



ANALYSIS OF THE ANIMAL FARM NOVEL USING THE PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM

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Abstract

Since ancient times man struggles to be superior over others, and this struggling still happens to this day. Psychoanalysis theory is considered a popular theory that applied throughout literature. George Orwell's *Animal Farm* novel reveals the character of Napoleon as a protagonist of the novel, presents the psychoanalytic perspective. In this sense, the behaviors and the actions of the protagonist will be analyzed and studied according to Freud's approach of psychoanalytic. Besides explaining how Napoleon is ruled and controlled by his instincts and craving. The main idea of this thesis is to apply psychoanalysis to George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. This paper also aims to show how the protagonist character is controlled and dominated by his unconscious part of his mind.

Introduction

George Orwell is an English novelist, essayist and critic. One of his most famous novels is *The Animal Farm* (1945). *Animal Farm's* events are about a group of animals who rebel and revolt against their farmer. They just hope to create a place where the animals can be equal, free and happy. But in the end, they are betrayed. The farm ends up as bad as it was before. The commandments are broken one by one, and animals start to make trade with humans. Thus, all the traitors are slaughtered by the pig government. The animals start to realize that pigs and humans are not different from each other (<https://www.scribd.com/document/366945900/essay-animal-farm>)

This paper approaches Orwell's protagonist in *The Animal Farm* using Freud's theory on the division of human's mind structure. As Dan J. Segrist presenting Freud and his theory in his article of the Demonstrating the Id, Ego, and Superego; According to Freud's structural model of personality, the psyche has three parts: the id, ego, and superego

which are characterized by distinct roles and varying levels of consciousness. He conceptualized the id, driven by pleasure and seeks to have physical needs met immediately with no regard for consequences, as primarily unconscious and the superego, embodying social constraints and moral imperatives, as both conscious and unconscious. The ego, the most conscious system, mediates the continuous conflict among the id, superego, and demands of reality (Dan J. Segrist 51). Psychoanalytical literary criticism can be broadly divided into many kinds depending on what it takes as its object of attention. It can attend to the author of the work; to the work's contents; or to the reader.

The psychoanalysis of content focusing on the unconscious motivations of characters (Terry Eagleton, p155). Throughout the psychoanalytic the unconscious behaviors of Napoleon will be analyzed and evaluated. Napoleon has a bitter experience with the farmer Mr. Jones. He also was tortured by him. Mr. Jones treats him badly. Napoleon and his

comrades live in a terrible situation. They just wait for their death which will be by Mr. Jones.

Napoleon's behaviors represent his unconscious part which is considered as the reservoir of feelings, thoughts, memories that they are outside of our conscious awareness and most of these unconscious actions and behaviors are unacceptable such as the feeling of pain, conflict and the traumas. Those feelings and thoughts which are outside of our awareness influence on the individual's actions and behaviors (Kendra Cherry, The Preconscious, Conscious, and Unconscious Minds). The distressing memories and experiences let Napoleon lose his control of superego. Therefore, his Id starts to be high and dominant. Napoleon begins to search about the ideologies of being comfortable and pleased. He thinks of all the tactics and strategies to gain the power and become the ruler in the farm. Napoleon comes violent to those who are close to him. He concentrates on his self-interests and he makes use of the animals to gratify his gratifications. In the beginning of the novel after the death of the old Major, the behaviors of Napoleon were not clear that he wants the power and control the animals but he plans and orders his ideas to get the power. His Id starts to work because he sees that this is his chance to get the power. He starts making the orders and rules to the animals in the farm. Napoleon and the pigs feel that they are the dominate and the controlling in the farm. Napoleon's drives let him to feel that he will be the controlling in the farm (*Looking at Napoleon behaviour from a psychoanalytical view*, p6-7).

There is also another position which is related to psychoanalytic criticism which proves that the memories and experiences of the childhood control some actions and behaviors. As Napoleon did with puppies which he takes them from their parents. He begins to grow them up and care of them in order to get benefits of them as his private soldiers. The same situation happened with Napoleon in his childhood when he was taken from his parents (*Looking at Napoleon behaviour from a psychoanalytical view*, p3) His behaviors and actions were mingling between his desires, drives and his morals. He just wants the others having an experience as he does. According to Sigmund Freud

psychoanalytic criticism, there is a conflict between the Id and superego. The ego works as the mediator between both of them. Napoleon wants to gratify his cravings and desires by being the dominant and making his own policies. He fights Snowball who is his rival and he informs others that Snowball is a traitor. Napoleon begins to follow his own ideology by breaking the rules of the animal farm to just satisfy his drives. Napoleons Id makes him act unconsciously and illogically. He doesn't think of the reactions of the other animals which may be hate him because of his behaviors. His instincts let him to take the revenge on the animals who have no guilt. He doesn't care about the feeling of Boxer and Mollie who work hard and aid in the building of the windmill in order to get a comfortable life.

