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**LITERARY ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEL 1984 COMPARING
THE EVENTS IN THE NOVEL WITH MODERN TIMES
THROUGH THE SOCIOPOLITICAL APPROACH**

Thesis Submitted to Obtain the Bachelor's Degree in English

STUDENT: ANDRÉS LÓPEZ GUZMÁN

THESIS MENTOR: M.Sc. CATALINA GUERRERO

SEDE ARANJUEZ

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Dedication

I want to dedicate this work to my family, and only to my family. They have supported me through all my life. My father, who has always believed in me, who has seen me in at my lowest, and still supported me without judging me, only showing me that as long as he is alive, he will have my back. My mother, who is the most loving, nurturing, and big-hearted person I will ever meet in my life; she has taught me everything that I know since I have reason, and I truly believe that if I have good values and qualities as a person, is because of her. In addition, my two sisters reflect my fathers, we have been through thick and thin, and still have encouraged me to sacrifice myself every day to achieve my goals. Finally, I want to dedicate this to my niece and nephew, they are the reason why I wake up every morning and try my best, they are the reason I am still alive, they make me want to live, and be the best person I can be.

Resumen

La siguiente es una investigación cualitativa denominada Análisis de la novela 1984 Comparando los Eventos de la Novela con los Tiempos Modernos Através del Enfoque Sociopolítico. La investigación trata de ejemplificar los hechos de la novela y determinar cómo dichos eventos son una amenaza que puede ser replicada en futuro en la vida real. Tomando en cuenta la agitación geopolítica de los últimos años, donde diferentes crisis han surgido alrededor del mundo, esta investigación aparece en un momento oportuno. Basado varias lecturas que se realizaron a la novela, la investigación se apoya en diferentes fuentes de información para demostrar los hallazgos en el enfoque que ha sido seleccionado. Contiene el marco introductorio que describe los conceptos utilizados para la investigación. Adicionalmente, las definiciones que dan forma a la investigación son desarrolladas para entender mejor el enfoque. Además, contiene la biografía del autor y la trama de la novela. El estudio extrae citas de la novela que son analizadas y discute los eventos descritos, para ser contrastados con eventos verdaderos del pasado, presente y como son una amenaza de convertirse en realidad en el futuro.

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Chapter I

Introductory Framework

Living under an authoritarian regime is a nightmare, and that is what George Orwell advised us in his most famous novel, 1984. This research intends to make a comparison with what is happening in the book and try to identify through own research and other works, similarities in governments and technology around the world nowadays. That is not only the current governments in the world that are declared socialist, but also those which are democratic in theory, however, they are implementing authoritarian practices in their countries.

1.1 Problem Statement

Current times present a series of sociopolitical problems that are similar to previous times. However, the addition of technology has changed the perception of most aspects of life and things that can be accomplished through it. As mentioned before, there are governments that still use torture to get information from people that have been arrested. For example, the CIA in the United States elaborated a plan following the terrorist attacks of 9/11 for “suspected terrorists were seized and secretly flown across national borders to be interrogated by foreign governments that used torture, or by the CIA itself in clandestine “black sites” using torture techniques” (*Globalizing Torture: CIA Secret Detention and Extraordinary Rendition*, 2022). Besides from torture, and as it is depicted in the novel and before and after it was written, governments used war or internal conflicts to prevent people to express themselves, for example, in Turkey is not allowed the right to peaceful protest. In addition, communist governments like Venezuela are currently getting rid of the free international market, keeping their population poor, and starving them to maintain power.

With the rise of technology through the internet, it is maintained surveillance and population control: however, this does not only apply to governments. In addition, fake news reported by mass media with their own agenda and own purposes; and also companies like Facebook are getting information about their users, “An investigation by The Wall Street Journal

found that Facebook is collecting data from smartphone users' other apps without their consent" (O'Connor, 2019). With almost every process going digital and entering databases from different companies and other entities, it is important to determine when all information can be used for social control or even invade aspects of our daily lives.

1.2 Research Question

What are the sociopolitical similarities between the novel 1984 and modern times around the world?

1.3 General Objective

To analyze what are the sociopolitical similarities of the novel 1984 and modern times in the world are

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

To identify what population control mechanisms from the novel have been implanted in our current society

To compare the effects of population control mechanisms from the novel and the ones implemented in current society

To distinguish what are the major threats to society's freedom in current times

1.3.3 Justification of the Study

The geopolitical situation of the world has been turbulent over the last few years, but also during in the course of history. World powers like China, United States, and Russia, dictate the

economic and overall direction of the globe. In its novel, 1984; George Orwell described a dystopic world where a tyrant government led by his ruler “Big Brother” commanded Oceania (the part of the world the government owned) a totalitarian and highly formalized state as they wished. Personal and collective liberties under authoritarian regimes or governments had been cut off through time creating despair, hunger, and overall pain within citizens of those regimes, very alike to what is described in Orwell’s novel. In the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (URSS), during the revolution; the secret police, propaganda transmission through the state-controlled mass media, personality cultism, restrictions on free discussion and criticism, mass surveillance, political executions, and persecution of specific groups of people were all used by the dictatorship to preserve power. Governments like the URSS wanted to invade every aspect of life, even controlled the sexual life of women. For example, in the city of Vladimir, the state forced women when they turned eighteen years old to register in an office of “free love”:

For those who wish, the choice of husband or wife can be made once a month. In the interest of the State, men between the ages of nineteen and fifty have the right to choose women registered in the office, without even needing the consent of these last. The children that are the fruit of this type of cohabitation will become property of the republic. (as cited in Marquez and Laje, 2016, p.43-44).

In China, Mao Tse Tung, leader of the communist party between 1958 and 1962, created “The Great Leap”. A campaign to rebuild the country as a communist state through economic and social means. He killed more than forty-five million people, that is “Anyone who got in his way was done away with -- by execution, imprisonment or forced famine” (Edwards, 2010). The Nazi government of Adolf Hitler killed more than eleven million people during the holocaust. In addition, in 1935, 1,600 publications were shut down, and those that remained were only allowed to run Nazi-approved items. Examples of authoritarian governments do not

only exist in the past. For instance, North Korea currently is one-state led by a totalitarian dictatorship state where people are denied political engagement, and even KWP (Korean Workers Party) elites are threatened with severe punishments for perceived disloyalty or dissent. In Cuba, political pluralism is illegal under a one-party communist state, which also prohibits independent media, punishes dissent, and severely restricts basic civil liberties.

Orwell wrote this novel as a warning of the damages that authoritarian regimes can cause to individuals and to a complete society to maintain power using the excuse of the “common good”. The relevance of this study is to raise awareness among citizens regarding individual and collective freedoms that may be in jeopardy with the justification of public health and other excuses that can be used to control populations. In most countries, during the pandemics, society has been restricted from individual freedom when it comes to free transit with restrictions in public roads, as well as limiting group gatherings and schedules of businesses that are imposed by the government. When it comes to free speech; in some countries including Bangladesh, China, and Egypt people remain in detention at the time of writing simply for criticizing government responses to Covid-19 months earlier. It is important to outline when restrictions are applied to maintain public health or when it is used for other political or economic purposes. The study will benefit anyone who is interested in learning what is happening in regard to what are the attempts to restrain individual liberty and public liberties in the world by comparing it to the events of the book. By reviewing and analyzing previous works on the subject, and examining the most important events in the book, the theoretical significance on the subject will be extended.

1.4 Antecedents

- According to Morán (n.d), the study of socialization and of political culture was incorporated in the decade of the 1950's. This was the genesis of sociopolitical

approaches. In 1959, Herbert H. Hyman wrote the book "Political socialization, a study of in the psychology of political behaviour", a book about sociopolitical studies.

- Pearson and Gimpel (2009), coined that between 1961 and 1968, the term "political socialization" evolved from a passing reference within the discipline to a major subfield of study. Their studies on the research article "Religion and Political Socialization" explored the process in which people acquired their political beliefs, attitudes, and expectations. They defined the term political socialization as "the process by which citizens learn about political leaders, governmental institutions, and political processes, and acquire their political beliefs and practices. Socialization is developmental in nature." (Pearson-Merkowitz & Gimpel, 2009). They discussed that the sociopolitical notion of a person begins on the early stages of life, since his parents communicate messages that mold their way of thinking regarding morality, authority, and identity; also control their social environment, preventing them from individuals or entities that are contrary to their parental vision.
- Sociopolitical studies from centuries before, such as *The Social Contract* published in 1762 by the philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, is an essay about the contract between the government and people. Moreover, the thesis by Haozhe Wang "Political Realism and Political Philosophy in Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Social Contract*" explored the views of Rousseau of political realism. It explained that Rousseau believed that "the governmental operations that preserve the political cohesion of the sovereign people in face of a lasting risk of civil war and preserve national independence in a pluralistic international system of states." (Wang, 2013). It also reviewed Rousseau's reflection on foreign politics, political economy, and the role of the government on people's lives. The sociopolitical analysis of Rousseau through this thesis explained that "political sovereignty that must guarantee moral autonomy, equality, and justice to the citizens" (Wang, 2013). These views were later replicated and applied almost throughout the western world,

Rousseau believed this was the only way for people to obtain political sovereignty, but it was never “complete”. Rousseau’s thought that a government based on conquest and slavery was not sustainable since it was grounded on belligerent beliefs. Wang (2013) explained that Rousseau corrected and modified the realist tradition in order to maintain the autonomy and centrality of the concept of sovereignty while also addressing the issue of inequality and the societal split that inequality would entail. This all has to do with the approach of what sociopolitical affairs and real sovereignty should be for Rousseau.

- George Orwell’s 1984 has been subject of study almost since its release. Hadley (2011) in his thesis “The Value of George Orwell’s Works: From Popular Literature to the Classroom” advised that Orwell’s work should be taught to youngsters to connect their learning process to the reality of the world around them. He also explained that he is particularly relevant today because of the sociopolitical subjects he explored in his writings. It also explains that Orwell also uses this work to target politicians who support communist ideology, (Hadley, 2011). In, addition, it is stated that novel should be taken as a warning of what the future of mankind could potentially become. The thesis suggested that 1984 featured several significant themes that are still being debated by the public; as it addressed issues of privacy, individualism, and hopelessness. The thesis explains that the novel has been forgotten in the educational system, where it should actually be taught to young students as a primary reference of how an authoritarian government works. The thesis taught us (Hadley, 2011) that Orwell in pamphlets and writings written throughout the 1930s and 1940s, such as *The Lion and the Unicorn*, battled with totalitarian notions. “United States readers and critics raved about this work. They found it not only enjoyable to read, but thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating. 1984 was truly the epitome of George Orwell’s writings” (Wang, 2013). The thesis outlined that an article explained “the New York Post described the bizarre,

science-fiction world of today: "It seems like maybe George Orwell's vision of Big Brother in 1984 has finally been realized (again)."' (Wang, 2013).

