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The Idea of Big Brother and Its Psychological Impact on Winston in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my generous parents Rahima and Mohamed.

To my supportive sisters Sabah and Sabrina.

To all my friends and colleagues.

To all my teachers

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Abstract

This dissertation, entitled the Idea of Big Brother and its Psychological Impact on Winston Smith (the protagonist) in George Orwell's novel 1984. It is an investigation about Big Brother in the novel and its influence on Winston. Moreover, this research discusses the idea of Big Brother in different domains: Philosophy, Politics, Psychology and Literature. Furthermore, this study aims at recalling different angles of the idea of Big Brother presented in 1984, which prove the presence of Big Brother in a society based on totalitarianism. Hence, this investigation tries to study to what extent Winston is internally affected by Big Brother. To put it in other context, the answer of the major question about this impact is found in the present research, which takes recourse and insights from theories or approaches: the historical, and psychoanalysis approach. As major findings of this research, 1984 comes in manifesting the meaning of the idea of Big Brother when it comes in its definitions in Philosophy, Politics, Psychology and literature. In addition, the novel 1984 illustrates the negative damaging impacts of Big Brother on the protagonist, the physical one or psychological.

Key words: Big Brother, 1984, Psychoanalysis, Totalitarianism, Winston Smith.

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General Introduction

Nineteen Eighty- Four is one of George Orwell's prominent dystopian narrative works. This kind of novel is set in the future. The novel sheds the light on the Party and how does it impose its attitudes upon civilians and how this might come to damage individuality of humans. In addition, the story of 1984 centers about the struggles and the ultimate downfall of the protagonist whose name is Winston and who lives in a hopeless world of the Big brother and the Party. In the novel, the figure Big Brother becomes a term. It is present whenever the state surveils and controls people. This idea of big brother represents leadership, the physical phase of the party and its power while it is not really clear whether Big Brother actually exists or existed within the novel.

Despite the fact that the idea of Big Brother does not exist physically, but a huge propaganda is done to make him famous. Many slogans are said on his behalf and many positive achievements are attributed to him. Amongst those characters in the novel 1984 was Winston Smith, the protagonist who works for the ministry that is responsible for the media and production of propaganda for the government. Thus, the main character is a part of the system against which he would eventually rebel. He realizes at the end of the story that there is not another, not a better, organization possible for mind.

1. Statement of the Problem

This study discusses the idea of Big Brother in different domains such as Philosophy, Politics, Psychology and in Contemporary British Literature. Also, it is going to answer some questions and highlight common phases of the presence of Big Brother in the novel 1984. Furthermore, it demonstrates the focus, which is how this idea of Big Brother has a psychological impact on the protagonist Winston in 1984.

2. Research questions

The study explores these questions:

1. What does the idea of Big Brother represent in as Philosophy, Politics, Psychology and in Contemporary British Literature.

2. What are the different phases of the Big Brother in 1984's novel?

3. What is the psychological impact of the idea of Big Brother on Winston Smith?

3. The Purpose of the Study

This study aims at

1. Shedding light on how the idea of Big Brother has an influence on citizens of Oceania in George Orwell's novel 1984.

2. Finding out to what extent the idea of Big Brother manipulates and controls the life of people and Winston's character in the novel.

3. Examining how the idea of Big Brother treats some of the most futuristic views of Orwell dystopian movement.

4. Help find out if there is a psychological interpretation of the impact of the idea of Big Brother on Winston.

5. Project the presence of the big brother on totalitarian society.

4. Structure of the Study

The framework of the study is divided into two theoretical chapters and one practical chapter. A general introduction that highlight a short background to the main focus, and formulation of the statement of problem. The first chapter contains a general over view of the evolution of the idea of Big Brother. The second chapter is devoted to the idea of the big brother when it is put in its literary context mainly in George Orwell novel 1984. Then, the last chapter will deal with the psychological impact of Big Brother in the life of Winston Smith and how does it bring his downfall. Finally, a general conclusion includes an overview of the major finding and future perspective of the research.

5. Methodology

The research is based on a historical approach, which provides a background about the evolution and the different aspects of the notion of Big Brother. Thus, the psychoanalysis approach is also used to shed light on the psychological impact of Big Brother on the protagonist Winston. Data collection, in addition, will vary from different sources mainly library source and internet.

5. Limitations of the research

This study is limited on the idea of Big Brother and its psychological impact on Winston Smith (major character) in 1984, and it viewed from psychoanalysis perspective. Moreover, using the historical approach is needed to view the evolution of this idea in different domains. On the other hand, Time, lack of resources and Pre-viva are important factors in the achievement of this work.

6. Significance of the Study

The key reasons for doing this research is that idea of Big Brother as an isolated topic is often neglected in scientific research. Many researches is done on Orwell's work 1984, but they do not tackle precisely the notion of Big Brother and its psychological impact on Winston. Orwell uses the term Big Brother to show the threat of totalitarian states in the future. His view about the idea of Big Brother is very interesting because it is a prediction of the unknown. The impact of this idea is largely portrayed in 1984 itself. Moreover, this study gives a contribution in literature knowledge on Orwell's 1984, and knowledge in analyzing a novel through psychoanalytic perspective.

7. Future Prospects

There are two main questions about the novel 1984:

1- What are the conflicts in 1984? What types of conflict (Physical, Moral, Intellectual, or Emotional) are in this novel?

2- Is Winston consistent in his actions? Is he fully developed character? How? Why?

Chapter One:

Literature Review and Theoretical Back Ground

1.1 Introduction

1.2 The Idea of Big Brother

1.2.1 Big Brother in Philosophy

1.2.2 Big Brother in Politics

1.2.3 Big Brother in Psychology

1.2.4 Big Brother in Contemporary British Literature

1.3 Conclusion

1.1 Introduction

This chapter sheds light on the idea of Big Brother and gives an overview about the evolution of this notion. Yet, the historical approach will provide the development and different aspects of the idea of big brother, in various domains: philosophy, politics, psychology and Contemporary British Literature. This chapter focuses on giving numerous definitions of the idea of Big Brother in various fields and exploring different views about this idea.

1.2 The idea of Big Brother

Before providing different interpretations of the idea of Big Brother in such domains: philosophy, politics, psychology and Contemporary British Literature; it is better to define this concept. Big Brother appears first in George Orwell's work 1984. Lister Sumrall states in his book "I predict 1984: is Big Brother Watching You?" that "Big Brother is the dictator and ruler of Oceania, a country that he formulated with its geographical area embracing what is called, Great Britain, Australia, and the Americas (4) . Moreover, he mentions that there were huge and many photographs of a man who is called Big Brother. He was everywhere and his eyes follow the citizen wherever they go. Therefore, people could not escape those staring eyes that followed them. These photographs of Big Brother watch every action they do.

However, in her thesis entitled "Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four and England's Intelligentsia" Wendy Hassler-Forest defines the notion of Big Brother that is a man, but his existence is doubtful because he does not appear. Big Brother controls the lives of members of the party through an elaborate system of surveillance and indoctrination methods. Big Brother is the head of the Party members and the whole government has secured by surveillance, control and constant lies, manipulation of history, facts and events. Big Brother is the leader of this totalitarian state socially and politically (7)

Sabaha Shakury says in her essay entitled “George Orwell’s 1984: The Dangers of totalitarianism” that “Big Brother leads the world of 1984. He is depicted on posters pasted on walls with the caption “Big Brother is Watching You”. The posters represent a fierce attack against privacy. In modern culture, the term "Big Brother" has entered the lexicon as a synonym for abuse of government power, particularly in respect to civil liberties, often specifically related to mass surveillance (220).

This is a general over view about the idea of Big Brother to show what it is. The idea of Big Brother is discussed in different domains and philosophy is one of them.

1.2.1 The idea of Big Brother in philosophy

According to (Merriam Webster) Big Brother is “the leader of an authoritarian statement or movement.” or “an all-powerful government or organization monitoring and directing people’s actions”. In other words, Big Brother is the boss who has the power to control behaviors of people. This latter, becomes a recent invention because Big Brother has a relation to electronic cameras and TV screens. Therefore, cameras and screens are the philosophical view of the modern way of watching people and this interpretation seems logical (HbdW 2009).

Yet, the interpretation of the idea of Big Brother diverges from one critic to another; for instance, Izumi Iwashita indicates in her essay entitled “On George Orwell’s 1984: Sight, Surveillance and Observation” that “Big Brother embodies authority-watching citizens constantly and carefully, and under the totalitarianism of the state, such an environment functions to form a natural prison in which all the citizens are confined from the moment of their birth and throughout their lives” (79). It means that Big Brother is the higher authority in the totalitarian state. He watches in such environment the masses continuously and prudently. He exercises his absolute power over the population. In addition to that, the Oxford English Dictionary defines the concept Big Brother used to signify a person, state,

etc and it has a specific use. It has been around since the nineteenth century, but Orwell is credited with a specific use of the term.

