



Governance and Leadership: A Critical Reading of William Golding's Lord of the Flies

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ABSTRACT

The pursuit of power originated in the beginnings of human history, manifesting in various forms and motivations, starting from individual desires for control and dominance and reaching to the expansionist ambitions of nations. The struggle for power has shaped societies and fuelled conflicts, including major wars like World War I and II. Driven by this notion, this paper attempted to render a critical reading of William Golding's novel, "Lord of the Flies" regarding the struggle for power and the forms of governance and leadership in society within the narrative text that finally resulted in chaos and savagery. This study aimed at investigating the struggle for power and determining the forms of governance and leadership in this literary work. As analytical approaches, Marxist literary criticism and the notion of binarism have been adopted to analyse the conceptual framework of this study. The findings of this paper asserted that the power struggle leads to a plunge into chaos and cruelty, exposed two forms of governance and leadership represented by democracy and dictatorship, and the merits, demerits, and results of each form, and how a corrupt regime, governance, and leadership can ruin society. The final conclusion of this study is that Golding's novel presents a dark view of human nature and its tendency to descend into savagery in the absence of organised governance and wise leadership. The significance of this study lies in providing better comprehension of the power struggle and the forms of governance and leadership within the narrative text. It contributes to enriching the literature in this novel, and the field of political English novels.

Keywords: State-building, Leadership, System of Governance, Democracy, Dictatorship, William Golding, Lord of the Flies.

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الحكم والقيادة: قراءة نقدية لرواية "أمير الذباب" لويليام جولدنج

الملخص

نشأ السعي وراء السلطة في بدايات التاريخ البشري، متجلبًا في أشكال ودوافع متنوعة، بدءًا من رغبات الأفراد في السيطرة والهيمنة، وصولًا إلى طموحات الأمم التوسعية. وقد شكّل الصراع على السلطة المجتمعات وأجج الصراعات، بما في ذلك الحروب الكبرى كالحربين العالميتين الأولى والثانية. انطلاقًا من هذه الفكرة، سعت هذه الورقة البحثية إلى تقديم قراءة نقدية لرواية ويليام جولدنج "أمير الذباب" فيما يتعلق بالصراع على السلطة وأشكال الحكم والقيادة في المجتمع داخل النص السردى الذي أفضى في النهاية إلى الفوضى والوحشية. هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى التحقيق في الصراع على السلطة وتحديد أشكال الحكم والقيادة في هذا العمل الأدبي. وقد تم اعتماد النقد الأدبي الماركسي ومفهوم الثنائية كمنهجين تحليليين لتحليل الإطار المفاهيمي لهذه الدراسة. أكدت نتائج هذه الدراسة أن صراع السلطة يؤدي إلى الانزلاق إلى الفوضى والعنف، وكشفت عن شكلين من أشكال الحكم والقيادة، هما الديمقراطية والديكتاتورية، ومزايا وعيوب ونتائج كل شكل، وكيف يمكن لنظام حكم فاسد وقيادة فاسدة أن تدمر المجتمع. وتخلص هذه الدراسة إلى أن رواية جولدنج تُقدم رؤية قاتمة للطبيعة البشرية وميلها إلى الانحدار نحو الوحشية في غياب حكم منظم وقيادة حكيمة. تكمن أهمية هذه الدراسة في توفير فهم أفضل لصراع السلطة وأشكال الحكم والقيادة في النص السردى، مما يُسهم في إثراء الأدبيات حول هذه الرواية، ومجال الروايات السياسية الإنجليزية بشكل عام.

الكلمات المفتاحية: بناء الدولة، القيادة، نظام الحكم، الديمقراطية، الديكتاتورية، ويليام جولدنج، "أمير الذباب"

INTRODUCTION:



History and literature have shown evidence that among the main reasons that may affect the breakdown or progress of a society or a state is the role of command, ruling class, or leadership and its leaders (Abbas, 2022). The pursuit of power originated in the beginnings of human history, manifesting in various forms and motivations, starting from individual desires for control and dominance and reaching to the expansionist ambitions of nations. The struggle for power has shaped societies and fuelled conflicts, including major wars like World War I and II. The 20th century witnessed the rise of powerful nations and diverse political and economic systems, such as capitalism, socialism, and fascism, further intensifying the struggle for power and resources. This often leads to social divisions, ongoing tensions, injustice, oppression, exploitation, and certainly the destruction of communities. While the struggle for power plays out on a grand scale in the real world, its dynamics can also be explored through the lens of literature. Being the body of human experience, literature encodes the human clash of wills in an imaginative creative way (Abbas, 2021). Confirming the significance of literature, in this respect, Dobrolyubov "asserted that literature should be active and aimed at societal development, and he criticized works that, in his view, did not reflect the life of society or contribute to its progress"(Ahmed, 2024, p.872). The novel under the study depicts a group of British schoolboys stranded on a deserted island due to a wartime plane crash. As they attempt to establish a semblance of order and civilization, a struggle for power emerges over who will take over the power position on the island. The boys feel free from all the binds and rules. However, "humanity freedom is based on human nature after freeing itself from all the binds and rules leading to downfall and to savagery" (Baker, 2018, P.229).



