

EXPLORATION OF THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC IN THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN BY MICHAEL CRICHTON: A RECENT REVIEW

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ABSTRAK

Studi ini melihat bagaimana novel ini menggambarkan masyarakat yang terpesona oleh sains sekaligus takut akan sains. Penelitian dalam novel *The Andromeda Strain* ini menawarkan sudut pandang yang perseptif tentang pandemi dan dampak sosialnya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kondisi dan situasi sosial yang terjadi selama pandemi dalam buku *The Andromeda Strain*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan pendekatan mimetik dan pendekatan sosiologi. Berdasarkan temuan dan analisis penelitian, hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya perubahan sosial akibat pandemi dalam novel ini. Perubahan tersebut berupa tindakan-tindakan yang dilakukan oleh para tokoh yang terlibat dalam novel ini. Tindakan-tindakan tersebut antara lain kasus kematian massal akibat bakteri bernama Andromeda dan kasus bunuh diri, namun ada juga upaya pencegahan seperti *lockdown* dan karantina atau upaya menanggulangi bakteri, penelitian yang disebut *wildfire* project juga diadakan, serta adanya kerja sama dalam menangani kasus-kasus yang ada akibat bakteri andromeda.

Kata kunci: Pandemi, Situasi social, Andromeda Strain

ABSTRACT

This study looks at how this novel depicts a society that is both fascinated by science and terrified. This study in the novel "The Andromeda Strain" offers a perceptive viewpoint on pandemics and their social repercussions. This research analyses the social conditions and circumstances during the pandemic in The Andromeda Strain. This research uses the descriptive qualitative method with the Mimetic and sociological approaches. Based on the research findings and analysis, the result shows the existence of social changes due to the pandemic in this novel. These changes are the actions all the characters involved in the novel take. These actions include cases of mass death due to a bacterium called Andromeda and cases of suicide, but there are also prevention efforts such as lockdowns and quarantines or efforts tackling bacteria; research called the wildfire project was also held, and there was also cooperation in dealing with existing cases of andromeda bacteria.

Keywords: *Pandemic, Social Situation, The Andromeda Strain*

A. INTRODUCTION

Altenbernd and Lewis (1966) defined fiction as narrative prose that is imaginative but usually plausible and contains truths that dramatize human relationships. In science fiction, stories are often used to describe societal social situations. In social situations, people cannot be separated from word interaction. As cited in Abdurrahman, Jaya & Azhari (2023), Gillin & Gillin define social interaction as a dynamic social relationship between individuals and others or with groups or relationships between groups. This relationship is the result of human social nature, which means that people cannot live without other people. According to Gerungan (2010), “The aspect of social interaction is the social situation. A social situation is any situation where there is a mutual relationship between one human being and another.” Based on this statement, it can be concluded that social situations can occur if there are direct and indirect interactions between fellow humans, be it the society or the government.

In social life, especially nowadays, humans cannot be separated from technology. According to Liang Gie (1996), “Technology is a man-made item used to help fulfill the needs of life.” Given that humans are fragile physical beings and have minimal abilities. Therefore, humans instinctively try to make tools used as an extension or substitute for these very limited human organs. This fact drives the emergence and development of technology, which makes technology an essential role holder in various fields worldwide. There are so many fields that use technology. Whether in the fields of Information, Communication, Transportation, Education, etc., in this case, researchers are focusing on the role of Technology in the health sector. Where technology can save human lives, cure patients, improve the quality of human life, and much more. Despite all the benefits, Technology can undoubtedly be a 2-sided sword that, if not used wisely, can cause chaos.

In this article, researcher examine social situations that occur in society, particularly in the health sector, in the novel *The Andromeda Strain*. This novel was published in 1969, where Michael Crichton tells the story of the relationship between rapid technological advances and driven by more significant human curiosity. Michael Crichton's novel *The Andromeda Strain* explores the social implications of a deadly extraterrestrial microorganism that threatens humanity. Previous studies have predominantly focused on the biological and scientific aspects of the novel, examining its portrayal of epidemiology and microbial threats. However, there remains a significant gap in the literature regarding the social context depicted in the narrative.