- One cannot say that everything that political parties in power do everything to damage people's lives in all aspects, but the prevention or the warning on how authoritarian governments operate is always useful. Regarding the novel it is informed that "Orwell does not intend to criticize the entire ethical society, but simply the means, the facts, and the beliefs in the inner Party members who want to destroy human mind and deceive people" (Qin, 2018). The academic publication *Ethical Consciousness under Totalitarianism —Review on George Orwell's 1984* by Xuan Qin explained that during the Donald Trump administration in the United States "Public concern is that whether George Orwell's allegorical purpose will be realized" (Qin, 2018). The work enlisted how irrational the government in the novel worked, for example the perversion of normal logical consciousness, which included rewriting rationality and adopting irrational regulation as a fundamental political premise; and it shaped or advised how this is something that could be happening in some governments nowadays. It continued to explain relevance in today's world "Articles written about the power of technology and the growing threat against individual freedom and privacy refer to the thematic elements of Orwell's 1984. Although his most haunting novel is now over fifty years old, its concepts still influence society and continue to be pertinent in a technologically driven world" (Qin, 2018).
- The use of technology to control aspects of people's life has been subject of controversy in the last few years, and in the novel 1984 "There is no private space where one can hide from the constant and coercive gaze of the big brother" (Syeda et al., 2020). This work called *Panopticon: An Automation of Power Mechanism a Foucauldian Analysis of the Coercive Surveillance in 1984 by George Orwell* compared Panopticon, a symbol of total surveillance, associated with the establishment of an ideal state for some, while for the others it has stood as a coercive instrument for exercising power." (Syeda et al.,

2020). The telescreens depicted in the novel and Michael Foucault's vision of the book, it is explained how "Panopticon" worked in order to maintain vigilance over every aspect of citizens, establish discipline, order, and control in order to maintain public order, whereas a revolution against the government is unimaginable. It explained that the novel demonstrated extreme caution in erasing every evidence of truth. Norms are depicted as truths, and the novel's dialogue is based on this culturally manufactured truth or reality. The principles of exclusion and inclusion are used in the discourse creation process.

- In his work *George Orwell Utopian Vision* of 1965, Alan Stuart Jackson explained (1965) that Orwell believed that political decision was the basic ethical action of his day stemmed from the fact that he lived an essentially political era. This because the misuse of power and the demoralizing effects of poverty were the major moral problems in his contemporaries' lives, and because a single man could not deal with these evils in his private capacity, so political engagement became the most effective form of ethical action for responsible men. It coined that Orwell's positive moral vision in his attack on religion and the religious attitude. For Orwell, and, as he judged, for most thoughtful men of his generation, religious belief necessarily entailed hypocrisy. He founds it difficult, if not impossible, to compromise with the religious position.

1.5 Scope

This research aims to

- 1 - determine which population control systems depicted in the novel have been installed in our current civilization.
- 2- contrast the effects of population control techniques in the novel with those in modern society.
- 3 - identify the greatest risks to freedom in the current era.

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

The literary value of the dystopian novel 1984 remains as one of the most important of the twentieth century. Umberto Eco claimed that “at least three-quarters of what Orwell narrates is not negative utopia, but history” (as cited in Groening, 2019). The influence of the novel since its release remains more vivid than ever due to the depiction of what authoritarianism can do once in power, and even there is still people who dreams about the “communist dream”, this novel works as an example (whose actually was inspired by George Orwell’s experiences with authoritarian regimes) of the nightmare what reality can be, when longing a government where everyone is treated as “equal”. In order to understand the approach that will be given later into this research, it is imperative to deconstruct every term that will be used for the analysis of this valuable piece of literature as well of the symbology that is going to be used for this purpose and reach a palpable thesis of what can be done to prevent our society from experiencing limitations to personal and group freedoms.

2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches

2.1.1 Literature

Literature, according to Encyclopedia Britannica is defined as “a body of written works” (Rexroth, 2022). Literature also can be coined as writings that are beautiful in form or expression and express thoughts that are timeless or universal. Different writers and the most important ones through history have their definitions as well. Virginia Woolf, English writer, and one of the most important of the 20th century, defined literature as “strewn with the wreckage of those who have minded beyond reason the opinion of others” (Definition of Literature - Literary English, 2020). Ezra Pound, American poet and critic, defined it (2020) as language that is as full of

meaning as possible. It is important to take into consideration these definitions since they were described by those writers who actually have crafted its meaning to later move into more developed descriptions. Ezra Alfred North Whitehead, English mathematician, and philosopher of the twentieth century, defined literature as “where the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression”. In addition, Oscar Wilde, Irish poet, and playwright of the nineteenth century declared (2020) that literature is always a forerunner of life. It does not imitate it, but rather adapts it to its needs. Another great definition was given by E.M Foster, English fiction writer who died in 1970, he explained that “What is wonderful about great literature is that it transforms the man who reads it towards the condition of the man who wrote.” (Definition of Literature - Literary English, 2020). Terry Eagleton (English literary theorist who is still alive), in his book “Literary Theory: An Introduction”, explained literature is “Imaginative' writing in the sense of fiction - non-literally truthful writing” (Eagleton, 1996, p.1).

Therefore, to be able to understand what literature is from a concept of what embodies, the types of works under this category have to be analyzed. If it is taken into consideration the literary works of the authors mentioned before and also those as famous as William Shakespeare who were as also mentioned before, it can be stated that they have crafted the definition of literature; the main categories have to be explored in order to have a better understanding of the concept. Fiction is one of the main genres developed under works of literature. Fantasy, historical fiction, contemporary fiction, mystery, and science fiction are some of the most popular subgenres.

During the renaissance, *The Nights of Straparola* (1550-1555) was a collection of fairy tales that was later used by writers of Shakespeare; later on, during the enlightenment, there were not many works of fiction, but one author that can be distinguished by his fairy tales, as well, is Charles Perrault. The romanticism era exploded with great literary fiction, it has to be mentioned that the Gothic Novel was invented during this period which began with works like “*The Castle of Otanto*” in 1764 “It tells the story of Manfred, the prince of Otantro, who is keen to

secure the castle for his descendants in the face of a mysterious curse” (*Walpole, The Castle of Otranto*, 2022). The Victorian era saw the literary fiction growing even more, with works such as *Frankenstein*, wrote by Mary Shelly (1791-1851) in 1818, which told the story of Victor Frankenstein, a talented scientist who succeeded in bringing a creature he created to life. Moreover, Edgar Allan Poe, American writer known for his mysterious and disturbing tales such as “The Masque of the Red Death”, a story followed “Prince Prospero's attempts to avoid a dangerous plague known as the Red Death by hiding in his abbey.” (*The Masque of the Red Death* (2014) - IMDb, 2022). Through this era, it can also be found *Alice in Wonderland* written in 1865, a classic universally known. During the twentieth century until our days fantasy has been a best seller in literature; but to mention just a few, “*Mrs Dalloway*” by Virginia Woolf told the story (*Mrs Dalloway*, 2022) of Clarissa Dalloway, a fictional high-society woman in post-World War I in England, who recounted a day in her life. Most contemporary or recent fantasy works with widespread popularity even adapted to film are J.R.R Tolkien’s “*Lord of the Rings*” or, J.K Rowling’s *Harry Potter*.

Nonfiction is also one of the main genres in literature. It is defined as “the branch of literature comprising works of narrative prose dealing with or offering opinions or conjectures upon facts and reality, including biography, history, and the essay (opposed to fiction and distinguished from poetry and drama).” (*Definition of nonfiction*, 2022). Since its major works are also too many to point out, it is important to mention to its main subcategories, in order to have a clear insight of what it includes for example, academic papers, autobiographies, essays, journals, literary criticism, scientific paper works, etc. Drama literature is a major element of works of literature, and it is defined as “the portrayal of fictional or non-fictional events through the performance of written dialog (either prose or poetry). Dramas can be performed on stage, on film, or the radio. Dramas are typically called *p/ays*, and their creators are known as

“playwrights” or “dramatists.” (Definition of Literature - Literary English, 2022). There is no doubt regarding who is the major exponent of this genre, William Shakespeare (1564-1616) is largely regarded as the greatest dramatist of all time and the most important writer in the English language's history. He coined hundreds of words and phrases that are still used by English people today. *Romeo and Juliet* for the universality of the story of young people in love trying to be together in an indifferent society has captivated audiences and readers all around the world. *Hamlet*, written in 1599 is possibly the greatest drama ever written, tells the story of the prince of Denmark, who is dealing with his father's recent death and his mother's marriage to Claudius, his father's brother, and heir. Modern drama includes *A Streetcar Named Desire* wrote by Tennessee Williams in 1947, which follows the story of Blanche DuBois, a former Southern belle, who leaves her wealthy background to relocate into a squalid apartment rented by her younger sister after suffering a series of misfortunes. Moreover, it can be found, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry in 1959, follows a Black family in south Chicago as they try to improve their financial situation with an insurance settlement after the father's death, and touched issues such as housing discrimination, racism, and assimilation. Another important genre to literature is folktale, described as a traditional story passed down orally, generally anonymously. Examples of folktales universally known are *Little Red Riding Hood*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling*, etc.

Since the most basic definition of literature and its main genres have been defined, it is important to outline what the scholars who have studied the process of literature have said about it. Todorov explained (1978) that the history of literature is intimately linked to other historical series, each series involves a complex bundle of structural laws that are specific to them. It is also explained that scholars in literature do not love authors like Shakespeare since they do not find more than a quantity of quotes in his work. Literature not only embodies fantasy works or

things meant to entertain as it is suggested “Finally, all literature is integrated into the set of social factors thanks to its “verbal function”” (Todorov, 1978, p.16). This means that things that are happened throughout history make literature and its different forms. Historians of literature used everything to analyze it, personal life, psychology, politics, and philosophy.

Is important that literature evolves as society does, since it has been documented in literature the evolution of humans as society. Moreover, it can be said that literature is a social phenomenon. Todorov also explained poetry in the context of literature (1978) as a particular way to think, images. It is imperative to conclude that literature also symbolizes a grouping of images that are displayed by the written word. Literature keeps evolving as society evolves, Todorov clarified that “the words that we used yesterday in a story today no longer say nothing” (Todorov, 1978, p.78). Literature goes along with language, with historic events that follow the route of mankind, so it can also be coined that literature is defined by these moments or events and it makes itself as human history progresses.

2.1.2 Theory

The definition of the word is presented as “a formal statement of the rules on which a subject of study is based or of ideas that are suggested to explain a fact or event or, more generally, an opinion or explanation” (Theory, 2022). The word comes from Greek *theoria* which means “contemplation, speculation”; it was used as “*theoros*”, in a way to describe ambassadors of the Greek cities who went to religious parties and just watched without being part of them. In a sense one can assimilate events and try to get conclusions over those observations. Theory (2002) is the instrument or conceptual scheme by which human beings attempt to systematically articulate the research process. As Laudriere stated (1997), theory is

connected through experience, it suggests useful interventions that eventually will allow to support or eliminate a hypothesis and will permit knowledge to go further.

According to Carvajal (2002), in current times theory is perceived as partial knowledge of what is real, and it is not universal knowledge since knowledge is getting more and more specialized. Laudriere (1997) also explained that theory is a system, a conceptual configuration whose elements are interdependent, and it is shown by its own structure, its internal cohesion, and its subtraction. Theory is the instance that collects the appearance in the force of the word. The theory captures reality through concepts, which are objects' ideas or meanings. It also comprises rules, hypotheses, definitions, and axioms, theorems, and equations, among other things, in the most precise or formalizable circumstances.