The problem of this study is related to the issues raised by the power struggle as well as the form of leadership and governance in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. Thus, the objective of this study is to investigate the manifestation of the struggle for power and the form of governance and leadership in Golding's novel, *Lord of the Flies*. In order to address the research problem and objective of the study, a research question emerges to guide this study: how the struggle for power emerged and evolved, and what are the forms of governance and leadership within the narrative text of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*? By conducting a critical analysis of the selected novel of Golding, the current paper attempts to provide a deep understanding of the struggle for power and the forms of leadership and governance inside the narrative text of "*Lord of the Flies*" by William Golding. The study adopts Marxist literary criticism and the notion of binarism as analytical approaches to analyse the narrative structures of this literary work. Thus, the author of the text and the external social, political, and historical context in which the text was produced will be considered. Dobrolyubov "believed that criticism should be based on facts and objective evaluation, and according to him, realistic criticism is based on the realistic analysis of literary works, rather than the subjective impressions of the critic" (Ahmed, 2024, p.872). The findings of this paper assert that the power struggle in "*Lord of the Flies*" leads to a plunge into chaos and cruelty. The findings expose two forms of governance and leadership represented by democracy and dictatorship, and the merits, demerits, and results of each form. In addition, the findings assert that corrupt power could build up the misery of society, and expose that this narrative text truly examines, by many means, how a corrupt regime, governance, and leadership can ruin society. The final conclusion of this study is that Golding's novel, "*Lord of the Flies*", presents a dark view of human nature and its tendency to descend into savagery in the absence of sensible leadership and well-organized governance. The novel reveals the fragility of democratic values



and noble principles in the face of the instinct for survival and the desire for power and control. The significance of the current study lies in providing better comprehension of the power struggle and the forms of governance and leadership within the narrative text of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. It contributes to extending the base of knowledge and enriches specifically the literature in this novel, and generally the field of political English novels.

WILLIAM GOLDING: THOUGHT AND ORIENTATIONS

William Golding, a British novelist, poet, and dramatist, lived from 1911 to 1993. His receipt of the Nobel Prize in Literature, for his book *Lord of the Flies*, stands as his greatest literary accomplishment. Furthermore, he is considered one of the most significant writers of postwar novels. William Golding can be considered as a modern British novelist. His writings reveal an awareness of the age in which he wrote, as well as an acknowledgment and recognition of the eternal truth about the human nature, the very nature which writers long before him tried either to hide its true shape or polish it shining and glamorous (Baker, 2018,P.229). Golding believed "that all human beings are born with original sin and are about balanced between potentiality for good and potentiality for bad" (Baker, p.230). As literature often serves as a reflection of society, it frequently mirrors its culture and aspects of life and presents a portrayal of reality. During this time period, written literature showed a sense of gloom and darkness. British writers vividly described the extent of the devastation inflicted upon Europe, specifically Britain, as a result of the war. The shock of losing companions, the disruption of normal life, and the disintegration of communities motivated authors such as Golding to recreate a somber depiction of the harsh reality that World War II



imposed on European countries. This is evident in his works. Golding is recognized as a writer who actively engages with political and social issues, employing his narratives as a vehicle for articulating his viewpoints. He witnessed the emergence of totalitarian regimes such as Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler and the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin, along with the aftermath of World War II. These historical circumstances undoubtedly shaped his perspective. By illustrating the negative effects of authoritarianism, Golding provides a critique of the system. He illustrates the adverse effects of unregulated power, such as the neglect of human necessities, the manipulation of individuals, disintegration of society, and the gradual degradation of moral principles. Additionally, he criticized social structures including centralized political systems, social discrimination, and religious hegemony (Paccia, 2015).

Lord of the Flies (1954) is a political and social allegory, using the stranded boys on the Island as a representation of broader societal themes. Through the characters and their behaviors, the novel explores the conflicts and tensions that emerge within human communities, reflecting various political and social ideologies. It depicts concrete political issues of his time, including totalitarian personality and authority, privilege, and power, as was the case under the 20th-century totalitarian regimes, making it a historical and political allegory. Many critics argue that Lord of the Flies is Golding's best-selling book and one of the most significant literary works of the 20th century. This novel "is a fable vital to our times for three reasons: the urgency of its questions, the audacity of its answers, and the formal originality of its investigation" (Baker, p.231). Golding discusses several thought-provoking topics about human nature, society, mortality, and power. The existence of evil and darkness in human nature is among the most significant issues. Golding argues that people can indulge in their most primal tendencies, which can result in violence, cruelty, and the



disintegration of moral principles, when they are not constrained by society or its law. Civilization Vs. savagery , Golding's notions about savagery may be outdated and based on colonial stereotypes, but they are clear to everybody as the lads wear masks to dehumanize themselves and their growing passion with hunting leads to an increasingly animalistic mentality. The idea of power and its corrupting influence are also explored in the novel. A power struggle, representing competing ideologies, breaks out among the boys as they try to create authority and order on the island. A society that is already in decline is made worse by the thirst for power and control, which breeds conflict and the misuse of authority. It could be observed that "one of the prominent issues in Lord of the Flies is man's need for civilization; the story shows that laws and rules, policemen and schools are necessary to keep the darker side of human nature in line" (Baker, P.230).

