



AN ANALYSIS OF THE PERSONALITY STRUCTURE OF MATEO TORREZ IN THEY BOTH DIE AT THE END BY ADAM SILVERA

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Abstract

Personality research is highly important in providing an understanding of an individual's character who lives within society. It allows individuals to learn about the challenges they will face, both in the form of internal conflicts or external conflicts, and also how to confront or avoid these issues. This research is titled "Personality Structure of the main character, Mateo Torrez, in they both die at the end by Adam Silvera." The study aims to enrich the understanding of literary studies, particularly in analyzing the psychological aspects of personality structure as stated in Sigmund Freud's theory. The purpose of this research is to understand the personality structure of the main character, Mateo Torrez, in the novel they both die at the end by Adam Silvera, using Sigmund Freud's theory. The researcher chose this novel because it exhibits interesting psychological aspects to study, and the character of Mateo Torrez is the most dominant character in the novel. This research considers three aspects of personality structure, namely the Id, ego, and superego. The research classifies, identifies, and generates data related to the personality of the main character. In Mateo Torrez's personality, the Ego is the dominant aspect, representing rationality, self-awareness, and balance in decision-making. The Id and Super Ego, representing instinctual drives and internalized moral standards, are present but relatively less dominant. This suggests that Mateo prioritizes rationality and conscious decision-making in his actions and choices. Thus, Mateo possesses a dominant Ego personality.

Keywords: *Personality Structure, Freudian Concepts, Character Analysis, Id, Ego, and Superego.*

INTRODUCTION

"They Both Die at the End" is a science fiction novel written by Adam Silvera, depicting the story of two teenagers, Mateo and Rufus, who discover from a company called Death-Cast that they have only 24 hours left to live. Mateo, a socially anxious boy with strong programming skills, decides to step out of his comfort zone and joins Rufus on a journey to explore the city before their inevitable deaths. The narrative delves into themes of friendship, love, and mortality as they encounter others facing impending demise, creating an emotionally engaging tale with well-developed characters, including Mateo Torrez.

In the realm of psychology, Sigmund Freud's foundational concept of personality explores the interplay of three systems: id, ego, and superego. Freud's psychoanalytic theory posits that the id represents unconscious instincts, the ego balances individual needs with social reality, and the superego houses moral values and social norms. This personality structure has become crucial in understanding human dynamics, influencing psychotherapy practices.

According to Jacques Laplanche and other psychologists, the concept of personality structure, rooted in Freud's theories, emphasizes the interconnected nature of the id, ego, and superego. The id harbors unconscious desires, the ego manages conscious control, and

the superego dictates moral values and social norms. This theory has significantly contributed to psychoanalytic understanding and is valuable in psychotherapy to discern conflicts between individual needs and societal norms.

In "They Both Die at the End," Mateo Torrez undergoes character development influenced by the personality structure concept. Initially confined by fear and societal norms (id), Mateo gradually opens up to new experiences, including love for Rufus, showcasing the development of the ego. Despite initial apprehensions, Mateo also defies some rules, influenced by the superego's moral values. The novel illustrates how the concept of personality structure plays a role in Mateo's growth, transforming him from a fearful conformist to someone who embraces life's meaningful experiences.

Examining human personality in literary fiction, particularly novels, is crucial for a deeper understanding of its dynamics through complex characters. These characters, much like the personality structure concept, exhibit various interrelated aspects that interact with their environment, influencing their development. Such research provides insights into how events in a story shape characters' identities, offering a unique perspective on human personality. Additionally, exploring personality structure in literary fiction contributes to both psychology and literature, enhancing our understanding of character complexity and the intricate patterns within stories. This research opens avenues for further exploration in the field.

METHOD

In this study, the authors employed the descriptive analysis method, as explained by Bogdan (1982: 28), involving the description of facts followed by analysis. This method was chosen to explore the personality of the main character and the factors influencing it.

The study utilized a literary psychology approach, considering psychology as an auxiliary science to discuss teachings and principles derived from literary works. This approach was applied to understand the psychology of Mateo, the main character in Adam Silvera's "They Both Die at the End," particularly focusing on personality and influencing factors. The personality approach was chosen due to the intrinsic element under examination – the character. Psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud served as the tool for analysis, adapted to explore the characters, with a focus on the dominant character, Mateo.

The data source for this research was Ruth Ware's novel, "They Both Die at the End." The data comprised monologues, dialogues, and character expressions and descriptions written in the form of words, phrases, or sentences. Published by Harper Teen on September 05, 2017, the novel contains 384 pages.

The researcher herself served as the instrument in this study. The writer read Adam Silvera's novel, observed it to address the problem statements, identified relevant data, made interpretations, and developed them for the study. Reading and data collection involved classifying information from "They Both Die at the End" to analyze the application of personality structure to Mateo.

Data were obtained and analyzed through documentation, where the author read the entire novel, made notes using a notebook, and identified data based on the problem statement. The writer then collected and analyzed the data, focusing on how personality structure was applied to Mateo in the novel. The steps included careful reading, identification of relevant data, and classification of data for analysis.

The analysis involved several steps. The writer analyzed the identified and classified data using Sigmund Freud's personality theory. Subsequently, conclusions were drawn based on these findings.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Mateo Torrez's Character

As the main character of Mateo Torrez, He is one of the main characters heavily influenced by the concept of personality structure. The three interrelated structures of personality, namely id, ego, and superego, shape his journey. At the start, he is portrayed as a young man afraid of his monotonous and restricted life, reflecting the id's instincts and desires. He feels bound by social rules and fears the risks that may lead to his demise. However, as the story progresses, he gradually embraces new experiences, including his burgeoning love for Rufus. This signifies the development of his ego, the conscious part of his personality that regulates the id and balances individual needs with social reality. Additionally, the superego, encompassing moral values and social norms, also influences him. Despite his initial apprehension towards rules and norms, he eventually dares to break them in pursuit of happiness and fulfillment. The story highlights the role of personality structure in shaping his character. From his initial fear and conformity, he ultimately conquers his anxieties and discovers meaningful experiences.