Orwell uses the term Big Brother to signify an imaginative character in the story. Big Brother is emphasised by the over-increasing surveillance and he is omnipotent and infallible, said Roar Hole (07). He adds that Big Brother's infallibility is comparable to God and this idea is philosophical because when you compare something to God, it becomes no logic or sense in the world (20). In fact, his claim is true since 1984 portrays Big Brother as transcendental figure, a visible shadow, a creator, a manipulator, a torturer and a saviour and these features only can implied on the supremacy of God. Consequently, Big Brother is emphasised by his supremacy and omnipresence.

Moreover, James Wong set out in his article the Foucault's implications of the panopticon metaphor in his analysis of modernity in connection with the idea of Big Brother in contemporary culture. He argues that the notion of Big Brother appears to have captured our collective imagination (1).

Furthermore, Michael Yeo interprets "Big Brother" in his essay entitled "Propaganda and Surveillance in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty- Four: Two Sides of the Same Coin" that it tends to be associated with surveillance. However, it is also a piece of propaganda, propagating the belief necessary for panoptic surveillance (55). Surveillance is the state when surveils and control too much and it is a way of limiting people's free will while propaganda is the means used to realise surveillance.

Other discussions about the Idea of Big Brother reveals a parallelism between Big Brother and religion. Orwell says in his novel 1984:

Big Brother is infallible and all-powerful. Every success, every achievement, every victory, every scientific discovery, all knowledge, all wisdom, all happiness, all virtue, are held to issue directly from his

leadership and inspiration. Nobody has ever seen Big Brother. We may be reasonably sure that he will never die, and there is already considerable uncertainty as to when he was born. Big Brother is the guise in which the Party chooses to exhibit itself to the world. His function is to act as a focusing point for love, fear, and reverence, emotions that are more easily felt towards an individual than towards an organization (271).

To clarify, the extent Big Brother parallels to religion in 1984. Big Brother has features that draw the attention to God, for example, he is the head of the state and he never appears in the story. Yet, his physical appearance does not exist, but his control over people is always present. Big Brother is a dominating figure because he sees everything around Oceania. Therefore, the features of Big Brother in the novel can symbolize God because only God who has these features and Big Brother represents God of citizens in Oceania. The Party makes itself so powerful in order citizens of Oceania do not need religion. Instead, the Party has created Big Brother, a God-like figure who demands total obedience from his people.

Samar Sami claims in his article entitled “ A semiotic Analysis of Threat and Warning Symbols in George Orwell’s 1984” according to Saussure’s theory, Big Brother is the signifier, which indicates a nice man who loves and helps his family; the signified of this symbol is a threat since Big Brother symbolizes an open threat that no one can escape his gaze. Therefore, no one can break his rules. Besides, the name itself represents irony since the name of Big Brother should be a kind person but we find the opposite in this novel. The writer describes Big Brother as an ordinary man who lives with his family and interacts with people. On the other hand, Big Brother can be a form of warning about the dangers of totalitarianism (495).

As far as the idea of the Big Brother is discussed in philosophy, it should be given other interpretations in the domain of politics. Therefore, the idea of Big Brother has a political significance in the novel and in Politics.

1.2.2 The idea of Big Brother in Politics

While the idea of Big Brother has an interpretation in philosophy, also it reveals different views in politics. Big Brother is a political thought and it makes an impact on politics. Isaac Deutscher mentions in his essay entitled “1984 – The Mysticism of cruelty”, the most famous terms has entered the political vocabulary is “Big Brother”. It occurs in most newspaper articles and speeches denouncing Russia and communism. He adds that Big Brother is known as the benefactor, the obvious prototype and the ruler over the single state.

Daniel J. Power comments in his article “Big Brother can Watch Us”. Big Brother is a form of warning used by the government to maintain power and control people. The government adopts modern technology to threaten others. This description politically demonstrates that Big Brother is a representative of a dictatorial government in society. He interests to explore visions of totalitarian rule, political surveillance, and political control of dissident and the loss of individual liberty. Other important point about Big Brother is his supremacy in the society. He exercises total control and manages citizen’s lives by watching with cameras and advanced technology (579).

Mark Dice in his book entitled “Big Brother: The Orwellian Nightmare Come True” discussed how the idea of the Big Brother manifested through the implications of technology in actual present and in the near future. This manifestation of Big Brother threatens our life and horrifies the world, especially because technology of now a days is so progressive, low-priced and the watchful eyes of surveillance such as cameras and telescreens are mass-produced (1- 2).

Furthermore, the notion of the Big Brother is explained as “an experiment in governance. It is important to consider the new surveillance context in which documentaries take place. This focuses on the way documentaries are seeing social issues as a means of getting to the personal and emotive.” (Gareth Palmer). Therefore, the term of “Big Brother” is important in the direction of human conduct and control.

In her dissertation, entitled “Adapting totalitarianism: Nineteen Eighty-Four in Film Adaptations” Laura Kouters summarizes the notion of the Big Brother, as the continuous authority by using cameras, microphones and producers to monitor strangers. As well as growing camera surveillance around the world, led to the use of the term Big Brother and it becomes commonly associated with the process of watching and controlling by a powerful and anonymous authority. As a result, the idea of Big Brother in Politics mainly focuses on the course of technology and its development because this latter introduces quick methods of guise (3- 4).

1.2.3 The idea of the Big Brother in psychology

Psychology has been associated with some aspects of the society of Orwell’s novel 1984. Some ideas and concepts are explained in a psychological way, and the writer speaks about the psychological methods used by the government of Big Brother to maintain control over citizens. Therefore, many psychological concepts are included in the book 1984, such as Thought crime, Room 101, Newspeak, Ingsoc and Big Brother.

Big Brother is one of the effective psychological concepts in the novel. Freud’s theory of psychoanalysis can be applied to Orwell’s 1984. According to Freud’s psychological point of view, the idea of Big Brother represents highly advanced civilizations; a higher level of organization develops the production and objectivity of people to better the group as a whole. Big Brother offers people protection. However, persons have to obey the rules of the governing control to avoid delaying its progression. Freud suggests in “Civilization

and Its Discontents” that “civilization is built up upon renunciation of instinct, how much it presupposes precisely the non-satisfaction...of powerful instincts [such as sex and aggression]” (84). In other words, Freud’s conception of civilization demonstrates the idea of Big Brother in George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Here, civilization is the government of Big Brother which orders the subjugation of pleasure, or desire of satisfying instincts, by training individuals to accept what is right, and what is wrong (84). Freud’s theories, the id, ego and super-ego suggests that Big Brother effects human progress as individuals become gradually reliant on it (151). Moreover, the government uses a means to suppress individuals externally and internally and forwards their repressed instincts. Freud debates the impacts that Big Brother has on instincts like sex and violence. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* highlights the limits of Freud’s theories; Big Brother strips persons of their aptitude for pleasure.

The novel illustrates Freud’s views about the capacities of human nature in a civilization; exemplifying his argument, that Big Brother has the control ability to entirely suppress pleasure and kill instinctual human nature. Freud considers Oceania the model of an repressive government of Big Brother. In Oceania, there are conventional means of behaving that are obligatory by its members to stay alive. The party dictates every aspect of its members’ lives. The party prohibits sex, aggression, free thought, and individual expression. Freud explains that the conflicts of instincts can have in stimulating an individual when instincts are suppressed by society. Freud demonstrates this conflict throughout his theories of id, ego, and super-ego.

Freud’s id theory is the primary step of human progress. The id is the offender of instinctual drives and it is where aggression and sexuality originate. For the government in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, the id is everything that is incorrect with persons, and the Party’s objective is to overpower it with the super-ego. The super ego leads us to attempt to act

and live in a socially suitable way, although the id just needs immediate self-satisfaction regardless of what society enforces.

The super-ego commands our sense of right and wrong. The ego is the individual sensation of reality and consciousness. The ego's job is to fulfill the id sufficient for it to subside, while outstanding within the super-ego's limits. Freud explicates that the "super-ego waves the sinful ego with the same feeling of anxiety and is on the watch for opportunities of getting it penalized by the external world" (83). Demonstrating in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, the super-ego is the Party's counter in suppressing the id. Big Brother not only controls the individual super-ego with its rules of what is right and wrong, it also goes a step further in its attempt to catch members committing "thought crimes" (having beliefs that are instinctual or rebellious against the Party).

Through a Freudian's theories, the idea of Big Brother in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is the civilization that embodies in a totalitarian society and its rejection of all instinctual acts, internal desires, independence from society, or any other means of happiness that lies in our nature. Freud says, "The essence of it lies in the fact that the members of the community restrict themselves in their possibilities of satisfaction, whereas the individual knew no such restrictions" (81). This common view on society from Freud and Orwell leads individual to think that Orwell can have been aware of Freud's thoughts when writing 1984.

