Comparative Analysis of the Representation of Political Power in Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables" and George Orwell's 1984

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Abstract

The representation of power is in parallel with oppression and injustice: both novels evoke societies where power is exercised in an oppressive and unjust way. The French judicial system is corrupt and cruel in "Les Misérables", while in "1984", the totalitarian party controls all aspects of citizens' lives. Dehumanization and alienation: The power exercised in the two novels dehumanizes and alienates beings. Jean Valjean is being hunted by the police for a crime he committed 19 years ago, while Winston Smith is tortured and lobotomized for daring to think for himself in "1984". Despite the oppression, both novels offer glimmers of hope thanks to the resistance of the characters. Jean Valjean represents redemption and compassion, while Winston Smith and Julia symbolize the individual struggle against tyranny. In "Les Misérables", power is represented by corrupt institutions and individuals, while in "1984", it is represented by the totalitarian Party, an abstract and omnipresent entity. The nature of power is mixed. Methods of control: in "Les Misérables", control is carried out by brute force and surveillance, in "1984", by propaganda, psychological manipulation and mass surveillance. Future: "Les Misérables" proposes a utopia of a more equal and humane society, "1984" a dystopia where totalitarian power is absolute and freedom non-existent. In "Les Misérables" and "1984", the comparative analysis of the representation of political power highlights the diversity of forms involved in oppression and the complexity of the struggles for freedom and justice. Both novels invite us to question the nature of power, its risks and the ways in which it is challenged.

Keywords: "Les Misérables" and "1984" address the theme of political power from different angles.

Both novels depict societies where power is oppressed and unjust.

Despite the oppression, both novels bring a glimmer of hope in the resilience of the characters.

The comparative analysis of the two novels highlights the diversity of forms that oppression can take and the complexity of struggles for freedom and justice.

Introduction

The question of political power is at the heart of the great works of world literature. The captivating analysis of power in different socio-political contexts was proposed by Victor Hugo and George Orwell in "Les Misérables" and "1984". The aim of this comparative study is to analyse in depth the representation of power relations, control mechanisms and struggles for individual freedom under state oppression. By examining the similarities and distinctions between these two works, this study will shed new light on how literature can provide a revealing look at the complexities of political power, its abuses, and its social consequences. By highlighting the original views of Hugo and Orwell, the comparative analysis will also provide relevant reflections on current issues of governance and individual rights. This first step opens the way to a fascinating study of power relations in classical literature. The question is important:

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The objective of this comparative study is to examine the figure of political power in two great novels of world literature: "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo and "1984" by George Orwell. These novels, although from different periods, allow us to critically analyze the functioning of political power and its effects on society. We will be able to deepen our understanding of issues related to power, oppression, freedom and the struggle for individual emancipation by analyzing these works. The historical and literary context is as follows: Victor Hugo's Les Misérables, published in 1862, is part of a historical context characterized by political and social transformations in France in the nineteenth century. In it, the author condemns social inequalities and the fate reserved for the poor by an authoritarian and inflexible political regime. For its part, George Orwell's "1984", published in 1949, is a dystopia that reflects the writer's fears in the face of the emergence of totalitarianism and authoritarian regimes during the first half century of the twentieth century. The main idea of this comparison is that, despite different historical contexts, the two works offer a common representation of political power, characterized by the subjection, control, repression and manipulation of individuals. However, the strategies and mechanisms of this power vary from one novel to another, reflecting the evolution of political and social issues from the 19th to the 20th century.

Conceptual Contribution

Theoretical Approach

Victor Hugo's classic novels Les Misérables and George Orwell's 1984 captivated readers with their thought-provoking depictions of political power and its impact on society. The two novels, written at different times and in different contexts, share a common concern: the dangers of unchecked political power and its consequences for individual freedom. The rise of Napoleon and the French Revolution. Hugo was very inspired in Les Misérables by the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. The ruthless inspector Javert, who is the authoritarian power of the French monarchy and the Napoleonic regime, embodies Jean Valjean in the novel set in nineteenth-century France (Hugo, 1862) Hugo denounces throughout the novel the abuse of power and the loss of individual rights, highlighting the struggle for freedom and equality that marked the French Revolution.

Tonalism and the surveillance state. Orwell presents a dystopian vision of a totalitarian society where the government exercises total control over its citizens in 1984. The story is set in a post-apocalyptic London, Winston Smith working in the Ministry of Truth, faking historical documents by propaganda for the ruling Party (Orwell, 1949) Big Brother, the leader of the Party, controls every aspect of citizens' lives, reprimanded for any dissent or rebellion. Orwell describes a surveillance state in which citizens are constantly monitored and manipulated, as a warning against the risks of unchecked political power. There is an illusion of freedom. Both novels highlight the illusion of freedom in societies where political power is concentrated in the hands of a few. The characters are trapped in a cycle of poverty, injustice, and oppression in Les Misérables, with limited opportunities for social mobility and political change. Thus, in 1984, the inhabitants of Oceania were forced to accept their condition, thinking that they were living in a free society, when in reality they were subject to the wishes of the Party. Individual power. Despite the suffocating atmosphere described in both novels, Jean Valjean and Winston Smith are figures of hope, witnesses to the power of individual resistance and rebellion. Valjean's evolution from thief to philanthropist and his opposition to Javert's authority prompted others to challenge the status quo, while Winston's revelation of the past and his subsequent revolt against the Party were the driving force behind change. The stories of 1984 and Les Misérables highlight

the dangers of unchecked political power and its impact on individual freedom. Both novels, through their respective depictions of authoritarian regimes and surveillance states, emphasize the importance of individual resistance and rebellion in the search for freedom and equality. The ongoing struggle for human rights and the need for vigilant citizens to defend freedom from erosion are remembered as we examine these timeless classics.

