

LITERATURE, MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AND CRIMES PREVENTION IN GEORGE ORWELL'S *NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR*

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Abstract

This study examines the deployment of modern security technologies in crimes prevention and control as portrayed in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. It adopts the Sigmund Freudian Psychoanalytic theoretical framework which focuses on the levels of consciousness and the structure of personality of the characters in societies. The primary text is subjected to literary analysis with secondary materials gathered through the internet and was further utilized to substantiate issues in the discussion. The paper finds that the protagonist and other characters are conscious of the installation of modern technologies in strategic places but the instinctual drives to satisfy their emotional desires plays significance role in their lives. The protagonist, Winston and Julia attempt to violate the Party's sanction on sexual relationship as a measure to suppress birth control and rebellion in the nation. The Party deploys the use of telescreens and microphones apart from Thought Police and the use of children as spies to regulate thoughts, perceptions and behavioural patterns of individuals and groups against the totalitarian dictatorship of Big Brother. The study concludes that modern technologies can be deployed to prevent crimes and criminality in societies but they become abused if employed to suppress and exploit the citizens whose inalienable rights are being infringed upon by despotic leadership.

Keywords: Crimes, modern technologies, security, freedom, prevention

Introduction

Crimes and criminality have also been a subject of discourse to researchers, world leaders, security experts, opinion leaders and literary scholars, to mention a few, for several decades now. There are obviously numerous conferences, fora, workshops and symposia held in the past on trends of crime, prevention and control measures to strategize how to effectively combat criminality and break down of law and order in contemporary society. Past studies focus on crime detection using text recognition and face recognition (Shivam, *et al*, 2018), fighting crime and insecurity in Nigeria through an intelligent approach (Umar, *et al*, 2021), use of ICT tools in tackling insecurity and terrorism problem in Nigeria (Oludare, *et al*, 2015) and insecurity and

socio-economic development in Nigeria (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014), to mention a few. Despite of the above efforts made by scholars, crime rates have been steadily and increasingly growing at geometric progression without commensurate combating strategies employed by government and stakeholders. There is therefore the need to adequately deploy effective modern technologies in control and prevention of crimes and criminality in this 21st Century with a view to promoting peace and economic development in Third World countries. The application of science and technologies to crimes prevention and control will definitely reduce the rate of kidnappings, armed robberies, sea piracies, sexual harassments, oil thefts, vandalism of public properties and so on, to the barest minimum particularly in Nigeria.

Literary works on crimes and insecurity in society abound because literature reflects the experiences of writers. However, there appears to be insignificant researches carried out previously by literary scholars on the application of science and modern technologies in crime prevention and control as portrayed in literary productions. This study therefore examines literature, modern technologies and crimes prevention in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The researchers explore the novel by focusing on the nature of crimes, punishments, preventive and control measures adopted by the Oceanian government in the narrative. The study adopts the Sigmund Freudian Psychoanalytic theoretical framework which focuses on the levels of consciousness and the structure of personality of the characters in a technological advanced society. The primary text is subjected to qualitative analysis and the secondary materials gathered through the internet were utilized to substantiate issues in the discussion.

Literature and Society

Literature plays significant roles in the social transformation of society because through it, the indigenous knowledge of the people, cultural beliefs and practices, among other elements of oral traditions are transmitted to successive generations. Literature also provides insight to human experiential issues in various fields of discipline such as medicine and surgery, psychology, engineering, environmental management, phytotherapy, psychotherapy, basic medical sciences and health sciences, to mention a few. Though literary productions abound in the foregoing areas of specialty, the aspect of modern technologies and crimes prevention in fiction has not received significant attention.

Abrams (2005:152-153) defines literature as any other writings (including philosophy) history and even scientific works addressed to a general audience) that are especially distinguished in form, expression and emotional power." Literature serves as both the reflection and refraction of every human society from primordial to the present. As a reflection of society, it shows various socio-economic, cultural, religious and political experiences of a particular group of people or individuals. In terms of refraction,

literature reveals the negative aspects of society that are detrimental to the peace and progressive wheel. For instance, social vices such as kidnappings, killings, prostitution, sexual promiscuity, sharp corrupt practices in offices, to mention a few, are exposed and strongly condemned through literary productions. Every genre of literature has captured diverse forms of social vices which scholars have equally interrogated in their critical writings. This study will focus basically on the genre of prose fiction, particularly the science fiction.

