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The Responsibilities of Father and Son Towards Their Families As Seen in Mario Puzo's The Godfather

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Abstract

The title of this research is The Responsibilities of Father and Son Towards Their Families as seen in Mario Puzo's The Godfather. This research problem focuses on the differences and similarities between the main characters of father and son, as well as the background of the attitude changes experienced by Michael Corleone as reflected in the novel The Godfather. This research is a qualitative descriptive research. By quoting sentences or words that show personality characteristics and then describing them. The results of this research show that the personality structure in Freud's Psychoanalysis theory (1923) shows that the personalities of Vito and Michael are influenced by Id, Ego, and Superego. This happens due to the different lives of Vito and Michael who have different personalities in the world of mafia families. Michael's character change was caused by the deep trauma when his father, Don Vito Corleone, was shot by the enemies. Research on psychoanalysis is essential to understanding this research as it can provide deeper insights into the motivations, behaviors, and relationships of the characters reflected in The Godfather. Psychoanalysis can help in analyzing family dynamics, themes of morality and violence, and provide a new perspective overall. Based on the analysis of the main character through psychoanalysis research, it can be concluded that the main character experiences many events that cause psychological turmoil because of the life they live as part of a mafia family.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, Personality, Family, Responsibility

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I INTRODUCTION

Responsibility is a moral and ethical concept that refers to a person's obligation to act or take responsibility for their actions and decisions. It involves an awareness of the consequences of those actions and a readiness to accept them. Responsibility is also defined as the obligation to do something as part of one's role or duty. Responsibility is not only doing what we have said we will do but also doing what we know we should do.

The research entitled *The Responsibilities of Father and Son Towards Their Families in the novel The Godfather* contains the character value of the responsibility of a father and son in their family life, where they do everything to protect their family. The responsibility of father and son in the novel is a special attraction that can be used as a means or medium of education that can be implemented in everyday life. Indirectly, the novel can influence the character and will have an impact on the reality of life for readers. Responsibility is important for children's psychological development to shape children's morals so that they can be responsible for what they do. Children who are trained in responsibility will have superior character and can be trusted in many things and situations.

Based on Freud's explanation (2023) the ego is the only part of the personality that is conscious. That is what humans are aware of when they think about themselves and try it on others. However, not all individuals think about what they are doing and what the consequences are. People with a conscious personality will use their intelligence more when deciding things and facing problems.

The object of this research is responsibility between of a father and son as members of the mafia. This research focuses on how a father and son who are both involved in criminal activity as members of a mafia organization differ in terms of behavior, motivation, interaction, or impact. Psychological, sociological, or criminological studies are also used in this type of research to comprehend the dynamics of connections between family members who are involved in criminal activity. The novel tells the story of the Corleone mafia family with a focus on Vito and his son Michael. The research also looks at the

characters of Vito and Michael, the main characters in the story, as well as the intrigue, power struggles, and moral dilemmas that arise in the family.

One similarity between Vito and Michael characteristics is that they are both charismatic and strong leaders inside the Corleone crime family. Their capacity to lead with knowledge and toughness is respected by both family members and foes. Everybody is committed to their families. Vito and Michael will do whatever to protect and provide for their family, even if it means breaking the law. Vito and Michael are similar to one another, but they are also very different from one another. Leader Vito is a thoughtful, fair-minded, and clever man who loves his family dearly. In contrast, Michael is a spiteful person who will kill anyone who stands in the way of his objectives, including members of his own family. Therefore, in contrast to Vito, Michael emanates a menacing and unwelcoming image that makes many people, both allies and enemies, afraid of him and reluctant to interact with him.

Therefore, researcher may conclude that the novel main character discusses *The Godfather* main characters literary value, which is important since it enables the reader to better understand and appreciate these character complexity. The character development that occurs throughout the story provides readers with a deeper knowledge of the main character metamorphosis, inner conflict, and growth. This highlights the character depth of feeling, morality, and personal growth while also enhancing their humanity and complexity.

When it comes to examining the characters in *The Godfather*, a psychological perspective is crucial since it clarifies their histories, interpersonal dynamics, and internal tensions. This gives the narrative more depth and enables us to empathize with the characters on an emotional level. The researcher can also learn from and be inspired by *The Godfather*. A character resilience, faults, and virtues can all be instructive. The researcher can also draw lessons from their blunders. In real life, the researcher can draw inspiration and knowledge from the characters in this novel.

