups has values that are different from one another, and many of them are contradictory. One particular group will raise an objection if another group conveys an opinion that offends their values. This will influence other groups to limit their opinions in order to avoid offending other groups. Sweeney stated that, "effort to effect greater tolerance have included codes of conduct restricting 'hate speech' directed toward minority groups as well as encouraging 'politically correct' speech", can cause individuals to limit their expression (202).

**b. Mass Communication**

Mass media can carry out censorship by preventing information from being broadcast or published if the information has the potential to cause negative reactions due to pressure from society whose values are challenged (Sweeney 202). The mass media as a company aims to make a profit. Therefore, they try to ensure that the product they sell, which is news, does not risk reducing their market

and does not disturb the institutions that protect their existence, such as the government. Pamela J. Shoemaker and Stephen D. Reese argue that information conveyed through mass media is not only the responsibility of its writer or creator, but also gets influence shared from parts of the mass media structure (qtd in Sweeney (202)).

### **B.2.3. Censorship Effect**

The authority carries out censorship with the aim of controlling the values that prevail in society so that they remain in accordance with their beliefs. In addition to achieving these goals, censorship also produces other effects that influence the dynamics of the society in it. In general, there are five effects produced by censorship.

#### **1. Security and Morality**

Democracy is a concept that upholds freedom of expression therefore censorship is considered to have an abusive nature. Nonetheless, democracies to some extent impose censorship to ensure national stability and security (Sweeney 194). Censorship restricts expressions that are contrary to prevailing moral standards, so that successfully removing threats can increase a sense of security. In addition, it is stated that in conditions of war, “censorship aims to keep valuable information from the enemy. Censorship of information about troop movements and battlefield tactics and strategy... makes it more difficult for the enemy to learn about potential targets (Sweeney 194).

## **2. Public Curiosity**

Censorship attempts to hide information, but doing so can produce a boomerang effect. Information that is continuously filtered or hidden will actually arouse public curiosity to seek real information (Sweeney 194). Humans who naturally have desire for seeking and questioning will threaten the main purpose of censorship when the forbidden information is discovered and answered.

## **3. Rumours Potential**

When the facts are continuously censored, the vacuum of information has the potential to cause public unrest. The absence of reliable truth will try to be filled by various rumours and untrustworthy information (Sweeney 194). Without the knowledge of the truth, the rumours that arise potentially contradict the actual conditions. Positive ideas can panic when the poor circumstance is unveiled, while negative rumours that arise without realizing that things are actually good can lead to constant fear.

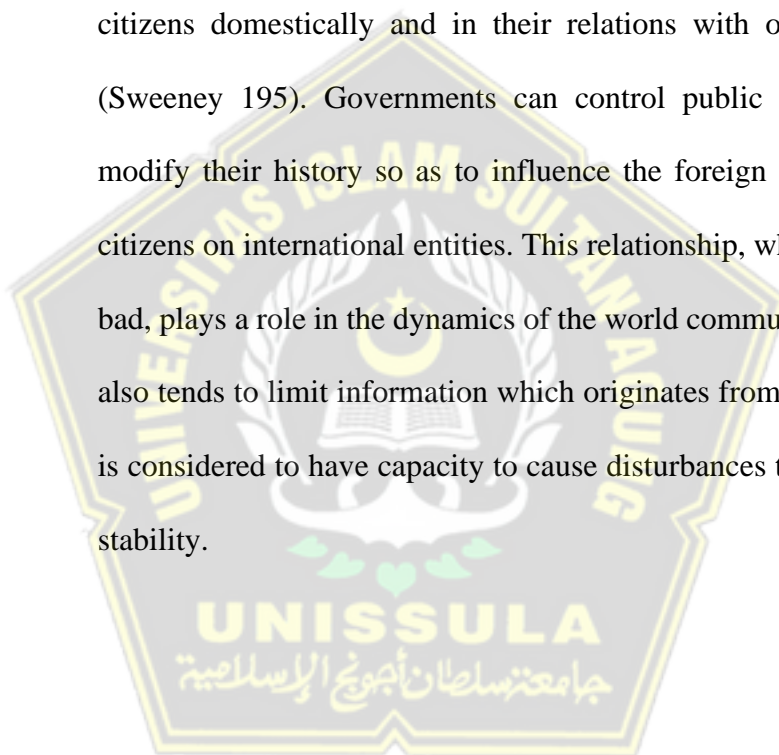
## **4. Poor Policy Decisions**

Limited distribution of information will fail to develop public discourse, thus affecting the quality of policies taken by the authorities (Sweeney 195). Information is only circulated to a handful of parties and cannot be accessed by the general public. It will hinder the function of supervision and correction, so that the

policy-making process does not face challenges. Without getting challenged, when information is continuously controlled, the resulted ideas will be similar and hinder the advance of education. Poor education products will result to poor policies.