Existing research has analysed how Crichton uses scientific realism to create suspense and highlight the potential consequences of scientific advancements. For example, scholars such as Husain (2024) have delved into the narrative's critique of governmental responses and the portrayal of scientists as heroes and potential threats. Similarly, Wuntu (2024) has explored the novel's commentary on the media's role in shaping public perception during crises.

Despite these insights, there is a notable absence of detailed exploration into how *The Andromeda Strain* reflects broader societal anxieties and cultural shifts

during the time of its publication in the 1960s (Dalyono, 2005). This study aims to fill this gap by examining the novel through the lens of social criticism, mainly focusing on issues of trust in institutions, the impact of Cold War tensions on the public psyche, and reflections on human vulnerability amidst technological progress.

By addressing these aspects, this study seeks to comprehensively analyse the social context within *The Andromeda Strain*, offering a nuanced understanding of how Crichton's narrative resonates with contemporary concerns and anxieties. This approach enhances our appreciation of the novel as a cultural artifact and sheds light on its enduring relevance in understanding societal responses to crises, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This also shows the situation or social conditions of the pandemic in this novel. This research analyses the social conditions and circumstances during the pandemic in *The Andromeda Strain*. In general, this study analyses how situations alter and the social environment develops after cases of bacterial diseases with extraterrestrial origins in this world.

B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. Novel

A novel is a written prose narrative of a significant length and degree of complexity that imaginatively explores the human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving several characters in a specific setting. The novel genre has included various genres and styles within its broad framework, including picaresque, epistolary, gothic, romantic, realist, and historical—to name just a few of the more significant ones. Etymologically, the word “novel,” as explained by Hartoko and Rahmanto (1986:163), comes from the Latin word *novella*, which means “new.” The novel is relatively new since it is relatively new compared to other literary works such as poetry or drama.

2. Social Situation

According to Dalyono (2005: 133), social situations are all persons or other humans having social circumstances that influence us. Every circumstance where people interact mutually is referred to as a social scenario. In other words, a social setting is any circumstance where social interaction occurs (Ali, 2024). Specifically, the reality of both real and imagined people. If you want to be more precise, there are at least four main kinds of social contexts. The capacity to notice other people's existence while remaining socially aloof. The capacity to interact socially and feel other people's presence (Ali, 2024). Taking into account the existence of other people. The impact of other people you know through particular media and who you can handle.

3. Pandemic and Quarantine

A pandemic is a widespread disease that occurs on a scale that crosses international boundaries, usually affecting people worldwide (Porta, 2008). Health Direct was explained. A pandemic can also be defined as the outbreak of a recently identified disease on a large scale. For example, in early 2020, a recently identified

disease was a Covid-19 pandemic. Mark A. Rothstein (2015) states that quarantine limits the movements or activities of asymptomatic people who may have been exposed to a communicable disease during the disease's communicability. Cutting it off from the rest of society and causing tensions between the residents and the authorities. In this novel, The Quarantine also causes friction between the government and the scientific community as researchers attempt to carry out their work in light of official restrictions.

In this novel, the author (Michael Crichton) reveals that several social conditions have occurred or changed after a pandemic, including the process of handling a pandemic by building an isolation area that functions to study invading bacteria; according to The American Centres for Disease Control and Prevention or CDC Isolation is defined as the process of separating a person who is sick with an infectious disease from someone who is not ill. The story presents the scientific community as a collection of motivated experts committed to discovering solutions despite many obstacles. However, they are also regarded as being somewhat cut off from the rest of society, with most people needing to be made aware of the seriousness of the problem. Besides that, the government has imposed a quarantine in Piedmont, Arizona.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the descriptive qualitative method. According to Murdiyanto (2020), qualitative research emphasizes the holistic and detailed understanding of complex social phenomena. The researcher collected the data using the novel *The Andromeda Strain* and other data using books, journals, and articles related to this research. In data collection, researchers read, summarize, and quote to get data that supports this research. The objective of this research is the novel. In this case, the novel chosen is *The Andromeda Strain* by Michael Crichton.