Big Brother dominates everything in the world of Orwell 1984. His face describes a handsome man about forty-five. He has a heavy and black moustache, he always watches. People never see or listen to Big Brother, but they obey and worship him. Moreover, The Party members must appear similar to Big Brother, which means to wear

blue overalls, to love him and to hate all the enemies that Oceania is at war with Fantasia or Eurasia (Mihăilescu 125).

Following Lacan, Big Brother can be regarded as “the ego in the mirror phase”, its task being that of maintaining a general appearance of coherence and completeness, the more hurting because it is experienced under such bleak conditions. All the citizens of Oceania, or, almost all, can be regarded likewise, as “falsifying egos”, as egos of the mirror phase, because they experience a false experience of their apparent coherence, (living in fear, a sort of mental decomposition). Moreover, their babies are bound to similar images, their identity depending on how they assume their parents’ words (125).

Therefore, Freud and Lacan demonstrate that Big Brother represents the conscious and unconscious in maintaining a general appearance in Oceania through practicing psychological manipulation in different ways.

1.2.4 The idea of the Big Brother in Contemporary British Literature

The main point is that George Orwell’s 1984 particularly deals with the idea of Big Brother. The literature on the notion of “Big Brother” was reviewed for many years ago. Big Brother connotes several meanings. It implies that he is very close to everyone, like a member of the family, without any suspicion attached. Orwell mentions the term “Big Brother” many times in 1984’s novel, and to prove this, there is the catchphrase “Big Brother is Watching You”. This phrase has an influence in the novel.

“Big Brother is Watching You”, the phrase is very common in George Orwell’s novel Nineteen Eighty-four. This phrase is in the third paragraph of the first chapter in the novel, and it is a political slogan written under the picture of Big Brother. His image pictures big eyes that follow you about when you move. Moreover, Big Brother is a political satire in this story and represents the supreme authority of a totalitarian state called “Oceania”, where the “Inner Party” has the higher authority over the people (Literary device).

The idea of Big Brother in the novel exemplifies the government's surveillance of the people with listening devices and cameras. In general, the idea sends a message in the form of propaganda that orders people to follow what the authoritarian government needs them to do. However, Big Brother is a sign that literally appears in the form of threatening and warning posts. Big Brother denotes a dictatorial power scrutinizing into people's lives.

As defined by Izumi Iwashita in her : “ Big Brother, as an omnipresent figure who deeply permeates every person's consciousness by making each one constantly visually assaulted by posters plastered all around the city” (79). That is to say, Big Brother is a representative figure in the novel and there is no matter to any person about his roots because of the repeated falsification of history by officials, including Winston who is a main character in this story. So, when people look at his eyes in the posters “Big Brother is Watching You” they hold the ambiguous features of Big Brother. Although the true nature of Big Brother is unclear, he settles deeply in everyone's unconscious mind, and only Big Brother's eyes work to make his presence and control over citizens secure (79).

Moreover, Sabaha Shakury in turn reinforces the idea of Big Brother in her essay entitled “George Orwell's 1984: The Dangers of totalitarianism” as being the head of the supreme party and the opposing force in 1984. He leads the world of 1984 and he has a hold over every aspect of people's lives. Thus, Big Brother is an extremely important figure. However, he never appears in the novel, and yet he may not actually exist, Big Brother, the apparent ruler of Oceania. This figure used to signify abstract idea, that Big Brother is the extensive government surveillance programmes. Therefore, the face of Big Brother symbolizes the Party in its public manifestation. He is known by his ability to protect people, but he is also an open threat in the society of 1984(220).

Eluise Lavington, then in his article entitled “Big Brother is Watching You” claims that “Big Brother is a fictional character and a symbol in George Orwell's novel Nineteen

Eighty-Four. He is supposedly the leader of Oceania, a totalitarian state where in the ruling party “Ingsoc” wields total power for its own sake over the inhabitants. Besides to that, the party threatens citizens by the reminded slogan “Big Brother is watching you”. For that reason, they do not even think to rebel against Big Brother (36).

On the other hand, and according to Niclas Olsson:

Big Brother is infallible and all-powerful. Every success, every achievement, every victory, every scientific discovery, all knowledge, all wisdom, all happiness, all virtue, are held to issue directly from his leadership and inspiration. Nobody has ever seen Big Brother. He is a face on the hoardings, a voice on the telescreen. We may be reasonably sure that he will never die (20).

This reveals how much the leadership of Big Brother is powerfully functioning in the government and society. All the accomplishments exist in the society refers to Big Brother. He is a figurehead who functions as a front to the party and people are instructed to love him. Despite of people’s ignorance of Big Brother actual where about, they still believe all good stems from his leadership and inspiration

According to Mark Dice in his book “Big Brother: The Orwellian Nightmare Come True”, Big Brother is a name given to a fictional man who supposedly runs different affairs and gives orders to members of the Inner Party. His physical appearance exists through the pictures plastered in every street. His face is handsome, and he is in mid-forties, with dark eyes and mustache. Big Brother’s face personifies the Party and gives it the appearance and sense of being human. Orwell explains that “Big Brother” is the guise in which the Party exposes itself to the world (243).

To add more in this concern, the idea of Big Brother is a nightmare representation of totalitarian political power leaded by unknown man. This power provided by the pleasure

of cruelty and domination of the world 1984. It means that Big Brother works and needs to make people suffer in their lives in order to experience and affirm its power. Furthermore, Big Brother represents as an impersonal and invincible bureaucratic machine, and no one able to defeat his total and absolute power. Therefore, we can argue that idea Big brother is the embodiment of extensive power of a totalitarian state in Orwell's novel 1984, but it represented only through an imaginative character (Brigid Rooney 79).

1.3 Conclusion

This dissertation tends to analyze the psychological impact of the idea of Big Brother on Winston. Thus, such clarification about the idea of Big Brother in different domains is required in order to go further with the analysis. We understand that the concept « Big Brother » differs in its meaning in philosophy, politics, psychology and literature. However, Big Brother in the literary context represents a figure, a symbol, or an abstract idea that has power to control and govern the country. Understanding the nature of the idea of Big Brother shows the meaning of the novel 1984 itself.

Chapter two:

The Idea of Big Brother in the novel 1984

2.1 Introduction

2.2 The Importance of Big Brother in 1984

2.3 Phases of the Presence of Big Brother in 1984

2.3.1 Propaganda

2.3.2 Manipulation

2.3.3 Totalitarianism

2.4 The Abstract Manifestation of Big Brother

2.4.1 The Abstract Picture of the Big Brother

2.4.2 Physical Governmental Control

2.4.3 Ministries

2.5 Conclusion

2.1 Introduction

The central idea in this chapter is about the idea of Big Brother in George Orwell 1984. The importance of Big Brother based on his centrality in the society of 1984. It represents the absolute government in the country. Moreover, the term Big Brother has a political dimension and clearly manifests in the novel. Therefore, it focuses on the way of domination and control of people. In addition, there are different phases of the presence of Big Brother, which shows his conduct. Propaganda, Totalitarianism and Manipulation are the dangerous phases of Big Brother; they allow the cruel government to monitor its citizens. Furthermore, the representation of abstract manifestation of Big Brother exists in 1984 throughout the Abstract Picture of Big Brother, the Physical Governmental Control and Ministries. Therefore, these details needed to explore deeply the influence of the idea of Big Brother inside Orwell's society 1984.

2.2 The importance of the Idea of Big Brother in 1984

Orwell's 1984 is the story in which Big Brother is the high leaders of dystopian society. His job is convincing people that he is well cared for by the government. Big Brother is the political dominator who heads the Party and Orwell's world "Oceania". He is the face of the totalitarian and autocratic regime, and the political collective that presides over Orwell's fictional society. The importance of Big Brother is in his centrality in the society of 1984, and his great power that exists in the Inner Party. (Sparknotes On Orwell's 1984).

As stated in Brian Phillips, Boomie Aglietti and John Crowther's book Sparknotes 1984 George Orwell, Big Brother is not always visible in the novel 1984, but he is present throughout the events of the story. He is a character that demands the inhabitants of Oceania to love him. Orwell's use of Big Brother in the novel 1984 is a demonstration of how dictatorial states run by totalitarians. Big Brother is the higher authority of the

country, and people respect, love Big Brother more than their families. They always defend him against the enemy. Besides to that, Big Brother plays the most important personality in the novel because he is shown to be “larger than life, and his dead is impossible. The party brought the character of Big Brother into life. Big Brother is present as the personification of the Party and exists for the authority that the party has. The government makes its decisions in the name of Big Brother and therefore the role of Big Brother is important in the novel (5).

