

Literary Analysis: Language and Power in 1984

Name: [melissa]

Specialization: [languageandcommunication]

January 17, 2026

Introduction

George Orwell's novel 1984 explores the intersection of language, power, and social control. In the extract, Syme explains "Newspeak," a language designed to limit human thought. By destroying words, the Party aims to make thoughtcrime impossible. This analysis examines how linguistic engineering serves as a tool for political domination.

Development: Linguistic Control

The core objective of Newspeak is the diminution of the range of thought. As noted in the text, the aim is to narrow thought to prevent dissent (Orwell 1949). By removing words like "freedom," the state removes the concept from the mind. This aligns with theories on how language is used as a tool of ideological power (Flores and Rosa 2016).

Conclusion

Orwell demonstrates that when language is manipulated, the power to resist is lost. The death of expressive language leads to the death of identity. This serves as a warning about the importance of language maintenance against authoritarian pressure.

References

- Flores, Nelson and Jonathan Rosa (2016). "Undoing Appropriateness: Raciolinguistic Ideologies". In: *Harvard Educational Review*.
Orwell, George (1949). *1984*. Secker Warburg.