This would involve selecting an appropriate research method for analysing data. In this case, the researcher uses a mimetic and sociological approach. According to Abrams (in Tussadah et al. 2020), The mimetic approach focuses on the relationship between the literary work(s) and realities or social conditions outside of literary works. The Mimetic approach views literary works as the reflection of reality. Mimetic theory moves through a four-stage process: 1) Mimetic Desire, 2) Conflict, 3) Scapegoating and 4) The Cover-Up. On the other hand, the sociological approach emphasizes the common understanding of the circumstances and people by integrating theory and experience. Sociologists investigate a wide range of topics. Therefore, they must ensure their arguments go beyond "common sense." The sociological research process is divided into several steps: (a) selecting a study topic, (b) reading relevant literature, (c) collecting data and measuring variables, (d) interpreting data, and (e) concluding.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Result

In the novel *The Andromeda Strain* by Michael Crichton, readers are presented with an exciting picture of the main characters social conditions in the

face of threats from mysterious extraterrestrial microorganisms. These social conditions are reflected in the tensions between science and government and their impact on human relationships. As representatives of a complex society, scientists and government officials must struggle together to overcome this unforeseen threat, illustrating how fragile social interactions are in the face of scientific uncertainty and global crises. Against this backdrop, Crichton constructs a narrative that not only captivates readers through its science fiction elements but also provides a fascinating perspective on the social dynamics in the face of an emergency threatening all of humanity. Here is a more specific explanation of the social context of the pandemic in the Andromeda strain:

a. Mass Mortality Even (MME)

Samuel B. Fey et al. (2015) explained that Mass death events (MMEs) are rapidly occurring disastrous demographic events characterized by background deaths. Individual MMEs fluctuate in observed proportions: wiping out more than 90 percent of the population, killing more than a billion individuals, or generating 700 million tons of dead biomass in a single event. In *The Andromeda Strain* Novel, there is a case of mass death that occurred in the city of Piedmont, Arizona. This is presumably due to bacteria infecting people in the town, which were brought from outer space via a satellite that crashed near the city.

Finally, on orders from the significant Mancheck, the military troops sent officers to check the city. At first, they only wanted to check about the whereabouts of the fallen satellite, but in the end, they found lots of bodies lying in the city. Which is shown in the following quote:

"Shawn, his voice tight, said, "Sir, we see bodies. Lots of them. They appear to be dead." "Are you certain, Caper One?" "For Christ's sake," Shawn said. "Of course we're certain." (Michael, C., p. 21)

ANALYSIS: At first, they checked the city to look for the whereabouts of the fallen satellite to be repaired; when they found the whereabouts of the satellite, they went to check the city (the city closest to the crashed satellite) using a van, but when they got closer to the town, they saw there were many corpses scattered on the ground.

"He had a fleeting glimpse of the main street. He saw bodies, bodies everywhere, spreadeagled, lying in the streets, across cars ..." (Michael, C., p. 29)

ANALYSIS: The second quote describes what was seen by officers or several members of the air base military who were sent to confirm the condition of the first officer and the existing city. And when some members were deployed correctly, it was discovered that many bodies were already lifeless. It is also said in this quote that some hawks were congregating in the streets where there were many corpses in the area.

"Everyone seems to have died near the town," Burton said. "Are there reports of deaths farther out? Stone shook his head. "I'm having the Army people look into it. They're working with the highway patrol." (Michael, C., p. 62)

ANALYSIS: In the third quote, it is said that experts who were also part of the wildfire project were sent to check on the condition of Piedmont, Arizona. They are Doctor Stone and also Doctor Burton, who study and examine the situation and begin to realize that there is something strange about the deaths of people in the city. But before they further circled the town, they confirmed that no deaths had spread to other areas by ordering the military base to send some officers to come down and check.

"Both men had heard the tape from the van; they agreed that everyone at Piedmont seemed to have died quite suddenly." (Michael, C., p. 65)

ANALYSIS: In the fourth quote, it says that the two doctors had heard the recording from the van the previous officer brought in, but the last officer died and left only the van and the recording. After they listened to the recording, it was finally sure that there had been a sudden death in the city.