McQuail (1983) proposed that theory not only can be viewed as any systematic body of ideas that can make sense of a phenomenon, direct action, or forecast a result, not just as a system of law-like statements. In this sense, he asserted within his area of study five different kinds of theories related to communicate to masses. The first one is the cultural theory that as McQuail explained, attempts to classify cultural artifacts according to a set of quality criteria its purpose is sometimes virtually the polar opposite: to dispute hierarchical classification as unimportant to culture's fundamental importance. The second one is social scientific theory, based on the systematic and objective study of media and other relevant sources. It makes broad conclusions about nature, work, and impacts of mass communication. Another one is the normative theory, which is focused on studying or prescribing how media should operate in order to monitor or achieve specific social values.

The fourth one as McQuail (1983) described is the operational theory since it relates to the practical ideas that media practitioners have gathered and utilized in the course of their own media work. Moreover, the operational theory is used to guide answers to basic problems, such

as how to choose news, please audiences, develop effective advertising, stay inside the constraints of what society allows, and effectively relate to sources and society. Finally, there is the theory of media use based on common sense, referring to the information we all have gained from our own personal experiences with media. This allows us to make sense of what is going on, to incorporate a medium into our daily lives, and to comprehend how its content is intended to be 'read' as well as how we choose to read it. All of these theories can be effective when studying human traits such as his behavior and how it interacts with mass media when trying to reach a specific audience. Gelso clarified, (as cited in Udo.Akang, 2012, p. 92) clarified that "theories should serve to describe and explain a phenomenon effectively, should place a limit on what might be examined, and should be highly generative to heuristically stimulate further investigation". In addition, Gelso also advised (as cited in Udo.Akang, 2012, p. 90) that "there are three critical points as central to theory (a) idea generation, (b) hypothesis generation, and (c) interpretation of results

Besides from concepts on how theories can be applied to society or a particular public for a certain purpose, the use of the word theory is crucial when it comes to the scientific method." Glaser and Strauss (1968), coined the term "grounded theory", which is basically the discovery of theory from data in order to to come up with useful predictions, explanations, interpretations, and applications. A grounded theory closely reflects the realities of a given area that will make sense and be understandable to those who work in that field. It will have to be taught to them in order to comprehend its utility, and they are unlikely to be able to apply it themselves.

Another field in which the term 'theory' is used with its own implications, is in the scientific field, specifically in the scientific method. A scientific theory is a scientific explanation for a natural phenomenon that is commonly accepted and backed up by evidence. Many tests

and experiments have proven scientific hypotheses; thus, they are unlikely to alter. For science, theory not only explains known facts, but it also helps scientists to predict what they will see if the theory is correct. Scientific theories can be put to the test. New evidence should be consistent with an existing idea. If it is not, the theory is either improved or dismissed.

2.1.3 Literary Theory

As the definitions of Literature” and Theory have been covered and coined with its different branches of use, it is appropriate to provide the fundamental meaning of what literary theory is. This is defined as “is the body of ideas and methods we use in the practical reading of literature. By literary theory we refer not to the meaning of a work of literature but to the theories that reveal what literature can mean” (Literary Theory, 2022). It is basically the framework on which your reading proposal of a specific piece of literature is based. Berthens (2001), claimed that critics and theorists would argue that whether one realizes it or not, one always interprets a text from a theoretical standpoint, and they would argue that theory cannot exist without interpretation. However, these interpretations do not always come from analyzing literature written by others; Berthens stated that for example “Poets find what is valuable and has real meaning in themselves; they just know (2001, p. 6).

What is the purpose of reading literature and why some people find themselves special when doing so? Our lives backgrounds and experiences come into play when one enjoys reading. As Barthens claimed “Isn’t it true that many of us, at least at some point in our life, want to see literature as a high-minded enterprise by and for sensitive and fine-tuned intellectuals that is somehow several steps removed from the trivial push and pull of ordinary life?” (2001, p.8). This how the actual writers of literature have felt through the course of history. As an example, T.S Eliot, American-English poet, and Barthens explained (2001) that back then Eliot sought for meaningful experiences in poetry that the modern world has become dominated by materialistic

values and cheap moralism, but that cannot be provided. The natural, organic unity that is absent from the rest of the world, and that people have lost with the emergence of scientific rationality and utilitarian thought of industrialization; the dissociation of sensibility is embodied, according to him, by poetry's artistic form during the beginning of the twentieth century.

The literary theory continued to grow as a discipline within literature itself during that century according to Barthes "the search for the meaning of poems, novels, plays, and other works of literature has from the 1920s well into the 1970s absolutely dominated English and American literary studies and still constitutes one of their important activities" (2001, p.15). Moreover, Eliot was a pioneer of the new criticism, a branch in literary theory that focuses on "examined the formal and structural elements of literature" (*Literary Theory: Understanding 15 Types of Literary Criticism*, 2022). Once again, this movement noticed a world, whose only interest was the materialism and the rationality of science, attempting to vanish the beauty of expression found in arts like literature. "The New Critics, then, saw poetry as a means of resisting commodification and superficiality. Because of its internal organization – its formal structure – a poem created harmony out of opposites and tension and thereby presented a vital alternative." (Barthes, 2001, p.21).

In this way, criticism is viewed as a passive reception of the text, a pure recording of its mental essences, rather than a construction, an active interpretation of the work that will necessarily engage the critic's own interests and biases. In literary theory both the author and text have to be in consideration in order to apply that theory, but a dilemma is present to us when separating the artist from the art. In this sense the English novelist and poet D.H Lawrence warned "Never trust the artist, trust the tale" (Jefferson, 2003). This is a debate not only when it comes to literary criticism or when applying literary theory to a text, but also when judging art

overall, and especially when the artist has done something in his private or public life that attempts against the morality of the modern world.

It is also important for this research to explore how literary theory and hermeneutics are at the end the same thing, but different terminology, with the oldest definition of the concept related to the study and analysis of biblical texts, with the evolution of the term of textual interpretation in its entirety. Interpretation of a text is not only up to the reader, as Eagleton stated, "There may be a number of different valid interpretations, but all of them must move within the 'system of typical expectations and probabilities' which the author's meaning permits" (1996, p.58). To be able to identify the author's intention within the text could be almost impossible, due to all the factors that are involved when trying to figure it out this. If someone is able to identify the author's intention is a matter that one could be lucky, due to the fact the even the author could be dead or the intention or meaning of the text is forgotten by the writer. This is why it is important for the critic to know the author's meanings at the time of writing, as they would have been governed by prevailing conventions and ways of perceiving his environment and situation overall.

On the other hand, the hermeneutics approach is part of the interpretative process since this will get the reader closer to the actual meaning of the text and his refined understanding. This includes verbal and nonverbal forms of communication as well as prior aspects that affect communication, such as presuppositions, preunderstandings, the meaning, and philosophy of language. Language forms a key element of the analysis since, "Hermeneutic philosophy, furthermore, puts forward an unjustifiable claim by regarding tradition embedded in language as forming a supportive consensus that cannot itself be questioned since it provides the conditions of its possibility" (Bleicher, 1980, p.8). Moreover, language is just a key element within everything that has to be analyzed because hermeneutics has also dealt with the

interpretation and comprehension of human conduct, particularly human action through political, cultural, economic, and family organizations.

Within the types of literary criticism that are included within literary theory, it is important to determine the theory that is expected to be applied to this research. Since the book is used in this research is "1984" by George Orwell, a dystopian novel in a fictitious world, it is important to apply the cultural studies, because even though the novel is fictional, it describes and was inspired in real events of governments that have ruled countries. In this sense, cultural theory examines a text within its socio-cultural environment. Cultural studies have been also defined as "the social science of the study of the production, distribution, exchange and reception of textualized meaning" (Milner, 2002, p.5).

Milner and Browitt (2002) deconstructed the explanation of the concept in which the phrase "textualized meaning" is used to describe a concern with signifying practices in general rather than literature and media art in particular; and the use of the phrase "creation, distribution, exchange, and reception" to indicate a concern in how texts are generated, distributed, and received in specific social situations, as well as texts taken on their own. Taking into consideration all of these, the approach that the researcher wants to give to is the socio-political, as those two theories and approaches are interconnected, or at least one has to do with the other. Even though the most basic definition of "cultural studies" has been already noted here, its concept could be broader or even confusing, but it sets four fields that are defined within the term: "as political intervention into the existing academic disciplines: as an entirely new discipline, defined in terms of an entirely new subject matter; and as a new discipline, defined in terms of a new theoretical paradigm" (2002, p.6).

Culture is defined as "the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time" (Culture, 2022). The question is to determine how

this definition was coined together to establish the term “cultural studies” as a type of literary theory. For Milner and Browitt, “there can be little doubt that cultural studies emerge by way did indeed emerge by way of a quasi-populist reaction against the elitism of older forms of literary study” (2002, p.7). According to this, one can conclude that this type of literary theory is the one that can be closer to an audience that can get to read the research and feel familiarized with this kind of approach, moving away from other type of literary theories such as formalism, new criticism, or postmodern theories, that can be a little complex or even pretentious. In order to have a better understanding of the research, because cultural theory or cultural studies align with the nature of the novel *1984*, even if the novel is not for the masses or mainstream public, it is located among the most important novels of the last century and in history in general, due to social, cultural, and political significance.

2.1.4 Sociopolitical Approach

The novel “1984” is the subject of study for this research. This novel deals with how a political system such authoritarianism affect every aspect of the lives of every human being as a single entity, but at the end as a society. Therefore, it is crucial to define what the sociological and political approaches are each one, for then consequently unite them as a unique approach. First, sociological studies in literature have been around for centuries, since the study of people is one of the oldest type of studies. Authors that have used this approach believed that literature is a social product, and that the thoughts and feelings expressed in literature are conditioned and molded by the society's cultural life. Witte explains (1941) that it is unnecessary to cite numerous examples to demonstrate that the sociological approach to literature is widely recognized and used, even by critics who do not explicitly endorse it. It is also important to understand that literature, for example, cannot be properly understood without considering the economic, social, and political structure of the community that produces it.

Literature has an impact on every civilization, which is interconnected and independent, yet separate and diverse, as there are several examples of the co-relation of life and literature. Within the science of sociology, the study of literature incorporates a concern for meaning and the distinctive features inherent in literary writings, which reflect the economics, attitudes, morality, and religion of the society that produced the texts. The message of literature, revealing the mark of greatest value of human being is humanism, embodied with intellect that overshadows instinct, to distinguish purified from contaminated, limiting access to beneficial over hazardous material. The study of a society is intrinsic on how someone who studies that specific society wants to approach it, and therefore his sociological approach in literature.

Every society is shaped by his external conditions, "We have climate; hot, cold, or temperate, moist, or dry, constant, or variable. And besides the Flora of the region, we have its Fauna, which is influential in many ways" (Spencer, 1898, p.9). Spencer continued affirming that "considered as a social unit, the individual man has human traits, such as degree of strength, activity, endurance, which affect the growth and structure of the society" (Spencer, 1898, p.9). It is considered that a society is shaped by the external conditions, and physical traits of the individual, but more importantly, in order to construct the bases of that society, the emotional traits which are molded by the combination of his external environment and the way he perceives himself. Moreover, at the end, Spencer (1898), believed that the individual in the social context, the level of intelligence and mental tendencies are co-operating sources of how a society can be transformed.