SYNOPSIS OF LORD OF THE FLIES

The story starts with a group of six- to twelve -year-old British schoolboys being evacuated from their plagued country. After their plane crashes, they end up left on a deserted Island with no adults. In a conch shell, Ralph and Piggy tripped suddenly. Ralph blew into it with a sound resembling a trumpet, which immediately drew all the children to the Island. The boys decide to choose one leader. The boys vote for Ralph, but the choirboys support Jack. Jack obviously wants the role, but Ralph receives the majority of the vote. Ralph asks Jack to lead the choir and the group of boys to act as their hunters, in an endeavor to appease Jack. Ralph decides to take Jack and Simon on Island exploration because he understands that they need



to get to know what is new to them. When the explorers return, Ralph calls the boys to a beach meet-up by ringing the conch shell. He tells the group that they will have to make some plans to take care of themselves because there are no adults on the island. Ralph declares that, at meetings, the conch shell will be used to determine which boy has the right to speak. Everyone else will remain silent while the person holding the conch shell speaks. Piggy cries that they might be stuck on the Island for a long time and that no one is aware that they have crashed there. Little child who says he saw a monster or something that looked like a snake the previous evening. The thought that a monster might be stalking the island sends a rush of panic through the group. Despite their terror, the older lads try to reassure the youngsters that there isn't a monster.

Ralph suggests that, In order to increase the likelihood of a rescue, the group light a big signal fire atop the island's central mountain. This way, any passing ships will be able to see the fire and realize that someone has become trapped on the island. The boys gather a heap of dead wood, concentrate sunlight on it with Piggy's glasses, and then light the wood on fire. They succeed in starting an immense fire, but it dies out very soon. Jack consents to continue the signal fire with his hunting party. But their haphazard and disorganized attempts to restart the fire led to a wide expanse of trees catching fire. The boys, Ralph and Simon, started to work building huts to live in. Ralph gripes because Jack and the other boys haven't volunteered to assist construct the cottages. He implies that the hunters and Jack are neglecting the real labor by claiming their hunting duties as a justification. Jack responds by defending their priority of wanting meat. Jack and Ralph get more combative toward one another as their disagreement intensifies. Once Jack and the hunters discover pig droppings, he covers himself in clay and charcoal and becomes obsessed with hunting pigs.



Along with a few other youngsters, he heads into the jungle. Ralph and Piggy spot a ship approaching from the horizon, but they also notice that their signal fire has gone. It's too late to rekindle the fire as they rush to the top. They are invisible to the passing ship. Ralph began accusing Jack and the hunters of failing to keep the fire going. When Jack and the hunters return, they are holding a dead pig on a pole. They are so ecstatic and insane with thirst for blood that they hardly hear Ralph's objections once they actually manage to catch and kill a pig. When Piggy complained about the hunters' Immaturity, Jack forcefully slapped him. The boys roast the pig, and they dance aggressively around the fire, singing and reenacting the brutality of hunting. Late In the evening, Ralph decides to call a meeting to attempt to bring the group back into line. The boys assemble on the beach after he blows the conch shell. He delivers a speech intended to restore order. After the meeting, combat breaks out between military aircraft over the island. Unaware of the explosions and flashing lights, the boys are sleeping below. On Signal Fire Mountain, a parachutist descends to the ground, lifeless. However, the twins, the responsible for tending to the fire that night, are asleep and don't witness the parachutist land. When they wake up, they hear strange flapping noises from the parachute and catch a glimpse of its imposing shadow. Frightened, they run back to camp, convinced that a beast is nearby and has attacked them.

The boys plan an expedition to hunt for the enigmatic monster. Upon reaching the opposite side of the island, Jack voices his desire to construct a fortress by the shore. Ralph, on the other hand, stresses how important it is to keep the fire going in order to signal for help. During their search, they come across a boar, which attacks Jack. However, Jack manages to stab it. The hunters then chant in celebration of their victory over the pig. Ralph becomes aware of Jack's animosity towards him and



confronts him about it. Jack ridicules Ralph for his reluctance to participate in hunting. Their tensions grow. Ralph is almost removed from leadership after Jack accuses him of being cowardly, but the others disagree. Jack calls the hunters to follow him as he marches off in wrath. Ralph arranges for the boys to start a fresh signal fire on the shore. But the majority gives up on the call to go with Jack. Jack proclaims himself as the chief of the hunters and announces their intention to build a fort and hold a feast at the castle rock. After hunting and slaying a pig, they place its severed head on a stake as an offering to the beast. Jack then brings some hunters back to the shelters, inviting the other boys to join their tribe and offering them food as an incentive. Simon, while he was alone in the woods upon encountering the bloody head, has a disturbing vision where he hears the head speaking, claiming to be the Lord of the Flies and revealing that It exists within everyone. Simon faints and later discovers a dead parachutist on the mountain. Realizing that the beast is within each individual, Simon goes to the beach to share his discovery but is attacked and killed by the others in a chaotic frenzy. The next day, Ralph and Piggy discuss their actions, but they are attacked by Jack's hunters who steal Piggy's glasses. Ralph's team makes an unsuccessful attempt to negotiate with Jack at his stronghold. In the ensuing battle, Piggy is killed, and the conch shell is shattered. Ralph manages to escape the spears. Ralph hides, while the others hunt him down. In order to smoke Ralph out, Jack gives the order to burn the forest. After destroying the sow's head, Ralph feels compelled to go to the shore, where he anticipates being killed. Exhausted, Ralph collapses but is discovered by a British naval officer who noticed the fire. The officer is overwhelmed by the sight of the barbaric boys and requests Ralph to clarify. Ralph, feeling safe but emotional about the events on the island, breaks down in tears. The other boys also start sobbing, the officer turns away to allow the boys to compose themselves (Golding, 2001).



FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the following sections, an analysis of this paper's conceptual framework will be conducted:

STATE-BUILDING

Each State has the four essential characteristics; population, territory, sovereignty, and government. According to the form of ruling or governance (the action or manner of governing) in States, there are kinds of States; Authoritarian Governments, Oligarchic Governments, and Democratic Governments. State-building is the process of creating and strengthening the institutions necessary to support long-term economic, social, and political development, as well as fortifying nation-state's infrastructure and institutions. In order to promote stability and sustained development, it involves setting up or reconstructing the fundamental elements of an effective state, such as a legal system, government, security forces, and public services. Reducing conflict and enhancing the general well-being of a nation's populace are typically the objectives. Governments can work to uphold law and order, defend individual rights, and provide basic services through state-building. The first step in forming a state is the establishment of a legitimate government that enjoys the acceptance of the majority of the populace. Without a leader who can provide stability, start reform initiatives, and have the power and ability to enforce laws and regulations, a state cannot function. (Fukuyama, 2004).



The boys on the island decide to hold elections in order to choose a representative. Children elect a leader and resolve to find a way to salvation during the first assembly. Ralph is the best candidate to take on a leadership role. He has the physical strength to look after other boys, and because his father is a Navy commander, he seems to have control over them. Meetings are designated by the conch shell, and during them the boys discuss issues and possible solutions for the island. Similar to a democratic parliament, where issues and solutions are deliberated for the benefit of the nation, Ralph proposes that the person holding the conch has the right to speak first. It becomes a means of communication that is employed to promote freedom of expression or equal rights (Türk, 2019). As Vaidyanathan pointed out, "the conch is a vessel of political legitimacy" (Aldouri and Mohammad, 2011, p. 84). This looks exactly like what happens in parliaments. If any member of the parliament wants to speak, he has to have the loud speak in order to be heard, just like the boys they cannot speak unless they have the conch. With his first leadership mission, Ralph is determined to build shelters to protect them from animals, the sun, and rain during their stay on a tropical island. He feels that building shelters provides a sense of security and peace, particularly for young children who fear having nightmares when sleeping in the open. He also assigned tasks; the tasks involve lighting a fire and entrusting a group of children with the responsibility of keeping it lit as a signal for the purpose of rescuing individuals on the island when a ship passes by. In addition, the work is divided among the children, with some gathering fruits, others collecting potable water from the forest and covering it with tree leaves, whereas Jack headed a different crew that was tasked with hunting. Thus, a "society with rules began to form on the island" (Aldouri and Mohammad, 2011). Infrastructure and resource management are essential to the creation of a state building. For these resources to survive and for their



civilization to remain stable, good management is essential. After some time, the boys' community started to decline, and their commitment to the rules began to wane as some of them became engrossed in playing and having fun while the others got busy with hunting, neglecting the responsibilities assigned to them. Only Ralph and Piggy understand what it takes to survive in this jungle on their own, Simon is trying with them to complete building the shelters (Türk, 2019). Jack becomes increasingly obsessed with hunting and rejects Ralph's authority and establishes his own set of rules, emphasizing the importance of hunting and satisfying desires. It seems that society is starting to lean towards division. It is worthy here to mention that "binarism is a mode of thought on stable oppositions (binarism of good and evil) or a specific dichotomy subscribed to or reinforced in such thought (the binarism of West and East)" (Abbas & Sandaran, 2019, p. 1150). In this novel, there are two characters appearing to be in binary opposition intellectually i.e. Ralph and Jack.

With the children's inclination towards hunting and their desire for pursuit and violence, it demonstrates Jack's success in fulfilling their desires. Ralph fiercely criticized the opposition led by Jack, particularly after his failure, along with his supporters, to maintain the fire's flame. Jack and his allies launched a coup because they could no longer stand President Ralph's criticisms of him. Jack took over as separatist leader while Ralph stayed the leader of his loyalists. Jack and Ralph's disagreement gets more heated. Ralph promotes common good and cooperation, whereas Jack grows more hostile and authoritarian. This conflict leads to a power struggle between the two leaders and their respective followers. The escalating conflict between Ralph and Jack, fueled by their contrasting leadership styles and priorities, serves as a prime example of the challenges inherent in establishing a functional society. Their struggle for power and influence lays bare the fragility of democratic