"Bodies lay everywhere, heaped and flung across the ground in attitudes of frozen surprise. But there was no sound—no reassuring rumble of an automobile engine, no barking dog, no shouting children." (Michael, C., p. 68)

ANALYSIS: In the fifth quote, the author describes the atmosphere in the city; the city is said to be very quiet, and there is no life everywhere; it is really like a dead city, even the voices of children or the sound of dogs barking, there is only silence, this happens. As a result, the people of the town have been found dead.

In some of these quotes, the author describes what often happens when a bacteria or virus attacks, which results in death with a large enough number of victims; the author also describes reactions of shock, panic, and fear of something that could happen and make the reader feel the worries of the characters.

b. Lockdown and quarantine (security system in dealing with viruses)

Lockdown and quarantine are some of the security systems described by the author in this novel; apart from that, the government also makes several stricter systems through suggestions from scientists to guard against something that Project Scoop causes; it's true that when the Andromeda strain was discovered, an isolation place was finally made with a very high level of security, this place even had an automatic detonation system that would detonate when something unwanted happened, this place or this program was called Wildfire. The place where scientists researched bacteria carried by one of the satellites that crashed near the city of Piedmont, Arizona.

“And with that, he walked out of the room. As he left, he paused and announced that he was declaring a state of emergency, that everyone on the base was confined to quarters until further notice, that there would be no outside calls or communication, and that what they had seen in this room was confidential.” (Michael, C., p. 33)

ANALYSIS: In the first quote, Major Mancheck, after receiving news that there was a bacterium that infected a city, finally declared a state of emergency and locked down the military base area, and only special people could enter there. The specified time is also the beginning of the implementation of the wildfire project as well as the beginning of the quarantine.

“We recommend that such a facility be located in an uninhabited region of the United States, that it be constructed underground, that it incorporates all known isolation techniques, and that it be equipped with a nuclear device for self-destruction in the eventuality of an emergency. So far as we know, no form of life can survive the two million degrees of heat which accompany an atomic nuclear detonation.” (Michael, C., p. 48-49)

ANALYSIS: The second quote is from Doctor Stone's and others' letters. The letter's contents are a request from experts to the American president about creating an isolated place with an extraordinarily tight level of security, which the government and the president have also approved. The letter also stated that in addition to a high level of security, an automatic detonation system was also made where the system works when it detects harmful bacteria or viruses.

“‘Yes,’ Leavitt said. ‘All levels are painted a different colour. Level I is red; II, yellow; III, white; IV, green; and V, blue.’” (Michael, C., p. 100)

ANALYSIS: This quote shows the several levels of security owned by the wildfire project isolation area, where there are five levels with different colours; besides that, the stage or level and the colours represent each level of security, so the higher the level, the better. The level of sterility is also high.

“He looked back. The needle was in. “Now then, just lie quietly. Relax.” For fifteen seconds, the machinery whirred and clattered. Then, the leads were withdrawn. The mechanical hands placed a neat Band-Aid over the intravenous puncture. “This completes your physical parameters,” the voice said. “Can I get dressed now?” “Please sit up with your right shoulder facing the television screen. You will receive pneumatic injections.” A gun with a thick cable came out of one wall, pressed up against the skin of his shoulder, and fired. There was a hissing sound and a brief pain. “Now you may dress,” said the voice. “Be advised that you may feel dizzy for a few hours. You have received booster immunizations and gamma G. If you feel dizzy, sit down.

Suppose you suffer systemic effects such as nausea, vomiting, or fever, report at once to Level Control. Is that clear?" "Yes." (Michael, C., p. 108)

ANALYSIS: This excerpt shows how the system in the wildfire building works, where at that level, the machine automatically checks Dr. Hall and gives vaccines to Dr. Hall, and automatic machines do everything. This quote shows the sophistication of technology, which was written by the author with a perfect description.

"We couldn't really leave him, since a Directive 7-12 was being called. The town is now destroyed by a nuclear blast." (Michael, C., p. 116)

ANALYSIS: The author tells how a city contaminated by a bacterium called Andromeda strain is destroyed by a nuclear bomb explosion, one of the government's efforts to stop the spread of existing bacteria called Directive 7-12. The 6th quote talks about directives 7-12. This is an order code from the superiors where when there is a place or city that is contaminated with bacteria from outer space or a dangerous virus, then that place will be destroyed using a nuclear bomb; this security system is also applied to the wildfire project security system, and even that also what happened to the city of Piedmont, Arizona.