Throughout history, the sociological approach has been one of the most used to board literature, and within this approach there are several categories that are worth mentioning in order to understand its reaches. First, Functionalism is conceptualized as "theory based on the premise that all aspects of a society—institutions, roles, norms, etc.—serve a purpose and

that all are indispensable for the long-term survival of the society.” (functionalism | social science, 2022). The method was popularized by the 19th-century sociologists, particularly those who saw society as organisms, as for example Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, and Robert Merton. “Functionalists use the terms functional and dysfunctional to describe the effects of social elements on society. Elements of society are functional if they contribute to social stability and dysfunctional if they disrupt social stability” (Mooney et al., 2015). The functionalist viewpoint sees society as a collection of interconnected pieces. The conflict perspective, on the other hand, sees society as a competition between various groups and interests for power and resources. The conflict perspective examines which groups have power and profit from a certain social structure in order to explain many aspects of our social reality.

Another category within the sociological approach is Marxism. It is defined as “a body of doctrine developed by Karl Marx and, to a lesser extent, by Friedrich Engels in the mid-19th century. It originally consisted of three related ideas: a philosophical anthropology, a theory of history, and an economic and political program” (Marxism | Definition, History, Ideology, Examples, & Facts, 2022). It looks at how capitalism affects labor, productivity, and economic progress, and proposes a worker revolution to overthrow capitalism and replace it with communism. Capitalism, according to Marx's class theory, is one step in a natural series of economic systems that have evolved over time. They are propelled, as Marx claimed, by huge impersonal forces of history that manifest themselves in social class behavior and conflict.

Another category that is actually linked to Marxism and embraces the communism movement, is feminism. It is defined as “the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. Although largely originating in the West, feminism is manifested worldwide and is represented by various institutions committed to activity on behalf of women's rights and

interests” (feminism | Definition, History, Types, Waves, Examples, & Facts, 2022). New female writers were both rediscovered and encouraged as a result of the Women's Liberation Movement. They also took over the means of production, such as Virago Press, by establishing feminist printing firms.

One more category is interactionism, which is a micro-level approach to social interaction that focuses on individual situations. While much of sociology focuses on the broad social processes that create society as a whole, symbolic interaction is a theoretical framework that sees society as the result of everyday interaction among individuals. The social world is therefore constructed by the meanings that individuals attach to events and social interactions, and these symbols are transmitted across the generations through language. The last within these categories is Postmodernism, defined as “a form of literature which is marked, both stylistically and ideologically, by a reliance on such literary conventions as fragmentation, paradox, unreliable narrators, often unrealistic and downright impossible plots, games, parody, paranoia, dark humor and authorial self-reference.” (Fleming, 2022). Mambrol (2016) explained that many of the characteristics of Modernism are present in Postmodernism. The rigorous distinctions between high and low art are rejected by both schools. Postmodernism takes it a step farther by consciously combining low and high art, the past and future, or one genre with another. Postmodernism's use of playful parody, which was also used by Modernism, is exemplified by such juxtapositions of disparate components. One can conclude that within these different branches of the sociological approach, there is a pattern of conduct or background behind every individual that is imperative on how it approaches or writes literature. These influences impact the history of mankind in his evolution, not only literature, but also in the way that it perceives life itself, and how will influence future generations, and shaping the course of human history.

2.1.5 Political Approach

It is safe to state that there is no such thing as “political approach” per se that one can apply to a piece of literature just by itself, but political theories that are embodied in the sociological context or sociological approach full of politics. Moreover, political theories can be applied to literary texts, as it has been the case for almost every piece of literature not only when approaching it, but also when creating it, if one asserts that nearly nothing escapes from being a political act without even realizing it. If one can adopt different disciplines like history, philosophy, media studies, cultural studies, gender, and class studies to better understand literature or the intention behind it in its different departments, then it is high time to incorporate pure political theories into our lives in order to trace the cause of the chaos that leaves an imprint on a thinker's mind and ultimately in the pages of a book.

Through existing critical theories of literature, it is possible to decipher the deeper meanings and aesthetics of a piece that either deals with a historical political event or any event that confronts major societal issues. However, that knowledge will be limited to a small group of academics and may not be useful to others. Even through, there are well-known literary theories and criticisms, it is possible to comprehend politics through theoretical frameworks of power relations. A rigorous understanding of pure political theory, on the other hand, will aid us in tracing the origins of an ideology discovered in a text - an ideology that molds the mind and codes the core. Political science has only recently become aware of the importance of literature as a source of political information. The recommendation here is that even if political theories can be applied to a text, it should also be taken into consideration that literature produces art, so a political approach would not be the best. Even if it is already stated that politics is involved in almost every aspect of human life, the consideration of reviewing literature through politics, has to be joined by another approach, so that the conclusions made after analyzing the text can be more satisfying for the critic.

2.2 Themes, Symbols, Motifs

2.2.1 Themes

A well accepted definition of theme is “a theme is a universal idea, lesson, or message explored throughout a work of literature” (Theme - Definition and Examples | LitCharts, 2022). Glatch explained, (2021) that a work of writing is referred to as the theme. Rather than presenting the issue directly, the author will examine it via the lens of the literary tools available to them. Characters, storyline, environment, conflict, and even word choice and literary devices will all be used to explore the theme of a tale or poem. The reader's impression and understanding of a theme is frequently subjected to change. This means that readers may discover primary and/or secondary themes that the author did not intend to communicate in a piece of writing. As a result, a theme enables literature to stay important, as they are "living" works that can be revisited and discussed in perpetuity by a large number of readers at the same time or by a single reader throughout time.

Novels, as is widely accepted, have themes. One also believes that the author's cultural and historical context influences the author's choice and relative presence of certain topics. Readers will have a better understanding of both the novel and the broader context of the literary history in which these works are written if we can figure out what elements impact an author's choice of subjects. Literary works are intended to entertain, educate a moral lesson, impart meaning, or, more crucially, to make the reader aware of some element of the human condition. Writers use their work to creatively present their views and express timeless and universal topics. Furthermore, anyone of any age, gender, geography, or culture can understand some concepts. They are universal because of their similarity. The expression of experiences through varied perspectives through universal themes explored in a tale, poem, or drama ultimately expands the reader's awareness of being human.

To find themes and meanings, start by making verifiable observations through thorough reading, as if you were a scientist. Verifiable observations are the ones that can be pointed out and confirmed by others. These observations are the raw material for literary analysis; they are facts. The third person reports that indicate who is doing what in the story or poem are called objective facts. They determine when and confirm the location. They are aware of important words and repetitions that are of interest to them. They capture character dialogue and make notes on the poet's special tactics. Keep in mind that each of these objective characteristics was chosen by the author. As a reader and or analyst, your job is to figure out why these creative decisions were taken in the first place.

2.2.2 Symbols

The definition of symbol in literature is “something that stands for or suggests something else; it represents something beyond literal meaning. In literature, a symbol can be a word, object, action, character, or concept that embodies and evokes a range of additional meaning and significance.” (Symbolism - Examples and Definition of Symbolism, 2022). Words, objects, and even concepts have several meanings in everyday life. Certain components of daily life and experience change in meaning over time, becoming symbols of something other than what they are. Many sorts of symbolism are used by writers, both to impart meaning to their overall audience and to allow individual readers to develop their own interpretations and uncover meaning. Furthermore, different forms of symbols have varying impacts on readers, despite the fact that the primary objective of symbolism as a literary device is to improve the reader's literary experience.

The Gods in Greek mythology are all emblems for natural forces; for example, Poseidon represents the sea. He is a force to be reckoned with, but he is also ruthless and unpredictable. The Greeks (who were not outstanding shipbuilders) symbolically transmitted a message about

how deadly the water may be by narrating stories about Poseidon's angry rage. Symbols, according to Gonzalez (1971) are born in the depth of being and are engendered by intuitions that do not correspond in their behavior, nor in the analysis to which they may be subjected, with the logic rational. Symbols provide to a tale, poetry, or other creative work additional layers of meaning. They allow an author to convey a message or idea on numerous levels inside a narrative. For example, an author might use a story about a large family to convey a message about God, in which one or both parents are symbols for God, and the children are metaphors for humanity (and perhaps there are pets or a garden to represent the natural world). The story could be about family dynamics and religion at the same time.

Symbols, in other words, provide depth. Authors in addition criticize symbols that already exist in their culture (or someone else's), can use in addition to using symbols in their writing. Apes, for example, are often used to represent humanity's natural origins and the rudimentary features we associate with animals in Western society. We might call someone an 'ape' or a 'gorilla' if they act rudely, stupidly, or violently, expressing a bad image of untamed nature and human nature in our civilization. However, in the Planet of the Apes films, this sign is reversed: the apes are often more compassionate, intellectual, and clever than humans, so they come to represent both the greatest and worst aspects of humanity. As a result, the film is a critique of popular ideals.

2.2.3 Motifs

“A motif is a symbolic image or idea that appears frequently in a story. Motifs can be symbols, sounds, actions, ideas, or words. Motifs strengthen a story by adding images and ideas to the theme present throughout the narrative” (Motif: Definition and Examples | LiteraryTerms, 2022). Unlike themes, which float above a story as concepts, motifs are embedded in prose and poetry, with obvious and recurring pictures, ideas, and symbols. Motifs

emphasize the most crucial aspects of a story by their repetition. Motifs give compositions a recognizable pattern: if there is a red dress, the concept of guilt, or even a song appears again throughout a story, it probably implies something. Authors, playwrights, and directors use motif to produce a more lyrical and structured narrative by pointing out symbols of greater ideas to readers and audiences.

Motifs and themes go hand in hand. Images and symbols underscore the work's main concepts. When you have finished reading a book (or experiencing another narrative work), take some time to reflect upon it. Were there particular images, types of language, or situations that repeated? If the motifs were well crafted, chances are that they will have made an impression on you. What do you think was the significance of the motif you have identified? How did it relate to the deeper themes of the work? You can also look for motifs while you read (or experience the narrative for the first time). If a particular passage or scene jumps out at you because of its striking language or imagery, take note of it. Then, keep an eye out as you continue reading for more passages that make use of this imagery or language. If you encounter another one, you have found a motif.

2.3 Author's Biography

George Orwell was born in 1903 in Motahari, India. As Meyers tells (2010) Orwell's father worked as a sub-deputy agent in the Indian civil service's Opium Department, and his family belonged to the "upper middle class," which "had its heyday in the eighties and nineties, with Kipling as its poet laureate, and was a sort of mound of wreckage left behind when the tide of Victorian prosperity receded." Orwell's mother took him to England when he was one year old. Orwell began writing at a young age, purportedly writing his first poem when he was four years old. "I had the lonely child's habit of making up stories and having imagined dialogues with fictitious individuals," he later wrote, "and I think my creative ambitions were mixed up with the

feeling of being alienated and devalued from the very beginning." After finishing his education at Eton, Orwell found himself in a rut. His family lacked the financial means to pay for his university education. In 1922, he joined the India Imperial Police Force. Orwell resigned his post in Burma after five years and returned to England. He was dead set on being a writer. Orwell's first significant *Down and out in Paris* written in 1933, work chronicled his time scraping by in these two locations. The book took a harsh look at the lives of the working poor and those who are homeless. The author released the book under the pseudonym George Orwell to avoid embarrassment to his family. Orwell moved to Spain in December 1936 to join one of the factions opposing General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War. During his tenure with the militia, Orwell was shot in the throat and arm, and suffered serious injuries. He was unable to talk for several weeks. In Spain, Orwell and his wife, Eileen, were charged with treason. The charges were brought after the couple had left the country, which was fortunate. With World War II (2016) still raging, Orwell found himself serving as a propagandist in order to further the country's national interests. He despised this aspect of his employment, describing the environment as "something midway between a ladies' school and a mad institution, and all we are doing at the moment is useless, or slightly worse than useless" in his diary.

