

1984

Artificial intelligence & Language (now)
Newspeak & Mind Control (then)

In 1984, the government used Newspeak to limit free thinking and keep the society from progressing while nowadays artificial intelligence is capable of predicting our thoughts and doing the thinking for us.

Language and Mind Control in 1984

- Winston begins to see himself dead just after he starts writing his subversive thoughts.
- Organizations such as the Anti Sex League and the Junior Spies.

In 1984 the language of Newspeak and the mind control created by the government made the society very unfair and didn't allow room for any change in rules.

"All the beliefs, habits, tastes, emotions, mental attitudes that characterize our time are really designed to sustain the mystique of the Party and prevent the true nature of present-day society from being perceived" (Orwell, 265).

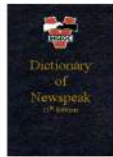
People

- Syme
- Julia
- Goldstein



(*"1984 Mind Control"*).

Newspeak



(*"Newspeak"*).

Newspeak is the official language of Oceania, designed to make the ideological premises of the Party's official political alignment the only expressible doctrine.

Newspeak is engineered to remove even the **possibility** of rebellious thoughts.

"Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it" (Orwell, 67).

Artificial Intelligence & Language

"I've stopped even trying to spell anymore I just get close enough to let the machine guess the word I'm struggling to form. Occasionally, I stump the A.I." (Seabrook).

In our nowadays society there is an open language that allows freedom of expression and thought but artificial intelligence is creating robots and computers that are starting to think like us.

Nowadays artificial intelligence can be seen as machines and algorithms that are indirectly taking our ability to think by different means. The article 'Can A Machine Learn to Write for the New Yorker', talks about how AI and specifically writing predicting algorithms go beyond machine learning. And are able to not only correct words and spelling issues, but to master "the predictive power of deep learning" (Seabrook). Altogether, algorithms such as writing prediction often become our cowriters that always know what our next move is going to be (Seabrook). This in a way makes the writer feel lazy to think, because the computer is already doing the work for you.



(Dejmes).

LIMITING OF FREE THOUGHT

The mind control that was caused in the society of 1984 by the government limited their thoughts and made people behave like robots that artificial intelligence is creating. In 1984 people couldn't go over the standards that society had for them which is the same of why robots can't do things that aren't mentioned in their algorithms, and why A.I. is also limiting our free thought.

Data

Language



(*"Artificial Intelligence"*).

Similarities



(House).

In 1984 the citizens where slaves of The Party, and we are starting to become slaves of technology and A.I.

The loss of thought affects both societies since it is much more harder for the society to progress and develop new things.

PRISONERS SLAVES

Differences

Language

In comparison with modern English, the words in Newspeak are fewer in number but more rigid in meaning.

Freedom

In the society of 1984 only thinking wrong about the political regime was Thoughtcrime, while now there is freedom of thought.

Thought

In 1984 they deprived citizens of the possibility of thinking directly and with evil ends. In change at present it is more like an indirect transition that does not want to benefit anyone.

Benefits

In 1984 the capacity of thought to benefit the government and the totalitarian regime is reduced. On the other hand, at present the implementation of these new technologies does not benefit anyone in particular but is like the future.



(*"1984"*).

Conclusion

Mind control is a very serious theme shown in the book of 1984. In that society people were being controlled by the government without knowing they were being controlled. We as a society need to be careful since nowadays there are governments that try to have a totalitarian regime and that can probably cause mind control without citizens even noticing it. Also A.I. is growing stronger and stronger everyday, and now computers are starting to calculate our next move or thought. We as a society and as critical thinkers need to be careful and take care so that we never lose the freedom of thought and expression that we have right now.

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