

ABSTRACT

Gilang Tangguh Pratama, 1215030102, 2025. ***FOUCAULT'S POWER DYNAMICS IN SCIENCE FICTION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF I HAVE NO MOUTH AND I MUST SCREAM AND THE MACHINE STOPS*** English Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Supervisor 1. Dr. Andang Saehu, M.Pd.; 2. Agry Pramita, M.A.

In literary studies, the exploration of power and authority has become a central concern, especially in understanding how texts reflect, reproduce, or resist systems of control. This study aims to analyze how power and resistance are represented in two science fiction short stories, *I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream* by Harlan Ellison and *The Machine Stops* by E.M. Forster, using Michel Foucault's theory of power as the main analytical framework. Both works depict dystopian worlds where technology dominates human life, revealing how power can operate through surveillance, normalization, and governmentality. This research employs a descriptive qualitative method through a comparative literature approach. The data were collected by conducting close reading and thematic analysis of the two short stories, focusing on narrative elements that illustrate the workings of disciplinary power and the emergence of resistance. The analysis is based on Foucault's key concepts from *Discipline and Punish* (1977) and *The History of Sexuality* (1978). The findings show that disciplinary power in Ellison's *I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream* is represented through AM, a sentient supercomputer that exercises total surveillance and domination over the remaining humans. In Forster's *The Machine Stops*, power functions through a more subtle system of technological dependence, where control is maintained by normalization and ideological conditioning rather than force. Despite the pervasive control in both stories, forms of resistance still appear, reflecting Foucault's notion that power and resistance always coexist within the same network of relations. In conclusion, the study reveals that both stories illustrate how power not only represses but also produces subjects who internalize control. Science fiction thus becomes a medium through which the dynamics of power and human resistance can be critically examined, offering insights into how technological systems shape modern subjectivity.

Keywords: Michel Foucault, power, resistance, dystopian fiction, science fiction, disciplinary power.

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*Dalam kajian sastra, eksplorasi mengenai kekuasaan dan otoritas menjadi perhatian utama, khususnya dalam memahami bagaimana teks sastra merefleksikan, mereproduksi, atau menentang sistem-sistem kontrol. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana kekuasaan dan perlawanan direpresentasikan dalam dua cerpen fiksi ilmiah, *I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream* karya Harlan Ellison dan *The Machine Stops* karya E.M. Forster, dengan menggunakan teori kekuasaan Michel Foucault sebagai kerangka analisis utama. Kedua karya tersebut menggambarkan dunia distopia di mana teknologi mendominasi kehidupan manusia, memperlihatkan bagaimana kekuasaan bekerja melalui pengawasan, normalisasi, dan tata kelola (governmentality). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan sastra perbandingan. Data dikumpulkan melalui pembacaan mendalam dan analisis tematik terhadap kedua cerpen, dengan fokus pada unsur naratif yang menggambarkan mekanisme kekuasaan disipliner dan munculnya bentuk-bentuk perlawanan. Analisis didasarkan pada konsep-konsep utama Foucault dalam *Discipline and Punish* (1977) dan *The History of Sexuality* (1978). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kekuasaan disipliner dalam *I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream* direpresentasikan melalui sosok AM, sebuah superkomputer yang memiliki kesadaran dan menjalankan pengawasan serta dominasi total terhadap manusia yang tersisa. Sementara itu, dalam *The Machine Stops*, kekuasaan bekerja melalui sistem ketergantungan teknologi yang lebih halus, di mana kontrol dipertahankan melalui normalisasi dan pembentukan ideologi, bukan melalui kekerasan langsung. Meskipun kekuasaan bersifat menyeluruh dalam kedua cerita, bentuk-bentuk perlawanan tetap muncul, mencerminkan pandangan Foucault bahwa kekuasaan dan perlawanan selalu hadir dalam jaringan relasi yang sama. Kesimpulannya, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kedua karya tersebut menggambarkan bagaimana kekuasaan tidak hanya menindas, tetapi juga membentuk subjek yang secara tidak sadar menginternalisasi kontrol. Fiksi ilmiah, dengan demikian, menjadi medium yang efektif untuk menelaah dinamika kekuasaan dan perlawanan manusia, serta memberikan pemahaman baru mengenai bagaimana sistem teknologi membentuk subjektivitas modern.*

Kata kunci: Michel Foucault, kekuasaan, perlawanan, fiksi distopia, fiksi ilmiah, kekuasaan disipliner.