## **5. International Effects**

The state imposes censorship to influence the lives of its citizens domestically and in their relations with other countries (Sweeney 195). Governments can control public discourse and modify their history so as to influence the foreign views of their citizens on international entities. This relationship, whether good or bad, plays a role in the dynamics of the world community. The state also tends to limit information which originates from abroad which is considered to have capacity to cause disturbances to its domestic stability.



## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHOD

#### A. Type of Research

The research used qualitative research methodology. Arthur Cropley in *Qualitative Research Method: A Practice Oriented Introduction for Students of Psychology and Education* argues that qualitative methods are very suitable for analysing a narrative form of work, such as literary works (12). He also stated that qualitative data are: “the information in qualitative research collect in order to gain the necessary insights is large, although not always, obtain by mean of narratives in which the people being studied communicate the way they understand the world” (Cropley 12).

This research analysed the phenomenon of censorship as part of the dynamics of human social life in Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451*. Therefore, the use of qualitative methods in this research is pertinent. This method can comprehensively interpret the data collected from the determined sources.

#### B. Data Organizing

##### B.1. Data Collecting Method

Research was conducted by collecting sufficient and relevant data. To collect a significant amount of data, there were four steps that need to be done in this process. The steps in this data collecting process were reading the novel, identifying the data, classifying the data, and reducing the data.

### **B.1.1. Reading the Novel**

The first step in the data collection process was to read the object of this research, Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451*, with close reading method. To understand the content of the novel better, the novel was read repeatedly, thoroughly, and carefully. Reading the novel repeatedly and thoroughly was needed to find the topics appear in the novel. In addition, reading carefully to all of the monologues and dialogues in the novel helped to find all the information needed which was related to the topic to be discussed.

### **B.1.2. Identifying the Data**

Finding the information in the novel was done through identifying the data. Important information related to the topic to be discussed was marked by underlining, highlighting, or scribbling with some additional information. This step was not only carried out in identifying data in the novel, but also in journals, books, and other writings which were secondary sources for this research.

### **B.1.3. Classifying the Data**

The next step in the data collection process was classifying the data. Data that had been collected in the previous process was classified and presented in table form called appendices. The data was divided based on a predetermined problem formulation. Since this research had two problem formulations to answer, the data was divided into two appendices. Classifying the data was done to show



all the data used in this research and presented in a simple form to be understood easily.

#### **B.1.4. Reducing the Data**

Collecting data in the previous process created abundant information. Therefore, to sort out important and useful data, reducing the data was necessarily done. This step was also essential to make it easier to analyse the data in the next process.

### **B.2. Types of Data**

This study used two types of data, which were primary and secondary data.

#### **1. Primary Data**

Primary data was the main data collected from the main sources in the research. This research used Ray Bradbury's novel, *Fahrenheit 451*, as the main source. *Fahrenheit 451* is a novel written by Ray Bradbury and published in 1953. This novel, with a dystopian setting in the United States, told the journey of a fireman named Guy Montag who, unlike firefighters in general, had duties to burn and destroy books.

