

Examining Dictatorial and Totalitarian Practices in Dystopian Literature through a Study of Selected Works

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Abstract

Dystopian literary genre appeared to describe a demolished world predicting a dark, repugnant future for humanity building on incidents that happen in real life by totalitarian, repressive regimes. This thesis investigates dictatorial and totalitarian practices portrayed in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949), Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), and Harold Pinter's *One for the Road* (1984) and *Mountain Language* (1988) using the Marxist and Cultural Materialist approaches to analyse the literary works. This study aims at highlighting different manifestations of exerting control used by repressive regimes. It also sheds light on such regimes' endeavours in brainwashing people not only to obey the orders but also to love, and believe in, the dictator rulers and repressive systems. It depicts the hypocrisy of dictatorial systems with false claims of ultimate happiness and comfort. Moreover, it explores physical and psychological torture people undergo to be brainwashed, so they would truly believe in the authorities' claims. Finally, this study examines the role of free will and perseverance in destabilizing totalitarian regimes' power and domination.

Keywords: dystopia, utopia, dictatorship, totalitarianism, torture, repressive regimes, control, brainwashing, rebellion.