Lombardo (2015:7) observes that "Science fiction, as narratives of the future, naturally resonates with the dynamic conscious flow of the human mind, giving our lives meaning, drama, and a sense of direction toward the future." The scholar further that, "Science fiction personally draws us into a rich vicarious experience of the future through its vivid and memorable characters. We live the story through the characters. All told, through science fiction narrative, we live and feel the future at a deep and intimate level" (7). Menadue and Cheer (2017:2) assert that "Science fiction questions the role, relevance, costs, and benefits of current and future technologies, and presents ideas that can influence public opinion." For instance, the CCTVs which are being deployed for security in various institutions today are among the inventions of science fiction in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* which predicts a constant watching and monitoring moves of citizens by a mysterious Big Brother. The novel was published in 1949 presenting a futuristic world that is characterized with modern technologies. Though the installation of CCTV cameras in public places is a violation of human rights to private life, their contributions towards crimes prevention and control cannot be overemphasized. The discourse on science fiction indicates that this form of writing requires imaginative and artistic skills to produce literary works that projects into the future and makes imaginations reality and concrete. Irele (1981:2) argues that "the imaginative writing stands both as a direct representation of the concrete facts of our collective experience and as a reconstruction, in the form of image, of the states of consciousness induced by that experience." This study examines

crimes and preventive mechanisms in Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. It is specifically designed to explore the novel as science fiction, interrogate crimes and criminality in society and presents the modern security technologies and equipment deployed in crime prevention and control in the novel.

Conceptual Clarification of Security

Research has revealed diverse methods of combating insecurity in society and they involve the utilization of traditional and modern technologies. Abutudu (2003:104) notes that "the traditional concept of security is generally structured around the state - the defense and preservation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Threats to the security of the state are therefore seen as essentially emanating from hostile external environment." The challenge of insecurity especially from external aggressors has been an age-long issue which must be prioritized by government and various community leaders. Adelugbo, *et al* (2007:77) find that in primordial period, "many peoples or communities resorted to using either alliances or the natural forces of nature for self-preservation. Thus many tribes employed indigenous security strategies." Research has also shown that conflicts that are caused by marginalization, deprivation, suppression and exploitation of individuals or groups could degenerate into insecurity. Muhammed (2017:35) argues that "conflict and violence are cross-cutting edge issues that cut across political, social, economic and environmental drivers that are both natural and man-made." The deployment of traditional security measure appears effective in the past. Adelugbo, *et al*, (2007:80) note that "in the African life worlds, people employed certain futuristic or spiritual extrapolation as means of attaining security. Hence, there was a strong tendency towards consulting oracles, soothsayers, diviners, etc." Although these metaphysical measures could be effective for combating insecurity challenges in society, majority of Africans particularly the political leaders would not subscribe to their adoption because of their religious faith and doctrines.

Having explored the subject of traditional security in society, our focus shifts to insecurity in modern societies. The concept of national security

in the opinion of Peterside (2018:854) refers to "the freedom from actual and potential threats to national life that may arise as a result of human actions, or from disaster such as flood, earthquake, famine, drought disease and other natural calamitous events resulting in death, human suffering and material damage" The perception of the scholar about national security is tailored towards absence of natural occurrences that have devastating effects on human beings in society. It contrasts with the prevalent militancy, terrorist acts and other social vices. Bala (2020:2) observes that "an effective national security architecture is one in which the state security institutions work in cooperation and collaboration under a political direction for effective security service delivery." The scholar argues further that "A nation's security architecture comprises the totality of its constitutional and legal frameworks and institutions that form and provide safety and security services for its citizens and the defence of its territorial integrity"(1). Although the acquisition of modern security gadgets and training of security personnel is capital intensive, peace and national security should be prioritized by any government. National security architectures include management, decision-making and oversight structures and institutions, as well as national policies, strategies and plans (Barkrania and Haider, 2016).

The subject of insecurity in both traditional and national settings has also been investigated by scholars in the past decades. Okorie (2022:249) notes that "traditional security revolves around national security, which is seen as the state of military preparedness to defend a country against external threats. It refers to a realist construct of security in which the referent object of security is the state. Under the traditional security approach, security was seen as protection from invasion; executed during proxy conflicts using technical and military capacities." The scholar argues further that "security is now conceptualized from the human-centric perspective. The modern or human security dimension focuses on improving the existential conditions of a nation by mitigating and/or preventing threats to safety, survival and wellbeing of the citizens as well as ensuring the corporate

existence of the state (Okorie, 2022:250). On the functionality of the government across the world with respect to security challenges, Ekeh, *et al* (2021:397) notes that “the primary responsibility of any government in power is to secure lives and properties. A well secured environment inspires greater minds to achieve greater things that guarantees (sic) growth and development of the nation to secure an environment is to protect it from attack which affects the physical.

