

ID, EGO, AND SUPEREGO REPRESENTED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER OF *FIFTY SHADES OF GREY* MOVIE CRHISTIAN GREY

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Abstract. *Fifty Shades of Grey* is an American romantic drama movie directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson adapted from a novel by E.L James. The movie depicts the relationship between Christian Grey and Anastasia Steel. Omitted of this study analyzes the main character's personality by discussing intrinsic and extrinsic aspects in this movie. The focus of this study is Christian Grey's *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. To figure this out, the writer uses psychoanalysis approach by using Sigmund Freud's theory on the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. From this analysis, it can be concluded that Christian Grey's personality is leaning on his *id* which is BDSM. BDSM denotes a set of erotic behaviors involving bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, sadism and masochism, and/or slave and master relationship. Then, his *ego* and *superego* works to restricts the *id* into nondestructive ways.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, BDSM, Personality, Id, Ego, Superego.

1. INTRODUCTION

Fifty Shades of Grey is an American romantic drama film directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson adapted from a novel by E.L James. *Fifty Shades of Grey* depicts the relationship between Christian Grey and Anastasia Steel. The relationship between Christian and Ana are very complicated. Christian's sexual orientation that is different from normal person becomes the cause of their complicated relationship. As their relationships goes, Christian starts to show his desire to

BDSM. “BDSM is a collective term that refers to erotic behaviors involving bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, sadism and masochism, and/or slave and master relationship” (Connolly, 2006: 1). The main objective of the study is to analyze the main character Christian Grey by using Sigmund Freud’s theory *Id, Ego* and *Superego* on the *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

2. SUMMARY OF *FIFTY SHADES OF GREY* MOVIE

Anastasia Steele is a student at Vancouver University in Washington state. She must replace her sick roommates Kate Kavanagh to interview Christian Grey for the college newspaper. Christian is the CEO of Grey Enterprises. Ana began to ask several question that prepared by Kate, including if he is a gay and adopted. Then, Christian answer that he is not a gay. Christian is attracted to her. Cristian escorts her to the elevator. He says, “Anastasia,” and she replies, “Christian.”

After the interview, Christian meet Anastasia at a hardware store. Christian tells to her that he is willing to have a photoshoot for the college newspaper. Anastasia asks to him if he has a girlfriend, to which he states that he does not “do the girlfriend thing”.

Later, Christian takes Ana to Seattle with his private helicopter. There, He shows her his “playroom” which is filled with BDSM tools and gears like whips and floggers. Christian gives Ana a folder with contract and certain explanations for their BDSM arrangement, before she goes home. Later, Christian invited Ana to have a dinner at his mother’s house. During the dinner, Ana says that she is

going to Georgia to visit his mother. Christian is mad knowing that Ana is leaving.

Things get heated since Ana still has not signed the contract. She does not feel comfortable with the Christian thought about the punishment that he did to her for his pleasure. It goes to the climax when Ana want to Christian shows how worst of BDSM things he wants. Ana is fallen in love with him, but she knows that she cannot be what he wants her to be. Ana get dressed and heads for the elevator. As she steps to the elevator, Christian calls out to her, “Ana” and she only says, “Christian” as the elevator doors shut.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1. Narrative Aspects

Theme, character, and also conflict is the main focus on this discussion. Theme is the main idea in a story. It discussed often or repeatedly in the story.

A character is the key of the movie itself.. Kennedy states that character can be classified into two, flat and round character. *“Flat Characters tend to stay the same throughout the story, but round characters often change, learn or become enlightened, grow, or deteriorate”* (Kennedy, Gioia, 2007:75).

Conflict is part of plot in a story. According to Mario Klarer in his book *An Introduction to Literary Studies*, *“An ideal traditional plot line encompasses the following four sequential levels: Exposition – complication – climax or turning point – resolution”* (2005:15).

3.2. Cinematic Aspects

The shot sizes are one of the elements of cinematography that has an important role in movies. *“The Close-up is traditionally the shot showing just the head, hands, feet, or a small object. It emphasizes facial expression, the details of a gesture, or a significant object”* (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008:191). This shot is usually used to give identification, intensity and intimacy of the scene. *“The medium shot frames the human body from the waist up. Gesture and expression now become more visible”* (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008:191). It shows the subject more detail and it permits some of the background to be seen. The last is Long shot, it frames the whole of the character’s body that gives a wide view of the background. *“In the long shot figure are more prominent, but the background still dominates”* (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008:191).

3.3. Psychoanalysis

The three fundamental structures of the human mind cooperate with one another to make a balance personality.

According to Guerin, Labor, Morgan, Ressman, and Willingham on their book *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature Fifth Edition*.

“The id is, in short, the source of all our aggressions and desires. It is lawless, asocial, and amoral. Its function is to gratify our instincts for pleasure without regard for social conventions, legal ethics, or moral restraint” (2005:157).

The *ego* is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. According to Guerin, Labor, Morgan, Ressman, and Willingham

“Though the ego lacks the strong vitality of the id, it regulates the instinctual drives of the id so that they may be released in nondestructive behavioral patterns” (2005:157).

The last structures are the superego, the structures tightly bound with moral principles. According to Guerin, Labor, Morgan, Ressman, and Willingham.

Acting either directly or through the ego, the superego serves to repress or inhibit the drives of the id, to block off and thrust back into the unconscious those impulses toward pleasure that society regards as unacceptable, such as overt aggression, sexual passions, and the Oedipal instinct” (2005:158).

4. ANALYSIS

4.1. Theme

Fifty Shades of Grey is an erotic romantic drama film. Thus, the whole of the movie is about romance. Romance is identical with love, but in this movie the director delivers the romance differently. The movie is the depictions of BDSM, so he bravely puts the erotic and vulgar scenes on this movie and focuses on BDSM itself. It can be seen on the whole of the movie.

