

A Psychoanalytic Theory: D.H.Lawrence: Sons And Lovers – A Study

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Abstract:

Psychoanalysis is one of the modern theories that are often examined in English literature. It is a theory regarded as a theory of personality organization and the study of personality that guides to the analysis of psychoanalysis. It has a close connection between literature and psychoanalysis. It has always been studied by the academic field of literary criticism or literary theory. Among the critical approaches to literature, the psychoanalysis has been one of the most controversial and for many readers the least appreciated. It has been regarded one of the fascinating and rewarding approaches in the application of interpretative analysis. The psychological interpretation has become one of the techniques to find out the hidden meaning of a literary text. It also helps us to explore the innate literary qualities of the writer's personality as factors that contribute to his experience from birth and leading to the period of writing a book. The goal of psychoanalysis was to show that behavior which was caused by the interaction between conscious and unconscious mind. The proposed study aims to reveal the archetypes of D.H.Lawrence's Sons and Lovers in comparison with Psychoanalytic theory in an excellent manner.

Application:

This study helps the students to learn more about English literature and the development of personality organization and the dynamics of personality in a unique way.

Methodology:

This method of study and the psychoanalytic criticism, and the related analysis is examined in simple, clear and lucid style.

Keywords:

Psychoanalysis, Oedipus complex, consciousness, literature, unconsciousness, daydream.

Date of Submission: 15-01-2023

Date of acceptance: 31-01-2023

I. Introduction:

The early 20th century mark the beginning of modern psychology and the pace of the literary development in comparison with the critics and their texts. This method of criticism is used and the concepts advocated by noted sociologists, including Carl Jung, Alfred Adler and Otto Rank and above all Sigmund Freud. It was first used or developed as a method of therapy for neuroses by Freud, but very soon expanded it to account for many expanded developments and practices in the history of civilizations including warfare, mythology, religion, literature and other arts.

In the process of explaining literature, psychoanalysis has been used and in the process literature which has been used as a source for psychoanalytic conceptions. We noticed that literary criticism has used psychoanalysis theory to interpret literature and literature has also attempted to exploit and used the psychoanalysis for creative purposes. Psychological criticism deals with the work of literature primarily as an expression, in fictional form, of the state of mind and the structure of personality of individual author.

Psychoanalysis:

Psychoanalytic therapy is the re-narratization of a person's life. It has given much importance on the significance between the unconscious and thought processes. They believed that an awareness of this is therapeutic and vital to a health mind. Psychoanalysis emphasized on motives, it focused on hidden or disguised motives which helps to clarify literature on two levels, the levels of writing itself and the level of character action within the text. Psychoanalysis gives emphasis on the subjects and tries to explain what are the relationship of meaning and identity are to the psychic and cultural forces. Psychoanalysis has a great importance in contemporary understanding of reading, meaning and the relation of literature to culture. We live in post-Freudian age. We could not escape the fact that we think about human life differently from the way

people in the past thought about it. Psychoanalytic approaches to literature might not always be rich enough, might tend to be reductive, on the level of theory psychoanalysis is of great importance.

II. LITERATURE AND PSYCHOANALYSIS:

Psychoanalysis is not simply a branch of medicine or psychology; it also helps to understand philosophy, culture, religion and first and foremost literature. In developing his theory of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud has often related it to art in general and to literature in particular.

In *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Freud analyzed Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet* for their oedipal element and for the effects the plays had on their audience. In his 'creative writers and Day-dreaming,' Freud further expanded the connection between literature and psychoanalysis. He compared fantasy, plays, dreams and the work of the art in order to understand 'creative writers and day-dreaming' Freud first presented his theory on the structure of the literary work and made a psychoanalytic inquiry into the nature of literature. For Freud, a literary work is analogous to a daydream. Like a daydream, the literary work contains in its fantasy the fulfillment of an unsatisfactory reality.

Psychoanalytic literary criticism could focus on one or more of the following:

- I. The author: The theory is used to analyze the author and his/her life and the literary work.
 - II. The characters: This theory is used to analyze one or more of the characters, the psychological theory becomes tool that to explains the characters' behavior and motivations.
 - III. The audience: the theory is used to explain the appeal of the work for those who read it.
 - IV. The text: The theory is used to analyze the role of language and symbolism in the work.
- The authors and writers are influenced by the psychoanalytic concepts which are reflected in the characters of their works and also in their mind. The psychoanalytic concepts which were propounded by Sigmund Freud Influenced the psychoanalysis of authors are:
- I. The primacy of the Unconscious.
 - II. The iceberg theory of the psyche.
 - III. Dreams are an expression of our conscious.
 - IV. Infantile behavior is essentially Sexual and
 - V. The relationship between neurosis and creativity.