Michaela Padden, moreover says in her essay entitled “Big Brother is Watching You: Panoptic Control in George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four”, Big Brother is a fictional character created by the Party. He is the most elite and powerful in this authoritarian state of Oceania. He exercises complete control over society by creating a new language, destroying history, taking away rights of people. The novel highlights further importance of Big Brother is in destroying any sense of independence and individuality amongst citizens, foreexample all people in Oceania have the same life style, wearing the same blue uniform and eating the same food. Consequently, people become powerless, exploited and they loss the sense of freedom. Big brother is important because he has great power to control all what is happens in Oceania. His power exists in the government and the party, which are responsible to fulfill orders of Big Brother (3).

Finally yet importantly, the importance of the idea of Big Brother contributes in a way or another to the novel 1984. It is the main core to understand the world of 1984 even if it is not clearly apparent in the story, but its big impact is prominent.

2.3 Phases of the Presence of Big Brother

George Orwell and his novel Nineteen Eighty-Four show a terrible image of a world, in which the figurehead Big Brother has an absolute control on every aspect of citizen’s life. In this world of Oceania, Big Brother monitors and manipulates moves, behaviors and

thoughts of masses. His reality in the novel is doubtful, but there are signs and phases justify his presence in the story such as, Propaganda, manipulation and totalitarianism. They embody the powerful appearance and presence of the total authority of Big Brother. They show the different mechanisms of Big Brother in running matters of the state.

2.3.1 Propaganda

Michael Yeo in his dissertation “Propaganda and Surveillance in George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four: Two Sides of the Same Coin” comments that Nineteen Eighty-Four shows all ways of propaganda exists in the totalitarian state of Big Brother. The Party takes propaganda to the extreme limits in its governmental control over public’s speeches, actions and even their thoughts. The party focuses its attention in exploiting every technique, skill and genre of communication. It interests in making huge propagandas about anything that fulfills Big Brother’s interests. In 1984, Propaganda is used in forms of slogans, pictures, TVs and telescreens to send different messages to people. Thus, Big Brother adopts propaganda to warn and threaten anyone wants rebell against the party (49).

The definition of propaganda according to Merriam-Webster dictionary is an idea or statement that is frequently incorrect, fabricated and exaggerated. It spreads in order to support a cause, a political leader, a regime, or an organization. In the context of the novel 1984, a huge propaganda made about Big Brother, and it often serves purposes of the party. In addition Propaganda pictures the presence of Big Brother in 1984. Big Brother controls Oceania and its citizens by adopting different methods like fear, surveillance and propaganda. The party use propaganda to spread a good image about Big Brother. So, various slogans are made to reinforce the supremacy of Big Brother such as; war is peace, freedom is slavery and ignorance is strength. Moreover, facts are fabricated to make people accept whatever party’s reality, and this weakens the individuality of person’s mind and obligates them into a continuous state of propaganda.

In her article entitled “all Propaganda is Dangerous, but some are More Dangerous than Others: George Orwell and the Use of Literature as Propaganda” Samantha Senn claims about the dystopian novel “Nineteen Eighty-Four”, propaganda helps the government to keep control over citizens. Big Brother itself is the major idea and propaganda the party wants to stable in people’s mind. The party use the slogan “Big Brother is Watching You” to denote the presence of Big Brother You” everywhere in Oceania the very first one, and probably the most important one as well. Asserting the party's omniscient power, as Big Brother becomes a god-like figure, the almighty and the highest authority in the state. Moreover, the saying is used to maintain the public in check by terrifying them with this "scare tactic" and therefore manipulating them further (149).

Nineteen Eighty-Four has been called George Orwell's most violent propaganda. In this novel, he presents his vision of life. Moreover, in Orwell's crazy world, Big Brother’s political propaganda helps to sustain and spread this reversal of values. Ironically, the Oceanians have seen Big Brother--only big picture of him. In fact, Big brother does not exist. He is like the mythical leader that is created by propagandists. His image is projected by the Inner Party to maintain its ruling powers. "Nobody has ever seen Big Brother. He is a face on the hoardings, a voice on the telescreen. We may be reasonably sure that he will never die, and there are no already facts about when he was born. Big Brother is the appearance in which the “Inner Party” chooses to show itself to the world. Propaganda portrays Big Brother as a daity. He is ever-present, all-knowing, and all-powerful in the world of 1984 (Senn 150).

To add more in this concern, the governor party keeps people under constant surveillance by using telescreens in every home as a means of propaganda. Therefore, people has no privacy or freedom out with what Big Brother decides to afford them .Big Brother is forever reminding his people of his presence via simple but effective

propaganda. Since the creation of Big Brother by George Orwell, the name has become a symbol for oppression, especially the type in which personal freedom is removed via surveillance and whenever a government is seen as abusing its power, it is often labelled a "Big Brother" state. So, propaganda is heavily used as one of the ways the government oppresses the populous (Senn 151).

The ruling party produces propaganda to promote Big Brother and to control its citizens in '1984,' a novel by George Orwell. The Party ensures that the citizens' minds are filled with propaganda and confusion so that thoughts of rebellion cannot be sustained. Propaganda and forever rewriting the past to serve the present and the future, is presented as information and news in 1984. If Big Brother says it, it must be true.

Muhannad Rushdi Nimer Sabha identify in his article entitled, " A Relationship Among The Past, The Present And The Future Scenario: A Critical Study Of George Orwell's 1984" that Big Brother is present through the massive telescreen in every room a blazes a stable stream of propaganda planned as an evidence for the failures and shortcomings of the Party as glorified achievements. The Party not only controls their minds, but also their bodies. It keeps a strict vigilance over every outlet of information and employs complicated mechanisms. The omnipresent telescreens are the most obvious symbol of the Party's continuous control over its subjects. They also reflect how totalitarian government makes misuse of technology for its selfish interests without paying any attention to develop civilization (193).

To conclude, whether Big Brother physically exists or not is never fully established. It seems certain that he does not, that he is a fabrication of the Party's propagandists, which also proves the presence of Big Brother as propaganda in 1984. Propaganda is a powerful tool that significantly supports the presence of the idea of Big Brother.

2.3.2 Manipulation

Big Brother is also current in the novel through the manipulation, Hossain Md. Mozaffar mentions in his article entitled “Language As The Device For Psychological Manipulation in George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four: A Psycholinguistic Analysis”. In 1984, by the use of psychological manipulation, the party widely is able to direct and control their citizens. The objective is to keep people constantly watched; this manipulation retains them from challenging the power of government. Psychological manipulation is a way of influence, which aims to change the view and behavior of others through means of deceptive and offensive tactics. Within a dystopian society, these policies are mostly used to convince citizens into trusting any information said to them by the government (1).

In the novel 1984, written by George Orwell, Oceania’s government practices psychological manipulation in order to influence individuals to become compliant towards the party, and reinforcing their reign. Big Brother is the illustration of how psychological manipulation was used in 1984. Orwell states, “The poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures, which are so contrived that the eyes follow you about when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption beneath it ran” (3). Orwell means that Big Brother will always be watching anyone in every moment and no matter where you are, because he sees everything surround the country.

Newspeak is a method of psychological manipulation that used by the regime of Big Brother. Newspeak is an exceptional language formed by the Party with the purpose of reducing the chances of revolt. Each period newspeak was used that influenced an idea of rebellion, it was at that time reduced from the vocabulary, as if it had never be existent. Newspeak is the only language in the world that rises lesser and smaller. It is created a language where it is difficult to think about rebellion. In addition, there is what is called the Falsification or fabrication of Records. The Party’s slogan of monitoring records reveals devices of controlling history and past by altering records. The control of the past

permits control of the future because the past can be seen as a demarcation of the nation's future aims (11).

People are always retold about the terrible past of the state before they had been liberated by the Party. Because individuals are not allowed to have any archives of the past, they are enforced to trust almost any facts suggested to them. Therefore, viewing the Party's use of psychological manipulation to further reinforce their reign.

Angel Galdon Rodriguez explains in her thesis "George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four as an Influence on popular Culture Works- V for Vendetta and 2024- : Summary of Results" that Manipulation manifests in the novel throughout "Hate Moments". It is two Minutes Hate that usually done by all Party members in every day. In this Occasion members are required to shout and express emotions of hate towards enemies of the party. This is the reason of "Two Minutes Hate". Its purpose is to turn away the early hatred of persons towards Big Brother and transfers it towards the Party's enemies. This psychological manipulation takes away all feelings of hatred towards the Party. Thus, manipulation is largely prominent in the novel 1984 and it diverges from one practice to another. Manipulation in Media, history and propaganda. The party controls media to attribute to Big Brother actual or untrue successes; moreover, all records that can show a failure affected by the totalitarian government are transformed. Citizens also are always getting propaganda that gives way to a continuous brainwash to retain the population faithful to the party (27).

To conclude, Big Brother manipulates all people of Oceania by instilling fear and hate in them despite the fact that offering them protection. This technique of manipulation produces a respect towards Big Brother as the Party members look to him as their heroic leader and protector. Therefore, the presence of Big Brother is reflected in this image of manipulation.

