

Instinct of the Main Character in Defoe's Robinson Crusoe

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Abstract

Human behavior is born of a will that is driven by instinct. Instinct appears as a characteristic possessed by a creature. This research analyzes the instinct of the main character. In analyzing this research, the researcher used psychoanalysis of Sigmund Freud. Instinct divides into two life instinct (Eros) and death instinct (Thanatos). The main character in this research is by Daniel Defoe's novel Robinson Crusoe. The objective of this research is to describe the instincts of the main character in the novel use psychoanalysis. The result of this research was instinct of the main character divided into two, life instinct (Eros) and death instinct (Thanatos). Life instinct appears from pleasure principle and natural desire. Life instinct of the main character appears because of the desire for freedom, pleasure and also curiosity to voyage. Then, it appears due to the natural desire of human to meet their food and drink needs followed by, death instinct which appears because of the life defense of the main character. Death instinct of the main character arise because of the defense of someone's life when he is threatened by danger and also because of his solitude that lives alone in a foreign island.

Keywords: life instinct, death instinct, main character, robinson crusoe

1. Introduction

Human behavior is born of a will that is driven by instinct. Etymologically, Latin *instinctus* 'impulse', from the verb *instinguere*, from *in-* 'towards' + *stinguere* 'to prick'. In Merriam Webster dictionary, definition of instinct is a natural or inherent aptitude, impulse or capacity. Instinct appears as a characteristic possessed by a creature. Sigmund Freud attempted to formulate an instinct theory in consonance with psychoanalytic. Psychoanalysis literary criticism was developed from the psychoanalysis of Sigmund Freud's theory. Some basic concepts of Freud's theory are about consciousness and unconsciousness which are considered as personality aspects about instincts and anxiety. Part of consciousness is like the surface of the iceberg that appears, is a small part of the personality, while the unconscious (that is below the surface of the water) contains instinct that drive all human behavior. Freud develops concept id, ego, and the superego as the structure of personality. Id regards to the unconsciousness that is part of the primitives of the personality. The power associated with id includes sexual instinct and aggressive instinct. Id needs fulfillment immediately without pay attention to the environmental reality objectively. Freud refers to this as the principle of enjoyment. The ego is aware of the reality. Therefore, Freud referred to him as the principle of reality. Ego fits with reality. The superego is controlling where behavior that can be done, which ones are not.

In Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Sigmund Freud employed the ideas of instinct as a psychological concept. It divided into two; life instinct (Eros) and the death instinct (Thanatos). In Greek, Eros means love and Thanatos means death. Sometimes Eros refers to as sexual instinct, the life instinct are those which deal with basic survival, pleasure, and reproduction.

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Eros finds its output through drives known as Self-preservation drive or ego drive and sex drive which play a significant role in Freudian psychoanalysis. The sex drive in the organism is based on a special form of energy called libido. This has its seat in that part of personality called id, which is essentially unconscious.

The libido or sex energy is best released through amorous activities (Sigmund, 1920). The function of life's instincts is to serve individuals to stay alive and extend race (Suryabrata, 2012). Life instinct is manifested in sexual behavior, supports life and growth (Minderop, 2011). In addition, according to Freud that the instincts of life are instincts shown in the preservation of the ego and maintenance of the continuity of the species (Koswara, 1991).

In other words, the instinct of life is the instinct that is shown to care for human life as individuals and as species. Examples of life's instinct are hunger, thirst, and sex. In addition to sexual instinct, other forms of life instinct are guilt, shame, sadness, hatred, and love (Minderop, 2011). In death instinct, Freud believed the goal of all life is death, inanimate existed before what is living, and everything dies for internal reasons, and becomes inorganic once again. In Freud's view, the compulsion to repeat was something that would seem more primitive, more elementary, and more instinctual than the pleasure principle which it overrides. Freud further proposed that the death instinct were an extension of that compulsion wherein all living organisms have an instinctive pressure toward death which stands in stark contrast to the instinct to survive, procreate, and satisfy desires. The death instinct expressed as aggression and violence. It can lead to suicide or self-destruction, or be aggressive toward others. The desire to die is divided into two parts, namely (a) the desire to die in self or suicide, and (b) the desire to die in others or murder (Minderop, 2011). Psychology of literature is a study of the writer as the type and as the individual of the understanding in the creative process, or to study about psychological types within the works of literature (Wellek and Warren, 1956). This research used fictional figures in a literary work and especially the main character. The character that researcher analyzes taken from a novel *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe. This is a classic adventure novel and published in 1719. In the story, Robinson Crusoe is an Englishman from the town of York in the seventeenth century, the youngest son of a merchant of German origin. Although his father wishes him to become a lawyer, Crusoe dreams of going on sea voyages. When his parents refuse to let him take at least one journey, he runs away with a friend and secures free passage to London. Misfortune begins immediately, in the form of rough weather. The ship is forced to land at Yarmouth. When Crusoe's friend learns the circumstances under which he left his family, he becomes angry and tells him that he should have never come to the sea. They part, and Crusoe makes his way to London via land. He thinks briefly about going home, but cannot stand to be humiliated. He manages to find another voyage headed to Guiana. Once there, he wants to become a trader. On the way, the ship is attacked by Turkish pirates, who bring the crew and passengers into the Moorish port of Sallee. Crusoe is made a slave. For two years he plans an escape. Crusoe goes to Brazil. After a few years, he has some partners, and they are all doing very well financially. Crusoe decides to make the voyage. A terrible shipwreck occurs and Crusoe is the only survivor. He manages to make it to the shore of an island. Crusoe remains on the island for twenty-seven years. He is able to take many provisions from the ship. In that time, he recreates his English life, building homes, necessities, learning how to cook, raise goats and crops. There is no appearance of man until about 15 years into his stay. Some years later, he saves a young whom he names Friday. Finally, he returns to the English countryside and settles there, marrying and having three children (Defoe, 1994). When his wife dies, he once more goes to the sea. How did he survive? This novel tells in detail how Crusoe was forced by circumstances to protect himself by utilizing existing natural resources. The interesting part is the psychological condition experienced by Crusoe while living alone. The objective of this research is to describe the instinct of the main character in the novel use psychoanalysis.

