



The Inner Aspects of Paul in David Herbert Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*

Fahim Cheffat Salman^a, Sazuliana Binti Sanif^b, ^{a,b}UTHM, Johor. Malaysia,
Email: fahimch83@yahoo.com

This study shows the nature of human beings in the context of society. It also shows the importance of cultural background as a factor that influences humans and reflects behaviour. D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* gives consideration to humans in the context of family and social environments. The writer depicts unbalanced life. For instance, Paul was born and brought up in circumstances of animosity between his father and mother. His mother always prevents him from establishing any relationship with women. Thus, knowing Paul's life gives us an understanding of the domination of mothers even regarding the fate their sons. In the novel, the inner aspects can be traced clearly because the author of the story has chosen some incidents from his personal life. This study will show the psychological elements in the character of Paul that reflect an application of the Oedipus complex. D.H. Lawrence never failed to depict the lives of his characters in all his works. Here, Paul Morel, who is one of the major characters of *Sons and Lovers*, portrays how he will never escape the bad effects of the class system on his life.

Key words: *Inner aspects, Oedipus complex, social environment, possessiveness.*

Introduction

Psychoanalysis in literary works displays the innate agglomeration of the author's character as a means that contributes to production from early writing to the end of life. Psychoanalysis began as a medical procedure. It spread into other branches of studies and lastly penetrated literary works as an approach to literature. Authors like Sigmund Freud, C.C. Jung, A. Adler, E. Erikson, A. Maslow and K. Horney, etc. deduced their own views on the issues of psychoanalysis.

Though human differences have prominent areas in psycho-analysis, the concept psycho-analysis swivelled round the idea of human beings' actions are confirmed by the past-stored

actions; ‘psycho-analytic theories assume the existence of unconscious internal states that motivate an individual’s overt actions’ (Monte, 1977)

Kumari, N. (2016) stated that psychoanalysis does not represent a theory only but is a therapy that assists by treating people’s suffering from anxiety and depression. It does through acquiring insight through free association, catharsis and dream analysis. Psychoanalysis helps us in reading and understanding human behaviour on the foundations of theories established by Freud.

Psychoanalysis is a movement coined by S. Freud (1859-1939). The idea of specialisation (of Sigmund Freud) is psychiatry that deals with people’s mental perversion. The human mind is as a tape recorder that stores past experiences and crops up when a person faces the same event. Hence, Freud succeeded in telling us that human lives are a continuous flow of consciousness (flashback) into our store-records. This can be seen clearly in drama (soliloquy) or in novel action (unconscious) (Korth, 1981).

The current study concentrates on the inner aspects of Paul’s character in David Herbert Lawrence’s *Sons and Lovers* and how issues made him suffer from inner conflicts and social conflicts in his relationship with the woman whom he loved.

The origin of the conflicts are mostly caused by his Mother’s possessiveness of him and his elder brother, William. Gertrude Morel’s possessiveness was clear in the novel due to her fear of losing her sons. These conflicts lead Paul to other inner conflicts. He does not realise that his decisions lead him to other troubles.

Purpose of the Investigation

The study aims to explain why and how males put themselves in critical states in various situations and how they behave in their relationships with females throughout their lives. Males compare themselves with family members and different individuals in their daily relationships. They discuss their relationships according to the position they are in so as to interact with them. The study also talks about the utilisation of the psychoanalytical approach in literary works to interpret literary production, understand the psyche of the writer and the psychological development of the characters. The paper focuses on the overriding actions of the mother and how her ardour straitens her son’s desires.

Background

Sigmund Freud was the establisher of psychoanalysis and introduced it as a critical way to analyse literary works. He relates it to the subconscious, which makes writers discuss the possible connection between arts and madness (Booker 32).

