

ATILIM UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
ENGLISH CULTURE AND LITERATURE MASTER'S PROGRAMME

TOTALITARIANISM IN THE DYSTOPIAN WORLDS OF ORWELL'S *1984*
AND BRADBURY'S *FAHRENHEIT 451*

Master's Thesis

Fulya AKYÜREK

Ankara-2023

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Fulya AKYÜREK

Thesis Advisor

Asst. Prof. Dr. Gökşen ARAS

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ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL

This is to certify that this thesis titled “Totalitarianism in the Dystopian Worlds of Orwell’s *1984* and Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*” and prepared by Fulya AKYÜREK meets with the committee’s approval unanimously/by a majority vote as Master’s Thesis in the field of English Culture and Literature following the successful defense conducted on 05/04/2023.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Selmin SÖYLEMEZ (Chair)

Asst. Prof. Dr. Gökşen ARAS (Advisor)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kuğu TEKİN (Member)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şule TUZLUKAYA

Director

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I accept and acknowledge that I have prepared this thesis study, prepared in line with the Thesis Writing Guidelines of Atılım University Graduate School of Social Sciences;

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05/04/2023

Fulya AKYÜREK

ÖZ

AKYÜREK Fulya. Totalitarianism in the Dystopian Worlds of Orwell's *1984* and Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. Yüksek Lisans Tezi, Ankara, 2023.

Bu tez George Orwell ve Ray Bradbury'nin distopik romanları *1984* ve *Fahrenheit 451*'i incelemektedir. Bu iki roman tarihsel bağlamlarında incelendiğinde, yazıldıkları dönemi yansıtmaktadır. Bunun yanı sıra, konu alınan distopik romanlar, totaliter rejimlerin toplum üzerindeki yıkıcı etkilerini anlatmaktadır. Özellikle, baskıcı liderlerin yönetimi altında ezilen insanların, nasıl insanlıktan çıkıp kukla haline geldiğinin üzerinde durulmuştur. İki yazar da baskıcı hükümetlerin gerçekleri nasıl gizlediğini ve insanların nasıl manipüle edildiğini vurgulamaktadır. Hem Orwell hem de Bradbury, özgürlüğü olmayan vatandaşların içler acısı durumlarını gözler önüne sermektedir. İnsanlar, özgürlükleri ellerinden alınarak birer oyuncak haline getirilmiştir ve üstüne üstlük her hareketleri tele ekranlar aracılığıyla izlenmektedir. Tüm bunların yanında beyinleri de anlamsız televizyon programlarıyla neredeyse hipnotize edilerek yıkanmaktadır. Bu iki çok okunan roman siyaset, tarih ve edebiyatın ne kadar iç içe geçtiğini ön plana çıkarmak için seçilmiştir. Son olarak *1984* ve *Fahrenheit 451* ceza, kitle kontrolü, totaliter rejimlerde teknoloji kullanımı ve toplum üzerindeki baskı temalarını vurgulamaktadır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Distopya, George Orwell, Ray Bradbury, *1984*, *Fahrenheit 451*

ABSTRACT

AKYÜREK Fulya. Totalitarianism in the Dystopian Worlds of Orwell's *1984* and Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. Master's Thesis, Ankara, 2022.

This thesis examines the dystopian novels *1984* by George Orwell and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, respectively. When analyzed within their historical contexts, these two novels reflect the periods in which they were written. Additionally, the dystopian themes portrayed in these works illustrate the destructive effects of totalitarian regimes on society. In particular, the focus is on how people oppressed by oppressive leaders lose their humanity and become puppets. Both authors emphasize how oppressive governments conceal the truth and manipulate people. Orwell and Bradbury both highlight the pitiful situations of citizens who lack freedom. People are reduced to mere toys by having their freedom taken away, and on top of that, their every move is monitored through television screens. In addition, their minds are almost hypnotized by meaningless television programs. These two widely read novels were selected to highlight the interwoven nature of politics, history, and literature. Finally, *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451* emphasize the themes of punishment, mass control, the use of technology in totalitarian regimes, and pressure on society.

Keywords: Dystopia, George Orwell, Ray Bradbury, *1984*, *Fahrenheit 451*

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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever tried to communicate with someone who is too busy with the mobile phone? Nowadays, technology has become an obsession. People spend most of their time using their phones, tablets and computers incessantly. Some people use technology for their work since they live in the age of technology; therefore, using technology becomes a necessity. Is everyone using technology since it is necessary or are they obsessed with technological devices? Technology addiction resembles a chronic disease. People compulsively check their e-mails, social media and use the internet. They are even unable to take care of their daily tasks without the use of the internet. After a while, social media and the internet begin to control humans, furthermore, the use of technology may easily turn into a control mechanism in totalitarian governments. Many writers foresaw that overuse of technology in the future would have irretrievable effects on society and governments that would later utilize technology for their own benefits and they wrote well-acclaimed dystopic novels on how technological devices destroyed people's lives. Ray Bradbury and George Orwell are two leading authors who wrote dystopic novels that demonstrate the destructive effects of technology. Orwell's *1984* (1949) and Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* (1953) are both representative novels of the dystopian literature with their emphasis on the destructive effects of the future development of the technology and the way the technology is utilized by oppressive regimes.

Technology is a tool which is dominated by the government in *1984*. People are observed and listened to via telescreens. Similarly, today, people use technological tools recklessly without considering to devastating effects into consideration. The majority of smartphone users can be controlled remotely. Their every step is tracked unfortunately via the latest devices. People's information is stored in a database of technological companies; hence, their privacy is at risk. Orwell created a similar dystopic world in his novel *1984* where people's privacy is disrupted by systematic control of the government and their restrictive regulations. They are always under the control of the government through the use of telescreens.

Bradbury reflects on the destructive effects of technology in his novel *Fahrenheit 451*; however, the way he represents these effects is different from Orwell's. People are addicted to television screens and they do not realize what is

happening in the real world. Overuse of televisions creates a society that lacks communication, freedom and intellectuality. To sum up, the two novels foreshadow today's technological world where people use the latest technology, but they lose their identity. Especially, young people cannot live without their smartphones. Humans communicate with Wi-Fi passwords and smartphones when they meet in a cafe instead of live people.

This thesis aims to analyse *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451* in terms of totalitarian approaches and elements as seen in contemporary dystopian literature. Both Orwell and Bradbury, who have celebrated authors, insist on noting political downfalls, which are seen in the behaviour of governments that do not hesitate to oppress and manipulate people. Both novels especially focus on a dystopian vision of technology. As totalitarian governments use technological equipment to control and manipulate people socially and psychologically, these two novels are also analysed considering psychological violence and manipulation through technology. A short summary regarding the chapters will be helpful in understanding the general outline of this thesis.

In the first chapter, the general definition of totalitarianism would be given, and there would also be a short discussion about the fragility of democracy. The tyrannical leaders feign being democratic for their benefit and tend to ignore human rights. Violations of freedom of speech abound. Totalitarianism is considered a complete form of domination in all respects. Governments have absolute power and control over people, so this causes a limitation of freedom. Fascism and totalitarianism are related to each other closely. The two concepts denote oppression and extreme domination over any society by not allowing them to act in accordance with their own betterment. During the chapter, information on what totalitarianism is and how it is reflected in dystopian literature is also presented.

In the following chapter, the famous writer of *Animal Farm* and *1984* George Orwell is introduced and it continues with the analysis of his novel *1984*. These books are popular around the world and have been translated into many languages. The themes in the novels issue a dystopic future under the control of tyrannical leaders. Furthermore, Orwell adds some notions to the language such as Big Brother, doublethink, Room 101, Newspeak and Thought Crime. *1984* takes place in Oceania which is a fictional totalitarian state in the novel. Big Brother has absolute control over

the humans living in Oceania via telescreens. They do not have any private life. The story focuses on the protagonist Winston Smith who represents the free will and human nature. Orwell experiences the horrible effects of the World War II, that's why his novel mirrors the reality of a possible future.

Fahrenheit 451 is one of the celebrated novels which is written by Ray Bradbury. The third chapter will be on the analysis of *Fahrenheit 451*. The protagonist is Guy Montag, who is a fireman in this novel. The irony is that his responsibility is to start a fire instead of extinguishing it. He burns the books without questioning anything. The concepts of censorship and totalitarianism are the main points of analysis in this chapter. While firemen are busy with burning books, the rest of the society is hypnotised by huge television screens which are full of senseless TV programmes. However, the readers witness the awakening of Guy Montag during the novel. Montag's heroic journey would be thoroughly analysed in this section.

The last part is the conclusion of the thesis. The themes are briefly summarized in the last part. Furthermore, the use of technology is emphasized in the conclusion. Technology is beneficial unless it is used to harm people. The two novels put great emphasis on the fragility of democracy and, explore totalitarianism within the hands of despotic leaders. As seen, Orwell and Bradbury criticize totalitarian regimes by exposing certain characters as the puppets of the rulers. These two novels are similar to each other in terms of imagining technology use as a means of totalitarian control. In both *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451* the governments use this technology to reach as many people as possible and to enlarge their realm of domination. In this regard, the thesis juxtaposes them to reveal how these novels envision government control through television technology. The novels' worlds will be explored with regard to how they envision mass media as a tool for totalitarian propaganda and the thesis will help to understand the commonalities between these dystopian visions.

CHAPTER 1: WHAT IS TOTALITARIANISM?

Any ideological alignment can end up in totalitarianism, even if it is subsumed under the holy name of democracy when the ruling body aims for domination. In that sense, totalitarianism is remarkably a relevant topic for dystopias which are imaginary works regarding some of the worst possible scenarios in terms of the political systems. The more power tyrannical leaders gain, the weaker human rights become, and this situation causes a dystopic society worldwide.

Totalitarianism means a government where one body has absolute power and controls citizens' lives. That is to say, totalitarianism is generally expressed as a series of rigid orders that attempts to monitor and directs all aspects of social and private life through persuasion and repression. As Robert states in his book *Reflections on a Ravaged Century*, totalitarianism is equivalent to authoritarianism. In this political system, only one person has the whole control over citizens who do not have human rights, the ability to speak, make decisions, and freedom of speech (91). In these types of states, dictators or monarchs in power have ultimate control over mass media, where the propaganda and campaigns are broadcasted so that they can control the public.

In other words, totalitarianism prohibits all personal freedom, and it does not allow the existence of opposition parties with the arrangement over public and private life. Extreme political repression and human rights violations often characterize totalitarian regimes. It could be said that totalitarianism is the executive power of the state overpowering the legislative power and ending in the separation of powers. Moreover, the power itself gains the power to determine social life by getting extraordinarily strong. Conquest refers that, if one goes back to the roots of totalitarianism, the word totalitarianism is primarily used by Benito Mussolini (1883-1945), who is the fascist leader of Italy (106).

In fact, similar concepts, such as fascism and totalitarianism, come into existence by feeding on the remnants of the previous opposition. The existence of opposition means democracy, but democracies become toys to silence the people in the hands of tyrants with a passion for power. Good or bad, any democratic regime could turn into a totalitarian rule at any time in the hands of malicious rulers, which might lead to fascism. Although fascism and totalitarianism seem like different concepts, there is a delicate line between them. Every totalitarian leader, who has

absolute control over society, will not hesitate to bully and rule people in a fascist way whenever he wants. The existence of fascist leaders is filled with a lack of power and regime that could lead to chaos, and these kinds of leaders use the lie of bringing democracy very well.

