



The Criticalness Of Surveillance From Jack To Roan In Susan Mihalic's *Dark Horses*

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Abstract

This study aims to examine how the concept of surveillance is carried out by Montgomery in his role as the father figure with authority in the novel *Dark Horses* by Susan Mihalic in 2021. The researchers use a qualitative method and explorative approach, focusing on contexts and in-depth subjective interpretations. The surveillance is supported by Michel Foucault's ideas on surveillance, normalization, and disciplinary actions. The analysis looks at how Jack, Roan's father, uses surveillance to control Roan's behavior and enforce normalization and disciplinary actions. This surveillance reflects the father's role as the authoritative figure in the family as reflection of governmentality. In conclusion, the study confirms that Jack's surveillance over Roan proves a father can control the actions and behavior of family members to ensure they follow his rules and desires.

Keywords Dark Horses, Michel Foucault, Surveillance, Susan Mihalic

INTRODUCTION

Surveillance is the act of monitoring or observing individuals, groups, or areas with a specific purpose. Usually, surveillance is conducted openly, either directly, face-to-face, or using technological mediation. Surveillance can also be done secretly, so the people being monitored are unaware that they are being watched or observed (De Moya & Pallud, 2020; Foucault, 2020; Lyon, 2007). The same opinion was expressed by Michel Foucault (1975) that power in modern society is no longer about physical violence, but more about control and disciplinary regulation of rules desired by those in authority through surveillance. Through this method, it works more subtly and makes people feel like they are always being watched. According to Foucault, surveillance becomes part of what he calls Disciplinary Power (De Moya & Pallud, 2020; Foucault, 2020). This means that surveillance is no longer only conducted by institutions such as the government or police, but can also be internalized by individuals within society.

Surveillant actions that are carried out secretly and continuously can force individuals to regulate themselves. Therefore, to make someone able to regulate or discipline themselves, several techniques in surveillance are needed, such as normalization and disciplinary action. Normalization is the process where individuals or groups establish standards of behavior, morals, and ways of thinking that are considered 'normal' or desirable (De Moya & Pallud, 2020; Foucault, 2020; Taylor, 2009). In this stage, a person sees something as normal or acceptable to desire or do. Meanwhile, disciplinary action is a series of steps taken to address violations of rules, policies, or norms set by an authority. This action aims to enforce compliance, maintain order, and prevent future violations.

In this study, the researchers use a novel titled *Dark Horses* written by Susan Mihalic which was published in 2021. It tells the story of Roan Montgomery, a 15-year-old girl who is a gifted equestrian and Olympic hopeful. Roan's life revolves around competitive horseback riding, but she also faces a dark and abusive relationship with her father, Monty, who is both her coach and abuser. The novel explores Roan's struggles as she navigates the complexities of her ambitions and the trauma she endures. Her father maintains a controlling influence over every aspect of her life, manipulating her emotionally and physically. As Roan grows older and starts to recognize the toxic nature of their relationship, she begins to seek independence and freedom from his grasp (Mihalic, 2021).

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach to examine certain concepts and written data address the research question. It explains the significance of the surveillance from Jack to Roan in Susan Mihalic's *Dark Horses*. The data for analysis is obtained by closed reading the whole content of the novel and reading the narrative from Jack to Roan. This article provides quotations from the novel and the sources that support the analysis. Content analysis is used as the technique of data analysis to underline Jack's idea of surveillance to Roan in Mihalic's novel.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Enforced Power from Jack to Roan in *Dark Horses*



The focus of the findings and discussion here is to analyze the novel of Susan Mihalic's *Dark Horses* from Jack to Roan. The researchers aim to explain the topic consisted in the main character, Jack Montgomery by showing how significant the surveillance he did to Roan, his daughter in the following text below:

Data 1

Still valid, but Jasper and I weren't in immediate danger. All I had to do was ride the way he told me. I could do that. (Mihalic, 2021: 23)

Roan acknowledges that her father has a deep understanding of horseback riding and has written "The Book on Eventing," which shows that she views her father's guidance and instructions as norms to follow. These norms include the correct way to ride and the expected behavior. When Roan feels threatened by the possibility of losing her horse, Jasper, she starts to follow her father's instructions. She realizes that to maintain a good relationship with her father and keep her horse, she must adhere to the norms set by Montgomery. Roan considers her father's actions as correct and feels the need to follow these rules. She not only follows the instructions but also tries to improve her attitude, showing that she has adjusted herself to the expected norms. It also proves that, beyond the father-daughter relationship, the power dynamicity between them is crucial.

