

DYNAMICS OF PERSONALITY IN THE CHARACTER OF AMY DUNNE IN DAVID FINCHER'S MOVIE *GONE GIRL*

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ABSTRACT

Gone Girl is a movie about murder directed by David Fincher. The purpose of this essay is to analyze the main character's personality through her behavior by discussing intrinsic and extrinsic aspects in this movie. The focus of this essay is Amy Dunne's dynamics. In order to figure this out, the writer uses psychoanalysis approach by using Sigmund Freud's theory on the dynamics of personality. From this analysis, it can be concluded that Amy Dunne's dynamics is leaning on her *id* which makes her personality unstable.

Keywords: *Dynamics of personality, psychoanalysis.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Movie is one of the media that can fulfill people's need of entertainment. Literary works were transformed into motion pictures and become one of the biggest impacts to the world

The writer would like to analyze the movie *Gone Girl* by David Fincher. psychological problems experienced by the character of Amy Dunne in the movie *Gone Girl*. In this movie, there is psychological problem experienced by the character Amy Dunne.

1.2 Research Problems

In this paper, the writer would like to discuss the research problems as follows:

1. How is the psychoanalysis theory applied in the story?
 2. What are the factors that make the psychological problem of the character appears?
 3. Why does Amy Dunne conduct her behavior?
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2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Narrative Aspects

2.1.1 Character

Kennedy states about classification of characters which are flat and round character. A flat character has only one stand out feature or at most a few of traits in a story (Kennedy, 2007: 75). As Kennedy states, flat character has less proportion to the story meanwhile round character is a character that has more characteristics in the story. Round character has more aspects to be presented (Kennedy, 2007: 75)

2.1.2 Conflict

There are two classifications of conflict, external conflict and internal conflict. External conflict applies when the conflict happens beyond the character's control meanwhile internal conflict happens inside the character's mind

2.2 Cinematic Aspects

Shot size or shot scale is the most important aspect of framing and composition. The distance between camera and subject determines size of the screen image and also affects the implied distance between the audience and the characters (Stadler and McWilliam, 2009:35.)

2.3 Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis theory was founded by Sigmund Freud, the total personality that Freud formulated consists of three major systems; *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. As Hall explained in his book, *A Primer of Freudian Psychology*, by working as a team, they manage an individual to be efficient and able to fulfill one's need with his environment (Hall, 1954:22). The dynamics of personality explains how these three systems operate with one another.

The *id* is driven by one consideration only, to pursue pleasure without tolerate any tensions such as logic, morality, etc. "It is demanding, impulsive, irrational, asocial, selfish, and pleasure-loving. It is the spoiled child of the personality." (Hall, 1954:27).

On the other hand, the *ego* is regulated by the reality principle. The aim of reality principle is to put off the release of energy until a real object that could satisfy the need has been found or created (Hall, 1954:28). In order to fill a desire one has to find the goal object in external reality and to do that one has to find the way and the suitable goal object to satisfy one's need.

The third system of personality is the *superego*, this system tightly bound with moral. Hall states that, "The superego is the person's moral code." (1954:31). It has those standards like what is good and what is bad, it is the product of socialization and cultural tradition.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Analysis of Narrative Aspects in *Gone Girl*

3.1.1 Character

Amy is manipulative, perfectionist, and revengeful. From that explanation it can be inferred that Amy has many characteristics that make her proportion in the story substantial. Her complexity makes her a round character.

3.1.2 Conflict

In this story we can see the external conflict that triggers Amy's behavior is the infidelity of her husband but if we dig deeper her internal conflict is far more responsible for this. She's not real, Amy Dunne is a figment of cool girl she pretends to be. She corrupts herself to be a girl that her husband wanted to be with.

Growing up, Amy was living under Amazing Amy's shadow, a fictional character that her parents created based on Amy. Amazing Amy always does anything right, she is perfect. This makes Amy become a perfectionist, competitive, and attention seeker kind of person.

Under these circumstances, Amy evolves into a control freak. She doesn't just want to have everything that she wants, she wants to control people to fulfill her desire. These internal conflicts become the main factor that makes her behave as such.

3.1.3 Psychoanalysis

The total personality consists of three major systems, they are *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. These systems work co-operatively with each other in a person who has healthy mental. In this part, the writer analyzes Amy Dunne's dynamics based on her behavior dealing with conflicts in the movie *Gone Girl*.

Amy's ego surrenders too much on its power to the *id* that makes its function unwise. Thus, Amy's *superego* forms a new perception from her *ego* that allows her to react like such. It should be memorized in mind that the energy is only enough to support one. This means that if the *id* gains energy, the *ego* or the *superego* – or both – have to lose energy. The power of one system of personality means reducing other systems. A person with a strong *id* will have weak *ego* and *superego* (Hall, 1954:48).

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Her *superego* is exploited by her *id* for the purpose of its fulfillment. It is shown when Amy pins her disappearance to Desi telling people that he has kidnapped and assaulted her. Amy remains unconcerned about the fact that she puts all the blame to the man he killed.

4. CONCLUSION

David Fincher's *Gone Girl* is a drama movie that was released in 2014 which made some major buzz at the time. One might look at this movie as a mystery or just another thriller movie. One of the ways to understand the movie better is by looking through the main character in this story. Amy Dunne holds an interesting idea of the Freudian psychology's theory about the conduct of one's behavior that is determined by one's dynamics.

After the writer analyzed David Fincher's *Gone Girl* using psychological approach, it is true that there are several aspects of the dynamics of personality represented in this movie. These are represented on the distribution and disposal of psychic energy that is shown through the main character, Amy Dunne, towards the conflicts of her life. Her mass of energy is controlled by her *id*, which causes her actions to be impulsive. What one is and does will depend on the distribution of the psychic energy. The disharmony of her *id*, *ego*, and *superego* is resulting maladjustment. These

unbalanced organizations of Amy's personality prove that her dynamics is unwise, therefore she shows signs of psychological problems.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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