

KAZUO ISHIGURO'S THE REMAINS OF THE DAY: ENUMERATION OF SUPPRESSED DESIRES AND IMAGES IN CONCERN WITH FREUDIAN PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

Psychoanalysis Theory is one of the literature's burgeoning theories. Sigmund Freud is the major proponent and contributor of the theory. His method of analyzing the theory is for literary purposes or a therapeutic method. Psychosis represents the main mechanism of wishful thinking when the mind is awake. The concept of wish fulfillment is depicted in the work of Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams* and it can be occurred in two-stage: while sleeping and awake. The motto of Wish Fulfillment Theory is to fulfill the person's suppressed needs and requirements. Carl Jung is another significant Psychoanalytic writer who introduced Psyche archetypes. Those archetypes are Persona, Anima/Animus, Shadow and Self. This research paper explores the Persona and the Self of the character Butler. This research paper scrutinizes Kazuo Ishiguro's novel *The Remains of the Day* through the lens of Freud's wish fulfillment theory. The Stream of Consciousness approach is reflected by the character Stevens in this work, and the novel explores the character's repressed and suppressed internal thoughts in his mind. This novel addresses World War II and the devastation caused, which stifled people's thoughts and minds. On one hand Stevens, the butler, is devoted to his master and upholds the dignity of the master by responding to his requirements. He, on the other hand, struggles to meet his own needs.

Keywords: Desire, Flashback, Persona, Psychosis, Self, Repression.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Literary theories include many fresh ideas and approaches of reading a piece of literature. It represents emerging new issues and advancement. It can be used in literature to understand the in-depth meaning of the ideas. Normally, concepts are subtle, when theories are applied, they become dynamic and the theories are expanded further with multifaceted dimensions. The novel *The Remains of the Day* was written by Kazuo Ishiguro, a well-known British novelist. In 2017, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature. In 1989, this book won the Booker Prize. *The Remains of the Day* is written in first-person narration and the narrator himself is the protagonist of the novel. The novel *The Remains of the Day* tackles themes such as social change, loyalty, class disparity, greatness, regret, and dignity. These ideas are related to psychoanalytic theory, particularly Freud's work *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis* published in 1933. In this book, he analyzes a person's personality by looking through the eyes of Id, Ego, and Superego. The pleasure principle, in which the mind abounds with happiness and pleasant thoughts, is referred to as the "Id". The term "ego" relates to the reality principle, according to which the mind holds the realities that people must deal with in their daily lives. The morality principle known as the SuperEgo describes how moral ideals occupy the mind. The term "Psychic Model" refers to these three viewpoints. On the other hand, there is another model propounded by Freud which is called the Topographic Model. Freud examines how the human mind is modeled in Topographical Model. There are three perspectives in this model: the Conscious mind, Preconscious mind, and Subconscious mind.

II. DISCUSSION

Stevens, an English Butler who dedicated his life in serving Lord Darlington as a butler with sincerity. Stevens tells the story of *The Remains of the Day* in the first person unreliable narration. After the death of Lord Darlington, the next who is going to take care of the position is Mr Farraday, an easygoing American gentleman. The maid, Miss Kenton, a former worker of Stevens, and their personal relationship are major plot points in the book. As the story progresses, more evidence of Miss Kenton and Stevens' love for one another is revealed. Here the theory of Psychosis can be applied to the characters Stevens and Miss Kenton. The theory of Psychosis refers to the wishful thinking of the mind and in this novel, Stevens and Miss Kenton have hidden feelings about them that are not explicitly revealed. Those hidden desires come under wishful thinking and that wishful thinking is called Psychosis.

Mr Farraday is a polite and attractive man who handles the problem gently, rather than being a severe and strict officer. Stevens shouldn't be so stiff and uncompromising, in his opinion. However, Stevens aspires to be a good and perfect servant for Mr Farraday, and he wishes to be aware of all of his preferences in order to meet those demands. He works tirelessly to keep his position since he would be stuck without it. Stevens realizes his morality principle because he is working continuously to achieve his moral values towards his job satisfaction. Freud calls the Morality Principle as Super Ego.