principles when confronted with individual desires and the allure of authoritarian leadership. To understand the extent to which democratic ideals were applied within the boys' society on the island, we can use Larry Diamond's framework for evaluating democratic systems. Larry Diamond defined four keys for democracy. We can look through it to what extent democracy can be applied in the boys' society on the island. A system where people can choose and change their government through fair elections, where citizens actively participate in politics and community life, where everyone's human rights are protected, and where laws and procedures are applied equally to all citizens (Diamond, 2004). Initially, Ralph is selected as chief through a somewhat democratic process, with the boys participating in meetings and creating rules together. However, over time, power becomes centralized under Jack, transitioning the leadership structure towards autocracy. As the story progresses, the involvement of boys in the process of decision-making is decreasing. Authority becomes concentrated in the hands of a select few, like Jack and his hunters. All of the island's boys' fundamental human rights are not upheld by the government. As things descend into savagery, there is a disregard for others' rights and a lack of due process. Bullying and violence escalate. As chaos engulfs the island, laws and order collapse. The establishment and enforcement of laws become ineffective, leading to a state of anarchy instead of an organized governance system respecting individual freedoms. It seems that the government formed by Ralph and the boys on the Island does not fully apply all elements of democracy. The boys' project of society-building fails eventually for all of these reasons.

LEADERSHIP



The concept of leadership could be interpreted from different perspectives. Delia (2018) enumerated a variety of perspectives on the concept of leadership. Leadership is defined by experts "as a process of social influence in which the leader requires the subordinates' willing participation to an effort for achieving the organizational goals". The leadership is a representation of "the capability to exert influence on individuals and groups, directing their efforts towards achieving the organization's goals". Others consider leadership "as a process of social influence in which the leader seeks the voluntary participation of the subordinates as a reward for achieving the goals. Leadership is a mutual action between people manifested in particular circumstances by means of the communication process and focused on choosing specific goals". Other definition of this concept is that leadership "consists in influencing people in such a way so that they devote all their efforts, willingly, for the common goals achieving". Leadership also refers to "the ability to efficiently use all the existing power resources to transform a vision thought for others into reality" (Delia, 2018, p.329).

One might wonder when or how leadership can be obtained. And since the study investigates the struggle for power within the novel, is leadership the same as power, or Is there a connection between the two? The concepts of power and leadership share a strong connection. Based on definitions above, we can understand that Leadership is a process through which an individual exerts influence and direction over a group of individuals, inspiring them to contribute their best efforts towards the achievement of common objectives, while power can be considered as the ability to influence others (Lunenburg 2012). The common trait between the two is that both involve the ability to influence, whether it is positive influence or negative one. It's worthy to mention that leadership and power are not identical concepts. Leadership is



the ability to command and have others voluntarily follow commands. Power can also make others obey commands and remain in line, but they may not do it voluntarily. Bilginoğlu (2020) finds that Leadership cannot exist without power, a person who does not acquire power cannot lead, and any leader who does not know how to use power cannot be a great leader. According to (Baehaki & Arti, 2019) Successful leadership is determined by various factors. These factors include the ability to maintain order and control, make sound judgments, inspire and motivate others, and foster organizational unity. Dee Houk (2000) once said, "Control is not leadership; management is not leadership; leadership is leadership".

One of the main concerns of William Golding's novel Lord of the Flies is leadership. Throughout the novel, two characters who take on leadership roles, each with their own characteristics and ambitions. These leaders are Ralph and Jack. Ralph, striving to establish a society, starts by electing a leader to create the groundwork for civilization and democracy on the deserted island. Ralph keeps carrying out his plan after winning the majority of votes and being elected chief. By holding the conch shell, he creates a framework for the boys to voice their thoughts and be heard. He also endeavors to keep the children united by maintaining a signal fire atop the mountain for the purpose of rescue. Despite the challenges and fears on the Island, Ralph takes on the responsibility of making life easier for the boys. He even tried to create a map to ensure their safe movement and protect them from harm but he failed, because they haven't any paper (Deyab, 2016). Fairness and inclusivity serve as the foundation for his decisions, but as the plot develops and the balance of power changes, Ralph must contend with Jack's strong, autocratic leadership in order to hold onto his position of authority. Golding chooses Ralph character to be a leader in the novel because he embodies the qualities of British leadership and democracy. The democratic election



emphasizes the boys' belief in the superiority of democracy over dictatorship. Despite his lack of certain leadership skills, Ralph willingly accepts the role and represents a civilized world. In contrast to Jack's dictatorial style, Ralph embraces a democratic approach associated with the Western world. His physical attributes, social status, and possession of the conch symbolize British democracy and contribute to his selection. The boys reject the leadership that caused war, and Ralph embodies British gentlemen and their democratic ideals. Despite his limitations, Ralph's dedication to British values and culture, along with his ability to recognize others' abilities, leads to his victory in the elections (Ponížilová, 2020). In contrast, Jack declares at the beginning of the novel that he is hungry for power and authority: "I ought to be chief, because I'm chapter chorister and head boy". (Golding, 2001, p.15) He learned a lot about the value of the class system from his privileged upbringing in choir school, including the belief that the head boy of such a place should be a top guy everywhere. Even though he did not win the majority of the boys' vote to pick Ralph as leader, this is not enough to prevent him from holding the position. First, he disobeys the rules that Ralph established. He turns into a true tyrant who delights in his hunters' worship. Ralph takes the opinions of the children into consideration, which is a characteristic of leadership that embodies democracy; Jack makes decisions individually without consulting any members of his group. He decides when they hunt, how they spend their time, and what their priorities are. Even before overthrowing Ralph, he consistently ignores the opinions and suggestions of others, especially Ralph and Piggy. He focuses on hunting and satisfying his primitive desires, disregarding the importance of maintaining the fire as a means of rescue. Furthermore, he uses violence and intimidation as a means of control and silencing opposition.



