Panopticism as Incarnated in Dave Eggers's Dystopian Novel, *The Circle*

تجسد البانوبتيسيزم في رواية الديستوبيا (الدائرة) لديف إجرز

علاء محمد حسين عبد العال

باحث ماجستير بقسم اللغة الإنجليزية كلية الآداب جامعة أسوان

Abstract

The surveillance is derived from the French words sur(over) and veiller (to watch), Mann et. The word surveillance and Panopticism become social theory and practice under the postmodern school of thought. Surveillance is also related to panopticon, a model for disciplinary system designed by Jeremy Bentham. This system was discussed by a French literary critic Michel Foucault in his novel Discipline and punish: The Birth of the Prison, focuses on the basis of the constant surveillance. The term Panopticism means that people feel there is an invisible eye which makes them under constant surveillance, discipline and punishment. Therefore, people feel that they are under control because of the invisible eye which always watches them although, they can't see it. One of dystopian novels *The Circle* which was published in 2013 by American author Dave Eggers. This novel shows the bad effects of modern technology. One of these bad effects is the strict surveillance by using modern electronic devices such as See Change camera. The study's aim is to explore the close relationship between the system of old prison which was designed by Jeremy Bentham and Foucault and the surveillance which is enforced by modern technology in contemporary societies. Surveillance has an important role in contemporary societies. It has also become more difficult to participate in contemporary societies without your movements being watched and recorded.

Key words

Surveillance, Panopticism and Dave Eggers' *The Circle*

المستخلص

المراقبة مشتقة من الكلمات الفرنسية سير فوق وفيلر أن تشاهد. لقد أصبحت المراقبة والبانوبتسيزم نظرية وممارسة إجتماعية ينتميان إلي مدرسة فكرية في عصر ما بعد الحداثة. المراقبة أيضا متصلة ببانوبتيكون (كل الرؤيا) . بانوبتيكون هو نموذج لنظام التأديب. لقد تم مناقشة هذا النظام بواسطة الناقد الأدبي الفرنسي ميشيل فوكولت في روايته النظام والتأديب: ميلاد السجن والتي ترتكز علي أساس المراقبة المستمرة. مصطلح بانوبتسيزم يعني أن الناس يشعرون بأن هناك عين غير مرئية تجعلهم دائما تحت المراقبة المستمرة كنوع من النظام والعقاب. لذلك يشعر الناس بأنهم تحت السيطرة بسبب العين الغير مرئية التي تشاهدهم دائما علي الرغم أنهم لا يشاهدونها. رواية الدائرة للكاتب الأمريكي ديف إيجر والتي نشرت عام ٢٠١٣ . تظهر رواية الدائرة التأثيرات السلبية للتكنولوجيا الحديثة . واحدة من التأثيرات السلبية المراقبة الصارمة بإستخدام التكنولوجيا الحديثة مثل كاميرا سي تشينج . ستكشف هذه الدراسة العلاقة الوثيقة بين نموذج السجن القديم الذي صمم بواسطة جيرمي بينثام وميشيل فوكولت والمراقبة التي تطبق بواسطة التكنولوجيا الحديثة في المجتمعات المعاصرة. تمتلك المراقبة دور هام في المجتمعات المعاصرة . لقد أصبح من الصعب المشاركة والتفاعل في المجتمعات بدون أن تسجل وتشاهد كل تحركاتك.

الكلمات االمفتاحية :

المراقبة- بانوبتسيزم(رؤية الكل)- ديف إيجر الدائرة

Introduction

Dave Eggers wrote the dystopian novel *the Circle* in 2013. This novel shows how the modern technology affects badly on individuals because of the strict surveillance as a result of modern electronic devices which are used in contemporary societies. The novel begins with Mae Holland who starts a new job in a big technological company named the Circle. This company offers many facilities to its workers, everything people need such as places to sleep, gym, social activities for workers and parties. Moreover, the novel has a great reputation at the digital world which helps the company to spread in all fields of life as politics, health and education. The main goal of the company the Circle is to know everything about everyone. Surveillance inside the Circle has led to a constant observation through a small camera which is called See Change. Moreover, See Change camera can provide real-time video at a small cost and little effort. Furthermore, the Circle encourages the employees to share their lives voluntarily. Also, the company encourages their customers, workers and politicians to share every detail of their lives and to go transparent. The characters like Mae and Olivia Santos, a congresswoman carry cameras as a necklace on their bodies. The characters in the novel become the prisoners in their own lives because of surveillance which is similar to panopticon theory, which is based on Bentham's panopticon model. The constant surveillance by using See Change Cameras affects people badly as Foucault discuses in his Discipline and Punish.