Data 2

"You lucked out, darlin'." (Mihalic, 2021: 28)

When Montgomery says, "You lucked out, darlin'," he makes a comment that seems to belittle Roan's victory. This statement implies that Roan is considered merely lucky, not the result of consistent effort and skill. It suggests that Roan's success in the competition is something temporary and cannot be regarded as a guarantee of future success. Roan realizes that her father's remark implies she must work harder. Roan experiences the "glow of winning" or the fading sense of victory after hearing this comment. This indicates that, despite her pleasure in the victory, this feeling diminishes due to the awareness that winning alone is not enough to secure her future. Montgomery's comment highlights the pressure Roan feels to prove herself. It suggests that she must constantly strive for excellence to meet her father's expectations.

Data 3

Also normal: washing dishes after supper, studying, Daddy stopping by my room later to say good night. But no matter how tightly I held on to normal, abnormal always there. He was going to kiss me. I parted my lips slightly. (Mihalic, 2021: 52)

Roan describes her routine activities with her father, such as riding out, doing chores, and studying, as part of their "normal" life. However, the mention of "abnormal always there" suggests an underlying discomfort or unease that disrupts this normalcy. The interaction where her father tilts her face and is about to kiss her introduces a moment of intimacy that feels both familiar and unsettling for Roan. This juxtaposition of normal routines with the intrusion of an intimate gesture highlights the tension Roan experiences between her daily life and the disturbing elements that complicate her sense of normalcy.

Data 4

"I don't want Daddy to find out." (Mihalic, 2021: 114)

Roan feels worried when she is with Will in public, even though her father is not by her side. Anyone who knows Roan and her father could complain about Roan and Will's closeness to Montgomery. This makes Roan scared and monitors her own actions in public. Her conversation with Will reflects her reluctance to show closeness with a man in public because she fears that her father, Montgomery, will find out. This reflects Roan's fear and vigilance regarding her father's surveillance, even when there is no direct threat or actual observation. Roan consciously avoids actions that could be known to her father, showing that Montgomery's influence is so strong that it regulates Roan's actions, even in her personal life. The intertwinements of normal and abnormal experiences can be deeply unsettling for Roan. It may contribute to feelings of confusion and isolation.

Data 5

"I have goals. I'm focused, I'm determined, and I work hard. What's wrong with that?" (Mihalic, 2021: 120)

The dialogue between Roan and the psychologist reveals how powerful her father, Montgomery's, influence is in shaping Roan's views and behaviors through mechanisms of governmentality. When the psychologist tries to delve deeper into Roan's personal life and the pressures she might feel, Roan automatically defends her father and denies any excessive pressure. She emphasizes that dedication and focus on her goals are normal and positive, showing how she has internalized her father's expectations as norms to follow.

Data 6

"That's not what I meant. He'll know something's up." (Mihalic, 2021: 179)

The discourse conveyed by her father about 'not being friends with any boys' becomes a form of control ordered by her father and must be obeyed. Roan understands the consequences of breaking her father's rules, so when

Will visits the house, Roan shows tension and worries about the presence of someone she considers dangerous or inappropriate in her situation. Even though the person tries to calm Roan with humor and familiarity, Roan remains firm in her belief that the person's presence will cause problems or be suspected by others, most likely Montgomery, who may be very protective or controlling of her life. Roan is certain that their actions will be exposed, indicating fear and vigilance regarding surveillance and potential consequences.

