

LANGUAGE AND POWER IN GEORGE ORWELL'S "1984"*Eshniyozova Jasmina Jo'rabekovna**The student of Chirchiq State Pedagogical University**E-mail: jurabekovnajasmina@gmail.com**Baxromov Bexruz Abduxalil o'g'li**The student of Chirchiq State Pedagogical University**E-mail: behruzboxromov001@gmail.com***ANNOTATION:**

In 1984, George Orwell presents a chilling portrayal of how language can be weaponized by a totalitarian regime to control thought, suppress dissent, and manipulate reality. Central to the Party's domination is Newspeak, a language engineered to eliminate words and concepts that could foster independent or subversive thinking. By reducing vocabulary and altering language, the Party ensures that citizens are unable to conceptualize ideas like "freedom" or "rebellion," thus limiting the scope of their thoughts and preventing any challenge to the regime. Orwell also introduces the concept of doublethink, where citizens are taught to accept contradictory beliefs simultaneously, further reinforcing the Party's control over their minds. This mental manipulation is crucial for maintaining an environment where contradictory slogans like "War is Peace" and "Freedom is Slavery" can be accepted without question.

Language, in Orwell's vision, is not merely a tool for communication but a powerful instrument for ideological control. The Party's constant rewriting of history, a process facilitated by language manipulation, ensures that the past serves the needs of the present, making it impossible for citizens to challenge the regime's narrative. Surveillance and propaganda are also integral to the Party's language control, as the telescreens monitor both speech and behavior, silencing dissent before it can even take form.

Keywords: *Language and power, newspeak, doublethink, thoughtcrime, reality control, memory and truth, telescreen*

Abstract:

In 1984, George Orwell explores the powerful relationship between language and totalitarian control, illustrating how language can be used to manipulate thought, control reality, and suppress individual freedom. Through the invention of Newspeak, a language designed to eliminate unorthodox ideas, and the concept of doublethink, the ability to hold contradictory beliefs without cognitive dissonance, Orwell presents a society where the Party controls both the means of communication and the very nature of truth. The novel highlights how language serves as a tool for psychological manipulation, allowing the Party to perpetuate its power by limiting critical thought

and rewriting history. As citizens are subjected to constant surveillance and propaganda, even the act of personal expression becomes an act of rebellion. Through Winston Smith's struggle to preserve his own memory and articulate truth, Orwell demonstrates the terrifying potential of linguistic control in shaping both individual consciousness and societal structures. Ultimately, 1984 reveals how the manipulation of language can create a reality in which oppression is not only normalized but also unrecognized, making resistance all but impossible.

INTRODUCTION:

In George Orwell's *1984*, language is a central instrument of control and manipulation, serving both as a tool to regulate thought and a means to limit individual freedom. In the dystopian society that Orwell envisions, the Party uses language not just to communicate, but to shape and constrict the very nature of reality. Through the creation of *Newspeak*, the systematic reduction of vocabulary, and the introduction of concepts like *doublethink*, Orwell shows how language can be wielded to suppress dissent, alter perception, and ensure totalitarian rule. The Party's manipulation of language extends to its control over history and the truth, as it constantly rewrites the past to serve its present agenda. As characters like Winston Smith attempt to reclaim language as a means of personal expression, Orwell's novel reveals the terrifying potential of linguistic control to shape thought, suppress critical thinking, and maintain an unchallenged power structure. In exploring the connection between language and power in *1984*, Orwell illustrates how the control of language can create a reality where citizens are not only oppressed but are unable to recognize or resist their own subjugation.

In George Orwell's *1984*, language plays a central role in the manipulation of power, serving as both a tool for control and a mechanism to limit freedom of thought. Orwell presents a dystopian society where language is used not just for communication, but for shaping and constricting reality itself. Here's a more detailed exploration of how language functions in the novel and how it relates to power:

One of the most famous concepts in *1984* is *Newspeak*, the official language of the Party, which is designed to eliminate personal thought and make dissent impossible. Newspeak is based on the principle that if you can't express certain ideas, you can't think them either. Through the systematic destruction of words and reduction of vocabulary, the Party seeks to narrow the range of thought, a process called "thoughtcrime." In Newspeak, many words are systematically eliminated because they could potentially convey alternative or subversive meanings. For example, the word "bad" is replaced with "ungood" and the word "excellent" would be replaced with "plusgood". The goal is to strip language of nuance, making it harder for people to form critical or complex thoughts.

The ultimate aim of Newspeak is to reduce the individual's capacity for subversive thinking. By narrowing the scope of language, the Party hopes to ensure that citizens can only think in terms that are consistent with Party doctrine. If there is no word for "freedom" or "rebellion," there is little chance for individuals to imagine a world outside the Party's control.