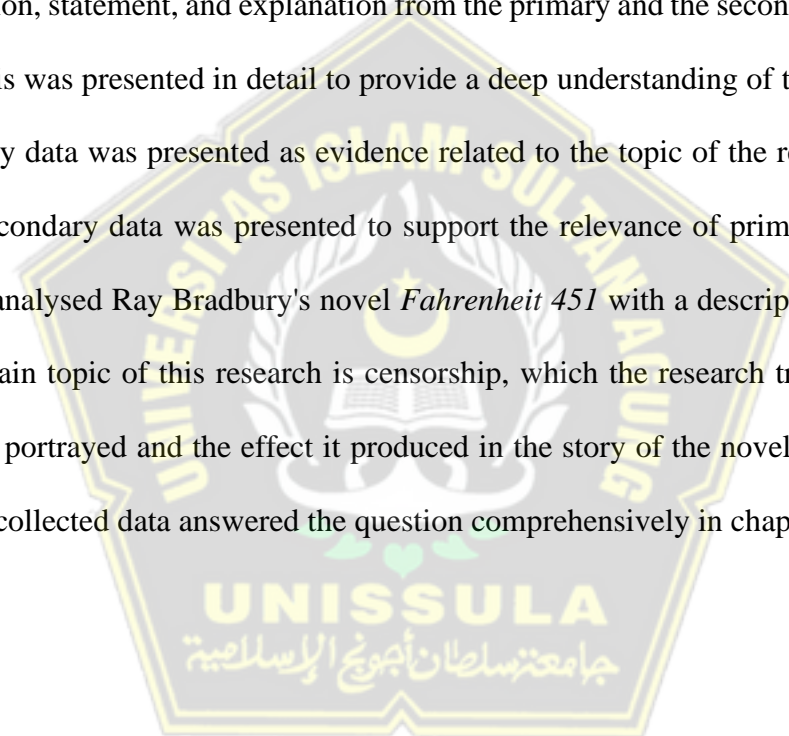
#### **2. Secondary Data**

Secondary data was data used to support the analysis process of primary data. Secondary data provided context and additional information in discussing primary data in relation to the specified

topic. This research used journal articles, reports, and books as sources of secondary data.

### **C. Data Analysing**

The final step in the research after the data had been collected was data analysing. This most crucial step in this research consisted of the findings and data analysis. The findings were presented in the form of monologue, dialogue, quotation, statement, and explanation from the primary and the secondary data. The analysis was presented in detail to provide a deep understanding of the discussion. Primary data was presented as evidence related to the topic of the research object and secondary data was presented to support the relevance of primary data. This study analysed Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451* with a descriptive approach. The main topic of this research is censorship, which the research tried to answer how it portrayed and the effect it produced in the story of the novel. The analysis of the collected data answered the question comprehensively in chapter IV.



## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained in this study are discussed in more depth through the analysis in this chapter. This chapter is divided into two sub-chapters according to the predetermined problem formulation. The first sub-chapter discusses how censorship is portrayed in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and followed by the second sub-chapter which contains an analysis of how censorship gives effect to the society in the novel. The analysis is compiled with findings in the form of quotations from the novel as primary data sources, references from secondary data to support the analysis, and added comments from the writer as parts of discussion.

#### **A. The Portrayal of Censorship in Novel *Fahrenheit 451***

The progress of our human civilization is followed by the increasing of the complexity of human activities. The various kinds of dynamics that occur have resulted in abundance of information circulating in the society. Information with variations on a large scale of which will bring up several types of information that are considered unnecessary, disturbing, even threatening security and mutual moral agreement. In order to prevent those phenomena happening, they carry out censorship efforts. According to Michael Sweeney in the *Encyclopaedia of International Media and Communications*, "Censorship, a concept as widespread as humanity and as old as civilization, is the act of suppressing or deleting

expression that is considered objectionable on moral, political, religious, military, or other grounds” (189).

### 1. State-imposed Censorship

Censorship has a fairly complex processes, thus it takes resources and certain workers to carry it out. The term censorship itself comes from Latin word which actually is a job title for public officials who was in charge of supervising property and discourse circulating in the community during ancient Rome (Green 96). Nowadays, government or any other kinds of authority are the bodies which usually have the force to carry out the censorship process.

Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* uses censorship as the main theme in the novel. Guy Montag, the main character in this dystopian story, is a fireman whose main task is to burn books, objects whose existence is categorized as unlawful in that society. Firemen here, including Montag, is part of the government workers who have the authority to carry out censorship. His job is reflected in the first paragraph of the novel through following quotation,

It was a special pleasure to see things eaten, to see things blackened and changed. With the brass nozzle in his fists, with this great python spitting its venomous kerosene upon the world, the blood pounded in his head, and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor playing all the symphonies of blazing and burning to bring down the tatters and charcoal ruins of history. With his symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his stolid head, and his eyes all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the house

jumped up in a gorging fire that burned the evening sky red and yellow and black. He strode in a swarm of fireflies. He wanted above all, like the old joke, to shove a marshmallow on a stick in the furnace, while the flapping pigeon-winged books died on the porch and lawn of the house. While the books went up in sparkling whirls and blew away on a wind turned dark with burning. (Bradbury 1)

The quotation shows the emphasis on what kind of job Montag is doing, which is a fireman. The firemen in the story are not firemen whose aim is to put out fires, but rather to burn books. It shows that not only books, even houses whose owners had problems because they had books were also burned. The fire used to burn has a temperature of 451°F, which is symbolized by the helmet he used. Montag's feeling about his job is excitement and pleasure. His enjoyment towards his job is the starting phase of his character arc, since he becomes the one hiding books and also the target of his own colleague later in the story.

