THE PORTRAYAL OF TOTALITARIANISM

IN GEORGE ORWELL'S *ANIMAL FARM*

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature

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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I declare that this graduating paper is my own and I am completely responsible for the contain of this graduation paper. All the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledge by means of complete references.

Yogyakarta, 8 May 2016

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THE PORTRAYAL OF TOTALITARIANISM
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ABSTRACT

Animal Farm uses allegory, fable, and satire as language style. This novel uses animal characters to satirize the revolution and totalitarianism in Russia. Commonly, satire novel is dominated by human character such as Gulliver's travel by Jonathan Swift, Candide by Voltaire. However it is different, in Animal Farm the character is dominated by animal character. It is interesting to be studied, how the animal characters portray the totalitarianism in *Animal Farm*. Moreover, this research uses qualitative method of research and uses library research. The researcher uses Roland Barthes Semiotics theory and Totalitarianism theory to reveal the meaning of character in *Animal Farm*. The researcher analyzes *Animal Farm* as the object and the round character as the data of the research. Each round character such as Old Major, Napoleon, Snowball, Squealer, Benjamin, and Boxer will analyze with those theories. As a result, Old Major, Napoleon, Snowball, and Squealer are depicted as pig which has the greedy, unclean characterization. Then, Boxer as horse is depicted has strong and freedom characterization. Benjamin as donkey is depicted has ignorance and stubborn characterization. Besides, each characterization represents the characteristic of totalitarianism, such as Old Major represents as spreader of animalism ideology, Napoleon as dictator leader, Snowball as the victim of system terror Napoleon, Squealer as the press manipulation, Boxer as the slave that pro government and Benjamin as the slave that contra-government.

Keyword: *Semiotics, Totalitarianism, Round character, Animal Farm*

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By: Fuad Khoirul Umam

ABSTRAK

Animal Farm menggunakan alegori, fabel dan satir sebagai gaya bahasa. Novel ini menggunakan karakter hewan untuk mensatirkan revolusi di Rusia. Pada umumnya novel satir didominasi oleh karakter manusia seperti Gulliver's travel oleh Jonathan Swift, Candide oleh Voltaire. Tetapi, didalam novel *Animal Farm* karakternya lebih didominasi oleh hewan. Hal ini menarik untuk dikaji, bagaimana karakter hewan menggambarkan totaliterisme di dalam *Animal Farm*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dan menggunakan metode penelitian pustaka. Penelitian menggunakan metode semiotika Roland Barthes dan teori totalitarianisme untuk mengungkap arti karakter dalam *Animal Farm*. Peneliti menjadikan *Animal Farm* sebagai objek analisa dan *Round Character* sebagai data penelitian. Setiap karakter seperti Old Major, Napoleon, Snowball, Squealer, Benjamin dan Boxer akan dianalisa dengan kedua teori tersebut. Hasilnya, Old Major, Napoleon, Snowball, Squealer digambarkan sebagai babi yang memiliki sifat rakus dan tidak bersih. Lalu, Boxer yang digambarkan sebagai kuda memiliki sifat yang kuat dan bebas. Benjamin yang digambarkan sebagai keledai digambarkan bersifat acuh tak acuh dan keras kepala. Setiap karakter juga merepresentasikan karakteristik totalitarianisme seperti Old Major yang direpresentasikan sebagai penyebar ideologi *animalisme*, Napoleon sebagai pemimpin yang diktator, Snowball sebagai korban dari sistem teror Napoleon, Squealer sebagai media massa yang termanipulasi, Boxer sebagai buruh yang mendukung pemerintah dan Benjamin sebagai buruh yang anti-pemerintah.

Kata Kunci: *Semiotik, Totalitarianisme, Round Character, Animal Farm*

MOTTO

Never be fooled by what you see on the outside because on the inside

it's often a different story

(Anonymous)

DEDICATION

Sincelery, I dedicate my graduating paper to:

My beloved father *Alm.* Bpk. Azizul Mustofa hopefully Allah will give best place for you.

My beloved mother Ibu Siti Mahmudah and And my stepfather Suharto.

