

INTERCONNECTION OF ABSOLUTE POWER AND CORRUPTION IN
SELECTED MODERNIST ENGLISH NOVELS AS DEPICTED
BY ORWELL AND BRADBURY

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ABSTRACT

The concepts of absolute power and corruption are the two fundamental features of totalitarian regimes throughout history. Investigating these concepts is significant in providing clear insights into how totalitarian regimes misuse their power, impose ideologies, and exploit their societies. One way of studying these concepts and their interrelation is reference to modernist literary works, especially modernist English novels that involve such themes and represent reality. To this end, this study selected Orwell's two novels, namely *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, as well as Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451* due to their depiction of totalitarian regimes. These three novels have been widely researched for various objectives, such as identifying the forms of absolute power, their authoritarian methods, and the adverse effects of such forms of power. However, there has not been much research identifying the link between absolute power and corruption. Therefore, this study aimed to identify the interconnection of absolute power and corruption in the three selected novels; to investigate the relationship of absolute power and ideology in the three selected novels, and interpret how these narrative texts represent reality. Two theories underlie the framework of the study is Marxism and Social Constructionism. As a qualitative research, this study adopted thematic analysis to investigate the key concepts of power, corruption, ideology and other related minor concepts. Textual analysis of the data was also conducted by employing Marxist Literary Criticism and Critical Discourse Analysis as the analytical approaches. The findings of this study indicated that totalitarian regimes, within the texts, practiced surveillance, violence, and killing to retain power, and thus absolute power is interconnected with corruption. The findings also showed that these regimes worked on imposing their ideologies through their discourses in order to control the societies and to retain power. Furthermore, the findings revealed a close convergence between these narrative texts and similar situations in our real-world politics and how these texts represent reality. In sum, this study concludes that wherever absolute power exists, then indeed corruption exists. The significance of the study lies in determining the interconnection of absolute power and corruption as a missing feature in the literature on these novels.