There are reasons why the authority wants to do censorship, but most importantly is to maintain the established moral standard and restrict alternative values. This understanding underlies the long purpose of censorship as “forms of information control at legal, moral, or other beneficial purposes” (Sweeney 190). It also implies an attempt from the authority to demonstrate its power to control the public (Williams 406).

“Now let's take up the minorities in our civilization, shall we? Bigger the population, the more minorities. Don't step on the toes of the dog lovers, the cat lovers, doctors, lawyers, merchants, chiefs, Mormons,

Baptists, Unitarians, second generation Chinese, Swedes, Italians, Germans, Texans, Brooklynites, Irishmen, people from Oregon or Mexico. The people in this book, this play, this TV serial are not meant to represent any actual painters, cartographers, mechanics anywhere. The bigger your market, Montag, the less you handle controversy, remember that! All the minor minorities with their navels to be kept clean.” (Bradbury 45)

The quote from Captain Beatty when he explained to Montag above emphasizes that censorship is needed to maintain a conducive public atmosphere. Books, plays, television broadcasts and other forms of work must be filtered in such a way as not to offend the values held by certain groups. The less controversy will set up less commotion therefore the authority will be able to maintain their control over the public.

As shown previously, the efforts by the authorities to maintain stability are carried out by managing the perception from certain groups to prevent public outcry. This is also conveyed by Captain Beatty to Montag.

“You must understand that our civilization is so vast that we can't have our minorities upset and stirred. Ask yourself, what do we want in this country, above all? People want to be happy, isn't that right?”  
(Bradbury 46)

Captain Beatty tries to convince Montag that happiness is everyone's desire. Therefore, any kind of publications must be screened so as not to disappoint certain

groups and create confusion. Greater tolerances have included codes of conduct restricting 'hate speech' directed toward minority groups as well as encouraging 'politically correct' speech as not to avoid offending each other (Sweeney 202). Captain Beatty points out this point to Montag.

“Coloured people don't like Little Black Sambo. Burn it. White people don't feel good about Uncle Tom's Cabin. Burn it. Someone's written a book on tobacco and cancer of the lungs? The cigarette people are weeping? Bum the book. Serenity, Montag. Peace, Montag. Take your fight outside. Better yet, into the incinerator. Funerals are unhappy and pagan? Eliminate them, too. Five minutes after a person is dead, he's on his way to the Big Flue, the Incinerators serviced by helicopters all over the country.” (Bradbury 46)

Captain Beatty explained that there is no need to hesitate to destroy works that have the potential to offend a particular group. Again, he underlines that this action needs to be done to keep everyone happy.

#### - **Limits on Access to Information**

One of the early methods in censorship is to limit access to information as early as possible to prevent its spread. The authority can make rules to place information as confidential or limit its access to only a few people who meet certain criteria (Sweeney 196). In addition, they can release a regulation to give them the right to review and screen to determine which information can be published and

which cannot be (Sweeney 197). This quotation proves the use of the method in the story.

“Luckily, queer ones like her don't happen, often. We know how to nip most of them in the bud, early. You can't build a house without nails and wood. If you don't want a house built, hide the nails and wood. If you don't want a man unhappy politically, don't give him two sides to a question to worry him; give him one. Better yet, give him none.” (Bradbury 47)

When talking about Clarisse, Captain Beatty explains to Montag that in order to prevent confusion, potential conflicts that arise from the existence of an information need to be prevented from the start. He said, “if you don't want a house built, hide the nails and wood,” to illustrate that in order for information to appear in its entirety, it needs to be filtered and only partially shown. In fact, so that confusion can be completely eliminated, an information can be completely hidden, thus limiting its access.

#### - **Penalty and the Chilling Effect**

Another method used in conducting censorship is through the penalty and chilling effect. This method is done by giving punishment, thus the reluctance for violating the law will result in a chilling effect (Sweeney 199). In the story, *Fahrenheit 451* places books as a forbidden source of information.

“It might be the last copy in this part of the world.”

"You've got to hand it back tonight, don't you know? Captain Beatty knows you've got it, doesn't he?" (Bradbury 57)



Montag showed Faber the book he had hidden. Faber convinces Montag to return the book to Captain Beatty so that he will not have to get into more serious trouble if he continues to keep that banned object.

In addition, another example of the chilling effect can be seen from the dialogue between Montag and Mildred.