My beloved brother and sister, Nazala Maslihan M. and Salma Wahidatus

My grandfathers, grandmothers, and my big family

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Furthermore, the research recognizes that this research paper in very far from perfection because of the limit knowledge of the researcher. Therefore, criticisms and suggestion are always needed by the researcher for the perfection of this paper. Finally, the researcher hopes that all parties whom the researcher has mentioned above achieve rewards from Allah. In addition to that, hopefully this research can be useful for the reader.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature cannot be separated from written text. Literature produces written texts such as novel, drama script, short story, and poetry. Basically, literature has been commonly used in the eighteen century to designate the fictional or imaginative writing (Abrams, 2009:177). The existence of literature is used to share information from the author to reader. The example is novel. It is one kind of literary works which combines drama and poetry. Inside of the novel, it can be found dramatic and poetic dialogue (Eagleton, 2005:1). Furthermore, novel is longer than a short story. It can be assumed that the novel provides more information than a short story. Back to the basic function of the novel, which is providing information, *Animal Farm* has a different way to provide information to the reader.

Animal Farm is written by George Orwell first published in 17th August 1945. This novel reflects the Russian Revolution in 1917 (Ziser & Phillips, 2002:2). Besides, *Animal Farm* is one of a single work that combines allegory, satire, and fable. According to Miranda Sinclair and Demand Media, Animal Farm is allegorical novel which symbolizes the Russia history communism, by using satire to satirize the communist idea, and using a fable character as the character that dominant in *Animal Farm* (http://classroom.synonym.com/fable-satire-allegory-1870.html).

Animal Farm uses allegorical language. Allegory means "a story or visual image with a second distinct meaning that partially hidden behind its literal or visible meaning" (Baldick, 2001:5). For example, the appearance of Napoleon as the dictator leader inside Animal Farm has hidden meaning which satirizes the appearance of Joseph Stalin. The allegory itself uses to hide the certain meaning of some messages inside a work. In consequence, the reader needs a lot of background of knowledge to guess the real meaning of the allegorical text. It can be understood that the position of the real meaning is not at the surface level, but in deeper level than the meaning in surface level. Furthermore, in the *Animal Farm* the allegory uses to draw the historical event that happened in Russia in 1917 and retells it in different way, but still has a similar system of events, characters, plots, and settings.

Moreover, this novel is classified as fable novel. A fable is a story which has moral value and behavior like a human being. Commonly, the character represents as animal (Abrams, 2009:8). It means that fable can be a good media to portray the human life. Furthermore, the event can retell as critique or suggestion. Using animal character in fable novel, the author can avoid the judgment from the reader. However, the author still has a chance to sharply critique someone or something.

The satirical works commonly is dominated by human character such as Gulliver's Travel by Jonathan Swift, Candide by Voltaire, and The Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce. Oppositely, *Animal Farm* is different. The characters are dominated by animal characters. In the *Animal Farm*, George

Orwell uses satirical language style to satirize the character and event in *Animal Farm* with the event in Russia at that time. According to Segreti, *Animal Farm* is literary classic uses literary political satire. Inside *Animal Farm* the author represents a critique of totalitarian leadership (2011:3). George Orwell wants to represent the totalitarianism around him through *Animal Farm* using animal as the main character. Through the satirical language, George Orwell portrays the figures the dictator leader in Russia who has absolute power and does anything depend on his self-interest, despite it will use the violence which causes torture for his citizen. Moreover, in one of the website describes how leader of Russia, Joseph Stalin, controls Russia.

> Genesis A. Landestoy states in cdaworldhistory.wikidot.com "the totalitarian states Stalin had built in Russia under his control and persuasion. Stalin monitored telephone lines, read mail, and planted informers everywhere. He eliminated everyone who supposedly opposed him and threatened his right to rule in both the masses. He controlled all sources of information from newspapers, motion pictures and the radio to art, literature, science, and history. Stalin even resorted to replacing religion with communistic idea. He spread propaganda attacking the church and set up "museums of atheism)" (http://cdaworldhistory.wikidot.com/totalitarianism:case-study-stalinist-Russia).