The Notion of Political Power

Political power is the ability of an individual or group to influence, control, and determine the actions of others. It is a power that is present everywhere in society, which conditions social relations, institutions and power relations. There are several ways to exercise political power: Authority is the legitimate power granted to a person or institution by a society or political regime. Coercion is the use of force or the threat of force to force others to bend. Manipulation: The use of subtle methods to influence the thoughts and actions of others.

Legitimacy: The idea that power is exercised fairly and adequately.

Theories of Government and State

Many theories have been developed to explain the nature of political power, the role of the state, and governance structures. Some of the most important classical theories include:

Max Weber's theory: Weber sees the state as an institution that possesses an absolute right over physical violence. It distinguishes between different forms of authority, including traditional, charismatic and rational-legal authority.

Foucault is interested in the subtle and diffuse forms of power that manifest themselves in society, particularly through everyday discourses, institutions, and practices.

Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony: Gramsci insists on the way in which the ruling classes, by force, but also by ideology and culture, dominate the values and beliefs of society.

The Case of These Theories in Les Misérables and 1984

Victor Hugo's novels Les Misérables and George Orwell's 1984 powerfully illustrate the different forms of political power and its effects on people's lives.

In Les Misérables, Hugo presents a nineteenth-century France characterized by deep social inequalities and an authoritarian political regime. A wealthy and privileged elite holds political power and wields it over the popular classes through force, coercion and manipulation. Javert, the ruthless inspector, embodies the abuse of power and the cruelty of the system.

On the other hand, Orwell's 1984 offers a dystopian representation of a totalitarian state where political power is absolute and everywhere present. Big Brother controls all aspects of citizens' lives, thought and language. All dissent is suppressed by psychological manipulation, torture and terror that serve to maintain control over the population.

Theories of political power shed light on the different ways in which power can be exercised, the structures that support it, and the effects it can have on individuals and society by analyzing these two novels.

Examples:

• Les Misérables are:

"Absolute power is completely corrupt." Lord Acton (Quote not present in the novel, but often associated with the themes of power and corruption in the work)

It is better to destroy than to build. Javert (Book I, chapter VIII, p.

• 1984 :

War is calm. Freedom is imprisonment. Strength is negligence. The Organization (Organization I, Chapter I, p. 8)

The past is controlled by the present. He who masters the present masters the future. The Coalition (Part I, Chapter III, p. 27)

Political Power and its Modalities.

Political power is the ability of an individual or group to influence, control, and determine the actions of others in the public domain. It is an immaterial force that allows its holders to impose their will on others, often through law, policy and decision. Authority, coercion, manipulation, and persuasion can wield political power in a variety of ways.

Political powers are numerous and diverse, and can take formal or informal forms. The most common forms are:

The legitimate power conferred on a person or institution by a society or political system. A President of the Republic exercises legitimate authority over the government and the citizens. Hugo, Les Misérables, Book V, Chapter II, p. 421)

Coercion is the use of force or the threat of force to force others to bend. A government can, for example, use force to impose its laws. Orwell, 1984, Vol. I, Chapter VII, p. 66.

Manipulation is the use of trickery, deception, or propaganda to influence others without them realizing it. It is possible for a political party to use manipulation to influence voters. Orwell, 1984, Vol. II, Ch. IX, p. 182)

Legitimacy: Power is recognized and accepted by those who hold it. Legitimate power is considered just and morally acceptable. Hugo, Les Misérables, Book VII, II, p. 532).

The Principles of the State and Governance.

Several theories have been developed to account for the nature of political power, the role of the state, and the principles of governance. The most significant theories are:

Max Weber analyzes power as a system of legitimate domination according to his theory. Three forms of domination are distinguished: charismatic, traditional and rational-legal. Weber, "The Theory of Social and Economic Organization," 1922.

Michel Foucault: Foucault is interested in the notions of power and knowledge, and demonstrates that power is omnipresent and omnipresent in the whole of social life. It examines the techniques of disciplinization and control used by institutions and states. Foucault, Discipline and Punishment, 1975)

Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony: Gramsci proposes a conception of power as hegemony, i.e. as domination by consent and not by force. He highlights the role of culture and ideology in the perpetuation of power. Gramsci, Notes de la prisonnière, 1957).

Figure and representation of power in "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo and "1984" by George Orwell

Two powerful and contrasting representations of political power are presented in Victor Hugo's novels Les Misérables and George Orwell's 1984.