Orwell is most known for two novels: *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Moreover, he is sometimes referred to as the conscience voice of a generation. Both works, released at the end of Orwell's life, have been adapted into films and have a long history of popularity. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was published in the latter stages of Orwell's TB struggle and shortly before his death. This grim image of the globe divided into three authoritarian nations sparked debate among critics, who thought it was too depressing. In the novel, Orwell showed readers what would happen if the government had complete control over every aspect of a person's life, including their private thoughts. In June 1936, Orwell married Eileen O'Shaughnessy, who aided and supported him throughout his career. Until her death in 1945, the couple remained together. They had an open marriage, according to numerous reports, and

Orwell had a number of affairs. Richard Horatio Blair, named after one of Orwell's relatives, was adopted by the couple in 1944. Following Eileen's death, their boy was mostly reared by Orwell's sister Avril. Orwell died of tuberculosis in a London hospital on January 21, 1950.

2.4 1984's Plot

Winston Smith and the world in which he lived were introduced. He was a little, frail-looking thirty-nine-year-old man with a short, frail height. He served in one of Oceania's four Ministries, which acted as the country's whole government. The following were the names and functions of the Ministry: The Ministry of Truth oversaw all forms of media, entertainment, and the arts; the Ministry of Peace oversaw all parts of conflict; the Ministry of Love oversaw judicial matters; and the Ministry of Plenty oversees economic activities. Winston was employed by the Ministry of Truth, where he modifies historical records to suit the Party's needs. He caught a coworker staring at him, a lovely dark-haired female, and feared she was an informant who would report him in for his thoughtcrime. Winston was worried by the Party's historical control: the Party maintains that Oceania had always sided with Eastasia in a fight against Eurasia, but Winston recalled a time when this was not the case. The Party also asserted that Emmanuel Goldstein, the Brotherhood's supposed leader, was the most dangerous man alive, but Winston did not believe this.

Winston spent his evenings walking through London's poorer areas, where the proletarians, or proles, lived. Winston got a note from the dark-haired girl one day that said, "I adore you." They began a covert affair, always on the alert for signals of Party monitoring, when she informed him, her name was Julia. They eventually rented an apartment above Winston's secondhand store in the prole quarter, where he purchased the diary. This was a long-term connection. Winston was convinced that they would be apprehended and punished sooner or later (the fatalistic Winston has known he was doomed since his first journal post), whilst Julia was more pragmatic and optimistic. Winston's animosity for the Party grew stronger as his affair with Julia progressed. Finally, the message he had been waiting for arrives, O'Brien.

Winston and Julia were eventually arrested and sent to the Ministry of Love for a brutal reeducation. O'Brien was actually a spy for the Party, on the hunt for "thought-criminals," and Winston and Julia were eventually caught and sent to the Ministry of Love for a violent reeducation. Winston's subsequent arrest, torture, and reeducation were intended to root out his independence and destroy his dignity and humanity, not just to break him physically or make him conform. Winston panicked when a cage of rats was affixed to his head in Room 101, where inmates are made to submit by being exposed to their worst nightmares. "Do it to Julia!" he cried at his tormentors, declaring that he did not care what happened to her. Winston was set free as a result of this betrayal. Later, he met Julia, and neither of them is pleased with one another, instead Winston loved Big Brother.

Chapter III

Methodological Framework

3.1 Research Approach

3.1.1 Quantitative Research

As Watson explains (2015), the quantitative research is a term that refers to a set of techniques for systematically investigating social issues using statistical or numerical data. As a result, quantitative research entails measurement and presupposes that the phenomena under investigation can be quantified. Its goal is to look for trends and relationships in data and to double-check the measurements made. Some things, like height and weight, are simple to measure; others, like what people think or feel, are more challenging. For all methods of measurement, similar criteria are used to verify, calculate, and analyze data. Quantitative research can be thought of as a way of approaching the world. It is primarily deductive, so measurements are taken, analysis is performed, and conclusions are derived. The importance of this type of research relies on the fact that it can be replicated in different periods or cultural contexts. Reliable and consistent techniques can be used to analyze large samples of data; it also based on the measurement of the research problem's variables. The measurement procedure aims to produce the most impartial proof possible. Because of this, it is frequently applied in technical and engineering fields as in hard sciences.

Sampieri (2014) emphasizes that the quantitative approach first sets the necessity to estimate the frequency and magnitude of the investigation problem, and its questions are about specific issues. Once the literary review and the theoretical framework are done, the hypothesis that comes out is tested by employing appropriate research designs. After the hypothesis is established, the data collection is carried out using standardized procedures and accepted by the scientific community. Due to the fact that the data is product of measurements, they are

represented with numbers and must be analyzed with statistical methods. The interpretation of results after the research derives from how these results fit previous knowledge (hypothesis and previous theory), also, this type of research must be as objective as possible, and the person in charge of the investigation should not affect the results, regarding his personal beliefs, tendencies, desires, influence in the process and results of the research. This type of research aims to identify “universal” and “casual” laws that occur in the external reality of each individual.

3.1.2 Qualitative Research

Data from direct fieldwork observations, in-depth, open-ended interviews, and written documents are analyzed in qualitative research. Naturalistic inquiry is used by qualitative researchers, who explore real-world contexts inductively to provide rich narrative descriptions and case studies. Patterns and themes emerge from inductive examination across cases, the result of qualitative research. As Sampieri explains (2014), significant study themes or issues also guide the qualitative technique. In contrast to most quantitative studies, which need clarity on research questions and hypotheses prior to data collection and analysis, qualitative researchers can generate questions and hypotheses before, during, or after data collection and analysis. These activities are frequently used to first identify the most essential research questions, and then to refine and answer them. The investigative action proceeds dynamically in both directions: between the facts and their interpretation, resulting in a more "circular" investigation in which the sequence is not always the same since it varies with each research.

The main criteria of this type of research as coined by Creswell (2009), who state that is to examine the requirements of possible recipients of the proposed study, in which the researcher is a crucial tool in data collection since they examine documents, observe behavior, acquire information from many sources, and inductive data analysis. The observations can be those in which the researcher analyses the actions and behavior of people at the research site in the field; interviews also take place, by conducting open-ended questions to determine the

participants' point of view, and also collecting audio visual materials. Moreover, Sampieri (2014) considers that the person conducting this type of research has to capture the full meaning of the experiences of the participants, especially those related to the statement of the problem, because the credibility of the research relies heavily on how accurate the meanings and concepts of the participants are transmitted. Once again, the beliefs of the researcher cannot interfere with the quality of the study. The credibility of the research is achieved by structural corroboration, reference adequacy (closeness between what is described and the facts), revision of the whole process in charge of a qualified colleague, the use of detailed descriptions, and present contradictory data, in order to present them as part of the results. Finally, a report showing the results of the research is presented as detailed as possible. Due to the nature of this particular research, being a literary analysis of the novel *1984*, the research qualifies under this category of qualitative research.

3.1.3 Mixed Research

In a combined or mixed methods approach, the researcher may choose to use both quantitative and qualitative approaches in his or her research design. The mixed methods represent a setoff systematic, empirical, and critical processes of research and involve the collective and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, as well as their integration and joint discussion. Chen (as cited by Sampieri, 2014) defines the mixed research as the systematic integration of quantitative and qualitative methods in a single study in order to obtain a more complete "picture" of the phenomenon. These can be brought together in such a way that the quantitative and qualitative approaches retain their original structures and procedures. Johnson (as cited by Sampieri, 2014), explains that the mixed research as a continuum where quantitative and qualitative approaches are mixed, focusing more on one of them or giving them the same weight or value. The advantages of this type of research are that it can be achieved a broader and deeper perspective of the phenomenon, produce more "rich" and varied data

through the multiplicity of observations, promote theoretical creativity through sufficient critical assessment procedure, develop new skills or competencies in research.

3.2 Research Design

Descriptive research (2022) is a type of study that focuses on describing the features of the population or issue under investigation. This methodology places a greater emphasis on "what" of the research topic rather than the "why" of the research topic. The descriptive research method focuses on identifying the characteristics of a demographic group rather than "why" a phenomenon happens. In other words, it "describes" the research topic without explaining "why" it occurs. The word descriptive research refers to the research questions, study design, and data analysis that were undertaken on that topic. It's called an observational research approach because none of the variables in the research study are changed in any way.

3.3 Information Sources

Primary sources are firsthand accounts of a topic from persons who have had a direct connection to it. Primary sources include that will be used for this investigation books, since they are the most trustable form of information. Secondary sources are those who took books to present their information. This kind of sources will use theses, that is along essay or dissertation involving personal research, written by a candidate for a college degree, academic articles, academic journals, and finally tertiary sources such as glossaries or definitions from internet, etc.

3.4 Analysis Categories

3.4.1 Control Mechanisms

Control mechanisms exist due to the power possessed by influential individuals that hold a position of authority in a country's government; but these control mechanisms do not only come from government, but also from private companies like the ones who own social media that have big influence on people's minds. Since this research is aiming to the procedures implemented to establish control on societies, the most appropriate is to define control mechanisms from a sociological point of view. Oxford Bibliographies describes social control as the "study of the mechanisms, in the form of patterns of pressure, through which society maintains social order and cohesion. These mechanisms establish and enforce a standard of behavior for members of a society and include a variety of components, such as shame, coercion, force, restraint, and persuasion" (Carmichael, n.d).

3.4.2 Sociopolitical Approach

According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, sociopolitical is "relating to, or involving a combination of social and political factors" (sociopolitical definition and meaning, n.d). Cambridge defines the term sociopolitical as "used to describe the differences between groups of people relating to their political beliefs, social class, etc" (sociopolitical, n.d). Since the definition is consists of both social and political entities, the term sociopolitical, or the sociopolitical approach is used for effects of this research, is used to analyze and to describe changes, restrictions, suppressions, etc; that can be executed on a society by a large hegemonic force like the government.

3.4.3 Freedom

The Merriam Webster dictionary coins the term as "the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint", and "liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of

another” (freedom, n.d). In the novel 1984, Winston Smith, one of the main characters asserted that “freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows” (Orwell, 1984, p.81); as a way of explaining that freedom is the ability to speak the truth without fear of reprisal. In this context, freedom is one of the main variables to discuss in this research, since one of the objectives is to identify where individuals and collective freedoms are at risk or are being violated already.

3.4.4 Technology

The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines the word as “application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of human life or, as it is sometimes phrased, to the change and manipulation of the human environment” (technology, n.d). Mark Zuckerberg, owner of the social network Facebook and one of the most influential personalities, says: “What defines a technological tool – one historical definition – is something that takes a human’s sense or ability and augments it and makes it more powerful. So, for example, I wear contact lenses or glasses; that is a technology that enhances my human ability of vision and makes it better” (as cited in Stalling, 2019). From these two definitions one can deduce that technology is an instrument that has always served society for its improvement, and it is a common say to state that technology arrived to make our lives easier. However, in context and purpose of this research the goal is trying to identify and compare when technology is used against society and can harm personal and collective freedoms.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

In this section, it will be explained the different instruments that are going to be used to reach the specific objectives that were established in chapter 1. An investigation instrument is defined by Chavez (2007) as the means used by the researcher to measure

behaviors or attributes of the variables that submit the study. They are also defined as the set of tools, procedures and instruments used to obtain information and knowledge. They are used according to the protocols established in a specific research methodology. For this research, which is a literary analysis tables will be used according to the specific objectives.

