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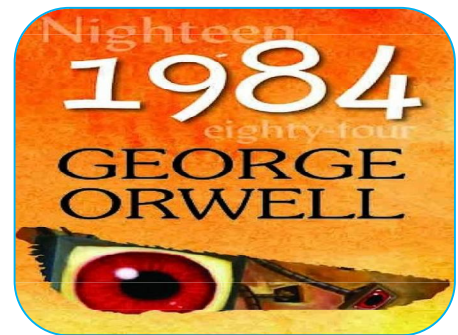
PSYCHOLOGICAL MANIPULATION IN ORWELL'S DYSTOPIAN NOVEL 1984 AND INDIAN DEMOCRACY

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ABSTRACT-

Dystopia is an imaginary state where nothing but anarchy and hopelessness prevails. It is anonymous to Utopia, an ideal state where everything is in order and ideal. The novel "1984" presents to us with a dystopian world, and shows how the psyche and thoughts of the public are manipulated. This paper aims to explore to make out that how a state by controlling the thought power and language of people can crush their freedom. In this 21st century when man aspires for freedom of expression and uses technology for their aid, how their voice is suppressed and choked by the mean of the use of that same technology. The public' subconscious mind is controlled by the use of these technologies; they are controlled and made to follow what the government wants from them even without their knowledge and awareness. In the present time, most of the nations or states which are democratic politically, by controlling the public's mind are turning into a dystopian world, a totalitarian state like Oceania. This paper, by and large, focuses on Indian democracy and its current circumstances in comparison with the dystopian world in the novel "1984".



KEYWORDS: dystopia, language, psyche, subconscious, freedom, democracy, utopia, autocracy.

INTRODUCTION

Utopia a book written by Sir Thomas More, in 1516 is an imaginary place or state in which everything is perfect and ideal. But six centuries later, several authors have written about an imaginary world that is quite opposite to Utopia, which is full of anarchy and uncertainty, where everything is in disorder and improper, an imagined state or society in which there is 'great suffering or injustice, typically one that is totalitarian or post-apocalyptic'. Among these many books, one is "**1984**", a novel written in 1949 by George Orwell. It is a satirical work written after the First and Second World Wars that left so many dirty scars on the face of humanity, so many deep wound on the heart of kindness and generosity. After Second World War many nations got freedom and adopted democracy as an ideal way to serve their motherlands. But as we entered this 21 century we realize that these novels, though they are imaginary, are taking the shape of reality, they are coming to life as if a dream comes to life. It might be said that the imagination of Orwell was a prophecy or forecast.

In the novel **1984** Orwell creates a dystopian world. Dystopia is an imaginary place contrary to utopia. 'Utopia' is an ideal place where everything is ordered. It can be said that it likens to a democratic state where you have the freedom to express and think. Democracy is a place or "a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives." Democracy gives the citizens the right to speak and express their thought against the

government without being afraid. It is contrary to autocracy, dictatorship, or a totalitarian system in which all the powers are rooted within one person; the public has no right to go against the will of the autocrat or the dictator. Orwell's *1984* presents a totalitarian state of Oceania. In the novel, Orwell introduces a story of betrayal and psychological dread. In any autocracy, people are psychologically controlled and manipulated so that they can easily accept and agree to the whimsies of the autocrat. This paper endeavors to present the psychological impact and hammering of freedom in the autocratic state of *1984* and compares it to present Indian democratic situations.

Manipulations of the psyche- In a dystopian or totalitarian state the freedom of the citizens are snatched, their mouths are sewed and a full stop is placed on them. The public is brainwashed and disabled to think anything except what the ruler wants. For this purpose, they choose language as a weapon that can easily penetrate the mind of the naive public. In the novel *1984* Oceania, a state is under the control of the party and Big Brother. They keep a whole control over the psyche of the citizens of Oceania for this they create a language of their own called '**Newspeak**'.