The fascist leaders, who tend to gain all power, or in other words, people who suddenly find themselves intoxicated with power, do not hesitate to use the fragility of democracy against the people who voted for them. For totalitarian regimes, a silent, non-rebelling, cowardly society is an invaluable benefactor. They use all their powers to intimidate and frighten the society, and for this, they usually apply subliminal propaganda by prohibiting all kinds of opposition. Initially, despotic regimes such as totalitarianism, emerged in the twentieth century, regardless of any charismatic leader. With the development of technology, it used devices such as radio and telegraphs to control people completely. The terms 'totalitarian' and 'totalitarianism' are twentieth-century concepts. These two concepts are used to define the political environment, ideologies, and political parties that intend at total change and check their societies. Totalitarianism is a kind of political organization in which the government has an ultimate control over the private lives of citizens.

The only purpose of despotic and control-mad leaders, who are not well-intentioned, is to silence and intimidate the people to their will, so they will not have to deal with people who have free will and surely freedom of speech. That is why they reach the sole aim of organizing a fearful society.

In short, every totalitarian government is to change people's freedom by ignoring it and influencing ideas from their perspective. Although the way is not often considered an oppressive style, the results often do not favor the public. In the end, even if it appears as humanistic, all that exists is a mechanical human community deprived of all their freedoms and ideas. As Çetin states, "In the totalitarian system, the society is in an ideological integrity with a plan, and it is controlled by the program. It articulates, harmonizes and imposes a common worldview" (15). Typically, a dystopian world arises at the end of every oppressive regime, which is made at the point of controlling the people. In other words, totalitarianism creates a dystopia. Dystopia is a depressed, unpleasant, and oppressed world in which different ideas and freedom are not accepted. Fear reigns as the only emotion, and the only color seen is black. That is, people do not remember the existence of various colors, and the children

born in this darkness do not know the names of colors. Any state controls all aspects of public and private life whenever it is necessary in a dystopic world. Moreover, the state holds total authority over society. These concepts in political life would somehow be reflected in literature, and the genre of dystopian literature came about.

1.1 The Effects of Dystopia on Literature

Dystopian literature shows restricted freedom, a sort of police state, fearful citizens, and opposition to free will. Dystopia illustrates a more realistic relationship between society and oppressive governments than utopia, which usually reflects a positive world for humankind. It is the opposite concept of dystopia. Kurnaz regards dystopia as “a vehicle of resistance” (392). In addition, anti-utopia is used in place of the notion of dystopia. The two notions give the same meaning. In *Dystopian and Social Imagination*, Seeger and Vecchioni state that an anti-utopia could be described as “a depiction of a society” wherein there is an attempt to realize a utopian project; however, the consequences of the project have been disastrous or oppressive (54). In the anti-utopia and dystopia dichotomy, people find themselves in the middle of chaos and they would be defeated if they do not open their eyes. For these two thrillers, dystopia presents a world too negative to be true. However, unfortunately, it is just as realistic because the end of every poorly managed democracy creates totalitarian, oppressive, and anti-democratic societies. Dystopia vacuums the reality of democracy, so it begins to lose its meaning. George Orwell and Ray Bradbury reflect dysfunctional climates of society and suppression of governments in their novels *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451*. Any social, political, and economic situation significantly affects the authors’ ideas. As Booker claims in the book *Dystopian Literature: A Theory and Research Guide*, “*Fahrenheit 451* is a direct answer to cultural environment in America in the early 1950s... Considering Orwell’s *1984* refers most directly to the tyrannical Stalinist regime then in power in Russia, but it echoes Hitler’s German Nazi regime in numerous ways as well” (213). Both Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* and Orwell’s *1984* illustrate completely oppressed societies. They define that something goes wrong in democracy and that authoritarian governments rule societies with no patience for freedom. Both authors define life for people in a dystopian society. Bradbury and Orwell reflect on how a totalitarian government uses information, technology, history, and democracy to ruin societies.

CHAPTER 2: INFORMATION ABOUT GEORGE ORWELL AND *1984*

When analyzed within their historical contexts, these two novels reflect the periods in which they were written. Additionally, the dystopian themes portrayed in these works illustrate the destructive effects of totalitarian regimes on society. In particular, the focus is on how people oppressed by oppressive leaders lose their humanity and become puppets. Have you ever tried to communicate with someone who is too busy with the mobile phone? Nowadays, technology turns into an obsession. People spend most of their time using their phones, tablets and computers incessantly. Some people use technology for their work since they live in the age of technology; therefore, using technology becomes a necessity. Is everyone using technology since it is necessary or are they obsessed with technological devices? Technology addiction resembles a chronic disease. People compulsively check their e-mails, social media and use the internet. They are even unable to tend to their daily tasks without the use of the internet. After a while, social media and the internet begin to control humans, furthermore, the use of technology may easily turn into a control mechanism in totalitarian governments. Many writers foresaw that overuse of technology in the future would have irretrievable effects on the society and governments that would later utilize technology for their own benefits and they wrote well-acclaimed dystopic novels on how technological devices destroyed people's lives.

Humans do not have any problems related to accessing information via technology as Bradbury and Orwell wrote in their novels. Technology becomes a toy for kids nowadays but it creates a significant complication. Computers, televisions, and cell phones become close friends of people instead of real friends. When they meet up with any person, they do not stop touching mobile phones for a minute. Although technological devices may seem beneficial, most of the humankind are not aware of their harmful sides. They become masters of people and begin to dominate them in an irrepressible way. An addiction to technology is a sort of obsession whose limits are not imagined. To sum up, the negative effects of overusing technology are depicted in the two novels, *Fahrenheit 451* and *1984*.

2.1 The Concept of Totalitarianism in *1984*

The famous novel, *1984* displays the worst style of totalitarianism and desire to control almost all the parts of the social life of the citizens. There are frequent

dialogues and jokes about domineering parents or employers in people's daily lives. However, any authoritarian humans are not worse than the concept of authority in *1984*. The readers are faced with despotism that is as real and as strict as it is. Orwell's *1984* is a dystopian novel set in the future, as it was written in 1948. The novel's primary focus is the main character, Winston Smith, a government employee in the Ministry of Truth. In a way, Winston Smith also contributes to the totalitarian government as he oversees changing and redacting news items in agreement with the government.

Orwell creates the feeling of suppression over an ordinary citizen, Winston Smith. The novel *1984*, by George Orwell, is commonly based on the social and political issues against the threats of a totalitarian society. He explains that Winston Smith, the protagonist suffers from maintaining his personality as he is recreated to follow and obey the Party's image as he loves big brother. The party maintains ultimate social control and manipulates the people of Oceania. The supporters of the government dismiss the people who rebel against them to keep their power intact under the command of Big Brother. Winston Smith then tries to get free and learn the real history behind instead of what the government has created to deceive and control its people. In particular, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* had become a mighty spear in the ideological war between left and right.

Orwell illustrates his ideas and worries about the possible causes of despot regimes and totalitarianism over societies by founding his dystopia in *1984*. He presents a totalitarian government which controls the mind of the humans. The easiest way is to control pleasure. The Party checks people by limiting and suppressing pleasure. Removing pleasure from society diminishes the people's morale, allowing the government to enforce its will. Under totalitarian rule, traditional social institutions and organizations are discouraged and suppressed. Totalitarianism takes away freedom by installing surveillance and limiting activity in his book (Orwell). The Party always strictly controls people via thought police, spies and telescreens. Winston finds an empty notebook and he decides to write a diary and writes in it while he is in his flat. However, Winston is scared of the Thought Police, when he considers to be caught and tortured.

2.2 The Setting of *1984*

Orwell uses this quote to present further that no matter what concept the government presents, the individuals who are a part of it will have to believe it because they are enslaved. While they are slaves, they find only their freedom. An individual who operates against the constant surveillance of Big Brother places themselves in opposition to the nation, or Party and, thus, does not receive the benefits of someone who is a slave to the Party. They get treated much worse. Have you ever tried to communicate with someone who is too busy with the mobile phone? Nowadays, technology turns into an obsession. People spend most of their time using their phones, tablets and computers incessantly. Some people use technology for their work since they live in the age of technology; therefore, using technology becomes a necessity. Is everyone using technology since it is necessary or are they obsessed with technological devices? Technology addiction resembles a chronic disease. People compulsively check their e-mails, social media and use the internet. They are even unable to tend to their daily tasks without the use of the internet. After a while, social media and the internet begin to control humans, furthermore, the use of technology may easily turn into a control mechanism in totalitarian governments. Many writers foresaw that overuse of technology in the future would have irretrievable effects on the society and governments that would later utilize technology for their own benefits and they wrote well-acclaimed dystopic novels on how technological devices destroyed people's lives. Ray Bradbury and George Orwell are two leading authors who wrote dystopic novels that demonstrate the destructive effects of technology. Orwell's *1984* and Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* are both representative novels of the dystopian literature with their emphasis on the destructive effects of the future development of the technology and the way the technology is utilized by oppressive regimes.

The term ignorance is strength follows the same model of hypocrisy presented throughout the book — the tool by which the Party manipulates the masses. The government, put forth by Orwell, requires complete and utter trust from its citizens.

The Party develops this ability in its citizens by undermining their individuality, independence and autonomy and by creating an environment of constant fear through propaganda. In this way, the Party breaks down its ability to reason and makes citizens accept and believe anything they tell them, even if it is entirely illogical. The novel is filled with contradictions similar to the ones seen in the opening quote.

An ordinary person may spend a quarter of a day in front of a television screen. The situation is unfortunately different in *Fahrenheit 451*. Most of the characters spend all day in front of their wall size televisions. Taken as a whole, television is depicted as an evil by Bradbury. It is an evil because citizens are not conscious about real life. They do not remember anything related with the past and they have no enough communication with the outer world. They behave as if they were in tv screens and in tv shows. Furthermore, the truth is that watching too much television makes people lose touch with the reality of their lives. They accept TV as a real world. The government gives televisions as mature toys to the citizens. If they are taken from their hands, people start to think and question the real atmosphere of the country which is not in favour of any totalitarian government. To illustrate, Mildred always finds herself in the midst of television broadcasting and she builds an emotional bond with the programmes. They live in a world without books and education. They are just inside of the shadows of reality which is censored by television shows.

Humans who live in Oceania believe that the saying “War is Peace” means; one must tolerate the horrors of war to have peace. It does not mean the two as the statement might otherwise suggest. The people of Oceania fully believe that war is terrible and peace is good. However, as in real life, the people have understood that sometimes one must make terrible sacrifices to have a peaceful nation. The war does not take place on the soil of Oceania, but somewhere far from it, so they do not see the horrors of the battle, the destruction, and the wounded and dead in front of them. They only hear about it through the daily announcements made by the Party.

