

Intertextuality: A critical discourse Analysis of the web of control in Orwell's "1984 through the lens of symbolism, metaphor, and irony in relation to Friedrich Hayek economic and political theories

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Abstract

This study examines the intertextuality of Orwell's seminal work "1984" through the lens of critical discourse analysis and of Hayek's philosophy about the economy and politics. Examining texts, symbols and slogans, the researcher will examine how Orwell's allegory reflects Hayek's alarm over a centralized domination, the mastery of information and the loss of the individual's freedom. The data chosen for analysis is micro, represented by quotes as part of the discourse said by main characters in the tale that reflects or underlines the themes of the narration. The aim of this study is to reveal the interplay between language and authority, revealing how the Party's oppressive

regime parallel Hayek's warning about the dangers of totalitarianism and government overreach. The researcher will argue how the context of "1984" is intertextual with modern social and political language that represents authoritarianism and surveillance. However, the problem of the study is highlighted with questioning the real motives behind political power imposed, revealing the underlying schemes behind the language used that triggers the emotions of the mass rather than triggering their mental abilities and protecting human rights. This is evident in the findings underscore the significant linguistic strategies in shaping collective identities and resilience in fictional world and contemporary society.

Keywords: intertextuality, resilience, Serfdom, Spontaneous order, surveillance

التناص: تحليل الخطاب النقدي لشبكة السيطرة في رواية "1984" لجورج أورويل من خلال عدسة الرمزية والاستعارة والسخرية، وعلاقتها بنظرية فريديك هايك

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ملخص الدراسة:

تستكشف هذه الدراسة موضوع التناص في "1984" لجورج أورويل من خلال تحليل خطاب نقدي لآليات السيطرة على العامة، وتحديدًا فيما يتعلق بنظريات فريديك هايك الاقتصادية والسياسية. سيقوم الباحث بتحليل النصوص والرموز

والشعارات لفحص كيف تعكس رواية أورويل مخاوف حايك بشأن السلطة المركزية والتلاعب بالمعلومات وتآكل الحرية الفردية. البيانات المختارة للتحليل هي جزئية، ممثلة بالاقتباسات كجزء من الخطاب الذي تقوله الشخصيات الرئيسية في الحكاية الذي يعكس أو يؤكد موضوعات السرد. الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو الكشف عن العلاقة بين اللغة والسلطة، والتوضيح أن نظام الحزب القمعي يوازي تحذير حايك من مخاطر الشمولية وتجاوز الحكومة. سيجادل الباحث كيف أن سياق "1984" هو ناص مع اللغة الاجتماعية والسياسية الحديثة التي تمثل الاستبداد والمراقبة. ومع ذلك، يتم تسليط الضوء على مشكلة الدراسة من خلال التشكيك في الدوافع الحقيقية وراء السلطة السياسية المفروضة، والكشف عن المخططات الكامنة وراء اللغة المستخدمة في السياقات السياسية والتي تثير مشاعر الجماهير بدلا من إثارة قدراتهم العقلية وحماية حقوقهم كبشر. يتضح ذلك في النتائج التي تؤكد على أهمية الاستراتيجيات اللغوية في تشكيل الهويات الجماعية والمرونة في العالم الخيالي والمجتمع المعاصر. الكلمات المفتاحية: الكلمات المفتاحية: التناس، المرونة، الرق، النظام العفوي، المراقبة

Introduction:

The interaction between literature and socio-economic theory opens a reflective lens that encourages researchers to examine the dynamic power, control, and individual freedom. Thus, this study looks at these interactions and connections between George Orwell's dystopian narrative "1984" and Frederick Hayek's theories that criticize centralized authority.

1.1 Aim of the study

The aim of the study is to conduct a critical discourse analysis on the thematic elements of control in "1984" juxtaposing them with Hayek's economic and political theory. This study aims at highlighting the way Orwell portrays totalitarian society that covers threats and dangers of state control and the suppression of individual liberties as it indirectly shows the consequences of such regime.

1.2 Problem of the study

The central problem of the study addresses the tension between the ideals of economic freedom and the realities of authoritarian government. Orwell's novel is relevant to this problem as it shows that sustainable societies is based on the balance between regulation and freedom as Hayek suggests in his theories. The same problems revealed from the novel "1984" that is written a century ago and which resonates with concerns of contemporarily.