“No, I don't want to, this time. I want to hold on to this funny thing. God, it's gotten big on me. I don't know what it is. I'm so damned unhappy, I'm so mad, and I don't know why I feel like I'm putting on weight. I feel fat. I feel like I've been saving up a lot of things, and don't know what. I might even start reading books.”

“They'd put you in jail, wouldn't they?” She looked at him as if he were behind the glass wall. (Bradbury 50)

Montag felt uneasy and eager to read books he had hidden to fight it. Mildred said that reading a book could get the authorities to put him in prison. She said it while feeling scared and hoping that Montag would forget what he is trying to do.

Another form of punishment to get the chilling effect is to detain someone in a mental hospital. Conversation between Captain Beatty and Montag reveals this case.

"I-I've been thinking. About the fire last week. About the man whose library we fixed. What happened to him?"

"They took him screaming off to the asylum"

"He. wasn't insane."

Beatty arranged his cards quietly. "Any man's insane who thinks he can fool the Government and us." (Bradbury 24)

Captain Beatty told Montag that they had detained someone whose books and house had been burned into asylum. He said that it was a proper punishment for someone who tried to deceive the authority and go against the law that had been established.

Books are considered as illegal, and they will be destroyed by burning. Besides, just by reading it, one could be considered breaking the law.

"Do you ever read any of the books you bum?"

He laughed. "That's against the law!"

"Oh. Of course." (Bradbury 4)

Clarisse asked Montag if he had ever tried to read a book he had burned. He laughs at the question because in their society, it is certain that reading books is against the law. Clarisse gives response by agreeing the answer as well.

Burning books is one of the forms of penalty to create a chilling effect. People will be afraid to possess books because of fear of getting punishments and having their names on the records.

"And besides, if Captain Beatty knew about those books--" She thought about it. Her face grew amazed and then horrified. "He might come and bum the house and the `family.' That's awful! Think of our investment. Why should I read? What for?" (Bradbury 54)

Mildred argues with Montag not to keep the books. She is afraid that if Captain Beatty, as part of the authority, finds out the existence of these books in their house,

he will immediately come and burn their house as punishment. The threat made her disgust towards books and prefer to avoid them.

#### - **Silence through Capital Punishment**

Censorship can reach an extreme degree in an authoritative government. Executions and the death penalty as the most extreme forms of silencing can be carried out to prevent information from being conveyed (Sweeney 196). There is some evidence in *Fahrenheit 451* that shows that at certain point, the authorities committed murder to maintain their established value and stability.

"You can't ever have my books," she said.

"You know the law," said Beatty. "Where's your common sense?

None of those books agree with each other. You've been locked up here for years with a regular damned Tower of Babel. Snap out of it!

The people in those books never lived. Come on now! "

She shook her head.

"The whole house is going up;" said Beatty. (Bradbury 28)

I'm counting to ten," said Beatty. "One. Two."

"Please," said Montag.

"Go on," said the woman. (Bradbury 29)

The exchange occurred when Captain Beatty was about to burn the books a woman had in her house. The woman tries to protect her books and does not want to get out from the firemen's action. Captain Beatty in the end still burned the books while ignoring the woman. She ended up being burned to death with her books and the firemen crew acted as if she deserved it.

The same thing happened to Clarisse McClellan, Montag's neighbour. She was someone who had helped Montag to grow his curiosity. In a conversation, Captain Beatty reveals that Clarisse is dead.

“Here or there, that's bound to occur. Clarisse McClellan? We've a record on her family. We've watched them carefully. Heredity and environment are funny things. You can't rid yourselves of all the odd ducks in just a few years. The home environment can undo a lot you try to do at school. We had some false alarms on the McClellans, when they lived in Chicago. Never found a book. Uncle had a mixed record; anti-social. The girl? She was a time bomb. The family had been feeding her subconscious, I'm sure, from what I saw of her school record. She didn't want to know how a thing was done, but why. That can be embarrassing. You ask Why to a lot of things and you wind up very unhappy indeed, if you keep at it. The poor girl's better off dead. Yes, dead.” (Bradbury 47)

Captain Beatty said that Clarisse's death was something that should have happened. She has a strange nature and is different from other teenagers, which makes it difficult for her to get along with others. The way her family raised her can destabilize the established norm in society. These factors make her a potential threat to society and Captain Beatty emphasizes that her death is fully deserved.

#### - **Censorship in Wartime**

One particular censorship that takes place in the novel is war censorship. Censorship has a very important role when a country is in wartime. It tries to prevent

a chaos on information, breach of confidential information into enemy hands, and to maintain control over citizens (Sweeney 191). Faber explained this to Montag when they heard the news of the war.

