

Orwell'S 1984 and the concept of Powerlessness

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Abstract—This article examines the theme of social-psychological alienation in Orwell's 1984 by focusing on Winston as a character. The theme of alienation has repeatedly studied in the works of Hegel, Marx, Weber, Fromm and Durkheim. However, this article mainly focuses on Seeman's conceptualization of alienation as a theoretical framework. This paper is limited to clarify the term 'powerlessness' because it is the dominant concept in the novel. Since this paper offers an understanding of powerlessness, it is a must to first, clearly present the reasons that led to Winston's feeling of alienation. Understanding Seeman's concept of alienation (especially on how he clarifies the process, circumstances and results of alienation) is significant as the subject of this study. Certainly, the term 'alienation' was not particularly used in the novel, but the concept is clearly shown by the characters, especially Winston. A thematic analysis, combined with Seeman's concept, offers a better perception of the novel where a deep investigation revealed that Winston develops a sense of alienation due to four reasons, which are totalitarianism, fear, Party's control of power and information. The findings of this paper could be of many benefits not only for scholars but also for readers who are aware of the circumstances and factors that could lead to the sense of powerlessness and consequently to social-psychological alienation.

Keywords—Alienation, Powerlessness, Thematic analysis, Totalitarianism, 1984.

I. INTRODUCTION

Orwell wrote some of the most honed twentieth-century fictions, such as the famous 1984 (1949). The novel briefly depicts a society that resembles a concentration camp where the powerful Party unquestionably exercise illegal actions. Citizens are conditioned, monitored and made to live in eternal fear without protest where they merely exist and do not protest against totalitarian rule. The political novel is continuously read for its ideas on the totalitarian regime that surpasses time, earning the reputation of a social and political satire in the twentieth century of Russian and Italian communist regimes. 1984 discusses a communist's strategy to enforce its ideological and psychological control by brainwashing its opponents. Indeed, it was a seed of Orwell's working with the poor and experiencing loneliness in the slums of London. It represents Orwell's criticism of the political outrage between the Spanish government and the Communist Party [1][2][3]. Since Orwell had the first-hand combating in the Spanish Civil War, he was emotionally attached by the experience. In fact, he felt disappointed with the totalitarian that suppressed the working class. Without a doubt, it is being noted on the impact of the novel onto society's perception, understanding and discourse on contemporary social issues. As due to Orwell's personal experience with the Spanish Civil war, 1984 reflects this period where he envisioned the dangers of absolute political authority, especially in a period of advanced technology where private space is violated through

monitored screens, emotions are disregarded and made private and the lack of freedom in speech is common [4][5]. Consequently, a case of alienation is represented clearly and indirectly in this novel. The novelist portrays his experience with a totalitarian regime that he refers to as the Party, which in turn affects the character Winston and leads to alienation at the level of self, others and society. Therefore, this paper aims to explore the causes that led to Winston's powerlessness and his state of alienation. This paper analyses the theme of powerlessness based on Seeman's (1959) theory of social-psychological alienation, especially on the aspect of powerlessness that leads to alienation. Seeman explores and examines experiences and occurrences of alienation in a wider range of social settings: not only in the workplace but also at school, at home or in other social settings [6]. Indeed, [7] expands a broader theory of alienation by highlighting the issue of alienation as a common and popular theme in masterworks that dwell on sociology, placing such works as distinguished among modern works. His paper sought to fulfill two tasks: "to present an organized view of the uses that have been made of this concept; and to provide an approach that ties the historical interest in alienation to the modern empirical effort." Seeman's social-psychological approach to his varieties of alienation emphasizes the actor's personal expectations and values. Alienation, in this sense, is also treated as an individualized subjective phenomenon, although Seeman does not deny the importance of the objective social conditions which

