

1984 – The art of censorship CORRIGE

PART 1

A. Winston and Syme are talking about the creation of a new language (Newspeak) by eliminating the complex words and nuances of Oldspeak.

B.

SYME	WINSTON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- pedant (115) sure of himself- enthusiastic (118)- passionate about his work which is destroying words- he agrees with/supports the power in place : Big Brother(136-37)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- doesn't support Big Brother and Newspeak (138-39)- he is worried that Syme might see him as an enemy to the regime (151-52)

C. Syme destroys all the words that are too complex and just keeps the essential concepts that are necessary to communicate about bare necessities

D.

1. antonyms are useless. Suffixes and prefixes are enough. Syme is wrong : the wealth/extent/richness of a language allows people to think, criticize and philosophise. If you limit the language, you limit the range of thought.

2. Syme thinks nuances are unnecessary and bring confusion rather than clarity.

PART 2

A. The true reason is to prevent/stop people from thinking for themselves. If their language is poor, their range of thought will be lesser/smaller because the concepts simply do not exist. With the impoverishment of the language, future generations will stop fighting the power in place and be obedient. (13-6 + 139-40)

B. Winston doesn't want to betray his real opinion. The only word he says is « except » but with 1 one, he expresses many things :

- opposition to what has just been said
- self-censorship to protect himself

C. Syme is too outspoken and it's dangerous.

Winston is on his guard. According to him, you shouldn't reveal the extent of your intelligence.

D. the slogan is preposterous/ludicrous/absurd/ senseless because in fact freedom is the opposite of slavery. The slogan conveys the idea that freedom is detrimental.

But if you suppress the word « freedom », you also suppress the concept. As a consequence, how could people claim for their freedom, if the concept of freedom doesn't exist anymore ?

E. It is a paradox because it is a neologism / a coinage : it has been created when basically, Newspeak's first aims at destroying words...