Data 7

"It doesn't sound like you."

"But I wrote it."

"I'll fix it when I post it." (Mihalic, 2021: 191)

Montgomery gives Roan the opportunity to write her own blog. This is one of Montgomery's deliberate ways of showing that he controls everything Roan needs. The image he builds through social media is for Roan's career and success. He knows more than Roan. Through this dialogue, Roan feels discomfort when her father, Montgomery, corrects her writing to ensure that the public image they present matches the persona they have built together. Montgomery emphasizes that what is shown to the public is not entirely Roan's true self but a polished version to protect her. Roan feels confused and possibly a bit offended because she believes she has been honest in presenting herself. However, Montgomery stresses the importance of maintaining the "façade" or outward appearance to protect her image and reputation. This shows how Montgomery controls how Roan is perceived by the public, even if it means modifying or directing perceptions of her.

Data 8

"Night. Oh, darlin' were you researching Stephen Crane today?" (Mihalic, 2021: 221)

Montgomery deliberately checks the computer's search history. He checks what Roan is doing on his computer, indicating that he closely monitors his own daughter, especially when she is home alone. Through this dialogue, Roan feels surprised and possibly a bit anxious when her father, Montgomery, questions her about her search related to Stephen Crane. Montgomery seems to know Roan's computer activities when she is alone at home, showing a very high and strict level of surveillance from Montgomery towards Roan. The question "Did he check on the computer every time I'd been alone in the house?" indicates that Roan feels constantly watched, even when she is home alone.

Data 9

"Frank regrets selling him," he said.

He was threatening me. (Mihalic, 2021: 23)

Roan disobeys her father's order. In the horse race, Roan wins the match but stops at the wrong time. Montgomery resorts to disciplinary action by threatening to sell Jasper. Her father's words scare Roan; she realizes that she is being threatened, so the threat makes her correct her attitude and decide not to repeat the mistake again. Through this dialogue, Montgomery applies disciplinary control to Roan. He determines the behavior that Roan should follow, but because of this deviant behavior, she is threatened and will face disciplinary action if she goes against it. Indirectly, this attitude creates standards of behavior that Roan must see as the 'right' or normal way to act. The goal is to make Roan afraid so that she fulfills her father's norms.

Data 10

"You can't allow it to happen again. What if it happens at show?, If you have a breakdown in public, the sponsors won't like it" Daddy said. (Mihalic, 2021: 170)

Roan has an accident because she makes a mistake during her horse-riding training. She falls and gets injured, which leads to her being rushed to the hospital. The accident happens under her father's surveillance; he witnesses the accident himself. The dialogue above is an evaluation and criticism directed at Roan. Montgomery criticizes Roan for losing focus and experiencing what he calls a "panic attack" during training. He emphasizes that emotional or mental instability is unacceptable when Roan is handling a large horse, as it could negatively impact public performance and sponsor support. Montgomery uses the threat of damaging her reputation and losing sponsors to enforce discipline, ensuring that Roan understands the importance of self-control and consistency in her performance. This action aims to reinforce the high standards expected of her and prevent similar mistakes in the future.

Data 11

"About school, darlin'... you're not going back. You'll take your finals with a proctor. Starting this summer, you'll attend classes online. I won't let you throw away your future because of Will Howard. I'm not letting you out of my sight." (Mihalic, 2021: 295)

This dialogue occurs after Roan is caught by her father with Will's cellphone and in a relationship with Will. Knowing this, Montgomery becomes very angry, so he commits sexual violence against Roan, and Roan is unable to fight back. The sexual violence Montgomery commits against Roan is a form of punishment for Roan's mistake. This punishment makes Roan submit to her father. Because of this incident, Roan loses her horse on the day of the equestrian

competition. Her father does not give Roan the opportunity to grieve any longer; he orders Roan to return to being productive and even more productive than before. Realizing that Roan is disobedient and violates the rule he set for her that 'it is forbidden to be close to boys,' this activates a surveillance attitude and stricter control, leading him to decide that Roan is prohibited from going to school. This is done to make Roan obey him.