produce subjective alienations [8]. Therefore, this study analyses the theme of social-psychological alienation as it is portrayed in the character of Winston in *1984*. The primary investigation is to analyse the theme according to Seaman's theory of social-psychological alienation by depicting the aspect of "Powerlessness" in which it could have brought about the character's alienation. Powerlessness is the concept that is adopted by Seaman, depending on Marx's theory of alienation that is related to man's essence and its relation to their products. According to [9], it is "the expectancy or probability held by the individual that his own behaviour cannot determine the occurrence of the outcomes, or reinforcements, he seeks", which is further explained in the light of Marx's theory, where "the worker is alienated to the extent that the prerogative and means of decision are expropriated by the ruling entrepreneurs". He distinguished two types of control: internal and external. How the person regards himself/ herself as successful or failure, according to personal view or different situations, is attached to "external factors such as luck, chance, or powerful others, as against success or failure that is seen as the outcome of one's personal skills or characteristics"[10]. Indeed, powerlessness is a step in life that everyone experiences. Understanding the conditions someone lives is one of the most essentials in life. Accordingly, without achieving a full comprehension of the conditions of life, suffering from the feeling of powerlessness is an inevitable result. "It involves the (not uncommon) impression that one's life confronts one as an independent event over which one does not influence without, however, being able to describe oneself as determined by alien causes"[11].

So, the causes may lead to powerlessness can be divided into two sources: First, form external intervention that embodies power over the self and leads to dissatisfaction with the life and brings the fear of inability to control actions around a person [12]. Second, the changes that belong to someone's life without recognized as one's own. It is the case of a person who constitutes his/her own life, but, at some later point, experiences his/her life as an alien [13]. Since a person does not make any decisions, he does not act as an agent in his/her life, but instead follows the development of individuals in such a case would be different and lead to frustration. It seems that an individual's state of powerlessness represents his sense of fate that is not within his control; there is an external force controlling him. In this case, he is helpless towards his life and feels surrender. Because he does not function as a member of the society who does not also participate in decision-making, he becomes powerless. In short, empowerment provides a better life and good production

but being powerless leads to a lack of interest to participate in decision-making.

What can be inferred from both Marx and Seaman's powerlessness is that workers – individuals, have control over what they produce and that capitalism takes it from their position, but this is not the case. The process of producing any product has other factors; it does not merely depend on the worker. In refuting Marx, [14] discusses this issue by stating that the worker does not own the product; there is the capital, raw material, machinery and venue. Labours engage themselves in the production willingly to achieve other purposes in exchange for their contributions. As a result, no alienation happens in this process. Moreover, [15] argues that these labours claim to depend on money, can be negotiable as people do not always assent with another in their relations because of adopting Capitalism; money makes them keep a distance [16][17].

Various studies on Orwell's *1984* have been conducted and tackled the issue of alienation with economic, political and religious perspectives. These studies adopt different theories and concepts, yet none has applied Seaman's social-psychological theory nor adopted the concept of powerlessness in tracing the cause of the protagonist's alienation.

The totalitarian regime and advanced technology play an important role in affecting the protagonist in Orwell's *1984*. A totalitarian regime identified as "an ideology which both dominates and attempts to restructure all aspects of society, it is also the establishment of absolute state control and coordination of the economy" [18]. Indeed, Winston undergoes class struggle as he witnesses it the Big Brother's totalitarian regime, which makes him alienated. Orwell provides a warning voice through *1984* for the transition of liberal principles and criticizes the totalitarian boot that was trying to control all aspects of life at that time, which permanently affects people by inferring the results of Hitler and Stalin's barbarism, he is a man of thoughts who tends to a portion of the major political movements at his times [19] [20] [21]. Moreover, Orwell comments on the political outrages as forwarded by the Spanish Republican Government and the Communist Party, influenced by the Stalinist Soviet Union" [22].

Additionally, *1984* is a philosophical recognition of totalitarianism and this is one of the most reasons for considering its appropriateness as a source of power [23]. More particularly, the events in the novel provide us philosophical understanding and recognition of totalitarianism, which remains important as a source of impressions on power. Therefore, *1984* is regarded as a realistic and completed analysis of the tools of power, rather than as just a novel. The advanced technology

appeared so clearly through the novel: the telescreens, microphones and cameras. These devices are all employed to spy on citizens. Letting your eyes wander when you were in some public place or within the range of a telescreen was extremely risky. You might give away the smallest thing. A nervous tic, an involuntary expression of fear, a pattern of self-murmuring— anything that brought with it the impression of abnormality, something to cover. In any event, wearing an inappropriate expression on your face was a punishable offense in itself [24].