2.3.3 Totalitarianism

Totalitarianism represents the world of Big Brother in Orwell's 1984. Big Brother is the leader of Totalitarian state "Oceania". Thus, totalitarianism is the whole system of government, which controls every aspect of daily life. Big Brother controls what you do, think, eat, and even feel. Big Brother controls everything; information, history, physical, and psychological needs. Therefore, totalitarianism is that larger phase which reflects the horrible image of Big Brother.

The Novel 1984 depicts darkness and a disorder in a totalitarian society that is found for the sake of its governor "Big Brother". Totalitarianism represents the dangerous phase of Big Brother in Orwell's 1984. totalitarianism embodies all forms of oppression and cruelty over individuals.

In this sense, In this sense Robert Owens, Wilton E. Hall, Jr., and William A Miles, Jr. in their adaption of George Orwell's *1984* view Orwell's novel 1984 as a strong threatening against totalitarian danger. Robert also considers in this concern that Orwell images a post-atomic totalitarianism by which individuals would be influenced continuously by means of telescreen (Roberts 54). Besides, it is apparently conveyed that Orwell is concerned by the oppressions that here marked in the communist states in general and concerned in precisely by technology as a means of control. It has a dangerous role since it allows the cruel government to control its citizens.

Hence, totalitarianism as claimed by Robert Owens *et al*, is a concept used to define a political and governmental system where people and private aspects of life are structured. The term is frequently applied to communist states, such as Stalinist Russia. As a consequence, it is identified by them that totalitarian movements retain themselves in political power by first, means of an official embracing ideology. The second, the flow of propaganda through the mass media that is organized by these regimes. In addition to a

particular party that controls the state, the culture, economy, rules and restriction of freedom of expression, and the usage of mass media as means of surveillance. The totalitarian movements throw light on some uncomfortable principles of human nature and of social life. In fact, their claims are factual since *1984* actually portrays to what the extent a state and its individuals are monitored (Owens *et al* 55).

Nineteen Eighty-Four is an important novel because it makes sounds against the abusive nature of dictatorial governments as Owens *et al.* stated it. The power of psychology and the ways that language and history can be manipulated as mechanisms of control of totalitarianism. As *1984* novel progresses, indeed, data and history are controlled in a way that the party as a matter of fact rewrites the content of histories for its own objective. Its citizens are not allowable to keep record of their past, such as documents and as memories are kept as unreliable and the party itself is the only reliable source. By controlling the present, the past becomes consequently that party can use it like a means of manipulation, and letting it to defend whatever actions in the present.

Besides to that, totalitarianism is the phase and an ideology government's system lead by Big Brother, in which all social, political, economic, intellectual, cultural and spiritual activities are subordinated to the purpose of the rulers of the state. Several important features distinguish totalitarianism, a form of dictatorship, absolutism, authoritarianism, and tyranny. Therefore, Big Brother represents the totalitarian government of Oceania, which is controlled by the Party and therefore synonymous with it. Totalitarianism is one coin of the distinctive phases of Big Brother in the novel *1984*. Totalitarianism uses a number of techniques to make its citizens too visible (Rushdi 193).

Totalitarianism, according to Laura Kouters consists of "an ideology, a single party typically led by one man, a terroristic police, a communications monopoly, a weapons monopoly, and a centrally directed economy". The ideology in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is

centered on controlling the perfect society Oceania, the government is called “Ingsoc”, who are in endless war with Eurasia and Eastasia. Ingsoc means English socialism, is the sole party and is represented by only one man, known as Big Brother (6).

According to Otakar Svitavský, explicates in his thesis entitled “Post-war England: Alienation and Totalitarian Threat in the Work of George Orwell and Pink Floyd”, Totalitarianism is a concept of many meanings. Totalitarianism is defined as “an absolute control by the state or a governing branch of a highly centralized institution.” Totalitarianism in George Orwell's *1984*, as well as all of Oceania, is under the continued oppression of the party and Big Brother (8).

In addition, the features of totalitarianisms in the novel manifests through the worship of Big Brother, a bodily absent figure, but exists in every event and object of daily life. Totalitarianism is a centralized system of government that requires whole subservience to the state. Other point is that *1984* can be read as a general attack on totalitarian government and its constant control over citizens. In the novel, many aspects manifest of the uses of totalitarian power to maintain power. the political allegory and the techniques described in the novel most readily suggest the social and political structure and the methods of domination actually engaged by Soviet communism during the Stalin era. Moreover, Orwell himself invites reading *1984* as a critique of Stalinism because the political leader of his projected society, Big Brother, is showed on Stalin (Svitavský 10).

To conclude, *1984* discusses the dangers of totalitarianism in Orwell's society. Totalitarianism is the danger embodied in the idea of Big Brother and it is a vision or phase of the use of power by Big Brother.

2.4 The Abstract Manifestation of Big Brother

The idea of Big Brother takes different forms of abstract manifestation in the novel *1984*. These manifestations shows the real physical embodiment of Big Brother in the

society of Orwell. Generally, the abstract manifestation of Big Brother seems political in terms of the structure of government and the way of using power to monitor people. In addition, the abstract picture of Big Brother holds different meaning

2.4.1 The Abstract Picture of Big Brother

George Orwell justifies the abstract manifestation of Big Brother through the famous picture that papers all the streets of Oceania. Big Brother is never seen by any one, his image is everywhere in Oceania, on posters, telescreens, even on the front pages of the children book. He is more pictured as a god-like figure. The picture of Big Brother describes a handsome face, with dark eyes, a mustache and in his mid-forties. Moreover, under the picture of Big Brother, there is the slogan “Big Brother is Watching You” .The picture is used to represent a large and more abstract idea; it is the symbolic face of the party its public manifestation in the actual book, as well as an overall symbol for readers of totalitarian governments and their dangers. It is “one of those pictures so contrived that the eyes follow you about when you move.” (Shmoop Editorial Team, 2008) The use of the picture as an object to represent a bigger idea that is the threat of Big Brother and since it always present and watch the citizens of Oceania, it is ironically proves that Big Brother physically is existed because the posters plastered with his face have a huge influence on the people (Shmoop Editorial Team, 2008)

Therefore, the picture and its slogan “Big Brother is watching you” are constant reminder that Big Brother is constantly watching the people of Oceania.

2.4.2 Physical Governmental Control

Physical Governmental Control is one minor ration of the abstract manifestation of Big Brother’s control over individuals in Oceania. Physical control is uttered through the obligatory training times with physical Jerks, the long poster deadliness days of work, and the continual state of exhaustion. There is also the physical exclusion of anyone supposed

of thinking of being unfaithful to the party and their judgment to The Ministry of Love., the idea of physical control develops fully when the main character “Winston” is subjected to physical torture until he breaks and agrees with all the party says.

In addition, the Party not only manipulates minds of people, It also controls frames and matters of the government, The Party continuously watches for any sign of disloyalty, to the point that, “as Winston observes, even a tiny facial twitch could lead to an arrest. A person’s own nervous system becomes his greatest enemy”. The Party forces its members to undergo mass morning exercises called the Physical Jerks, and then to work long, grueling days at government agencies, keeping people in a general state of exhaustion. Anyone who does manage to defy the Party is punished and “reeducated” through systematic and brutal torture. After being subjected to weeks of this intense treatment, Winston himself concludes that nothing is more powerful than physical pain—no emotional loyalty or moral conviction can overcome it. By conditioning the minds of their criminals with physical torture, the Party is able to control reality, convincing its subjects that $2 + 2 = 5$. (Sparknotes)

2.4.3 Ministries

The party creates different ministries in George Orwell’s novel 1984. They are contradictory in nature, and they contain a hidden truth. These ministries represent the abstract manifestation of Big Brother. Thus, Big Brother’s structure of the government consists of four main ministries: Ministry of Truth, Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Love and Ministry of Plenty, and they are the basis of control for the party and Big Brother in Oceania. The names of these institutions are contradictory to the methods they use. Every ministry has a specific task to do, but the main goal of these ministries is to protect the Party and Big Brother and keeping it in power. (Skjorestad 51).

Ministry of truth deals with manipulating data and media. The manipulation of data in the Ministry of Truth is done by the use of a speak write. It is a microphone, which records new data, and former data is filled, thus making the past fit the future.

The second ministry in *1984* is the Ministry of Peace. It also does the opposite of what its title entails. It does not deal with peace at all, but war. It is responsible for keeping the war going. The purpose of war is a war for workers, for slaves. Therefore, the Party in 1984 must convince their people that they are really fighting an actual war. If people had found out that war is certainly nothing else than prestige and status quo, they would revolt. (53)

The third ministry is Ministry of Love. The Ministry of Love does exactly the opposite of what its title entails. The main purpose is to avoid any kind of deep relationships between individuals to happen. The individual has no place in totalitarian rule, Arendt argues that it is true for the society in *1984* as well. The Party trains children to spy and deceive their parents, the Party teaches girls to not enjoy sex. The Party is responsible for producing dirty magazines to be delivered to the prole area. As an example from the novel, the character of Winston has a romantic and meaningful affair with a woman named Julia. She works for this ministry. The Ministry of Love makes traps for people as Winston and Julia do. Sex as a mechanic act is not considered threatening to the Party, when Winston realises he loves Julia, their relationship is not, simply physical and he no longer work for the benefit of the greater good, but for his own. That is something the Ministry of Love cannot accept (429)

The fourth ministry in 1984 is the Ministry of Plenty. It is responsible for economic affairs and does the opposite of what its title entails. It deals with starvation, but also the manipulation of the truth.