A Psychological Analysis of D H Lawrence's Sons and Lovers

Paris (1974) has mentioned in his books, 'A Psychological Approach to fiction'. Psychology helps us to talk about what the novelist knows, but fiction helps us to know what the psychologist is talking about.... The chief impulse of realistic fiction, however, is neither formal nor thematic but mimetic, and novels of psychological realism call by their very nature for psychological analysis (Preamble). We could say that fiction is an imitation of life, in other words we could say that it is the critical study of the mind of the author. The novel *Sons and Lovers* is considered as David Herbert Lawrence's magnum opus. It is considered as an autobiographical fiction. Different interpreters of this novel have said different things about the source.

According to Anthony Beal in D.H Lawrence:

Sons and Lovers the autobiographical novel that tells so much about the first twenty-five years of his life, about his family and friend and society in which he grew up.

The novel is all about the protagonist Paul Morel who shown unusually much love from his mother and hatred for his father. There is conflict between love and hatred about the family members. Paul has given critics reason for believing that the novel deals with Sigmund Freud's one of the psychological theories that is Oedipus complex.

"A mother that lives in unsatisfactory relationship both emotionally and sexual, with her husband, will easily be inclined to have a closer bond with her child."

The Oedipus complex was introduced by Sigmund Freud which is named after the Greek tragedy *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles.

According to Encyclopaedia Britannia:

Oedipus complex, in psychoanalytic theory, is desire for sexual involvement with the parent of the opposite sex and concomitant sense of rivalry with the parent of the same sex, a crucial stage in the normal development process".

According to Leif Moutsten, there are six required that must be fulfilled for the complex to take place. The six requirements are:

- I. An intimate relationship between mother and child prior to complex.
- II. The child has discovered the differences between mother boys and girls.
- III. The sexuality of the child is now focused on the pleasurable sensation.

IV. The intellectual development of the child is now at an advance stage, giving the child an opportunity to understand what is going on between two adults.

V. The emotional development of the child is now at an advance stage, making the child more aware to sympathy and empathy meaning, a depiction between whom they like and who they do not.

VI. The emotional and intellectual development is now at an advance stage, that the child no longer acquires the outside world by the use of imitation but instead with identification. (Moutsten, p. 95-97)

VII. On the basis of the criteria mentioned above for the Oedipus complex we could come to a conclusion that D.H. Lawrence in the *Sons and Lovers* novel has followed Sigmund Freud's psychological theory of the Oedipus complex.

Sons and Lovers novel is divided into two parts. In the first the author gives a vivid illustration of family life of the Morels, their working class condition, childhood growth, games and problems and festivities, the little amount of money they make and the debts they owe. The theme of conflict between Paul's parents is constructively portrayed. The second part of the novel gives us the picture of the struggle of Paul, the complex relationship between Paul and Miriam, a girl that lives in a small farm with her family near the Morels. Later in the novel, it gives a picture of intimacy between Miriam and Paul, but it is short because Paul will not marry her. This physical intimacy shows the features of Paul as he continues to remain emotionally detached from Miriam. Once again, Paul succumbs to the oedipal attachment for his mother. Paul has a relationship with a married woman named Clara Dawes. Paul allows himself to have this relationship because he knows that practically this relationship could never go anywhere. She would never divorce her husband. Therefore, Clara is not a threat to Paul's oedipal fixation to his mother. There is no danger of her taking his mother's place.

Paul's mother becomes ill. Since she is bedridden and in pain, Paul gives her morphine. However, he administers an overdose of morphine to her, which leads to her death. While this might be seen as euthanasia, it seems likely that killing his mother was Paul's unconscious way of releasing himself from the Oedipus complex once and for all. Moreover, the dominant theme in Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* is the Oedipus complex. The complex centres on Lawrence's Protagonist Paul and his mother's dealings or relation.

III. Conclusion

In view of this study D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, we come to understand that psychoanalysis is a powerful tool in the critical analysis of a literary text. This study has highlighted the application of Freudian concepts to the explication of literary texts. Literature could help us to alter our knowledge, thought and experience, the internal structures of the self and this transformation could be well explained through psychoanalytic criticism and this enables us to explore new possibilities for reading, studying and teaching literature and literary texts.

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