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The Comradery Between An FBI Agent And A Forger As Seen In Frank Abagnale's Catch Me If You Can

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Abstract

The title of this research is "The Comradery Between an FBI Agent and a Forger as seen in Frank Abagnale's Catch Me If You Can". This research problem focuses on the character differences between O'Riley as an FBI agent and Frank as a forger and the development of interpersonal relationships that occur between them as reflected in the novel Catch Me If You Can. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative research method and the approach used is literary psychology with Freud's psychological theory (1955) and Peplau's interpersonal relationship theory (1952). The data in this novel is presented in the form of quotations and sentences derived from the characters of O'Riley and Frank, which explain their respective personalities and the development of their interpersonal relationships. The data collection technique used in this research is based on reading, marking, recording and categorising the data. This was done with the aim of distinguishing between data related to the personalities of O'Riley and Frank and data related to the interaction between the two characters, as well as its impact on the development of interpersonal relationships in Abagnale's Catch Me If You Can. The results of this research show that Frank's personality in Abagnale's Catch Me If You Can is dominated by the Id, with less influence from the Ego and Superego. This is due to his parents' divorce and his disadvantaged childhood, which drove him to seek pleasure through delinquency and crime, while O'Riley's personality is characterised by the dominance of the Superego over the Id and Ego, due to his role as an FBI agent, who has the responsibility to uphold justice. In the interactions that make up the development of the interpersonal relationship between them, this is due to the emergence of mutual respect and appreciation in their interactions over time.

Keywords: Personality, Psychoanalysis, Relationships, Interpersonal

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I INTRODUCTION

Human relationship can be defined as the totality of the interpersonal and social relations that goes with human affinity, affection, and contact. In other words, such relationships present themselves in form of friendship, romantic involvement, family members, business relations and others. There are some antecedents, which include such things as communication, empathy, portraying respect, trust, and encouragement.

Thus, comprehension of the intensiveness and complexity of human interpersonal relations could contribute the ways toward the increased comprehension of human behavior, affection and social interactions, as the part of cognitive experiences and personality perception. It cannot be static because the relationships may change with time due to the working and personal experiences and communication and level of respect that two people have for each other and also methods of solving the conflicts and addressing the challenges. They have a key role in subject's self experience, moods, and psychological well-being.

The research primarily focuses on the novel *Catch Me If You Can* by Abagnale, which examines the evolution of interpersonal relationships between an FBI agent and a forger. With using psychological analysis approach, the integration of these psychological analysis theories to interpersonal relationship theories enhances the understanding of the main factors that influence people's relational experiences, their emotions, and the relationship dynamics. These theories afford ways through which one can understand the various constituencies including the relationship attachment theories, social exchanges, and cognitive theory with special regards to the formation and the sustainability of relationships and the changes and challenges that they could beaving.

The interpersonal relationship shown in *Catch Me If You Can* by Abagnale can delve into the details of trust, betrayal, and the result of interpersonal relationships within the plot. One can discuss how the protagonist's interpersonal relationships impact his identity, choices he makes, and the overall plot, considering themes like loyalty, control, and the impact human

relationships have on the personal growth of the protagonist. In relation to interpersonal relationship development, psychology has numerous Theoretical frameworks that can be used. to explain the dynamics of people's relations. Another theory is the attachment theory whereby children's interaction with their caregivers influence their style of interaction with other people in their adulthood. It explains how attachment is created and managed, how people handle intimacy and how they act in occasions of loss.

Furthermore, the thesis could examine themes of allegiance and coercion,. analyzing crucial instances in the storyline where interpersonal connections operate as triggers for the protagonist's behavior. Analyzing the repercussions of these interpersonal relationships could offer a more intricate comprehension of the character dynamics in the narrative. This investigation has the potential to provide more extensive understandings of the essence of trust, the vulnerability of relationships when faced with deceit, and the significant impact that personal connections exert on the protagonist's life within the realm of *Catch Me If You Can*.

