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The Fate of Individualism in Ayn Rand's *Anthem* and George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

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The Fate of Individualism in Ayn Rand's *Anthem* and George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

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Dedication

To my-, and only my narcissistic self…
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*Abstract*

This study attempts to explore the fate of the individual in two modern literary works. The context of this study is the totalitarian state where the individual is systematically exploited and victimized both physically and psychologically. In this state, the authority imposes various laws upon its individuals in a structural way, leaving them in a dehumanized condition. Still, the individual always has the opportunity to reverse the order of this master/slave dialect and to become the master over him-/herself in this context. Hence, at hand is a two-fold goal, the first of which is a depiction of how the individual is dehumanized, while the second is a proposed orientation of how the dehumanized individual is able to re-gain a unique version of him/herself as a free self. Concerning the approaches to be followed, social-psychology and existential-deconstruction are the ground upon which the analysis in the study stands. Michel
Foucault's theory of power/knowledge is followed in the attempt to depict how the individual is dehumanized in Ayn Rand's *Anthem*. Besides, Friedrich Nietzsche's theory of the overman is the proposed means for the individual to emancipate and, accordingly, recover him/her freedom as the case is illustrated in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The study is concluded with the proposition that: It is up to the individual to be free in the life s/he leads. That is to say, there is no excuse for the individual, as it is always his/her own choice to become who s/he wants to be.

**Key words:** existential-deconstruction, social-psychology, individualism, totalitarianism, dehumanization, freedom, Foucault, power/knowledge, discourse, bio-power, discipline, Nietzsche, eternal recurrence, overman, self-overcoming, the will to power, Ayn Rand, George Orwell.