ID Personality Structure

Mateo's personality consist of ID can be focused as follows:

"I'm freaking out already, a hundred thoughts immediately drowning out everything around me" (Silvera, 2017: 6)

In the quote above, Mateo experiences deep fear and anxiety. His mind became chaotic with many thoughts that came so fast, ignoring everything around him. This reflects the attitude of the id which prioritizes personal needs and desires, without considering external factors or bigger consequences.

"It's crazy. One minute ago I was reading yesterday's blog entry from CountDowners—where Deckers chronicle their final hours through statuses and photos via live feeds, this particular one about a college junior trying to find a home for his golden retriever—and now I'm going to die" (Silvera, 2017: 6)

In the quote above, Mateo was shocked and couldn't believe the situation he was in. He realized the drastic changes that occurred in a short time, from reading other people's stories to realizing that this time he would die. This reaction shows the Id's impulsiveness and focus on meeting personal needs and safety.

"I don't want to pick up the phone. I'd rather run into Dad's bedroom and curse into a pillow because he chose the wrong time to land himself in intensive care, or punch a wall because my mom marked me for an early death when she died giving birth to me" (Silvera, 2017: 6)

In the quote above, Mateo felt angry and frustrated with the situation he was in. He shows an Id attitude that prioritizes emotional expression, such as venting his anger by cursing or hitting something. He also feels that his fate has been determined by events in the past, such as when his mother died giving birth to Mateo, which creates a feeling of bad destiny and injustice.

Ego Personality Structure

Mateo's personality consist of EGO can be focused as follow:

"Not forever, obviously, but long enough so I could grow up. Dad has even been drilling it into my head that I should pretend I'm the main character of a story that nothing bad ever happens to, most especially death, because the hero has to be around to save the day." (Silvera, 2017: 6)

In quote above, Mateo's ego is reflected in his desire to grow up and experience life without any negative events, particularly death. He mentions how his father encourages him to adopt a mindset where he sees himself as the main character of a story where

nothing bad happens to him. This reflects his need to maintain a positive self-image and avoid the fear of mortality.

"The phone rings for what's got to be the thirtieth time, and I can't avoid it any more than I can avoid what's going down sometime today." (Silvera, 2017: 6)

In the quote above, Mateo's ego is apparent in his recognition of the persistent ringing phone and his acknowledgment that he cannot avoid what is happening. Despite his reluctance, he acknowledges the significance of the incoming call and the impact it will have on his life.

"I'm shaking but manage to press Talk. I don't say anything. I'm not sure what to say. I just breathe because I have fewer than twenty-eight thousand breaths left in me—the average number of breaths a nondying person takes per day—and I might as well use them up while I can." (Silvera, 2017: 6)

In quote above, Mateo's ego is characterized by his internal struggle and vulnerability. He is physically shaking but manages to gather the courage to answer the phone. He doesn't know what to say, which indicates his uncertainty and fear of the situation. However, he takes solace in the fact that he has limited time left and chooses to make the most of his remaining breaths.

Super Ego Personality Structure

Mateo's personality consist of SUPEREGO can be focused as follow:

"But the noise in my head is quieting down and there's a Death-Cast herald on the other end of the phone waiting to tell me I'm going to die today at eighteen years old" (Silvera, 2017: 6)

In the quote above, Mateo's super ego is evident in his response to the news of his impending death. Despite the shocking revelation, he remains calm and composed, indicating his ability to accept the situation and face it with maturity.

"Hello, I'm calling from Death-Cast. I'm Andrea. You there, Timothy?" (Silvera, 2017: 6)

In the quote above, Mateo's interaction with Andrea from Death-Cast demonstrates his adherence to societal rules and authority figures. He engages respectfully with her and acknowledges her presence, indicating his respect for the rules and procedures set by Death-Cast.

CONCLUSION

In the examination of the psychological dynamics portrayed in the novel "They Both Die at the End," the analysis is rooted in the framework of the human personality, encompassing the id, ego, and superego. It is emphasized that these components are interrelated and inseparable within the human psyche. Consequently, the findings of this study reveal that a single set of data may exhibit one, two, or all three aspects of the personality structure—namely, id, ego, and superego. Upon scrutinizing the main character, Mateo Torrez, in "They Both Die at the End," several key observations can be drawn. The application of Freud's psychoanalytic theory to assess the personality structure indicates that Mateo's character is significantly influenced by the id, ego, and superego. The id manifests in his instincts and desires, as he initially feels restricted by societal rules and apprehensive about potential risks leading to his downfall. However, as the narrative unfolds, Mateo gradually embraces novel experiences, including his burgeoning love for Rufus. This denotes the evolution of his ego, the conscious facet of his personality that regulates the id and maintains equilibrium between individual needs and societal expectations. Moreover, the superego, encompassing moral values and social norms, also plays a pivotal role in shaping Mateo. Despite initial reservations towards rules, he

ultimately challenges them in the pursuit of happiness and fulfillment. The story underscores the profound impact of personality structure in molding Mateo's character—from his initial fears and conformity to his eventual triumph over anxieties and discovery of meaningful experiences.

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