II RESEARCH METHODS

The data collection method used by researchers is the observation method. Kothari (2004: 96) says that the observation method is the most frequently used method, especially in research related to behavioral or character science. Observation becomes a scientific tool and data collection method for researchers, research that has been formulated, planned and read systematically. Based on this understanding, researcher will make observations by reading the entire novel, observing by analyzing the main characters in the novel *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo. The data analysis method used is descriptive. Kothari (2004: 2) explains the purpose of the descriptive method is to find answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The sentences, mostly spoken by the characters in the form of quotes, form the data collected for this research. Mario Puzo's novel *The Godfather* is the source of data collected for this research. This book can be considered as the primary source. To do this, the researcher collected a lot of data from various textbooks, dictionaries, literary theories, theoretical values, and other web resources that discuss in depth the differences and similarities of the main characters as well as the background of their deep character changes reflected in the novel *The Godfather*.

Data collection techniques used in this research are reading and note-taking techniques. The reading technique is the most important technique used in collecting data by reading. After reading, the researcher then records the data from the results that have been read. The

note-taking technique is a technique to collect data by recording or quoting texts such as the characters Vito and Michael in the novel *The Godfather*.

This research uses the Miles and Huberman (1994:10) analysis technique which includes three components, the first of which is reduction. Data reduction is compacting, abstracting, and focusing on relevant information. The process of selecting, organizing, and focusing on relevant information from the data obtained is known as data reduction. Data reduction aims to make data simpler so that it can be analyzed and understood more easily. This process assists the researcher in focusing on relevant and significant information in the current data. The researcher, for example, must discard data that is irrelevant to choosing *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo. The second aspect of data presentation is data display, which refers to how the summarized information is presented graphically or descriptively. The purpose of data display is to simplify information that is difficult to understand and communicate to the reader, where the researcher interprets and describes the data by paraphrasing the data, and then analyzes the data by applying related approaches. Verification or conclusion drawing is done after the data is reduced and displayed. Verification or conclusion drawing is the stage of drawing conclusions and verifying data. At this stage, the researcher verified by describing the theoretical data of the main characters, namely Vito and Michael, and then concludes as a result of the research.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the research result will be described from the results of data analysis in the form of character differences between Vito and Michael, the background of Michael's character changes, and their character similarities contained in the novel *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo. The things that will be described include data findings, data analysis, and discussion of the research conducted by the research in the form of character differences between Vito and

Michael, the background of Michael's character changes, and their character similarities contained in the novel *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo.

4.1. Main Character to the Responsibility

Vito Corleone is the head of the Corleone family, a charismatic and wise mafia leader. Vito's character reflects his philosophy of

life centered on family, loyalty, and respect for tradition. Michael Corleone, Vito's youngest son, was initially reluctant to get involved in the family business. However, he is forced to take on a leadership role after his father is attacked. Michael's character shows his transformation from a peaceful man to a ruthless and merciless leader.

"And you, godson, you now, you just do not have talent enough. Shall I get you a job on the gravel truck with Nino?" "Friendship is everything. Friendship is more than talent. It is more than government. It is almost the equal of family. Never forget that. If you had built up a wall of friendships you would not have to ask me to help."

(The Godfather, 1969:27)

This quote also showed Vito's id where he really cared for Johnny and worried about his career as from the quote "And you, godson, you now, you just do not have talent enough. Shall I get you a job on the gravel truck with Nino?" which meant that Vito also tried to evade his discomfort and worried feeling, and tried to fulfilled his own desire before by offered Johnny another job with Nino. Also another interesting quote said "Friendship is everything. Friendship is more than talent. It is more than government. It is almost the equal of family. Never forget that. If you had built up a wall of friendships you would not have to ask me to help" where it showed the principle of Vito held about the meaning of friendship and showed his another personality that he is a man who always valued friendships.

"Michael, did not stand with his father and his two brothers but sat at a table in the most secluded corner of the garden. But even there he could not escape the attentions of the family friends."