Data 12

"I'll push you right to the edge sometimes," he said, "but I'll make you the best.
(Mihalic, 2021: 215)

Roan understands that Will's presence threatens her father's position, so her father resorts to violence against her again. Montgomery asserts his commitment to pushing Roan to her limits to achieve success, explaining that life is not just a hobby but something that requires total dedication. He threatens that losing focus, especially due to personal factors like a relationship with a man, can hinder Roan's achievements. Montgomery explains that Roan must follow all instructions, from horse-riding training, attending school, posing for the camera, to obeying all his orders. Roan, even though she experiences headaches and tension, expresses her willingness to do whatever it takes to achieve this goal. This dialogue shows how Montgomery imposes strict control and high expectations, and how Roan feels compelled to meet the standards set for her.

Data 13

He'd done it. He'd sold Jasper back to Frank. (Mihalic, 2021: 243)

This is evidence that Montgomery punishes Roan for her disobedience or realizes that Roan is starting to resist her father. Roan never decides to hand over Jasper to Frank, but her father decides this for Roan, without her consent. Montgomery feels that Roan is starting to lose focus because of the boy, and Roan starts making her own decisions about her hair. This makes Montgomery punish Roan by taking Jasper away from her. This is done to make Roan obey her father again. This is a punishment so that her father can maintain power over Roan. As a father and experienced horse rider, Montgomery holds a position of authority. His actions demonstrate that he has the power to control Roan's life and make decisions for her, even when she disagrees.

Data 14

"You need to know something. You're mine. If you don't want Will Howard to get hurt, stay away from him. A word to the wise, darlm. Don't threaten me. And don't underestimate me." (Mihalic, 2021: 276)

This occurs after Roan is treated roughly in an intimate manner. Roan has to do what her father wants. This is because her father is jealous after Roan's secret with Will is revealed. Her father finds the cellphone that Will gives her in her bag and reads all the conversations. Montgomery is furious and rape Roan, Roan refuse but she doesn't have the strength to fight back. This is evidence that Montgomery used threats to take disciplinary action against Roan. The threat is a tool that Montgomery uses to make Roan obey. It is like the punishment her father gives her for disobeying his orders. Montgomery's control over Roan is not only physical but also psychological. His threats and intimidations are designed to plant fear and submission within her own self.

Data 15

I was in no condition to compete. When I'd told Daddy this morning I needed to withdraw, he'd said, "You want to keep your horse?" (Mihalic, 2021: 276)

Montgomery uses his control to get what he wants. He rapes Roan the day after he finds out that Roan breaks the rules he sets. He finds the cellphone that Will gives her and reads the contents of their messages. This angers him, arouses his anger, and hurts Roan. Through the expression above, Roan realizes that all her father cares about is victory and profit for himself. Since then, Roan becomes increasingly convinced that her father is doing harm and uses threats to make her follow whatever he wants.

Governmentality and its Significances on Surveillance

In terms of governmentality, surveillance is a control mechanism that aims to make individual behavior disciplined. In this case, the form of control exercised over individuals is no longer carried out through coercion. Foucault gave an example of this through the 'Panopticon', which is like an inanimate object, a tool that does not move and makes no sound. This tool can collect every information of the prisoners (Napitupulu et al., 2024; Siregar, 2021). This tool can be used to monitor each prisoner, so that through this tool it can influence each person to maintain and control how they act. For example, in school, a teacher surveillance student taking exams, or when parents supervise their children's activities at home. This surveillance creates a feeling of being constantly watched, which ultimately causes the individual to internalize the behavioral norms expected by the authority.