The history of Russia produces the concept of totalitarianism. The concept describes totalitarianism as the dominance of the leader who controls elite, manipulates ideology, aims to total control of state, society and individual (Griffin, 2005:5). The totalitarianism in Russia happened after Stalin became a leader which replaced Lenin. Stalin used two steps to strengthen his authority as

the leader of Russia. First step Stalin expelled his bitter rival, Trotsky. Second step Stalin used totalitarianism to control Russia. In short, those phenomena happened after Bolshevik revolution in Russia.

Bolshevik revolution happened in 1917. It started when Czar Nicholas II could not defend his kingdom against the rebellion of the Lenin. Lenin as the leader of rebellion brought mission of equality or communism. Lenin with his partner such as Stalin, Trotsky, Rykov helped Lenin to ruin Czar Nicholas II kingdom. Lenin with his communist party which is dominated by laborer ruined the Czar regime. However, in the middle of his power Lenin died because of disease. Stalin and Trotsky became the candidates to continue the regime of communism. Stalin is chosen by the committee to continue the Leninism regime. Besides, Stalin expelled Trotsky as the leader candidate and Stalin became the leader. Stalin used totalitarianism to lead the country. He monopolized *Pravda* press division to spread information and make a plan for rising the economic with way apply over work system (Billington, 1966:452-473).

In fact, in the Stalin era, the existence humanity right as human being almost lost, because almost all of humanity aspect is controlled by the government. There is no private owner. The country has a responsibility to control almost all aspect of citizen life. Indeed, that phenomenon pushes George Orwell satirizes this phenomenon with *Animal Farm*.

Relates to this current research, it is much needed a method to show how the animal characters portray the totalitarianism in *Animal Farm*. In fact, it is needed the study about totalitarianism because in nine teen centuries

totalitarianism gave bad impact to culture, tradition, and religion in that country such as what happened in Russia and German. In purpose to interpret totalitarianism in *Animal Farm,* the research aims to analyze the portrayal of totalitarianism through character in *Animal Farm*. The research includes how the character is described, what the context, and co-text of the character, and how totalitarianism portrayed in *Animal Farm*. Through those methods, the researcher wants to show how totalitarianism is portrayed by character in *Animal Farm*. The appearance of each character in that novel will provoke the critical reader to know the real meaning of the character deeply. The researcher uses semiotics that concern to interpret each character that appears in the object of study. In this research, the researcher will use semiotics theory from Roland Barthes.

1.2   Research Question

According to the background study, this research aims to answer the question: How totalitarianism is portrayed in the characters of *Animal Farm*?

1.3   Objective of Study

Based on the research question above, the objective of this research is to explain how the totalitarianism is portrayed in the characters of *Animal Farm*.

1.4   Significances of Study

The significances of this research include both theoretically and practically:

1.   Theoretically, this research is expected to give contribution in developing the study of literature especially for the English Literature.

2.   Practically, this research is expected to give deeper understanding to the readers in applying semiotics theory in literature. Hopefully, this research will give new information about the Roland Barthes semiotics theory in the *Animal Farm*.

1.5   Literature review

The researcher finds some related studies to prove that this research is worth to be studied. The first prior research is a graduating paper entitled *"The Semiology Analysis in Media Studies Roland Barthes Approach"* written by Feyrouz Bouzida from Emir Abd-el-Kader University in 2014. The writer explained semiological analysis in varied domain media such as advertisement, cinema, and film. The researcher analyzed signified, signifier and sign in each media which was effected by social-cultural. This research used qualitative research design and Roland Barthes semiotics theory as theory of analysis. The result of this research was drawn the social and cultural around the symbol.

The second prior research is an international journal entitled *Allegory and Satire on Animal Farm by George Orwell*, by Sana Mawaz, Iqra' Jaben, Tazeela Rao, Abida Bihi, Fatima Afzal and Saba Shadaqat from Shargoda University in 2015. This research explained how the author used the sentence to blame Soviet Union in 1917. This research is used qualitative research design and Roland Barthes semiotics theory to analyze the data. The result of this study showed that the function of the symbol appeared in the sentences was to blame the political condition when Stalin led Soviet Union, he lusted for power breeds, socialist idea asserts his power to the others.

The third prior research is a graduating paper entitled "Animal Farm revisited: A conceptual Integration Analysis" by Daniel Joseph Saqreti from Department Filologia Inglesa I, UCM in 2011. The researcher explained how the personification as satirical devices portrayed the totalitarian. This research used qualitative research design and Roland Barthes semiotics theory as theory of analysis. The result was the structural change through the story and animals that represent gradually development.