Roger Bacon said once "Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom". We know that Language is a key to molding one's thoughts and deeds. If it is left unhindered, it can help people expand their philosophy but if it is constrained it impacts greatly by hindering the development of new ideas and information. George Orwell here in the dystopian novel *1984* very meticulously presents the role of language and its psychological impact on the human mind. We see the party fabricates a language called **Newspeak**. This is a state governed by BIG BROTHER, an imaginary figure seen by none but whose terror runs through the veins of the public. Oceania is a totalitarian state or a dystopian place. Here people cannot think and do according to their own will or against the will of BIG BROTHER. They need to think and express themselves in the only language of **Newspeak**. If someone speaks and expresses his ideas that are not in favor of the party rules he or she must be punished savagely and brutally.

To keep control of the mind of the public the state of Oceania creates a psychological trap for which they craft a language **Newspeak** and the public has no option but to use the same language. There is an old saying that we become what we speak and think. The citizens of Oceania speak the same language. Thus a vast psychological trap is forged to keep the mind of people under control consequently they cannot protest or rebel. It creates a gyratory situation. The more the public uses the language the more it is trapped in this psychological trap.

In this state of Oceania on every corner or at every place big posters of Big Brother are placed inscribed with the slogan 'BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU' that instills a terror in the psyche of the citizens and made them think that they are constantly under surveillance of the great autocratic power. They brainwash the mind of the citizens. According to Sigmund Freud, the human brain is divided into three parts Id, Ego, and Superego. 'Id' is the unconscious power of the mind which has a sub-conscious power too that works unintentionally. This part of the mind unknowingly accepts external knowledge and works accordingly. Consequently, **Newspeak** the language of Oceania that people use in their daily life compels them to think according to the party. The party uses it intentionally as a weapon to have control of the psyche of the public's mind.

The **Newspeak** systematizes a thought that there is nothing wrong in the state but it is an ideal place to live and whatever is happening in the state is for the welfare of the citizens. Their brains are washed and filled with the thought and ideas that the party wants. To keep a hold on people's thoughts and expressions, the serving government proclaims- 'WAR IS PEACE', 'FREEDOM IS SLAVERY', 'IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH" (Orwell, 1954, p. 9). At every place and corner, these three slogans are pasted so that people can see them effortlessly. Again the subconscious mind plays its role very well. The public noticed these slogans inscribed everywhere; which in turn without the citizen's knowledge implanted in them and they began to think and behave according to the party's ideology. Thus the party psychologically controls the public of Oceania.

Winston, the protagonist in the novel becomes the victim in this totalitarian state. He is aware of the party's dictatorship and tries to stand against it secretly. He purchases a diary and writes his views about it in this. He was committing a '**thought crime**,' a punishable offense in the state of Oceania as nobody was allowed to think against the state. He was spied on by the '**thought police**'. Found guilty

of a **thought crime** he was brutally thrashed and punished until he accepted the faith and ideology of the party. Like any other totalitarian state, the state of Oceania does not allow freedom of thought and expression.

Another way to control the psyche of the public is to control the history. A nation or state cannot progress until it knows its history and who do not know history are doomed to repeat it. George Orwell says in the novel "*Who controls the past controls the future, who controls the present controls the past*". A Psychological impact is again created by the Party on the mass population. The party re-writes the past in the present and controls the present's situations according to their own need so that the future could be as such as they wished to be. The party re-writes the past in their own words and changes many incidents. It controls the future by re-writing its past in its own words then transfers that history to the next generation as truth which they accept and believe without any question. Again a psychological game is played with the people of Oceania. History is changed completely in the 'Department Of History'. New books of history are published with **new pasts** or **changed pasts** and the people are made to believe and agree with them because they are psychologically under absolute control of the state of Oceania.

In this imaginary and totalitarian state of Oceania, "FREEDOM IS SLAVERY." A citizen is free only when he is working as a slave or according to the wishes of Big Brother. Freedom is only in slavery. The citizens are not allowed to think or speak. They must remain like slaves. The question of asking about rights is not allowed. People are completely and constantly under the watch of BIG BROTHER as there are posters pasted on the wall everywhere inscribed with "BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU". For the public of Oceania, "IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH". The public is made to believe that it is powerful until it is ignorant of any fact about the state of Oceania. In this totalitarian state, every freedom is banned completely.