Foucault explored this concept through his book *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of The Prison* (1975). In his analysis, he explains how surveillance dominates control in society. It is used as a means to subdue individuals so as to produce an obedient and trained body, an obedient body (Foucault, 2006; Wasihun, 2023). Therefore, surveillance is usually used to make people obey, control their every action and the way of their thinking. Another example can be used through this practice, there is one driver who does not wear a helmet when driving, a regulation has been

implemented by the authority owner that every driver must wear a helmet when driving. He was then reprimanded by other parties who upheld driving rules and then he felt guilty for not wearing a helmet. Through the example above, we can see that this authority remains strong without any interference by the owner of that authority. A person is not directly supervised but they then begin to supervise themselves (Foucault, 2006; Wasihun, 2023). This means that individuals who are successfully disciplined develop a sense of being supervised, which enables them to regulate and control their own behavior in accordance with established norms and rules.

Another sense of surveillance includes the idea of normalization as one of the main mechanisms of a control system that allows power to regulate and direct individuals or groups effectively. When surveillance and control over the body is applied to individuals or populations continuously and is carried out in subtle and hidden ways, this will form a normalization of actions where individuals internalize standards of behavior that are determined to be the 'correct or normal way' to act in behavior, thinking and appearance (Foucault, 2006; Oktafiani & Pasopati, 2024; Wasihun, 2023). This action is considered part of the surveillance mechanism because the normalization process creates standards that must be followed. Surveillance then functions to ensure that individuals adhere to the normalized norms. In other words, surveillance is often necessary to ensure that the normalization process is successful and that individuals continue to follow the established standards.

In short, normalization can be said to be a condition where the standards of behavior set by authority are enforced by the individual himself. The main goal is to increase each individual's mastery over his or her own body (Foucault, 2006; Oktafiani & Pasopati, 2024; Wasihun, 2023). Therefore, those who may be indicated as deviating from established norms will be sanctioned or corrected and punished, because through punishment a person is forced to be in accordance with what they should naturally be, that is why disciplinary punishment becomes normalization.

Moreover, normalization works along with surveillance through the concept of discipline that uses sanctions as a tool to reinforce norms and correct deviant behavior. This sanction can be in the form of physical punishment, such as imprisonment or more subtle sanctions, such as being demoted from a job position (Hafeez & Liaqat, 2022; Hanno, 2023; Pasopati et al., 2022). Those who fail to conform to norms, they may be considered sick, criminal or abnormal, bad people and treated in a way that makes them cornered, neglected and excluded from social life. If deviations occur, this can trigger changes in power structures and societal norms. The normalization process is considered to fail when individuals or society begin to deviate from established norms. In this way, disciplinary techniques appear not as deduction but as synthesis (Foucault, 2006; Oktafiani & Pasopati, 2024; Wasihun, 2023). This means that disciplinary power functions to shape behavior, namely to create new and more complex order or control.

Disciplinary measures will be toughened to bring individuals back into the established rules. The disciplinary action in question can be in the form of a punishment to make the individual submit again. Punishments are usually given from light to more severe punishments. Re-education will be necessary to correct deviant behavior. The process when individuals succeed in correcting themselves, this will guarantee the process of redefining individuals as legal objects (Hafeez & Liaqat, 2022; Hanno, 2023; Pasopati et al., 2022). The goal is to isolate, correct, change individual behavior to conform to established norms. Therefore, those who comply with the established rules can return to complying with the existing rules.

An authoritarian can also use rewards or incentives to encourage individuals to comply with established norms and standards. This can be in the form of bonuses, recognition and privileges given as rewards. Rewards create an environment where individuals feel supervised even though the supervision is not always visible (Couch, 2020; Saputro et al., 2024; Syeda et al., 2020). The knowledge that rewards are given for certain behavior encourages individuals to behave in accordance with expectations even without direct supervision. Therefore, rewards can make individuals internalize established norms and regulate their own behavior.

