

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56717

**Title:** Illiteracy and Propaganda: Mechanisms of Manipulation and Indoctrination in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

### Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision as suggested.

| Rating         | Excel.    | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|-----------|------|------|------|
| Originality    |           | Good |      |      |
| Techn. Quality |           | Good |      |      |
| Clarity        | Excellent |      |      |      |
| Significance   |           | Good |      |      |

Reviewer's ID: JPR- 223

## Detailed Reviewer's Report

### Abstract

- **Line 8: "At the end of the day" is a slightly informal phrase. Consider replacing it with "Ultimately" or "Eventually."**

The abstract effectively summarizes the article's purpose, methodology, and main argument.

### Introduction

- **"Nazification of the young" (Line 23): This term should be enclosed in quotation marks if it's a direct quote from Lewis, as suggested by the parenthetical citation. If it's your own description of Lewis's concept, then no quotes are needed.**
- **Fitzpatrick (Lines 30-32): The transition here is a bit abrupt. You've just discussed Nazism, and then you shift to pre-Revolutionary Russia. You could bridge this by stating something like, "Similarly, in the context of the Russian Revolution..."**
- **Research Questions (Lines 38-40): These are clearly stated and guide the reader effectively.**
- **Thesis Statement (Lines 41-45): The article's main argument is well-articulated.**

### Literature Review

- **Repetitive Citations:** Within the literature review, some citations are repeated in close proximity (e.g., Fitzpatrick, Marx & Engels, Holmes). While necessary, ensure the flow isn't interrupted by excessive parenthetical citations. You can often introduce an author once and then refer to their ideas for a paragraph or so before re-citing them if you're discussing multiple specific points from their work.

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- **Marx & Engels Quote (Lines 56-61):** This quote is quite long. Consider integrating it more smoothly or summarizing its key points if a full quote isn't strictly necessary to make your point in a concise manner. If kept, ensure it directly supports the idea of polytechnical education in a way shorter alternatives would not.
- **Holmes Quote (Lines 75-83):** This quote is also quite long. Consider whether the full detail is required or if you can précis parts of it while retaining the most salient points about Stalin's politicization and propaganda.
- **Summary Paragraph (Lines 101-107):** This paragraph effectively concludes the literature review.

## Theoretical Framework

- **Althusser (Lines 113-115):** "Ideological State Apparatuses (ISA)" is clearly introduced.
- **Freire (Lines 121-123):** The concept of dehumanization is well-connected to the broader theme.
- **Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-four* Quote (Lines 130-135):** This lengthy quote is highly impactful and directly supports the analysis of power dynamics, making its inclusion justified.
- **Seven Commandments (Line 142):** This specific detail from *Animal Farm* effectively illustrates the theme.
- **Last Paragraph (Lines 142-145):** Clearly links illiteracy, propaganda, and intimidation to the pigs' hegemony.

## Discussion

- **General Strengths:** This section excels in drawing direct parallels between *Animal Farm*, the Russian Revolution, and *Nineteen Eighty-four*. The analysis of Snowball's character and the windmill project is particularly strong.
- **Napoleon's Actions (Lines 174-179):** The narration of Napoleon's rise and ousting of Snowball is well-detailed and connected to the theme of brute force and manipulation.
- **Squealer's Role:** The emphasis on Squealer's propaganda mechanisms is excellent, supported by the quote from *Animal Farm*.
- **Scapegoating (Lines 192-200):** The connection between Snowball and Goldstein as scapegoats is a very insightful parallel. The quote from *Nineteen Eighty-four* regarding Goldstein is relevant.
- **Newspeak and Doublethink (Lines 279-294):** Excellent explanation and integration of these key Orwellian concepts. The quote detailing doublethink is crucial.
- **Table 1 (Page 13):** This table is an excellent visual summary of the parallels and is very effective.
  - **Small correction for consistency:** The column header "Animal Farm's characters" should be "Animal Farm's Characters".

## Conclusion

- The conclusion effectively restates the main arguments and reiterates Orwell's warning about the importance of education and critical thinking. The final sentence is powerful and impactful, drawing directly from *Nineteen Eighty-four*.

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### ***Overall Impression***

The article provides a clear and pertinent analysis of the parallels between *Animal Farm* and the Russian Revolution, particularly focusing on the role of illiteracy and propaganda in establishing totalitarian regimes. The New Historicist approach is well-applied, effectively connecting the literary work to its historical context. The structure is logical, moving from an introduction and research questions to a literature review, theoretical framework, and discussion.

### ***Overall Rating***

Strong Peer-Review Recommendation. This article presents a well-researched and coherent argument, effectively using a New Historicist lens to analyze *Animal Farm*. The parallels drawn between the novel, the Russian Revolution, and *Nineteen Eighty-four* are insightful and well-supported by quotes and historical context. Addressing the minor points about phrasing, citations, and reference list completeness will further enhance its academic quality.