(The Godfather, 1969:8)

The above quote shows the id of Michael where he does not care about avoiding the attention of his family and separates himself completely from the attention of family and guests. From the quote "Michael, instead of standing with his father and two brothers, sat at a table in the most remote corner of the garden. But even there he could not escape the attention of his family friends." This indicates that

Michael is the only son who does not have a close relationship with his own family, especially with his father Vito, and Michael does not want to be involved in his family's mafia business. Michael even try to fulfill his desire by sat alone far apart from his real family so that he could felt relieved that he was not part any of family business.

4.2. Cause of Responsibility

"My father's not dead, those bastards didn't kill him." Let me call home first. The person who did this is crazy and now that my father is alive, they must be panicking. Who knows what they'll do next".

(The Godfather, 1969:69)

This quote becomes a point of change for Michael, who was initially reluctant to get involved in the family business, eventually deciding to take on a leadership role to protect his father and his family. This event changed Michael from a peaceful man to a ruthless and merciless leader. this quote also shows shows Michael's anger towards the attackers. He is determined to take revenge for the attack on his father. Michael's statement through the quote "My father's not dead, those bastards did not kill him." shows his courage and determination to protect his family. He will not let his enemies get away with it.

4.3 Father and Son to the Responsibility

"Santino, never let anyone outside the family know what you are thinking. Never let them know what you have under your fingernails. I think your brain is going soft from all that comedy you play with that young girl. Stop it and pay attention to business. Now get out of my sight."

(The Godfather, 1969: 60)

This quote shows the responsibility of Vito where he tries to express his anger and disappointment by advising Sonny that he has made a mistake by letting Solozzo know what he is thinking as in the quote "Santino, never let anyone outside the family know what you are thinking. Never let them know what you keep behind your nails. I think your brain is going soft from all the comedy you play with that young girl. Stop it and mind your business. Now get out of my sight." Which indicates that Vito feels very unhappy about it so he tries to tell and advise his son Sonny, which is

to clean up the mistakes Sonny has made even Vito feels very angry and unhappy about it. Where personal matters should not be told to outsiders and not show others about your whole

nature, it is better to keep things to yourself by keeping them secret.

IV CONCLUSION

This research carried out the conclusion of personality structure of the main characters and the moral values contained within The Godfather novel. Based on the research results, the conclusion is as follows:

The answer for the first research objectives within this research is the personality structure of the main characters in The Godfather novel where it used Freud Psychoanalysis theory (1923). Showed that the personality of both Vito and Michael influenced or driven by the id, ego, and superego. Where most of the id, ego, and superego showed their true personality, motives, and own desire which reflect through within the whole story of The Godfather novel. Based on the analysis of the main personality through psychoanalytic research, it could be concluded that the main characters experienced many incidents that caused psychological turmoil because of the life they had as part of the mafia family.

The personality of Vito were showed that he is a man who always valued family and friendships first, Vito also a man full of respect, full of honor, always wise, humble and always generous, and also a reasonable man. But of course Vito is also a man who is cunning, calculating, and smart when the situations were needed. The superego managed to took over in Vito's minds where there could be the pulse of the id or the ego for took revenge for Sonny. But the superego told Vito to do any means necessary to brought peace with rival mafia families instead.

Then the personality of Michael were also showed who is the youngest sons of Vito, where he is also smart, cunning, calculating, and even

more ruthlessness than his father before. Michael is also a man who always took any matters as personal and never forgave anyone who betrayed or tried to hurt him or his family. Even before Michael is actually a simple guy who never actually wanted to be influenced by his family and want to led his own life a good and normal citizen within society, but because many incidents and events that made Michael had to betrayed himself and had to joined the family business and the underworld of mafia crime in order to protect his family.

The pulse of the id and the ego is too strong and made Michael to took decision that changed his life completely where he is just a normal man who rewarded as a war hero to a ruthlessness leader of the mafia later, where soon the superego could not tolerate anymore and let the id and the ego of Michael wanted to kill both Solozzo and Mc cluskey by any means necessary.

Then the answer for the second research objectives within this research is the moral values contained in The Godfather novel, where many moral values were found in The Godfather novel. It pretty much gave a lesson about life, family and the true social condition about the mafia at that time within society where the researcher who is Mario Puzo tried to expressed it through his novel. The novel also gave a lesson about loyalty and betrayal, dangerous crimes that could not be forgave which is drugs, the importance of family and friends, vengeance, always be reasonable, never utterance weakness and personal thought, and lastly of how always helping other people for those in need.

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