Advanced technology has a great impact on Winston. He lives in a state of total spiritual isolation from the rest of the surrounding, and yet he is a part of it. The advanced technology causes characters in *1984* to live in a place that completely alienates them, forcing them to hide their true feelings and show nothing except loyalty to the Party. Indeed, the Party makes Winston feel self-alienated through its reinforcements. In addition to that, the role of technology enhances the scope of a totalitarian point of view. It plays military and socio-oppressive roles that are not used to make people's lives easier nor help them in their education and communication. Rather, it is used as a tool of political power and military purposes. Orwell also uses telescreens as a depiction of how technological progress which can be misused for civil control [25][26][27]. Therefore, technology is considered as a means of control and Orwell expresses his worry about the widespread oppressions that he observes in the communist countries in general and technology in particular. The latter form of control has a dangerous role since it allows the cruel government to monitor its citizens.

Negative emotions such as fear, hatred and hate are exploited. Sex merely serves as a tool for procreation, whereas language is deteriorated, war is omnipresent and history is changeable in order to suit the Party's necessities. It is "fear is an intense aversion to or apprehension of a person, place, activity, event, or object that causes emotional distress and often avoidance behaviour"[28]. Therefore, the bases and rules of the Party are unbreakable, O'Brien who is an effective member of the Inner Party shows with confidence and without fear that the Party controls everything and anything around, which results people to become weak and animal-like. Commands and instructions which are given out by the Party, must be complied and followed. O'Brien claimed that the Party's ideas is considered as humanity, leaving the rest as nothing and all citizens must have the sense of fear toward the Party. The lack of freedom and mounting pressure which are caused by the Party definitely bring fear and hatred. Rissanen (2014), illustrates that hatred is often born out of fear, and it is this fear and resulting

hatred that is exploited so often by those who try to control it. Fear and hate have played a part in history's darkest chapters, from wars to genocides. Fear, hatred and hate ideology regulated the lives of the Oceanian people endlessly in *1984* [29].

So hate is often derived from fear because "Ignorance leads to fear; fear leads to hate, hate leads to violence; this is the equation" [30]. The citizens are conditioned to hate each other and this causes a devoid in social relationships. It can also be seen how fear towards war is exploited by the Big Brother to manage social solidarity. His purpose is to instil fear and terror within the society so that the only way of security is to believe that the government is always taking the right measures to protect its citizens. People who show intelligence, causes the anger of the Party and quickly disappear[31]. They must show fear in order to avoid security control. Thought criminals are arrested to be either condemned publicly or released after cleansing but are killed after a few years to make sure that they fail to go against the Party. All these are because of these criminals' lack of fear towards the Big Brother.

The control of power and corruption have the Party affects the citizens in ways that dissociate their sense of power. As such, the latter experience a state of powerlessness. There are different viewpoints on the meaning of power. Critics and scholars express differing definitions on power. In general, it is one's ability to achieve goals. For Weber, power is the "probability that one actor within a social relationship will be in a position to carry out his own will despite resistance, regardless of the basis on which this probability rests" [32][33]. Modern democracy through Orwell's *1984* has been analysed and shows that Orwell's portrayals of a totalitarian state such as surveillance, endless war, clear control over language and the media have already existed. Orwell examines a futuristic society where the government uses total social power over its residents. The Party's new political language, which is called the Newspeak, reduces vocabulary as an attempt to minimise the ability of thought. Of course, there are other clear practices of various linguistic means to deceive its people. Similar linguistic constructs are often utilized by modern politicians to hide the true meaning of their actions and policies [34] [35]. All of these actions and elements are considered as the Party's power to control every single aspect the citizens live. Nearly everything is under control: the family, individual, sex, thoughts, emotions, feelings and history.

On the other hand, *1984* is an extreme representation of social and political alienation caused by the power of the communist regime in eastern European countries. In the novel, history is falsified by changing and rewording all

