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## Trauma Of Violence In The Brief Wondrous Life Of Oscar Wao; A Psychological Analysis

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### Abstrak

*This reseach examines the "Trauma of violence in The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz. Through Psychological analysis using the theory of Archetypes, shadow, and Collective unconcious developed by Carl Jung. With a qualitative text analysis approach, the researcher wants to explore how the violent experiences of the characters in the novel, especially Oscar Wao and his family, affect the deep psychological impact. The main focus of the reseach was on identifying the violence experienced by the characters, how individuals reacted to the shadows and how the history of family trauma experiences affected emotional actions and relationships within the family. The findings show that the violence experienced by the characters not only affects their personal lives, but also reflects broader collective trauma in the context of Dominican history and culture under the rule of Rafael Trujillo's regime. This research contributes to the understanding of how literature can reflect and reveal complex psychological experiences towards the development of characters' emotional actions in living their lives.*

*Keywords: Psychological, Violence, Collective Trauma, Character*

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## I INTRODUCTION

In psychology, character denotes the psychological, moral, and ethical attributes that distinguish a person and influence their character and personality. Psychology investigates the creation, effects, and evolution of character, along with its influence on behavior and social relationships. Jung (1963), in his work

"Memories, Dreams, Reflections," emphasizes the importance of the unconscious mind in shaping personality and behavior. Jung's theory highlights that the interaction between the conscious and unconscious mind is essential in forming personality, indicating that unaddressed issues can manifest as various psychological symptoms.

The impact of traumatic violence on personality in Jung's analytical psychology can be seen as a reflection of suppressed feelings and unresolved issues that influence a person's psyche. Jung's idea of the unconscious implies that individuals need to confront and work through these concealed traumas to attain a more secure sense of identity. As a result, the impacts of trauma may lead to the formation of a more complex and often conflicted character. This investigation into the impact of violent trauma on personality seeks to address mental health concerns that frequently arise from trauma. In the same way, if individuals struggle to cope with trauma-related challenges, it can lead to mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, affecting physical health, social relationships, and overall quality of life.

In general, the social environment instills norms and values that are considered important in society. Individuals frequently internalize these values, shaping their viewpoints and behaviors. Interacting with others, especially parents and friends, provides behavioral examples that individuals often imitate. When brought up in a nurturing environment, they are more inclined to develop robust character, and the reverse holds true too. An individual's surroundings include internal factors such as personality, life experiences, and mental well being. Life experiences, whether positive or negative, shape how people view the world. Trauma, for example, can change the way a person interacts with others and impact their self-worth. The social environment provides external contexts and influences, while the individual environment includes internal factors that shape how individuals respond and adapt.

A frequent occurrence noted in society regarding the impact of violent trauma on

personality is mental health challenges such as low self-worth, anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems. Individuals who experience violent trauma often exhibit various symptoms, including emotional and behavioral changes. These symptoms can include fear, anxiety, depression, difficulty concentrating, behavioral changes such as social withdrawal, and self-injurious behaviors. Additionally, they might encounter difficulties in building relationships and handling emotions, while also experiencing insecurity and having trouble trusting others. Trauma can lead to feelings of sadness, a lack of hope, and potentially the desire to end one's life. The consequences of violent trauma extend beyond just the person experiencing the violence, impacting their environment and society as a whole. Specific impacts that go beyond the individual result in an increased probability of mental and physical health problems among family and friends, as well as the potential for developing violent behavior, distrust, and social isolation in the community. This is similar to what Oscar experienced in "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao".

In the realm of character, trauma often acts as a key turning point that changes a person's personality, motivation, and behavior. Individuals who have undergone trauma may display behaviors such as fear, anxiety, or even hostility as a means of self-protection. They may find it difficult to establish relationships with others or grow disenchanted with their surrounding environment. Still, trauma can act as a wellspring of strength and resilience, allowing characters to manage their past and find new meaning in life. Jung's theory emphasizes that resolving these conflicts is crucial for personal development and healing, indicating that characters can develop through their experiences with trauma.