According to Hossain, M. (2017), Psychoanalysis is a modern theory that is used in English literature. It is considered a theory of human personality and the dynamics of personality that lead psychoanalysis. It is also regarded as one of the rewarding approaches in the application of literary and interpretative analysis to find out the underlying meaning of a literary work (Al-Bayati, W. A. W. T., 2008). According to Freud, boys become sexually attracted to their mothers and feel jealous and hostile towards their fathers. In the same way, girls evolve sexual feeling towards their fathers and feel enraged at their mothers. Freud indicates that in children's love for their parents, children evolve a sexual position regarding parents of the opposite sex and others. Freud calls this the 'Oedipus Rex', which involves the establishment of his psychoanalytic theory. Tauber (2009a) mentioned that psychoanalytic theory, deemed in the status of a Kantian framework, fosters two distinctly conflicting metaphysical cases (Tauber, 2009a, 2010). The first is derived from Freud's scientific coaching, means, and the causation witnessed in the natural world. The second produces humanism, which confers humans with a consciousness that bestows reasons to navigate the world (Kirsner, D., 2005). According to Zaretsky, psychoanalysis fluttered between mystification and modernity. In his view, psychoanalysis could be utilised to validate present repelled circumstances as well as to disclose alienation.

Sons and Lovers (1913) was Lawrence's masterpiece. It was mainly written in an autobiographical style. It raised the writer to the level of semantic writers of letters in Britain. In this particular novel, D.H. Lawrence forms a perfect blend of hatred and love. The writer gives a powerful attachment with a mother and a high level of bitterness and hatred in a young man. It is a powerful literary work with deep sincerity in its treatment of strong attachment regarding a mother and son relationship. The novel shows a clear picture of a relationship between woman and man (husband & wife), between a woman and her lover and natural beauty in an effective interpretation. The novel also gives a sexual relationship its importance because sex plays a vital role in the development of such relationships. Lawrence dealt with different themes in his novel, but the relationship between man and woman was the most frequent theme. This man-woman relationship regarded as the essence of Lawrence's philosophy. He attacked one person's domination of another and called for poise in relationships between men and women. The readers of his novels noticed that the writer is a great weaver in portraying characters. One of those characters is Paul Morel, who is completely dominated by his mother. He is unable to make his own decisions or chose the lady whom he wants to marry. His mother cannot bear to see

her son and his brother William be independent. It is her love that frustrates Paul and William. Paul is in a dilemma because his mother wants to hold his soul, affection and thoughts (Hamid, H. M., 2010).

According to a study by Hanlon, J. A. (2018), love is the centric connotation in Lawrence's novel. Paul Morel is a lost soul who moves from one relationship to another, but at the end he discovers himself fully alone. Mother's love is the pleasurable one, which he admits. Haiyan (2016) argues that Lawrence was a great writer, since he created a great literary work, *Sons and Lovers*. It is a realistic work in the sense that it depicts the misery of a British miners' life but is also a successful psychoanalytic literary production with an illustration of the Oedipus complex. Love in this novel blocks the healthy growth of a son.

D.H. Lawrence's Carrier

Yasuhiro Kondo (2015) states that D.H. Lawrence was accompanied by times of vicissitudes, and his literary works include these issues. Raymond William, a British literary critic, explains the turning points in David Herbert Lawrence's life in relation to *Sons and Lovers*. R. Williams wrote about Lawrence's literature and pointed out the impasse with which Lawrence faced. Williams confirms the pressure of the magnitude of social change because of industrialism. Eyvazi, M. (2014) mentions that Lawrence authored many poems, plays, short stories and novels. *Sons and Lovers* tells us about a woman called Gertrude Morel who marries Walter Morel, who is lower in class, has a bad temper and is a collier. After six months of marriage, their love vanishes, so the woman pours her love into her middle son, Paul Morel. Paul feels sympathy towards his mother and falls under her domination to the end of the novel. The images in the novel were given directly by Lawrence himself. The writer uses the dialogue of everyday life for the people in the novel so as to give us clear imagery. According to Al-Bayati, W. A. W. T. (2008), D. H. Lawrence is said to be a writer who digs deep into the human soul and mind. Lawrence's idea of sex and love is set up on rationalism. He identifies the inner psychological needs of man to combine bodily, mental, physical and spiritual qualities to fulfil a real sense of human love and sex.

