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MANIFESTATION OF THE UNCONSCIOUS: A PSYCHOANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE CHARACTERS IN 'CLEAR LIGHT OF THE DAY'

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ABSTRACT

This research paper analyzes the novel 'Clear Light of the Day' to explore the factors present in one's unconsciousness and their effects on personality development by using Freud's (psychoanalytic theory, 1910). Moreover, this research also aims at analyzing the major characters of the novel by applying Freud's Psychoanalytic theory of identifying the elements of personality, i.e., Id, Ego, and Superego in the said novel. It has been found that the memories and past events affect the characters' perception of almost everything. The researcher has tried to explain the problems faced by the Das siblings and their relationship with their parents after analyzing multiple factors including psychological, political, and familial that affect the characters' personality development and how these factors result into conflicts, grudges and hatred for their family members. The characters have been found struggling internally to cope with the evils present around them and balance it with goodness, and the stages in their struggle that manifests in the Id, Ego, and Superego development. It can be found that the characters' actions were the result of their past experiences which reside in their unconscious waiting for a chance to be manifested through their actions.

INTRODUCTION

One of the critical features that demarcates humans from the rest of the creatures is their distinctiveness from one another; every human being is unique and discrepant. This feature gives rise to many issues as humans tend to disagree in many ways, so understanding human behavior has always been a central concern. The most notable progress in this field happened when Freud (1899) proposed psychoanalysis and laid stress on the analysis of 'Psychoanalytical aspects' like Id, Ego and Super-ego that are crucial to humans' experiences and their perceptions of the world. In order to better understand a person, these psychoanalytical aspects are important to be taken into account. The paper is a detailed analysis of the manifestation of psychoanalytical aspects in humans' lives through the analysis of characters of the novel 'Clear Light of the Day'. It seeks to establish the presence of Freud's id, ego, and superego, as part of novel's structure, demarcating the recesses of the human psyche.

Anita Desai (1980) is an eminent writer of English fiction whose works portray women's issues and suffering masterfully. By the use of her unique approach to women psyche that she explores in her works, shows her deep understanding of the Indian women. This paper employs the descriptive and interpretative data analysis approach to explore the root causes of human beings' psychological conflicts and their effects on their actions with special reference to the novel. It focuses on the distressing events which are suppressed in the unconscious, i.e., in profound depths of the mind, waiting for a chance to become active and be realized through actions. Through the analysis of the 'Clear Light of the Day', the paper reflects the individual's sufferings, expectations, despairs, compromises that result in the formation of strong selves through various psychoanalytical processes.

Significance Of the Study

The study is significant because of its nature. It may encourage future researchers to help the future generation make up their minds and prepare themselves beforehand to face the problems arising in their families. Moreover, it can help the people in rectifying their familial problems.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the elements of the unconsciousness in the characters' behaviours and emotions.
2. To analyze the development and manifestation of Id, Ego, and Super-ego in the selected major characters of the text.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the factors of unconsciousness in the major characters of the Novel?
2. How do Id, Ego and Super-ego manifest themselves through the characters of the Novel?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

It is a qualitative research. The research employs the textual analysis method to interpret and describe the workings of the depth of the human mind and their effects on molding human lives. It analyzes the development of the human mind using Freud's (psychoanalytical theory, 1910) which deals with the psychological forces in human behavior and the person's feelings and emotions related to past happenings. It focuses on unconscious psychological actions and argues that childhood experiences are of the utmost importance in forming adult personality.

Theoretical Framework

The framework that has been employed for the study is psychoanalysis proposed by Sigmund Freud (Freud, 1910). Unequivocally, psychoanalysis has proved its efficacy in many fields, but the way it has made a difference in literary criticism is matchless. Many works of literature belonging to every genre have been analyzed in the light of psychoanalysis by many scholars. Though the studies under the rubric of psychoanalysis are underestimated, they reveal many important factors that help analyze a literary work. The approach helps one dive deep into a literary work's depths and come out with some fantastic factors hidden in a literary work. It not only considers the factors affecting the lives of the characters in the works under consideration but also considers the life of the writer from his birth till the time he writes that particular work. Hence this approach enables the researcher to analyze work from all the angles providing a better understanding of the work (Hussain, 2017).

Psychoanalysis analyzes all the events of a man's life and delves deep into the past. It lays stress on the importance of the unconscious in the thought process of a man's life. It proposes that whatever a person is today is because of the life experiences he has gone through in the past. Thus, in order to better understand a person, one can analyze his past experiences. All our pleasant and unpleasant experiences are stored and organized in our minds. Then, the pleasant experiences make a person happy, but the unpleasant ones keep on haunting him throughout his life. If he is a good person, it is because he has experienced good happenings in his life and vice versa (Hussain, 2017). Psychoanalysis radically improved the method of treating mental disorders and abnormal behavior. Before this theory, abnormal behaviours were believed to be because of some physiological disorders. However, Freud suggested that the neurotic behavior is always goal-oriented and it is related to the mind. He explained it in terms of the three stages; pre-oedipal, the Oedipus complex and the unconscious.