Ahead lies the rosy quality of human relationships today: firmly bonding interpersonal relationships that polish social skills, communication abilities, and conflict resolution, all of which come in handy for business success and personal fulfillment later down the line. These relationships are the building blocks for collaboration, networking, and emotional intelligence very important qualities to navigate without constraint through the intricacies of a changing world.

At the tail, interpersonal relationships are the key today and tomorrow. The meaningful connections we build and nurture today not only create great values for our lives today, but they also define parameters that set a more fulfilled, successful, and connected future tomorrow. That is why the concern of the research of the exploration of the developing human relationship between the contrast of two main characters in the frame of reference of the narrative provides nuance and emotional truth bearing depth of the human connection bound by the conflict of loyalties, the shades of right and wrong, and the

indispensability for the character's personal transformation in ethical dilemmas.

II RESEARCH METHOD

The origin of psychology or psychoanalysis is attributed to Sigmund Freud, who was born in Moravia, Austria. Psychology involves researching human actions and behaviors, focusing on psychological elements that are often impacted by external factors. The goal of this theory is to explore the impact of an individual's subconscious on their actions. Freud believes that memories, emotions, and concepts stored in the unconscious mind play a significant role in shaping human behavior.

In Freud's theory of personality, psychoanalysis consists of three primary components: the id, ego, and superego. Each system has its unique functions, properties, components, working principles, dynamism, and mechanisms, yet they are closely interconnected, making it impossible to isolate their working principles. Sigmund Freud clearly stated that his well-known personality structural theory is composed of the id, ego, and superego. The id is located in the unconscious mind while the ego encompasses the unconscious, preconscious, and conscious levels of human consciousness, and the superego resides in the unconscious and preconscious mind. Human actions are mainly the outcome of how the id, ego, and superego elements of human personality interact. These three components consistently function to generate a genuine and fitting demeanor. If any of these components fail to operate, there will be a lack of balance.

However, from a psychoanalytic perspective, the unconscious is an activity. Repressed desires that lie in the subconscious in the realm of the irrational, which, as stated by Aristotle, should not be allowed in the tragic stage, are presented in psychoanalytic sessions and in everyday life. These repressed desires

appear as flashes of recognition that produce a spectacle of psychological pathos or suffering. The literary psychology of Sigmund Freud advocates human mental states as a generally positive form and shows a scientific way of psychological development of knowledge. Likewise, literary psychology is intended to help writers overcome character behavioral problems that are less important than those of others in Abagnale's *Catch Me If You Can*.

The theory of human relationship or interpersonal relationship was developed by Hildegard Peplau who was born in Pennsylvania, United States. Hildegard Peplau presented the theoretical framework of interpersonal relationships in 1952. Her concept uses the interpersonal process utilized in psychodynamic nursing to explain the stages in a character's relationship. Peplau's theory relies on studies unrelated to nursing, in this instance behavioral and psychoanalytic theories in the field of psychology, as well as clinical practice reinforced by an inductive reasoning process based on Peplau's professional and personal experiences.

Peplau has drawn theoretical inspiration from the works of Erich Fromm, Miller, Symonds, and Maslow, the Interpersonal Theory of Harry Stack Sullivan has probably had the biggest impact. This theory postulates that an individual's personality and behavior are shaped by their relationships with others. Because people are flexible and new interpersonal relationships can arise and establish throughout life, a person's personality can change at any point. The four main stages of a character relationship are comprehensively explained by Peplau's model, which is the orientation phase, identification phase, exploitation phase and resolution Phase.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the data collection method is the qualitative method. The data collection method is the most important stage of the research because the purpose of this research is to obtain the necessary information. Qualitative research is a form of research that focuses on describing and analyzing phenomena. As stated by Creswell (2014:32), qualitative research is a method used to investigate and understand the meaning that individuals or groups attribute to a social or human situation. This type of research involves developing questions and processes, gathering data in the context of the participants, analyzing the data inductively to identify key themes, and interpreting the meaning of the data.