In 1791, the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), a British philosopher, declared his theory of surveillance in the eighteen century. According to Bentham, this design is able to prevent unwanted behaviour which is considered bad or vicious. The panopticon model is a circular prison with cells around the external walls and there is a watcher at the centre. Due to this design, all prisoners can be observed by a security guard, however, they cannot see the guard. Consequently, the prisoners behave as if they were being watched all the time (J. Miller and R. Miller 3). From the tower, a guard can see every cell and inmates

but the inmates can't see him into the tower. Prisoners will never know whether or not they are being watched, this leads to control themselves. Self -control and self-governance are the outcomes of this model and have led to Michel Foucault's Panopticism theory.

Michel Foucault (1926-1981) was a French philosopher and an outspoken critic of the panopticon. Also, he was one of the most outstanding post-structuralist in the 1970. In his novel Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison (1975), Foucault states the importance of discipline and punishment in modern societies. According to Foucault, surveillance is an effective way to control and govern people. In modern societies people are under full observation because of feeling that there is an invisible eye surveil them. Moreover, when people feel that there is an invisible eye watch them, this action leads to massive productivity. The design of the company the Circle and the lives of characters in the Circle are similar to the situation of the prisoners in Bentham's theory. Moreover, there is a clear relationship between the feeling of surveillance in the Circle and Foucault's Panopticism theory.

Jeremy Bentham designed the panopticon model in the late 1790.The panopticon (Greek, meaning "all seeing"), a model prison design that consisted of a multi-tiered circular building with individual cells around the circumference. Its architectural construction made it so that every cell could be visible, and the inmates continually observed, from a centrally located inspection tower. The guard can watch all inmates from the watchtower. However, the inmates can't see the guards because of the one-way windows. The inmates should behave well because they unsure they are being watched or not by the guard. They regulate their behaviour because of the fear of being watched or punished. Furthermore, according to Bentham, power that is enforced on prisoners should be visible and unverifiable (Foucault 200). Bentham's model is not only a kind of institutional building but also a system of control, this kind of building leads to control over people and regulation of their behaviours. This kind of building can be used to observe prisoners, patients, workers and children at schools according to Bentham. This building leads to the isolation

of people and leads them to behave well because of constant surveillance. "The essence of {the plan} consists, then in the centrality of inspector's situation, combined with the well- known and most effectual contrivances for seeing without being seen" (Bentham and Bozovic 43). According to Bentham's model of building, the prisoners always feels that there is an invisible eye observe them despite not seeing it. The feel of fear from being observed prevents any immoral or bad behaviour from inmates in the prison. The fear of being observed creates self-control in the prison. Although Bentham exerted great efforts throughout the years to develop this model, as a social reformist, the model was never built. In Turkle states that "individuals learn to look at themselves through the eyes of the prison guard" (Turkle 248), therefore, the constant surveillance leads to discipline and prevents any kinds of chaos, violence or immoral behaviour, although the inmates unsure of being watched or not as seen along these lines .

 According to his utilitarian philosophy, trying to achieve' the greatest happiness forth greatest number of people', Bentham saw punishment as evil in itself, allowed only if it excluded greater evil. In regard to the prison-panopticon, the specific architecture thus also served the goal of prisoners' liberation from more overtly Coercive forms of institutional violence, which were common at the time (Gallic, Timan and Koops 11)
The main goal of building Bentham's model is the realization of happiness. He criticized the physical punishment and considered it as evil thing as it has stated in the quotation above. His main goal was to prevent illegal or bad behaviour without resorting to physical punishment. The guard in the watcher tower is at the position of "seeing without being seen" (Bentham and Bozovic 10). Therefore, the presence of the guard affects well on the inmates' behaviour because of the constant surveillance from the guard as a result of his position that helps him to watch everywhere.

