CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Freedom, which is often related to happiness, is an important thing in people’s lives. People are born with the same rights. People are born freely and can live their life without getting controlled by another. In reality, however, it’s not as it should be. Some people in a society or community can not live happily because they are controlled by people who are more powerful or have a higher status, like the wealthy or members of the government.

Freedom is conceived as a chance to choose, requiring 'opportunity' to choose, and 'capability' to choose. Opportunity to choose is measured by absence of restrictions in economic, political, and personal life. Capability to choose is measured by information and inclination to go one's own way.

Happiness is conceived as the overall appreciation of one’s life as a whole. Average happiness in nations is measured using the responses to questions concerning happiness on representative surveys.

There is a huge difference in the lives of those with freedom compared to those without. People can not find the value of life by living without freedom. A human, a community, or even a society have their own character and are different from one another. So, if they treated in the same way, they will, of course, fight for freedom.
In today's life we can see that some societies and communities live in a state of inadequate freedom. In Indonesia, we might have achieved our independency but in fact being independent alone is not enough. Human as a creature needs many things in order to survive in life. The needs are not only physical but also emotional, and freedom is one of the basic needs in a human life. There are rights for every society and community in Indonesia, but sometimes the rights are not enough because the government sets a very bold line in it. If a society or community feels uncomfortable with the rules, of course they will protest. But sometimes protesting is not enough because their life is controlled by those in power—government or otherwise.

In a family, a kid may lack of freedom because his parents control his life. It is not wrong at all if a kid is getting controlled by his parents, because naturally parents have a right to do this. But in fact we can see that some families have problems due to an overbearing control over the children within the family, problems often leading to criminal and physical problems in the children. In television, for example, we see parents being killed by their children just because the parents set certain rules upon their child. The children who feel uncomfortable with the rules will protest, but the way in protesting is wrong. In another case, a child who is getting controlled tightly could become a liar and have physical illnesses, leading the child to become unconfident and selfish.

It is true that parents are having rights and power to control their children’s life, but some parents may forget that their children have the same right like them as a human. Some parents manage how’s their children education should be, they start making plan on where and when their children can study. Some parents didn’t allow
their children to play and some are doing criminal for their children didn’t follow the rule they made. In this case parents didn’t use money as the reason why they did it, but because they know they are older and have higher position. This mindset is similar with reason in absolutism government. The higher a position of someone, the higher the rights they have to control others with lower status.

Theoretically, human rights are something absolute owned by everyone. But in fact, human rights are only powerful at theoretical but does not have a strong basis for implementation to some certain groups. Some groups do not absolutely be able to feels equal rights that cause inequalities in social and political among people. They should be treated with the divergence rights and inequality.

In this case, the writer uses Talcott Parsons’ structural functionalism theory as the basic of the research. This idea provides a theoretical basis for the function of freedom to happiness in life of an individu as member of a society. The idea of freedom becomes the topic of the analysis.

Then, as the objects of my analysis, I choose one novel which indicates this idea. It is Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*. I am interesting in choosing this novel because first, the novel is a science fiction novel which is talking about life in future. Second, the problem of lack of freedom is still exists nowadays, so I think the author already thinks it may be last longer even in the future.

Written in 1931 and published the following year, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* is a dystopian—or anti-utopian—novel. In it, the author questions the values of 1931 London, using satire and irony to portray a futuristic world in which many of the contemporary trends in British and American society have been taken to
extremes. Though he was already a best-selling author, Huxley achieved international acclaim with this now-classic novel. The novel is best appreciated as an ironic commentary on contemporary values. Readers also mostly compare *Brave New World* with some popular novel like George Orwell’s *1984*.

Although the novel is set in the future it deals with contemporary issues of the early 20th century. The Industrial Revolution had transformed the world. Mass production had made cars, telephones, and radios relatively cheap and widely available throughout the developed world. The political, cultural, economic and social upheavals of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the First World War (1914–1918) were resonating throughout the world and affecting the individual lives of most people. Many of characters of the novel are named after widely recognised, influential and in many cases contemporary people.

The story is set in a London six hundred years in the future. People all around the world are part of a totalitarian state, free from war, hatred, poverty, disease, and pain. They enjoy leisure time, material wealth, and physical pleasures. However, in order to maintain such a smoothly running society, the ten people in charge of the world, the Controllers, eliminate most forms of freedom and twist around many traditionally held human values. Standardization and progress are valued above all else. These Controllers create human beings in factories, using technology to make ninety-six people from the same fertilized egg and to condition them for their future lives. Children are raised together and subjected to mind control through sleep teaching to further condition them. As adults, people are content to fulfill their destinies as part of five social classes, from the intelligent who run the factories to
the mentally challenged who do the most menial jobs. All spend their free time indulging in harmless and mindless entertainment and sports activities.

The main character of the book, Bernard Marx, is from the highest caste. Unfortunately for him a laboratory error slowed down the physical development of his embryo, leaving him shorter than the average. This caused him an inferiority-complex making him more distant and alienated from the others. On top of that his director is planning on exiling him, which he is desperate to prevent.

On a holiday with the breeding nurse, Lenina Crowne he finds out that his director has in fact an illegal child called John. He was naturally born and raised in the “savage” lands. Bernard decides to bring him back to The World state and to expose the dirty secret of his boss. He doesn’t expect however, that John who grew up with Shakespeare’s idea of the world won’t be able to handle the cold and artificial world mankind has created.

1.2 Problem of the Study

In this analysis, there are questions that need to be answered:

1. What are the impacts of the lack of freedom portrayed in the novel?

2. What is the importance of freedom portrayed in the novel?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problems of study above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find what are the impacts of the lack of freedom portrayed in the novel.

2. To find what is the importance of freedom portrayed in the novel.
1.4 Scope of the Study

In this research, it is very important to limit the analysis of specific data that has been chosen. This research will be focused on the novel entitled *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. There are many aspects which can be analyzed in this novel, but the writer deliberated discusses in more detail about freedom including its importance and its impact on some characters as reflected in the novel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

One of the significance of this study is that the writer wants to explain the freedom and the importance of it so that it becomes a reference for students who are learning about freedom and its importance in a community member based on Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*. The writer especially discuss about the struggle in achieving freedom because lack of freedom is one of the biggest phenomena and main problem that still exist in our lives. The novel is set in the future, yet the problem found is mainly about freedom.