The fourth prior research is a graduating paper entitled "Denoting the character of Orwell's Animal Farm through semiotics" by Lynda Susana Widya Ayu Fatmawati from Jendral Soedirman University in 2011. This research explained the denotation of the character through Semiotics in *Animal Farm* novel. This research used qualitative research design and Roland Barthes semiotics theory as theory of analysis. The result showed that the characters of *Animal Farm* denoted many universal issues about tyranny.

The fifth prior research is a dissertation entitled "The Use of Personification in George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm*" by Meghouri Khalida from Kasdi Merbah University in 2013. This writer explained the personification *Animal Farm* novel and revealed the author motive when wrote this novel. This research used qualitative research design and Roland Barthes semiotics theory as theory of analysis. The result showed that the animal in the *Animal Farm* novel represents the critique of human society and government power in the Soviet Union era (1917).

However, this research provides different analysis. In this research, the researcher concerns to analyze the portrayal of totalitarianism of round characters in *Animal Farm* novel and uses the semiotics theory from Roland Barthes. Besides, those researches have similarity with this research. Those researches also used Roland Bathes semiotics theory.

1.6   Theoretical Approach

There are two theories which are used to analyze the characters in the *Animal Farm.* The theories are Roland Barthes' semiotic theory and Totalitarianism theory.

1.6.1   Semiotics

Semiotics is the science of the signs and symbols. Aristotle and Plato are the men who compose semiotics. The word "semiotics" derives from Greek language *Semiotikos* which has meaning the interpreter of sign (Cobley, 1997:1). In the next era, there are a lot of philosophers who compose semiotics, such as Ferdinand De Saussure, a Swiss semiotician, Charles Sanders Pierce, an American, pragmatist philosopher, and Roland Gerard Barthes, a French philosopher.

Roland Barthes' semiotics theory is the application theory of Ferdinand De Saussure's semiotics theory. Roland Barthes still uses the basic concept of semiotics, such as sign, signified, signifier. He defines the sign as three parts relationship.
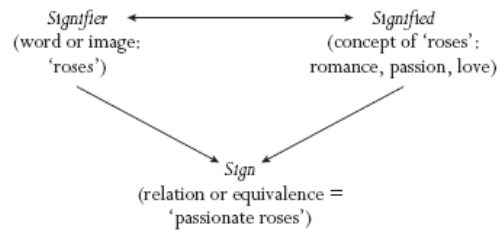
Figure 1.1 Semiology (Allen, 2003:42)

The sign is a result after relation between signifier, signified, sound or mark and concept. The concept is the combination between signifier, signified and sign. The concept is called first order system of meaning. The denotation acted on already exist signs, whether they formed in text, photographs, film music, building or garment. The concept can be understood as the concept of denotation (as cited in Allen, 2003:50).

Different from Ferdinand De Saussure, Roland Barthes defines a further concept. The further concept is called a connotation. The connotation concept derived from the sign which build from signifier and signified in first order meaning (denotation). The first order meaning represent as signifier and add with cultural meaning. The cultural meaning can be understood as signified. The signifier and signified are combined and become new sign. The new sign is called as connotation (Barthes, 1968:90-91).

In short, denotative meaning is derived from signifier and signified in first level. Then, the denotative meaning transforms into signifier in second level and combines with signified. In second level or in connotation level, signified is represented as the English and Russian culture.

Figure 1.2 Semiology (Allen, 2003:43)

Relates to the concept above, Roland Barthes concludes that the first order meaning is what was already written and the second order meaning is what was produced through the first order meaning (as cited in Allen, 2003:44). Moreover, Barthes defines the further concept of meaning which is formed from denotative and connotative meaning. The concept called myth. Myth defines as denoting the fictional work, in purpose that the fictional changes into general truth (Allen, 2003:34).