The writer succeeds in dealing with the effects of industrialism on a British family and the picture of future life as well as the tragic influence of an alcoholic father on a family. Hanlon, J. A. (2018) states that 'the novel *Sons and Lovers* chiefly talks about relationships... particularly the relationship between male and female' (Fiona Becket, 134). What is Paul screening in his journey in this life? Why couldn't he find a pleasurable love in his life? Was it only the Oedipus complex or was it some issue beyond that? Ahmed (2016). D.H. Lawrence shows how the sons relate to their mother and how they end their attachment

at the end of the novel. Lawrence completely identifies with Paul Morel, so that the tension in the writing changes into a natural expression of the one-sided paralysis of the hero.

Paul Morel

Paul is one of the major characters in D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. He is the second son after his elder brother William. He is sensitive, delicate and has a pale face. He seems to be older than other boys of his age (Haiyan et al., 2016). When Paul was a child, he walked miles to look for blackberries that his mother liked. He prefers to spend his time beside his mother, because he sees his mother as a fashionable creature and young beautiful girl. He loves his mother very much and hates his father very much to the extent that he prays for his father's death. He shows his deep love for his mother when his father is away. Kumari (2016) states that Paul gives extreme love to his mother. This is a brilliant illustration of Freud's Oedipus Complex. The theory of the Oedipus complex is Freud's clarification of how all of us promote an adult likeness. Mariam is the girl and the beloved of Paul. She hates his mother because she controls his mind. Paul's mother thinks that her son, Paul, is part of her and she never allows anyone to take him from her.

'She is one of those who will want to suck a man's soul out till he has none of his own left' (S.L.p.163).

Paul's mother uses all her forceful control to curb him from sharing his love and passion with other ladies. Paul's mind still possessed by his mother and he can't live without her. Thus, he laments:

'But why-why don't I want to marry her or anybody? I feel sometimes as if I wronged my women, mother.'(S.L.p.215).

This part in the research discusses the relationship between Paul Morel and his mother to illustrate the relationship between a son and his mother. The boy builds a special bond with his mother from his babyhood. While he has a feud with his father, his relationship with his mother is the most substantial thing in his life.

The Oedipus Complex

The Oedipus complex is a significant topic in the world. It also call 'mother fixation'. In general, it refers to the practicability of the psychological propensity of a man. This complex can exist regardless of what age a child or person appertains to his mother. Haiyan et al., state that the Oedipus complex refers to 'King Oedipus'. He was the son of the king who without intention murdered his father and married his mother (Haiyan et al., 2016). Sigmund

Freud called these psychological signs the Oedipus complex. A child, especially male, has a special sexual tendency for the opposite parent and has a hostility towards the parent of the same sex.

S. Freud believed that a male child has a type of psychological attachment to their mother and hatred for their father. Thus, Paul is not stable and is not as strong as his brothers. He is depressed and indecisive because of his segregation from his father. When Paul meets and loves his first woman, Mariam, he thinks that he should be loyal to his mother. This love causes him great trouble and gives Mariam great spiritual sorrows, so their relationship comes to a termination.

In addition, Paul and Clara's love comes to an end, though Mrs. Morel does not hate Clara. They cannot not persist. Clara is a married woman and she wants to have a sense of security from a strong man. She discovers that Paul has a kind of fear of marriage because of his mother's dominance. The personification of the Oedipus complex can be clearly noted in D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* in the sense that men with this complex carry out what their mother asks them to do. They conceptualise that their own mother is the only creature who loves them and could count on them. Thus, they do not wish to leave their mothers and want to live with them to the end of life. Many examples of this can be identified in the novel. For instance, Paul Morel's love for his mother and his hatred for his father are evident. He prays all the time that his father will die and spends his whole life with his mother.

The Relationship of Genders in *Sons & Lovers*

When David Herbert Lawrence debates issues related to genders, he comprehends that changes in societies and gender relationships can be possible when there is a mended relationship between a male and a female. Since he trusted the identity crisis which most of society suffers from, his works are the result of breaking down relationships between men and women.