Surveillance that is Normal as a Discipline from Jack to Roan in *Dark Horses*

This section examines the narrative of Jack Montgomery in Susan Mihalic's *Dark Horses* that shows the significance of surveillance to Roan. The aspects are explained below:

a. Normalization

In data 1, the quote above explains that Montgomery conducts surveillance by normalizing his actions. This means he perceives a particular situation as the truth. According to Foucault, this action makes the target control themselves, viewing the norm as the truth so they will monitor themselves to follow the established norms (Couch, 2020; Saputro et al., 2024; Syeda et al., 2020). This is proven by Roan; she not only follows the instructions but also tries to improve her attitude, showing that she has adjusted to the expected norms, thus becoming influenced by the surveillance implemented by Montgomery. This makes Roan more aware of her actions and strives to avoid violating the set norms. Roan internally monitors and evaluates her behavior to ensure she meets her father's expectations.

In data 2, the quote above shows that when Montgomery says, "You lucked out, darlin'," it reflects a form of subtle but effective surveillance. This comment not only belittles Roan's victory but also acts as a surveillance tool that instills doubt and self-awareness in Roan. Montgomery uses this remark to assert that Roan's success is not necessarily due to consistent skill and effort but merely temporary luck. Surveillance in this context is not done through direct physical observation but through the psychological influence created by her father's comment. This aligns with Foucault's concept of surveillance not always being physical but can involve social and psychological control mechanisms that make individuals feel continuously monitored or evaluated (Couch, 2020; Saputro et al., 2024; Syeda

et al., 2020). Montgomery, in this case, acts like Foucault's "Panopticon," an invisible yet always-present surveillance structure that makes Roan automatically monitor herself. When Roan feels the "glow of winning" fading after hearing her father's comment, it shows that the surveillance has successfully implanted a sense of fear and uncertainty in her. Roan starts to internalize the message that winning alone is not enough; she must continue to work hard to maintain her position and meet her father's expectations. This is an example of normalization, a process where Roan begins to regulate her behavior and thoughts according to the norms and standards set by Montgomery.

In data 3, the quote above shows that Montgomery's surveillance ensures that Roan not only follows the established norms but also internalizes them as part of her own identity. When Roan feels uncomfortable with her father's actions but still feels she must adhere to the routines and norms, it indicates that the normalization process through surveillance has succeeded. Roan starts to consider these actions as part of her daily life, even though she feels uneasy. Thus, this analysis shows that Montgomery's surveillance reinforces the normalization process by monitoring and regulating Roan's behavior, making it a part of her routines and expectations. This creates a feeling that, despite the discomfort, the norms set by Montgomery remain standards to follow, strengthening the control influence over Roan's life.

In data 4, the quote above, "No one was paying attention to us, but if they had been, they couldn't have seen our hands under the table," shows that even though there is no physical observation, Roan still feels monitored or evaluated, especially by her father. This reflects the internalization of control and surveillance instilled by Montgomery. Psychologically, Roan has adopted her father's norms and rules into her mind, so she automatically avoids behaviors that might not be approved by her father. As Foucault says, surveillance is a control mechanism aimed at disciplining individual behavior (De Moya & Pallud, 2020; Foucault, 2020; Lyon, 2007). In Roan's case, Montgomery's surveillance does not require direct coercion but through normative presence and expectations that Roan has internalized. This aligns with Foucault's concept of the Panopticon, where individuals feel continuously observed, leading them to automatically regulate and control their behavior according to expected norms. This process leads to normalization, where individuals like Roan gradually internalize behavioral standards set by authority (in this case, her father) as the "right" or "normal" way to act, think, and present themselves. Roan, fearing the consequences of actions that Montgomery might consider deviant, chooses to hide her closeness with Will, even without direct threats or observation. This shows that the surveillance and control implemented by Montgomery have successfully disciplined Roan to the point where she starts to monitor and regulate herself according to the norms she has internalized.

In data 5, the quote above explains that Montgomery's actions toward Roan have effectively shaped her behavior. In this case, surveillance becomes a tool to achieve normalization, and normalization is the end result of successful surveillance (De Moya & Pallud, 2020; Foucault, 2020; Lyon, 2007). Montgomery uses surveillance as a tool to control and monitor Roan's behavior. This surveillance is not always physically present but is strong enough to make Roan feel pressured to always meet her father's expectations and standards. Roan not only accepts this surveillance but also begins to defend and uphold these norms in her interactions with the psychologist. This shows that Montgomery's surveillance has internalized these norms into Roan, acknowledging that her father's actions are normal and correct, making these standards an important part of her identity.