"My pondering over the implications of Miss Kenton's letter finally opened my eyes to the simple truth: that these small errors of recent months have derived from nothing more sinister than a faulty staff plan". (The Remains of the Day)

Miss Kenton writes Stevens a letter. She marries Mr. Benn and becomes Mrs. Benn. She expresses dissatisfaction with her marital life in the letter. Stevens wants to rehire her as a maid in order to bring her back to the Darlington hall. Mr Farraday decides to replace Cornwall and bring back Mrs Benn since he is dissatisfied with the job of Cornwall and wants a new housekeeper. Stevens is a devoted and responsible butler who is unwilling to leave his master alone. Farraday, however, is an easy-going man, and he wants Stevens to make his mind relaxed and lighten up. Faraday permits him to take a holiday and go on a trip. Mr Farraday understands the unconscious mind of Stevens and he wants to make his mind free and relax so he decides to send him on a trip.

Stevens understands that a good butler must have certain characteristics. Mr Stevens Senior, Stevens' father, instructs on the finer parts of the job and teaches everything relevant to the job. Stevens and Mr Stevens work together in Darlington hall and one day Mr Stevens falls ill and he suffers from a stroke. Mr Stevens serves the meal at the dining table while he falls ill and Stevens runs here and there to manage his work and save his father's life. Stevens receives help from Miss Kenton, who also takes good care of his father's health. Though his father is ill, he did not give up his duty of serving the people in dining. He starts to repress his emotions inside his heart and does his job sincerely. His unconscious mind gets repressed by his father's illness but he hides everything in his mind and is emotionally affected by his father's thoughts.

Stevens believes Lord Darlington is the best master in the world, but he quickly understands that Darlington is not well-known and is merely attempting to look so by adhering to severe rules and regulations. He exhibits unfavourable behaviour and refuses to interact with others. Miss Kenton departs from Darlington Hall in order to wed and settle down with Mr Benn, a wealthy man. In this novel, Stevens undergoes the stream of consciousness by travelling to the past and shifting back to presence. He recalls the past of Miss Kenton because he is affectionate with her and suddenly shifts back to the real world.

Stevens when he returns to reality, his anxiety grows as a result of Mrs Benn's uncertainty about whether to accept or reject the job offer. Stevens's subconsciousness is affected by the dilemma of his own thoughts regarding Mrs Benn's decision. Stevens revisits his past and remembers how much he loves Miss Kenton. He confesses his love to her, but she rejects him, stating that she has no interest in loving him. While Stevens reads romance novels, she makes fun of him. Stevens becomes angry because he disapproves of Miss Kenton's behaviour. Both of them put an end to their conversation. Now Stevens feels bad for his behaviour for making a small issue a huge one and that causes the separation between them. He has no right to hate her for her causal jokes and this stern mind of Stevens came from Lord Darlington's action. Stevens's inner psyche is affected by the thought of his own past memories with Miss Kenton and Stevens could not come out of her thoughts and he knows that Miss Kenton is now a married woman. But he still remembers the old memories which haunt his mind.

"But that doesn't mean to say, of course, there aren't occasions now and then - extremely desolate occasions - when you think to yourself: 'What a terrible mistake I've made with my life.' And you get to thinking about a different life, a better life you might have had. For instance, I get to thinking about a life I may have had with you, Mr Stevens. And I suppose that's when I get angry over some trivial little thing and leave. But each time I do

so, I realize before long - my rightful place is with my husband. After all, there's no turning back the clock now. One can't be forever dwelling on what might have been. One should realize one has as good as most, perhaps better, and be grateful."(The Remains of the Day)

III. CONCLUSION

Mrs Benn meets Stevens and recollects the past reminiscence and ponders over the time spent in the Darlington Hall. Though she is fond of her career; She has made the decision that she will no longer serve as a maid at darlington hall in the future after her marriage. She is not in a state to agree to the suggestions of her master in the Darlington hall. After learning about the decision of Mrs Benn; Stevens departs from the place. The reality principle acts as a suppressed image in the mind so here Stevens realizes the reality principle with the intentions of Mrs Benn's decision of leaving Darlington's hall. He came to a conclusion that to give all his potential in doing his work sincerely to Mr Farraday. He decides to give Mr Farraday his full capacity in accomplishing his work. He chooses to spend the remaining days investigating other people's beliefs and opinions in order to aid them. Finally, this made him realize his social status, thus he is going to find his self identity by analysing his inner mind. Here, Freud's wish fulfilment theory could be used to the character Stevens since, at first, his thoughts are buried and repressed, but he later realizes his desire and passion. So at the end his wish gets fulfilled by his true and sincere attitude towards his life and career. He is now ready to begin his new way of approaching life in a positive and happy manner. This psychoanalysis achieves autonomy in thought and process. So it has a capacity to grab the attention of people in an optimistic way.

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