First, the pre-oedipal stage is the first stage after the birth. All human beings are born with certain instincts: the instinct to ask for food when hungry; the instinct to ask for warmth when cold, and the instinct to have a safe shelter. (Freud, 1910) is of the view that the fulfillment of these instincts gives a person satisfaction and pleasure. Secondly, he introduces his concept of the Oedipus complex, which,

according to him, is a desire for involvement in sexual activity with the parent of the opposite sex. It produces a sense of competition for the parent of the same sex. The third concept introduced by Freud is the unconscious, which lies outside the conscious and contains the repressions and suppressed desire of a person. For example, all the unfulfilled desires of a person go into the unconscious and affect the conscious. It connects childhood experiences and adult behavior. In addition to this, Freud also proposed the concepts of Id, Ego, and Superego. To him, the human psyche is structured on three levels. Id refers to the childhood and basic primitive instincts while Superego refers to society's standards related to the concept of good and evil, ethical and unethical. Ego is sandwiched between the two and is responsible for the compromises and adjustments. For example, it is a basic human instinct, Id, to feel the urge to eat an apple when a person is hungry. In this scenario, the Superego is all the norms of the society that compel the person not to eat it with unlawful acts. Here, the Ego comes into play and compromises by making the person pay for the apple (Hussain, 2017).

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study has been carried out analyzing different articles, journals, and books written on Desai to understand her portrayal of characters and their psyche. The literature review helps understand that Desai has worked in the parameter of psychological theories and psychoanalytical interpretation since it clearly shows that the novelist is mainly interested in the psychoanalysis of their characters' minds. Desai uses the filtrate psychological interpretation process that later proves correct as we analyze the character's psyche.

Time is the most important aspect of the novel. In *Clear Light of the Day*, time plays a vital role. It brings a change in the lives of the characters. Kathon (2015) discusses time having dual nature and is of the view that time plays a pivotal role in Desai's *Clear Light of Day* that describes time as a force that is a destroyer and a preserver at the same time. It is a contradiction that a single phenomenon has two aspects: one is positive, and the other is negative. Time is a crucial element in our lives, and it is presented through literary history. The researcher focuses on the importance of time, as she considers that over time, everything gets resolved; the hidden themes appear, and the character's psyche unfolds. All the stories progress with time, and time plays different roles in stories in the same way as happenings move through the past to present. Time has a double meaning, which means that it not only destroys but also preserves simultaneously. The stories narrate the problems and burdens that families had to face after partition.

Moreover, time's negative role can also be witnessed in '*Clear Light of Day*' more destructive. The family's children grow up with time from adulthood to middle-aged and then the old age. They grow up not only physically but also mentally. The environment where all children should flourish and happily grow up is turned sad and tedious due to the parents' less interaction with each other, with children and the household. Another negative effect of the time is that Bim and Raja are no more together, Raja leaves Bim alone. Later, after many years, time gives Bim another

stroke of pain in the form of the letter that Raja writes to her. The letter is about the rent of the house where they spent their childhood together. This breaks Bim's heart into pieces. Aunt Mira is a no exception in that she also goes through the destructive power of time. However, time has many positive vibes in the novel too. A major one is the healing of Bim's grudges as in the end of the novel, she is reminded by the melodious voice of young student Mulk and his old Guru that T.S. Eliot labels time as the destroyer as well as the healer. She understands that if the base is strong, things cannot fall apart, and it revives her bond with her family as they all lived together in the same house once.

Desai has used the stream of consciousness technique to portray her characters' mental perspective as the characters live in consciousness. The techniques of the stream of consciousness and the interior monologue have been used to present the psyche of various characters; the characters are given interior monologues. Desai makes frequent use of flashback technique, recalling past happenings and experiences. The grown-up women now remember their childhoods and past in their house and their city before 1947. There is a movement in the novel — a movement in time from the past, and the novelist presents a larger number of characters. The past is of supreme importance in the novel of Desai, which is recalled again and again. It is skillfully woven with the present. Narain (2018) discusses various techniques used by Desai and observes her main approaches in all her important novels as she portrays the dilemma of her female protagonists effectively. Being a female, Desai can understand the difficulties that women face, and she describes the details minutely. She deals with the upper-middle-class females, their problems, and then their dealings with those problems. Desai believes that women should search their true selves; they should not depend on males. Therefore, she chooses the characters that are brave enough to face the harshness of existence. She mainly focuses on familial relationships in her novels. Her focus is on the individual development of the characters rather than their dependence on others. The researcher calls her the 'queen of inner psychology.' Her analysis of women from emptiness and weak to strong enough makes her the best novelist.