3.5.1 Population Control Mechanisms

The first table aims to identify and explain similarities between the population control mechanisms that are described in the novel and the ones that have been implemented in our current society. The control mechanisms described on the novel *1984* are solely executed by the government who is in control of basically everything. However, in reality in our current society is not only ran and influenced by governments, but also by private companies that a have a major influence on people's lives. The table will include three columns, the first column will include the control mechanism found in the novel, the second table will include the quote that mentions that control mechanism, and the third one will include a comment from the researcher supported by evidence on the subject.

Control Mechanism	Book Quotation	Researcher's Comment

3.5.2 Effects on Population from Control Mechanisms.

The second table objective will be used to find and describe the effects, which could be psychological, physical, or effects that these control mechanisms can cause on

our society. This table will include in the first column the effect that derives from these control mechanisms, the second column will include a quote from the book that exemplifies the effect caused by the control mechanism, and the third one will include the researcher comment:

Effects on Population	Book quotation	Researcher's comment
Control Mechanisms		

3.5.3 Major Threats to Freedom in Current Times

The third table's purpose is to distinguish what could be the major threats to freedom in today's society and that could be used as an excuse to perpetrate restrictions on collective and personal liberties, which could be health sanitary reasons, political reasons. Therefore, the table will include three columns. In the first column, it will be placed the possible threat to these liberties, the second column will exemplify excuses portrayed in the novel to carry violations to people's freedom; and in the third one the researcher's comment.

Threats to Freedom	Book quotation	Researcher's comment

3.5.4 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

The last table will identify the themes, motifs, and symbols present in the novel *1984*. The first column will provide the themes, motifs, and symbols found in the novel, for example injustice, recurring dishonest characters, phrases, and an imagery that portrays constant surveillance; the second column will display quotes from the book that show these themes, motifs, and symbols, and in the third column will included the researcher's comment:

Themes, Motifs, and Symbols	Book quotation	Researcher's comment

3.6 Collection Data Process and Data Analysis

For this research in Chapter IV, the book after being extensive read will be analyzed. The specific key points and goals of the research are going to be examined through instruments in the form of tables, that will be used to compare population control mechanisms from the book and the existing ones on current society and to compare the effects of population control mechanisms from the novel and the ones implemented in current society. The research will be done to identify these effects caused by arbitrary decisions from private companies that have a large influence on people and governments who can dictate a society's destiny. In addition, in order to evaluate if technology is being used to control society, more research will be done on websites and academic papers to find that use to technology that can be utilized to monitor people's actions and gather

information that can be used or sell to to third parties for their own purpose and to restrict personal freedoms.

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

Data analysis is defined as “the process of collecting, modelling, and analyzing data to extract insights that support decision-making” (Calzón, 2022). The importance of being backed by competent data lies on the fact that it provides good evidence that can be considered irrefutable, on the other side; anecdotal evidence, taking assumptions, or abstract observation may result in a waste of time and resources, since it is most likely that it results in erroneous conclusions. In this part of the investigation, all of the acquired data will be submitted into a careful process of interpretation and analysis. This process of analysis will be done by doing comparison between what is shown in the novel and what can be found in our current society. Consequently, it will be submitted the data into the research approach perspective that has been chosen for the research in order to provide the analysis that is pursued for this section. In other words, it will be done, basically, a triangulation between will be done between the novel “1984”, expert’s opinions, and the researcher’s analysis.

This chapter is divided into three main parts. The first one, which is the The Approaches of Investigation Section, where the definition of approach will be coined, besides from determining the correlation that exists between the novel *1984*, and the approach selected for this research. The second part includes the section Theories vs Literary Work, that is the main part of the chapter, since the specific objectives are put here into investigation through the data obtained. For this purpose, tables will be used to find the theory and compare it with the novel’s actions to also be analysed with the researcher’s comments. The third, and last part of this chapter contains the “Themes, Motis, and Symbols.

in this section these concepts will be defined. Next, the use of tables will be executed to exemplify the ones that were found in the novel.

4.1 Approaches to the Investigation

The term “approach” is defined by the Cambridge dictionary as “a way of considering or doing something” (Approach, n.d). The novel *1984* describes a dystopian society in the nation of “Oceania”, that was ruled by “Big brother” an almost or entirely omnipresent authoritarian entity that seemed to even know what everyone was thinking. No one knew who this entity really was, the only thing known for sure, was the fact that it controlled every aspect of human life: sex, free will, language, individuality, free association, etc. Based on this, the approach selected for the research was the sociopolitical. As stated in Chapter II, the term sociopolitical embodies society and politics. For effects of this research the sociopolitical approach is used to refer to the influence that politics, or government political decisions can exercise on society, and the effects suffered by these decisions. The relation between the novel and the approach chosen is easy to be determined based on the fact that all the events depicted in *1984* concerned politics and society. Reading these events through the whole novel, it is felt like entering a nightmare that only ends once the last page is read, and one cannot stop thinking on the fact that the novel was inspired on authoritarian regimes that have already existed and that these regimes exist in other countries, and mostly, on the fact that the so-called “democracies” in which we live in, are already employing trickery like the ones depicted in the novel to control and monitor people for their own interest.

4.2 Theories vs Literary Work

In this section, selected parts of the literary work will be analyzed, which are supported by literary theories. Three tables are going to be presented that reference the specific objectives of this research. The tables aim to establish the relationship among the specific

objectives, the events in the novel, and the evidence that supports that similarities already exist in our modern society.

4.2.1 Population Control Mechanisms from the Novel that have been Implanted in our Current Society

The first literary table illustrates the first specific objective of the research, that aims to demonstrate what population control mechanisms from the novel have been implanted in our current society.

Table 1

Control Mechanism	Book's quote	Researcher's comment
Prohibition of free speech	"It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words" (Orwell, 1949, p. 51)	As previously stated, control over society is not limited to what governments can prohibit, but also to private companies. Specifically, in today's world these private companies, a bigger influence on citizens. For example, social media websites like Twitter, which a platform followed by millions, is working as the police depicted in the book, that is limiting free speech to what they consider is correct and what is not. In an article discussing the

		<p>matter, it is stated that “this form of “free speech” actually functions as new form of social control” (Newitz, 2022).</p>
<p>Constant Surveillance on population</p>	<p>“BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU” (Orwell, 1949, p. 2)</p>	<p>In 1984, Big Brother is the personification of the party (government), that controls every facet of human life to serve its own purpose. In western societies like ours “Mass surveillance uses systems or technologies that collect, analyze, and/or generate data on indefinite or large numbers of people instead of limiting surveillance to individuals about which there is reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing” (Mass Surveillance: Privacy international, n.d). Nowadays, mass monitoring is carried out by law enforcement and intelligence services using wide variety of surveillance techniques. Technology can be used as a way of controlling people including, mass interception of</p>

		<p>communications, access to the bulk communications stored by telecommunication companies, hackers hired by the government, use of facial recognition, etc.</p> <p>In the United States (which is the most influential western country), after the terrorist attacks of 2001 “it became lawful for the government to collect American’s sensitive information based merely on a claim that the information was “relevant” to a legitimate purpose” (Gotein, 2021). It has been confirmed that “The U.S congress gave the NSA free rein to collect phone calls, texts, and emails among targets and American communications that previously could not be obtained domestically without a court order based on probable cause” (Gotein, 2021).</p>
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		<p>Our country, Costa Rica, does not escape from politicians who have tried similar schemes of surveillance. During the administration of Carlos Alvarado (2018-2022), it was created the UPAD (Presidential Unity of Data Analysis by its acronym in Spanish) which was supposedly conceived to help make “decisions”. However, it was later found that these databases contained confidential data from Costa Rican’s citizens. In February 2020 an investigation was opened and the presidential house was raided by the Public Ministry. One can deduce that even in Latin America these control mechanisms are starting to be implemented in countries like ours, which disguise themselves as “democratic”.</p>
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Dictatorships	<p>“One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution, one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship” (Orwell, 1949, p.263)</p>	<p>Most Latin American countries have dealt with dictatorship regimes in the past, and no dictatorship can be conceived as a good one. However, the most harmful ones: Chile two times with Carlos Ibañez del Campo (1927-1931) and Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990); Nicaragua with Anastasio Somoza (1937-1979), in Argentina six times with the most infamous and known commanded by Jorge Rafael Videla (1976-1983), and in Panamá with Manuel Antonio Noriega (1983-1990). Even though, these are dictatorships from last century, dictatorships are not a thing from the past. Currently, in our neighbor country Nicaragua there is an established dictatorship lead by Daniel Ortega, who has been the country’s “president” since 2007. López (2022) informed that between</p>
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		<p>August 30th and September 1st Ortega's regime exhibit as if they were trophies, 27 of the most representative political prisoners that are in different prisons around the Nicaraguan territory, who are also suspected victims of torture. There is no freedom press in such country, and any dissident once captured faces the same faith as the other political prisoners, in a country where almost half of its population (%44) lives in poverty.</p>
<p>Propaganda</p>	<p>"Winstons was listening to the telescreen. At present only music was coming out of it, but there was a possibility that at any moment there might be a special bulletin from the Ministry of Peace" (Orwell, 1949, p. 287)</p>	<p>The definition of propaganda by The Encyclopedia Britannica is the "dissemination of information-facts, arguments, rumors, half-truths, or lies-to influence public opinion (Propaganda, n.d). One of the objectives of propaganda is to present facts selectively. One of the best examples of propaganda happened during the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic</p>

		<p>was treated differently by every country, and in many countries, it was used by governments to push their own agenda, our country was not definitely the exception. Throughout 2020 in national television during midday, the Costa Rican president at the time, and his health minister presented themselves to inform about the restrictions that were going to take place because of the pandemic. They arbitrarily closed more than one thousand businesses like bars, gyms, restaurants, hotels, without giving them the chance to work at all. Small and medium businesses had to close for ever due to these restrictions. Based on data provided by the Chamber of Commerce (2021) at the end of 2019, 73,055 companies were registered in the Costa Rican economy, however that figure decreased to to</p>
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		<p>68,946 between April and June 202 and until September 2021, 72,034 companies were reported. Although the government never ceased to put more and more restrictions not only to businesses, but also to people's freedom to transit freely, the number of positive cases was higher each day and it never was presented how they measured these cases. The president defended himself by saying, according to Mora (2020) that those who criticized him were only promoting themselves for the next political campaign; however, the fear propaganda never stopped during this presidential run. The agents of propaganda, who were government supporters believed everything that the government told them and obeyed every command. They massively commented on social networks, trying to</p>
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		establish their “truth” as the only one valid, and ridiculing the opposition.
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Table 1 Population control mechanisms from the novel that have been implanted in our current society. Source: Researcher’s creation

4.2.2 Effects of Population Control Mechanisms from the Novel Implemented in Current Society.

The second literary table exemplifies and intends to showcase the effects that the control mechanisms from the novel and that are been implemented in current society (that were established in table one) have on individuals and society overall. These effects will be complemented with quotes from the novel that is subjected to analysis, along with the researcher’s comment of both the effect and the novel’s quote.

