

**THE ROLES OF TELESCREEN AND THOUGHT POLICE
AS THE SURVEILLANCE MEDIA
TO SUSTAIN TOTALITARIAN POWER
IN GEORGE ORWELL'S *NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR***

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Sulaeman, Trian. 2014, *The Role of Telescreen and Thought Police as the Surveillance Media to Sustain Totalitarian Power in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four*, Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Dyah Eko Hapsari, Co-Supervisor: Arcci Tusita.

Key Word: literature, totalitarian, surveillance, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Surveillance becomes a major feature in panopticon prison which is promoted by Jeremy Bentham in eighteenth century. The word surveillance is derived from French language, surveiller, which means observing. Inside the prison, each individual is constantly monitored as a way of disciplined approach them to follow the rules. The thesis discusses about the surveillance is used by totalitarian governments to maintain power. George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* depicts the government and state oppression over its population. In which, every individual in the society is observed constantly as the effort to maintain the status quo.

The writer specifically analyzes how the government maintaining its power by means of telescreen and Thought Police in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The writer combines Foucault's panopticism and Hannah Arendt's totalitarianism theories to approach the work because those theories can help the writer to explore of how the totalitarian government maintain the status quo using the surveillance medium.

The result of this research shows several functions from telescreen and Thought Police in surveillance medium as a means to maintain the totalitarian power. Telescreen functions as a surveillance practice can be divided into two major levels, societal and individual levels. While the Thought Police functions as a secret agent organization, which responsible to operate surveillance system. Both are the government's instruments which have important roles in maintaining the status quo of totalitarian regime.

The writer's suggestion for the further research's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, novel can be analyzed by using psychological approach because it depicts the psychological condition of individual and society whenever oppressed by the surveillance activities done by the government

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Surveillance telah menjadi fitur utama dalam sebuah sistem pengawasan penjara panopticon yang dikemukakan oleh Jeremy Bentham pada abad ke-18. Kata *surveillance* berasal dari Bahasa Perancis, *surveiller*, yang berarti mengawasi. Di dalam penjara tersebut, setiap individu diawasi secara konstan, yang mengharuskannya patuh dengan peraturan-peraturan. Skripsi ini sendiri membahas bagaimana *surveillance* dimanfaatkan oleh pemerintah totalitarian untuk mempertahankan kekuasaannya. Novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* karya George Orwell menceritakan tentang penindasan yang dilakukan oleh pemerintah terhadap masyarakatnya. Di mana setiap individu di masyarakat tersebut selalu diawasi secara konstan, sebagai upaya mempertahankan status quo

Penelitian ini membahas cara pemerintah mempertahankan kekuasaannya melalui medium telescreen dan Thought Police sebagai alat *surveillance*. Maka dari itu, penulis menggabungkan teori panoptisisme dari Foucault dan totalitarianism dari Hannah Arendt untuk menganalisa novel. Pasalnya, dua kajian tersebut dapat membantu untuk menjelaskan bagaimana pemerintah totalitarian memanfaatkan alat *surveillance* untuk memiliki status quo.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan beberapa fungsi dari telecreen dan Thought Police sebagai alat *surveillance* untuk mempertahankan kekuasaan totalitarian. Fungsi telescreen dalam praktik *surveillance* dapat dibedakan dalam dua garis besar, yaitu level masyarakat dan level individual. Sedangkan fungsi Thought Police yaitu sebagai organisasi agen rahasia, yang bertanggung jawab dengan sistem *surveillance* yang ada. Dengan demikian, kedua instrumen pemerintah ini memiliki peran yang penting dalam upaya mempertahankan status quo rezim totalitarian.

Penulis menyarankan, novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* dapat dianalisa dengan menggunakan pendekatan psikologi, pasalnya beberapa bagian novel menggambarkan kondisi psikologis individu dan masyarakat ketika mendapat teror dari praktik *surveillance* yang dilakukan pemerintah.

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