To conclude, the government involves four ministries; the Ministry of Peace is concerned with the continuous wars. The Ministry of Plenty controls the food and goods rations. The Ministry of Truth is responsible for rewriting history, whereas The Ministry of Love takes care of monitoring, striking and torturing people. The noticeable thing about the four ministries, is their titles, which is ironic, since they represent the whole opposite of their real functions.

2.5 Conclusion

After highlighting the importance of Big Brother in the novel 1984, Big Brother aims to maintain control over citizens of Oceania. This is Highlighted by projecting the presence of the Big Brother on totalitarian society, which exemplified by the propaganda, manipulation and totalitarianism. They are unique phases that show the real image of Big Brother and identify the exercises of absolute power practiced by the party.

Chapter three :

The Psychological Impact of the Idea of Big Brother on Winston in 1984

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Big Brother's Power over Oceania's Minds

3.3 Psychological Fear

3.4 Suppression of Desires

3.5 No Autonomy – No Privacy- No Individualism in 1984

3.6 Linguistic Repression

3.7 Winston Smith

3.8 Winston Struggle for Freedom

3.9 The Psychological Impact of the Idea of Big Brother on Winston

3.10 Conclusion

3.1 Introduction

This chapter aims at finding the psychological impact of the idea of Big Brother on the protagonist Winston Smith. Before discussing this point, there are important elements that should be demonstrated, such as Psychological Fear, Suppression of Desires, No Autonomy- No privacy- No individualism and Linguistic Repression. Big Brother uses psychological and oppressive methods over Oceania's citizens in order to control their minds and behaviors. The story is about Winston Smith. He is the main protagonist in the novel. The story of Winston focuses on his relationships and his struggle with Big Brother. Winston hates the totalitarian regime and ideology of Big Brother therefore; he starts to rebel against it. Speaking of the idea of Big Brother and its psychological impact on Winston as an area of focus in 1984, Winston is the individual who refuses to be subordinate to totalitarian norms of Big Brother. His thoughts are always against the practices of the party. Therefore, Big Brother psychologically influences the citizens and specifically Winston's character in 1984.

3.2 Big Brother's Power over Oceania's Minds

In the novel 1984, Big Brother has the absolute power over the society of Oceania. He continuously controls all the aspects of life culture, economy and politics. Big Brother does not focus only on monitoring the system of work but he exceeds to control the citizen's mind. In other words, he is interesting on maintaining control on internal reality of individuals, thoughts and feelings.

To explain more, the party controls thoughts of people through the control of language and thinking. Language is an important means of communication and people interpret their thoughts through words and vocabulary. Thus, Big Brother can manipulate even the language that people use, and this ability is in the form of reducing certain words and narrowing down vocabulary.

Moreover, the party wants to eliminate thought and consciousness altogether and turn people into mental slaves of the regime. This method of thought control is called “Newspeak”. It is a new language created by the party to control individual’s thoughts (Forest10).

Furthermore, throughout the novel Orwell introduces another method or device of the party’s mind control over citizens. It is the concept of doublethink, and it is an important effect of the party’s psychological and mental manipulation. Double thinking is an idea that breaks down the ability of individuals for independent thought. Simply, it is the ability of holding two contradictory opinions at the same time by the same person. People in the society of 1984 should accept and believe all things that the party tells them; that is to say that the party teaches its citizens the signs of the totalitarian government. These signs are not hidden and the people both accept totalitarianism and deny it at the same time. In the same way, people are able to accept the three government slogans, though they contradict their function: War is peace, Liberty is slavery and Ignorance is strength (Forest 11).

To add more in this concern, the message in 1984 is the idea of Big Brother’s power over human thought that manifests itself in the language of Newspeak and Doublethink. Orwell sheds the light on language as a controlling force to human thought because it diminishes the ideas that people are able of expressing. Therefore, Big Brother largely exercises his power to control individual’s minds by using complicated tools, Newspeak and Doublethink.

3.3 Psychological Fear

George Orwell depicts the subject of fear in his novel 1984, showing that fear is a true reality that anyone can face in life. In this concern, Fear is a tool that the party uses for the manipulation of people in Oceania. People fear the laws of Big Brother, they become obedient, and fearing the results of breaking the rules and being punished. Through the

method of fear, Big Brother aims to control every aspect of citizen's life, and he imposes harsh punishment if they oppose him. Therefore, fear is an important way that allows the party to manipulate psychologically the people from rebellion against it.

As stated in Ales Kozel thesis entitled "Characters in Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four and Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451", the party gathers information in order to find out what person fears the most. This technique enables the thought police to reduce person's individuality. Other procedures used by the party to frighten anyone who opposes it, is the "macabre cell 101", which represents the final stage where people are forced to confront their worst fear. In the novel, Orwell illustrates fear on the main character called Winston, who will be forced to confront his worst fear. Therefore, Winston's fear is rats, and the thought police prepares a cage full of rats and obliged him to put his head in the cage, they allows the rats to eat his face. The idea of Big Brother is appropriate to keep people living in a state of fear (14).

3.4 Suppression of Desires

George Orwell's book 1984 paints a picture of a society in which, individual has no freedom, hope, or feeling and all methods of suppression exist. The way in which the party and Big brother suppress human's desires are the killing of sex instinct, destruction of family and deletion of human emotions. The party and Big Brother fear sex because it provokes extreme emotions, and therefore the party aims to destroy the natural emotion of sensual desires. In order to kill this feeling, the government obligates the women to hate sex and in the same time teaches them in a place that sex is their duty to the party to produce children. Orwell mentions that in this quote from his novel "The party was trying to kill the sex instinct, or if it could not be killed, then to distort it and dirty it" (66).

Moreover, Jennifer Tuzzeo in her thesis entitled "Changing our Minds: Dystopian Psychological Conditioning in Nineteen Eighty-Four, Brave New World, and Walden

Two” mentions that the totalitarian government suppresses and dehumanizes people through destruction of family. Because family creates private loyalty, the party should control this social act. Thus, the party succeeds in destroying all feelings and relations between family members. Feeling love towards each other is a dangerous crime in the society of 1984, and people are allowed only to love Big Brother. Furthermore, Big Brother aims to destroy emotions of its citizens, and builds a society based on hate and fear. Love and loyalty are only exceptional towards Big brother and the party. The party easily controlled those people who have no emotions and thoughts (71).

3.5 No Autonomy - No Privacy - No Individualism in 1984

In her dissertation entitled "Orwell's Despair: Nineteen Eighty-four and the Critique of the Teleocratic State", Kenneth McIntyre states that Nineteen Eighty-Four shows the way the totalitarian government of Oceania and its head Big Brother use different plans to make people lose their individuality and independence. Orwell's totalitarian regime seeks absolute subjugation of the individual. Therefore, the individual's opinion has no place in this totalitarian state. In this concern, Orwell's 1984 depicts how autonomy, privacy and individualism are lost in Oceania because the forces of the totalitarian government control every one's life. Citizens of Oceania have the lack of privacy, freedom and autonomy because they are under the control of Big Brother (5).

In his thesis entitled "Nineteen Eighty-Four's Dystopian Vision: Power and the Individual", Roar Hole comments that technology invades people's privacy and even their thoughts in 1984's novel. Big Brother controls people by using technology such as, installing cameras and telescreens in every home and street. These telescreens see and hear almost everything that is going on in a citizen's home. So, people in Oceania feel uncomfortable in their thoughts and homes, they are alienated from each other by the use

of media and trust is does not exist because they are forced to repress their feelings in order to survive in Oceania (1).

In addition, Kathryn MacQuarrie in her essay “Oppression in *1984* and *The Swallows of Kabul*” indicates that every individual has the right to feel autonomous and free in life, but here in the novel privacy and individuality is under the power of Big Brother. In other words, your personal thoughts are not entirely private because the thought police controls even minds. The party wants to kill the people’s sense of self, and truly achieves this goal by altering their language and monitoring their knowledge and thoughts. Thus, with this whole control in Oceania, certainly people lose their freedom and cannot live in such society (4).

