**Newspeak Vocabulary - *1984***

As unusual as Newspeak grammar was, Newspeak vocabulary consisted of **three lexical**

**categories**: the A, B, and C Vocabularies.

Firstly, the A Vocabulary comprehended all words employed in everyday life. It was composed almost entirely of words existing in Oldspeak, but their number was extremely small, and each of them conveyed one sole specific concept.

**Examples of the A Vocabulary** included words such as *run*, *hit*, *house* and *field*, all modifiable according to the word formation principles described in the previous section.

**Secondly, the B Vocabulary** was made up of compound words that had been constructed to

impose a desirable political and mental attitude upon the person using them. No word in the B

Vocabulary was ideologically neutral, and a great many were euphemisms.

Telescoped words such as *Recdep* (Records Department) or *Minitrue* (Ministry of Truth) were also included in this vocabulary. The shortness of the words in the B Vocabulary, alongside their consistent intonational patterns, encouraged a gabbling style of speech. All in all, the underlying purpose of the B Vocabulary was to make political speech as nearly as possible independent of consciousness.

Remarkable terms within this vocabulary include *goodthinkful* (orthodox), *joycamp* (forced labor

camp), *sexcrime* (any sexual act done for a reason other than creating a future devotee of the Party) and *doublethink* (a complex notion that implied holding two contradictory beliefs in one’s mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them while altering one’s memories in the direction required by Big Brother).

Finally, the C Vocabulary was supplementary to the others and consisted entirely of scientific

and technical terms. Noticeably enough, only scientific workers or technicians handled these

words, but they were only allowed to learn those that directly applied to their own speciality.

Nevertheless, Newspeak had no word which meant ‘Science’, any meaning that such locution could possibly bear being already sufficiently covered by the word *Ingsoc*.

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"Political language," wrote Orwell in "Politics and the English Language," "is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give the appearance of solidity to pure wind." The process which he saw as beginning in the 1930s and 1940s of the corruption of the English language had developed, from the point of view of his satiric purpose, by 1984 into Newspeak. Yet Orwell thought of the process as subject to being reversed, as he wrote in this same essay. This is a hopeful sign, and tends to support the view, expressed earlier herein, that Orwell was not writing a prediction of things to come in 1984, but rather a warning, so that men would exercise the eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty.