THE PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITIQUE
OF THE NOVEL “DOCTOR NOONE LOVES HIS WIFE MORE THAN MOSSADEGH” BASED ON FREUD’S DEFENSE MECHANISMS

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ABSTRACT

Due to the growth and development happened in the interdisciplinary studies, today the interaction between Persian literature and various sciences has expanded, including psychology. In the present era, one of these new areas of literary criticism is the critique of psychology. In spite of the increasing use of the principles of psychology in literature and fiction, and the importance of paying attention to this area, we have examined the novel “Dr. Noone loves his wife more than Mossadegh” and use the mechanisms of defense for this and we have analyzed it. In this research, the novel “Dr. Nun loves his wife more than Mossadegh” has been criticized using the method of qualitative analysis and based on library studies in accordance with Freud’s psychoanalytic views. In this story, Rahimian is trying to describe Dr. Noone’s mental complexities in the light of the circumstances, and portrays his inner struggles in the contemporary circumstances of the society at that time. The achievements of the research show us that Doctor Noone has been trying to control the psychological situation and problems that he faces by using defensive mechanisms such as oppression, isolation, displacement, reasoning and denial.

Keywords: Psychoanalytic criticism, Freud, defensive mechanisms, psychological novel.

RESUMEN

Debido al crecimiento y desarrollo que se produjo en los estudios interdisciplinarios, hoy se ha expandido la interacción entre la literatura persa y diversas ciencias, incluida la psicología. En la era actual, una de estas nuevas áreas de crítica literaria es la crítica de la psicología. A pesar del uso cada vez mayor de los principios de la psicología en la literatura y la ficción, y la importancia de prestar atención a esta área, hemos examinado la novela “El Dr. Noone ama a su esposa más que a Mossadegh” y usamos los mecanismos de defensa para esto y lo hemos analizado. En esta investigación, la novela “El Dr. Nun ama a su esposa más que a Mossadegh” ha sido criticada utilizando el método de análisis cualitativo y basado en estudios bibliotecarios de acuerdo con los puntos de vista psicoanáliticos de Freud. En esta historia, Rahimian está tratando de describir las complejidades mentales del Dr. Noone a la luz de las circunstancias, y retrata sus luchas internas en las circunstancias contemporáneas de la sociedad en ese momento. Los logros de la investigación nos muestran que el Doctor Noone ha estado tratando de controlar la situación psicológica y los problemas que enfrenta mediante el uso de mecanismos defensivos como la opresión, el aislamiento, el desplazamiento, el razonamiento y la negación.

Palabras clave: Critica psicoanalítica, Freud, mecanismos defensivos, novela psicológica.
INTRODUCTION

The literature, especially the novel consists of the author’s attitude, due to the truth-like, attention to changes and the drawing of facts. The novel is the most serious literary genre due to its bond with the social and cultural dimensions, and its significance becomes more evident when societies undergo social and political transformations. The novel has the potential to describe and characterize these developments, and many critics, including Hazlitt & Forster, have recreated the fiction and novel literature (Mirsadeghi, 1997). Each story is an objective observation of human life. Contemplation in the inner layers of stories and events and their characters and their thoughts is always a concern for the mind-searching and dynamic professional readers of stories.

Investigating the psychological context of the acts and events of the story based on the spirit of the characters is one of the scientific methods in recognizing and deepening the story (Moradi & Amin, 2006). The verbal part of the past achievements of art is subject of literature. The ancestry literary texts have been the expression of the artistic expression of their inner and inner experiences. Because of this, literary specialists face a variety of issues: starting from perceptions of people’s minds followed by their thinking and factors influencing their work. Identifying the social status and cultural conditions of the past, the intellectual and philosophical patterns of the writers, the various sciences, various religious beliefs, and the origin or causality of all of these are the subsets of knowledge necessary to understand literary works. In fact, the scope of literature extends to all humanities and social psychological characteristics of humans from the past. With such a wide range of subjects, subjects and multiplicity of literature, literature requires the use of various sciences as research tools; sciences such as psychology, sociology, history, and, in some cases, archeology, medicine, and mathematics. In between, a psychological work is not the examination of the probability or the degree of accuracy, or the accuracy of the votes, but rather the search for the explanation of the psychological phenomenon of literary work, or its possible links with its emergence. (Moradi & Rahmani, 2013).

Understanding many of the contemporary literary works and masterpieces will be very difficult without the knowledge of the psychological dimensions and psychological adhesions between the writer of a work and the written work. At this time, the psychological critique will clarify the vague points of the work for the reader. In the following study, we are analyzing the novel “Dr. Noone loves his wife more than Mossadeg,” written by Shahram Rahimian, with the approach of psychoanalysis and in light of Freud’s (2004), defense mechanisms, including reasoning, denial, and displacement.

DEVELOPMENT

The narrative of Dr. Noone is about a person called Mohsen Noone who is a person with a high political genius who experienced ups and downs in his political life, and somewhere the border disappears between his personal and political life. When Mossadegh became a prime minister as a champion of the people, Mohsen Noone, because of his services, became Mossadegh’s close aid in society and family as a very respected person; but he did not take a long the coup over threw all. At that time, people like Dr. Fatemi He remained faithful of Mossadegh to death, and some like Dr. Amini had completely changed his own opinion and benefited from the situation, but in the meantime, Dr. Noone was in a dilemma inevitably where he was fleeing to scape very hard and this brought about serious mental conflicts for him. Here, Dr. Noone was trying to control the situation using defensive mechanisms; that is, he acted as an intermediary to create a balance between the conflicts and the anxieties that arose in the creation of personality. Defense mechanisms are modes that automatically act outside the control of an individual in anxious and stressful situations.

There is no need to prove the connection between human literature and psychology. This bond is always of mutual quality. The psyche of human beings makes the literature and the literature develops the human psyche, too. The human psychological intuitions are related to aspects of natural and human life and provide the basis for literary creations. On the other hand, the literature also looks at the truths of life in order to illuminate aspects of human psyche.

Psychological criticism has enjoyed from different tendencies; it sometimes deals with the creator’s life and work, which made that critics of this approach to the style of psychology criticize the objection that psychological critique views the artist as a psychiatric patient, and the work is born by his/her illusions and his/her spiritual problems. This approach sometimes addresses the reader’s own study of the work, and sometimes the effects of the work, which, of course, a psychological comprehensive and complete critique must address all these issues simultaneously and interconnect them acceptably. This type of critique has a close relationship with sociology and, to a degree, with mythology.

The influence of psychoanalysis and psychology on the literature, whether in form or in content, is such that the literature and psychoanalysis cannot be separated;
therefore, in psychoanalysis view, a literary work can be considered in several respects: 1. the content of the work is generally psychologically analyzed, 2. one or more personality of stories and their relationships in terms of proficiency and inferiority motives and their internal conflicts should be considered; 3. or, by doing so, the content and analysis of characters, especially the main character of the tragic story, will be struck by the character of the writer and his hidden motives.

The novel “Dr. Noone loves his wife more than Mossadegh” (2001), by Shahram Rahimian (1959) is a contemporary political novel that addresses the nostalgia of the contemporary intellectual spectrum, especially contemporary intellectuals after the coup of August 20, 1953. Classical psychoanalytic critique, in fact, sees the text as the symptoms of author's illness. The basis of this approach is that the literary text has the same function for the author as a dream for a dreamer or a person is dreaming, that is, it satisfies a hidden desire that was forbidden in childhood and in another way, strangely it is revealed to us in our dreams; thus, the critic's purpose of this approach is to bring the author's psychology into account according to his unconscious desires. Such a critique emphasizes the motivations of the author and puts the pattern of structural division of mind into “self,” “institution,” and “beyond self”.