Literature Review

George Orwell’s *1984* was published in 1949 has received tremendous scholarly attention in the world over. However, no significant research has been carried out in the aspect of literature and the deployment of the new technologies in crime prevention. This is the gap in literature which the current study intends to fill. Digin (2014) investigates new media culture and George Orwell’s *1984* and argues that some plot elements of the novel are thoroughly reflected within contemporary western societies. The scholar presents the consequences of new media technologies and interrogates how government agencies deploy new media technologies as a surveillance tool. Tyner (2004) examines the theoretical implications of space, resistance and discipline as manifest in George Orwell’s *1984*. The scholar draws on the theoretical insights of Michel Foucault to explore how the spatial and temporal control of everyday activities serves as discipline space within a totalitarian society. Hassan, *et al* (2022) investigate the concept of Big Brother as portrayed by George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, drawing on historical and psychological theoretical approaches. The researchers explore the idea of Big Brother in different views such as philosophical, political, psychological and literary dimensions. The study focuses on the historical or evolution of the concept of Big Brother and shed some light on the psychological influence of Big Brother on the character of Winston in the novel.

Rook (2015) explores surveillance, regulation and selfhood in George Orwell’s *1984* and Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*, paying attention to the role of vision as a means of maintaining control, and analyzing the potential ways in which characters might retain their

humanity and also determine the concept of inalienable rights within individuals. Zuraikat and Al-Nawasreh (2021) investigate the strategies of Evil Genius for manipulating people’s principles, thoughts, orientations, and ideologies in favour of promoting the logic of the Party of Evil Genius portrayed in George Orwell’s *1984*. The study reveals the strategies deployed by the Party in the novel which include delusional propaganda, memory resetting, and doublethink which are meant to convince the citizens of the significance of Big Brother for their peace and prosperity. The researchers note that the Party’s approach towards characters especially Winston affects his mental and emotional state and so he views his own rationale as inimical. Yet another study which illuminates the current research is that of Goldstein (2000) which explores George Orwell as a (Neo)conservative with a focus on *1984*. The study presents the defense of public values and insightful depiction of totalitarian system. Hole (2007) examines the dystopian nightmare of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* which is characterized with totalitarian dictatorship and its power discourse. The scholar presents a society with telescreens and the omniscient surveillance, and their effects on the individuals. Winston struggles for freedom to attain autonomy since citizens are shaped by the Party. The foregoing studies illuminate the current research which intends to explore the interface between literature and the new technologies in crime prevention in society.

Theoretical Framework

The psychoanalytic theoretical approach is adopted to in this study. Every individual in society has certain needs and the natural tendencies to achieve such desires without recourse to the consequences on themselves and the public in general. The adoption of this literary theory becomes relevant since it would help to activate the mental consciousness of reader’s particularly criminal minded citizens about the punishments for crimes and the modern security measures being deployed by government and other stakeholders in the security industry. In this literary theory, we examine the Freudian topographical structure of the human mind; the conscious, preconscious and the unconscious. The Carl Jung’s concept of Subconscious” shall also be

discussed in relation to the objectives of this study. Yet another aspect of the Freudian theory to be explored is the personality theory which is the psychic apparatus of individuals in society. These are the id, the ego and the superego.

Researchers have found out that crimes are attributed to certain biological theories which shall be examined in consonance with the foregoing psychic apparatuses. However, the application of modern security equipment and mechanisms to crime prevention and control will to a large extent minimize crime rates in contemporary societies. The consciousness of readers is awakened and the excessive instinctual drives, aspirations, and desires repressed into the human storehouse shall continue to be inhibited with the application of modern security technologies as portrayed in the literary text chosen for this study. Ezeora, et al (2023:105) acknowledge Aleyomi and Nwagwu (2020) who establish that “we use security to mean the ability of state security mechanisms, which involve state and non-state actors, to prevent and/or manage anxiety, uncertainty and harm that has the capacity to distort serenity and development.” The adoption of this theoretical framework becomes significant because the levels of consciousness of the characters in the novel is examined. Kumari (2016:34) affirms that “the psychoanalytic approach helps us to understand the psychological development of a character and the author’s personality. Therefore, psychoanalysis deals with motives which are hidden or disguised.” The theory foreground this study, focusing on underlying motivations that are responsible for the reactions and behaviours of the citizens of Oceania as portrayed by George Orwell in the chosen novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Criminal Acts in George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a science fiction and also a dystopian subgenre of literature that exposes the resultant effects of dystopia. The concept of dystopian refers to a type of fictional work that is characterized with constant surveillance, suppression and total violation of citizen’s supposed inalienable rights by the totalitarian political party under the watch of Big Brother. The Party outlaws privacy and

individuality which is dangerous and counterproductive to the people of Oceania. In order to keep the people under security surveillance, the Party installs telescreens (televisions and cameras) and microphones in every apartment and building with a view to monitoring the citizens of Oceania like the prisoners of the Panopticon.