In data 6, the quote above explains that Montgomery's surveillance has successfully created a condition where Roan feels watched even when she is not under direct observation. This leads to normalization, where Roan has internalized her father's norms and automatically adjusts her actions to meet these expectations. Thus, surveillance and normalization work together to shape and control Roan's behavior, creating a situation where Montgomery's authority remains strong even without physical presence or direct observation.

In data 7, the quote above shows that Montgomery's surveillance is subtle but effective. He uses surveillance not only to control Roan's actions directly but also to influence how Roan thinks about herself and how she should behave in public. Montgomery ensures that the public image produced aligns with the norms he deems important, and this becomes a mechanism for maintaining control over Roan's identity and actions. This process also shows how Roan gradually internalizes this surveillance, where she starts to doubt her own authenticity when faced with her father's set norms. This is evidence of how surveillance can reinforce social norms by creating a constant sense of vigilance (Foucault, 2006; Oktafiani & Pasopati, 2024; Wasihun, 2023). It includes where individuals feel continuously watched and controlled, even in seemingly simple actions like writing a blog.

In data 8, the quote above shows that Montgomery conducts surveillance as a reinforcement of the normalization actions he implements. This action implies that Montgomery not only controls the public and social aspects of Roan's life but also her privacy and personal freedom. The constant feeling of being watched, as stated in Roan's reaction to Montgomery's question, creates an effect similar to Foucault's 'panopticons.' Even though Montgomery may not always be physically present, the feeling that he can always check Roan's activities causes her to monitor and control her own behavior more strictly. This sense of being watched reinforces compliance with the applied norms, as Roan feels she must act according to Montgomery's expectations to avoid further consequences or surveillance.

b. Disciplinary Action

In data 9, the quote above shows that Montgomery uses discipline as a tool to shape and reinforce behavioral norms. Discipline in this context does not only mean direct punishment but also involves shaping desired behavior through psychological surveillance. Roan, after experiencing the threat, feels pressured to correct her attitude and

decisions to meet her father's expectations. This process illustrates how surveillance can be used to discipline individuals and reinforce norms through prevention and internalization (Foucault, 2006; Oktafiani & Pasopati, 2024; Wasihun, 2023). The threat to sell Jasper creates effective fear in influencing Roan's behavior. When Roan realizes that disobedience will result in serious consequences, she feels compelled to follow the norms set by Montgomery. Surveillance in this case creates fear that reinforces behavioral norms in a more subtle and psychological way. This fear makes Roan more likely to follow the rules and not violate the norms that have been established.

In data 10, the quote above shows that the disciplinary action taken by Montgomery, such as emphasizing the public and reputational consequences, serves to reinforce the desired norms. Roan is forced not only to understand but also to internalize these norms to maintain the high standards expected of her. The discipline imposed as a result of her violation aims to internalize these norms deeply so that Roan is more likely to adhere to the standards set without the need for direct supervision at all times. Surveillance and discipline function synergistically in this context of control (Napitupulu et al., 2024; Siregar, 2021). Montgomery's direct surveillance during the accident provides the basis for more stringent disciplinary action. By witnessing and then criticizing Roan, Montgomery strengthens his influence and ensures that Roan understands the consequences of disobedience. The discipline imposed, including the threat to her reputation and sponsors, reinforces the norms that Roan must follow and re-educates her about the mistakes she made, explaining the possible impact on her career. Montgomery does this to pressure Roan so she won't repeat her mistake again.

In data 11, the quote above shows how Montgomery uses disciplinary techniques to control and direct Roan's behavior. Montgomery uses sanctions to enforce the expected norms and behavior. This is a form of punishment that changes the context of Roan's life and aims to ensure that she complies with her father's expectations without interference from external factors like personal relationships (e.g., with Will Howard). Montgomery's statement about not letting Roan "out of his surveillance" shows his effort to maintain strict control over Roan's life. This is a form of surveillance designed to ensure that Roan stays on the prescribed path, remains unaffected by external factors, and is fully focused on training. This action reflects the power of surveillance and discipline used to ensure that Roan adheres to the high standards set by her father and corrects deviations from norms deemed unacceptable.