"He followed them and stepped into clouds of steam. The Odor was peculiar, a faint woodsy smell that he guessed was scented disinfectant. He sat on a bench and relaxed, allowing the steam to envelop him. It was easy enough to understand the purpose of the steam room: the heat opened the pores, and the steam would be inhaled into the lungs. The four men waited, saying little, until their bodies were coated with a sheen of moisture, and then walked into the next room." (Michael, C., p. 116)

ANALYSIS: This quote explains where Dr. Hall returned to follow the sterilization process. This quote also shows the process of spraying disinfectants, which is carried out automatically. Besides that, it also explains how the room works. Everyone who enters the place is like a steam room, but the difference is that what is used is not ordinary but disinfectant.

"I don't mind dunking myself in all those foul baths," Hall said. "I don't mind being irradiated. But I'll be goddammed—" "The idea," Leavitt said, "is that you be as nearly sterile as possible on Level V. We have sterilized your skin and mucous membranes of the respiratory tract as best we can." (Michael, C., p. 127)

ANALYSIS: In this quote, it is said that Dr. The Hall has undergone several stages and will soon enter the last stage. It is also noted that a sterilization process is carried out at each stage until it is completely sterile before entering the final stage.

"Hall nodded. "The labs here can do everything?" "Everything. Even assays for adrenal hormones and things like partial thromboplastin times. Every known medical test is possible." "All right. We'd better get started." (Michael, C., p. 154)

ANALYSIS: In this quote, Dr. Stone asked one of the workers what the place could do, and it was discovered that the place usually did anything related to handling viruses and bacteria. Some of these quotes show how sophisticated and arduous the wildfire project teams' effort is to deal with existing bacteria.

c. Suicide

Suicide is an intentional act in which the victim kills. Suicide is frequently performed out of desperation, which is commonly brought on by a mental illness like depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, alcoholism, or drug misuse. This is what the author describes when Dr. Stone and Dr. Burton visited Piedmont, Arizona. They found that most of the people who died in the city were caused by suicide and not by Andromeda bacteria.

"At her feet was an envelope. In a careful, neat, unhurried hand: "To whom it may concern." Stone opened the letter and read it. "The day of judgment is at hand. The earth and the waters shall open up and mankind shall be consumed. May God have mercy on my soul and upon those who have shown mercy to me. To hell with the others. Amen." Burton listened as the letter was read. "Crazy old lady," he said. "Senile dementia. She saw everyone around her dying, and she went nuts." "And killed herself?" "Yes, I think so." "Pretty bizarre way to kill herself, don't you think?"" (Michael, C., p. 75)

ANALYSIS: The quote describes one of the houses Dr. Stones and Dr. Burton found around Piedmont, Arizona. They see there is the corpse of an older woman who died by suicide and not because of the bacteria that attacked the town. The woman wrote a letter before she ended her life.

"Roy O. Thompson, who lived alone. From his greasy coveralls, they assumed he ran the town gas station. Roy had apparently filled his bathtub with water, then knelt down, stuck his head in, and held it there until he died. When they found him, his body was rigid, holding himself under the surface of the water; there was no one else around and no sign of struggle." (Michael, C., p. 75)

ANALYSIS: In this quote, it is explained that a man was also found who died in the bathtub by drowning himself in the bathtub to his death. He also explained how the condition of the man's corpse.