3.6 Linguistic Repression

Djedou Atche in his research entitled “Language Planning as a Case of Linguistic Oppression in George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*” states that Orwell describes a world of domination and totalitarianism in revolution. He shows that language is one of the pillars of this revolution, and the party wants to control the language in order to control the society as a whole. The final goal of the revolution is the linguistic oppression of the population and making the language perfect according to the Party’s views. Therefore, Big Brother and the Party focus on language as one of weapons they use to remain in power. The idea is that, Big Brother and his totalitarian state invents a new language, “Newspeak” that determines what people speak, think and feel in reality. People in Oceania are obliged to think and talk in accordance with the party, their thoughts and expressions are under absolute control (4).

In addition, Orwell demonstrates how the totalitarian state of Big Brother oppresses and exploits citizens through language. In fact, the party interests in making “newspeak”, the new language as an ideology and it succeeded in doing that through restricting people’s

speech. In other words, the individuals have learned to use language in a way that maintains the system of Big Brother in power, and thus language is a central tool used to oppress the population. The novel 1984 shows how the oppressive government imprisoned and limited people from expressing negative feelings by the language they use. As a result, human's expressions and thoughts are limited according to the ideological needs of the government, and the party's control of language is central in the state (7).

In this light, the narrator of 1984 said:

We're getting the language into its final shape the shape it's going to have when nobody speaks anything else. When we've finished with it, people like you will have to learn it all over again. You think, I dare say, that our chief job is inventing new words. But not a bit of it! We're destroying words scores of them, every day. We're cutting the language down to the bone. The Eleventh Edition will not contain a single word that will become obsolete before the year 2050 (Part 1, Chapter 5).

3.7 Winston Smith

Winston Smith is the protagonist of the novel 1984. He is the character that the reader sees the world from his point of view. He is the mirror, which allows us to view the society of Oceania. Winston's character is very complex in many aspects, such as his appearance, his personality, and his relationships with others and these features make many readers to become close to Winston. In this novel, Winston symbolizes the hope that people today have for the future through Orwell's eyes (Skjorestad 43).

At first sight, Winston is an ordinary citizen and every man. He is a member of the middle class who lives in a totalitarian state called Oceania. He is an intelligent young man despite appearing frail, he has bad health and looks because he starts every morning with a coughing, and he has a bad back and an ugly ulcer on his leg. Besides to that, the poverty and unhappiness forces him to drink in order to forget his problems. From the very beginning of the novel, it becomes apparent that Winston is a curious person because he wants to understand why the party exercises absolute power in Oceania. Winston is a thirty-nine old Outer Party member, he works as a records editor, and propaganda officer for the Ministry of Truth. He rewrites history and revises old newspaper articles to match the Party's current vision of the truth (Kozel 18)

Winston is a rebellious character who wants to breakdown the rules of the party's leader, Big Brother. Therefore, he hates the party and Big Brother because of the harsh abuse of power they instill on citizens. Winston tries to challenge the authority of the party and Big Brother by writing "Down with Big Brother" in his diary. Thus, Winston does his first act of rebellion against the government. This act is forbidden because Winston lives in a society where no written records are kept. As a result, the Party has to remain in power by manipulation of data and here the act of buying and keeping a diary, is extremely threatening to the Party in 1984, and consciously rebelling against it (Rodriguez 25).

Winston's personal life is characterized by his unhappy marriage. He lives with his wife 'Katherine' a short period and then he separates. She works in the party and believes in whatever the party says. In fact, Winston's wife is the most stupid and empty-minded woman. After their separation, Winston lives alone with no idea whether his wife is alive or not. Therefore, Winston's marriage is fixed but leads to unhappy life. After that, Winston starts another act of rebellion by meeting a girl named Julia and falling in love with her (27).

Julia is mainly described through Winston; she is young and beautiful girl, she has an important position in the party, she is a member of the Junior Anti Sex League and she works for the Ministry of Love. Winston's emotions towards Julia are ambivalent because he feels attracted to her, but at the same time, he fears her. The reason behind these feelings is that, Winston knows very well that the party prohibits any romantic relations in the society of 1984, but he does this act to rebel against the party. Therefore, Winston falls deeply in love with this woman and considers his relationship with Julia the most important event in his life. Winston's meeting with Julia adds Winston a strong motivation to resist in his battle against the party. Consequently, this relationship ends with the fall of Winston Smith in the hands of Big Brother, and Julia was the main reason in his downfall (Skjorestad 47).

Other important relationship in Winston's life is his bond with a man called "O'Brien". He is powerful member in the Inner party.

Whereas Winston symbolizes kindness and humanity, O'Brien is the contrary. O'Brien represents the greatest evil representative of the government. "His...ultimate power, the power to break Winston, depends on his direct access to levels of Winston's mind he himself cannot reach" (Pittock 148). At the last part of the novel, Winston understands that O'Brien is a member of secret organization of the party. As a result, O'Brien caught and tortured Winston.

3.8 Winston Struggle for Freedom

The novel 1984 centers on the character of Winston Smith and his struggle against Big Brother in Oceania's society. Winston hates the party and struggles to get better life. Because his suffering and unhappiness in life, he defends his innocence and resists for freedom. Winston does not enjoy any luxuries and has no privileges as other do. His life is awful because he has no joys, no relationship or friends. He lives in bad condition and

therefore, he has bad food and health. Winston resists all these difficulties because he knows that the Party is the main cause behind his misery. Winston is seen pitiful person who wishes to free himself from the oppressive laws of Big Brother. Thus, Smith wants to satisfy himself by doing something, he starts a rebellion (Kozel 33).

The struggle of Winston starts only when he finds himself writing in his diary the words "Down with Big Brother" repeatedly. Big Brother, who is supposed to be the symbol of all he esteems, becomes for him the symbol of the hated regime, the real focus of his rebellion. Winston considers the world he lives in as "the age of Big Brother". He wants to destroy this allegorical father to break away from the regime. After that Winston goes further by having an affair with Julia, and they rent a room over Mr. Charrington's antique shop where Winston meets with Julia, and subsequently meeting with O'Brien who has connections with the Brotherhood. It is a movement led by someone called Emmanuel Goldstein. Winston and Julia are both under arrest by the Thought Police. Winston's aim to free himself loses its sense when no one he trusted in gives him the help and betrays him at the end (Sterling 74).

In the novel, Winston faces many conflicts when he was seeking for freedom. First, he confronts the struggle between repressing his true thoughts and feelings or writing them in his diary. This conflict is created by his fear of caught by the thought police, which would penalize him for this act of self-independence. Another conflict when he gets a message from Julia and he believes Julia to be a secret agent of the Thought Police, but later he is attracted by the idea of her love. Correspondingly, Winston is not yet sure, that O'Brien is a supporter of the party therefore the invitation to go to O'Brien's apartment causes conflict.

Finally, all Winston's efforts and goals put into his try to reach freedom and independence finally underlines the Party's upsetting power to achieve self-independence

and lead Winston to his sentence in the Ministry of Love. Though he attempts to fight O'Brien's instruction, he learns that resistance is useless. Big Brother is superior and more powerful than any one (Bounasri 5).

To conclude, Winston represents all the principles of a civilized society: freedom, peace, democracy and love. While Winston is demolished, these values are destroyed with him.

3. 9 The Psychological Impact of the Idea of Big Brother on Winston.

Nineteen Eighty-Four is a story about the life and psychological trials of a man living in a totalitarian society. The main character, Winston Smith is under the oppressive government of Big Brother. His struggle to free himself from the repressive rules of the party leads him to fall down in a terrible prison of Big Brother. From the beginning, Winston knows very well that the party will eventually catch him, but he insists in continuing his rebellion until the end. Therefore, Winston's resistance against Big Brother reflects on his downfall and torture. Thus, Big Brother and the party consider Winston Smith as guilty. Winston had been caught for not only thought crime, but also the overt crime of having sex under excuses not allowed by the Party, and this is mentioned in a quote from a scene in Nineteen Eighty-four: "Never again will you be capable of ordinary human feeling. Everything will be dead inside you. Never again will you be capable of love, or friendship, or joy of living, or laughter, or curiosity, or courage, or integrity. You will be hollow."

O'Brien, in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four (Bernstein 1).

Kristoffer Rissanen argues in his essay entitled "Nineteen Eighty-Four and the Ideology of Hate" that Winston's rebellion is motivated by his hatred and desire to defeat Big Brother. His downfall is shaped in his love of Big Brother. The novel shows that Winston admits his love to Big Brother before his killing. In addition, Big Brother's demands are

what Winston revolt against. For example, his sexual affair with Julia is encouraged as an act of political confrontation against Big Brother as opposed to any emotion for Julia. This same disobedience to Big Brother is what motivates him to keep the diary. In these examples, Big Brother affects Winston, who sees his own presence as something that must counter Big Brother. In this essence, Orwell builds Winston to be one who is almost a victim to Big Brother like anyone else. In this way, Big Brother has influenced Winston's development by ensuring that Winston has no identity outside of Big Brother (Rissanen 47).