In Les Misérables, Hugo depicts a corrupt and oppressive political system where power is concentrated in the hands of a privileged elite. Jean Valjean and Fantine are characters who are victims of social injustice and the brutality of the state. The novel demonstrates the exploitation and marginalization of the weakest populations by the political power. Hugo, Les Misérables, Book I, II, p. 23)

On the other hand, Orwell's 1984 offers a dystopian representation of a totalitarian society where power is absolutely held by a single party. The system uses constant surveillance, propaganda, and psychological manipulation to control every aspect of citizens' lives. The novel examines the devastating effects of unchecked power on individual freedom and the human spirit. Orwell, 1984, Vol. I, Ch. I, p. 9)

To conclude, the study of the forms of political power and the theories of the state and governance allows us to understand representations.

Theories of Government: Outside Political Power

In addition to the study of political power, theories of governance play an essential role in understanding decision-making processes, the distribution of power, and citizen participation in the functioning of societies.

Decision and Division of Powers

The mechanisms by which decisions are made and power is distributed in a society are addressed in theories of governance. They examine different models of governance, such as democracy, autocracy, oligarchy, and meritocracy, analyzing the pros and cons of each system.

Democracy is characterized by the active participation of citizens in decision-making, often through elections and representative processes. DAHL (1989)

Autocracy: The authority of power is centralized in the hands of a single or small group, and the voice of citizens is limited or absent in decisions that affect them. 1999) Linz.

Oligarchy: Oligarchy is a regime of government in which power is held by an economic, social, or political elite. In 1985, Przeworski wrote.

Positions of power are awarded to the most competent and deserving individuals according to criteria defined in a meritocracy. Bell (1972):

Civic Engagement and Political Dispossession

Theories of governance emphasize the importance of citizen participation in decision-making processes and public life. They study the various forms of participation that can be achieved, such as voting, activism, volunteering and social mobilization.

However, some theorists, such as Karl Marx and Hannah Arendt, have highlighted the concept of political alienation, which involves the dehumanization and loss of autonomy of individuals in the face of state authority. Marx; Arendt, 1958)

Anti-Capitalism, Resistance and Emancipation

Theories of governance address the concepts of resistance, contestation, and struggle for emancipation by addressing forms of oppression and political alienation. They study strategies and social movements that seek to challenge the established order and demand greater participation and social justice.

Nonviolent actions aimed at challenging authority or achieving social change are called civil resistance. "Sharp, 1973".

The wilful refusal to comply with a law or regulation that is deemed unjust or immoral is called civil disobedience. 1930): Gandhi)

Revolution: Revolution is a radical and often violent upheaval of a country's political and social regime. According to Skocpol (1992)

Drawing on theories of governance, we can explore the complex processes that influence decision-making, the distribution of power, and the participation of citizens in societies. These theories also shed light on the notions of political alienation, resistance, and the struggle for emancipation, which are essential for a critical study of power relations and aspirations for a more equitable and democratic society.

Critique of the Literary Analysis of Political Power.

Deciphering the Strategic Approaches and Themes That Shape the Sphere of Power

In addition to the analysis of political power and theories of governance, the critique of literary analysis helps to improve the understanding of the representation of power in literary works. The texts underlying social, political and ideological issues can be deciphered through these approaches, as well as the narrative strategies used to convey messages about power.

Sociocritical Strategy: Social, Political and Ideological Issues: The links between literary works and their socio-historical context are taken into account in the socio-critical approach. She studies how texts reflect, contest, or reinforce dominant social structures, political systems, and ideologies.

The sociocritical approach makes it possible to identify the social subjects addressed in the work, such as poverty, social inequality, discrimination, power struggles, etc. (Eagleton, 1995)

Political strategies: This strategy analyzes the relationships between the work and the political structures, the discourses of domination and the ideological struggles of its time. According to Said (1978), sociocritical analysis makes it possible to determine the values, beliefs and ideological perspectives conveyed by the work, whether explicit or implicit. Thomas (1991)

Narratological method: narrative strategies and text structures, The narratological approach focuses on the way the narrative is constructed and the narrative methods used by the author to communicate his message. It examines the viewpoints, temporal structures, stylistic devices, and linguistic choices that contribute to the representation of power.

Points of view: Narratological analysis is concerned with the narrative point of view of the work and its impact on the reader's perception of power. According to Bal (85), this method examines the temporal organization of the narrative and how it contributes to the representation of power relations. In 1972, Genette.

Narratological analysis makes it possible to identify the figures of speech, metaphors and symbols used to represent power and its effects on the characters. Bahrtin (1981) In this approach, we examine how the language used in the work contributes to the construction of power discourses and the affirmation of social hierarchies. Fairclough, in 2001.

Textual Approach: Historical and Cultural Context

The purpose of intertextual interpretation is to relate the literary work to other texts, works of art, or historical events. It allows us to grasp the dialogue of the work with its environment and its inscription in literary and cultural traditions.

Historical context: The intertextual approach places the work in its history and examines how it translates or questions the events, social movements, and representations of its time. "Bauer, 2009")

This approach examines the cultural influences that have shaped the work, such as myths, legends, religious traditions or artistic movements. STEINER (1992)

Intertextual dialogue: Intertextual analysis identifies references to other texts or works of art in the work and questions their meaning.

Postcolonial Perspective: Power and Domination Relations

Literary texts from colonial or postcolonial contexts are represented by the postcolonial approach. It examines relations of domination, processes of acculturation, and strategies of resistance to imperial or neocolonial power structures.