## II RESEARCH METHODS

A targeted approach or plan employed to address the issues raised in research is termed a research method. Smith, R and Smith, L (2018) Defines qualitative research includes a wide range of methodologies that involve various research techniques.

The methods employed to obtain research data are referred to as data collection techniques. This indicates that choosing the appropriate type

of data is essential for all scientists and researchers. According to Kawulich B. B (2005); Observation, especially participant observation, has been employed across various fields as a method for gathering data concerning individuals, processes, and cultures in qualitative research. The brief wondrous life of Oscar wao by Juno Diaz provided information for this investigation. While everyone recognizes the items around

them, such observations lack a scientific character. Before this research, the data utilized in this research was collected from multiple sources, such as books, journals, and other relevant publications. The process of collecting non-numerical information through words, visuals, and observations to understand individuals attitudes, behaviors, beliefs, and motivations within a particular context is called a qualitative data collection method.

The researcher utilized descriptive data analysis for this research. Descriptive research techniques are those that clarify or depict a phenomenon or event without reaching any general conclusions. This approach allows for the structured and organized presentation of data while offering a brief summary of the research findings. Kothari (2004:122); This is essential for a scientific research and for ensuring that we have all relevant data for making contemplated comparisons and analysis. This research analysis focuses on the impact trauma and violence in character and Relation problem in the novel *The brief wondrous life of Oscar wao*.

### III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter the author will describe the research results from the results of data analysis including how Oscar is traumatized by violence, the form of violence experienced by the character, how the history of violent trauma experienced by Oscar's family and the impact of violent trauma on the characters in the novel *The brief wondrous life of Oscar wao*. the things that will be described include data findings, data analysis and discussion of research that has been conducted by researchers related to the impact of trauma on characters in the novel.

#### 3.1 Archetypes

The concept of Archetypes suggested by Jung pertains to a universal archetype embedded in the collective unconscious of mankind, serving as a mental framework that shapes how individuals interpret and respond to their life experiences. These symbolic depictions regularly appear in mythology, religion, art, and dreams throughout different cultures, linking personal experience with collective narrative.

“Tú ta llorando por una muchacha? She hauled Oscar to his feet by his ear.

The systematic perspective, understanding, and display of data is accomplished through the use of the interpretation analysis method. The main objective of data analysis methods is to uncover patterns, trends, correlations, and other important insights in the data to aid and guide decisions. The interpretation process provides a theoretical basis that can assist in future research while also helping to clarify new elements that elucidate the researcher's conclusions in the research.

Researchers employ the method of chapter-by-chapter reading of the entire novel being examined, also referred to as the data analysis material, to ensure it contains the necessary data for their research. Kothari (2004:110) analysis consists of analysing the contents of documentary materials such as books, magazines, newspapers and the contents of all other verbal materials which can be either spoken or printed. However, the documentary resources for this research were derived from Junoz Diaz's book *The brief wondrous life of oscar wao*.

Lola : Mami, stop it, his sister cried, stop it!

She threw him to the floor. Dale un galletazo, she panted, then see if the little puta respects you”.

(*The brief wondrous life of oscar wao*, 2007:3)

The data above presented highlights the strained and emotional state of Beli's family. The conversation among the characters illustrates the dynamics of violence within familial relationships. Lola, in her role as a sister, seeks to shield Oscar from their mother's harmful behavior. This illustrates how aggression may develop within a family setting and how relatives defend one another. The portrayal of feelings in the conversation reveals the strain present in the family. Oscar appears to be a casualty of the demands and pressures imposed by his mother, highlighting how familial expectations can influence individuals.

#### 3.2 Shadow

In Jung's analytical psychology, the shadow represents the repressed, ignored, or unconscious aspects of the personality, including negative emotions, instinctual drives, and traumas considered incompatible with societal norms.

“In later years, after He and Olga had both turned into overweight freaks, Oscar could not resist feeling the occasional flash of guilt when he saw Olga loping across a street or staring blankly out near the New York bus stop, couldn't stop himself from wondering how much his cold-as-balls breakup had contributed to her present fucked-upness”.