Michel Foucault a French historian and philosopher, one of the most influential thinkers of xx century. He has had strong influence not only in philosophy but also in a wide range of humanistic and social scientific disciplines. Discipline &Punish: The Birth of the Prison, which was published by Foucault in 1975. Foucault's book provides analysis of the historical development of the modern penal systems and its move from execustion to incarceration and total control of criminals. Foucault demonstrates the ways in which strict discipline and morals have transformed the agency of punishment from the corporeal to spiritual. In this book, Foucault examines the system of state control in its social context and explains the connection between the gradual transition from centralized power to democratic rule and the changes in how societies punish their criminals." physical pain, the pain of the body itself, is no longer the constituent element of the penalty" (Foucault 11). Foucault provides a detailed account of the global transition from capital punishment to imprisonment, and explains how total control over criminals and strict discipline conditioned the substitution of physical chastisement with psychological punishment. similarly, the surveillance that is enforced in the contemporary society. The fear of being punished and caught leads to changing in people's actions and behaviour. The constant surveillance according to Foucault point of view increases productivity and makes people avoiding any kind of immoral behaviour and mistakes at work. The bad conditions of people in modern society under the constant surveillance by electronic devices that surveil people are similar to the conditions of prisoners in Bentham's panoptical model because the constant surveillance that is used to enforce discipline affects people psychologically according to Foucault. In contemporary societies, the spread of modern electronic devices such as cameras that are used to monitor everything and are found everywhere such as banks, school, stores, hospitals, and shopping centers. Cameras make people more careful to avoid committing any immoral behaviours or illegal actions. To clarify, If the student at school thinks there is a camera which monitors him/ her, the student will avoid committing any bad behaviours because of the fear of being

punished. As Hope states, "Largely influenced by a growth in new communications technology and data-processing systems, the form, reach (both temporal and spatial) and purposes of surveillance have changing much in recent years" (361). In contemporary societies modern communications and data systems are responsible for the constant surveillance, new electronic devices which are connected with cameras surveil people everywhere they go.

The thought that there is an invisible eye always leads to self-control, self-regulation and self-governance. As Foucault states that in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of Prison*," Bentham's panopticon is the architectural figure of this composition" (200). It is not necessary for the prisoners to know they are watched or not. They always should feel that they are under a constant surveillance and observation. Similarly, people in contemporary societies behave well as if they were being watched. The similarity between the prisoners in the panopticon and people in modern society is to behave well and avoid committing any immoral or bad actions because of the fear of being caught and punished. As Foucault states, the individual in the panopticon model of Bentham is "alone perfectly individualized and constantly visible" (200), the prisoner is always visible despite isolation in a cell. In this work, Foucault states that in contemporary societies, the authority prefers enforcing their authority psychologically rather than physically, so the discipline depends on observation and examination in contemporary societies.

The circle is a dystopian novel written by Dave Eggers and published in2013. It depicts a totalitarian world run by the Circle, an incredibly powerful company that "changed" the internet almost overnight. The novel is based on the experiences of a young girl, Mae Holland and the situation of technology in today's world. In this novel, Eggers portrays an oppressive system which controls the people through hidden cameras. The novel is written in third-person narration and most of the events happen at the Circle campus in California. The reader notices how a system

becomes oppressive because of technology. The novel focuses on the protagonist who has newly hired in The Circle thanks to the influence of her friend Annie who has a high position in the company. Mae works in Customer experiences but her social activity online and at events is equally important to the company. The internet company has three chief executive officers who are known as three wise men. Ty cospodinove is the original of the Three Wise Men develops True You, and founds the Circle. Despite being the youngest one of three wise men, Ty known as "brilliant management master" (Eggers 15), he is about thirty, rarely seen in the public, is brilliant, and many believe he has a slight case of Asperger's syndrome. Eamon Bailey, is the third of the Three Wise Men, brought onto the Circle by Ty in order to give the company a gentle human face, and to serve as a moral and emotional inspirational. Bailey is a wolf in sheep's clothing. He emotionally and mentally manipulates people to his will, and has his best success with Mae, whom he completely brainwashes into unfettered loyalty for the Circle. Tom Stenton, who is the second of three Wise Men, brought onto the Circle by Ty in order to give the company a better business footing and future, and to increase the company's value, is not married, and has the business personality of a shark and describes himself as Capitalist Prime.

There are other characters such as Francis, who is a programmer who works in security applications at the Circle. He meets Mae during a party at the Circle campus, and the two eventually begin a relationship, though their relationship is bumpy at times. He tries to save children by inventing Child Track which prevents children from kidnapping. Also, there are other characters such as Mae's ex-boyfriend Mercer and other employees in the company. Mae's life changes completely after working in the Circle. The Circle offers many facilities for her including insurance for her father who suffers from multiple sclerosis. Mae is surprised there are lots of opportunities for the employees inside the Circle. The circlers are attached to social media so much. Also, the Circlers are given an account about where they are, what they are doing. Moreover, there is participation rank among employees. This rank is

determined by their likes, dislikes, frowns, comments and shares. The main cause of the employees' attachment to social media is the desire to know everything. One of the slogans of the company is that "all that happens must be known" (The Circle 40). The Circlers try to share every moment of their lives through social media accounts. In the beginning, Mae faces difficulty in adapting the system of the Circle, but after a short time she becomes the one who supports the system of the company by sharing every moment of her life with millions of people.