To explain more, Sofia Sampio discusses in her dissertation entitled "Totalitarianism as liberal Night mare: The post Politics of 1984" that Big Brother in the novel affects Winston's whole sequence of thought; he goes from being a faithful party member to a thought criminal, and lastly back to a faithful party member. Thus, Big Brother psychologically influences Winston Smith to the extent that he provokes many psychological crises to him. It largely influences Winston from the beginning of the story, and after his caught by the thought police. He always seems fearful of the Thought Police. This fear stops him from conveying his feelings and thoughts spontaneously and thus he is enforced to wear a mask whereas communicating with other people (143).

The absence of interaction with others results in his profound feeling of solitude.

Orwell Says "He feels "...lost in a monstrous world where he himself was [is] the monster. He was [is] alone.... What certainty had [has] he that a single human creature now living was [is] on his side?" (Orwell, 28-29).

In addition, the idea of Big Brother affects Winston through Violence. It affects Winston in every part of his life. While he is under arrest, yet, violence becomes more

physical and more subjective in Winston's life. Cruelty of torture and physical pain is imposed upon him in prison.

One question at any rate was answered. Never, for any reason on earth, could you wish for an increase in pain. Of pain you could wish only one thing: that it would stop. Nothing in the world was so bad as physical pain. In the face of pain there are no heroes, no heroes, he thought over and over as he writhed on the floor, clutching uselessly at his disabled arm Orwell (251).

Winston bears all terrible forms of physical violence. People who are guilty of unorthodox actions have no rest. Winston's torture is commonly physical. Arendt states, "The secret police hold the true power in a totalitarian movement. The Thought Police's power in *1984* shows this in detail with the torture of Winston. The goal of torture is to break Winston's body" (427). This means that the secret police is free to treat Winston whatever they want because he is a criminal. Hence, Big Brother and the party influence Winston through subjugating him to violence, pain and torture. However, Big Brother's goal is not only provoking the physical pain, it is meaningless. Worse than Physical pain is humiliation and the fear of pain. Humiliation is worse because it breaks down the mind. It touches individual's psychology and destroys notions of resistance, revolt and even a sense of self (Brown 2).

Throughout the book *1984*, Orwell highlights that humiliation and fear are the cores of the impact of Big Brother on Winston's psyche. "In our world, O'Brien exclaims as he towers over Smith, "there will be no emotions except fear, rage, triumph, and self-abasement" (Orwell, 5). The psychological impact of Big Brother starts when O'Brien brings Winston to room 101.

Without any warning except a slight movement of O'Brien's hand, a wave of pain flooded his body. It was a frightening pain, because he could not see what was happening, and he had the feeling that some mortal injury was being done to him. He did not know whether the thing was happening, or whether the effect was electrically produced; but his body was being wrenched out of shape, the joints were being slowly torn apart. Although the pain had brought the sweat on his forehead, the worst of all was the fear that his backbone was about to snap (Orwell 257).

As argued in chapter two, the criminal must give the right response unless pain will be inflicted upon him. Big Brother uses a horrible techniques called electric shock and traumatic to cause pain. These methods are conditioned to Winston. O'Brien says to Winston that the Party states that he is holding up five fingers, and he questions Winston how many fingers he is holding up, Winston cannot see five, but four. The answer is terrible. Later, when he is very exhausted, Winston speaks he sees whatever O'Brien would like him to see. The extreme use of pain is a means to brainwashing individuals, and to make them give up their protest about the Party and love the totalitarian leader "Big Brother" (Skjorestad 63).

Also something had happened inside his head. As his eyes regained focus he remembered who he was, and where he was, and recognised the face that was gazing into his own; but somewhere or other there was a large patch of emptiness, as though a piece had been taken out of his brain' (Orwell 269).

The psychological impact of Big Brother on Winston manifests moreover, in the final torture session in room 101. Winston is subjected to his most fear and threat, rats. O'Brien

knows of Winston's fear of rats from a night by Julia. O'Brien then puts Winston's head in the cage of rats to eat his face. Winston asks O'Brien to do that to Julia. At the end, psychological and physical torture, humiliation and Fear consumes all Winston's efforts, he cannot resist any longer. One should think that Big Brother and O'Brien finally get what they want (Smith 64).

3.10 Conclusion

The totalitarian regime represented by the Party and its leader Big Brother have very much to do with the sufferings of Winston's life. This idea of Big Brother transforms the life of Winston to hell because it destroys his true reality, dreams, thoughts emotions and even hope. Winston's resistance to get freedom is defeated at the end, and the fictional world of Big Brother wins. Psychologically, the idea of Big Brother influences Winston Smith physically, mentally and emotionally. The novel portrays the way Big Brother affects Winston through his use of fear and hate to destroy the self.

General Conclusion

The first general subaims of this study Sheds light on how the idea of Big Brother has an influence on citizens of Oceania in George Orwell's novel 1984. Then, Find out to what extent Big Brother manipulates and controls the life of people and Winston's character in the novel. Moreover, examine how this character treats some of the most futuristic views of Orwell distopian movement. Besides, help find out if there is a psychological explanation of Big Brother's impact on Winston, and finally Project the presence of the Big Brother on totalitarian society.

Based on the background chapter, the idea of Big Brother has been explained in different domains such as in Philosophy, in Politics, in Psychology and Contemporary British literature. Generally this term is political because Orwell' 1984 is futuristic and political distopian work that warns people about the dangers of totalitarianism.

Some scholars define Big Brother as the leader of Oceania, a totalitarian state where the ruling party "Ingsoc" holds total power for its own sake over citizens. In Modern culture, the idea if Big Brother means the abuse of government power, and they said that term of Big Brother is often related to mass surveillance. This latter discussed largely in philosophy.

The notion of Big Brother has its importance in the novel. It focuses on the way of domination and control of people. There are different phases of the presence of Big Brother, which shows his conduct. Propaganda, Totalitarianism and Manipulation are the dangerous phases of Big Brother; they allow the cruel government to monitor its citizens. Big Brother aims to maintain control over citizens of Oceania. This is Highlighted by projecting the presence of the Big Brother on totalitarian society, which exemplified by the propaganda, manipulation and totalitarianism. They are unique phases that show the real image of Big Brother and identify the exercises of absolute power practiced by the party.

The last chapter studied the focus of this dissertation. It is about the psychological impact of the idea of Big Brother on the main protagonist “Winston”.

Winston is the main character in 1984. The dictatorial regime embodied by the Party and its leader Big Brother have an important role to do with the hardships of Winston’s life. In 1984, Big Brother affects Winston by violence and torture. Torture and fear is the underlying oppressive feature of the government machine that mainly affects Winston. Winston is subjected to continuous surveillance, restraints, and he lives under the constant threat of being tortured. Winston is arrested and admits that he love Big Brother at the end of the novel. Winston’s defeat does not come by him therefore he is imposed by the party. Winston’s emotion is always hate and fear towards Big Brother. The conclusion of this study is that Winston represents anyone who lives in totalitarian state, anyone who is under oppressive rules.

Finally, throughout the novel 1984, Winston is affected by the idea of Big Brother to extent that he rebels and breaks the rules of the party. However, his resistance and rebellion leads to his defeat and destruction of his emotions. The party and Big Brother use all terrible forms of torture but Winston still stable in his values even if his mind is changed because of the torture. His heart does not change and he stills a human. Moreover, Winston stills the revolutionary man who revolt against the party and he believes that time is capable of the party’s defeat against individualism and hate.

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ملخص

هذه المذكرة بعنوان فكرة الاخ الاكبر وتأثيرها النفسي على شخصية ونستون في رواية جورج اوروال 1984. يتركز هذا البحث على الاخ الاكبر وتأثيره على ونستن في الرواية وايضا هذه الدراسة تناقش فكرة الاخ الاكبر في مجالات مختلفة منها الفلسفة، السياسة، علم النفس و الادب. كذلك هدف هذا البحث هو التذكير بالزوايا المختلفة لفكرة الاخ الاكبر في العمل المقدم 1984 والذي يبرهن وجود الاخ الاكبر في المجتمع المبني على الاستبدادية.

من اجل ذلك، محاولة هذه الدراسة هي تحليل نفسي لأي مدى شخصية ونستن متأثرة بالأخ الاكبر. لوضعها في سياق اخر، الجواب على السؤال الرئيسي حول هذا التأثير، موجود في هذا البحث الذي استعان أساسا على نظريات منها المنهج التاريخي والتحليل النفسي. كنتائج أساسية لهذا البحث، روايتي 1984 اظهرت معنى فكرة الاخ الاكبر في كل من مجال الفلسفة، السياسة، علم النفس والادب خاصة. بالإضافة الى هذا، رواية 1984 مثلت التأثيرات السلبية الخطيرة سواء كانت الجسدية او النفسية من طرف الاخ الاكبر على البطل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: 1984، الاخ الاكبر، الاستبدادية، علم النفس، ونستن سميث.