

## LANGUAGE AND THOUGHT CONTROL IN GEORGE ORWELL’S “1984”

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the themes of language and thought control in dystopian novel 1984. Through an analysis of key scenes, including the introduction of Newspeak and the ideas of doublethink, how the intentional simplification of language serves as a mechanism for the party to decline free will and thought. Analyzing scenes of Winston’s conversations with Syme and his experiences at the Ministry of Truth, which reveals the eliminate rebellious thought, as well as his role at Ministry of Truth, where historical records are changed according to Party’s order. It says how linguistic manipulation serves as a powerful means of validating totalitarian control over actual reality and human thought. Orwell’s insights warn us the importance of linguistic freedom in safeguarding freedom and democratic values. 1984 was published on June 8, 1949, 70 years ago . George Orwell would die from tuberculosis just a few months later in January 1950. The title of the book was picked since Orwell was writing in 1948 and simply reversed the last two digits to end up with a year that was almost unimaginably far into the future. He worked in jobs like dishwasher in both Paris and London. In fact, –the working title was A Scullion’s Diary. Orwell’s real name was Eric Blair, but he did not want embarrass his family by being known as a hobo as result of the boo, so he picked the pseudonym George Orwell as a good English-sounding name. (1)*

**Key words:** *newspeak, truth, doublethink, manipulation, control, totalitarianism, freedom*

**Introduction:** *The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten. The lie became truth. George Orwell has become symbol of free expression opposing totalitarianism*

and free will in literature. Nineteen eighty four Orwell's ninth and final completed book. It focuses on the consequences of totalitarianism, mass surveillance, and repressive regimentation. It was banned in USA for being communist and also banned in USSR for being anticommunist, it is critique for totalitarian censorship and propaganda in Nazi Germany. The novel sets in an imaginary place totalitarian state named Oceania. Orwell's own experience was working BBC during World War Two producing propaganda, propaganda which included praise of Stalin. He obviously wanted to lose war, but this gave him a worrying insight into the governments how easily control what information that people need to hear. Protagonist in the novel is Winston Smith, a minor member of The Party, which is government headed up by messianic BIG BROTHER. Oceania divided into three strict classes The Inner Party who hold pretty much power, The Outer Party about 13% of population who live under strict control and surveillance and doing all duties that came from above. Proles remaining 85 % population, considered too stupid to be in threat. All Outer Party members under watch by Tele-screens and devices in order to be attached to survey their every move. Winston Smith works in Ministry of Truth and his job is "correcting" records each day, he writes what the government wants them to say. In Winston's heart he has hatred Party and Big Brother, it all started when he decides to write down notes secretly. After he meets with Julia, she hates Party and strong instinct towards survival, she hides her rebellion by volunteering.

**Materials and Methods:** Party's slogan is "War is peace, Freedom is slavery, Ignorance is strength" can be one of the main examples of promoting contradictory ideas to manipulate thought. Additionally, scenes with Winston's friend who is Syme works Research Department, deeply involved development of Newspeak dictionary especially, linguistic reduction. All the time when they talk about Syme's face brightens up and explains enthusiastically the goal of eliminating words is to make rebellious thought unthinkable.

*It's beautiful thing, the destruction of words. Of course the great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be got rid of as well. It isn't only synonyms; there are also antonyms. After all, what justification is there for a word for which is simply the opposite of some other word?*

This shows that harsh reality that limiting language can result in limiting thought itself. Also removed words from Newspeak: bad, democracy, freedom, lie, thought,

well, removal of these words is broader strategy to limiting complex thoughts and ideas, ensuring their ideology cannot be articulated. In fifth chapter Syme was disappeared, vanished and some newspeak people mentions him but next morning nobody notices his lost. This reflects the effects of totalitarian rule, where people easily vanished and forgotten. When Winston goes to check the notice-board and sees a list that changed, not included Syme's name. This showcases that Party not only removes people but also erases them from their existence records, he had never existed. Party never wants people who can THINK, they only need proles and slaves in order to achieve what they want, Syme was loyal, but his knowledge and intelligence makes him threat to the Party, maybe one day he would wake up and takes off his rose-colored glasses and comes to reality, but it won't happen, Party always two steps ahead.

Two minutes of hate daily ritual where Outer and Inner Party members must watch movie in big tele-screens about "enemy" of Oceania Emmanuel Goldstein. Goldstein was also leading figure of the Party, almost same level as Big brother himself, but he caught in counter-revolutionary activities, had been condemned to death but he escaped and disappeared. All bad things, acts of sabotages, deviations from his teachings. Group of people hatred him and they all want him smash his face with hammer and desire to him kill. But first Winston does not hate him but he hates Big brother, The party and thought police, but other peoples attitude make him change mind, all lies seemed to be true he saw Brother as a fearless protector, his hate become adoration. This highlights the propaganda and their ability to manipulate the emotions of people, causing people can not freely think, their mind instantly believes what Party wants them to believe. This reflects the core of totalitarian regime and thought control.

**Results:** In the novel Newspeak plays crucial role for Thought police's control over the population, the simplifying and reducing words for restricting critical thinking and express themselves. Core of Newspeak is a Doublethink is made for two contradictory beliefs, like "war is peace", which is cognitive manipulation all population accept it without any question. Doublethink make people confused and distinguish their ability to what is right and what is not. Rewriting history is also makes people trust authority not their own memories, party always revise past events and shapes it for their advantage.

**Discussion:** Newspeak used to illustrate the profound impacts of language on human thought and dangers of totalitarianism, showcasing that controlling language can be synonymous with controlling people’s minds and their lives. In this novel writer tells people how big organizations or governments can manipulate you, without your noticing. It is a warning that totalitarian government can become , through representation of both USSR and Nazi regime-.

### References:

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