the documents to suit the Party's intentions and this is considered one of the corrupted ways to destroy any society. History is regularly rewritten in the novel to suit the current aims of the Party. Only the destruction of individual memory made it probable. Therefore, the Ministry of Truth modifies history continually to the tune of the ideals of the Party. Moreover, the logic of Orwell is best to show the corruption and exploitation of the Soviet Union when it offered its total control. Winston will never have any opportunity to get away from the system. The situation in Oceania is utterly flat and Orwell manages to create a waterproof system that cannot be defeated. The fictional world is diffused with the ideology concept. To be more specific, the representation of a totalitarian regime was Ingsoc which is short for English Socialism and has total control over its residents due to its intelligent application of thoughts and ideas. The novel gives away the most negative views on ideology and its damages and abuses, especially in the world of Oceania, where there is no hope. Orwell gives a tragic explanation of what the world would be without the freedom to think[35][36][37]. As such, the novel is criticized by different authorities like the Egyptians. It is documented that the police in Giza city arrests a student, in the campus of Cairo University, putting in his bag 1984 novel, the authorities considered it as a promotion of the dictatorship of military regimes. Some regimes consider 1984 politically dangerous and prevent it from libraries like Russia and now in Egypt[38]. In this respect, the novel depicts a society that resembles a concentration camp with its illegal acts that is absolutely exercised by the corrupted Party. The citizens are conditioned, monitored and made to live in eternal fear without protest. They merely exist and submit to the totalitarian rule. Therefore, it suggests a bleak future where people are deprived to live a decent life and lose their social identity. The citizens are monitored and conditioned through powerful methods. They live in constant perennial fear that make them obey and avoid thinking or questioning motives and principles of the Party. The motive of the government is to retain power by making people refuse to think independently. Accordingly, this research analyses extensively on the main character Winston by adopting Seeman's social-psychological theory and focusing on the concept of powerlessness.

II. METHODOLOGY

Thematic analysis is a process of "identifying patterns or themes within qualitative data" [39], which organizes and represents data set in vibrant details. Most often, it extends further than this by describing and illustrating numerous aspects of the research topic [40]. Instead of summarizing

data, a thematic analysis aims to identify and classify themes in order to address the research or in order to build an argument. An excellent thematic analysis interprets, describes and makes a full understanding of the collected data. For the purpose of this study, Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase framework for a thematic analysis is most used. The two researchers declared thematic analysis as the first qualitative method of analysis that researchers should learn since it implements and provides core skills that will be beneficial for conducting and managing other forms of qualitative analysis. The analysis is made of a six-phase guide as a framework, as seen in Table 1 (below), followed by a discussion on each step:

Table 1: Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase framework for a thematic analysis

| Step | Phase |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Becoming familiar with the data |
| 2 | Generating initial codes |
| 3 | Searching for themes |
| 4 | Reviewing themes |
| 5 | Defining themes |
| 6 | Writing-up |

Step one concentrates on the researcher's experience of reading and re-reading the texts. He should be very familiar with the entire body of data in order to become immersed and closely familiar with its content. In this phase, taking notes is preferable. In the second step, the researcher should begin to organize and prepare the data in a systematic, meaningful and well-organized way. Then the third step identifies significant characteristics of the data that could be related in answering the research question. After that the fourth step requires the researcher to examine the codes and identify patterns that connect these codes, fitting them into a theme. He is then required to collate data in relation to each possible theme so that one can act with the data, review and evaluate the viability of each theme. The researcher reviews adjust and improve the introductory themes that have been identified earlier, which he has previously classified them into step three. Questions like, do they make sense? At this point, it is also helpful to gather all the data that is related to each theme. The themes during this phase are typically filtered, which sometimes requires them to be split, mixed, or cancelled. Defining themes is the last refinement of the themes because the aim is to identify the 'core' of what each theme is about. It also involves determining an informative name for each theme. The final phase includes weaving together the data extracts and analytic narrative and contextualizing the analysis in relation to subsisting literature[41].

III. RESULTS

The study revealed the following themes:

3.1 Totalitarianism

Totalitarianism is an approach that dominates and aims to restructure all aspects of life[42]. Thus, Winston lives in a totalitarian atmosphere, which is clearly affected by the Party. His lack of freedom makes up one of the totalitarian regime's characteristics. The Big Brother follows him wherever he goes. This is seen through the many plastered posters of Big Brother everywhere where the black-moustached face gazes down on its viewers at every commanding corner with a caption that says: "BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU" [43]. The Big Brother's dark eyes stare deep into Winston's own.