India the largest sub-continent in South Asia is addressed as the mother of democracy or the temple of democracy. The nation fought against British rule almost for 200 years and got freedom in 1947. Before freedom, the condition of the country was worst. The British ruled over India like Big Brother and made it almost a dystopian country, no freedom of speech and expression was permitted. Even they censored the press. The British treated the native people as mere puppets who were just born to serve them and assaulted the public brutally. Forget about the fundamental rights, they could only be found in dreams but not in a dystrophic world. But after great struggle, we got freedom on 15 August 1947, and under the supervision of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar the Constitution Draft Committee prepared our constitution. The largest constitution in the world came into force on 26 January 1950 since then India is a republic nation. This Constitution of India guarantees civil liberties to the citizen of India and provides us with the **Fundamental Rights** enshrined in part III (Article 12-32). 'These include individual rights common to most liberal democracies, such as equality before the law, freedom of speech and expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, freedom to practice religion and the right to constitutional remedies for the protection of civil rights using writs such as habeas corpus'.

The six fundamental rights are:^[1]

1. Right to equality (Article 14–18)
2. Right to freedom (Article 19–22)
3. Right against exploitation (Article 23–24)
4. Right to freedom of religion (Article 25–28)
5. Cultural and educational rights (Article 29–30)
6. Right to constitutional remedies (Article 32)

But the situations are shifting very swiftly in this democratic country. After years of our independence now it seems that we are forgetting our past or history. In a democratic nation, strong opposition is obligatory. But what if it is finished or does only one party wants to rule the nation? Some political figures are turning into BIG BROTHER which is dreadful.

One party one nation formula is adopted and for this purpose, many attempts are being made. In Oceania, Big Brother has full control over all the systems and media. Similarly, in the present time in India, the whole media except some independent units is in absolute control of the government. These media channels show the face of a special figure all day and night, they create an invented image for the public to admit it easily. It is an easy and direct way to intrude into the subconscious mind of the public. For what we see what we think, and what we think we internalize it effortlessly. The electronic devices, their network, and what the public must see on these devices all are controlled by the party's government as if it is the state of Oceania. Alike Big Brother the government has made some laws to keep our devices under complete surveillance. In the state of Oceania at every place only a single face is visible and that is of Big Brother likewise in India we only see one face of the leader of the nation at every place and corner; Whether on social media or print media, we witness only one face which unknowingly impacts our subconscious mind and tries to convince us by his emotional speeches that the government is working for the welfare of the public. It is a different thing that these schemes may be good or bad for the public or in public's view but if the Party and Big Brother think that these schemes like Demonetization and Lockdown are good for the public they must be accepted as good; it means that we must accept their views without criticizing them and should not protest against them.

After all these efforts if some intellectuals remain emotionally untouched, and they keep questioning some bad policies like Demonetization and Lockdown they are arrested and put behind bars because they dared to speak against the mind and policies of Big Brother. If something is not according to the wishes of Big Brother of India he or she must be ready to face the consequences; they are arrested or charged with many allegations. Several incidents indicate that India though a democratic country is heading towards a dystopian or totalitarian world. Restrain the freedom of the press, speech, or expression of the public and you are near to achieving the goal of a totalitarian state.

The 2022 edition of the World Press Freedom Index has been published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) assessing the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories has highlighted the catastrophic effects of news and information bedlam and the effect of loose online information space that encourages fake news and propaganda. World Press Freedom Index 2022 India Rank declares that "India's rank has plummeted to 150 from 142 on the index last year". In 2021, India was termed as one of the most unsafe countries for journalists trying to do their jobs properly and counted as among the countries which are classified as bad for journalism. However, in 2022, the country's press freedom rank index indicates the deteriorating situation of the press in the country.