Dystopian novels explore the effects of oppression and totalitarianism on the individual psyche and how the individual functions in a repressive society. The novel *1984* defines a kind of example of fear, conflict and unhappiness. Like many dystopian novels, *1984* mentions that governments get worse due to man’s lust of power. The governments are willing to control and forbid everything whatever they want. For instance, freedom, identities of characters, free speech even dreams of characters are forbidden in the setting of *1984*. The government even goes so far as to interfere with the sexual relationship in Winston and Julia’s private life. Winston’s trouble in retrieving and trusting his memories displays how the Party has corrupted his emotional life and daily existence, asking the reader to question the nature of memory and individual consciousness.

2.3 The Concept of Oceania in *1984*

Oceania is the fictional totalitarian state in *1984*. The laws of Oceania construct absolute authority over the citizens. Also, there are two more fictional states: Eurasia and Eastasia; moreover, these fictional states are constantly at war. Oceania is governed by the all-controlling Party, which has brainwashed the population into unthinking obedience to its leader, Big Brother. The class system in Oceania is very unequal, resulting in sharp disparities between the impoverished proles and the wealthy Inner Party. Oceania in *1984* thrives on inequality between classes. It is clear from early in the novel that life in Oceania is not ideal, and that only becomes more obvious as the plot progresses. The people of Oceania are separated into three distinct classes: the Inner Party, the Outer Party, and the Proles. The Inner Party is the elite, wealthy class. They rule Oceania and establish dominance over the other citizens. They have access to many luxurious items that others cannot have, like better food and more excellent apartments, and they live their lives with far more privacy.

For example, Winston begins to write a diary and does not know if this is a forbidden offence, but he is reasonably certain of it. In Oceania, to think is to do and no distinction is drawn between either. Criticism of the state is forbidden, even though criticism must be constantly there for the state's survival, since it must have critics to destroy so as to demonstrate the state's power. Governance of Oceania depends upon the necessity of suppressing freedom of thought or original thinking amongst the Outer Party.

Oceania is under the control of a totalitarian party which is named as Inner Party. The second party, Outer Party, includes proletarians and the Outer Party members who do not have equal rights with the Inner Party. The ordinary people are excluded from the rights of the Inner Party. Despite the Party's "socialist" ideology, there is still a class distinction in Oceania between the proletarians and the Party members. In addition, injustice and inequality even among the Party members could effortlessly be seen. Proletarians are only considered living creatures who must be kept under some obligations, such as organizing their social and private lives thoroughly. Cruelty, injustice, intolerance and oppression are the primary weapons of the party. In other words, the party coerces the conformity of the citizens. Otherwise, if citizens find enough space to object, despots lose power over them. In other words, the power

holders want to state you have censors and are not free anymore brainwashing technique with the destruction of any book.

Totalitarianism is emphasized in both of the novels. Orwell and Bradbury depict how leaders hold the power with an ultimate control over citizens who do not have any private lives. In 1984, there is a ruined society, and the citizens cannot open their mouths without the permission of Big Brother. However, in Fahrenheit 451 the people are disconnected from the realities in the country where they live. Except Clarissa no member of the society wants to question anything. Television programmes look like a lullaby which makes people sleepy. That's why, they cannot organize their thoughts logically in a dystopia without books. The regime discourages the citizens from experiencing any parts of the reality.

Freedom is a distinctive feature of humanity. Dystopia and totalitarianism are two concepts which limit human freedom. People generally were born as free-living creatures. They tend to free from boundaries of any oppressive regime. More significantly, the two authors draw a crucial line between darkness and enlightenment. The inevitable distinction is the conditions of the protagonists at the end. Winston's failure represents desperate situation of the proles. It is clear that Orwell is optimistic about the development of British working class. They are not good at gaining political consciousness to demand their rights. Winston is one of the symbols of prole in 1984 and he unfortunately loses his war of freedom. Ray Bradbury does not draw atmosphere as pessimist as Orwell himself. Bradbury's belief in individualism and freedom creates an optimistic environment for the protagonist, Guy Montag. His heroic journey begins with the young girl, Clarisse, and he wins a personal victory at the end. Montag's transformation with Clarisse and the books represents typical American optimism.

Furthermore, the Party is more than willing to govern everything in the lives of the citizens in Oceania. That is why they impose their ideas on society in a manipulative way. It is the easiest way to shape people's thoughts and irrevocably change reality. Oceania, which does not have a capital, is England itself. There is no such thing as progress or development in Oceania rather, just as there is power. Citizens of Oceania against the country's reported enemies are full of hatred. The author, the work's protagonist, Winston Smith is a point of view. From the point of view of how a totalitarian society works will explain itself the reader. Those who act

in wrong individual behavior are being spied on, and they are detected via telescreens. In the world the novel describes, all citizens use a device called a “telescreen” through which they are monitored. The telescreen acts both as a transmitter and a receiver. In other words it simultaneously broadcasts, and it can also record. Thought Police exists thanks to this tool. It can constantly monitor what everyone is saying and doing. Telescreens effectively monitor Oceania's citizens, imprison them in their daily lives. Furthermore, social life in Oceania is divided into three: Inner Party members generally enjoy all the benefits of luxury, the goods of Outer party are in poor quality, and the working class receives the worst.

The extent to which societies are subject to destruction in totalitarian regimes is emphasized through class discrimination. The working class is mistreated in terms of their essential needs. Moreover, the food and drinks are artificial and of low quality for the members of this class, Proletarians. If the inner party is the government's brain, the outer party can be added as hands. Conversely, the proletarian class constitutes eighty-five percent of the country's population, poor, utterly ignorant. It is a group that wholeheartedly believes in Brother. When it comes to the fearful side of the proletarians, there is none. Left to their own devices, generations work for centuries, they reproduce and die, even though the world they live in could be different. They also lack the power to grasp. The party's sexual discipline training is not applied to this class, they are not punished for the sexual offense they have committed. In this class also, getting a divorce is also granted. Winston admires working-class life, but he also despises it as they never have the idea or intelligence to change the management that determines their lives about what to do or what to believe in and follow that belief. They do not even bother themselves about this. Whereas for Winston, the hope of the future lies in the proletarian class. However, the workers lack awareness and the will to rebel against oppression they live through for a long time. The most critical factor in the formation of the idea of society and in society one of the most significant tools is language. The enrichment of language means the enrichment of thought. The government of Oceania uses the people's thoughts as a handy tool to destroy the history and the language and break the relationship with the country's past. The government itself developed an irrational way of speaking called Newspeak for this purpose. It becomes a simple technique for The Party to overcontrol humans by adapting this new language which is called “Newspeak” into the society. Integrating “Newspeak” into

society means showing the dominant ideology of the Party. In other words, the aim of the regime also appears in language, which becomes a significant means to control any society.

2.4 The Concept of Big Brother in *1984*

Big Brother acts as a Godlike figure to the citizens of Oceania. Big Brother is one of them, but at the same time, he is the most recognized fictional character in Orwell's Oceania. He is depicted as a cruel and despot leader of a fictional place. To put it another way, Big Brother is the mysterious dictator of an imaginary country ruled by a totalitarian regime where the ruling party exerts great pressure on the people. In the society Orwell describes, every individual is under constant surveillance of the authorities through telescreens. They are also constantly reminded that they are under surveillance with the slogan "Big Brother is watching you." It almost resembles a world; all-seeing, all-knowing, never, ever wrong, one of the Revolutionaries, the leader of the death of the state and the Party: Big Brother. With posters of alleys, the existence of the small Party is possible even in the houses of Oceania. It also continually manifests itself in telescreens. They are so ingrained in people, even in their faces; appearance at forty-five years old, thick black mustache, and a total stern look. It is already about to be done. The people are not thinking; is that they do not think.

The particular language was created according to Big Brother's way. Is there a limit to control? In other words, how far could people be controlled? Since totalitarian regime and overcontrolling are closely related to each other, overcontrolling could turn into totalitarianism in no time. In the quotation, it indicates that even words lose their meaning. For instance, the concept "Blackwhite" includes two opposite colors in the same word in which black is the same with white. That is, people are forced to believe there is no white; it is also the same as black. Big Brother deletes the concept of white via brainwashing. In a world where everything gradually lost its meaning, people are on the verge of forgetting even the old language they used. By changing the past and the language itself, they aim to destroy humans. Also, the people are about to be buried in the darkness of the dystopian world by a despotic leader born and raised by the totalitarian regime. On every street, in all houses pictures of him are available, being a constant reminder of the totalitarian regime. Winston takes up all the citizen's lives

everywhere, giving the feeling of being seen and making himself felt. In this context, Big Brother is spying and controlling, and it serves as a mechanism that undermines itself and calls out propagandist discourses exhibits. The true leader of the regime is Big Brother. In other words, he cannot make any mistakes. Every victory, invention, and virtue appear only under his leadership's existence.

The party controls all aspects of the actions of the citizens; language, and expressions over Big Brother. The protagonist, Winston Smith tries to break the oppression of the party through the intercourse with Julia who is the foil character in the novel. However, he could not realize the extent of manipulation and oppression. At the end of Chapter Two, the lovers are arrested by two policemen and taken to the Ministry of Love. Also, it is revealed that Mr. Charrington, who is believed and trusted by Winston as a kind man, is a thought police. O'Brien does everything to destroy Winston's will and desire for Julia. In room 101, the loyal member of the Party, O'Brien, uses Winston's fear of rats. Within a panic, Winston begins to beg O'Brien to torture, Julia, his lover. It can be implied here that Winston must choose Julia, who stands for love, or Big Brother, who stands for the concept of total oppression and control. Unfortunately, Big Brother wins the battle because of emotional, physical, and mental torture on the protagonist, then he becomes one of the loyal members of the Party. This makes obvious that the people are deprived of any amusement in life, even the smallest part of it. They are turned into dim and non-functional objects like trash bags; they wait for the best before a date to be thrown by the Party.

In the dystopian atmosphere of the book *1984*, citizens live in simplicity, even within nothingness. They are showed desperate beings under totalitarian regime of the Party. The more control the government has over its people, the more they will want to obey and adhere to all expectations. The canteen is described as a cold place, and people are shown as an unnecessary stack of objects, they fill the area in Oceania where any laws are not put by Big Brother. The only law is that is total loyalty to the Party is a necessity for survival. The entire novel is told through the point of view of Winston Smith, who is clearly exposed to the oppression totalitarian regime.

Winston becomes a well-organized citizen after he is arrested and kept in the famous torture room 101. Although Winston loves Julia and he is decisive in rebelling against Big Brother, O'Brien manipulates him both physically and mentally in a successful way. According to Orwell in *1984* . Winston becomes a kind of slave in the

Party. He behaves as if he was an attendant and he does everything what he is commanded. At this point, Winston is not aware of anything. Moreover, he is also not aware of his capacity; that's why he never questions the Party, as he does not know what truth truly is. There is never a true story being told as there are many different versions of what is occurring. As Tucker emphasizes, it is a concept that detaches the individual from his environment and locks him up in an unreal atmosphere and allows him with no options to compare any concepts, which ends up in controlling the mind (6). Totalitarian governments are skilled at exploiting their citizens to assert their dominance further. People are filled to the bone with the oppressive poison of the totalitarian regime. Big Brother, with a big mustache, is shown as the "guardian" of the people who live in Oceania and most possibly he is elected by common consent. Although there is no enemy to be seen around, Big Brother effectively organizes society by uniting the people of Oceania against one common enemy; free thought. Rebellious actions and truth are their actual enemies according to Big Brother and as a result, the rulers ultimately obey him.