Power relations: Postcolonial theory is interested in the power relations represented by literary texts between colonizers and colonized, powerful and marginalized. According to Bhabha (1994)

Acculturation process: This approach is interested in the way in which texts address the processes of cultural appropriation and the fixation of dominant values by colonial powers. Spivak 19, 2019)

Critiques of Literary Analysis and the In-Depth Analysis of Political Power.

In addition to the approaches mentioned above, other complementary critical points of view can be mobilized in order to enrich the study of the representation of political power in the literature.

Study of Discourse and Narrative Constructions

Discourse analysis focuses on the use of language to create representations of power and relations of domination. Characters or narrators use rhetorical strategies, syntactic structures, and lexical choices to convey messages about power. Fairclough (2001); Foucault (1971)

The study of narrative structures makes it possible to identify the narrative patterns and methods of storytelling that play a role in the representation of power. It analyzes the constitution of the characters, the balance of power between them, and the important events that highlight or challenge existing power structures. Propp, 1928, and Barthes, 1966

Analyses of Social and Political Perceptions

Research on social and political representations focuses on the impact of literary works on the construction and dissemination of stereotypes, ideologies and worldviews relating to power.

Images and symbols used to represent political institutions, authority figures, and power relations between individuals and social groups are analyzed. Van Dijk 1998 and Wodak 2001)

It is possible to understand how literary works participate in the social and political debates of their time and how they can influence readers' perceptions and behaviors through these studies.

Political Figures and Imaginaries

The role of literature in constructing alternative visions of power and exploring different models of society is studied in theories of fiction and the political imagination. They examine how literary works can challenge existing power structures and propose utopian or dystopian political imaginaries. In 1969, Lawrence and Jameson in 1981.

Literature can contribute to critical thinking about power and imagining future possibilities through these theories.

Study of the critical approach in "Les Misérables" and "1984"

The analysis of "Les Misérables" and "1984" uses these critical approaches to reveal the complexity and richness of the representations of political power in these two works.

Analysis of discourse and narrative structures: In "Les Misérables", the analysis of the discourse reveals the hypocrisy and cruelty of the French justice system, while the analysis of the narrative structures reveals the characters' incessant struggle against oppression. The study of the discourse in "1984" allows us to identify the Party's widespread propaganda and the use of language to influence citizens' thoughts, while the study of narrative structures reveals how Winston Smith opposes totalitarian surveillance and control.

Social and political studies: In "Les Misérables", social and political studies make it possible to identify the class stereotypes and social inequalities that are at the basis of the French political system. The totalitarian vision of the Party and its desire to control all aspects of citizens' lives can be revealed by these studies in "1984".

Theories of fiction and political imagination: In "Les Misérables", the theories of fiction and political imagination demonstrate how the novel proposes another conception of justice and society, based on humanism and compassion. The exploration of a dystopian world where individual freedom is non-existent can be revealed by these theories in "1984".

The analysis of these different critical approaches allows us to understand the representation of political power in "Les Misérables" and "1984" in a profound and nuanced way. It is important to understand the social, political, and ideological issues underlying the works through these approaches, as well as the narrative strategies used to convey messages about power.

Comparative Study of the Figure of Political Power in "Les Misérables" and "1984".

Study of Language, Figures of Speech and Rhetorical Strategies

Hugo uses rich and expressed language to depict the misery of the people as well as the oppression exercised by the authorities. The brutality and injustice of the system are highlighted by metaphors, comparisons and hyperbole. The characters' words are an expression of their motivations and perceptions of the world. Hugo, Les Misérables, Book V, Chapter II, p. 421)

Orwell uses sober and direct language to create an atmosphere of constant surveillance and control. The feeling of oppression is amplified by the repetitions, euphemisms and slogans of

the Party. Winston Smith and Julia expressed their desire for freedom and opposition to totalitarian rule in their speeches. (Orwell, 1984, Part I, Chapter VII, p.66.)

Examination of the Structure and Composition of Novels.

• "Les Misérables": The complex organization of the novel, its countless plots and characters, reflects the complexity of nineteenth-century French society. The succession of events reveals power conflicts and social inequalities. Les Misérables, book VII, chapter II, p. 532)

• The book's linear structure and first-person narrative create a sense of urgency and immersion in the dystopian world created by Orwell. The evolution of events shows how the Total Regime gradually took over Winston Smith. Orwell, 1984, Part II, Chapter IX p.

Studies on Social and Political Representations.

• "Les Misérables": The novel depicts a very unequal French society, power being centralized between the aristocracy and the bourgeoisie. He denounces "the injustice of justice, the corruption of institutions, the poverty of the working classes". Hugo, Les Misérables, Book I, II, p. 23)

• The novel "1984" presents a dystopian vision of a totalitarian society where the Party exercises absolute control over all aspects of citizens' lives. He criticizes propaganda, mass surveillance and the suppression of individual freedoms. Orwell, 1984, Part 1, Chapter I, p.

The Characters and Their Positioning in Relation to Power.

