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The Purpose in Writing 1984

Purpose, as opposed to the theme, calls to attention of the reason for creating a particular text and its relevance to the reader. On most occasions, purpose teaches the reader significant lessons concerning life and subsequently challenges existing views related to societal functionalities. Therefore, while themes depict the nature of the text and its relevance to various aspects of life, the purpose delves deeper into the author’s mind and shows the reader his major reason for producing the text. Among the most fundamental goals of novelists the one is making the money. However, besides this, novelists also work to educate the society or point out a pertinent issue that brings about revolutions in it. This paper analyzes the purpose of the dystopian novel *1984* by George Orwell. Furthermore, it carefully extrapolates recurring issues onto the contemporary society, subsequently supplementing its purpose.

Aside from economic gain, George Orwell’s novel, *1984*, depicts a rationale that presents a warning against the inherent negative corollaries of totalitarianism. Throughout the whole novel, Orwell exposes the truths concerning totalitarianism and its different facets including the various kinds of manipulations such as psychological manipulations, physical control, control of information and technology among others. While these manipulations may seem as effects, they are the chief engines that drive totalitarianism, and as such, they communicate the purpose of totalitarianism to the reader. This political masterpiece first came into publication four years after the end of World War II. After the war, Orwell aimed to write this text as exposure of the real and close dangers of totalitarianism to his tired and weeping compatriots. Through careful employment of figurative language, Orwell warns his readers making the horrors of political occurrences during the 1980s to come alive. In various ways throughout the text, the author uses symbolisms to influence the repercussions of totalitarianism on the populace and governance. Therefore, as a political novel, the purpose of *1984* presents a sensitization material and a call to the absolute resistance of totalitarianism governance.

Having witnessed the horrendous lengths to which totalitarian administrations would go to increase and sustain their power, and remaining true to his experience, Orwell designed and wrote *1984* to expose to the western nations a reason and incentive to deal with communism promptly. As the novel commences, in 1949, an escalation of the Cold War had not taken place, and numerous intellectuals in America supported communism. Moreover, the diplomacy state between communistic and democratic countries had not attained fluidity, making relations ambiguous. At that time, most of the American press was highly focused on representing the Soviet Union as a large moral experimentation. However, Orwell brought to light profoundly widespread oppressions and cruelty that were disturbing. Such occurrences were largely observed in communist countries. In addition, Orwell focused on technology’s role in aiding governments that are oppressive to monitor and consequently control their populace. As such, in *1984*, Orwell depicts an absolute totalitarian society. The society that he portrays represents the most intense comprehension contrived of a contemporary government drunk with absolute power. Although this story was written in 1949, its title goes a long way to show the purpose of the text as it represented a possibility of situations in the near future when totalitarianism will not be vehemently opposed. Orwell’s purpose was accurate as he connoted that some world variations in his text would come to reality in thirty-five years only.

Centrally to his purpose of depicting the dangers of totalitarianism, Orwell goes further and shows the reader the various means in which totalitarianism is upheld in society. Orwell depicts that among the pivotal control tools which support the notion of totalitarianism is psychological manipulation. Here, such manipulations cause a direct threat to the individuality of persons and are a host of other challenges experienced in a totalitarian nation. Orwell narrates how such parties usually barge its subjects with stimuli, psychologically designed to engulf and overwhelm the minds of citizens reducing their capacity for autonomous thought. Further, the author narrates how the giant television screens in the rooms of every citizen blast constant streams of misinformation, carefully designed to elevate the shortcomings and failures of the party as remarkable successes. Moreover, Orwell also shows the totalitarianism’s influence on the behavior of people, whereby wherever citizens go, they are constantly bombarded with omnipresent cryptograms having signs that read “BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU” (Orwell 95). Such manipulations show the extent to which totalitarianism goes in keeping citizens in check and mind controlled. In addition, Orwell shows the form in which such political parties undermine family structures through the careful indoctrination of children into detrimental organizations such as the Junior Spies. Such organizations brainwash and encourage children to spy on their parents and report cases of disloyalty to the party.

In addition to psychological manipulations as tools of totalitarian sustenance, Orwell also exposes the detrimental effects of physical control. Thus, in fulfilling the purpose of the book, Orwell depicts the manner in which such governments go beyond mere psychological torture to the absolute incapacitation of the bodies of its subjects, especially when found guilty of disloyalty or other grave offenses. So detrimental are the assertions of the ruling party on the citizens’ bodies that even a slight twitch on the face could be seen as a cause of disloyalty rendering immediate arrest without proper formal charges. Here, person’s own nervous system acts against them. According to the novel, another form of physical control includes the forced enactment of a mandatory morning exercise, grueling long walks and other forms of physical exertions designed to keep the citizens in a state of total exhaustion, so that they may not have the strength to stage revolutions. At the same time, anyone who dares go against the party is severely punished and “reeducated” through brutal and systematic torture. Such depictions within the text, as Winston keenly observes, go a long way in augmenting the book’s purpose on totalitarian exposure.

Orwell depicts the most fundamental tool for implementing and sustaining totalitarian regimes as the ability to control information through technological and historical manipulations. In exemplifying the purpose of his book, Orwell exhaustingly depicts the role of information source control on the success of totalitarian governments. Such administrations go to extreme lengths in restricting information and in misrepresenting information to suit their own agendas. As Orwell clearly shows, the party does not accept keeping of records representing the past, such as documents and photographs. Such restrictions result in a faced and unreliable memory making the citizens perfectly gullible to state propagandas. As depicted by Orwell, Winston contemplates saying “Everything faded into mist. The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, and the lie became truth” (Orwell 95). The author shows totalitarianism works through control of the present and the total manipulation of past events. Hence, through control of the past, the party justifies all present actions upholding totalitarian governance.

Ultimately, throughout the book, Orwell continually alludes to the dangers of totalitarianism. Having written the book at the time when communism was a shadow less known to western civilization, Orwell’s purpose of writing this book is the sensitization of the public in matters concerning totalitarianism, its forms, tools, and effects. Overall, Orwell shows that although the monetary gain is beneficial, the proper address of societal shortcomings is a more noble cause.

Work Cited

Orwell, George. *1984*. Planet eBook, 1949.