Humans are just regarded as robotic figures whose emotional focuses are entirely off. As Big Brother requires all people to be subservient to him, the state of Oceania can be seen to be a totalitarian state, organized to ensure that nobody can think anything that goes against "the principles" of Big Brother. The goal was to create a community in which an individual was no longer individual, but a part of the whole. People had been together through shared culture, history, and violent emotions toward those who threatened their community. Big Brother's government was based purely on power and hate. In this case, Big Brother represents the government and controls what one does, thinks, eats, and even feels. Furthermore, Big Brother controls everything, like information, history, and even the psychological needs of the citizens. The party destroys all senses related to independence and individuality. Everyone wears the same uniform, eats the same food, and lives in identical apartments. This statement means that Big Brother is watching one without them even knowing. In the novel, Winston hates the Big Brother for having total control of their actions, feelings, and mindset, however, the Big Brother controls him through hating everyone around him. Totalitarianism takes effect here because Big Brother controls their minds and shapes what they think about each other. At this point, Orwell further explains that technology is a vital tool that the party uses to maintain control over its citizens.

Without telescreens, the police would not be as active as it is throughout the novel, and propaganda would not be so widespread. Big Brother has total control of all technology and uses it against one another by watching and hearing them through telescreens. Human vs. Technology comes to the fore as a significant theme since Orwell states, “There was no place where you could be more certain that the telescreens were watched continuously” (107). This obviously explains how closely Big Brother is watching the characters' every move by having telescreens present in their apartments to observe and hear their movements and thoughts. Big Brother had taken away all their rights and controlled them to become how Big Brother wanted them to act and think. The government uses the technology to spread propaganda in their everyday lives and manipulate them to think what they want them to believe. Science and technology are developing in a remarkable way and it seems natural in the modern world. Humans adapt to technology in a quite fast pace. However, in *1984* technology is used as a spy over ordinary people. Their life is standardized and the rules are ordered by the government's thoughts and ideas. If humans have an attempt to rebel against the Party, there is serious punishment for them.

2.5 Doublethink

Doublethink is the ability to simultaneously hold two opposite beliefs and believe they are both correct at the same time. Doublethink can control one's memories by making the public believe in something that is not true and believe in something unlikely. Its aim is to control their mind by making one forget about something at the same time and making that person forget the forgetting process itself. The party has the power to convince the public through making the people believe in things that can be the opposite of their own beliefs. When Winston realizes that reality is under total control of the Party, he understands that anything cannot be true. Reality is what he makes of it. In other words, these sentences explain that doublethink can control everyone's mindset, even those who rebel against the dominant power. Orwell demonstrates that a government this powerful cannot be overpowered by anyone. The government uses this tool to gain public power and to make them believe into what they want by using proper propaganda and psychological manipulation of its leadership and as a result, shaping the public belief accordingly. Actually, the powerful Party that rules the superstate Oceania with the ideology of Ingsoc — doublethink, memory hole, unperson, thoughtcrime, Newspeak, Thought Police, Room 101, Big

Brother — they have all entered the English language as instantly recognizable signs of a nightmare future. Often, Winston Smith thinks that he has definitely forgotten the past itself. He behaves as if he had no memory. Government is willing to delete the memories of people themselves.

By not knowing the truth of their world and fully allowing themselves to comprehend the magnitude of what's been lost, the individual citizens are in a stronger place. However, their ignorance itself is what makes the Party stronger. In addition, doublethink allows the Party to control what its citizens think about and to force them into believing anything at once. The contradictory beliefs put them more in control of the population. People were deliberately made to believe clearly wrong things. The exciting thing is that although they knew beforehand the truth about what they believed to be false, no one felt the need to question the newly imposed falsehoods. The party's aim is to provide total loyalty to the party and control them without being asked the littlest question.

When it comes to the duties of the ministries, they also clearly reflect the concept of doublethink. To illustrate, Ministry of Truth is quite busy with changing facts per the demands of Big Brother and The Party. Moreover, Ministry of Peace is responsible for controlling the wars between the countries. In other words, they are responsible for telling deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, forgetting any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just so long as it is needed and adapting into the needed situation, denying the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality denies this is not necessary. Even using the word doublethink itself, is necessary to exercise doublethink. For saying just one word, one admits that one is tampering with reality; by a fresh act of doublethink, one erases this knowledge; and so on indefinitely, with the lie always one leap ahead of the truth. Ultimately it is employing doublethink that the Party has been able — and may, for it is obviously known, continue to be able for thousands of years — to arrest the course of history. It is the achievement of the Party to have produced a system of thought in which both conditions can exist simultaneously. Furthermore, upon no other intellectual basis could the dominion of the Party be made permanent. If one is to rule, and to continue ruling, one must be able to dislocate the sense of reality. The secret of rulership is combining a belief in one's infallibility with the power to learn from past mistakes. It

needs hardly be said that the subtlest practitioners of doublethink are those who invented doublethink and they obviously know that it is a vast system of mental cheating. In our society, those who have the best knowledge of what is happening are also those who are furthest from seeing the world as it is—the greater the understanding, the greater the delusion, and the more intelligent.

The Party's political philosophy is established in a dehumanized way in the course of the novel and it is made obvious with various themes such as manipulation, propaganda, changing language, and history. Orwell's priority about government control is depicted over characters and ideological approaches through the use of propaganda, mind- manipulation, and fear, as mentioned before. Through looking deeper into the use of language and symbolism, it is abundantly apparent: Big Brother is watching you. During the course of this dystopian novel, it is obvious that reality and fiction are mixed. Even the public sees fiction as fact. It cannot be said that the modern state apparatus is innocent because it functions as a tool in accepting perception as accurate.

Like many dystopian writers, Orwell draws attention to the threat of a totalitarian regime in his work and how the state can turn the masses into mechanical automatons by using propaganda and brainwashing techniques through electronic devices and advanced technologies. In Orwell's fictional state, the government strives to maintain the unconditional obedience of the masses. In order to do this, the administration always makes inspections everywhere and without distinguishing between public and private areas. One of the aims of permanent control is the elimination of plurality, or, in Nietzschean terms, creating the “herd man” type. The establishment of a continuous control mechanism “works well.” In Orwell's Oceania, the masses must live with the idea that their speech is monitored and their moves are subject to surveillance all the time. This necessity causes people to live with a habit that has turned into an instinct over time. According to Orwell, propaganda is an instrument that totalitarian governments use. Propaganda has a powerful effect on the masses because they trust their perceptions rather than “truth” itself. The administration, which makes lying a way of life, is based on lies in principle. In such administrations, while the significance of facts is generally and continually rejected, it is possible to make all lies true, just as it is possible to change all facts.

Modern technology and instrumental reason have a remarkable role in this system. Modern technologies also function to convey the leader's discourse to the masses. If the leader's discourse is falsified in the factual field in administrations where fact and fiction are mixed, what needs to be done is to make the facts suitable for the discourse itself. It is not only the present whose conformity to say is checked, but also the past. Past records are archives that need to be replaced if they are inconsistent with the current discourse and its needs. In Oceania, all records are rearranged to confirm the leader's rhetoric. This necessitates a continuous retroactive replacement. The continuous change process applies not only to newspapers, but also to books, periodicals, brochures, posters, booklets, films, audiotapes, cartoons, photographs, any publishings and documents that may be of political or ideological importance. History is updated daily, almost minute by minute. In this way, the accuracy of all the predictions of the Party is proven with documents. In other words, flexibility is always required in the handling of cases. On the other hand, a party member should be able to say black and white when necessary due to Party discipline. Only a Party member must believe that black is white, beyond saying black to white, moreover, he must know that black is white and should forget instantly that he believed the opposite until that day. Such a thing requires that the past is permanently changed. The fundamental importance of the constant re-“updating” of the past can be explained by the effort to preserve the Party's infallibility. It is possible with the doublethink technique for a party member to say white for black and black for white. At this point, doublethink means that one can have two contradictory thoughts in one's mind at the same time and accept both. Although Orwell draws attention to the totalitarian state apparatus itself and what this apparatus can do to society in his dystopian novel, and also it should not be forgotten that the “state” is not existent. The state is a human institution. Therefore, not the “state” establishes the order that Orwell points out, but those who govern it. However, the governed, as well as the rulers, have responsibilities in the establishment of the said order. Public freedom was also limited in George Orwell's description of London's atmosphere. In the streets of London, cameras and microphones were hidden all around. One sudden suspicious act and you would be “vaporized,” according to Winston. He described people dying as them “disappearing” or being “vaporized” since people usually died without leaving any trace of them behind. Executions, such as hangings, are common punishments when someone is accused of suspicious actions. Although the hangings were gruesome and torture, it

was a common practice to attend them. There were telescreens, microphones, and hidden cameras and a group of policemen called the “thought police.”

Technology plays a significant role via telescreens to control people in *1984*. Telescreens are a significant part of the tactic to spread the Party’s propaganda consciously. However, technology obviously becomes dangerous in the hands of totalitarian government. To put it another way, telescreens become a kind of abuse of power. Every movement of people is watched by thought polices; the Party can go even further, people's lip movements are carefully observed.

The Party uses technology in scary and effective ways. Its most famous technological weapon is the telescreen, a two-way television that watches you as you watch it. Telescreens legalize the power of Big Brother, the mysterious figure who represents the Party’s power and dictatorship, is always watching the people of Airstrip One. Even the telescreens monitor citizens' daily actions, which must remain always turned on. In other words, telescreens display a single news channel, propaganda and wellness programming. It differs from our television in two crucial respects: it is impossible to turn it off, and the screen also watches its viewers while the viewers watch it. The telescreen is a television and a surveillance camera in at the same time. In the novel, the character Smith is never sure if he is being actively monitored through the telescreen. Technology is being used to spy on people more, and it is also being used to harm and kill people around the world. Technology is also used to push people into believe things that government may want them to believe. As technology gradually advances, it is also taking us to the world that George Orwell designed in his book *1984*. As technology is helping us reach information almost instantly, it isolates people at the same time since they would instead get information from the Internet and therefore start to rely too much on technology. Their reality is built based on the information they obtain from there. However, is that specific information true? People experience their lives bound by what they accept as correct and true; that is how people define reality.

In the novel, readers observe what even a simple technology can do in the hands of the horror empire. Orwell obviously aimed to warn humanity by predicting certain things beforehand. Unfortunately, despite his warnings, human history has experienced worse. Orwell was not a prophet, but he is clever enough to see society's reality as an author. Despite all these years, nothing much has changed. Even today,

thanks to developing technology, we can easily reach many things. Of course, this technology can easily turn into a terrorist organization weapon in the hands of evil governments and leaders, just like in the novel *1984*.