Roland Barthes' semiotics theory helps the researcher to explain the meaning of the characters in the *Animal Farm*. The researcher uses it to explain the characters in second order meaning in the *Animal Farm*. Then, totalitarianism theory uses to explain how totalitarian is portrayed in *Animal Farm.*

1.6.2 Totalitarianism

Ruler is a part of the government system. Every ruler applies different political system. It adapts with the condition of their countries. Political system treats the country and society as the subject. As cited in International Journal of business and social science, David Caston states that the political system is interaction through value and authoritarian designed for society (Eijaz & Ahmad, 2011:190). Political system between the ruler and the citizen is tied up with value

and authoritarian. Moreover, one of political systems that treat his citizen hardly is called totalitarianism.

Totalitarianism is the political system that applied political oppression, tyranny, and dictatorship (Arendt, 1962:460). The totalitarianism is applied into two big countries, in Russia and German. The first country is Russia. Stalin dedicated himself as the heir of Lenin who spreads communism idea and applied Totalitarianism to lead Russia country. The second is German. The totalitarianism applied by Hitler to conquer German and defeated his political rival (Arendt, 1962:305-306). The two countries there are example of the country which applied totalitarianism political system extremely. They used his citizen to increase number of military and economy.

Definitively, totalitarianism is the term that explains about political system. Totalitarianism is socio-political system which intervene all aspect of live such as social life and individual life (Friedrich and Brzezinski, 1997:12). Also, there are six characteristics of totalitarianism:

a. An elaborate of ideology, consisting official doctrine covers all vital aspects of mankind. Ideology is system ideas, especially with the social, political or religious which is shared by social group or movement (Friedrich and Brzezinski, 1997:16). The ideology focuses toward a perfect final state of mankind.

b. A single mass party, typically led by one man, the dictator brings hard core ideology which unquestionable and prepares to assist every way to get general acceptance.

c. A system terror, whether physical or physic, effects party as secret police control and directs not only against the enemy but also arbitrary selects class and population.

d. Technology conditioned, near-completely monopolies, mass communication such as press, radio, and motion picture.

e. A similar technology, which monopolized is a weapon and armed combat.

f. A central control and direction of an entire economy through bureaucratic coordination (Friedrich and Brzezinski, 1997:22).

1.7   Method of Research

In this section the researcher presents the type of research, data source, data collection technique, and data analysis techniques.

1.7.1   Type of research

This research is qualitative research. Qualitative research means that the researcher explores the social or human problem of individuals or groups (Cresswell, 2009:1). The research uses case study as the strategy of inquiry. Case study defines as the method to observe social unit, cultural group, or entire community (Creeswell, 2009:8). This research uses case study because this research explores all characters in *Animal Farm* relates to social context. The type of research in this paper is library research because the researcher does not need to make a survey or make the experiment in the field.

1.7.2   Data Sources

The object of study in this research is the portrayal of totalitarianism in the *Animal Farm* novel. Then, the data of analysis are round characters because the chara. There are two kinds of data sources in this research. The main data of this research are the round characters in the *Animal Farm*. Then, the supporting data is additional information from online journal to support this research by finding the cultural meaning of round character.

1.7.3   Data Collection Technique

The researcher uses document as the data collection technique. Collecting document means collecting data from public such as newspaper or private document such as journal, diaries or letters (Cresswell, 2009:146). Novel as the data source of the research can be defined as one kinds of document. Then, the researcher uses three steps to collect the data. The first step, the researcher closely reads the *Animal Farm* novel. The second step, the researcher finds the main problem of the novel, in ways finds the characteristic of totalitarianism such as an elaborate ideology, a single mass party, a system terror, monopolized technology, and economy. The last, the researcher chooses round character as the main data and look for additional data from internet.

1.7.4   Data Analysis Technique

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses six steps. The first, the researcher reads all data to get general sense and credibility of the data. The second, the researcher analyzes the round character denotatively, connect each datum to dictionary meaning. The third, the researcher connects the characterization of each

datum in the novel (signifier) with the meaning of data relate to Russian and English culture (signified). The fourth, the researcher finds the representative relations and connects the real meaning of data with characteristic of totalitarianism. The fifth, the researcher will cover all of them with the myth theory. The sixth, the researcher will conclude the portrayal of totalitarianism in *Animal Farm*.