POWER AND SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

According to Wrong, "power is often defined as a capacity to control or influence others" (ABBAS, 2021, p. 45). In sociology, power is seen in the dynamics of social groups and institutions, where individuals or groups may hold power over others due to their social status, wealth, or access to resources. In political science, power is often defined as the ability to influence or control the behavior of others, whether through coercion, persuasion, or authority (Rabinow, 2006). The origins of power can be traced back to early human societies, where individuals with physical strength or strategic skills often held leadership positions and exerted influence over others. As societies evolved, power became more structured and hierarchical, with the emergence of political systems and institutions. These institutions, such as monarchies or democracies, provided a framework for the exercise of power and the distribution of authority (Bar-Yam, 2018). Those who are in power, who are the political decision-makers, are the only ones who determine the nature of leadership and the form and system of governance, and they shape the government, whether it is authoritarian government, oligarchic government, or democratic government. Power is a major and important theme in William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*. In this novel, there are two forms of governance and leadership, wherein power inside society in the narrative text manifests in two distinct kinds; democratic power represented by Ralph and dictatorial power represented by Jack.

DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE



The boys learned that they were the only people on the island after arriving and going on a tour of discovery. As an attempt to maintain the culture and order in which they have been brought up at their home, so they decided to make decisions collectively. They set up a government. The first step for building this system was to elect a leader since elections were found to make democracy possible. The process of starting the election begins with the suggestion from one of the boys to make a vote. "Let's have a vote". "Yes! Vote for chief ! Let's vote" (Golding, p.15) .Ralph won the majority of the electoral votes, despite the presence of another candidate, Jack, who was elected by the choir members. After Ralph takes charge, he calls for a meeting on the beach. During the meeting, Ralph proposes the idea of establishing rules, organize tasks, and maintain order. He thinks that by doing so, their chances of being saved will rise. In a democratic system of governance, the leader assumes several important roles and responsibilities. He serves as the head of state, representing the people, hold executive power, overseeing the implementation of laws and making important decisions of governance. The leader also participates in policy formulation, working with advisors to develop laws and reforms. They communicate with the public and address concerns. Ralph's first steps towards leadership were prioritizing the need for rules and an organized system of governance on the island. Starting by holding organized meetings through the conch shell, this was found by Piggy. He said; "We can use this to call the others. Have a meeting. They'll come when they hear us"(Golding, p.10).

Piggy suggests that they could summon all the boys by using this instrument as a horn. The significance of the conch shell goes beyond being a tool for holding council meetings, but rather, it highlights its importance in a broader sense. The conch



shell they find on the beach becomes one of the most important symbols which represent order and civilization (Türk, 2019). After a while, the function of the conch slightly changes. It is still used as a tool to create order in the group, but in a different way. One of the most central values that lie as a foundation of a democratic society is the freedom of expression; this democratic value can also be pointed at in Lord of the Flies. These words refer to this notion; "I'll give the conch to the next person to speak, he can hold it when he's speaking" (Golding, p. 25). The boys decide that the person, who is holding the conch at the time of the meeting, gets to speak and share their thoughts and opinions. While the person with the conch is speaking, the rest must be quiet and listen. When the conch is used like this, one can argue that it symbolizes freedom of expression as well because it makes it possible for each person to speak their mind. As known, a democracy is more than just a government (Basile, 2007). Something else; "We can't have everybody talking at once, we'll have to have 'Hands up' like at school". He spoke while holding the conch near his mouth and in front of his face; "Then I'll give him the conch" (Golding, p.25). This quote showcases his understanding of the necessity to maintain order and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard. It also shows that the shell becomes a symbol of parliamentary order, as only the one holding it during the boys' meetings had the right to speak.

This regulation demonstrates that the conch represents law and order, which is a fundamental aspect of a democracy (Wójcik, 2020). Another example of Ralph's attempt to improve the boys' situation on the island is by building shelters. After Ralph is voted leader, he decides to improve and organize the conditions for everyone on the island. Additionally, it is a means of preserving the civilization on the island. Having



something that the boys can call a home also helps them to overcome their fears. For settlers, establishing a dwelling was the first step toward creating civilization. This is exactly what Ralph wants to do too (Bruns, 2008). Ralph was trying to find out ways to make a fire for the boys, so that the haunted things can be eaten and also the fires can make the possibility bring the rescue team to come to them and save them. "We've got to make smoke up there, or die." (Golding, p.69). He was very much intelligent, and he used Piggy's glasses to make fire from the sun's shining to the woods. The marooned boys organize their lives and specific duties are assigned and regular meetings are held for discussion. They are happy to belong to the island. Ralph says; "This is our island, it is a good island" (Golding, p.27).