1.3 research questions:

After exploring the parallels between Orwell's fictional regime and Hayek's warning about centralized control by focusing on specific literature devices and reflecting on modern-day issue, the study will answer the following questions:

1. How does Orwell's depiction of totalitarianism in "1984" echo with the effects of central planning as warned by Hayek?

2. Using symbolism, metaphor, and irony, how do the themes of control and oppression in "1984" relate to Hayek's theories?

3. How do the mechanisms of control described in "1984" resonate with contemporary concerns about the erosion of personal freedom?

1.4 Theoretical Background

As defined by Fairclough (2013), CDA is the interdisciplinary approach to examine the relationship between language and social power in real social situations. It seeks to explore how discourse is both constructed by and forms social structures, ideologies, and power relationships. Based on these assumptions CDA assumes that language is both a means and a resource of social practice, and in so doing reinforces or challenges power relations. As Wodak and Meyer (2014) explain, CDA focuses on systematic analysis of texts, whether spoken or written, used to identify the underlying ideologies and power relations being conveyed, it also stresses the significance of context in identifying historical background, social practices, and institutional frameworks that shape how a discourse is produced and understood. this means that CDA aims to show the ways language is used in specific contexts, to

reveal how discourse contributes to the maintenance or transformation of social inequalities.

For instance, the fictional genre of George Orwell that is set in a totalitarian regime led by The Party, headed by the figurehead Big Brother, deals with the main themes of totalitarianism (mechanisms of oppressive government, including surveillance, censorship, and manipulation of truth), surveillance (the omnipresent telescreens monitor citizens' actions and thoughts, symbolizing the loss of privacy), Language and thought control (a language designed to limit freedom of thought and expression illustrating the connection between language and power), reality and truth (manipulation with Slogans), Individual versus state (the struggle of the protagonist Winston). Through critical discourse analysis, this paper analyzes slogans and extracts demonstrate the ways language exerts power and moves minds. This ties back into Hayek's theory because the web of control in Orwell's story attacks the autonomy of the individual in order to crush opposition. In addition, Orwell's depiction of a surveillance-driven society remains relevant in contemporary conversations about the privatization of data and the importance of vigilance in the face of rapid technological and political changes.

1.5 Hayek's theories

Friedrich Hayek (1899–1992) was an Austrian–British economy and political theorist associated with laissez-faire economics and classical liberal thought. He questioned the idea of economic organization being dictated by some central planner and argued that complex phenomena generated by decentralized actions of humans could result in good stuff. He also felt that not one authority could contain enough information to make sound decisions on behalf of society as a whole. He also believed that no single authority can possess all the information necessary to make informed decisions for society. Hayek argued that central planning political systems lead to inefficiencies and the erosion of individual freedoms (Angela, 2024). To Hayek, the law should be the foundation for individual freedom and not the opposite, as it should work to protect the rights of the citizens and not to steal it. In his seminal work "The Road to Serfdom", Hayek argued that the expansion of government control over the economy could lead to totalitarianism and oppressive regimes. Thus, Hayek was considered an advocate to individual's liberty, the efficiency of free market and the dangers of centralized control (Mahendran, 2018).

Even though Hayek's theories advocate freedom and spontaneous order and are embedded in right-leaning

liberalism while CDA is mostly grounded in sociopolitical theories, his theories provide a rich foundation for critical discourse analysis (Busk, 2023). His emphasis on the spontaneous order and limitations of central planning can be critically examined through various lenses, mainly through intertextuality and how his theory has proved its efficiency when analyzing the constant rebellious, violent, and destructive activities that exists in dystopian regimes (Guadango, 2024).

1.6 Analytical Framework

This indicates a thought-provoking examination of Orwell's dystopia versus Hayek's economic theories of totalitarian control. Both are wary of the manipulation of material resources, and the ideologically motivated systems of control that flows from a central power. Orwell makes the psychological and linguistic modes of control through which totalitarianism maintains its power structure visible; Hayek shows the ever existed economic dangers of a planned economy, and the fake utopia it strives to found.