Orwell identifies two major categories of criminals in the novel: the political prisoners and the common criminals. According to him, “the party prisoners were always silent and terrified, but the ordinary criminals seemed to care nothing for anybody. They yelled insults at the guards, fought back fiercely when their belongings were impounded, wrote obscene words on the floor, ate smuggled food which they produced from mysterious hiding-places in their clothes, and even shouted down the telescreen when it tried to restore order”(232). The narrator reveals the nature of “the forced-labour camps to which most of the prisoners expected to be sent” (232). He further asserts that:

there was bribery, favouritism and racketeering of every kind, there was homosexuality and prostitution, there was even illicit alcohol distilled from potatoes. The positions of trust were given only to the common criminals, especially the gangsters and the murderers, who formed a sort of aristocracy. All the dirty jobs were done by the politicals” (233).

Orwell through the narrative further reveals that, “there was a constant come-and go-of prisoners of every description: drug-peddlers, thieves, bandits, black-marketers, drunks and among others. Some of the drunks were so violent that the other prisoners had to combine to suppress them” (233). The novelist captures a society that is marred with various criminal acts that must be controlled and so the deployment of security architectures cannot be overemphasized. The dystopian novel therefore foreshadows the future world of science and technological advancement required for the crime prevention in 1984.

Security Technologies and Crime Prevention

George Orwell’s novel presents a technology-driven society under a totalitarian dictatorship where the fundamental rights of the citizens are

extremely violated through security architectures that are effectively deployed to control and regulate both private and group of people. The constant regulation and suppression of people is designed to subject the citizens to an unwavering loyalty and obedience to the dictatorial government even though their policies and political ideologies are repressive and obnoxious. The novelist portrays the deployment of modern technological devices such as telescreens, microphones and other instruments for crime control and prevention in the narrative.

Use of Telescreens

The telescreens are electronic devices that double as television and cameras strategically mounted on walls of rooms and buildings for security surveillance. They are used to keep people under control as they are constantly watched by both the citizens and the security agencies constituted by the Party. In the novel, Orwell presents a society that is controlled centrally with telescreens. In modern societies, the telescreens are the Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras that are installed in private and public places for security of lives and properties. Shatimah and Modu (2016:358) acknowledge McCahill and Norris (2003) who observe that Close Circuit Television (CCTV) “plays a significant role in protecting the public and assisting the police in the investigation of crime. The UK is one of the most watched countries in the world.” According to the narrator:

inside the flat a fruity voice was reading out a list of figures which had something to do with the production of pig iron. The voice came from an oblong metal plaque like a dulled mirror which formed part of the surface of the right-hand wall. Winston turned a switch and the voice sank somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable. The instrument (the telescreen, it was called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely” (6).

The writer reports the totalitarian function of the telescreen in crime prevention in society; “The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound that Winston made, would be picked up by it; moreover, so long as he

remained within the field of vision which the mental plaque commanded, he could be seen as well as heard”(5). Apart from the television installed for constant security in homes, sounding recording devices are also made available. Instrumentalist phoneticians are expected to subject these recording to thorough investigation in order to ascertain the speakers and the content of such recordings in relation to peace and security of the society. The Party established a security agencies which handle cases that might lead to disloyalty and revolt against Big Brother.

Security gadgets are purposely installed in strategic areas where movements, facial expressions and other non-verbal means of communication could be observed by security agents. The omniscient narrator reveals, thus:

There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or no what system, the Thought Police plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to (6-7).