Orwell created a sense of warning for the future while he was writing *1984*. The question is, how did he foresee this situation? Since *1984* is a post-war novel, foreseeing is relatively easy since the events before and after the war helped him to predict the happenings after the world wars for humanity. Technological development is beneficial; yet, governments do not want to favor people with using it, so they use technology to gain power and control people instead. Technology causes a pessimistic world and limitation of freedom. In the novel, the protagonist, Winston, prefers not to be seamed in telescreens because of fear of Big Brother. His action is just simple protection; however, they do not work for Big Brother and telescreens:

Orwell frequently uses the sense of being watched in the novel over the characters who do not belong to the Party. The effects of World War II and the inclusion of machineries like aircraft and atomic bombs made Orwell think of a world, where technology is dominant and is used as a medium to control and manipulate the country's people. This aspect of the novel made it a world like this a prophecy among readers. A world like that would be the last place one would want to live in. They do not want the government to interfere in everything that they do. Intellectuals must uphold their principles when they are asked to work in favour of the government. The danger lies in the acceptance by the intellectuals.

2.6 The Character of Winston Smith in 1984

Winston Smith is a crucial figure in the novel, and all events are depicted over this protagonist. He is a sort of unheroic figure like all of Orwell's central characters. He works in the Ministry of Truth; the doublethink title of the Ministry of Propaganda. His job is to alter news items in old newspapers so that no one will ever know that the Party line has been changed or that the current version of historical fact is a "rectification." Winston dislikes his job and all of what it stands for. He has heard that there is a secret Brotherhood dedicated to the destruction of the Party and he wonders if he can discover whether it exists. Meantime, he does a desperate thing. He begins to write a diary secretly. Every action can be observed through screens in every room and the action of writing so personally and individually an exercise is a most serious crime.

Writing as an imaginative craft has disappeared. The novels, popular songs and pornography required for the proles are turned out by machinery in the Fiction Department of his Ministry. Winston lives in constant fear as he is arrested and tortured by members of the Party, people participating in IngSoc.

The fear of death, torture and being watched restrains Winston from speaking publicly against the party even though he does not support the Party at all. He has a sexual affair with Julia, but the fear of the Party overwhelms him, and as a result he betrays Julia. In Oceania, sexual and love affairs are not allowed. The Party has strict rules about sexual intercourse and pleasure. As mentioned before, people are turned to automatic machines that do their jobs and they continue to their lives without a soul or a taste for life. Furthermore, they are constantly monitored for any possible errors. When Julia and Winston were arrested, they betrayed each other to survive.

The Party wins the battle, and Winston becomes a loyal member of Big Brother. Unfortunately, Winston cannot gain his freedom by opposing the system he needs to yield to it, by being one with the system, which means slavery. As can be understood, the totalitarian political situation touches upon every and each layer of the society itself, and causes restrictions in all areas. The only solution to the current political order is dystopias. Initially, restrictions arise from the normality of people's social lives. Scientific and technologically powerful states, with the power they hold, increasingly dominate the society. It begins to exert pressure in time. Individuals deprived of their thinking abilities are stereotyped by science and the possibilities of technology are used as a means of pressure by the power holders on individuals. Society is compelled to think and exist as Big Brother imposed it. Big Brother has no eyes on his back, but the telescreens do it very well instead of that. Indeed, each of person is controlled by the upper one. The head, Big Brother, normalizes this situation in the novel. He constructs a feeling as if every person should be watched. "It has classified society into three distinct classes, the inner party, the outer party, and the proles and set up a pyramidal power structure in which each class is controlled by the upper one, and the semi-divine emblematic leader, the Big Brother as the apex who functions as the source of all power and legitimacy" (Shadi 182). Supervising the rules and prohibitions set by the Party, the authority takes the role of the thought police. After being caught and questioned, those who violated the prohibitions were brainwashed and straightened. Their memory is erased, and therefore the facts cannot

be proven. Memorized things are destroyed by torture in room 101. Thus, individuals with the erasure of their memories and the destruction of the facts, a sheep-like society emerges. To be kept under control, moreover, think what the dominant power wants them to think, how to convey in life, follow a decided direction in front of an individual who is imposed on how the system should behave as it wishes, eventually will make the people start to act like a kind of machine by exhibiting automatic behaviours because they are not free to think and transform their thoughts into action. Any person being guided by it has created people who are aimless and hopeless against life. Julia and Winston are notable characters who oppose the rules of the Party with a sex crime; however, at the end they turned to automatic machines after heavy tortures by O'Brien in the room 101.

An administration that dominates all levels of life cannot assert its legitimacy as a class. It continues by separating society over its differences. One can also do this in their order in society with its supporters who will ensure its continuation. Throughout the novel, man cannot dominate his own nature; others determine his destiny instead. For Winston, this situation appears as a reflection of the stress and inability to do something. The collective consciousness has come to the fore in a society where being is pushed into the background. Collective consciousness is another factor that mechanizes people. For example, in *1984* this processed through the perception of reality. Reality exists in man's mind, but this reality is misleading and short-lived. Yet, the reality of the Party is ordinary and eternal. As expressed in human helplessness and acting with collective consciousness, mechanization is the essential method. In addition, with the idea of mechanization and domination run parallel. Domination over man has two stages: mental and physical. In *1984*, the Party present its dominance mentally, as has been mentioned earlier, thought control provided by dominating minds equals to controlling behavior.

As can be observed, making everyone the same means that the Party can easily hold the control. The party is also aware of this danger as well. For this reason, a Party member cannot have free time or be alone outside of bed. People must participate in everyday activities in their spare times. With the elimination of the sense of thinking and feeling in the dystopian novel, a human being has become indistinguishable from a machine or a robot. Winston is the first one who has found without the sense of robotization. Although he tried to escape at the first opportunity, he was crushed

between the gears of the system and supposedly fired from heaven. Winston cannot escape his shackles by being put in chains.

After reading Orwell's novel, readers may have the impression of a successfully establishing total control leaving no space for people to oppose and betray. The gloomy political atmosphere dominates Oceania with the existence of Big Brother. People cannot even move a hair out of fear in front of big brother. In other words, humans who live in Oceania are slaves of totalitarian regime without being able to say a word.

As mentioned before, Winston totally accepts the superiority of the Party and, of course, becomes a part of the mechanism with force. He has no other option but to surrender. Despite Winston's various forms of rejection and resistance toward the Party, he was arrested and tortured heavily, so he must be realistic about his final decision. If he continues rejecting the Party's dominance, his eventual death is inevitable. At the end, Big Brother experiences a sense of victory. Actually, this is not an unexpected ending. If he retains the power of control, victory will be his sooner or later. Personal identities of ordinary citizens are meaningless in front of a totalitarian regime. By creating a pessimistic atmosphere in the novel, there is no space for people to act freely. People are only shown as callous beings to be constantly observed and kept in check.

CHAPTER 3: ANALYSIS OF *FAHRENHEIT 451*

Fahrenheit 451 is about a fireman named Guy Montag, but the absurd part of the job is that he is responsible for burning the banned books instead of putting out the fire. The main goal here is to prevent people from reading and filling their brains with completely empty stuff. Guy Montag and the people are individuals who question nothing but they just do whatever they're told, and have no views on life. They are a community that does not have a social life, continues from home to work, from home to home, and clings to life thanks to the television in their home. However, this does not continue for Montag, and one of the book's morals begins, questioning life and order. While humans were busy with their idiot box, they were becoming living and breathing beings with no knowledge of reading and information itself.

Generally speaking, people are capable of closing the books whenever they want, but is it possible for substantial TV screens, could they use our free will for TVs as they do for books? Once screens are settled in the living room, they are captured unconsciously. They almost forget their actual duties by spending time in front of screens, waking up, washing our faces, eating, and working, and most significantly, thinking. These activities are, unfortunately, the daily routines of people, and they hug TV to get rid of their dull lives. Glass walls will surround them and it becomes a routine of sitting, not questioning think, not talking, just locking up and watching the screen. The novel is about these ideas and it obviously defines a restriction of freedom of speech. There are strict censorship laws in this dystopic world and people can behave according to political leaders' wishes. The critical point here is that the government does not need to cope with clever people. It is always easy to govern people who do not ask any questions. Ray Bradbury pushes the heroes and readers to enter a dark world. With this darkness, he tries to light a candle in the novel *Fahrenheit 451*. An interactive structure where firefighters work not to put out the fires but to ignite the fire, where books are burned, where possession and reading are prohibited, television captivates the audience, the rule of dominations influenced by the politics of fear, and mechanized people living in self-deprived autonomy. It means that people in society are dehumanized by being deprived of human qualities, personality or spirit. They are turned to living mechanisms without any emotions and speaking what they really think. They only watch empty magazine programs from idiot boxes, which makes them totally unconscious about living in a dystopia. This unconnectedness even goes further;

the protagonist Ray is married to Mildred, and neither of them remembers where they met due to their loss of connection. Later in the novel, Mildred overdoses on medication because she thinks her life is meaningless. In this dystopian novel, where the state aims to dominate not only the actions but also the thoughts of the people in every field, books are burned to destroy information and individuals are made ordinary and common, by being monotonous. The brains of people living in houses whose walls are covered with giant screens are washed for twenty-four hours by state-sponsored advertisements, TV series and garbage culture. Everyone is in a hurry anyways, and no one has time to linger around. Television is essential to human life; almost everyone has the most advanced televisions at home. No one reads a book, not even a page, no one stops to think about their surroundings and about what is going on, no one spends time face to face with anyone and as a result, everybody is supposedly happy. Many people's pastime hobby has become suicide and murder. Also, war is at hand.

3.1 Who is Ray Bradbury?

Ray Bradbury is a writer who was born on August 22, 1920, and he always claimed that he had remembered the sensation of being born. In his stories, he often describes his own memories. As for *Fahrenheit 451* the topic of book burning arose from Bradbury's love of libraries and the act of burning books during World War II. Those are the main topics throughout the course of the novel; however, the age that Bradbury lived and wrote in influenced his writing too (Eller 71).

The New York Times called Bradbury "the writer most responsible for bringing modern science fiction into the literary mainstream". Bradbury is one of the famous authors in America. He wrote in many different genres; such as science fiction, fantasy and horror. Actually, he spent his youth in various libraries by reading the novels of celebrated writers in that time. "In his youth, he spent much time in the Carnegie Library in Waukegan, reading authors such as H. G. Wells, Jules Verne, and Edgar Allan Poe. At 12, Bradbury began writing traditional horror stories and said he tried to imitate Poe until he was about 18. Bradbury wrote many short essays on culture and the arts, attracting the attention of critics in this field, using his fiction to explore and criticize his culture and society.

In every chance Bradbury gives significance to freedom of speech. He thought that a better world could be created for humanity; however, in the ages when he lived

it was impossible to organize a free and safe world because of the war. That is why he generally reflected technology and oppression to his books. Although he had no technical training, he had an innate sense of foresight about technologically developed devices that might be included in people's lives. According to Bloom, “He once described the kind of fiction he wrote as “really sociological studies of the future, things that the writer believes are going to happen by putting two and two together . . .” (141). His remarkable descriptions of future devices stayed with readers across generations, and his words always come to mind whenever such devices become a reality.

