Negative effects of love as a main theme of *Brave New World*

Have you ever wondered how will you change the world if you were a god? Would you make a beautiful world with rainbows? A peaceful world without war, tears, sadness, or tragedy? What is the factor leads to those things that you want to avoid? It is love. In the novel *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley’s main idea is to show negative effects of love by never let the characters experience it and show how love can cause problems. This forms a perfect world without any conflict or chaos.

First of all, *Brave New World* society never let the people to experience love. According to *Brave New World*, the citizens believe that all the people need to live for everyone and cannot have a relationship with only one person. Many characters state that “Everyone belongs to everyone else” (Huxley, 1932, p.37). This shows that people do not care about a long term relationship that leads to love. However, a short term relationship can cause overpopulation. The citizen needs to stop giving birth, it is to restrain the reproductive system. This leads to invent a fertilization. Huxley (1932) states that “…some account of the technique for preserving the excised ovary alive and actively developing…” (p.3).Human needs love as a basic factor of life to gain happiness. Instead of love, Soma makes people happy so, they do not need happiness from love anymore. For the example, Lenina states that “You do look glum! What you need is a gramme of soma.” (Huxley, 1932, p. 52). This is how the author formed the *Brave New World* society which is not allow any citizen to experience love.

Moreover, no one in the *Brave New World* is happy by love. John suffers because he loves Linda. It makes him attacks Pope, since Pope is a person who Linda loves. It makes him wants Linda to care about him and notices that he is her son. John states that “‘But I’m John!’ he shouted. ‘I’m John!’ And in his furious misery he actually caught her by the shoulder and shook her.” (Huxley, 1932, p.180). That is how love can cause people to be selfish because they always want more and more love. Furthermore, he feels sad when Linda died. Huxley (1932) states that “…then fell on his knees beside the bed and, covering his face with his hands, sobbed uncontrollably.” (p.181). Another conflict occurs because John loves Lenina and vice versa. Both of them cannot understand each other ideas to express love. Lenina believes that love means sex, but for John, love is more complicated and more about a feeling according to William Shakespeare’s work. John compared Lenina as Juliet by states that “on the white wonder of dear Juliet’s hand, may seize. And steal immortal blessing from her lips,” (Huxley, 1932, p.125) to her. This shows that his idea about love is based on William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. John’s idea is completely different from Lenina. This is how both of them cannot be happy with their love. It also leads John to commit suicide in the end of the novel because he feels guilty that he cannot accept her. The author shows love’s negative effects and no one in *Brave New World* can be happy by it.

In addition, people always search for a perfect world, they think about how the utopia be (McNair, 2006, para.3). Aldous Huxley shows a big differencebetween *Brave New World* society as a utopia, and savage reservation as a dystopia. Bernard and John represent each society with completely different backgrounds. John life ruins because of love while Bernard who lives in another society has no conflict or sadness. Only a thing that Bernard worries is his physique. It worse than other Alphas. Huxley (1932) states that “He stood eight centimetres short of the standard Alpha height and was slender in proportion.” (p.55). It is not affect anything in his life. People’s behavior in different societies are different. The author clearly shows that *Brave New World* society with no love is better than the savage reservation. Savage reservation is a normal society but has an old, violent, and uncivilized tradition. When Bernard and Lenina arrive there, they see a festival which people whip a man to his death. It is a way to sacrifice and shows their love to the religion. These traditions are unacceptable in *Brave New World* society. As well as Linda acts like when she lives in *Brave New World* society. She be in relationship with many men. Other women whose are those men’s wife attack Linda. They whip her because of love and do not want Linda to be in relationship with their husband. Linda states that “They say those men are their men,” (Huxley, 1932, p.109). These show how violent and uncivilized the savage reservation is. The author compares the dystopia which includes love with *Brave New World* society as a utopia. He shows that a society with no love is much better.

To conclude, from the ideas above Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*’s main idea is to show negative effects of love by does not let characters experience it, and how it causes a problem. He also shows a big difference between *Brave New World* society and a savage reservation. The author uses these ideas to form a perfect world without any conflict or chaos. What do you think, even love has these much negative effects, why it still exists in the society?

References

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McNair, R. (December, 2006). *Why Has Utopia Failed?* Retrieved from

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