The Big Brother symbolizes an authoritarian power that hovers upon people's lives that is accentuated by the plastering of posters with words that warn the people of absolute obedience and commitment to the government's regulations and rules. It suggests an all-powerful and God-like state of Being, replacing emotions from people's lives with fear. It expects total submission to the commands, regardless of whether they need to betray their own lives in such honor of Big Brother. Thus, the image of the Big Brother's black mustache only suggests a serious and strict image, absent yet present that maintains control over the citizens. Indirectly, Orwell warned against the transition of liberal principles and criticized the totalitarian system because it damages any society. He contributes to a part of the significant political events of his time, including communism, totalitarianism, and imperialism. Therefore, the events that occurred in the novel are cases of political and social movements that oust degenerates and undemocratic governments and establishments, an intense opposition to totalitarianism [44][45][46]. So that when all aspects of life are controlled, the human feels that it is impossible to make decisions and to have the right to speak, think, move and enjoy. Winston's act of hiding his diary is an act of defiance simply because the regime reinforces zero expression of one's personal thoughts, declaring it as a crime. This defiance is articulated as he writes "DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER" and later continues, "Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows" [47][48]. Freedom is exterminated by the government spies, either by the Newspeak, which is the new language that people must talk restricted with few words to reduce the scope of thought or the institution of Thought crime, which punishes those who think against the Party. He's guilty of possessing a diary is further elaborated, only suggesting a total submission to the regime where he had glanced up and down the street quickly and then went

inside and bought the book for two fifty dollars. He is not at the time aware that he needs it for any specific purpose. He carries it home in his briefcase with such guilt. Even with nothing written in it, it is a compromising possession – a suggestion of many possibilities [49].

This guilt trails Winston constantly as he is wary of being monitored for buying the diary, thinking that the Thought Police can see him. Yet, he insists on buying. He knows that it is a thought crime but his urge to write overwhelms his fear. To be more specific, one of the Party slogans is "War is peace/freedom is slavery [and] ignorance is a strength" [50]. It completely signifies that the Party creates and organizes these slogans to ensure the continuation of control and power over residents because wars witness the unity of societies and people focusing on their common enemy, and lesser on how miserable they are with their own lives. Henceforward, this causes lesser trouble for the ruling party or the government. As for "Freedom is slavery" can be thought of in the same way: the slave-owning of Party memberships equals freedom for Party leaders. Finally, "Ignorance is strength" can be read "Your ignorance is our strength," again meaning that the ignorance of the people translates into the strength of the government. Winston's all aspects of life are controlled because of that totalitarian regime, in the Two Minutes Hate in which the entrances to Winston seemed to get cold. He could not resist joining the general delirium in the Two Minutes Hate, but this sub-human shouting. There was always fear in him. He chants with the others, of course: it could not be achieved otherwise. It was an instinctive reaction to disassemble your emotions, to cover your lips, to do what everybody else was doing[51].

That need to control everything makes him even conscious of his face movement. Therefore, Winston lives such kinds of controls and cannot determine the occurrence of the outcomes, and that definitely led to the sense of powerlessness because, as Seeman (1959) states, an individual is unable to control the events that go around him. He feels helpless because he is unable to achieve goals because of the external forces' threats.

3.2 Fear

It is the feeling of danger and threat. Winston's fear causes him to isolate himself from others (including his co-workers, families, children, his friends, girlfriends, potential lovers and wife). He cannot create permanent relationships because of his constant fear. The state only condones marriage for reproduction purposes, not for love nor satisfaction. O'Brien, who is an effective member of the Inner Party, shares with Winston that "In our world, there will be no emotions except fear, rage, triumph, and

self-abasement. Everything else we shall destroy—everything”[52]. O’Brien emphasizes that the world that the Party seeks to create is a world unlike any that exists elsewhere: fear, hate and affliction shall replace love and happiness; destruction shall trump development; loyalty to the party will be the only acceptable choice; sexual sense, instinct and families shall be destroyed. Indeed, that certainly brings hate. As has been stated earlier, hate is born from fear, where the citizens are expected to hate each other and not to have good social relationships [53][54]. In that way, citizens are afraid of everything that goes around them because relationships are destroyed and anyone is now prone to betray their relatives, friends and even family in order to survive. When Mrs. Parsons, for example, calls Winston to fix the kitchen sink because it is clogged, her children surprise Winston to a point of scare; they ask him “Up with your hands!” with their toy automatic pistol, as they shout “You’re a traitor! Yelled the boy. You’re a thought-criminal!” [55]. This leads Winston to go home with a thought, fearing how the miserable woman will live in terror with her children. His thoughts run wildly, thinking that in another year, or two years and for signs of unorthodoxy, these children will be watching her night and day. Nowadays, almost all children are terrible. What is worst of all is that they are systematically turned into ungovernable little savages through such organizations as the Spies, and yet this creates them to be submitted to the Party’s discipline. On the contrary, they worship the League and everything that is connected to it[56].