In data 12, the quote above shows that Montgomery uses threats as a disciplinary tool to ensure Roan follows the established norms. According to Foucault, threats function to regulate and supervise individual behavior, as seen when Montgomery emphasizes that Roan's life is not just a hobby and forces compliance with strict standards. Montgomery's control over Roan's daily activities, horse-riding training, school, and posing for the camera demonstrates comprehensive surveillance techniques. Foucault mentions that discipline creates an internal surveillance system where individuals feel constantly monitored and regulate their behavior according to norms (Foucault, 2020; Napitupulu et al., 2024; Siregar, 2021). With the statement "I'll push you right to the edge sometimes," Montgomery shows ongoing surveillance and pressure to ensure Roan meets expectations. This reflects Foucault's principle that disciplinary actions reinforce norms and control through strict surveillance and the internalization of expectations.

In data 13, the quote above shows that Montgomery carries out disciplinary action by taking Jasper, which is an example of how power is applied to restore control and obedience. Foucault argues that discipline is a form of power that not only hurts the body but also shapes the soul and mind of the individual (Foucault, 2020; Napitupulu et al., 2024; Siregar, 2021). Montgomery uses punishment to control Roan's actions and thoughts, preventing her from opposing or making her own decisions. To make Roan obey, he takes Jasper. This aligns with what Foucault calls "technologies of the body," which permeate everyday life to shape behavior according to desired norms. By punishing Roan and manipulating her environment (for example, by taking Jasper), Montgomery attempts to regulate and control Roan's behavior to suit his will and power, keeping Roan within the boundaries desired by his authority.

In data 14, the quote above shows that Montgomery's actions towards Roan are an example of disciplinary power applied with violence to regulate and control individuals. Sexual violence becomes an extreme tool to enforce obedience, showing how power can control and shape individuals in a very serious way (Foucault, 1975; Napitupulu et al., 2024; Siregar, 2021). Foucault observes that discipline involves deep control over individuals. Montgomery's use of violence shows an attempt to restore and maintain absolute control over Roan. By threatening and using violence, Montgomery ensures that Roan submits completely to his will and does not dare to resist again.

In data 15, through the quote above, Montgomery rapes Roan as a form of punishment for violating the norms and expectations he sets. Not only that, he also does not pay attention to the pain Roan feels because of his actions; he still forces Roan to take part in the horse competition. When Roan presents her argument for refusing to compete, Montgomery uses Jasper as a threat if Roan does not follow his orders. This threat is a form of disciplinary action that he uses as a tool to reinforce the norms and expectations he sets and correct deviant behavior.

From all data, theory, and analysis above, it is clear that anything that Jack does to Roan is a matter of surveillance. It is intended to make Roan obedient to him. By being obedient, the discipline is deeply planted that later also shapes a perspective in herself that any violence done to her is normal. It becomes such total control from a father to a daughter that actually worsens the relations in a family, though Roan later becomes such a successful athlete. It is not the love that is given to Roan, but coercive power that shapes illusive empowerment to herself. It is because Roan may still bear mental depravities though she has achieved her dream as a good sport.

CONCLUSION

The analysis in the novel *Dark Horses* by Susan Mihalic shows the significance of surveillance from Jack Montgomery to his daughter, Roan. He uses several techniques, such as using normalization to make Roan see her father's commands as something normal and disciplinary action as a tool to prevent her from disobeying his orders. Therefore, Jack uses surveillance to monitor Roan, watching her actions to ensure she always follows the rules and desires of her father. Anything that Jack does to Roan is a control that also normalizes any violence applied to her. If she refuses, further enforcement reflected in punishment will come to her as she becomes disobedient and rejects any control done against herself.

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