2. Methodology

This research is a descriptive and qualitative research. For analyzing of this research, the researcher used the psychoanalysis approach of Sigmund Freud. The data were taken from the novel *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, published in 1994 by Penguin Popular Classic in London. The data were collected from the monologue, dialogue and narration in the form of words which show the instinct of the main character in the novel.

3. Results and Discussion

This part contains of several results concerning with instinct of the main character. There are two parts in this result. The first part describes the life instinct of the main character and the second part describes the death instinct of the main character. Those will be associated to the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud.

Table 1. Life Instinct of the Main Character

Data Code	Quotation	Sources
01	My father, who was very ancient had given me a competent share of learning, as far as house education and a country free school generally goes, and designed me for the law; but I would be satisfied with nothing but going to sea;	P.8
02	I walked about a furlong from the shore, to see if I could find any fresh water to drink, which I did, to my great joy; and having drunk, and put a little tobacco in my mouth to prevent hunger.	P.51
03	In the interval of time while this was doing, I went out at least once every day with my gun, as well to divert myself as to see if I could kill anything fit for food, and as near as I could to acquaint myself with what the island produced. The first time I went out, I presently discovered that there were goats in the island, which was a great satisfaction to me.	P.65
04	May 4. I went a-fishing, but caught not one fish that I durst eat of, till I was weary of my sport, when, just going to leave off, I caught a young dolphin. I had made me a long line of some rope yarn, but I had no hooks, yet I frequently caught fish enough, as much as I cared to eat; all which I dried in the sun and ate them dry.	P.86

Table 1 show that life instinct of the main character appears because of the desire for freedom, his pleasure and also his curiosity to voyage. Then, it appears due to the natural desire of humans to meet their food and drink needs.

Table 2. Death instinct of the Main Character

Data Code	Quotation	Sources
01	We crowded also as much canvas as our yards would spread, or our masts carry, to have got clear; but finding the pirate gained upon us and would certainly come up with us in a few hours, we prepared to fight; our ship having twelve guns, and the rogue eighteen. About three in the afternoon he came up with us, and bringing to, by mistake, just athwart our quarter, instead of athwart our stern, as he intended, we brought eight of our guns to bear on that side and poured in a broadside upon him, which made him sheer off again, after returning our fire and pouring in also his small shot from near two hundred men which he had on board. However, we had not a man touched, all our men keeping close. He prepared to attack us again, and we to defend ourselves; but laying us on board the next time upon our other quarter, he entered sixty men on our decks, who immediately fell to cutting and hacking the decks and rigging.	P.22-23
02	I had a dismal prospect of my condition, for as I was not cast away upon that island without being driven, as is said, by a violent storm quite out of the course of our intended voyage and a great way, viz., some hundreds of leagues out of the ordinary course of the trade of mankind, I had great reason to consider it as a determination of Heaven, that in this desolate place and in this desolate manner I should end my life.	P.65
03	Having knocked this fellow down, the other who pursued him stopped, as if he had been frightened; and I advance apace towards him; but as I came nearer, I perceived presently he had a bow and arrow, and was fitting it to shoot at me; so I was then necessitated to shoot at him first; which I did, and killed him at the first shoot.	P.199

Table 2 shows death instinct of the main character arises because of the defense of his life when he was threatened by danger and also because of his solitude that lives alone in a foreign island.

3.1 Life Instinct

These instincts perpetuate the life of the individual, by motivating him or her to seek food and water, and the life of the species, by motivating him or her to have sex. The motivational energy of these life instincts, the "oomph" that powers our psyches, Freud called *libido*, from the Latin word for "I desire". Libido is a lively thing; the pleasure principle keeps us in perpetual motion. And yet the goal of all this motion is to be still, to be satisfied, to be at peace, to have no more needs. (Boeree, 1997)

“My father, who was very ancient had given me a competent share of learning, as far as house education and a country free school generally goes, and designed me for the law; but I would be satisfied with nothing but going to sea;” (Pages 8)

In this data, the main character showed his life instincts to get pleasure. He had a dream of being a sailor and going on a cruise. This desire arises from a young people ambition and curiosity. Although, he has lived in the sufficiency given by his parents, but he was not satisfied with all the comfort he had gotten. His parents also opposed his wishes and did not give his blessing. Finally to fulfill the wishes opposed by his parents, he ran away from home and went sailing.