Another element of the government after voting, symbol of government authority, is committees. Ralph does not specifically choose committees in the novel but instead, he assigns various tasks to different boys in order to maintain order and ensure the survival of the group. He focuses on establishing priorities and assigning roles based on the abilities and interests of the boys. For example, he designates Jack as the leader of the hunters, recognizing his skills in hunting and tracking. "The choir belongs to you, of course. They could be the army or hunters (Golding, p.16). This allows the boys to provide food for the group and address the immediate need for sustenance. We cannot consider Piggy as just a passing figure, but he played a crucial role as a prominent scientist, thinker, and intellectual in the state. He enjoyed widespread support from Ralph, who considered him his advisor, a key reference, and always respected his opinions. Ralph's leadership would have been undermined far sooner without his advisor. Piggy not only understands the importance of the conch,



but also puts on the glasses that allow Ralph to start the fire, whose smoke is their sole hope of survival. Piggy also realizes that building the shelters is at least as important for their long-term survival as keeping the fire going. In addition, Piggy is the one who recognizes how deeply Jack despises Ralph. Despite all of his intelligence, Piggy is essentially useless without Ralph. Piggy's asthma makes him physically weak, and he is a man of ideas rather than action. He and the conch are both destroyed at the same time by a huge rock rolled down a cliff by Roger. He is doomed in a society where irrational fears and physical strength are more respected than science, law, and dialogue.

Because of that William Golding wrote this novel as a political and social allegory, associated with the tumultuous events that occurred in the 20th century, such as World War II and the Cold War, it is possible to consider his character and Ralph's represent the political figures of the Allies during the Second World War, and it is clear from the tone set on the island that Piggy and Ralph are essentially the good guys in contrast to Jack and his careless and destructive leadership of the lads. The author offers a perspective on the failure of democratic systems, highlighting their weakness in leadership or the contradiction between the values and principles they aim to uphold and the existence of systems that operate in complete opposition to those ideals. Ralph's failure to establish an organized democratic society is simply the result of the children's disregard for the established rules imposed by democracy in order to establish stability. They deviate from following this system and gravitate towards Jack's tyrannical and oppressive regime. It could be said that Lord of the Flies is showing how a democratic society starts to fail, as the members of the society is succumbing to basic instincts of human nature.



DICTATORIAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

Simply, a dictatorship is a form of governing where only one person or a small group of people have complete authority. Citizens do not have a say in the government or any of the decisions they make (ABBAS, 2021). After Ralph assumed power, Jack began leading the opposition against him with a sense of resentment, hatred, and animosity. It was clear that Jack, from the start, disregarded all of Ralph's orders and statements. This was especially evident when Jack resorted to hunting and maintained that the boys required hunting in order to obtain meat. Jack exerts significant effort in portraying Ralph as a poor leader, all in an attempt to seize power and gain control. He slowly attracts the boys away from Ralph's influence. He quickly turns into a rival leader who enrages Ralph and jeopardizes social order since his hunting activities are so alluring that the group's rescue-oriented motive is jeopardized and the fire is left neglected. Jack's bunch begins to swell and drift away from order, incidents lead to the mounting general belief that the island is roamed by a beast. Since there is no money on the island, there is nothing else of value, except hunting which is the work of Jack's tribe. As a result of their hard work with Jack, the boys receive a reward, it is the flesh of the pig that they can nourish themselves with. The symbol of the beast is mentioned as a way for Jack to exploit it and attract the boys towards him (Bruns, 2008).

The beast in "Lord of the Flies" is a potent symbol that stands in for the boys' shared anxieties. The boys call it the beast because Jack manipulates them into



feeling this terror and gives it a physical shape. All the boys are frightened, even though the beast does not actually exist. Jack exploits this fear to strengthen his dictatorial power system. When the boys discover a dead parachutist, their fear of a beast from the air intensifies. Jack capitalizes on its existence to gain followers and control their actions. Fear becomes the source of Jack's power. Consequently, many of the boys join Jack's newly formed tribe in search of safety, which he promises to provide. Jack believes that by hunting down the beast, he can further win the loyalty of the boys. However, in reality, he himself embodies the beastly nature by instilling a reign of terror. His behavior reflects the inherent evil that exists within every individual. (Bruns, 2008). As fear of the beast quickly grows, Jack's opposition wins popularity among the boys, who see Jack as a defender against the threat of the mysterious beast. Some boys join Jack's tribe to find safety, which he promises. Jack thus exploits this fear to seize control and then solidify his autocratic rule. Fear is the source of totalitarian power. People give up their freedoms and rights when they feel fear. Thus, it was the cause of the characters' sacrifice of equality and freedom in Golding's novel. They chose safety over freedom and friendship, considering them less important (Wójcik, 2020). In the novel, the tribe is portrayed as the primary symbol of Jack's dictatorial power. Jack's power structure wouldn't work without the tribe. In order to fulfill his goal of overthrowing Ralph and his democratic power structure, Jack depends on the collective mindset. The tribe is essential for Jack's strength and survival, as he is not only the leader but also the mastermind behind the group. Jack ensures the tribe remains intact and weakens the democratic power to strengthen his position. In a similar vein, the guys in the tribe look to Jack for leadership, but Jack requires the tribe to recognize him as the leader. Once the tribe is united and powerful, Jack has all the authority he desires (Bruns, 2008). Now he becomes such a dictator that whenever someone is up against him, they are going to have a big punishment.