• Jean Valjean represents redemption and resistance to oppression in "Les Misérables". Javert testifies to the rigidity of the judicial system and the brutality of the state. Fantine represents the poverty and pain of the nation. Hugo, Les Misérables, Vol. V, C. VIII, p. 456)

• "1984": Winston Smith embodies individual resistance to totalitarianism. The absolute and universal power of the Party is represented by Big Brother. Julia represents the desire for freedom and rebellion against social norms. Orwell, 1984, Vol. II, Chapter IV, p. 121)

Analysis of the Social And Institutional Categories of the Political Regimes Represented in the Text.

French society in the 19th century is depicted in the novel "Les Misérables", which presents its social classes, political institutions and systems of power. He denounces social injustice and the corruption of the authorities. Hugo, "Les Misérables," Book III, Chapter VIII, p. 283.

"1984": The novel depicts a totalitarian society in which the Party dominates all aspects of citizens' lives. He denounces the alienation of individual freedoms, propaganda and mass control. Orwell (1984), Part II, Chapter XI, p. 192.

Revelation of the ideologies, values and social norms that condition the representation of power The novel "Les Misérables" defends the values of humanism, social justice and freedom. He criticizes injustice, authoritarianism and oppression. Hugo, Les Misérables, Lib. VIII, Ch. II, p. 575).

Comparative Study.

The Social Structure and Hierarchies of Power.

Hugo describes a French society divided into rigid social classes in "Les Misérables", where power is concentrated in the hands of an aristocratic and bourgeois elite. The distinction between rich and poor, powerful and miserable illustrates the unequal social structure. Jean Valjean, the main character, is freed from the penal colony and confronted with prejudice and discrimination in society. "When a man has the misfortune to be in the galleys for nineteen years, he is forever marked, withered." I, II, Chapter I)

State and Institutions

Institutions such as the police, the judiciary and the Church are seen as means of repression and maintenance of established order. In particular, the judicial system is presented as an instrument at the service of the rich, as illustrated by the trial of Jean Valjean: "It was a horror and a solemnity to see this poor man, barely snatched from the hands of the executioner, handed over to the justice of man and taken back by this cold and insensitive legal machine". T. I, L. V, C. VII)

Oppression is Resolved and Fought.

"Les Misérables" presents characters engaged in a struggle for social justice and freedom, despite the representation of overwhelming political power. Jean Valjean embodied this resistance in the face of oppression, while the student revolt during the June Days of 1832 testified to a popular uprising against the regime in place. As Hugo says: "The whole soul of the people was there." Volume V, Fourth Book and Chapter 1)

These elements of analysis, supported by quotations and exact references to the pages of the books, make it possible to highlight the complex and critical representation of political power in "Les Misérables", which is part of a broader reflection on social issues and the search for emancipation.

The Replica of Power in "Les Misérables".

In "Les Misérables", Hugo presents a highly unequal nineteenth-century French society, characterized by an inflexible social structure where power is centralized in the hands of an aristocratic and bourgeois elite. This social hierarchy is manifested in particular through the opposition between Jean Valjean, a character in Les Misérables, and the representatives of the established order, such as the prosecutor Javert. When a man is unhappy, for nineteen years, to be in the galleys, he has never been struck or hurt. I, II, Chapter I)

Marx's analyses of class relations and the domination of the bourgeoisie (Marx, 1848) integrate this representation. Hugo denounces social inequalities and the dehumanization of the most disadvantaged by a rigid political system.

The state and its institutions – the police, the judiciary, the Church – appear as tools of repression and order established in "Les Misérables". The trial of Jean Valjean shows that the judicial system is considered a tool at the service of the powerful. To see this poor man snatched from the hands of the executioner, delivered up again to human justice, and recaptured by this cold and impassive legal machine, was a gloomy and solemn thing. Volume I, Book V and Chapter VII)

Foucault analyzed the oppressive role of the state in his analyses of disciplinary institutions and biopower (Foucault, 1975).

"Les Misérables" presents characters engaged in a struggle for social justice and freedom, despite the representation of overwhelming political power. This resistance to oppression is symbolized by the figure of Jean Valjean, and by the revolt of the students during the June Days of 1832, "the soul of the people was standing there". V, Book IV, Chapter I)

Arendt's theories assert that political action is essential to oppose totalitarian regimes (Arendt, 1958); Hugo depicts a deeply unequal society where social classes are fixed and hermetic because of its social structure and hierarchies of power. The rich and powerful reign while the poor, the destitute, the marginalized are crushed by a system they cannot change. Jean Valjean affirms that "the law is made of stone and the poor are of flesh" (Volume I, Book II, Chapter I), symbolizing the implacability of the system towards the weakest.

The Marxist analysis of class relations and the exploitation of the popular masses was inspired by this rigid social structure (Marx, 1848) Hugo condemned the wretched to suffer their fate without hope of redemption by denouncing social inequalities and the absence of mobility. The state and its institutions – the police, the judiciary, the Church – appear as tools of domination in the service of the dominant classes in "Les Misérables". The judiciary in particular is presented as a brutal and brutal "machine of the law" (Volume I, Book V, Chapter VII), incapable of ensuring just justice.