In India, several press reports have been assaulted for trying to bring the truth before the public. A press reporter Sunray Rana has been arrested because he questioned the development of the nation from the party's minister. Kerala's Siddique Kappan, a reporter, arrested who wanted to cover the Hathras case, Alt news co-founder Mohammed Zubair has been arrested for a tweet, posting an image hurting religious sentiments from a 1983 film; a Kashmiri journalist has been arrested for reporting under UAPA. NDTV underwent many CBI raids for showing the truth and questioning the government. The tax department raided multiple premises of media group Dainik Bhaskar when it wanted to find the real death toll because of the Covid-19 pandemic. BBC's New Delhi office has been raided by the income tax department for organizing a documentary on the Godhara incident in Gujarat that took place in 2002 and this was discussed the world over as to what is happening to press freedom. India invoked an emergency law to ban BBC's Modi documentary. According to International Press Institute, 20 journalists were arrested between April and September 2022. According to UNESCO Global Impunity Index Observatory 45 Indian journalists were killed from 2010-2022. Questions, slogans, or posters will invite notice, FIR, or jail in India. Before killing democracy, journalism has to die.

Newspaper and TV channels can be stopped by decreasing Ads or licensing but Digital Media was soaring high therefore Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code 2021 was introduced so that any content can be taken down on ground of national security and public order and for this no court permission needed. A press information bureau Fact Check Unit is established to control social media news so that the Government can decide the truth now.

Then it is worth asking if the freedom of speech is in danger. According to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, "press has no special rights which cannot be exercised by a citizen in his individual capacity. They are citizens when they write and are merely exercising their right of expression." We have seen recently the headlines of the New York Time, an international newspaper that claims "Modi's final assault on press freedom has begun", it is said In the article that the country's Press freedom is worsening and questioned whether it is a coincidence or deliberate. When a media organization is too keen on asking questions, they are put under pressure why? But the Government does not agree to the world press freedom index ranking and this international news.' Is this the end of press freedom?

The party follows only one ideology of Hindutava and that is quite opposite to the ideology of democracy. In Indian Democracy every citizen has the right to choose a religion but this party make a particular religion propaganda and provokes communal discords to promote only one special religion; it would be easy to lead the follower of a particular faith as they think emotionally not intellectually or it can be said that their mind can be kept under control. As a result, they can be restrained from asking questions. A nation that preferred to be secular with the purpose that all the citizens of it can reside in it with peace and harmony without any discord as a peaceful nation is always a progressive nation is being taken in the wrong direction by creating some ideologies that can easily penetrate in the mind of vulnerable people. The ideology of secularism is being blemished by the party and by Big Brother. Vulnerable and irrational People who are unable to think for themselves are easy prey in an autocratic world. They are first psychologically impacted and controlled and later made to agree to do what an autocrat wants. Such people are brainwashed completely in such a way that they even become ready to kill each other. Thus the nation is slowly heading toward a totalitarian world

Conclusion-The Party controls every aspect of what humans can and can't do. There is no free will. It could not be used in its old sense of 'politically free' or 'intellectually free' since political and intellectual freedom no longer existed even as concepts. (Orwell, 1954, p. 258). Propaganda is exceedingly used as a weapon to contain the thought of the people both in the novel *1984* and in India. The propaganda of Hindutava, Gauhatya, Ram Mandir, and Hindu- Muslim communal discord all are well thought-out to make the vulnerable public believe that there is nothing more important than these issues. Instead of focusing on real issues like education, health, and poverty, the public is diverted to another issue that the party wants. History has been tampered with incessantly and reality is being kept under control. The party is changing the past for instance some chapters of the great Mughals were removed from the NCERT's syllabus. The Indian government is trying to censor each and every aspect of journalism. Orwell demonstrates that "language has the power in politics to mask the truth and mislead the public, and he wishes to increase the awareness of this power" (Berkes, 2000).it seems that India is not India but Oceania and here too a Big Brother is watching you all the time. But still, we have time to check the power of only one party and one ideology that can truly turn the nation into an autocratic nation. For this, we need to understand the truth and the psychological game which the government is playing with us. We should stop India from turning into another Oceania.

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