Jack has obtained his power by force. Ralph and Piggy are detained because Jack thinks that they will become threat to seize his tribe. Jack even imposes fear toward his own tribe too (Pinakari, 2017).

The power-hungry personality of Jack is solely to blame for all the island's ruin and devastation. Jack is the real antithesis of Ralph. From the very beginning of the novel, Jack desires power above all other things. He gives the choirboys instructions, and recommends obeying. The very first description of Jack's character in the novel reveals that he is power hungry. When he first encounters Ralph and Piggy he shows his power not only manifested on his appearance but also in language. Jack seizes every opportunity to show his power. He utilizes every instrument of power that comes to his hand. He loves authority and tries to maintain it at any cost. He occasionally resorts to violence to uphold his dominance, and sometimes arouse fear on boys (Bhattarai , 2006). Jack is an example of a dictatorial leader who plays on the emotions of his subjects. He rules by charisma and hysteria. The henchman required for such a totalitarian ruler to maintain power is Roger, the youngster who enjoys killing the pigs the most and who throws the rock that kills Piggy. Death to death, killing to killing, is the main characteristic of this political system set by Jack. Seeing blood and killing are a game for him. Jack establishes a totalitarian system, restricting freedom of speech and using intimidating tactics. His leadership style is compared to 20th century tyrants' tendencies in ruling. Jack's ruling system is characterized by death and killing. The pig head is among the most significant symbols in the novel. The pig head, that Jack's tribe invented, is a representation of strength and savagery. After killing the first sow, Jack decides that the sow's head should be on a stick: "Sharpen a stick at both ends" (Golding, p.121). Since the tribe is afraid of a beast roaming around the island,



Jack decides to offer something to the beast, in order to win its goodwill: "This head is for the Beast. It's a gift" (Golding, p.122). However, the pig head is transformed into more than a simple sacrifice. Very quickly the rotting head is surrounded by flies. This makes the pig head the lord of the flies. If we consider the boys to be useless flies in need of a vessel, then Jack is the true "lord of the flies" on one level. Jack establishes a totalitarian system, restricting freedom of speech and using intimidating tactics. His leadership style is compared to 20th century tyrants' tendencies in ruling. Jack's ruling system is characterized by death and killing. Jack represents the captivating force of authoritarian ideas that irrevocably took the world into an inferno. Golding subtly criticizes tyranny in his portrayal of Jack. It makes the world blind and brutal. It drives humankind toward instinct-based primal savagery. Golding rejects the thesis that dictators can lead the world to Civilization (Chavan, 2013). On the contrary; it leads the world only to one thing to destruction.

Eventually, from a Marxist perspective, it could be said that "Lord of the Flies" can be read as an allegory of class struggle and the dynamics of power and resource control. Ralph, embodying democratic ideals, initially leads with an emphasis on collective well-being, shared responsibility, and rational organization—values aligned with a more egalitarian distribution of resources (e.g., the conch as a symbol of equal voice). Jack, in contrast, adopts authoritarian methods, monopolizing resources such as meat and using fear (the "beast") to consolidate power. In Marxist terms, both Ralph and Jack represent different factions of the "ruling class", alternating in dominance over the island's resources and means of survival. The rest of the boys form the "ruled or working class", whose labor (hunting, building shelters, and gathering food) sustains the leaders' authority but who have little actual say in decisions once power is



centralized. The novel illustrates how shifts in leadership style do not necessarily dismantle class divisions—control merely changes hands. Jack’s dictatorship makes the exploitation more explicit, using coercion and spectacle, but even Ralph’s democracy maintains a top-down structure. From this angle, Golding’s narrative reflects the Marxist critique that without fundamentally altering class relations, any change in leadership risks reproducing the same inequalities under a different guise.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study expose two forms of governance and leadership that have been represented by democracy and dictatorship, and the merits, demerits, and results of each form. In addition, the findings assert that corrupt power could build up the misery of society, and expose that this narrative text truly examines, by many means, how a corrupt regime, governance, and leadership can ruin society. The final conclusion of this study is that Golding's novel, "Lord of the Flies", presents a dark view of human nature and its tendency to descend into savagery in the case of wise leadership's absence and lack of sensible governance. Through the power struggle between Ralph and Jack, the novel reveals the fragility of democratic values and noble principles in the face of the instinct for survival and the desire for power and control. The island, which initially symbolized hope and salvation, eventually becomes a stage for chaos and violence, where the boys transform from innocent beings into bloodthirsty monsters. This transformation highlights the failure of democratic



leadership represented by Ralph, which lacked the decisiveness and strength necessary to control the unruly Instincts of the boys. On the other hand, Jack succeeds in exploiting their primal desires and fears of the unknown, leading them towards a dictatorial system based on violence and force. The symbolism of "Lord of the Flies" extends beyond the boundaries of the isolated island to reflect a bitter reality about power struggles in the real world. Often, democratic principles crumble in the face of the lust for governance and control, leading to conflicts and wars. The novel also raises questions about the nature of humanity and its ability to discern between good and evil, as well as the Influence of the surrounding environment on shaping behavior. In the end, "Lord of the Flies" serves as a warning against succumbing to primal instincts and disregarding human values. It reminds us that the true monster does not lie in the dark forest, but within the human self.



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