(The Brief wondrous life of oscar wao, 2007:4)

The data above provided reflects Oscar's feelings of regret for ending his relationship with Olga in favor of his other girlfriend, Maritza. The phrase “Oscar could not help but feel some fleeting guilt” implies that Oscar felt profound remorse concerning their separation. This shows how people frequently consider the consequences of their behavior on others, particularly in the realm of close relationships. This guilt may represent a type of emotional trauma endured by Oscar, who perceives himself as accountable for Olga's circumstances. The expression “how much his cold-as-ice breakup had added to her current messed-upness” implies that Oscar understands his behavior and demeanor during the breakup might have played a role in Olga's present condition. The phrase “cold-as-balls” illustrates Oscar's lack of caring or his failure to empathize during the breakup, possibly intensifying the emotional pain that Olga faced. It highlights the theme of accountability in relationships and how personal choices can lead to lasting effects.

#### IV CONCLUSION

This research was performed to determine the effects of violent trauma on Oscar's character and familial connections in the novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. The findings are as follows:

The response to the initial research aim revolves around the different types of violence faced by the protagonist in the novel *"The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao,"* which applies Jung's Psychoanalytic theory. This theory

#### 3.3 Collective unconscious

The concept of the collective unconscious refers to the part of the unconscious mind shared by all humans, encompassing a vast reservoir of inherited memories, experiences, and universal symbols that transcend individual personal experiences. This shared layer is distinct from the personal unconscious, which is specific to individuals and shaped by their unique life experiences and personal backgrounds.

“(She had always been over-protective of him and his sister. Too much bad luck in this family, she sniffed.) Kept the music off and brought him his meals at exactly the same time every day”.

(The brief wondrous life of oscar wao, 2007:15)

The data above depicts Oscar's mother as an exceedingly protective presence for both Oscar and his sister. This quote can also be viewed within the larger framework of how societal and cultural standards can shape the parenting styles adopted by mothers and fathers. In communities where unpredictability and aggression are prevalent, parents might feel a strong urge to safeguard their children through more drastic measures. The expression “This family has had so much misfortune, she sniffed” indicates the mother's conviction that their family has faced significant misfortune. This indicates the presence of a trauma narrative potentially transmitted within the family, where previous negative experiences influence the perspectives and actions of its members. Such beliefs may foster an environment of fear and anxiety, influencing relational interactions among family members.

demonstrates that the character endures enduring trauma from various severe violent incidents throughout his life. Oscar's character is influenced by the history of violence that affected and was experienced by his family, a background he finds hard to escape, which is reflected in the narrative of *"The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao."* Through the psychological examination of the characters in the novel, it becomes evident that the protagonist suffers from long-lasting violent

trauma passed down from his family's history, which plays a crucial role in shaping his character and familial relationships.

For the second aim of this research regarding the impact of prolonged trauma on the characters Oscar, Lola, and Beli, rather than shifting from violent trauma to a realm of fantasy, it will introduce new challenges to the characters' lives and familial relationships. Beli, as Oscar's mother, who lacked love from her parents since she was young, endured severe trauma from her adoptive family. Lola, Oscar's sister who faced abuse from her mother, decided to live independently without her and subsequently became immersed in an unhealthy fantasy realm. Oscar, the protagonist who is overweight, frequently faces discrimination at school, endures violence from his mother, and suffers emotional pain due to his unreciprocated love, ultimately leading to his demise.

The third research aim examines how the family's violent history during the Trujillo regime

influenced character formation and relationships within the family, tracing from Abelard's experience as Oscar's grandfather, to Beli's existence as Oscar's mother, to Lola's life, and finally, to Oscar's own detrimental life.

Drawing from the results of the psychological examination of trauma in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, several research avenues may be explored in the future, including: Linguistic Analysis of Trauma Narratives. A sociolinguistic perspective could evaluate Díaz's incorporation of Spanglish and narrative disjunction as stylistic elements that illustrate psychological detachment from violence. Interdisciplinary Extension Examination Integrating historical analysis with literary trauma theory may enhance comprehension of how Díaz represents the horrors of the Trujillo regime and the enduring psychosocial effects on Dominican-American identity.

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