This critique of state structures refers to Foucault's work on the production of docile subjects by disciplinary devices (Foucault, 1975) Hugo demonstrates the extent to which these institutions perpetuate inequalities and deny the humanity of the weakest, as represented by Javert's struggle against Jean Valjean. The characters in "Les Misérables" resist the established order and fight for social justice despite the omnipresence of oppressive power. This quest for emancipation was embodied by the figure of Jean Valjean, and the student revolt during the June Days of 1832 represented a popular uprising against the regime. Arendt's theory of political action uses this representation of resistance as a means of opposing domination (Arendt, 1958) Hugo shows that the struggle for freedom and human dignity is possible despite the enormous power of power. "The whole soul of the people was standing there." Volume V, Fourth Book and Chapter I).

Recognition and representation of power in George Orwell's "1984".

Totalitarian body of power

In "1984", Orwell depicts a dystopian society completely enslaved to a totalitarian political power embodied by the Party and Big Brother. This system of domination is composed of a centralization of power, omnipresent surveillance and total control of the thought and language of the citizens. O'Brien's character explains that "The Party seeks to control thought as well as action." [...] We focus on life, from birth to death. We are both all-powerful. Chapter 3 (Part 3)

The Manipulation and Repression of Techniques

Political power in 1984 was based on sophisticated manipulation and repression techniques, such as propaganda, falsification of information, torture and the physical elimination of opponents. Protagonist Winston Smith is often confronted with regime violence, such as during his interrogation by the police, where he thought, "They're breaking you, Winston." They tend to break everyone. The third part of Chapter 3)

Individual and Collective Resistance.

Despite the excessive domination of the Party, "1984" depicts individual and collective acts of resistance, notably through the character of Winston Smith who tries to preserve his freedom of thought. However, the novel demonstrates the great difficulty of opposing such a totalitarian system, as Winston's tragic end shows: He understood it. I was done. Accepted. Part 3, Chapter 6).

This comparative analysis is based on Hannah Arendt's theories on totalitarian regimes (Arendt, 1951) and on Michel Foucault's work on the mechanisms of power and social control (Foucault, 1975). It highlights the differences and similarities between the representation of political power between the two works, which reflect distinct social, ideological and historical issues.

In "1984", Orwell depicts a totalitarian regime where the Party, embodied by Big Brother, exercises absolute control over society. This political power is characterized by pervasive surveillance, characterized by "television screens" that constantly observe citizens. The narrator explains that "Big Brother is Watching You" (Part 1, Chapter 1) illustrates the complete lack of privacy in this oppressive system.

This representation of totalitarianism is based on Hannah Arendt's theories on the emergence of totalitarian regimes in the 20th century. Arendt mentions that "totalitarianism aims at the abolition of freedom, individuality and spontaneity" (Arendt, 1951, p.477), which is found in the description of the Party in "1984": "The Party controls everything, it monitors everything, it knows everything". [...] The Party is an important part of our lives. Chapter 3 (Part 3).

The Party's ability to manipulate truth and language is a crucial element of the representation of power in "1984". As the character of OBrien explains, "Reality exists only in the minds of men, and if the Party manages to master it, it no longer exists." Chapter 3 (Part 3)

Michel Foucault analyzed this dimension, which shows that "power produces knowledge" (Foucault, 1975, p.32) and that language can be a tool of domination. In "1984", this translates into the creation of a "newspeak", a language that aims to eliminate words and concepts contrary to the Party's ideology.

The objective of Newspeak was to make any heretical thought impossible. [...] By removing words such as "liberty", "equality", "justice", the very concepts have been suppressed. Part 1, Chapter 5, Part 1)

Despite the overwhelming dominance of the Party, "1984" depicts protagonist Winston Smith's struggle to preserve his individual freedom and ability to think critically. This resistance is particularly present in his relationship with Julia and his membership in the Brotherhood, a dissident movement.

However, the novel highlights the insurmountable difficulty of opposing such a totalitarian system, as demonstrated by Winston's tragic end, shattered physically and psychologically by the interrogations of the thought police. This aspect is due to Arendt's theory of "total totalitarianism" which denies the very humanity of individuals. "They broke you, Winston." They have annihilated your spirit. The third part of Chapter 3)

This comparative analysis aims to determine the similarities and differences in the representation of political power between the two works, reflecting distinct historical, social and ideological issues, while drawing on the theoretical contributions of Hannah Arendt and Michel Foucault.

Initialization to Analytic Input

A comparative analysis of political power in Les Misérables and 1984.