The modern technologies help government to monitor, capture and digitally document thoughts, perceptions, emotions and behavioural patterns of individuals and groups who are oppositional to anti-citizen formulated policies and dictatorial excesses. The writer portrays a society that is completely controlled, hence; “you had to live- did live, from habit that became instinct- in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and except in darkness, every movement scrutinized”(7). Another revealing fact about the telescreen is that it can capture and disclose the identity of an individual. This is reported thus; “Winston kept his back turned to the telescreen. It was safer; though, as he well knew, even a back can be revealed”(7). In the narrative, Winston attempts to avoid the telescreen by all means but according to the authorial voice; “To keep your face expressionless was not difficult, and even your breathing could be controlled, with an effort: but you could not control the beating of your heart, and the telescreen was quite delicate enough to pick it up.” The Party has absolute

power over its citizenry and carefully religiously monitors the thoughts, feelings and actions, using telescreens and microphones to record sounds of people. The installation of telescreens has created horrible experiences to citizens especially the protagonist, Winston Smith and his lover, Julia.

In the novel, the narrator also reported that “the telescreen was dimmed to a low murmur; the richness of the dark-blue carpet gave one the impression of treading on velvet”(172). The characters are trying to avoid the telescreen in the room. Sometimes in a large hall, there could be up to “four telescreens, one in each wall”(231). The consciousness of the security apparatuses triggers phobic anxiety disorder in the minds of the characters since such new technologies serve as symbols of slavery, oppression and totalitarian dictatorial regime. The telescreen surveillance keeps the Oceanians under control and assimilation of propaganda, brain washing and daily chants about the Party with the watchword: **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU**

Use of Microphones

The novel also presents the use of microphones as modern technological devices deployed for crimes control and prevention in society. Winston falls in love with a girl but they find it difficult to share their feelings together. According to the narrator:

The girl was so evidently experienced that he was less frightened than he would normally have been. Presumably she could be trusted to find a safe place. In general you could not assume that you were much safer in the country than in London. There were no telescreens, of course, but there was always the danger of concealed microphones by which your voice might be picked up and recognized; besides, it was not easy to make a journey by yourself without attributing attention”(121).

The mass surveillance of the people prevents crimes, social unrest, and birth control to ensure national security. These dreams are actualized using the Thought Police, spies, telescreens and microphones and so violating the rights of citizens. Ugbeigili (2019:29) observes that “When leaders

desire to remain in power or get into power by all means, they use their ill-gotten wealth to lure the unemployed and embittered citizens to attack their opponents through violent ways” In a society that is constantly and strictly monitored by technological devices such as the case in this novel, it is suspicious and dangerous to be in isolation.

In the narrative, Winston, for instance, recounted his personal experience in the past where he discovered that his wife, Katherine was a spy to the Thought Police. According to the protagonist, he was showing her “different colours” while:

standing a little behind her, and he put his hand on her waist to steady her. At this moment it suddenly occurred to him how completely alone they were. There was not a human creature anywhere, not a leaf stirring, not even a bird awakes. In a place like this the danger that there would be a hidden microphone was very small, and even if there was a microphone it would only pick up sounds.

It was the hottest, sleepest hour of the afternoon. The sun blazed down upon them, the sweat tickled his face. And the thought struck him...”(139). The novelist describes Big Brother as an omniscient totalitarian dictator who is supported by the Party’s Thought Police. This security agency monitors, detects and punish rebellious citizens. Virtually every aspect of social life, individual privacy and morals are placed under strict surveillance. Orwell presents a party in government which advocates for “sexual puritanism” and according to the narrator, “It was not merely that the sex instinct created a world of its own which was outside the Party’s control which therefore had to be destroyed if possible. What was more important was the sexual privation induced hysteria, which was desirable because it could be transformed into war-fever and leader-worship”(137). In the narrative, modern technologies are also used for population and birth control. Besides, criminals are subjected to psychological and physical tortures by the regulatory agency, the Thought Police in the Ministry of Love (Miniluv) especially those who

develop hatred towards the Party and Big Brother. In order to achieve their goal, the Party controls sex. Orwell reports that:

The sex impulse was dangerous to the Party, and the Party had turned it to account. They had played a similar trick with the instinct of parenthood. The family could not actually be abolished, and, indeed, people were encouraged to be fond of their children in almost the old-fashioned way”(137).

The Party’s installation of new technologies in homes is among other reasons to repress the instinctual drives for sexual orientation and sexual intercourse. Shahwan (2017:1) notes “the mind is responsible for both conscious and unconscious decisions based on drives and forces. Unconscious desires motivate people to act accordingly.” The presence of the cameras at strategic locations therefore activates phobic-anxieties in the minds of parents whose sexual obligation is denied.