Therefore, fear is around and even if Winston truly hates the party, it is nearly impossible to rebel against it since there is always the fear of the Thought Police finding out about the potential crime during the thinking process. Orwell states that the “Thought Police would get him just the same. He had committed—would still have committed, even if he had never set pen to paper—the essential crime that contained all others in itself” [57]. Therefore, Thought Police places him under surveillance throughout his rebellious acts. His surveillance is an example for others, cautioning them of the consequences for acting against the Party. It instils fear. The police has the right to watch the people at any time and moment. How often the Thought Police wires in on any particular wire was guesswork, or on what device. It is even possible that they are all watching the whole time. But they could at any rate plug in your wire whenever they wished. One has to live — did live, from habit which became instinct — on the presumption that every sound you made was overheard, and every gesture was scrutinized, except in darkness[58].

Hence, Thought Police is hired by the government to catch anyone who commits crimes or acts against the Party and to watch all the telescreens. The crimes are speaking out, not engaging in activities, appearing not to enjoy Party activities, and even thinking or reflecting badly about activities. Consequently, the Party uses Room 101 the room where the biggest fears are realized, to torture enemies of it and use fear to convert them into its loyalists. Indeed, Winston learns what wait for him in Room 101 is “the worst thing in the world [which] happens to be rats” [59]. It is the final punishment in the ministry of love against thought criminals. The Party builds a reputation of fear around Room 101 as inmates would do anything to avoid being tortured there. Winston describes that horrifying room which includes all kinds of torture and locates in the Ministry of Love where tortures, drugs, delicate instruments that have registered one’s anxious responses, slow wear-down of sleeplessness and depression and constant questioning. Facts could not be kept hidden, at any point. They could be monitored by enquiry; coercion could suck them out of you. In his monologues, Winston questions the ability to remain humane during the confinement. Despite feelings are not changed – “even if you wanted to, you could not modify them yourself. Whatever you had done or said or felt, they could lay bare in the utmost detail; but the inner heart, whose workings were mysterious even to yourself, remained impregnable”[60].

So that hate, Thought Police and Room 101 are the main causes that lead to Winston’s fear. Consequently, fear is the Party’s leadership way of dominating its citizens. The Party utilizes fear because it recognizes individuals’ ability to obey because of fear, instead of their own choices. It is this ability that the Party holds control over the individuals. Accordingly, fear absolutely leads to a sense of powerlessness because Winston’s behaviour is much controlled, he could not manage his affairs and there are outsider forces stronger than him.

3.3 Party’s control of power and information

Indeed, power is the ability of an individual to influence the actions of others in accordance with his or her own intention. It is an individual's ability to affect other people's behaviour[61][62]. The Party’s control of power plays a significant role in affecting the protagonist. O’Brien clarifies to Winston that power is not a tool; it is “To safeguard a revolution one does not establish a dictatorship; one makes a revolution to establish a dictatorship. Persecution is the cause of that persecution. It’s pain that is the priority. Power object is Power”[63].

The Party believes power is an end because they believe it is the end goal. It is not a tool used to do things or to make the world better, but something to hold on to. In Orwell's society, where there is a lack of privacy and denied freedom of speech, affect Winston's personality. O'Brien continues that the Party is seeking influence solely in its own interests where the welfare of others becomes irrelevant: "We are different from all previous oligarchies in that we know what we do. All the others were timid and cynical, even those who resembled ourselves" [64].

O'Brien explains that what is most important to the party is just the total control over everything and nothing more than power. Therefore, Winston feels oppressed by the control of the Party and powerless towards the Party's control of power. All elements that the Party uses to control its citizens are considered as its power to plan and manage to achieve its goals. The abuse of language and control over media is clearly shown in the novel. Modern societies do not employ drastic means of destroying words. However, modern political speech has a lot in common with how Orwell portrays. The use of dark, propagandistic and euphemistic language has been a constant focus of the modern political speech. While the media also is under the total control of the Party [65][66].