Table 2

Literary analysis table of the effects that control mechanisms from the novel and implemented in current society have on individuals and people.

Effect	Book’s quote	Researcher’s comment
Uncertainty	“Outside, even through the shut windowpane, the world looked cold” (Orwell, 1949, p. 2)	The effects that control mechanisms have over people cannot be overlooked. For example, control mechanisms during the quarantine due to Covid-19, had a similar effect on the world’s perception as the quote

		described in the book, leading people to isolate against their will. Studies show that “the most common psychological disorders emerging are anxiety and panic, obsessive-compulsive symptoms, insomnia, as well as depressive symptoms and post-traumatic stress (Rogers et al, 2022).
Fear	“In our world there will be no emotions except fear, rage, triumph, and self abasement. Everything else we shall destroy-everything” (Orwell, 1949, p. 267).	There is no doubt that the effects that constantly influence control population with these control mechanisms described on the previous table, and on this quote from the novel, are only negative. Totalitarian practices like these bring among other damaging feelings, fear. It is well known that fear is a way of controlling people. Authoritarian regimes, and even democracies have controlled people over fear. Arandt explains (as cited by Farnam Street, 2021) that “the totalitarian movements showed that

		<p>the politically neutral and indifferent masses could easily be the majority in a democratically ruled country, that therefore a democracy could function according to rules which are actively recognized by only a minority". Again, one of the best examples is how governments made sure that people obeyed their commands during the pandemic by placing fear into people's minds telling them there was a big chance they were going to die if they did not act as they dictated, and if fear did not work, legal repercussions took place. Established control mechanisms are already taking their toll on people; looking into the future with fear for what is going to happen, and what the future holds for their children. Present generations are taking into consideration factors like these, as do not wish to have kids. According to ONU (as cited by Fazio,</p>
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		<p>2022) population growth fell below 1% per year in 2020 for the first time since 1950. If practices like surveillance, dictatorships, propaganda continue, what is going to happen is that everything that makes life human will be ripped from mankind, and human will become manufactured products of a tyrannical power orchestrated by only a few.</p>
<p>Fights between people with different ideologies</p>	<p>“From where Winston stood it was just possible to read, picked out on its white face in elegant lettering, the three slogans of the Party:</p> <p>WAR IS PEACE</p> <p>FREEDOM IS SLAVERY</p> <p>IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH” (Orwell, 1949, p. 4).</p>	<p>People in power that establish control mechanism know their way to gain and hold this power. There is a well known saying: “divide and conquer”, and that is one of the objectives of the propaganda made by politicians and those who are above politicians, no matter the political party, they all apply the same: To make people go against each other with as much violence and hatred</p>

		<p>as possible. Today's world precisely is a reflection precisely of it, Christians clashing against atheists, pro-abortion supporters clashing against pro-life supporters, traditional men and women clashing against lgbt community and feminists. It is all chaos where everyone is shouting as loud as they can that their ideology is the correct one, and the other ones are on the wrong side of the spectrum.</p> <p>Governments have used this tactic since ages ago. Political polarization only brings negative results, as Donohue explains (2019) it results in politicians frequently attacking the judiciary as being biased or stacked with supporters, which undermine their independence. Legislative bodies are reduced to either deadlock or serving as rubber stamps. It frequently results in the</p>
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		abusive of executive authority in presidential systems and fosters the harmful idea that the presidents (as it usually happens) only speak for his or her supporters rather than the whole entire country.
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Table 2 Effects that control mechanisms from the novel and implemented in current society have on individuals and people. Source: Researcher's creation

4.2.3 Major Threats to Freedom in Current Times

The third literary table deals with the third specific objective of this research which is identify what are the major threats to freedom in current times. Since the novel "1984" was inspired on real life events, one cannot overlook that history tends to repeat itself.

Table 3

The identified threats to freedom in current times will be complemented with quotes from the novel that is subjected to analysis, along with the researcher's comment of both the effect and the novel's quote.

Threat	Book's quote	Researcher's comment
The installment of a totalitarian government in a country or specific region	"More commonly, people who had incurred in the displeasure of the Party simply dissappeared and	The installation of a totalitarian government is definitely one of the biggest threats yo our freedom in current times, taking into consideration

	<p>were never heard of again” (Orwell, 1949, p. 44-45)</p>	<p>the practices that these types of governments imposed on their citizens. Left wing parties are on the rise in Latin America, and on the western world in general. Practices like the one described in the book’s quote, the disappearance of people who in one way or another challenged or raised their voice against the government, have been implemented in the past and can be reinstated if a tyrannical totalitarian government takes over a nation; or if something like the German nazi reborns again. If there is one thing certain with human history, is that it tends to repeat itself. During Videla’s dictatorship in Argentina during the 1970’s and 1980’s, according to D’Andrea (2020) International Amnesty estimated that more than 15.000 people disappeared, although this number is still a matter of discussion</p>
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		<p>among the argentine society. The warning of this type of practices over taking an entire society is never actually gone, as for instance governments with so much socioeconomic, sociopolitical influence on earth like China. In 2018, the Chinese actress Fan Bingbing (2019) was disappeared for four months by the chinese state over tax evasion, her social accounts were deactivated, and when she reappeared, she was actually saying “thanks” to the Chinese government for taking her freedom away during that time. The resemblance with these actions, and the ones depicted in “1984”, can lead to the conclusion that more than a threat, this is a current reality that is not in the past but is actually occurring in present times.</p>
Wars	“The essential act of war is destruction, not necessarily of human	Governments like the United States have always given the excuse that they

	<p>lives, but of the products of human labor. War is a way of shattering into pieces, or sinking in the depths of the sea, materials which might otherwise be used to make the masses too comfortable, and hence, in the long run, too intelligent” (Orwell, 1949, p. 191)</p>	<p>invaded sovereign territories or create war for the sake of “freedom”, but this has been always far from the truth. It is hard to think of one act that disrupts more people’s liberties than war. In the current era with the contemporary geopolitical situation, a world war is always a possibility, not to mention that in many parts of the globe like Ukraine war is an everyday reality. This can explode into a bigger issue. There is a concern that “The current conflict has severely strained the U.S-Russia relations and increased the risk of a wider European conflict” (Conflict in Ukraine, 2022). The current war has forced millions of Ukrainians to flee their nation. According to Vladimir Putin, (Russia’s president) the goal of the Russia invasion to Ukraine (as cited by Kirby, 2022) was to “demilitarise and de-Nazify Ukraine”, and</p>
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		<p>also ensuring Ukraine's "neutral status". These types of excuses have always served countries to start a war. In 2003, the United States under the administration of George W. Bush, invaded Iraq to supposedly disarm this country of arms of mass destruction, that were never found. The former president has ever since admitted this fiasco of invasion he wrote in his memoirs (as cited by Borger, 2022) "No one was more shocked and angrier than I was when we didn't find the weapons". This is an example of how political states with huge power can do whatever they want even with the most absurd excuse they can imagine and execute it as if it was true; and in their way to accomplish their objectives they can take people's freedom along the way.</p>
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Table 3 Major Threats to Freedom in Current Times. Source: Researcher's creation

4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

The themes, Motifs and Symbols provide in a book, in this case a novel, the ability to be understood from several angles and points of view by carrying meaning. These components enhance the book analysis and provide the reader with the opportunity to gain a more thorough understanding of the book's contents.

Table 4 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

Symbol	Book's quote	Researcher's comment
The telescreens	"Winston kept his back on the telescreen. It was safer; hought, as he well knew, even a back can be revealing" (Orwell, 1949, p. 3).	The most visible representation of the Party's ongoing observation of its subjects in the book is the pervasive telescreens. The telescreens represent how a totalitarian government uses technology for its own purposes rather than using it to further civilization because of their dual ability to broadcast perpetual propaganda and surveil residents. With the telescreen the party's propaganda can be heard at any given time and it is found at any home or business, as it is understood "surveillance in various forms is the key to the Party's control. Everyone must present

		<p>themselves in front of their telescreens and privacy is outlawed” (Del Campo, 2022).</p>
<p>The place where there is no darkness</p>	<p>“We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness” (Orwell, 1949, p. 25)</p>	<p>In the story, and also in real life rooms full of light are used to torture people for various areasons, for example to make them confess a crime.</p> <p>Throughout the novel, Winston imagines meeting O’Brien in “the place where there is no darkness”. The words first came to him in a dream, and he pondered them for the rest of the novel. Eventually, Winston did meet O’Brien in “the place where there is no darkness”; instead of being the paradise Winston imagined, it was merely a prison cell in which the light was never turned off. The idea of “the place where there is no darkness” symbolizes Winston’s approach to the future: possibly because of his intense fatalism (he believed that he was doomed no matter what he did), he unwisely allowed</p>

		himself to trust O'Brien, even though inwardly he sensed that O'Brien might be a Party operative." (Symbols, n.d)
Motifs	Book's quote	Researcher's comment
Doublethink	Doublethink means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them" (Orwell, 1949, p. 214)	Doublethink is a mind manipulation strategy in which an individual holds two contradictory thoughts at once and believes both to be true. Orwell's use of the term throughout <i>1984</i> showed what doublethink meant. The party used this strategy to inspire the loyalty of its citizens. The example of this is how the party named their ministries with one name that acted the other way around: "Ministry of Peace was in charge of waging war, the Ministry of Truth manipulated and distorted information, the Ministry of Love oversaw punishment, and the Ministry of Plenty focused on economic shortcomings. Orwell's use of irony in these examples highlighted how Oceania manipulated its citizens' minds in order to gain

		complete control and remove the ability for citizens to have independent thoughts, creating the idealistic totalitarian government.” (Themes, Motifs and Symbols in 1984, 2022)
Themes	Book’s quote	Researcher’s comment
Totalitarianism	“Power is in tearing human minds into pieces and putting them together in new shapes of your choosing” (Orwell, 1949, p.266)	This is main central theme of the novel, from where the rest of the elements are displayed. Orwell’s main purpose with this novel is to portay as a warning all the dangers of totalitarism. Only by going through the pages of this novel, one can experience despair, fatalism, and all kinds of negative feelings. One can definitely assume that people who have lived under a totalitarian government experienced hell on earth. This novel also was inspired on Orwell’s experience with tyrannical regimes, “George Orwell had many bad experiences with totalitarianism, and recounted these events in 1984. He experienced

		<p>firsthand the effects of a fascist government in World War II. “In 1948, when Orwell’s 1984 was first published, World War II had just ended” (Totalitarianism in Orwell’s 1984, 2018).</p>
<p>Manipulation</p>	<p>“There was truth and there was untruth, and if you clung to the truth even against the whole world, you were not mad” (Orwell, 1949, p. 217)</p>	<p>In 1984, The Party not only controlled the mind, but also the physical. Physical Jerks are a daily requirement for Oceanian citizens, as their attendance at work and adherence to the Party’s political goal. Any form of revolt was punishable by torture, both physical and psychological. The Party achieved its totalitarian ideology by this manipulation of the body and psyche. The biggest form of manipulation was the language of Newspeak, Oceania’s replacement for English. Language allows individuality, knowledge, and freedom to think and speak as one feels. As a manipulation tactic, the Party controlled the</p>

		masses through this new use of language. Newspeak was constantly being altered and perfected. The Party perfected the language by continuously limiting what the individual can think and speak” (Themes, Motifs and Symbols in 1984”, 2022)
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Table 4 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols found in the book. Source: Researcher’s creation

Chapter V

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

This chapter includes the conclusions and recommendations elaborated after the specific objectives have been developed, to determine if these objectives have been reached. In addition, the restatement of the research question will be expanded and recommendations to future investigation will be provided.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 To Identify what Population Control Mechanisms from the Novel Have Been Implanted in our Current Society

The first specific objective pretended to recognize those control mechanisms from the novel that are already taking place in contemporary societies. The first one found was the prohibition of speech that is portrayed in the novel with the “Ministry of Truth” prohibiting free, and any kind of self-expression. In reality in current times, it was found that not only governments can exercise limitation or prohibition of freedom of speech, but also private companies that are platforms created in first instance for precisely that, being able to speak one’s mind. The social platforms are working as a kind of thought police, where anyone who does not follow their guidelines gets an arbitrary banned and from it without any right to protest against the decision. Anyone can say that due to the fact that these are private companies they have to regulate the use of these platforms as they want, but the same companies are the ones behaving as if Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, etc; were the technological heritage of humanity. In United States, cancel “culture which is culturally blocked (a person) from having a prominent public career” (Romano, 2020) due to his beliefs do not match what the establishment considers

correct. The “warriors” of social justice are the ones deciding what can be said and what gets canceled or removed.