"William Arnold, a man of sixty sitting stiffly in a chair in the living room, wearing his World War I uniform. He had been a captain in that war, and he

had become a captain again, briefly, before he shot himself through the right temple with a Colt .45” (Michael, C., p. 75)

ANALYSIS: This quote also found the body of an adult man who died by shooting himself. The perpetrators of the suicides were found by Doctor Stone and also Doctor Burton while circling several places or houses in the city, but when Dr. Stone and Dr. Burton saw people who died from suicide, they felt that there was still something odd that caused them to end their lives. In this quote, the author describes the inner pressure experienced by suicide perpetrators due to successive deaths happening directly and suddenly in front of their eyes, which made them choose to end their own lives rather than having their lives taken away by existing bacteria in that city.

d. Animal testing

Animals are used as test subjects in an activity known as animal testing or simply testing on animals. The researchers were selected for the Wildfire project, where several animals were used as test equipment when they researched bacteria carried by Scoop VII satellites called Andromeda strains. The author describes this in sufficient detail, which can be seen from the following quotations;

“Our next step,” he said, “is to determine whether there is still anything in the capsule which is biologically active. Suggestions?” “A rat,” Leavitt said. “Use a black Norway.” (Michael, C., p. 150)

ANALYSIS: The quotation demonstrates the importance of choosing the correct animals while performing research. Leavitt suggested The Norwegian black rat because it is commonly used in medical research and has characteristics that can help identify the presence of biologically active drugs. The remark demonstrates that scientists have established defined goals and proper action plans to ascertain the presence of biologically active ingredients in capsules.

“Wildfire was prepared to conduct experiments with monkeys and apes, as well as smaller, cheaper animals. A monkey was exceedingly difficult to work with: the little primates were hostile, quick, intelligent. Among scientists, the New World monkeys, with their prehensile tails, were considered particularly trying” (Michael, C., p. 150)

ANALYSIS: According to the claim, Wildfire planned to do research with smaller, less expensive animals, as well as apes and monkeys. The comment also demonstrates how challenging it is to handle monkeys during research. According to the quotation, the scientists have planned accordingly and considered the kinds of animals that would be utilized in the studies.

“Through the glass, they saw the black metal fingers move to the far wall of the adjoining room, where several caged lab animals were kept, separated from the room by hinged airtight door.” (Michael, C., p. 151)

ANALYSIS: The scene in the sample involves scientists peering through a glass pane to observe black metal fingers advancing toward the far wall of an adjacent room that houses numerous caged research animals and is divided from it by a movable air door. The quotation demonstrates the careful planning and oversight that went into using laboratory animals by scientists. This illustrates how scientists highly value safety and ethical considerations in research.

“The mechanical hands opened one door and removed a rat in its cage, brought it into the room, and set it down next to the capsule. The rat looked around the room, sniffed the air, and made some stretching movements with its neck. A moment later, it flopped onto its side, kicked once, and was still. It had happened with astonishing speed. Hall could hardly believe it had happened at all.” (Michael, C., p. 151)

ANALYSIS: The quote suggests that the scientists conducted their mouse tests with great care and used cutting-edge technology to ensure safety and accuracy. The results of these trials do, however, imply that the capsules might contain hazardous pathogenic agents, which calls for more significant investigation and testing.

“I’ll take these dead animals,” Burton said, “and run the initial vector studies. Then I’ll autopsy them. “Stone worked the mechanical hands once more. He picked up the cages that held the rat and monkey and set them on a rubber conveyor belt at the rear of the room. Then he pressed a button on a control console marked AUTOPSY.” (Michael, C., p. 151)

ANALYSIS: In this passage, Burton and Stone discuss how they will continue looking into a biological disaster. Burton was in charge of doing early vector research and autopsies on dead animals to further the understanding of them. Stone moves the animal cages to the back of the room and places them on a conveyor belt for an autopsy using a mechanical hand. This passage exemplifies the Wildfire team's methodical and attention-to-detail approach to locating and managing the organism. The significance and gravity of the crisis are indicated by the utilization of cutting-edge technology, including mechanical hands and control panels. When taken as a whole, the phrase highlights the Wildfire team's professionalism and scientific rigor.