Instead, he puts all of every user's needs and tools, into one pot and invented True You- one account, one identity, one password, one payment system per person there were no more passwords, no multiple identities. Your devices knew who you were, and your one identity _the True You, unbendable and unmask able -was the person paying, signing up, responding. Viewing and reviewing, seeing and being seen. You had no use your real name, and this was tied your credit cards, your bank, and thus paying for anything was simple. One button for the rest of your life Online (The Circle 88).

The Circle is an internet company specialized in social media. The Circle compromises all functions of social media in its first innovative idea: 'True You' (The Circle 21). The system that Ty Gospodinov, the first of the leaders of the company: the Three Wise Men. 'True You' connects each person with online account and thus makes it impossible to be anonymous online: 'one account, one identity, one password, one payment system, per person' (The Circle 21). There is no need for multiple accounts on different websites: email, social media, and even user's bank account is connected. By inventing this, the Circle Makes other social media sites unnecessary: the Circle 'subsumed Facebook, twitter, Google, and finally Alacrity, Zoopa, Jefe, and Quan.' (The circle 23). True You is considered the beginning of oppressive system. Another example which reveals the aim of the company is LuvLuv that is created by one of the employees in the Circle whose name is Gus Khazeni. It is a software that is currently

being tested by The Circle, and it allows users to search up any information about their dates based on what they post, like, or mention on the internet. Gus, the presenter of LuvLuv states that the software "scans the web and uses some high powered and very surgical search machinery" to ensure that a person would not get rejected by their significant other (Eggers 121). Francis is volunteered to search up information about Mae in front of everybody else without her permission which made her furious. This application is used through social media because everything about people can be known through social media.

As the main goal of the company is to observe people and know everything around the world. The company the Circle introduces other innovations such as See Change camera. See Change cameras permit anyone visual access to any place at any time. This system is used in all fields of life such as politics, economy, education and health. By Putting these cameras somewhere in the world, people are able to watch everything is happening around them. Eamon Bailey states that Circle technologies like the See Change camera system will create social justice by exposing unjust activities and making easier for perpetrators to be held accountable. Because of putting cameras in a hidden place, people can watch the protests in Egypt. Eamon Baily states that "who would commit a crime knowing they might be watched anytime, anywhere?" (The Circle 40). The main goal behind inventing the See Change camera is to surveil people around the world. The idea of See Change Camera is similar to the idea of panopticon for Michel Foucault. Foucault tells us that makes panopticon particularly effective is the fact that there doesn't need to be anyone in central tower at all in order for the system to work. As long as the prisoners believe that they're being watched, they'll behave well, as Eamon Baily thoughts on the See Change system.

 "It is. And now." The doctor said, tapping Mae's wrist monitor, "now it's active. It'll Collect data on your heart rate, blood pressure, cholesterol, heat fux, caloric intake, Sleep duration, sleep quality, digestive efficiency, on and on. A nice thing for the Circlers, especially those like you who might have occasionally

stressful jobs, is that it measures galvanic skin response, which allows you to know when you're amped or anxious (The Circle 88).

One of the important events that reflect the main goal of the company the Circle to observe people is Mae's visit to the clinic of Dr Villalobos, the doctor of the Circle gives her a wrist monitor, the sensor is so small, so Mae cannot notice this sensor when she swallows it. Dr Villalobos informs Mae that this wrist monitor will collect data about her heart rate, blood pressure, cholesterol, sleep duration and sleep quality. The hidden goal behind this wrist monitor is to collect information about people in all fields of life. Furthermore, The Circle affects the politicians, Eamon Bailey states that in front of people how the Circle interferes in politics by inviting the congresswoman Olivia Santos to the stage who volunteers to "go clear" and to be surveilled at all times by carrying camera as a necklace. She wants to prove that she has nothing to hide. Eamon asks Senator Santos this question: "So you're saying that every conversation, every meeting, every part of your day will broadcast?" (The Circle 117). she answers the question by saying that "Yes. It will all be available on my Circle page. Every moment till I sleep." (The Circle 117). The conversation between Eamon Baily and Santos shows that Senator santos decides to realize transparency by sharing every moment of her live through her Circle page as a political personality. Other political figures will be under strict pressure after Senator Santos, people will invite all political figures to go transparent and share every moment of their lives. Here, there is a close relationship between going transparent in the novel *The Circle* and the Foucault's panopticon theory. People invites political figures to be observable all time like the prisoners in Foucault's panopticon theory. People wants to know everything about the political figures like what they are doing, what they are talking, and what they are meeting during the day. The spread of the camera in all places prevents all negative or bad behaviours, people will be fear of being caught and punished. As Foucault comments about the individual in panopticon model of Bentham in Discipline and Punish "He is seen, but he does not see" (Foucault 200), such as