As he walked he was listening to the Seashell radio in one car... "We have mobilized a million men. Quick victory is ours if the war comes .. .." Music flooded over the voice quickly and it was gone.

"Ten million men mobilized," Faber's voice whispered in his other ear. "But say one million. It's happier." (Bradbury 70)

Faber believes that the army that has been deployed amounted to ten million people, or at least more than a million as has been reported. He said that the authorities had covered up the facts and reduced the figures from the actual numbers to give people a sense of security that the war they have to deal with was not as big as imagined.

## **2. Self-censorship**

The novel also provides evidence regarding the existence of self-censorship. Self-imposed censorship is a form of censorship that is carried out voluntarily by individuals (Sweeney 190). They seek to limit their own self-expression based on their values.

### **- Cognitive Dissonance**

One example shown in the novel is cognitive dissonance. Cognitive dissonance is an attempt by an individual to limit himself from exposure to concepts and ideas that make him uncomfortable because they conflict with his values (Sweeney 200). Mildred showed the indication of this case.

Mildred backed away as if she were suddenly confronted by a pack of mice that had come up out of the floor. He could hear her breathing rapidly and her face was paled out and her eyes were fastened wide. She said his name over, twice, three times. Then moaning, she ran forward, seized a book and ran toward the kitchen incinerator. (Bradbury 51)

This event occurs when Montag confronts Mildred to support him to keep the books he has hidden. Mildred felt that the books would threaten her safety. She then chose not to get involved and not to conceive of the contents of the books entirely. Therefore, she chose to burn those books straight away.

#### - **Spiral of Silence**

Another instance of self-censorship method from the novel is the spiral of silence. Spiral of silence is when people tend to do self-censorship when interacting with others to avoid conflict. People practice self-censorship in the arena of public opinion if they perceive that expressing their opinions would cause social isolation (Sweeney 201). Faber shows the indication of this phenomenon when he tells Montag about it.

"But that would just nibble the edges. The whole culture's shot through. The skeleton needs melting and re-shaping. Good God, it isn't as simple as just picking up a book you laid down half a century ago. Remember, the firemen are rarely necessary. The public itself stopped reading of its own accord. You firemen provide a circus now and then at which buildings are set off and crowds gather for the

pretty blaze, but it's a small sideshow indeed, and hardly necessary to keep things in line. So few want to be rebels any more. And out of those few, most, like myself, scare easily " (Bradbury 66)

Faber stated that once the censorship had been strictly enforced and things had already stabilized, people had stopped reading. They stop because when they start reading, new opinions and ideas will emerge and that is prone to the appearance of conflict. They choose to remain silent and do not change anything. Likewise with Faber when he just kept quiet and did not put up a resistance when books were banned. He did so solely to avoid conflict and protect his own safety.

*Fahrenheit 451* presents various examples of censorship that can occur in a society. Montag's journey and discoveries show how censorship works. There are both state-imposed censorship and self-censorship in the story with various methods used to enforce it which affects Montag's self-development at the end of the story.

#### **B. The Kind of Effects which Censorship gives to the Society in Novel *Fahrenheit 451***

Censorship is carried out by authority with the aim of controlling the values that prevail in society so that they remain in accordance with their beliefs. In addition to achieving these goals, censorship also produces other effects that influence the dynamics of the society in it. Some of the effects arise from the enforcement of censorship in the novel *Fahrenheit 451* as well, which are security and morality, curiosity, poor policy decisions, and international relations.

### - Security and Morality

To successfully removing threats can increase a sense of security and moral stability, censorship restricts expressions that are contrary to prevailing moral standards (Sweeney 194). It has the ability to ensure a conducive circumstance in the society without any potential disputes. Society become stable and authority can maintain their control.

“What more easily explained and natural? With school turning out more runners, jumpers, racers, tinkers, grabbers, snatchers, fliers, and swimmers instead of examiners, critics, knowers, and imaginative creators, the word `intellectual,' of course, became the swear word it deserved to be. You always dread the unfamiliar. Surely you remember the boy in your own school class who was exceptionally 'bright,' did most of the reciting and answering while the others sat like so many leaden idols, hating him. And wasn't it this bright boy you selected for beatings and tortures after hours? Of course, it was. We must all be alike. Not everyone born free and equal, as the Constitution says, but everyone made equal. Each man the image of every other; then all are happy, for there are no mountains to make them cower, to judge themselves against.”