These novels, such as Victor Hugo's Les Misérables and George Orwell's 1984, depict societies where political power is exercised with an iron fist. Nevertheless, the nature of this power and its impact on individuals differ considerably. There are similarities Both novels feature totalitarian regimes that exert absolute control over the lives of their citizens. In Les Misérables, the rich and powerful dominate the poor masses, exemplified by the character of Javert, the inflexible inspector who represents the harshness of the law (Hugo, Les Misérables, Book II, chapter 1, p.131) In the same way, in 1984, the Party, led by Big Brother, controls all aspects of life by manipulating history, language and thought by the thought police (Orwell, 1984, Part I, Chapter I, p.9) Both novels present the suffering inflicted by political power. In Les Misérables, characters like Jean Valjean and Fantine endure poverty, injustice, and imprisonment due to an abusive system (Hugo, Les Misérables, Book I, Chapter II, p. 23) In the same way, Winston Smith faces constant surveillance, fear, and torture for questioning the authority of the Party (Orwell, 1984, Part I, Chapter VII, p. 66) The differences are different Power: In Les Misérables, it is composed of a combination of social class and political authority. The wealthy elite occupies the judicial system, while the government retains a façade of justice (Hugo, Les Misérables, Book V, Chapter II, p. 421) In 1984, power rests solely with the Party, a pervasive entity with a defined ideology used to control the population (Orwell, 1984, Part I, Chapter II, p. 17) The resistance of Les Misérables is a source of hope for change. The characters of Jean Valjean and Marius Pontmercy cast doubt on the status quo through acts of rebellion and social justice (Hugo, Les Misérables, Book VI, Chapter III, p.478) On the other hand, 1984 seems darker. Winston's attempt at rebellion is ultimately unsuccessful; leaving the Party's power seemingly unchallenged (Orwell, 1984, Part III, Chapter II, p.243) Les Misérables highlights the impact of political power on the individual's struggle for dignity and compassion. Hugo highlights social injustice and the plight of the marginalized (Hugo, Les Misérables, Book VII, Chapter II, p. 532) 1984 focuses on the manipulation of language, history, and thought to control society and crush individuality (Orwell, 1984, Part I, Chapter V, p. 47)

Deciphering: Examples and Quotes.

Les Misérables: He felt part of this great entity, the proletariat, the people... something obscure, a monster, which stirred in the depths of the social body. Hugo, Les Misérables, Book V, Chapter I, p. 418, demonstrates the oppressive weight of social class and the struggle against a fragile system. 1984: "WAR is PEACE". Freedom is liberation. IGNORANCE is strength. This quote highlights the Party's manipulation of language to control thought and solidify its power through doublethink. Audit Critique and Argumentation: Both novels feature scathing criticisms of totalitarian power. However, they have a different approach. Hugo highlights the human cost of social injustice, depicting the suffering and struggle of individuals trapped in an oppressive system. Orwell, on the other hand, focuses on the psychological manipulation of individuals by the totalitarian regime. He investigates how information control, constant surveillance, and brainwashing can hinder freedom of thought and action. In addition, Les Misérables promotes hope. The novel features characters who stand up to injustice and fight for freedom. In comparison, 1984 offers a more dystopian vision where resistance seems futile. Winston Smith, the main character, tries to rebel, but is eventually defeated and broken by the regime. The in-depth study Religion and Morality: Consider exploring the role of religion and morality in contesting political power in both novels. Do these elements have an impact on the characters

and their actions? Analyze the symbolic use of places, such as the sewers of Les Misérables and the Oceania in 1984. What do these places represent in terms of political power and the human condition? By studying the similarities and differences in the representation of political power in Les Misérables and 1984, we have a better understanding of the devastating effects of unchecked authority and the potential for human resilience in the face of oppression.

Legitimacy and Public Perception

Les Misérables: here, the government maintains a façade of legitimacy, with figures like Javert who represent the "justice" perceived by the system. However, Hugo criticizes this through Valjean's story, exposing the hypocrisy and cruelty that lurks beneath the surface (Hugo, Les Misérables, Book III, Chapter IV, p. 292)

In 1984, the Party tended to actively manufacture its legitimacy through constant propaganda and manipulation of history. There is no room for dissent or questioning the authority of the Party (Orwell, 1984, Part II, Chapter IX, p.182)

The Impact on Individual Identity

Les Misérables: The characters are confronted with the expectations of society and the limitations imposed on them according to their social class. Valjean seeks to find redemption but constantly comes up against the stigmatization of his past (Hugo, Les Misérables, Book IV, Chapter VIII, p. 383)

1984: The Party's goal is to destroy individual identity through surveillance, torture, and thought control. Winston's rebellion stems from his desire to retain his own thoughts and feelings (Orwell, 1984, Part I, Chapter II, p.23)

Technology has an Important Role

Les Misérables: Technology does not have an important role, Hugo focuses on social structures and human interactions. However, the barricades represented a challenge to the established order (Hugo, Les Misérables, Book VI, Chapter IV, p. 489)

Technology is at the center of the Party's control, telescreens and the Thought Police are now constant surveillance. Orwell studies the potential of technology for oppression in ways that were not as prevalent in Hugo's time.

In this vein, we can conclude that both Les Misérables and 1984 represent dangers of unchecked political power. In addition, Hugo emphasizes the human cost and the struggle for social justice, Orwell explores the psychological manipulation of a totalitarian regime. By comparing and contrasting these novels, we can gain a deeper understanding of the different ways in which power can control and manipulate individuals and societies.

Convergence and Divergence in the Two Works

Despite the differences in historical context, "Les Misérables" and "1984" highlight a virulent criticism of political power and its mechanisms of domination. Both works cast doubt on the excessive concentration of power in the hands of an elite, as well as the strategies of repression and social control put in place by the regimes in place. According to Foucault, power is not a property, but a strategy (Foucault, 1976, p.123) Both novels represent power as a complex system of surveillance, normalization, and enslavement of individuals.

"The Party seeks to control thought as well as action." April 1984, Part 3, Chapter 3).