“Using a remotely controlled scalpel, he sliced open the dead animal further to make sure any organisms contained inside the carcass would be released into the atmosphere. Nothing happened. The live rat scampered about its cage happily. The results were quite clear: dead animals were not infectious. That was why, he thought, the buzzards could chew at the Piedmont victims and

not die. Corpses could not transmit the disease; only the bugs themselves, carried in the air, could do so. Bugs in the air were deadly. Bugs in the corpse were harmless.” (Michael, C., p. 169)

ANALYSIS: The studies in this area are designed to learn more about how a disease spreads. In the experiment, a dead animal was cut apart using a remote-controlled knife to check if any creatures inside the carcass would be released into the sky. The results of experiments showed that dead animals are not infectious and that only flying insects may spread disease. The authors contend that dead bodies cannot spread disease and that while insects on corpses are innocuous, insects in the air can be fatal. In this quote, you can see how the author outlines how researchers utilize experimental animals to acquire the information they want to know.

e. Teamwork

In the wildfire project, several experts who complement each other in their respective fields have been selected to work together to solve cases in Piedmont, Arizona. Residents died suddenly because of the fall of the Scoop VII satellite, which carried a bacterium called Andromeda strain.

“THE FOLLOWING MALE AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE BEING PLACED ON ZED KAPPA STATUS. PREVIOUS TOP SECRET CLEARANCE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. THE NAMES ARE+ STONE, JEREMY ..81 LEAVITT, PETER ..04 BURTON, CHARLES .L51 CHRISTIANSENKRIKECANCEL THIS LINE CANCEL TO READ AS KIRKE, CHRISTIAN .142 HALL, MARK .L77.” (Michael, C., p. 40)

ANALYSIS: This quote delivers information from the centre about selecting several experts to conduct research in the Wildfire Lab to study a bacterium called Andromeda strain; among other experts, Dr. Hall, dr. Burton, dr. Leavitt, dr. Kirke, And lastly, dr. Stone as its chairman.

“Once the laboratory was finished, it only remained to select the Wildfire Alert team, the group of scientists who would study any new organism. After several studies of team composition, five men were selected, including Jeremy Stone himself. These five were prepared to mobilize immediately in the event of a biologic emergency.” (Michael, C., p. 50)

ANALYSIS: The procedure of choosing the team in charge of handling a biological disaster is described in the quote. This team will comprise a group of scientists prepared to operate under pressure and take the necessary actions to handle emergency scenarios.

After doing much research on squad makeup, the teams were chosen. This demonstrates that the selection process was carried out with care, consideration, and review to ensure the team has the abilities, expertise, and experience required to handle an emergency scenario. Only five scientists from the study group were

mentioned in that quotation. This demonstrates that the chosen team must comprise individuals who possess outstanding skills and adhere to rigid selection criteria. The quotation also states that Jeremy Stone, the story's protagonist, is a team member, demonstrating that only the most knowledgeable and experienced individuals are employed in the project.

"We'd better complete the scan at twenty powers," Stone said. He was working to keep his voice calm, but it was clear that he was excited, too. Leavitt wanted to examine the fleck at higher power immediately, but he understood what Stone was saying. They could not afford to jump to conclusions—any conclusions. Their only hope was to be grindingly, interminably thorough." (Michael, C., p. 163)

ANALYSIS: This statement demonstrates that Jeremy Stone gave significant thought to how to analyse these bacteria. Stone finished a lower-level scan before Leavitt, who intended to rapidly execute a higher-level check. This demonstrates that Stone balances tackling this critical issue with efficiency and precision.

This passage also demonstrates how emotionally invested Jeremy Stone was in the circumstance. He was attempting to seem calm, but you could feel his eagerness. This shows his genuine concern for the issue and his engagement in finding a solution. These quotations illustrate the need to balance practicality and thoroughness when dealing with an emergency. The team should focus intently on the material at hand, retain emotional control, and make an effort to thoroughly consider all options before acting.

"In all fairness, Burton was not the man to do this work; Leavitt would have been better suited to it. But it was felt that Leavitt was more useful working on preliminary isolation and identification." (Michael, C., p. 168)

ANALYSIS: As the phrase illustrates, everyone on the team has their tasks and responsibilities. The team must carefully select the functions given to each member and evaluate each person's skills to determine which task is best for them. The phrase also emphasizes the significance of selecting tasks appropriate for one's skills. Leavitt was chosen to work in the initial stages of isolation and identification even though he would have been more qualified for some jobs.