(Bradbury 45-46)

Captain Beatty explained to Montag that their work of doing censorship has brought a sense of security and stability in society. Potential differences that threaten to be



eliminated until a more homogeneous society is formed according to the needs of civilization. A more equal society is considered to be more stable.

A sense of security is also obtained by hiding facts and spreading inappropriate information. It happens when the authority makes a fake pursuit of Montag.

And then, after a time of the men sitting around the fire, their faces expressionless, an announcer on the dark screen said, "The search is over, Montag is dead; a crime against society has been avenged. (Bradbury 100)

Previously the authority had declared that Montag was breaking the law and therefore dangerous. They failed in their attempts to catch him. In order to try to give society a sense of security, they create fake pursuits and turn other people they see as useless to society into fake Montag. He was killed and the citizen again felt free from threats, even though the real Montag was still living out there.

#### - **Public Curiosity**

A boomerang effect can be produced when censorship attempts to hide information. Information that is continuously filtered or hidden will actually arouse public curiosity to seek real information (Sweeney 194). Humans have desire to seeking and questioning naturally when something is restricted from them. Living with a lot of things that have been presented without any opportunity to ask questions did not stop Montag from being curious about the things.

"I've tried to imagine," said Montag, "just how it would feel. I mean to have firemen burn our houses and our books."

"We haven't any books."

"But if we did have some."

"You got some?"

Beatty blinked slowly.

"No." Montag gazed beyond them to the wall with the typed lists of a million forbidden books. Their names leapt in fire, burning down the years under his axe and his hose which sprayed not water but kerosene. "No." But in his mind, a cool wind started up and blew out of the ventilator grille at home, softly, softly, chilling his face. And, again, he saw himself in a green park talking to an old man, a very old man, and the wind from the park was cold, too.

Montag hesitated, "Was-was it always like this? The firehouse, our work? I mean, well, once upon a time..."

"Once upon a time!" Beatty said. "What kind of talk is THAT?"

(Bradbury 25)

Montag asks Captain Beatty what it is like to be someone who has his book and house burned. In addition, he also doubts that the firemen's initial job was to destroy books. Captain Beatty expressed his contempt at Montag's curiosity.

#### - **International Effects & Rumours Potential**

The state imposes censorship to influence the lives of its citizens domestically and in their relations with other countries (Sweeney 195). Governments can control public discourse and modify their history so as to influence the foreign views of their citizens on international entities. It plays a role

in the dynamics of the world community, especially when they tend to limit information which originates from abroad which is considered to have capacity to cause disturbances to its domestic stability.

“Every hour so many damn things in the sky! How in hell did those bombers get up there every single second of our lives! Why doesn't someone want to talk about it? We've started and won two atomic wars since 1960. Is it because we're having so much fun at home we've forgotten the world? Is it because we're so rich and the rest of the world's so poor and we just don't care if they are? I've heard rumours; the world is starving, but we're well-fed. Is it true, the world works hard and we play? Is that why we're hated so much? I've heard the rumours about hate, too, once in a long while, over the years.” (Bradbury 55)

Montag complained to Mildred about what made him wonder. In the conversation, it is known that they have limited information about life outside their country where the information only comes through the full control of their own country. He doubted the information they had about the outside world.

The quote above also shows the emergence of rumours due to low trust in information sources. When information is continuously censored, the vacuum of information has the potential to cause public unrest. The absence of reliable truth will try to be filled by various rumours and untrustworthy information (Sweeney 194). Without the knowledge of the truth, the rumours that arise potentially contradict the actual conditions. Montag does not trust information about the

outside world that comes from official sources. This distrust rises rumours that tried to provide an alternative to the information already circulating.