Moreover, one of the Party's task is to control every source of information, managing and rewriting the content of all its histories for its own end. O'Brien explains to Winston that they are regulating life at all its rates – "You think there is something called human nature that will be angered by what we are doing and turning against us. But it's human nature that we make". He then makes similarity to children who are powerless when it comes to the characters in reaction to the Party, deeming that whatever that is approved by the party is "Humanity. Outside are the others—irrelevant"[67]. The Party does not allow individuals to keep records of their past. Information is distorted or controlled in some way or another by an overarching power source. That has a great impact on Winston's behaviour. Working as an editor in the Ministry of Truth in the government, he does not like such a government because he thinks the government as in appreciative of history and making their civilians forget their history. He realizes this when one of his tasks is to make information agree with each other: "Today's issue contained a statement of the actual output, from which it appeared that the forecasts were in every instance grossly wrong. Winston's job was to rectify the original figures by making them agree with the later ones" [68].

Workers at the Ministry of Truth actively adjust newspapers and books daily to match the ever-changing version of history that suits the purposes of the state not

only had the Ministry to supply the Party's multifarious needs, but also to repeat the entire operation at a lower level for the proletariat's benefit. There is a whole chain of separate departments that generally deal with proletarian literature, music, drama, and entertainment [69].

The messages Winston received required him to do some serious work and to be rewritten very well, "Rewrite it in full and submit your draft to higher authority before filing" [70]. All the important documents or even not ones are damaged, and they make sure that they are: "he crumpled up the original message and any notes that he himself had made, and dropped them into the memory hole to be devoured by the flames" [71]. Day by day and nearly second by second, the past is brought up to date. This process of continuous and endless modification is implemented not only to journals but to periodicals, books, magazines, films, leaflets, pamphlets, posters, soundtracks, photographs, kid's shows, cartoons, to every kind of literature or documentation which might possibly hold any political or ideological significance. Consequently, every prediction makes and done by the Party could be shown by documentary proof to have been correct, nor was anything of news, or any statement of feeling, which conflicted with the needs of the moment, ever permitted to stay on record. In reality, the Ministry of Truth tries to form the population's world view to match the government's interests without any kind of regular source of facts, Winston and anyone who, like him, is disappointed or concerned about the state of the world, has only their uncertain feelings on which to base their resistance. In order to ensure power over the population, power over the mind and power in the past are both required.

The slogan of the Party which is "Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past" [72] shows its conscious attempt to regulate history. The Party here promulgates the concept that any state at a specified moment has the authority to regulate all that is, all that was and all that is. By claiming it has always been correct, is always correct and always will be correct by forging the documents of the past, the Party generates the illusion of its own immortality. In so doing, the workforce sees the opposition to be pointless and fully submits itself to the authority of the Party. Therefore, Winston is unable to change the way that the Party works; he is powerless and afraid of the consequences. The Party controls everything; it has the power and all power.

IV. CONCLUSION

To conclude, there are main causes that led to Winston's powerlessness and made him later feel alienated: the totalitarian regime he lives in, his fear and the Party's

control of power and information. Past studies have tackled the issue from different perspectives where different scholars have different analyses and findings. Although they use different theories to analyse, they almost agreed that the individuals, especially Winston, have felt a sense of alienation. What makes this study is different in that the link between the causes and restricts the concept of powerlessness, which makes Winston later feel alienated.

Therefore, this paper studies Seeman's concept of powerlessness as depicted in the character of Winston in Orwell's *1984*. It focuses on the actions and causes that led to the protagonists' feelings of alienation. The study reveals that Winston is affected by the totalitarian regime that he lives in, besides his fear, the Party's control of power and information. Consequently, these causes make him feel powerlessness and thus alienated. In reference to the totalitarian regime where everything is under control: the family, individual, sex, thoughts, emotions, feelings and history, Winston is unable to control the events that get around him, and that definitely leads to the sense of powerlessness. His feeling of fear from the Party: The Thought Police and Room 101 makes him isolated and alone without any relationship and that certainly made him powerless. On the other hand, the Party's control of power and information made him oppressed and feel powerless; he is unable to change anything because of the external forces around him.

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