George Orwell, focusing on mental disorders, reflecting how individuals become distressed, and he portrays their affluence throughout individual revolutionary activities because of being destructed by the war tensions, the continual crisis and the panic past memories influence on the human's values and behaviors. *Animal Farm* addresses to the emergence of disorder in social life with regard to a decay of personal values such as: ignorance and greediness. Among human beings Orwell shows that how animals become disordered and disturbed of their repressed living. He describes how the animals have inner tensions and experiences in their unconscious psychological states. In Orwell's literary works he portrays and depicts the psychology and the anxiety of human beings. As the protagonist Napoleon who suffers mentally and emotionally because of the past situation that he lives in and because of the consequences of the risks (*Psychoanalytical outlook for Orwell's Animal Farm*,874).

According to psychoanalytic criticism, those who are restrained their traumas they easily behave unconsciously. According to Freud, the unconscious continues to influence our behaviors and experiences, even though we are unaware of these influences. Freud admits that the childhood's experiences let the person desire to own everything and this feeling is associated with the fear and worry of the other's cheating. Relating to Napoleon, it is distinct that he wants to gain the power and at the

same time he feels afraid and worried that the other animals kick him out and betraying him. He realizes that Snowball will be his rival and competitor because Snowball comes to be respected and loved by the animals. Napoleon represents the unconscious part of his mind; the rules and the instructions represent the superego of him. His Id is dominant and he achieves his gratifications through it. When animals begin to realize that he is unfair with them, they set about fighting for their rights. Squallar, the supporter of Napoleon attempts to convince and satisfy them by telling lies to gratify his master's gratifications (A psychoanalytic reading of *Animal Farm*,3-4).

"Comrades, "he said, "I trust that every animal here appreciates the sacrifice that comrade Napoleon has made in taking this extra labor upon himself. Do not imagine, comrades, that leadership is pleasure! On that contrary, it's a deep and heavy responsibility. No one believes more firmly than comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only happy to let you make your decision for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decision comrades, and then where should we be? Suppose you had decided to follow snowball, with his moonshine of windmills snowball, who as now know, was no better than a criminal?". (Orwell, the *Animal Farm*,31)

In this quotation Squallier tries to calm the animals down and convince the animals that Napoleon is the suitable leader for them to gratify his master's instincts because the animals start to know the plans of Napoleon with the human beings to get the money, then he can content his thirsts and cravings.

"Comrades! "he cried. "You don not imagine, I hope that we pigs are doing this in a spirit of selfishness and privilege? Many of us actually dislike milk and apples. I dislike them myself. Our sole object in taking these things is to preserve our health. Milk and apples contain substances absolutely necessary to the well-being of a pig. We pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organization of this farm depend on us. Day and night, we are watching over your welfare. It is for your sake that we drink that milk and eat those

apples. Do you know what would happen if we pigs failed in our duty? Jones would come back! Yes, Jones would come back! Surely, comrades,". (Orwell, *The Animal Farm*,19-20)

Here there is another point which Napoleon and his assistant follow it to fulfil their instincts. Napoleon talks unconsciously and terrifies the animals that Mr. Jones will come back if they don't obey his instructions. He starts his manipulation by disappearing the milk and apples. Napoleon and the pigs pretend that the cause of this disappearance is to protect the other animals by the hardworking of the pigs. Squallar is the one who is considered as a good talker, he was sent to explain to the animals the reasons of the milk and apple's disappearance.

Frequently, ego can make its balance between the Id and Superego. Napoleon remembers the idea of Snowball of creating the windmill and he starts working on it. His ego makes him realize that the windmill is a good idea and it is useful for the farm. In this scene, Napoleon's ego is high, it is different of the previous scenes which show that his Id overcomes his superego. According to the psychoanalytic approach, ego seeks to please and satisfy both of the other parts of the mind (the Id and Superego). Napoleon notices and makes that the windmill will be the useful way in order to gratify his drives. He wants to feel that this genius idea is created by him therefore he can be the dominant and bossy power in the farm (*Looking at Napoleon's behaviour from a psychoanalytical view*,6-7).

Conclusion

The role of psychoanalytic criticism cannot be ignored in literary works because of its influence on human being's behaviors. In this paper the character of Napoleon is evaluated and analyzed throughout the concept of psyche's structural model by Sigmund Freud. Napoleon is portrayed as an individual who thirsts and craves for the power using his ideologies without aware of the consequences. There are some events which clarify that Napoleon behave and act unconsciously because of his high Id. On the other hand, his ego has the rule to control his unaware actions. Napoleon drives and instincts are the major causes that allow him to fight to get the power. Throughout Napoleon's actions it is clear that he

passes through some traumas and experiences in his life which are the results of his violent actions and behaviors. All these traumas affect negatively on his treatment with the others even they have the same agonies. His suffering pains and experiences have a strong influence on him.

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