4.2. Conflict

As Mario Klarer stated, an ideal plot contains *“Exposition – complication – climax or turning point – resolution”* (2005:15). In this movie there are two conflicts, internal and external conflict. Internal conflict is shown by the major characters Christian Grey. He is confused whether Anastasia is suitable or not for him. External conflict is the main conflict of the movie. It occurs when Christian

has a meeting with Anastasia discusses about the relationship contract. The negotiation goes well but Ana has not signed the contract yet. After that, Christian give a free trial of BDSM to Ana to convinces her that it has so much pleasure on it. The tension of the conflict becomes so tense, when they are debating on the Cristian's family house. Ana does not understand why she cannot have a relationship like normal people. Finally, the conflict goes to the climax when Ana wants to Christian show how bad it can be, how worst of BDSM things he wants.

4.3. Character

Christian Grey as the main character is a flat character. He is a young success businessman, charming, and handsome. Christian is tall, lean yet muscular, and he has birght gray eyes. He keeps his shapes by running.

Chritistian was adopted when he was four by Dr. Grace Traveyan Grey and her husband Carrick Grey. He has brother and sister, Elliot and Mia. Christian knows BDSM from his mother friend Mrs. Robinson when he was fifteen. She acted as a domme to Christian. Christian conntinued to practice BDSM, acting as a dominant. He had fiteen such relationship before meeting Ana.

4.4. Id, Ego, and Superego of Christian Grey, The Main Character of *Fifty Shades of Grey* movie

Christian shows to Ana the sort of relationship that he wants. He also shows his playroom to Ana. There are a lot of Christian's tools and gears that he used to satisfy him. It is also show the *id* of Cristian and how it works. *Id* is about

the “pleasure principle”. It means that *id* is about the human pleasure in the world such as desire, love, and else. BDSM is the kind of Christian’s desire.

The *id* is the site of the energy of the mind, energy that Freud characterized as a combination of sexual libido and other instincts, such as aggression, that propel the human organism through life, moving it grow, develop and eventually to die (Rivki, Michael. 2004:391).

It is clear that every person has the *id* because the *id* is the birth present and It develops through the life experience of the person itself. BDSM (bondage, domination, sadism, masochism) represents Christian’s *id*. His *id* works from the rules that he made. If Ana follows the rule she will get a reward, and if she does not, she will get a punishment with the stuff inside of the playroom.

In this *Fifty Shades of Grey* the most prominent of Christian’s *id* is about his sexual orientation. He always said to Ana that he does not do romances, he does not do loves, and the relationship he wants is BDSM. He feels more pleasure and dominant in those moments.

The *id* is lawless and it is not tolerated with amoral principles, so Christian sexual orientation about BDSM does not deviate. However, it is a dangerous part of *id* (unconscious). In order to counter balance, the dangerous part of unconscious, Christian mind process two regulating agencies: The *ego* and *superego*.

In order to bridge the Christian’s *id*, his *ego* works to find a girl who want have a sort of relationship like Christian wants because *ego* is about reality principle. Christian’s *id* will never be satisfied if his *ego* not works.

Firstly, his *ego* considers whether Ana is the suitable girl to satisfy his *id* or not. He needs Ana's consent whether she can have a sort of relationship that he wants or not. He also convinces her that BDSM is much more about the pleasure. It shows how Christian's *ego* works and it works gradually. Then, Christian makes a contract in his relationship with Ana. It takes a time to convince Ana to take the contract because it is a new side of sexuality she never knew existed. She needs more time to consider the contract. The negotiation seems to be agreed by both sides but Ana has not signed the contract yet.

The contract itself is the way how Christian's *ego* restricts the dangerous parts of his *id*. It also shows how his *ego* works to make it happen what his *id* wants into nondestructive ways. Unlike the *Id*, the *Ego* considers societal norms, and rules before acting. It means that if Christian does not have Ana's consent then he will break the law that exists and it is kind of Amoral act, contrast to the *Id* that does not have a morality principle.

The next is the *superego*. "In contrast to the *id*, the *superego* operates according to the morality principle and serves primarily to protect society and us from the *id*" (Bressler E. Charles. 1994:151). It is clear that the *superego* works based on the morality principle. Christian has a playroom where there are a lot of things inside. He makes his own room in order to satisfy his pleasure because he does not want other people to know about his sexual orientation. Whether it is his family or his close friend. He tells Ana that she cannot tell anyone about his sort of relationship that he wants. He does not want someone to know about his sexual

orientation. He has a non-disclosure agreement in order to prevent Ana discuss anything about his sexual orientation with other people.

It is how his *superego* works. His *superego* controls his *id* in order to keep it secret because when the society know about his *id*, it will damage him. It is also a pressure from the society and his anxiety that makes Christian must keep up his sort of relationship secret.

5. CONCLUSION

Every person has a personality and according to Freud, it divided into three parts, the *id*, the *ego*, and the *superego*. After the writer analyzed Christian Grey character on *Fifty Shades of Grey* using Freud's theory about *id*, *ego*, and *superego*, it is true that there are *id*, *ego*, and *superego* on the Christian Grey characters. The *id* is about pleasure principle, which his pleasure is about BDSM. His *ego* is to bridge his *id* into the reality, so he need a girl who is willing to satisfy his *id* and his *ego* works to find the suitable girl. Christian's *ego* work to restricts the *id*, so he has a contract in order to protect himself. The *superego* is about morality principle and it works go along with *ego*. He must hide his dark side toward to the society. Firstly, the *id*, *ego*, and *superego* works in balance but in the end of the story, Christian must let Anastasia go away from him because his *id* is unchecked. He lets himself dominated by the *id* and neglect his *ego*.

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