During his writing career, he is given many awards. Many accolades have been bestowed on Bradbury, including the World Fantasy Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Grand Master Award, and the Bram Stoker Award for Lifetime Achievement. Among his most distinguished honors are the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, received in 2000, followed by the National Medal of Arts from President George W. Bush in 2004, and the Commandeur of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government in 2007, a year that also saw Bradbury receive a Pulitzer Prize citation, recognizing his “prolific and deeply influential” career. His best-known and most beloved books, *The Martian Chronicles*, *The Illustrated Man*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, are masterworks that readers carry with them over a lifetime. His timeless, constant appeal to young and old audiences has proven him to be one of the classic authors of the 20th and the 21st centuries Unfortunately, at 92 the famous author Bradbury died in 2012 following a lengthy illness in Los Angeles (Bloom 132).

3.2 Technology and *Fahrenheit 451*

Every day people spend countless hours under the slavery of technology. Humans can watch television even though it needs postponing their essential duties to a later time. In Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*, technology and media are put into the centre of the lives of the characters such as Montag and especially his wife Mildred. In this fictional, futuristic world, firefighters start fires to burn books rather than stopping them. In this society, books are condemned and considered evil because they inspire free thought. As an activity, reading a book is dangerous since they do not need

any educated and intellectual citizens in the society. *Fahrenheit 451* depicts a sort of society where technology and media create a virtual world far from reality, which also causes the corruption of society and families. Mildred, the wife of the protagonist Montag, is an exaggerated example of the typical technology-addicted human being. She spends her day staring at the TV screen without doing anything. Bradbury illustrates a robot society which has no emotions or reactions to the political and economic welfare in their country. Government's desire is to vanish all books via firemen and fire. In *Fahrenheit 451* the fireman's wife was addicted to interactive television, and they sent fireman crews out to burn books. That mission has been largely accomplished in middle-class America and they did not need the firemen. People are addicted to technology and media, but they are oblivious to it because it is considered to be the norm. Humans are consciously distracted from the real problems by the government.

All the technology in Montag's world builds an environment where society does not have time to think and are too distracted to think. They do not realize the actual issues of the society they belong to. Apparently, reading is regarded as a dangerous and banned activity for people in case they learn realities and what is actually going on and begin to question the actual situation around themselves. There is constant war going on in Montag's world, but no one seems to care about that. Mildred and other people have become obsessed with their gigantic screens and their superficial obsessions that they are never aware of being "monitored" by the government. Technology seems to be distracting and desensitizing them from violence and its effects on the society. The protagonist initially lives his life burning books mindlessly, not knowing its negative effects as a result of how thinking is controlled and manipulated in this society. Clarisse later makes him notice the world around him and its beauty, along with its problems as well. He later proceeds to understand that reading books enables people to learn about the past in order to understand the present. He also learns that reading books becomes a tool for people to think and reflect those thoughts to further develop their understanding of their surroundings, an ideology forbidden from his community. His heroic journey reveals how a technologically fast-paced society is not sustainable for a healthy and meaningful life. These lines stated by Captain Beatty become an explanation for Montag about how books are not allowed to be read and further understood in the society.

Thanks to television screens, while the society fills the brains with ridiculous programmes and discussions like empty trash cans, the government becomes able to bring it together after finding the square empty. *Fahrenheit 451*, set in a dystopian future where books are seen as dangerous and burned to prevent reaching any kind of information, and people are drugged with television shows, can be shown as another example of this issue. The firefighter, Guy Montag, whose job is to burn books, fails every time he tries to contact his wife. Mildred has built a barrier between herself and the real world with her sleeping pills, headphones on which she listens to the radio, and an interactive television that covers all three walls. Whenever Montag goes to her, he finds Mildred talking to the people on the walls. These people are like ghosts who enter your house without even knocking on your door. Mildred is not content with that and asks Montag to turn the only remaining wall into a television. Thus, she would be surrounded by TV screens on all four sides. In a sense, this can be interpreted as a complete exclusion of reality. Televisions have been used as a means of mass sedation and people have become happy puppets, exactly as the government intended. "Like army or police, the firehouse has the power to use violence in their effort to fight against the criminals who are intellectuals or booklovers in order to maintain the perpetuation of the dominant ideology" (Ersöz 109). Firemen represent the destructive power of the totalitarian government, and they sedate people by televisions and silly programmes to the point of not having even a thought in their minds. Firemen are free to burn even people who do not want to give their books. In a part of the novel, Montag wants to talk to his wife about their act of burning an old woman with her books. This might be regarded as the first time of questioning the reality. Montag, a firefighter like his grandfather and father, is perhaps for the first time experiencing looking from another side at his job that day. If a person is willing to die with his books, there must be something really significant in the books. However, Mildred, who is blindly preoccupied with TV programs, cannot understand what her husband means. According to her, if a person has a book even though it is forbidden, he is a sucker. He obviously deserved what he got. Mildred even goes further and says that she hates this woman she actually never knew. Finally, she does not want to continue the conversation any longer and asks her husband to leave her alone to continue her daily watching of screens. To put it another way, Mildred is addicted to television. She does everything except thinking and questioning. Technology is unhealthily integrated into every part of Mildred's life. She seems to enjoy the life she is offered with plenty of

drugs and entertainment, although being existed as a human, she is unable to harbour any feelings. Even further, she thinks that the woman who is burned with the books is stupid. The society is captured in front of idiot boxes which is beneficial for government. Thus, an unemotional, contented, obedient mass, far from intellectual activities, was formed to serve the dominating force's wishes. Since people's communication with each other is very limited, they are lonely as a result. Since the books are destroyed, they either have no knowledge of the past or are limited to what is imposed on them. In a totalitarian regime, the government, which was afraid of free-thinking people, the books are regarded as the enemy itself, and with firefighters known as 451 raided the places, collected and burned the books to the ground. The oppressive regime stops young people on the street and forcibly cuts their long hair, just like being enrolled in a boarding school. In their lives fed by fear, people live in isolation from each other and selfishly. Mildred only represents the people who are sedated through televisions. For a totalitarian government these people are obedient enough and possess no threats. She accepts everything said to her without questioning them, yet, quite ironically, she takes drugs to sleep at night. However, should not she be happy in her little world where there is no knowledge? In other words, a totalitarian government creates a sort of Prozac society with the help of firemen. While living comfortably, many people do not understand why some people read books, why they always try to struggle with something. In the novel, Montag shows his wife Mildred the book he hid from the fire and tries to read chapters from it. But Mildred, who spends her days in front of the TV and directly falls asleep with sleeping pills in the evenings, faces a serious memory loss problem due to not doing anything to improve her mind, and can't handle the process of reading. She finds it ridiculous for Montag to take this risk and asks Montag to leave her alone.

In an authoritarian future, where books are completely banned, the task of the fire brigade is no longer to put out fires, but to hunt for secretly read books and destroy what they find through burning them. As the inevitable result of these operations, people have never seen the face of a book for generations, and the written culture has completely disappeared. State authorities, believing that reading and acquiring knowledge will spread independent thinking and that it will cause unhappiness and turmoil in the society, strictly prohibit and destroy any book and written material written in the country, without separating them as objectionable.

The novel begins with the thoughts of the protagonist, and it is weird that he is satisfied with his job so much. The metaphor is used to evoke the picture of how powerful the brass nozzle he has his control upon. The author compares the fireman's brass nozzles to a great python which implies that the writer wants to give the respect to the firemen and describe this job as the most significant and frightening task that everyone should be afraid of. Before he questions something about books and the reality, these are the good examples of the loyal members of the state.

People prefer to watch big sports shows rather than thinking about the real events going on around them and in their lives. To many critics, books are a dirty dishwater. The word "intel" is turned into a scribble. Since people are afraid of what they cannot understand and become hostile to the book, Montag finds the peace he seeks in burning all the books. Borowski states the government spends effort to make people think only the happy and positive things in their lives. As a result, they will not have time to question what is happening or strive for a better atmosphere (2072). People in this story do not seem to know what is really going on outside their society. They do not quite realize that there are problems and chaos outside their community. Mildred's friend has never known that a lot of soldier dies in the war. She thinks that every soldier will be alive and healthy after the war. As seen obviously, people are kept ignorant for the sake of state's stability. The more ignorant people are, the more stable the state would be. The state, therefore, keeps their citizens' eyes shut by offering them as much entertainment as they can to lure them in the illusion of the perfect world it attempts to create (Borowski 2077).

Fahrenheit 451 presents a kind of unreal life of people who are addicted to huge television screens and rubbish programmes. They are quite happy with their idiot boxes without questioning and thinking anything. In other words, they are ignorant, and they live in a perfect bubble in their dangerous ignorance. It is dangerous since people are not aware of the real situation around themselves such as the death of many soldiers and the war. Their superficial obsessions are consciously and deliberately created by the totalitarian government. As a result, they do not realize how the government controls them by burning the books and isolating them from the actual realities. Indeed, Montag takes pleasure while he is burning the books at the beginning of the novel; however, Clarisse helps him to notice the real world which is far away from the idiot boxes and the fake beauty in them. He later distinguishes that reading

books is a vital need to be informed about the past in order to understand the reality which is at present.

Throughout the novel, *Fahrenheit 451*, Clarisse plays a role as an eye-opener with her unusual personality. Clarisse always reminds Montag that burning books is not a normal activity for a fireman. Firemen normally are expected to extinguish the fire but they start fire to destroy knowledge. The young girl manages to open Montag's eyes by asking a lot of questions. To illustrate, she always asks "why" instead of asking "how" when she needs to ask about something. When Montag begins to question the fake world around them, he becomes able to recognize the real situation. The more he questions, the more he becomes free. Intellectuality and wisdom of Clarisse pushes Montag to shake off and wake up from his deep sleep and ignorance against his surroundings. The reality is quite far away from sweet dreams. However, the last push for the protagonist is to find out about Clarisse's own death. She is killed by a speeding car and she unfortunately dies. In other words, her death is a planned murder within the dark society, totalitarian regimes strictly oppose and despise people who ask questions. Since the young girl affects Montag's thoughts in a positive way, she symbolizes free thought, individualism and critical thought in the novel. Freedom is a dangerous concept in any dystopia, so it can be said that it is regarded as a kind of drug. That is why, any person, who questions the government, is declared persona non grata. Freedom and questioning the situation which is created by any totalitarian regime are seen as punishable notion. The people like Clarisse could easily fall into the hands of corruption. The majority of dystopian society is deprived of critical thought so they could not clarify the meaning of freedom. In addition, they are not aware of the significance of free thought. Clarisse and the unidentified woman, who does not want to give her books away, die early in the novel to display the prohibition of personal freedom under the control of totalitarian regime. Since they do not serve the conformity of the society like Captain Beatty, Montag's wife Mildred and her friends, they are disappear in the early parts of the novel.

