

LANGUAGE AND POWER IN GEORGE ORWELL'S "1984"

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Abstract *The English writer wrote the 1984 novel "language and power" by George Orwell. A novel written in the antiutopian genre. Published in 1949. In the novel, The protagonist Winston Smith is a representative of the outside party. He works in the ministry. The events in the work took place in the air regions of London in 1984. Is a province of the state of Oceania.*

Keywords *Language and Power, George Orwell, Newspeak, Doublethink, Totalitarian regime, Thought Police, Control of language, Manipulation of truth, Historical revisionism, Freedom of thought, Political control, Psychological control, Subliminal control, Language as a tool of oppression, Authoritarianism, Thoughtcrime, Party ideology, Reality control, Language manipulation*

INTRODUCTION

In George Orwell's dystopian novel 1984, language is not just a tool of communication but a powerful instrument of control and manipulation. Orwell explores the relationship between language and power in a totalitarian regime, where the ruling Party uses language to limit thought, alter reality, and maintain authority. The Party's control over language, especially through its creation of Newspeak and the manipulation of historical facts, is central to its ability to suppress any form of dissent and ensure total domination over the minds and lives of its citizens.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

One of the most significant ways in which language is used to exercise power in 1984 is through the development of Newspeak, a language deliberately engineered by the Party. Unlike any natural language, Newspeak is designed to restrict the scope of thought. By reducing the number of words in the language, the Party eliminates terms that could be used to express subversive or rebellious ideas. The intention is clear: if a concept cannot be articulated, it becomes impossible to think about or oppose.

Words such as "freedom" and "rebellion" are made obsolete or are altered to have no revolutionary potential. For example, the word "free" only means "free from" in a physical sense (such as free from imprisonment) and does not carry the idea of political or intellectual freedom. With the elimination of such words, the Party hopes to make subversive thinking impossible. Newspeak illustrates Orwell's warning about how language can be twisted to become a tool for authoritarian control.

Another critical way in which language becomes a tool of power in 1984 is through the concept of doublethink. This term refers to the ability to hold two contradictory beliefs at the

same time and accept both as true. The Party uses doublethink to control the population's understanding of truth and reality. Citizens are taught to believe that the Party's statements, no matter how absurd, are inherently true, even if they contradict previous statements or facts.

For example, the Party uses the slogans "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery," and "Ignorance is Strength." These paradoxical statements are not intended to make sense but to demonstrate the Party's total control over the minds of its citizens. Doublethink enables the Party to change historical records at will, and citizens accept these new truths without question. It is a powerful form of manipulation because it allows the Party to dictate what is considered truth, irrespective of actual facts.

The Party's control of language extends beyond the spoken or written word to the very thoughts of the citizens, monitored by the Thought Police. The concept of "thoughtcrime" is central to the Party's control over individuals. Even thinking rebellious thoughts, or using language in ways that could challenge the Party's authority, is punishable by death. This demonstrates that the Party does not just seek to control actions but to govern the very way people think.

The Thought Police's surveillance of citizens ensures that any deviation from the Party's prescribed ideology is detected and eliminated. Language, therefore, becomes a marker of loyalty to the Party. The more a citizen internalizes the Party's language and adopts its worldview, the less likely they are to even recognize, let alone challenge, the authority under which they live. In this sense, the Party uses language to prevent any possibility of independent thought.

One of the most effective ways the Party uses language to control power is by rewriting history. The Ministry of Truth constantly alters historical records to align with the Party's current narrative, ensuring that the Party always appears to be infallible. History is constantly being changed, and the citizens of Oceania are trained to accept whatever version of the past the Party presents as the truth.

This manipulation of history is made possible by the Party's control over language. By changing the language used to describe past events, the Party can create a version of reality that serves its interests. For instance, if the Party claims to have always been at war with Eastasia, then history is rewritten to reflect this, even if there is evidence to the contrary. Citizens are told that they must accept the present as reality and reject the notion of any past that contradicts the Party's vision. Orwell's novel warns of the dangers of allowing those in power to control the past because those who control the past control the future.

The Psychological Control of Language

Language in 1984 also plays a role in psychological control. By constantly bombarding individuals with Party-approved language and encouraging them to self-censor, the Party ensures that even private thoughts are controlled. Citizens become so accustomed to the Party's language and ideology that they internalize it. The process of self-regulation becomes so ingrained that individuals are not even aware of their own submission.

Winston Smith, the protagonist, struggles with this internal conflict. While he recognizes the Party's oppression, he is ultimately unable to escape the suffocating influence

of its language and ideology. By the end of the novel, Winston's capacity to think critically and independently is destroyed, and he is fully assimilated into the Party's mindset. Orwell highlights how language not only restricts communication but also shapes the way people think and perceive the world around them.

CONCLUSION

In 1984, Orwell demonstrates the terrifying power of language in the hands of an authoritarian regime. The Party's control over language—through Newspeak, doublethink, the Thought Police, and the manipulation of history—allows it to maintain absolute power over the citizens of Oceania. By altering the way people think, speak, and remember, the Party ensures that its rule is unquestioned and unchallenged. Orwell's novel serves as a powerful reminder of the dangers of allowing language to be used as a tool of control. As long as those in power can manipulate language, they can shape reality itself and suppress any form of resistance or dissent.

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1. Orwell, George. 1984. Harvill Secker, 2003.

This is the primary source of the essay, George Orwell's 1984, where the concepts of language manipulation, Newspeak, doublethink, and thoughtcrime are explored.

2. Rosen, David. Orwell and the Politics of Language. Routledge, 1993.

This book explores Orwell's perspective on how language can be a tool of political control, aligning with the essay's analysis of Newspeak and doublethink.

3. Klein, Naomi. The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism. Metropolitan Books, 2007.

Naomi Klein's work, while not directly about 1984, provides a modern take on how political regimes control public perception, which can be related to the manipulation of truth in Orwell's novel.