The data analysis method used in this research is descriptive. Qualitative descriptive research aims to portray an existing symptom or situation, specifically the condition of the symptom during the research. Descriptive research is research that aims to describe the characteristics of certain individuals or groups. Based on Kothari (2004:2), the descriptive method is employed to seek answers to questions using scientific procedures. The primary objective of this research is to uncover hidden truths. While each research project has its own distinct goals, descriptive research involves identifying data concerning similarities in character traits and the evolution of characters as depicted in Abagnale's novel *Catch Me If You Can*.

The data collection technique used in this research is document data. The source of document data is the novel *Catch Me If You Can*. The documentary technique is a means of gathering facts and information by looking for and locating proof. As noted by Kothari (2004:110), this process entails analyzing the content of various verbal and documentary sources, such as books, magazines, and newspapers. Reading and taking notes methods were employed in this research as collecting information methods. The reading approach is the most crucial method for gathering information through reading. The researcher then logs the information from the read findings after reading them. Taking notes is a method of gathering information that involves writing

down or repeating passages from literature, as the dialogue between Frank and O'Riley in the novel *Catch Me If You Can*.

The data analysis technique that research used is the data interpretation. The use of data analysis techniques enables researcher to understand and identify patterns in data. The purpose of this analysis is to ensure clarity in research findings, leading to a more precise information retrieval process. As maintained by Kothari (2004:344), interpretation serves as a critical tool for researcher to gain a deeper insight into the factors that may elucidate their analysis, as well as providing a theoretical framework to guide further research endeavors.

I. DISCUSSION

Chapter IV will discuss the research findings from data analysis in the form of O'Riley's and Frank's character personalities, as well as the evolution of their interpersonal interactions in Frank Abagnale's novel *Catch Me If You Can*. Data findings, data analysis, and discussion of the research conducted by researcher in the form of character analysis of O'Riley, character analysis of Frank, and the development of interpersonal relationships analysis between the two characters contained in Abagnale's novel *Catch Me If You Can*.

4.1. Character of O'Riley

The following will analyze the character of Sean O'Riley as the FBI Agent based on character indicators with a literary psychology approach. This subchapter is focused on O'Riley's personality traits as a federal bureau of investigation figure who demands justice in his pursuit of Frank. As a senior police officer, O'Riley's personality traits contain aspects of his id, ego, and superego, demonstrating the instinctive nature of police officers in general. The subsequent sub-chapter on Superego dominance plays an important role in explaining how O'Riley's character emerges.

"I later learned that my decision to leave Atlanta was an astute one. About the same time, in Washington, D.C., FBI Inspector Sean O'Riley was ordered to drop all his other cases and concentrate solely on nabbing me."

(Catch Me If You Can, 1980:73)

This from the quoted sentence from Frank, shows the Superego of O'Riley, where O'Riley is fully dedicated and ignores other cases in order to focus on hunting down Frank Abagnale. Of course, the news that Frank got made him wary and quite surprised. O'Riley was the one who took the decision to deal with Frank seriously. O'Riley's seriousness cannot be underestimated.

4.2. Character of Frank

This subchapter focuses on Frank's personality characteristic, which originates from his negative childhood experiences. His conflict id, ego, and superego destabilize his psyche, eventually leading to criminal activity. The subsequent subchapter on the dominion of the id is essential in explaining how Frank's inner conflict reveals itself and leads to criminal action. According to the story, Frank enjoys scamming individuals and distributing counterfeit checks all around the world. Following his parents' divorce, Frank chooses to pursue his enjoyment principle by forging and distributing fraudulent checks. He makes it clear in his statement.

"I was a millionaire twice over and half again before I was twenty one. I stole every nickel of it and blew the bulk of the bundle on fine threads, gourmet foods, luxurious lodgings, fantastic foxes, fine wheels and other sensual goodies. I partied in every capital in Europe, basked on all the famous beaches and good timed it in South America, the South Seas, the Orient and the more palatable portions of Africa."