people in the Circle are seen through camera. Cameras are represented the psychological punishment for people inside the Circle and outside the Circle. People always are under strict pressure because of cameras, they are afraid of being caught and punished. Also, when Mae participates in the See Change project, she is fully submerged in the panopticon and is constantly visible. Foucault examines this idea in his study on power Discipline and punish: he concludes that the effect of the panopticon is 'to induce in the inmate a state of conscience and permeant visibility that assures the automatic functioning of power' (Foucault 201). The novel criticizes the effects of social media and presents the Circle as a totalitarian surveillance state. The surveillance in the Circle creates panopticon.

The main goal of the company is the realization of transparency, this aim leads to go transparent. Mae decides to go kayaking takes the canoe to an isolated island. When Mae goes back at the shore in her Kayak, she is confronted by the police who had been tipped of both by an anonymous caller and from a See Change camera that had been posted on the beach. After the confrontation between Mae and Eamon Bailey concerning Kayaking trip, Mae decides go transparent and to wear a camera. According to Bailey there should not be secrets in life, Bailey says that "But my point is, what if we behaved as if we were being watched? It would lead to a more moral way of life. Who would do something unethical or immoral or illegal if they were being watched?" (The Circle 116). His idea of being watched and observed is similar to Foucault's theory. From Eamon's point of view the constant surveillance makes people behave well and avoid committing any bad or illegal behaviour. After deciding to go transparent, Mae and Eamon Bailey declare the slogans of the transparency.

SECRETS ARE LIES

SHARING IS CARING

PRIVACY IS THEFT (The Circle 168).

These three slogans indicate the policy of the company the Circle, The Circle's main aim is to make people share every moment of their lives. Everything must be known and there is no place for privacy according to the policy of the company the Circle and the main policy of the contemporary societies that are controlled by modern technology. After kayaking trip, Mae decides to go transparent and people watch every moment of her life. The only time that she can be salient is the three minutes in the bathroom. Mae is happy of being watched because she can avoid bad and illegal behaviour. "And she it freeing. She is liberated from bad behaviour. She was liberated from doing things she didn't want to be doing, eating and drinking things that did her no good" (The Circle 181). For Mae, Camera is considered a deterrent for bad and immoral behaviours which lead to the criticism of people who watch her. Avoiding any bad or immoral behaviours because of the fear from constant surveillance is similar to prisoners in the panopticon:

The panopticon is a highly efficient instrument for controlling and influencing.
Individual behaviour, as the assumption of being observed is often sufficient to induce the expected behaviour. In other words, the panopticon principles Creates self-discipline, that is, the observed person exercises behavioral Self-discipline, that is, the observed person exercises behavioral self-control (Without necessarily internalizing the norms of the observers) (Jacobs and Heraceous 114).

Panopticon leads to self-control and avoiding any bad or immoral behaviour because the feeling of being surveilled needs more careful. The system in the Circle is like a panopticon because constant surveillance affects people's deeds. Mae cannot eat brownie or speaks to Annie because of the constant surveillance, the only place she can speak to Annie is the bathroom. The effect of the constant surveillance in the Circle is completely similar to the prisoners under constant observation who tries to avoid any bad deeds according to Foucault's Panopticism theory. One of the