The second control mechanism found was constant surveillance on population through different methods. In “1984”, Big Brother is a personification of the party (government), that controls every facet of human life to serve its own purpose. In reality in current times, it was identified that the most influential country of the world United States in the past used the excuse that the information was "useful" to a good cause, so the government was able to legally collect sensitive information on Americans. Smartphones are turning into devices that provide insights into our actions, destinations, interaction, and words. Human rights organizations have accused nations like China of constructing a massive security and surveillance apparatus to closely monitor their populace. It was also discovered through research that in Costa Rica Carlos Alvarado (last former president of Costa Rica), aided in "decisions," he created the UPAD (Presidential Unity of Data Analysis, to give its Spanish acronym). However, it was later discovered that these databases contained sensitive information about Costa Rican citizens. In February 2020, an investigation was launched, and the presidential residence was raided by the Public Ministry.

The third control mechanism found that has been implemented in current society is dictatorships. The novel *1984* was inspired by Orwell, because he experienced totalitarianism in his own flesh; therefore, it is safe to say that control mechanism had been already implemented in our society long before the novel was created. It was identified and focused what countries of our region have had experiences with dictatorships, and also detected that dictatorships are not a thing of the past since in Nicaragua there is an established dictatorship lead by Daniel Ortega, who has been the country’s “president” since 2007. López (2022) informed that between August 30th and September 1st Ortega’s regime exhibited as if they were trophies, 27 of the most representative political prisoners that are in different prisons around the Nicaraguan territory, who are also suspected of being victims of torture. There is no freedom of the press in this country, and any

dissident once captured faces the same faith as the other political prisoners, in a country where almost half of its population (44%) lives in poverty.

The fourth control mechanism from the novel executed in current times is propaganda. Here the definition of propaganda was stated by The Encyclopedia Britannica as “dissemination of information-facts, argumets, rumours, half-truths, or lies-to influence public opinion” (propaganda, n.d). The definition helped to later establish the concern and to understand actions like how sanitary emergencies like the pandemic due to Covid-19 were used by politicians to push their own agendas. It was expressed that the president of Costa Rica at the time and his health minister appeared on national television throughout the entire midday hour of 2020 to discuss the restrictions that would be implemented as a result of the pandemic. Without providing them the chance to work at all, they closed more than a thousand establishments like bars, gyms, restaurants, and hotels. Due to these limitations, small and medium-sized firms were forced to permanently close. In addition, it was discovered that by the end of June 2019 The number of registered businesses in the Costa Rican economy was 73,055, and it fell to 68,946 between April and June of 200, and rose to 72,034 from September 2021 to September 2022. The number of positive cases increased daily, and no method of measuring these cases was ever disclosed, even though the government never stopped imposing ever-greater restrictions on enterprises and people's rights to move about freely. The president reportedly defended himself by claiming that those who criticized him were only promoting themselves for the next political campaign; however, the fear propaganda never stopped during this presidential run, and the agents of propaganda, who were government supporters who believed everything the government told them and obeyed every command, , massively commented on social networks, trying to establish their “truth” as the only one valid, and ridiculing the opposition.

5.2.2 To Compare the Effects of Population Control Mechanisms from the Novel and the Ones Implemented in Current Society

The second specific objective pretended to compare the effects of population control mechanisms from the novel and the ones implemented in current society. The first effect identified in current times was uncertainty. A quote from the book supported the feeling of how this uncertainty feels. The example given here discussed how control mechanisms that are put into action like the quarantine due to Covid-19 affected people's physical, mental health and well-being in general. It was not easy to adjust to the new reality of working from home, temporary unemployment, homeschooling children, and lack of face-to-face interaction with other family members, friends, and coworkers. This created a sensation of uncertainty as to what was going to happen if the quarantine was going to be over someday. Everyone was expecting what was the next command, the reactionary people replied to these prohibitions protesting, fighting against those who supported every government action. Young people have been left exposed to social isolation and disconnection as a result of prolonged school and university closures. These conditions can exacerbate emotions of worry, uncertainty, and loneliness and result in emotional and behavioral disorders. Being forced to stay at home may have increased the chance of familial stress or abuse, which are risk factors for mental health issues, for some kids and teenagers.

The second effect from the imposed control mechanism identified was fear. In here, it was established after reviewing a book's quote that totalitarian not only wanted to perpetuate fear on population, but actually aimed to impose fear, and those who would not fear a tyrannical government would disappear, torture, and kill anyone who does not follow their rules. The pandemic due to Covid-19 (that was actually the inspiration for this research) is again used as an example of how governments can use fear to make people follow their guidelines, no matter if these guidelines attempt against people's free transit, and free will overall. Fear has been ingrained so deeply into people's mind that when they think about the future, even the most natural thing of our nature like the desire of conceiving child has been removed from the

people's core. Through the research it was identified that according to ONU (as cited by Fazio, 2022) population growth fell below 1% per year in 2020 for the first time since 1950. People no longer believes in politicians only fearing their next move. We can observe signs of indifference and pervasive helplessness in many contemporary democracies. There is a low voter turnout and an attitude that nothing a person does would change the way things are. It is not a difficult leap to feel that your basic existence is unimportant when you feel alienated from the system around you and the leaders it has, when you think neither your vote nor your opinion matters. Totalitarianism learned how to control this emotion through arbitrary acts of terror that severed all ties to other people. How people who have experienced totalitarianism are not going to feel afraid if the conventional political definition of an end purpose excludes totalitarianism. Its sole genuine objective is to maintain itself. There is not one political position that, if followed, will shield people from being persecuted.

The third effect that control mechanism have over people explained was the fights or confrontations between people of different ideologies. Current times from a sociological point of view, and many would agree that looks like mental hospital. Everyone shouting their political, religious, or way to see life is the correct one. This is one of the effects that control mechanisms in the form of propaganda has on people. Although individuality has permeated many aspects of human existence for thousands of years, as social beings we continue to be greatly influenced by the groups around us, and how these groups can manipulate for their own purpose and portraying their ideologies as the "correct" one. Whether it be family or friends, we feel a special connection to people who have similar core principles. Our ideology, which we frequently mistake for our innate reality, is shaped by these beliefs. Politics has gradually evolved to become equivalent to the religion where we hold the hands with the like-minded people and circle around a fixed set of values and beliefs, disregarding other possibilities. As a result, when the truth contradicts our ideology, ignorance takes precedence over the truth. These confrontations are

more fierced and violent every time, and it was identified that the motto “divide and conquer” is one of the most used by politicians or people that hold positions of power to maintain that power and make it even bigger, at the expense of people’s lives, because the more separated the people are the better will suit their intentions and objectives.

5.2.3 Identify Major Threats to Freedom in Current Times

The third specific objective dealt with identifying what are the major threats to freedom in current times. The first identified threat was the establishment a totalitarian government on a specific country or region. Although it was also identified that in some countries this is the reality that they are already facing. Left wing parties, who are the ones who use communist as their way of government that turn into totalitarianism, are on the rise in Latin America, and on the western world in general. One thing that left-wing candidates in the region have in common—and seems to help them attract those crucial centrist votes is their greater emphasis on state action to reduce economic inequality, but in practice they all have left a stain of poverty, misery when it has been their turn to take the presidential seat. During this section it was also disclosed the fact the installment of totalitarian governments in the past like the one of Jorge Videla in Argentina last century, in which more than 15.000 people were dissappeared, although this number is still a matter of discussion among the Argentine society, and there is always the intrinsic fear of history repeating itself. In addition, this section contains a warning that Governments with as much socioeconomic and sociopolitical influence as China's do not truly abandon these kinds of actions that involve destroying an entire population. The Chinese government took away the freedom of Chinese actress Fan Bingbing (2019) for four months in 2018 due to tax evasion. When she later resurfaced, she really expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for taking away her freedom during that time. The resemblance with these activities, and the ones presented in 1984, can lead to the conclusion that more than a danger, this is a current reality. It may result in an extended era of dreadful misery and servitude if a

malicious group or government suddenly acquired global dominant power through technology and there was nothing to stop it.

The second threat to freedom in current times found is the breaking of war. As long as it exists geopolitical forces with different views like the case of United States along with Israel against governments like Russia, China, or Iran; the possibility of a third world war is always a real one. In this section, it was exemplified and concluded that governments like the one of the United States have historically pretended that they invade other countries' territory or start wars in the name of "freedom". However, this has never been the case, the Iraq invasion was taken as an example of how the president at the time, George Bush instructed his army to invade the country with the excuse that they Iraq had nuclear weapons that were never found. Russia, among other silly excuses is saying that they are invading Ukraine to "de-nazify Ukraine", when real intentions are drawn as to take over that territory, that once was part of Russia. It is challenging to consider another action that restricts more people's freedoms than a war. A world war is always a possibility in the modern day given the current geopolitical position, not to mention the fact that in many regions of the world, such as Ukraine, fighting is an everyday occurrence. There is concern that "The current fight has seriously strained the U.S.-Russia relations and heightened the potential of a wider European conflict," which could lead to a bigger problem" (Conflict in Ukraine, 2022). Millions of people have been compelled to flee the ongoing fighting. Places like Syria, Iraq and now Ukraine are suffering the consequences of their freedom taken away from them, and as long as there is government with thirst of power, no one can be saved from a fatality like war.

5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

Due to the nature of the research, it was accomplished to answer the research question, and each specific objective was given a conclusion, and therefore the research question does not need to be restructured. It remains as, what are the sociopolitical similarities between the novel 1984, and modern times around the world?

5.4 Recommendations

For future investigations, the recommendations rely on reading the novel, several times, in order to identify what quotes match what is going to be used to provide the goal aimed. Moreover, it is very important to think about the approach that the researcher wants to give to the investigation, as well of alternate approaches to the research. On the other hand, it is also important to take into consideration what is the motivation to make an investigation based on this novel. The researcher needs to complete an approach like the socio-cultural one, without using it with any ideological, political approach of his own, and mantaining as close as reality and facts, as possible. Using other literary works could fit better, depending on the intentions of the researcher, that also deals with this type of events.

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