IV CONCLUSION

This research presents a conclusion regarding the personality structure of the main character and the moral values contained in the novel *Catch Me If You Can*. In consideration of the aforementioned findings, the following conclusions can be drawn:

The initial objective of this research is to ascertain the personality structure of Frank in the novel *Catch Me If You Can* through the lens of Freud's psychoanalytic theory (1955). The

(Catch Me If You Can, 1980:4)

Frank later broadens his criminal career, committing crimes on four continents. The above quotation demonstrates that his dysfunctional personality structure, centered on the dominance of his id, has survived. He continues to follow his love illegally, cheating others and circulating bogus cheques, making him the youngest criminal on four continents in the 1960s.

4.3 Interpersonal Relationship Development between the two Characters

In accordance with the topic discussed in the previous main discussion, analysing the interpersonal relationship between Frank and O'Riley using Peplau's theory through four phases of approach as follows: orientation phase, identification phase, exploitation phase and resolution phase.

"Listen, Inspector O'Riley, I've come up with some information on that Philly case you're working, and I need to get it to you tonight. . . No, sir, I can't give it to you over the telephone . . . it's too sensitive . . . I have to see you, and I have to see you within the hour. . . . Time is important. . . Oh, you are. . . Well, look these guys won't blow your cover. . . No, it'll only take ten minutes. . . Wait a minute, let me talk to the lieutenant, I'm sure he'll go along."

(Catch Me If You Can, 1980:208)

Based on Quotes above, throughout the story, O'Riley's interactions with Abagnale reveal a complex relationship marked by mutual respect despite their opposing roles. Frank offered to take on the job that O'Riley was already doing. Frank's talent for forging identities and deceiving people turns out to be a goal for him to utilize it in the opposite direction, in a sphere where it should be harmful, instead of assisting people in need.

evidence suggests that the personalities of Frank are shaped by the id, ego, and superego. The second objective of this research is to ascertain the personality structure of O'Riley as presented in the novel *Catch Me If You Can* from the perspective of Freud's psychoanalytic theory (1955). Evidence reveals that the id, ego, and superego shape O'Riley's personalities. The id, ego, and superego are demonstrated to be the fundamental motivating forces behind the

characters' actions and behaviours, as evidenced by their influence on the narrative of *Catch Me If You Can*. The analysis of the main character's personality through psychoanalytic studies leads to the conclusion that the main character experiences a multitude of events that cause psychological distress as a result of each of their life experiences. Their relationship expands throughout the story as their bonds and interactions are maintained by Peplau's theory (1952), and they remain each other's comrades until the end.

O'Riley's personality is characterized by a high and firm sense of justice. He is a moral upholder, characterized by respect, firmness, persistence and strictness. He also demonstrates a capacity for reasonable behavior. To illustrate, in Data 5, O'Riley dedicates himself to pursuing Frank, who is considered one of the most prolific con artists of the 20th century. O'Riley chooses to forgive and reconcile with his target. The superego effectively takes over control of O'Riley's mind, replacing the id or ego, which might otherwise seek revenge against Frank. Instead, the superego encourages O'Riley to pursue the issue to its root cause.

Frank's personality is revealed during his teenage years. He is described as a highly intelligent, cunning, and calculating individual

even more so than people his age. Furthermore, Frank is a man who is used to approaching problems with a high degree of seriousness and comprehensive consideration. Even before, Frank's actions could be considered criminal, he was a simple man who aspired to maintain a close relationship with his family and live his life according to the values of a good and normal citizen in society. However, a series of events and occurrences force Frank to confront his own sentiments. Another illustration is presented in data 13, where Frank's decision to leave his family residence and align himself with a peer group of comparable background is a shift from his earlier aspiration to avoid disappointment and erase the sadness associated with his family's involvement.

In response to the third research objective, it can be stated that the novel *Catch Me If You Can* is rich in moral values. The story provides a complete education on interpersonal connections in life, family, and the authentic social conditions of Frank's environment during his lifetime. The novel also discusses the nuances of loyalty and betrayal, the gravity of unforgivable lawlessness, use of vulgar and crude language, the significance of familial and social ties, Pursuit and escape, the value of reasoned discourse, fortitude and resilience, and Altruism

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