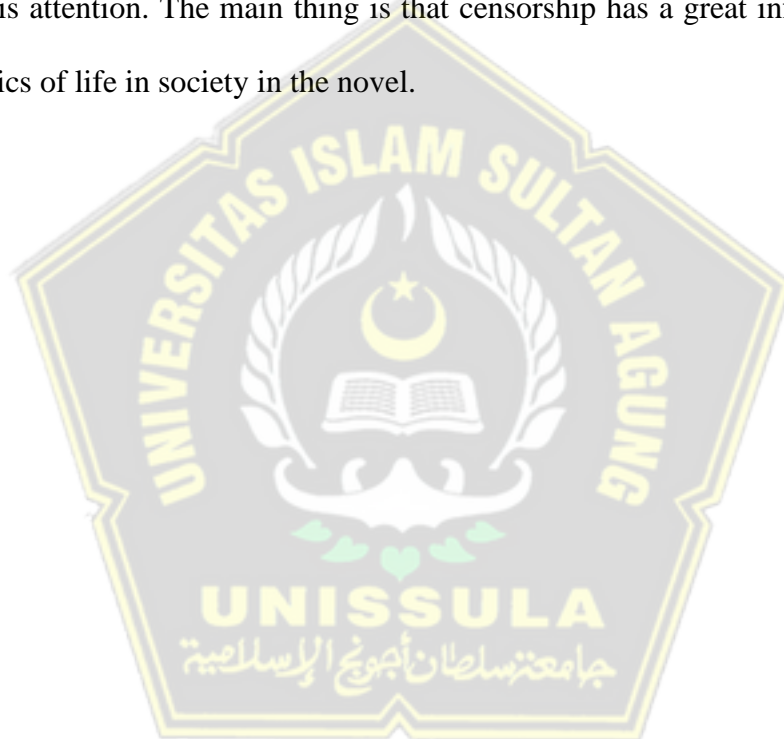
#### - **Poor Policy Decisions**

Another effect that can arise from censorship is the emergence of poor policy decisions. When information cannot be accessed by the general public, it will hinder the function of supervision and correction, so that the policy-making process does not face challenges. It will fail to develop public discourse, thus affecting the quality of policies taken by the authorities (Sweeney 195). This effect can be seen in *Fahrenheit 451* when the authority tries to arrest Montag.

“They're faking. You threw them off at the river. They can't admit it. They know they can hold their audience only so long. The show's got to have a snap ending, quick! If they started searching the whole damn river it might take all night. So they're sniffing for a scape-goat to end things with a bang. Watch. They'll catch Montag in the next five minutes!” (Bradbury 100)

Montag has managed to run from the Hound and now he is with a group of people who are fugitives from the city as well. They were watching television which was still showing Montag's pursuit by the authorities, even though he himself was no longer involved in the chase. Granger, the leader of the group, explained that the authorities had hidden the fact that Montag had not been caught. To cover it up, they will provide fake Montag to catch. The absence of the fact for the audience, or in this case is the citizen, makes the authorities create false pursuits. A sense of security may be obtained, but in fact their problems are not solved.

The effects of censorship exist as a result of the authority's efforts to achieve security and stability in their society. They carry out a monopoly on information in order to continue to have full control over the society. In the novel, censorship makes things worse, such as when people become more ignorant or when poor policies executed. In addition, censorship can also give a boomerang effect, such as when Montag becomes more curious about many things that have been missing from his attention. The main thing is that censorship has a great influence on the dynamics of life in society in the novel.



## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The conclusion of this discussion and the suggestion for the readers are provided in this chapter. This study tries to further observe how censorship works and how it affects society in the novel *Fahrenheit 451*. Some suggestions will be offered to the readers and future researchers.

#### A. Conclusion

Censorship is a tool used by the authority to maintain the stability in their society and continue to maintain control over it. *Fahrenheit 451* puts censorship as the main theme in the story. The two categories of censorship, state-imposed and self-censorship, are well reflected in the novel. With Montag who is a fireman as the main character, the story is dominated by the censorship process by burning books. Books as a source of information are burned, their possession is considered unlawful, and imprisonment or murder is the punishment. Any small potential that threatens stability and uniformity will be immediately crushed. Threats through censorship from these authority train society to carry out self-censorship as an effort to avoid conflict.

Censorship as an effort to restrain the spread of information has consequences that affect the state of society. *Fahrenheit 451* shows these effects when a society experiences strict censorship. The absence of reliable information makes Montag, as the main character, become curious about many things. The

space of doubt can be filled with the alternatives presented by the emergence of rumours. When people live with uncertainty, the truth is monopolized by the authorities. Rulers will make policies that do not get resistance from their subjects and have the potential to produce poor policies. In addition, censorship is not only related to domestic life in the country. Unreliable information also affects their views on foreign relations and the state of the world. Certainly, these things are the effect of the authorities' efforts to get a sense of security and stability under their control. The effects that occur tend to be negative because they hinder the society to achieve freedom of speech. All of those are well described in *Fahrenheit 451* to show the extent to which censorship can affect society.

#### **B. Suggestion**

*Fahrenheit 451* offers several themes that can be used to conduct a study for future researchers, including censorship, hegemony, ignorance, and technology. It can also be discussed from the side of the main character about how he experiences the journey of self-change that occurs throughout the story. In addition, this study can be developed using the basic theory of censorship using other sources, so that it can enrich the discourse on censorship and threats to freedom of speech which are increasingly occurring worldwide.

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