This approach first sought to identify the origins of artistic creativity; that is, in finding the answer to find the same question that we all always ask for the writers: What happens when you write? (Payandeh, 2010). The psychoanalytic study seeks to investigate the psychological problems by searching the human mind. For the first time, the new knowledge has paid attention to the “hidden ego” more than the “obvious ego”, and it has an unbreakable link with literature. The psychoanalytic criticism is nowadays one of the new ways of examining the interdisciplinary concepts of literature and one of the main opinions of literary criticism, which, while utilizing methodological functions in the field of literature, can also do important social functions, examining the mental dimensions of human.

In the novels of contemporary writers, the unconscious mental aspects and mental and inside mind processes have been considered more intensively, since they sought to investigate individual problems of a person and their decision at a macro-social level (Mahin Torabi, 2012). The literature and psychology, especially psychoanalysis, have recognized the fact that both have a common ground and both engage with human motives and behaviors to create the myth and symbolic application of human abilities. In this process, both have begun studying the mentality of the mind. By attaching the psychoanalysis to the psychology, i.e. the study of subconscious conscience based on the symbols that manifests, the literature increasingly relates to the knowledge that has come from Freud’s (2004), efforts at the beginning of this century on human psyche. Any review of literature and psychology applies the direct reproduction of imaginative writing meanwhile using the psychoanalytic tool and the method in which literary criticism and narration use the psychological and psychoanalysis tools. Today, a psychological critique is a matter based on the new psychology of Freud afterwards. The psychological critique of the subject of personal and collective subconscious in literary works has given the literary critique a depth and some kind of predictive and mysterious aspect. Some critics rely on the principles of psychology in literary criticism, attempt to express the inner flow and intrinsic mode of the poet and thus study the environment and society and traditions in the development of these currents. Following the culmination of research on the psychology, in particular Sigmund Freud, in the early twentieth century, his theories of subconscious and his psychoanalytic approach had penetrated the psychological critique and became one of the twentieth-century noble schools of thought (Farzad, 2009). The literary critique of psychoanalysis can be divided into four types, depending on what is being considered. This critique may relate to the author, the content, the formal building or the reader, which most literary criticism is of the first and second type (Eagleton, 1999).

In Freud’s belief, the human psyche consists of three regions or areas of mental processes, which are: identity, ego, super ego.

Identity
An identity or a reservoir (libido) satisfies the principle of eternal life which Freud uses as the “pleasure principle”. The uninformed identity which appears a logical system has enjoyed an irregular vita. The lawless identity is an anti-social and anti-ethical thing, and it’s only a matter of drinking pleasurable instincts.

Ego
In order to prevent the insurrections and uprisings of the “identity”, the deterrent forces are needed to guard the individual and society. The first factor and the regulating force of the body and guardian is “ego”, which develops through the influence of the principle of truth and social, rational and emotional behaviors and expresses the human personality.

Superego
Mega-ego or superego is another regulator and works to protect the community. The main part of the mega-ego
is unconscious aspect, and comes from a set of some life experiences and from the result of contact with parents and his associates. Freud believes that all behavior is triggered by the instincts, and all are defensive matters. This struggle, which always exists within the character, may fluctuate; but it never stops (Schultz & Schultz, 2011). When a person is getting infected by mental stress under these contradictions, he is unknowingly reluctant to various defense mechanisms to escape from these psychological pressures, which makes the person more compatible environmentally. Definition of the defense mechanism states that one person, spontaneously and often unknowingly, takes measures to call them “mechanisms of adjustment and defense” in order to compromise their needs, desires and desires with moral constraints and to balance and coordinate between them. These mechanisms are of Freud’s point of view, including the mechanism of substitution, reasoning, reversal, return, etc. The recoil of palate and immerses and aggregates enormous energy in the unconscious, and disrupts mental order. The palates that are severely recoiled and thrown off are unconsciously clustered and compacted and closed collectively and they injure the inside.