As Atasoy states in "Happiness and Hedonism in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*: "As an influential character in Montag's metaphorical journey of transformation, Clarisse is a potential threat to the system, a social outcast, and a misfit socially alienated and isolated from her peers. As a "peculiar" individual in this social order, her understanding of happiness does not coincide with that of her society..." (51). She

notices every detail of reality and insistently disturbs Montag's thoughts with some questions that he is not used to be asked. While he is happy in his fake and pink bubble, suddenly, he to wakes up and realizes the darkness around the citizens. Clarisse destroys Montag's happiness through questioning him "why" about many topics and his dramatic transformation begins. He initially likes burning books and that action has been a pleasure for him for a long time; however, he realizes the considerable power of totalitarian regime on the citizens and himself. To put it another way, Montag continues to live by unquestioning nothing in his life until he meets the young girl, Clarisse. Furthermore, the old lady's death is a critical point for Montag's radical awakening. In this sense, books serve for a quite more attractive world far from artificial bliss. The fireman gets the false happiness in the artificially constructed world by the despot regime. Intellectuality with wisdom becomes real and it brings pleasure in Montag's solidity (Seed 232). Through the portrayal of Montag, he does not live with the fixed perception of hedonism anymore. The protagonist keeps himself apart from the limited definitions of pleasure, primarily those definitions which are produced by the system itself. The burning of the old lady to protect her books haunts Montag so much and his mind is quite swarmed with the time of incident. Unlike Mildred, he gets to realize the importance of books. Opposite of the regular burning incidents, a woman dies to save her books. After this unfortunate event, the fireman begins to steal books from homes where they go for burning books.

Mildred takes sleeping pills in order to reach at a fake state happiness. Actually, her understanding of happiness is more different than other people, like Clarisse. Thanks to sleeping pills, Mildred believes that she finds happiness and she just tries to numb herself to get rid of the actual darkness of the dystopia itself. She has no idea about the past even if she could not remember how she met Montag. Mildred stands for the best example of dehumanization in the book. She is illustrated as a person who is released from emotion, empathy and intellectuality. Bradbury demonstrates Mildred in *Fahrenheit 451* as a person addicted to television. She always takes pills not to remember anything. At the same time, Mildred is addicted to television so severely that she hardly remembers how many pills she takes. She confuses happiness with meaninglessness and numbness. Moreover, she does not have enough communication with Montag, her husband. Besides emptiness and unhappiness of her life, her relationship between her husband is unconnected. In other words, the concept of family

altered in the novel. She accepts technology as her family. To illustrate, she has a strong obsession with a TV show “the family” with whom she interacts and talks with. A huge aspect of *Fahrenheit 451* is that the television’s representation of demonstrating the presence of brainwashing. Although Bradbury wrote the book in the years when technology was less developed, he successfully illustrated the current state of technology obsession. Most often, people are seen walking with their heads down, looking at their mobile phones today. They are blinded by technology like Mildred even if time period is different. Some parts of the technology can be lifesaving whereas some can destroy the lives. Bradbury describes the destructive side of technology via big parlour walls and parlour walls mean big screens covering all the four walls of an entire room. People have difficulty detecting the bigger picture because of giant parlour walls. The bigger picture symbolizes the real situation itself. Guy Montag’s wife Mildred is a bored homemaker who spends most of her time at home in the parlour mesmerized by the life-size television screens adorning three of the walls. The three gigantic screens leave the last wall open for Mildred to participate as a character in her pseudo-reality. It is clear that she has already lost her reality and unfortunately, she has become obsessed with the “show” characters. Unreality replaces reality in her mind. Mildred is more interested in parlour walls than Montag, her husband who suddenly becomes a fiction figure like a show character in the real world.

Mildred definitely is an ideal citizen for the totalitarian regime. She can be easily controlled and does everything what society demands like a programmed robot. This goes even further to the point that she reports her husband for hiding books under the pillow to protect herself. Like her empty life, the death of Mildred is so simple. She dies by overdosing sleeping pills as if she committed suicide. Actually, Mildred is the victim of technology and she is distracted by huge television screens from real life. For instance, Mildred has a meaningless life without realising what is actually happening around her. She spends her regular day in front of a television screen by watching senseless shows. She has technology; however, it does not bring information or further develop her. Baudrillard is true that the characters live in a technological world they may benefit from; however, on the contrary, they do not get any sense and benefit from technology. Books, literature and intellectuality are impossible for Mildred which stands for the best thing for any despot government. Everybody is very happy without questioning the events around themselves in that dystopian society.

Once people stop reading books, it is easy to control the masses and establish the ideal social order. Books are seen as loaded guns and they must be destroyed immediately. With the help of censorship of reading and burning books to the ground, most people lose connection with absoluteness. Initially, even if Guy Montag accepts the total dominance of the government, he seems comfortable with Beatty's authority. Captain John Beatty is the antagonist in *Fahrenheit 451* who symbolizes the protector of totalitarianism, authority, and fire as a destructive symbol. Ironically, he burns books as dangerous objects and at the end he is on fire to death. After Beatty's death Montag realizes that he did not do anything to save himself. For the change of society, the characters like Beatty need to die for the sake of reorganising democracy after pieces of totalitarianism. Montag was justified about the murder of Beatty because he just wanted to protect himself and his friend, Faber who thinks that television was interfering and it does not allow to think. People are busy enough filling their minds with ridiculous TV shows and they do not pause with remote control. This character plays a significant role in Montag's life and he leaves a long-lasting impression on Montag since the first day they met in the park. The people like Faber and Clarisse are excluded by the system because they are against the government. There are two kinds of people in the novel, the ones who protect the system and the ones who are definitely against it. The second type of people are seen as "the other." Although they are terrified and oppressed by firemen, they manage to act against society. When books are burned, everything gets worse step by step. Intellectuality starts to lose value, some schools are closed like Faber's department, school of liberal arts due to lack of students and patronage. It means that the transformation of society completes at that point. Yılmaz emphasizes that; after the books lost their significance and there was no school to raise students who thinks freely and critically, the change has already become reality itself. Only the hypnosis via huge screens is what remained. When the conditions mature, the state activates the parlour walls (30).

Mildred and Montag have three wall size screens but Mildred wants the fourth one. Actually, however many wall size screens they have, Mildred will be as happier. Television is a source of fake happiness for her. If they have enough money, Mildred is going to buy the fourth wall screen television for the living room. These wall sized televisions symbolize the unreal picture of life and people are affected easily from these sources of propaganda. Since televisions are ruled as propaganda machines by

government, their notion of reality is distorted easily by screens. To illustrate, after killing Captain Beatty, Montag is arrested. Although he manages to escape, TVs broadcast him as dead. However, Montag does not die in reality. It means the reality reflected in a way it is actually not by government via screens easily. Media disrupts social life and alters human senses about real life. People have no social life except TV screens and show characters. Moreover, media reshapes the concepts in which individuals perceive the world. M. McLuhan points out that “All media exists to invest our lives with artificial perception and arbitrary values” (190). Media is another way of keeping people’s minds busy with ridiculous TV shows in *Fahrenheit 451*. These meaningless shows expose people to many unnecessary information during the whole day. Therefore, there is no healthy communication between individuals and they begin to live a life in a way which authority dictates. They do not ask and criticize anything about government. According to Yilmaz, “In Fahrenheit 451’s ideal society, people should spend their free time in accordance with the authority’s wishes” (31). Mildred is the ideal conformist in the novel, she never turns off television. It is always on even when Montag is sick or wants to talk to her. Kalkan expresses that the people behave as if they were in a mechanical routine in *Fahrenheit 451*, especially Mildred does never know how to react in a simple conversation since she does not have any abilities socially. The only small talking wheels around television programmes (278). Mildred is satirically exaggerated as a novel character by Bradbury. He clearly displays how she is addicted to technology unhealthily. When she does not watch TV, she listens to radio through earphones. Despite many disasters, she has the ability to continue her life as if nothing happened. Books are accepted as the main danger within this technological world since they do not serve in accordance to the wishes of government. In other words, government cannot rule and shape society in accordance with its desires if the books are read. According to the dominant power, they turn into weapons that destroy and threaten human happiness. For this reason, people should regard and know them as plain papers. They do not need books, yet, they are integrated into technology in a helpless way.

The novel serves as a warning to the contemporary societies regarding the use of media. People must be careful while they are using technology. They consume everything about technology; however, the reality is the quite different. The reality is that they are consumed by technology unconsciously. Government and society catch

up modern technology via wall size televisions and radios, and in the end, they become wireless creatures. Technology uses people instead of humans benefiting from it. The significant concept is they are not aware of being controlled and hypnotized by the government with modern technological devices. The characters like Mildred are not aware of their addiction to technology. Mildred and her friends live in an abstract world. They spend a whole day by watching ridiculous TV programmes without thinking. They do not want to force themselves to think; actually, they have lost their capacity of thinking. As Brown clearly states in his article: "If you are consumed by the same information loop as everyone else, you don't have anything to stimulate you into thinking differently" (56). Nothing can be a caution for them, they are only doing the same things in a mechanical routine. Thinking, looking from a different perspective, and reading are forbidden activities by the government. This is a clear example of how Mildred is absorbed by an overdose of television programmes. She definitely lives in a false reality. Mildred cares about the fake families in the shows rather than her actual family. She does everything with the fear of losing her three TVs on the parlour walls. When Montag steals books from houses, Mildred reports him rather than keeping quiet and ensuring his security. Televisions and TV programmes are everything for her and she wants to hold them firmly. The protagonist wants to fight for a little freedom whereas his wife is not aware of what real freedom is, she has already become the slave of television and government. She does not have the ability to define her feelings in such a technological dystopic world.

Bradbury creates an absurd world in the novel. The clear example becomes obvious when the firemen start a fire. Montag initially lived his life burning books mindlessly, not actually knowing the books' moral value. He and other citizens just serve to the benefit of the regime as if they are well-behaved children. That's why they cannot read books, and also, they must sweep away the books wherever they see. Books are perceived as a danger which threatens the safe dynamics of society. If the regime leads the individuals to read and question the situation, they lose control and power on them. Knowledge is changed and shaped according to the needs of a totalitarian government in order to oppress the society. Getting new television screens rather than reading books is the main aim of the regime so that they can keep people busy and numb through meaningless activities. Television screens as technological devices transform into some powerful weapons in the hands of the totalitarianism.

People are put to sleep by TV shows which are like lullabies. People are forced to stay in the jail of technological devices and they have no space to get information and think. Although the characters think they are happy by staring at television, they are not completely and actually happy.

There is no definite delight in the novel between the characters. They just spend time without a hug or warm laughter. Oppression and technology take happiness away and drive people into a deep hole of meaninglessness and worthlessness. As the novel comes to the end, the readers could notice Montag's obvious drastic change. His change starts with his young friend Clarisse. She makes him realize the world around them and she completes her journey in the novel. Montag begins to recognize the power of books and question the fake reality around them, unlike Mildred. One day she disappears and it means that she completes her journey with Montag. She is the only person who talks about different things and does not watch parlour walls. Montag's heroic journey reveals that technology is not enough for a meaningful life. In such an artificial world Clarisse is the only girl who can see the real dystopic world. She can laugh and joke warmly with her family.