War and partition are the universal issues that affect the surroundings politically, socially as well as emotionally, "Clear Light of Day" is about the events of 1947 which separated India. Though the separation was political, but the family members too got separated from each other. The violence that was unleashed during the partition challenged not only the nation's identity but also affected the identity of women irrespective of their distinct cultures and religious faiths. Woman, who is considered the honor of the family especially in Asian countries like India were oppressed, disparaged in the name of religious, social and cultural traditions and considered a commodity and an object of entertainment by men. The partition affected not only the psyche of the people but also the social life as well. Women have always been subjugated by patriarchal domination, and it was more vivid during the partition. The treatment of women during partition shows how women as a distinct class are treated in the Indian subcontinent. The traumatic experience of partition affected the lives of women, especially in the Indian subcontinent. The

researcher tried to closely analyze the female characters of both the novels who survived the horrors of partition and how they negotiated politics and patriarchy.

DATA ANALYSIS

Freud (1910) asserts that a healthy personality has a balance among all personality factors. He describes that it is necessary to maintain a person's Id, Ego, and Superego to have a strong personality in society. Whatever a person does or thinks, it is the manifestation of some experience of the past.

Extract 1:

“Now here was Bim, cruelly and willfully smashing up that charmed world with her cynicism, her criticism. She stood dismayed.” (Desai, 1980, p, 31)

This extract, taken from the first part of the novel, reflects the family's present situation. Bim has developed into a woman who thinks she is right in every matter. She criticizes everyone for nothing but because of the grudge she has for her family. She cannot enjoy the world and remains dull and dismay like the house.

Extract 2:

“Him, why do you have grey hair already? You're much too young for that.” (Desai, 180, p, 86)

This extract depicts the appearance of Bim, who turns out to be old. Her hair has turned grey, and she is not worried about it. People sympathize with her, but she takes it negatively. Through her thoughts, we know that she holds dissent for her sister and thinks that she is only five years younger than her, but she considers her old. Tara seems selfish to her and one who is abandoning her when she needs her most.

Extract 3:

“The hero and heroine - where are they? Down at the bottom of the well - gone, disappeared.” (Desai, 180, p, 165)

Bim was close to her brother Raja in their childhood. They set roles of hero and heroine for them. However, due to Raja's departure, her dreams are shattered. She rejects to add up any relationship into her life. She does not get married and dedicates herself to nursing her younger brother.

Extract 4:

“Her love for Raja had had too much of a battering, she had felt herself so humiliated by his going away and leaving her, by his reversal of role from brother to landlord.” (Desai, 1980, p, 173)

The above extract depicts the reason behind Bim's aggressive behavior; she feels insulted by Raja's decision to leave her alone there. She feels pain when Raja behaves with her like a landlord and never comes back to see her favorite sister. However, she manages to be the heroine in her own way.

Extract 5:

“She, too, wanted to sleep. She was exhausted - by Tara, by Baba, by all of them. Loving them and not loving them. Accepting them and not accepting them. Understanding them and not understanding them. The conflicts that rose inside her with every word they spoke and every gesture they made had been an enormous strain, she now felt, leaving her worn out.” (Desai, 1980, p, 175)

This extract shows a change in her mental element from Id to Ego. Her Ego is now trying to manage her psychic energy. She is feeling tired of hating and pretending to be okay. She is broken inside and now needs to relax. She is exhausted from paying her responsibilities. She never dreamed of what she has become. All the conflicts in her are the result of her siblings' behavior. The way they speak to her and treat her leaves an unending pain in her heart. Now she wants freedom from her aggression; she wants to be normal. Therefore, she finds space to be with her. She thinks about all past things and realizes that she has been wasting herself in the hands of hate and grievance. She, in the end, tears the letter, which was disputable. When Tara and her family leave for Raja's marriage, Bim bursts with tears and confesses that she can no more live away from her brother.

Extract 6:

'Tell him how we're not used to it - Baba and I. Tell him we never travel any more. Tell him we couldn't come - but he should come. Bring him back with you, Tara - or tell him to come in the winter. All of them. And he can see Sharma about the firm - and settle things. And see to Hyder Ali's old house - and repair it. Tell him I'm - I'm waiting for him - I want him to come - I want to see him.'” (Desai, 1980, p, 184)

The given extract shows the developed personality of Bim, now her goodness of inner self comes out. She starts to think positively and to settle things. As the Superego provides guidelines for creating judgments, now she can judge the things in the right way. She sends her message to her brother by telling him her wish to live with him.

This section discusses the internal psychological changes and development of the characters, which is held through the Freud's essential elements of a personality. The extracts taken from the novel inquire into the characters' inner development by getting through the weaker stage to the stronger one.

CONCLUSION:

In the work selected for this paper, the characters have been found having mental issues and through the analysis of characters' lives, it has been found that every individual has her/his own past experiences and incidents which lead them towards their personality development. After analyzing the text and quoting some instances, the study has propagated the idea that if we want to understand a person's behavior and action, we need to know the situation and the reasons behind that specific behavior as the events through which a person goes in his life have a deep-rooted impacts on his personality. The present study has proved that refuge lies in every individual's unconscious, and a person needs self-actualization to realize its existence. The characters have been found struggling internally to cope with the evils present around them and balance it with goodness, and the stages in their struggle that manifests in the Id, Ego, and Superego development. Conclusively, it can be found that the characters' actions were the result of their past experiences which reside in their unconscious waiting for a chance to be manifested through their actions.

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