Conclusion

In the current study, some remarks regarding the Freudian analysis of Lawrence's novel, *Sons and Lovers*, were revisited. Paul's issue represents the tragedy of young men in life. It also represents the attitudes of D.H. Lawrence regarding the mentality in his literary work. Since this goes well with the characteristics of a naturalistic novel, it is regarded as being an example of critical naturalistic points. How characters are affected by personal merits as well as psychological and social forces was investigated. The paper shows that Paul Morel is entirely influenced by his mother, both in behaviour and personality.



The study concludes that Paul Morel loves his mother and hates his father. He and his mother, Mrs. Gertrude Morel, have a mutual love. His mother completely dominates his character and makes him unable to make decisions. He fails in forming relationships with any women because he feels that his love is only for his mother. Paul represents the character of the writer during his early life. The character suffers from the Oedipus complex and becomes indecisive. He cannot behave alone; he integrates his mother's opinion into every aspects of his life. That is why he fails in his relationship with women. His mother bounds his thinking and makes him doubtful of women. He meets Mariam, a spiritual lady and Clara, who is looking for a strong man to compensate for her previous failure with her husband. Later, both of the ladies discover that Paul is not a man who deserves to establish relationship. He is completely dominated by his mother. His mother feels jealousy of the women. She wants to keep her son beside her for her whole life. After her death, Paul keeps on living with his mother's soul and considers her as a living creature.



REFERENCES

- Ahmed, K. M. (2016). Gender and Oedipus Complex in Lawrence's Sons and Lovers. *Journal of Tikrit University for the Humanities*, 23(2), 475-517.
- Al-Bayati, W. A. W. T. (2008). The Psychological Bases of Lawrence's Sons and Lovers: Some Educational Implications. *Journal of Al-qadisiya in arts and educational science*, 7(1-2), 114-127.
- Becket, Fiona. (2002). *The Complete critical Guide to D.H. Lawrence*. New York, Rotledge.
- Booker, M. Keith. (2015). *A practical Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism*. Tehran: Rahnama Publication.
- Eyvazi, M. (2014). DH Lawrence Casts Forces on Paul.
- Haiyan, L. I., Rongqian, W. E. N. G., & Xiaojun, G. U. O. (2016). Paul Morel's Oedipus Complex in Sons and Lovers. *Studies in Literature and Language*, 13(1), 28-32.
- Hamid, H. M. (2010). Feminine Domination in DH Lawrence's Sons and Lovers. *journal of education and science*, 17(42), 26-37.
- Hanlon, J. A. (2018). *Jain Monks, Merchants, and Kings in Early Historic South India*. The University of Chicago.
- Hossain, M. (2017). 'Psychoanalytic Theory used in English Literature: A Descriptive Study'. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: G Linguistics & Education*, 17.
- Kirsner, D. (2005). Eli Zaretsky: a social and cultural history of psychoanalysis. *Australasian journal of psychotherapy*, 24(1), 95-118.
- Korth, Leslie. O. (1981). "Unconscious Behavior and Freudian Slips". *The Power of Creative Imagination*. Northampton shire: A Thomas and Company.
- Kumari, N. (2016). A psychoanalytic reading of DH Lawrence's sons and lovers and lady Chatterley's lover. *International journal of linguistics, literature and culture*, 2(4), 34-42.
- Monte, F.(1977). *Beneath The Mask*. New York: Preagar Publishers.
- Moumene (2010). *People's Democratic Republic of Algeria University Mentouri-Constantine Faculty of Letters and Languages Department of Languages*.



Tauber, A. I. (2009a) 'Freud's Dreams of Reason: The Kantian Structure of Psychoanalysis', *History of the Human Sciences* 22(4): 1–29.

Yasuhiro Kondo (2015). *Work and identity in the foreword to Sons and Lovers: DH Lawrence's critique of the (post) modern.*