For the protagonist these kinds of activities are unusual, to put it another way, he is not used to people who behave sincere and smile warmly. They are used to darkness, numb souls and dystopia created by government. The citizens have no control over their lives. The technology, especially wall size television screens absorb them quickly except Clarisse, who is the only person behaving friendly and communicating sincerely with people around her. Other characters look for sincerity and communication in TV shows. They have artificial and mechanic life experienced through machines. Actually, they try to find a scraps of joy through televisions and radios. People need joke machines to feel happier. These kinds of mechanical equipment become machines of joy in the lives of citizens. Those technological devices also substitute a warm communication and friendly behaviour in the dystopic society. All people in the novel display sameness through television screens. There is a bombardment of television programmes so they cannot have enough time to think and experience various activities. They do not even remember some important dates in their lives and the history of the country in consequence of their frozen minds. Neither Montag nor Mildred is good at remembering the past about the country and the significant days such as meeting time and their marriage day. People are controlled

according to the needs of the dystopian government so it creates a kind of mesmerized citizens who are supported as empty slaves in a technologically consumerist society.

At the end of the novel Montag is able to run away from the oppressive society. He meets a group of intellectuals and they welcome Montag to their group. When Montag escapes an innocent man is killed so the authorities can pretend as if they have won. Montag's change begins with Clarisse. Then he starts to steal books also the death of old woman makes Montag realize the artificiality of happiness in his life. Through the end of the novel, there is an escape from dystopia to the world of intellectuality. Mildred and Captain Beatty die however Montag is the only person who becomes too closer to the real world whereas he was a "smiling fireman" in the beginning. Although the end of novel does not depict a utopic world, it means there is still hope with a group of some intellectuals. That is to say, there are people who cannot be numbed with television by dystopic government. These people symbolize the power of free thought and free will in a totalitarian world.

An ordinary person may spend a quarter of a day in front of a television screen. The situation is unfortunately different in *Fahrenheit 451*. Most of the characters spend all day in front of their wall size televisions. Taken as a whole, television is depicted as an evil by Bradbury. It is an evil because citizens are not conscious about real life. They do not remember anything related with the past and they have no enough communication with the outer world. They behave as if they were in tv screens and in tv shows. Furthermore, the truth is that watching too much television makes people lose touch with the reality of their lives. They accept TV as a real world. The government gives televisions as mature toys to the citizens. If they are taken from their hands, people start to think and question the real atmosphere of the country which is not in favour of any totalitarian government. To illustrate, Mildred always finds herself in the midst of television broadcasting and she builds an emotional bond with the programmes. They live in a world without books and education. They are just inside of the shadows of reality which is censored by television shows.

The television plays a significant role in Bradbury's novel, actually he illustrates a kind of dystopic future with mesmerized people. He especially draws a character, Mildred, who is absorbed by parlour wall TV. To illustrate, when Montag requests for her to turn down the television since he has headache, Mildred definitely rejects it. She definitely lacks feelings for her family. As is stated before, Mildred is

an ideal citizen according to the needs of the authority. She does not resist anything; having a television is enough to cheat her by being her busy with shows and other programmes which are seen as “the real family” by Mildred. Mildred is one of the mesmerized citizens by the oppressed society. The first and significant technological machine is the television to keep citizens out of criticizing, questioning, thinking and actually enjoying their spare times. They do not talk to each other even if they are in the same house. Family members become strangers inside of same walls.

Bradbury writes a novel about a totalitarian government which controls people with technology. They manage to create an unhappy society which does not have any capacity of free thinking, and also people are free to use pills to find an artificial happiness. When people do not feel happy, they frequently use sleeping pills. The authority wants a dark atmosphere by not caring about the intellectuals and books. They need a dystopia to maintain an oppressive authority.

CONCLUSION

When examining *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451*, it is clearly seen that the two novels are dystopian. Darkness, artificiality and over-controlling of the governments dominate the actions of the citizens in both of the novels. Bradbury and Orwell write about social instability and totalitarian governments. The governments keep the population in fear against the books and knowledge itself. The political usefulness of the dark atmosphere affects the characters' behaviours and actions. The characters have no control over their own lives in both novels. They become part of the dystopian societies and the majority of them cannot display personal freedom. Surely, though, in both of the novels there are some people who want to exist as individuals.

In *1984* Winston struggles a lot for his freedom; however, his lover, Julia, betrays him. He does not get a victory at the end; he becomes a submissive citizen to the needs of government after so much torture. He is forced to confess his crimes after he has been tortured brutally. In the final moment, Winston accepts the superiority of Big Brother and Big Brother experiences a sense of victory as usual. Actually, he is not responsible for any crimes, he just wants to feel free. Drinking a cup of coffee or being a friend should not be a crime in a society. Although governments are responsible for peace and welfare of citizens, Orwell harshly illustrates a dark government in the novel. Winston's various forms of rejection and resistance toward Big Brother and the Party result in a kind of a failure and desperation. There are no trails of hope at the end of the novel. The inevitable, dark and cold face of reality comes to light one more time at the end.

Both *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451* have the dystopian visions of what the future is going to be like. Moreover, two authors, George Orwell and Ray Bradbury criticize the totalitarian governments that consciously try to organize a fake society to impose their ideology upon. The governments want to squish the society to prevent any rebellion and to apply their oppressive desires. *1984* depicts a kind of a society in which people act as mechanical robots and they have to obey the rules being put by Big Brother who is seen and heard in telescreens. Winston and his peers fulfil wishes of the Party not to be punished. However, Winston continues to think and question freely like a normal human being and Julia only focuses on free will and freedom of speech by ignoring political view of the Party. Julia and Winston break the rule of love

and they act freely but unfortunately, they are arrested. At the end they are turned to ideal citizens with torture and psychological violence by the Party. In other words, they are desensitized, “mechanical” people who only obey the rules which are put by the totalitarian government. In short, they have come to a point where they can only be called duty men, emptied of their souls and emotions. As a result, in *1984*, the author wrote that dictatorial leaders control the individual's movements, emotions, and even thoughts examine trends. Monopolizing a country's political and military power inevitably, in order to maintain and preserve this regime.

The role of Winston Smith in the mechanism of the party looks like the protagonist “Fireman” Guy Montag. However, there is a difference, Montag finishes his heroic journey by adopting a free thought and he realizes that the government wants to leave no trace from the past and also the present by burning books and Montag is only a puppet. He understands that he lives in an artificial society, thanks to Clarisse. Montag escapes and joins the resistance organization. This organization of sages who oppose the burning of books has found a unique way to resist the destruction of the heritage. Each member of the organization memorizes an important work in human history. The organization knows who memorizes each book and protects these “book-men” so that they are not forgotten until this oppression period is over. Whereas Montag transforms in a positive way, Winston is not as lucky as Montag, he becomes the supporter of the Party.

Montag, Mildred, and Clarisse’s struggle is around the tension between knowledge and ignorance. The fireman’s duty is to destroy knowledge and information by promoting ignorance in order to make the population lose their sense of a meaningful life. Mildred has no progress throughout the novel, and she finds books dangerous and empty. She does not realize the real emptiness of herself. Without any knowledge, people live happily as if they verified the notion of “ignorance is happiness.” Shortly, in both books the governments control people’s lives drastically. In *1984* turning off the telescreens is not allowed since thought polices monitor every second of the citizens. In *Fahrenheit 451*, the government simply uses a sort of brainwashing technique with the destruction of any book.

Totalitarianism is emphasized in both of the novels. Orwell and Bradbury depict how leaders hold the power with an ultimate control over citizens who do not have any private lives. In *1984*, there is a ruined society, and the citizens cannot open

their mouths without the permission of Big Brother. However, in *Fahrenheit 451* the people are disconnected from the realities in the country where they live. Except Clarissa no member of the society wants to question anything. Television programmes look like a lullaby which makes people sleepy. That's why, they cannot organize their thoughts logically in a dystopia without books. The regime discourages the citizens from experiencing any parts of the reality.

Freedom is a distinctive feature of humanity. Dystopia and totalitarianism are two concepts which limit human freedom. People generally were born as free-living creatures. They tend to free from boundaries of any oppressive regime. More significantly, the two authors draw a crucial line between darkness and enlightenment. The inevitable distinction is the conditions of the protagonists at the end. Winston's failure represents desperate situation of the proles. It is clear that Orwell is optimistic about the development of British working class. They are not good at gaining political consciousness to demand their rights. Winston is one of the symbols of prole in *1984* and he unfortunately loses his war of freedom. Ray Bradbury does not draw an atmosphere as pessimist as Orwell himself. Bradbury's belief in individualism and freedom creates an optimistic environment for the protagonist, Guy Montag. His heroic journey begins with the young girl, Clarisse, and he wins a personal victory at the end. Montag's transformation with Clarisse and the books represents typical American optimism. Smiling Fireman's battle of freedom is essential in the novel to understand the citizens' sedated situation despite the developed technology. Montag, Faber and Clarisse are the characters who resist to behave according to needs and orders of the government. Although Montag joins the awakened group, he completed his heroic journey successfully.

The overuse of technology in the two novels turns people into antisocial machines. They just do their duties and what are they ordered to do. No one has time for socializing, they become just duty-focused people. People have no priorities in *1984*, they are always watched by telescreens. They cannot do anything without the permission of Big Brother. However, technology has a darker side in *Fahrenheit 451*; books are seen a sort of ecstasy and they are burned by firemen while other people are being mesmerized by television. Technology builds a society that lacks thinking, freedom, knowledge and intellectuality.

Both Bradbury and Orwell create technologically advanced worlds in their novels. However, technology turns into a weapon over people if it is used by totalitarian regimes. Moreover, the two authors manipulate the notions such as speech freedom and free will. All people are oppressed by the ideologies of the totalitarian regimes. People are brainwashed, all their abilities to control their lives are removed so that they have no right to decide for themselves. The concept of totalitarianism is represented through the protagonists, Winston and Montag, who are depicted as the characters oppressed by the despot regime. To summarize, totalitarian regime is not good for the sake of humanity and their safe future. Their only aim is to establish their own ideology by all means including control over citizens. Both *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451* have dystopian visions of what future is going to be like.

Humans do not have any problems related to accessing information via technology as Bradbury and Orwell wrote in their novels. Technology becomes a toy for kids nowadays but it creates a significant complication. Computers, televisions, and cell phones become close friends of people instead of real friends. When they meet up with any person, they do not stop touching mobile phones for a minute. Although technological devices may seem beneficial, most of the humankind are not aware of their harmful sides. They become masters of people and begin to dominate them in an irrepressible way. An addiction to technology is a sort of obsession whose limits are not imagined. To sum up, the negative effects of overusing technology are depicted in the two novels, *Fahrenheit 451* and *1984*.

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TURNITIN REPORT

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BENZERLİK ENDEKSİ

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RESUME

Full Name: Fulya Akyürek

Educational Status: Graduate

Degree	Major	University	Year
Undergraduate Degree	English Language and Literature		2012-2016
Master Degree	English Culture and Literature	Atılım University	2020-2023

Work Experience:

Workplace	Position	Year
Atılım University	Instructor at Department of Modern Languages	2021-present

Foreign Languages: English, German

Publications:

Date: 05/04/2023