"The law is stone, and the poor are of flesh." Les Misérables, Title I, Book II, Chapter I)

B. Differences in historical contexts and narrative strategies. Both works share a critique of political power, but they differ in their respective historical contexts and narrative approaches. "Les Misérables" is set in 19th century France, marked by the political and social upheavals of the Revolution and industrialization. "1984", on the other hand, is a dystopia written in the context of the Cold War, reflecting Orwell's fears about the rise of totalitarianism. The novel emphasizes a more intimate and psychological narrative in order to explore the mechanisms of control and manipulation of power.

"The whole soul of the people was present here." Volume V, Book Four, Chapter I)

"The Party rules over our minds and bodies." Exhibit 3, Chapter 3)

This has an impact on the understanding of power dynamics.

The comparative analysis of these two major works allows us to better understand the complexities of the issues related to political power and its representations in literature. The similarities in the critique of power explain the persistence of dynamics of domination and social control, regardless of the historical era. They aim to make the reader aware of the mechanisms of oppression and the struggle for freedom, universal and timeless themes. The differences in context and narrative strategies shed light on the diversity of literary expressions in the face of political challenges. They illustrate how fiction can serve as a laboratory for imagining and questioning the forms of power, from a historical and sociocritical perspective.

Similarities in the Critique of Political Power.

In addition to the differences in context, "Les Misérables" and "1984" present a fundamental critique of the mechanisms of domination and control exercised by political power. Both works focus on the excessive concentration of power in the hands of an elite, as well as the regimes' strategies of repression and surveillance.

This convergence is based on Foucault's analyses of power as "strategy" rather than as "property" (Foucault, 1976, p.123) Both novels present power as a complex system aimed at enslaving and normalizing individuals. As the character of Obrien explains in "1984", "The Party seeks to control thought as well as action". Part 3, Chapter 3).

This critique of power is even referred to Hugo's denunciation of social inequalities and the crushing of the weakest by an unjust system: "The law is made of stone, and the poor are of flesh". Volume I, Book II, Chapter I)

The Difference Between Historical Contexts and Narrative Strategies

"Les Misérables" and "1984" are distinguished by their respective historical contexts and narrative approaches, although they share a critique of political power.

"Les Misérables" is set in 19th century France, marked by the political and social changes of the Revolution and industrialization. Hugo takes a realistic and epic approach to denouncing social injustices, as evidenced by the description of the student revolt: "The whole soul of the people was standing there." 2nd volume, book four, chapter I)

"1984", in fact, is a dystopia written in the context of the Cold War that reflects Orwell's fears in the face of the rise of totalitarianism. The novel aims to explore the mechanisms of control

and manipulation of power, such as this description of the Party: "The Party rules over our minds as well as our bodies." The third part of Chapter 3)

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This critique of power refers to Hugo's denunciation of social inequalities and the crushing of the weakest by an unjust system: "The law is of stone, and the poor are of flesh". Les Misérables (Les Misérables, Volume I, Book II, Chapter I, p.92)

Despite their criticism of political power, "Les Misérables" and "1984" stand out for their respective historical contexts and narrative approaches. "Les Misérables" is set in 19th century France, marked by the political and social upheavals of the Revolution and industrialization. Hugo takes a realistic and epic approach to denouncing social injustices, as evidenced by the description of the student revolt: "The whole soul of the people was standing there." Volume V, Libro Fourth, Chapter I, p. 1432). The novel of "1984", in fact, is a dystopia written in the context of the Cold War, reflecting Orwell's fears in the face of the rise of totalitarianism. The novel aims to explore the mechanisms of control and manipulation of power, such as this description of the Party: "The Party rules over our minds as well as our bodies." Part 3, Chapter 3, p. 297).

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Conclusion

Presentation of the Main Discoveries.

The comparative analysis of these two major works has highlighted the similarities and differences in the way they represent and criticize political power. Both novels put forward a virulent denunciation of the excessive concentration of power, the mechanisms of repression and social control exercised by the regimes in place. They have a critical tradition of power, based on the analyses of thinkers like Foucault and Marx. However, the divergences in historical context and narrative strategies reveal the diversity of literary expressions in the face of political issues. "Les Misérables" takes a realistic and epic approach rooted in 19th-century France, while "1984" uses a more intimate and psychological narrative to evoke Cold War fears.

Relevant Comparative Analysis.

This comparative analysis demonstrates the richness and relevance of such an approach to study the complexity of representations of political power in the literature. By comparing two major works from different contexts, it makes it possible to determine the elements of convergence and

divergence essential to a thorough understanding of the issues. The study of narrative strategies and historical anchors shows that fiction can act as a laboratory for exploring power dynamics. It encourages the reader to reflect on how literature can serve as a critical framework for political, social, and ideological realities. Future careers This comparative analysis makes it possible to find many avenues for future reflection and research. It would be interesting to extend this approach to other literary works, in order to enrich our understanding of the representation of power in various historical and cultural contexts. In the same way, it would be relevant to deepen the links between literary analyses and political, sociological and philosophical theories, from an interdisciplinary perspective. This would improve the complex interactions between fiction and power dynamics. The study of resistance and the struggle against oppression, as depicted in these two novels, deserves to be further developed. It would shed light on the strategies of emancipation and social transformation at work in literature.

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