bad effects of the constant surveillance is the loss of relationship with family. Her family decides to avoid her after they are watched having a sexual relationship in Mae's camera. The only one who is against the main policy of the Circle which supports the constant surveillance for all people. Mercer explains his opposition for the policy of the Circle in a letter to Mae: "You and your ilk will live, willingly, joyfully, under constant surveillance, watching each other always, commenting on each other, voting and liking and disliking each other, smiling, and frowning, and otherwise doing nothing much else" (Eggers 201). Here Mercer criticizes people in contemporary societies who likes living in the prison of the modern technology. According to Mercer people and Mae in contemporary societies are interested in trivial things such as likes, dislikes, and frowns to each other. The constant surveillance is the main cause of Mercer's death, when Mae orders the drones to find him. As Gouck argues," The Circle, as is particularly evident in the death of Mae's ex-boyfriend. As he is relentlessly pursued by Mae's all-seeing technology, Mercer literally drives himself into a valley of destruction" (The Circle 59). Tracking Mercer by modern technology is to enforce him to follow the policy of the Circle and the constant surveillance but the death is the result of his opposition. Mercer is different from other circlers because he is against oppressive system which other Circlers follow. Mae considers transparency is a good habit because it helps people to control themselves and avoid committing any bad behaviour. In the end of the novel, she states that:

The tear was not knowing. Not knowing who would love her and for how long the tear was the madness of not knowing _not knowing who khalden was, not Knowing Mercer's mind, Annie's mind, her plans {…} It was not knowing That was the seed of madness, loneliness, suspicion, fear. But there were ways to solve all this (The Circle 253).

This quotation reflects Mae's ideas about knowing clear. According to Mae not knowing is like a tear and leads to madness, suspicion and fear. As a Circler she thinks that knowledge is a

basic human right (167), therefore, they should know everything. The Circle uses a strict surveillance over their employees which converts the system inside the Circle into oppressive system. The obvious aim of the Circle is knowing everything not only inside the Circle but also in all fields of life such as politics, education and health. In his novel Discipline and punish: Birth of prison, Foucault says that surveillance leads to self-control and self-governance which are the main obstacles of privacy. When people feel that there is a camera, they live under strict pressure and they avoid doing any bad or immoral behaviour and they are not able to do what they want. Lyon states that "Surveillance has spilled out of its old-nation state container to become a feature of everyday life, at work, at home, at play, on the move" (Lyon 13). Employees in the Circle encounters camera everywhere they go in the garden, cafeteria and offices. Also, Margret Atwood in her excellent review of The Circle points out, "literary structures of glass, or its close cousin ice, are never reassuring". surveillance has become an important part of everyday life. Surveillance prevents doing bad or immoral behaviour because people are unable to do what they want. In the novel, the circle, See Change Cameras are able to catch any immoral behaviours and can catch the criminal in a short time. Similarly, contemporary societies, modern technologies are able to catch any bad behaviour and the criminals in a short time. However, surveillance and observation are obstacles for the privacy of people in the novel. In the beginning of the novel, Mae has difficulty in sharing everything on social media but in the end of the novel, she has an important part in completing the Circle and revealing the real personality of Khalden who hides his personality until the end of the novel as a supporter of the goal of the Circle.

Conclusion

 The panopticon is a conceptual prison that was created by Jeremy Bentham in 1785. The main idea of this prison was that the guards would be able to view and monitor all prisoner activity from one location. In this prison, a tower was placed in the center and the cells were built around it from the tower, the guards could see into

every room and monitor their activity. But the inmates were unable to see into the tower. It is assumed that the prisoners would always be on their best behaviour because they could never sure if they were being watched. While in Michel Foucault's work Discipline and punish, he uses the panopticon to describe how modern-day institutions and society in general use separation and the threat of surveillance to control its citizens. He states that discipline is based on surveillance and observation which is considered psychological control rather than physical punishment. The feel of being watched leads to self-control and self-regulation as Bentham. He states that surveillance is the main cause of discipline in contemporary societies because of the spread of modern devices that surveil people such as cameras. Dave Eggers' The circle enforces the theory of panopticon by using modern electronic devices and social media to observe people everywhere. Surveillance by using modern technology in the Circle is responsible for discipline. Employees in the Circle avoid committing any bad or immoral behaviour because the fear of being caught or punished. Because of the constant surveillance, people have become prisoners in their own lives .They live as inmates like prisoners in Bentham's model who are under control all time. People in modern societies are surveilled willingly because they want to share every moment of their lives on social media such as Mae Holland the protagonist of the novel who supports the Circle's policy in knowing everything. Mae decides to go transparent and to show every moment of her daily life for people by using See Chang Camera. It is clear that Eggers' novel *The Circle* is similar to Bentham's model and Foucault's theory. people in the novel *The Circle* are constantly surveilled and they avoid doing anything wrong because the feel of being observed by cameras like the prisoners in Bentham's model and Foucault's panopticon.

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