Bezar et al. (2023) adds to Fairclough's three dimensional frameworks as analytical lens through which to analyze how the language used in texts serves to produce and reinforce power relationships within society. And the strategy will be the micro that is concentrating on simple structures that

enables an analysis of the language that hides the power relations, ideologies, and social structure that can be revealed.

Insights are gained on how language:

- 1- Language and thought control
- 2- Slogans are that manipulate the mass
- 3- Language as an emotional trigger versus wisdom trigger
- 4- Oppressive Language as a drive for rebellion

There are various linguistic features that Orwell resides for in highlighting the themes and meaning of power and control in "1984" through which the analysis of the discourse will be carried out. Thus, the researcher will adopt the functional model of analysis that emphasizes the relationship between language and its social functions, and investigates how language reflects human cognition and conceptualization (Borjars, 2020).

1.6.1 Intertextuality

The researcher will emphasize the power relations which depict in Orwell's "1984", describing the connection between the novel and modern context and culture references (Pucleanu, 2023). The researcher will base the discussion on how language constructs social power relations, ideology, and identity, especially in the context of authority and control. By analyzing specific expressions and slogans the researcher will uncover themes of control, manipulation, and rebellion and identify the function of intertextual reference within the narrative.

1.6.2 Slogans and Newspeak

The slogan's represent the Party's manipulation of truth that are designed to control thoughts and promote cognitive disagreement (Yovan, 2024). The constructed language minimizes the range of thought by simplifying vocabulary and eliminating words that express dissent or rebellion (Selg et al., 2020). It is thought that this linguistic control limits the ability to conceptualize freedom or opposition.

1.6.3 Metaphor and Symbolism

Also, the telescreen and Big Brother like things are strong symbol of surveillance and authority The omnipresence in

narrative supports the concept of perpetual control (Togaymurodov, 2023) Orwell employs metaphors to convey complex ideas about power and oppression.

1.6.4 Historical Revisionism

The Party also constantly revises history demonstrating its control over the past in order to shape the present. The manipulation of what is likely true demonstrates the fragile nature of truth in the Aldous Huxleyian world (Al-Hilo, 2023) characters discuss, and navigate, their word.

1.6.5 Irony and Paradox

Irony and paradox the contradictions in the Party's ideology. this aspect of language strips the totalitarian rhetoric of its absurdity and compels people to investigate the substance of truth and control (Ahmad, 2024).

1.7 Data and methodology

To achieve the aim of the study, this research employs a qualitative methodology grounded in critical discourse analysis. The study will analyze key micro extracts from Orwell's "1984" to identify elements of symbolism, metaphor, and irony and paradox that reflect themes of control and oppression. Simultaneously, it will review Hayek's theoretical framework making connections between his critiques and the socio-political system in Orwell's "1984".

1.8 Discussion and Concluding remarks

Irony and paradox

1. The study will analyze key micro extracts from Orwell's "1984" to identify elements of symbolism, metaphor, and irony and paradox that reflect themes of control and oppression. Simultaneously, it will review Hayek's theoretical framework making connections between his critiques and the socio-political system in Orwell's "1984". Orwell's novel explains how language can be a tool for mind control and the influence of language on society as a whole; Orwell uses paradoxes and irony mainly in slogans to show that society is greatly affected by words rather than actions (Montoya, 2021).

1. "War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength." "War is peace" is a famous slogan from George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four, and it provides a critical lens for examining totalitarian regimes and the manipulation of truth. With war and fear, the system can hang on. However, by allowing free-thinking you encourage criticism of the establishment and an attempt to bring it down. On the contrary, giving freedom of thought will push people to criticize the system and try to get it down. Thus, the concept illustrates how continuous combat is employed to maintain

social order and control, creating a disguise of stability and mitigating oppression and deployment of the masses. The novel states that constant war is "the essential structure and inescapable blood of Party conquests" so to speak because it keeps citizens preoccupied and engender a solidarity. This fundamentally challenges binaries that largely dictate how we think about peace and war, whereby peace is understood to function as a form of war (Polat, 2010) — Thus, highlighting how the illusion of stability still serves to protect modes or aspects of violence even if war, in some context, has already been declared (in other words, if force has already been used by an entity that is now seeking to bridge previous conflicts when termed war). This slogan acts as a reminder of the dangers of accepting manipulation which resonates in Hayek's assertion that freedom is essential for a functional society.

2. The name of the ministries "Ministry of Love", "Ministry of Truth", and Ministry of Plenty" Those four key ministries are the basic structure of societal control in Oceania, they are an example of the oppressive regime and the use of paradox is in itself ironical as each ministry attempts different from what the name claims. "The Ministry of Truth" handles the propaganda and the revision of the historical record. (Narrative) Winston Smith is a re-writer

of events which have already happened into a version which is consistent with the party's current narrative, which means that the populace is kept unaware of the truth (Gibson et al 2024).

Moreover, the "Ministry of Peace" makes sure war is maintained, and the "Ministry of Love" enforces loyalty to the party through brutal repression and psychological manipulation, it is known for its torture and re-education practices to control each individual's thoughts (Ali, 2023). On the other hand, the Ministry of Plenty manages the economy and rationing and often fabricates statistics to present an image of abundance, masking the reality which is the scarcity and suffering of people (Bloom, 2004).

Intertextuality

1. "The possibility of enforcing not only complete obedience to the will of the state, but complete uniformity of opinion on all subjects, now existed for the first time" (73)
This statement that represents the regime demanding complete obedience connects with other dystopian literature that explores totalitarian control such as Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, where in both societies are being manipulated (Haung & Vynchkeir, 2023). It also reflects the modern issue of media and its algorithms where opinions are accepted and others are

rejected and erased from the system, especially with the Palestinian and Israeli war today (Hoskins & Shchelin, 2023).

2. *"In the end, the party will announce the two that two and two made five, and you would have to believe it" (80)*

This statement highlights the concept of "doublethink" between truth and reality and it connects to *Plato's Allegory of the Cave* (de Oliveira Moraes & Aires, 2021). In both regimes, however, extreme oppression led to critical questioning and an extreme urge for freedom as the false concepts have become extremely absurd and cannot be accepted by a human brain.

3. *"More commonly people who had incurred the displeasure of the party simply disappeared and was never heard of again" (19)*

This statement evokes historical instances of purges in totalitarian regimes (e.g. Stalin's great purge). It is also linked to modern concerns about great historical and political figures who have disappeared never been found, such as The Syrian Assad regime.

4. *"We don't merely destroy our enemies; we change them" (35)*

This statement alludes to Kafka's *The Trial* where the manipulation leads to re-education and brain washing of the mass to conform with the regime (Stemitt, 2023). Today's

political and economic campaigns aim at reshaping their beliefs and identities through media narratives.

5. *"Thought crime was not a crime that could be concealed forever. You might dodge successfully for a while, even for years, but sooner or later they were bound to get you" (27)*

This quote shows the regime's use of psychological punishment, such as surveillance and indoctrination, illustrates how punishment can extend beyond physical harm to include mental subjugation ("Carceral Dreams: Punishment in Contemporary Utopian Fiction", 2022). It alludes to modern societies, particularly in the U.S., exhibit punitive measures like "three strikes" laws, leading to disproportionately high incarceration rates among marginalized groups (Legnaro, 2000). The evolution of punishment reflects changing societal values, where punitive measures are often justified through a lens of economic efficiency and social control rather than justice (Cushman, 2015).

Metaphor and Symbolism

George Orwell's 1984 employs rich metaphors and symbolism to illustrate the oppressive nature of totalitarianism and the dehumanization of individuals. The novel's language manipulation, particularly through the creation of Newspeak, symbolizes the regime's control over thought and reality,

limiting the capacity for dissent and critical thinking (Alves & Ferreira, 2018). Additionally, metaphors related to speech and music highlight the theme of dehumanization, as they depict the reduction of human expression to mere tools of the state (Marie & Vandenberg, 1993). The pervasive symbols of power, fear, and surveillance further reinforce the totalitarian regime's grip on society, illustrating how these concepts intertwine to maintain control over the populace, to show that the research will analyze micro metaphors and symbolism presented in the novel.