"Leavitt chuckled and continued the scan. Both men now felt elated and inwardly certain of their discovery. They checked the other areas where they had noted green and confirmed the presence of the patches at higher magnification." (Michael, C., p. 164)

ANALYSIS: The quote demonstrates how scientists felt excited and confident when discovering evidence supporting their discoveries. Nonetheless, they did conduct a second check to guarantee the validity of their findings. This demonstrates the need to double-check results to confirm their accuracy and reflects

the need for scientists to ensure the integrity and accuracy of their study. The five quotations show that they carry out their responsibilities by their abilities. They share the same duties, as can be seen in the quote.

2. Discussion

Michael Crichton's novel *The Andromeda Strain* explores a fictional pandemic caused by an extraterrestrial microorganism. This narrative allows for examining various social contexts and parallels to real-world pandemics. Crichton depicts a scenario where the government quickly mobilizes to contain the pandemic. Research by scholars such as Sheila Jasanoff (2005) suggests that government responses to pandemics are crucial in shaping public trust and cooperation. The novel supports this by showing how coordinated efforts and strict protocols can mitigate the spread of a deadly pathogen.

The novel hints at media sensationalism and its impact on public panic during a pandemic. Studies by Dietram A. Scheufele and Shanto Iyengar (2020) argue that media framing significantly shapes public perception and behavior during health crises. In "The Andromeda Strain," the media's role in disseminating information and potentially causing fear underscores the importance of responsible journalism.

While the novel touches upon ethical dilemmas faced by scientists dealing with the pathogen, it does not delve deeply into the long-term ethical implications. Research by Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress (2019) emphasizes the need for ethical frameworks in scientific research, especially during crises. The novel could be criticized for not fully exploring these ethical dimensions beyond the immediate crisis.

The Andromeda Strain primarily focuses on the scientific and governmental responses to the pandemic, neglecting socioeconomic disparities in healthcare access. Studies by Marmot et al. (2020) highlight how pandemics exacerbate existing inequalities. This critique challenges the novel's portrayal of a unified response without addressing the potential inequities in healthcare provision and outcomes.

Michael Crichton's novel *The Andromeda Strain* presents a fictional account of a deadly pandemic caused by an extraterrestrial microorganism. This narrative allows us to explore various social aspects that resonate with real-world pandemics. In the novel, we see the government's swift and organized response to contain the spread of the Andromeda microorganism. This highlights the importance of strong leadership and coordinated efforts during a crisis. Research in real-life pandemics, such as studies by health experts, supports the idea that effective government action can help control outbreaks and reassure the public.

The role of the media in *The Andromeda Strain* is crucial in shaping how people perceive the pandemic threat. The novel suggests that sensationalist reporting can create fear and panic among the population. This mirrors findings from researchers who argue that media coverage during pandemics can impact public behavior and compliance with safety measures.

Crichton's novel raises ethical questions about scientific research and experimentation during a crisis. It portrays scientists facing moral dilemmas as they

work to understand and combat the Andromeda microorganism. This aligns with discussions in real-world bioethics, where researchers debate the balance between advancing knowledge and ensuring ethical standards in scientific investigations. Although *The Andromeda Strain* focuses mainly on government and scientific responses, it also hints at the resilience of communities in adapting to new challenges. This reflects studies showing that communities can play a vital role in responding to pandemics by supporting each other and following guidelines to protect vulnerable members.

The Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton explores how societies respond to pandemics, offering insights into government actions, media influence, ethical considerations in science, and community resilience. While it is a work of fiction, its themes resonate with real-world experiences of pandemics, highlighting the importance of preparedness, cooperation, and ethical awareness in managing global health crises. In summary, Crichton's novel encourages us to reflect on how social factors influence our responses to pandemics and the importance of learning from fictional and real-world scenarios to improve our readiness for future challenges.

E. CONCLUSION

The study of social circumstances in *The Andromeda Strain* shows how susceptible human society is to a fatal and highly spread virus. It emphasizes the importance of coordinated actions by social organizations and governments to mitigate the pandemic's effects. The psychological toll and issues with mental health that people go through during such situations are also covered in the novel. Furthermore, it highlights how crucial scientific advancements and research are in the fight against pandemics. By examining these fictitious events, we can gain valuable insights that will inform actual pandemic planning and response efforts, ultimately aiming to safeguard the security of individuals and communities in emergencies.

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