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Quasi-Plagiarism vs. Human Universality in the Dystopian Genre

Taylor Kingston
University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu

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# Quasi-Plagiarism vs. Human Universality in the Dystopian Genre

Taylor Kingston, Departments of English and Psychology  
Advisor: Dr. John P. McCombe

## Dystopian Similarities Caused by Plagiarism?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WE (1924)</th>
<th>BRAVE NEW WORLD (1932)</th>
<th>ANTHEM (1938)</th>
<th>1984 (1949)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KNOWLEDGE</strong></td>
<td><strong>FAMILY</strong></td>
<td><strong>LOVE/SEX</strong></td>
<td><strong>SELF-EXPRESSION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lobotomy undoes the gathering of knowledge of rebellion that D-503 has done</td>
<td>D-503, 0-90 and R-13 form a dysfunctional sort of family/love triangle</td>
<td>-330 seduces D-503, persuades him to rebel</td>
<td>D-503’s dreaming is considered a sickness because it is indicative of the mental illness of having a soul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-thinking is suppressed through the taking of the hallucinogen, soma</td>
<td>-outlawed natural reproduction and free love desensitizes lovers</td>
<td>-caste formation through genetic engineering, a.k.a. Bokanovsky’s Process</td>
<td>-writing is forbidden, but Equality keeps a journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isolation from other cultures</td>
<td>-soma -isolation from other cultures</td>
<td>-malnusian belts conditioned to think of alone-time as a waste of time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Equality 7-2521 longs to be a scholar but is a street-sweeper</td>
<td>-raised away from parents in Home of the Infants, illegal to prefer one person over another</td>
<td>-relations with Liberty 5-3000, calling her “Golden One” and running away together</td>
<td>-Big Brother’s surveillance prevents fostering of individualism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-rediscovering electricity and is tortured for it</td>
<td>-systematic reproduction</td>
<td>-thought-crime if one shows signs of thinking for the self</td>
<td>-1984’s motto is “IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-thoughts of romances partners</td>
<td>-Winston’s affair with Julia</td>
<td>-spirit broken when he betrays Julia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Ministry of Truth destroys historical knowledge</td>
<td>Big Brother’s surveillance prevents fostering of individualism</td>
<td>-Big Brother’s journals</td>
<td>-thought-crime if one shows signs of thinking for the self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-thought-crime is brought about through Operant Conditioning?</td>
<td>-IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH motto</td>
<td>-Winston’s tracing of Julia</td>
<td>-1984’s motto is “IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## caused by Operant Conditioning?

**1984: Positive Punishment**

Winston Smith feels oppressed  
Reader responds by thinking “revolt”  
He journals, has an affair, etc.

Reader feels hope  
He is abducted by MiniLuv  
He is tortured until he says he loves Big Brother  
Behavior learned by reader: i must prevent regimes before they happen or be doomed

## caused by Historical Influences?

-It’s in the stormy air we breathe.”  
-Zamyatin

But this can’t be so because of Eve and Katniss…

## caused by Human Universality?

A relatively new field of thought called Biopoetics suggests that human universals brought about through Darwin’s natural selection have molded templates for literary form. Leading researcher, Brett Cooke states, “Since there is no distinction between a gene and its copy, a gene could be said to benefit itself in the body of its host’s progeny. As a result, we are prompted to engage in sex and love our children, whether or not we understand why. And we like to read about affairs of the heart.”

Or just maybe it’s because dystopian authors use operant conditioning to provoke a compensatory response AND this can only be done by targeting universal fears brought about through evolution?