“I walked about a furlong from the shore, to see if I could find any fresh water to drink, which I did, to my great joy; and having drunk, and put a little tobacco in my mouth to prevent hunger.” (Pages 51)

After surviving the waves and stranded on the beach, the main thing that has in mind of the main character was how to survive on a foreign island that he did not know at all whether there was life on the island or not, or he would die of hunger and prey on wild animals. After all the chaos of the mind, he calmed down and began to feel hungry. He decided to try to survive by finding water and food around the island.

“In the interval of time while this was doing, I went out at least once every day with my gun, as well to divert myself as to see if I could kill anything fit for food, and as near as I could to acquaint myself with what the island produced. The first time I went out, I presently discovered that there were goats in the island, which was a great satisfaction to me.” (Pages 65)

“May 4. I went a-fishing, but caught not one fish that I durst eat of, till I was weary of my sport, when, just going to leave off, I caught a young dolphin. I had made me a long line of some rope yarn, but I had no hooks, yet I frequently caught fish enough, as much as I cared to eat; all which I dried in the sun and ate them dry.” (Pages 86)

After a while living his life alone on the island, the main character began to adjust to the situation there. The instinct to survive is to meet the needs for food and drink.

3.2 Death Instincts

In death instinct, Freud believed the goal of all life is death, inanimate existed before what is living, and everything dies for internal reasons, and becomes inorganic once again. In Freud’s view, the compulsion to repeat was something that would seem more primitive, more elementary, and more instinctual than the pleasure principle which it overrides. Freud further proposed that the death instincts were an extension of that compulsion wherein all living organisms have an instinctive pressure toward death which stands in stark contrast to the instinct to survive, procreate, and satisfy desires. The death instinct expressed as aggression and violence. It can lead to suicide or self-destruction, or be aggressive toward others. The desire to die is divided into two parts, namely (a) the desire to die in self or suicide, and (b) the desire to die in others or murder.

“We crowded also as much canvas as our yards would spread, or our masts carry, to have got clear; but finding the pirate gained upon us and would certainly come up with us in a few hours, we prepared to fight; our ship having twelve guns, and the rogue eighteen. About three in the afternoon he came up with us, and bringing to, by mistake, just athwart our quarter, instead of athwart our stern, as he intended, we brought eight of our guns to bear on that side and poured in a broadside upon him, which made him sheer off again, after returning our fire and pouring in also his small shot from near two hundred men which he had on board. However, we had not a man touched, all our men keeping close. He prepared to attack us again, and we to defend ourselves; but laying us on board the next time upon our other quarter, he entered sixty men on our decks, who immediately fell to cutting and hacking the decks and rigging.” (Pages 22-23)

The main character faced with a situation that threatens his life. The death instinct that emerged when he was confronted with this situation was that he was trying to survive in form desire to die in others or murder.

“I had a dismal prospect of my condition, for as I was not cast away upon that island without being driven, as is said, by a violent storm quite out of the course of our intended voyage and a great way, viz., some hundreds of leagues out of the ordinary course of the trade of mankind, I had great reason to consider it as a determination of Heaven, that in this desolate place and in this desolate manner I should end my life.” (Pages 65)

In this section, the main character experiences chaos in the struggle for survival in the island. He was very scared, full of anxiety and feeling lonely. This gave rise to the instinct of death. The instinct of death that arises in the situation of the main character is suicidal or self-destruction.

“Having knocked this fellow down, the other who pursued him stopped, as if he had been frightened; and I advance apace towards him; but as I came nearer, I perceived presently he had a bow and arrow, and was fitting it to shoot at me; so I was then necessitated to shoot at him first; which I did, and killed him at the first shoot.” (Pages 199)

At the moment, the main character kills the wild person who was trying to kill him. It happened because the situation is not under control. The situation made the main character to murder another person to survive his life. So, the death instinct that appears in that situation is the desire to die in another or murder.

4. Conclusion

Human behavior is born of a will that is driven by instinct. Instinct appears as a characteristic possessed by a creature. In Psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud, instinct is divided into two; life instinct (Eros) and death instinct (Thanatos). In the novel *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, the main character has two instincts namely; life instinct and death instinct. Life instinct of the main character appears from pleasure principle and natural desire. Life instinct of the main character appears because of the desire for freedom, his pleasure and also his curiosity to voyage. Then, it appears due to the natural desire of humans to meet their food and drink needs. Then, death instinct appears because of the life defense of the main character. Death instinct of the main character arises because of the defense of his life when he was threatened by danger and also because of his solitude that lives alone in a foreign island.

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