1.8 Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. Chapter I consists of background of study, research questions, objective of study, and significance of study, literary reviews, theoretical approach, and method of analysis. Chapter II explains intrinsic elements and summary of this novel. Chapter III provides the analysis of the data. Chapter IV explains the conclusion and suggestion of this research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1   Conclusion

Animal Farm as one of the setting of the novel represents Russia country which has similar problem about rebellion. The rebellion has happened in 1917 which called Bolshevik revolution. Bolshevik revolution replaces the monarch political system into communism political system. This movement is led by Lenin. He spreads communism ideology as the political system of Russia. In the middle of his mission he gets a disease and passed away. He has two successors to continue his mission. They are Stalin and Trotsky. Stalin is more ambitious to get authority. He expels Trotsky and becomes a leader of Russia. He monopolized mass media (*Pravda*) and he starts to use totalitarianism to treat his citizen.

This case is similarly told in *Animal Farm.* Old Major is the leader who spreads animalism idea. Animalism is commonly called as seven commandments which are stated by Old Major. He has a bad characteristic as the normal pig, greedy and unclean animal. Besides, Old Major states in his ideology of animalism which causes the rebellion. Then, Napoleon is an heir of Old Major. He is leader in Animal Farm which describes in Russian and English culture as the greedy and unclean characterization. He is the successor of Old Major and takes a lead with way kills his rival.

Next, Snowball that is depicted as the inventive and leadership character which has potential to be greedy and unclean. It proved with the appearance of

him in fight against the owner of the farm, Mr. Jones. Then, Squealer, he has similar characteristic with another pig such as unclean and greedy. He is the informer and the puppet of government (Napoleon). In the Totalitarianism point of view, it is categorized as press monopolize.

Then, Benjamin is depicted as unsocial, cynical, stubborn, and ignorance animal. He and the other animal treated as a slave with the pigs. Benjamin is depicted like these because he symbolized the refusal the hard work as slaves. The last, Boxer as the loyal horse is depicted as the strong, freedom and aggressive character. Besides, he is treated as slave as another animal.

Indeed, the round characters have the representative relations with totalitarianism. First, Old Major is depicted as the unclean and greedy leader which spread animalism. Second, Napoleon is depicted as the dictator leader which the leader who treats the citizen tyrannically. Third, Snowball as Napoleon's rival becomes a victim of system terror Napoleon. Fourth, Squealer is depicted as the greedy and unclean press which manipulates information. Fifth, Boxer is strong and loyal animal which is depicted as slave pro-government. Last, Benjamin is depicted as stubborn and ignorance animal which is depicted as the slave contra government.

4.2   Suggestion

Based on research that has done by the researcher, there is suggestion for the further research:

In this research, researcher tries to reveal the totalitarian treatment through semiotics theory. Finally, the researcher found the how the totalitarian concept is

depicted in this research. The totalitarian means injustice and absolute control of leader. Besides, it is opposite with the verse of Al-Quran in An-Nahl verse 90 :

$$۞ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِٱلْعَدْلِ وَٱلْإِحْسَـٰنِ وَإِيتَآئِ ذِى ٱلْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ ٱلْفَحْشَآءِ وَٱلْمُنكَرِ وَٱلْبَغْىِ ۚ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ۩٩٠۩$$

Translate:

"Verily, Allah enjoins Al-'adl (i.e. Justice and worshipping none but Allah alone- Islamic Monotheism) and *Al-Ihsan* (i.e. to be patient in performing your duties to Allah, totally for Allah's sake and in accordance with the *Sunnah* (Legal ways) of the Prophet Muhammad pbuh in perfect manner), and giving (help) to kith and kin (i.e all that Allah has ordered you to give them, e.g., wealth, visiting, looking after them, or any other kind of help), and forbids *Al –Fahsa'*(All devil deeds, e.g. illegal sexual acts, disobidence of parents, polytheism, to tell lies, to give false witness, to kill life without right) and *Al-Munkar*(i.e. all that is prohibited by Islamic law: polytheism of every kind, disbelieve, and every kinds evil deeds,) and *Al-Baghy* (i.e. all kinds of oppression). He admonishes you, that you take heed (Khan & Al-Hllail, 2011:494)".

Indeed, from the verse above states that the criteria of the leader must be justice, kind, never lies. In conclusion, the research on Animal Farm through Islamic perspective is much needed to re-consider how Islam perspective works in totalitarianism.

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