1- *"Big brother watching you" (3)*

This phrase represents the omnipresent control of The Party over individual's lives. The people in Oceania are constantly under surveillance. This phrase is a symbol of constant threat and limitation of freedom.

1. *"The face of a man who is about to be vaporized" (19)*

This phrase represents the consequence of going against The Party. It is evident, that the regime will depict ultimate punishment on rebellious characters.

2. *"The past was dead; the future was unimaginable" (163)*

This metaphor emphasizes as well the Party's control over reality and memory, illustrating how individuals cannot trust their memories or envision a future outside of Party control.

3. *"The past was a lie" (177)*

This phrase shows The Party's ability to redefine and shape history suggesting the reality is malleable according to the narrative that the Party wants.

4. *"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears" (35)*

The Party in these words enforces total loyalty and submission to it. This phrase also highlights the extent to which the party can control people, concepts, and reality.

In addition to these concepts, the researcher find that web of control manipulated the human senses through the Telescreens, the fake ministries; and this manipulation is maintained by The Party and The Thought Police.

1.8.2. Concluding Remarks

In George Orwell's "1984," irony and paradox serve as critical tools to demonstrate how oppressive nature of totalitarianism and the complexities of human consciousness work. Furthermore, the narrative uses irony to highlight the contradictions found in the Party's ideology, where slogans like "War is Peace" and "Freedom is Slavery" amplify the manipulation of truth and reality. This ironic structure not only critiques the dystopian government but also reflects the paradox of individual identity within an oppressive regime. On the other hand, this regime created an internal struggle and urge for freedom. Winston's struggle for self-awareness represents a paradox; his quest for truth is simultaneously a rebellion against the Party's enforced conformity. The protagonist's journey illustrates the tension between personal identity and societal oppression, as he grapples with the dual consciousness imposed by the regime. This answers the research question related to Hayek's theories and critics regarding the need of freedom in societies or else the society won't be functioning and this might arise the urge for violent and rebellious activities.

Moreover, regarding the second research question, the dystopian regime in Orwell's "1984", even if it is fictional, it is

relevant to real regimes that continues to our present time in different forms and actions. Orwell's use of irony not only critiques political systems but also engages with literary conventions, challenging the reader's expectations of character development and narrative progression. While Orwell's "1984" presents a grim view of irony and paradox as tools of oppression, it also invites readers to consider the resilience of the human spirit. The protagonist's struggle for truth and individuality, despite overwhelming odds, suggests a glimmer of hope amidst despair. Similarly, this narrative excites the inner need of human freedom and urge to gain rights and face totalitarian regimes. Relatively, this supports Hayek's arguments in *The Road to Serfdom* (1944) and Orwell's mid-late 1940s are usually viewed as having provided very similar assessments of oppressive regimes. It should be mentioned that Hayek stressed that such regimes don't last as they drive people to form secret communities and rebel in the face of this system. That is how the use of paradoxes, metaphor, irony and symbolism in George Orwell's "1984" become relevant to Hayek's rejected system; as the pre-mentioned devices are tools to manipulate the thoughts and the will of the mass. For instance, the regime enforces universal mobilization, compelling citizens to participate in war efforts, which reinforces loyalty and suppresses dissent. In addition, Orwell

viewed war as a necessary political tool, arguing against pacifism and emphasizing the strategic dimensions of warfare in achieving political ends (Stone, 2017). While in reality, Orwell's depiction of war as a means to achieve peace highlights the manipulative tactics of authoritarian regimes, it also raises questions about the ethical implications of such strategies. The tension between the necessity of war for political stability and the moral costs of such a stance remains a critical area of debate in contemporary political discourse.

Finally, the mechanisms of control depicted in "1984" resonate with contemporary concerns about erosion of personal freedom explained in the discussions of intertextuality, such as Stalin's, Plato's, and Kafka's. The most evident intertextuality in "1984", the omnipresence of telescreens which is a sign of the controlling means of social media today used by governments corporations to collect personal data without any consent. In addition, the party truth is subjective and based on fake historical records which reflect similar campaigns adopted on social media today especially in political content. Moreover, the struggle for identity and self-expression through different procedures of COVID is a reflection of Orwell's regime and the warnings of Hayek.

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