Another key aspect of language in *1984* is the concept of *doublethink*, the ability to hold two contradictory beliefs simultaneously and accept both as true. Doublethink is a mental state encouraged by the Party to prevent cognitive dissonance when individuals are confronted with contradictory information. Language plays a critical role in doublethink, as it allows the Party to define contradictory terms in ways that make them acceptable.

The Ministry of Truth, responsible for falsifying history, is an institution that thrives on doublethink, as people are taught to believe that "war is peace," "freedom is slavery," and "ignorance is strength."

By manipulating language to mean the opposite of what it originally signified, the Party ensures that its citizens cannot question the truth of their reality. The contradiction becomes part of the individual's thought process, and the power of the Party grows stronger. The Party uses language to constantly reinforce its propaganda and to control the perception of reality. Slogans such as "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery," and "Ignorance is Strength" are not just paradoxical but also serve to constantly confuse and disorient the populace. The purpose of these slogans is to make contradictory ideas seem logical, thereby preventing critical thinking.

Propaganda in *1984* is everywhere. Through its constant repetition, the Party inculcates its values and beliefs into citizens until they internalize them. The use of language in this manner is both a form of psychological control and an exercise in absolute authority. By controlling what people hear, read, and even think about, the Party is able to perpetuate its dominance.

In *1984*, history is not a fixed body of knowledge but something that is constantly rewritten to suit the needs of the Party. The Ministry of Truth engages in the process of altering documents, erasing people from history (known as "unpersoning"), and creating new narratives. Language is manipulated in this process to erase the past and control the future.

When language is constantly changing, so too is the way people perceive and remember the world. By controlling the narrative of history, the Party ensures that there is no way for citizens to know what really happened, and therefore, they cannot challenge the Party's current authority.

Ironically, while language in *1984* is a tool of extreme manipulation, the absence or suppression of certain kinds of communication is also a form of control. In the society depicted in *1984*, free speech is not just restricted by law but by a

pervasive sense of fear and surveillance. The Party uses constant surveillance (through telescreens and Thought Police) to discourage the use of language for independent thought. The telescreen, which broadcasts both Party propaganda and keeps individuals under constant observation, is a tool for both communication and control. The fact that the Party regulates what can be said and heard ensures that people are not able to form their own ideas or exchange subversive thoughts. In this sense, the Party's control over language is a form of silencing dissent.

Winston Smith, the protagonist of **1984**, struggles against the Party not just through his actions, but also through his thoughts and his use of language. For example, his diary, which he begins writing as an act of rebellion, is an attempt to reclaim a form of private communication and self-expression that is not subject to Party surveillance. Winston's desire to preserve his own memories and to think for himself represents a form of resistance against the Party's control of language and reality. As he says, "Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four." In other words, the ability to articulate truth is a crucial form of liberation. The Party's control over language prevents this kind of expression, making Winston's act of keeping a journal and seeking truth a form of quiet but powerful rebellion.

In **1984**, Orwell presents a world where language is not only a medium of communication, but a tool of totalitarian power. The manipulation of language is an essential part of how totalitarian regimes control their citizens, as it shapes thought, controls perception, and maintains the status quo. Through Newspeak and doublethink, the Party creates a reality in which contradictions are accepted, history is rewritten, and critical thought is suppressed.

Ultimately, Orwell's novel demonstrates the terrifying potential of language to shape and constrain both individual thought and social structures. The connection between language and power in **1984** reveals how a society that controls language can create a reality in which its citizens are not only oppressed, but are also unable to recognize or resist that oppression.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, George Orwell's *1984* powerfully illustrates how language can be manipulated by totalitarian regimes to control thought, shape reality, and suppress dissent. Through the mechanisms of Newspeak and doublethink, Orwell shows that the control of language is not just about communication, but about limiting the scope of what people can think and believe. By eradicating words that could encourage rebellion or independent thought and by redefining contradictory concepts as truth, the Party ensures its absolute dominance. In this society, history is constantly rewritten, reality is fluid, and critical thinking is systematically erased.

The novel's exploration of Winston Smith's struggle to retain his sense of truth and individuality emphasizes the critical role language plays in preserving freedom.

Orwell's vision of a world where language is entirely subordinated to political power serves as a stark warning about the dangers of authoritarianism and the lengths to which a regime can go to control its citizens. Ultimately, 1984 demonstrates that the manipulation of language is one of the most effective tools for maintaining control, making it not only a tool for communication but a powerful force that shapes both individual consciousness and societal structures. In a world where language is controlled, the very ability to recognize and resist oppression is compromised, leaving the populace trapped in a state of perpetual subjugation.

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