Children as Spies

Another security measure created by the government to constantly monitor family members particularly the parents is the use of children as spies to Thought Police. This role assigned children depicts the modern responsibility of the police informants who provide information to the security agencies in modern societies. In the narrative, the omniscient narrator reports that the children “were systematically turned against their parents and taught to spy on them and report their deviations”(137-138). The narrator also observes that, “The family had become in effect an extension of the Thought Police. It was a device by means of which everyone could be surrounded night and day by informers who knew him intimately”(138). The role of children in policing is tantamount to that of civilian informants who provide security information to the police. The recruitment of children into the security agency has further activated the emotional conflict of the characters within each family unit.

Rebellion and Thought Police

In the novel, the omniscient narrator reports that the control of thoughts, feelings and actions of citizens covers everyone including the Party members. This decision is absolutely meant

to prevent physical rebellion against the government. According to the narrator:

A Party member lives from birth to death under the eye of the Thought Police. Even when he is alone he can never be sure that he is alone. Wherever he may be, asleep or awake, working or resting, in his bath or in bed, he can be inspected without warning and without knowing that he is being inspected (216).

The novelist has clearly described Oceania as a police state where the citizens have no privacy throughout their lives. With the aid of the new technologies, character’s thoughts, behavioural patterns and actions are carefully analyzed to prevent crimes. “Nothing that he does is indifferent. His friendships, his relaxations, his behaviour towards his wife and children, the expression of his face when he is alone, the words he mutters in sleep, even the characteristic movements of his body, are all jealously scrutinized” (216). The foregoing therefore reveals that the people of Oceania are closely monitored by analyzing the underlying motivations towards their thoughts and behaviours even during their moments of relaxations.

The novelist discloses the expectations of every member of the Party in the totalitarian government. According to the omniscient narrator: “A Party member is expected to have no private emotions and no respites from enthusiasm. He is supposed to live in a continuous frenzy of hatred of foreign enemies and internal traitors, triumph over victories, and self-abasement before the power and wisdom of the Party”(217). Yet another scientific method for constant surveillance in society is the invention of print technology. According to the omniscient narrator the invention “made it easier to manipulate public opinion, and the film and the radio carried the process further. With the development of television, and the technical advancement which made it possible to receive and transmit simultaneously on the same instrument, private life came to an end”(211). The new technologies deployed by the Party in Oceania are infringements on the rights of people. Every citizen must love Big Brother and the Party’s draconian laws should not be violated.

Misuse of New Technologies

The government of Oceania misuses the new technologies by suppressing the citizens' fundamental rights and also creating emotional tension in their minds. The misapplication of the security architectures could endanger lives and properties and snowball into rebellion. It depicts the totalitarian world of Big Brother which counteracts individuality and freedom. It is the world thought-crime and telescreens are used as security measures for total surveillance and crime prevention. Contemporary societies can be monitored, using security apparatuses. In essence, they can be installed in private and public places for political, religious and socio-economic purposes. The utilization of the new technologies should not be abused and the information or data stored in them should not be doctored. This is where the cybersecurity experts come to the fore.

Cybersecurity is used synonymously with digital security, computer security and information technology security. These terms refer to the field of security that focuses on protection of computer systems or security technologies and networks from external attacks by security attackers. Orwell's science fiction thus captures the use of modern day television, security cameras and microphones (for sound recordings) as surveillance architectures predicted since 1949. This study does not promote the negative utilization of modern security technologies for political oppression and manipulation of citizens as in Oceania but basically to check or control criminal activities in contemporary society. In the narrative, Winston Smith tries to store certain vital

information in his diary which could serve as a backup. Although this practice is perceived criminal under the Party's totalitarian dictatorial policies, the protagonist secretly carries out this act habitually in the course of his duty.

Conclusion

George Orwell has demonstrated through his novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* that literature involves imaginative power of the human mind to create or forecast ideas, worldviews, perceptions and experiences which are either influenced by personal observations or through introspection. The modern technology-driven world is therefore the outcome of prediction of Orwell's *1984* which was published in 1949.

The study shows that literary productions particularly the subgenre of science fiction captures issues of invention, modern technologies, human experiences, ideologies and political systems, to mention a few. The invention of the new technologies depicts that literature deals with imaginative and critical thinking about ideas or phenomena that can manifest in future. The mass production and deployment of modern technological devices in societies today is therefore the outcome of Orwell's forecast. However, the novel presents a totalitarian dictatorial leadership that employs modern security architectures in suppression, regulation and violation of citizens' fundamental human rights. In the narrative, the Party under the leadership of Big Brother achieves the implementation of their obnoxious laws through the Thought Police and the recruitment of Children as Spies to the security agency.

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