

037  
WANG  
C.3

Representation of Power in *1984* - A Culmination of Orwell's Political  
Ideas

by

Wang Mingyue, Joyce

Thesis supervisor: Dr. CHIU Man Yin



Master of Arts in Applied English



Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

University of Macau

---

Abstract of the thesis entitled

**Representation of Power in *1984*- A Culmination of Orwell's Political Ideas**

Submitted by

Joyce Wang, M-B0-4060-0

for the degree of Master of Arts in Applied English

at the University of Macau

in September 2012

The thesis is that the protagonist of *1984* Winston Smith, together with almost all the citizens of the Oceania State, has become the victim and an agent of discursive power system. It is the self-monitoring sub-consciousness that is oppressing and enslaving all the citizens to "behave well" in the totalitarian state. The people are actually internalizing all the disciplines and surveillance which makes them submit willingly to the invisible chains of the dominant discourse.

The main structure of my thesis is as follows: (1) Defining the important terms; (2) Find out the recurring motif of Orwell's works; (3) How does Orwell's political concern culminates in *1984*.

**Key words:**

Power, Discourse, Surveillance, Modernity, *1984*, George Orwell, Michel Foucault.

## Table of Contents

<b>Abstract.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Acknowledgments.....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Important Terms: Modernity, Regime, Foucauldian Theory.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 2: The Recurring Motif in Orwell’s <i>1984</i>.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Peer reviews on <i>1984</i> .....	8
2.2 Orwell’s own progress in writing. ....	15
<b>Chapter 3: A Thorough Study on the Power-Discourse Relation in <i>1984</i>.....</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1 The discourse of surveillance: the Panopticon as a metaphor of the social regime....	22
3.2 A Panopticon explication of the social regime in the representation of Truth and Power.....	25
<b>Conclusion: The Modern Representation of the Dominant Discourse and the Warning from <i>1984</i>.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Bibliography.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Appendix.....</b>	<b>51</b>