The human needs and expectations were easily fulfilled, easy to live, but as we know, various obstacles and customs, social formalities, tradition and laws prevent the satisfaction of many human needs; they make the human felt to be failure. Eliminating some of these barriers is easy and confronting some of them is difficult and creates a psychological conflict; hence, human life is a constant struggle, and this struggle is basically about the contradiction or conflict between personal desires and foreign affairs, which strongly influences on the individuals. As microbe cause body blemishes, feelings of guilty misdeeds and failure to meet the desires create “psychological stress” and cause a painful inner action or “tension” and will not be relieved until restored to balance. This quality and psychological state will create reactions to personality defenses and the mental defense mechanisms will enter the campaign (Ahmadvand, 1989)

In contemporary, the literature has a different nature than the classical period; hence, there are many examples of stories in which the main character merely describes his inner and personal situations (Khojasteh Zenozi, 2014).

Replacement

If the subject that satisfies the impulses of the identity is not available, the person may replace that impulse with something else; that is, it happens to replace when being transferred the emotional sensation and emotional state from a person or object as its origin to the person or object, who usually feels less and less threatened than its original source, such as a mother who is angry with her husband because of a dispute and beats a baby for accidentally drinking a water glass of water, or the child, because s/he cannot insisting against her/his mother, he expresses her/his aggression and persistence by beating his younger brother and sister (Freud, 2004).


Malktaj said: “Why are you doing this, why do you dispute with me? What about a rude person”. (Rahimian, 2014, p. 84)

“Once upon on moonlit nights that I remembered the interview, despite of drinking a lot, I was feeling still sleepless and ... I went to the Malktaj’s Gardens. I ablated the flowers. I broke the stems and horns and spread all over the courtyard. Then I went to the pond and close to the picture of the moon and I remembered how much Malktaj toileled with those delicate hands to grow those flowers. I was upset. Because she had deprived herself of all worldly pleasures to live with me, because of her screams that I had thrown lizard into her shirt, because of her crying severely when I burned her wedding dress in the middle of yard” (Rahimian, 2014). Dr. Noone felt himself unable in the face of the psychological pressures by Mossadegh and of society, and because he is unable to deal with them, he transferred them into a more accessible and less threatening environment to him i.e. his home and his wife Malktaj, by using the mechanism of replacement; that is, the same misfortune that what the government has burdened over him; he imposed at home a gains Malktaj at home, and the wife tolerated him since she loved him.

Reasoning

In this defense mechanism, the “ego” is a mental attempt to introduce desires and styles to be accepted. Here is a justification and rational explanation of the stimuli.

Dr. Noone repeatedly stated why he did an interview against Mossadegh was to make his wife’s torture to justify his work, or whether he confronted Dr. Mossadegh with his revenge, and ultimately made him an excuse as a barrier always prevented his happiness and Malktaj.

I said to Mr. Mossadegh, who stood beside the door of yard: “For many years, you made a distance between me and the Malktaj, you are a great barrier to my happiness and her’s.”

Mr. Mossadegh grinned. He looked at Dr. Noone and said: “When I died for many years, how can I block your happiness and Malektaj’s?” “As if you did not remember, in
the first page of the newspapers, it was written that Dr. Mosaddeq passed by forever” (Rahimian, 2014, p. 12).

Mr. Mossadegh said: “No, I did not know why, I wish you did not kill her!” Malektaj was a very good wife.

I said: for your sake. You forced me to do so.

Mr. Mossadegh said: “Me? They were useless words!” (Rahimian, 2014, pp. 22-23).

Denial

When people under pressure are a perilous fact, they often turn to denial; that is, to refuse to believe that an event has occurred. The denial is complementary thing to repression (Carrou & Shir, 1996).

Dr. Noone did not admire and denied Malektaj’s death.

I said: “my wife did not die; why did not you want to accept that my wife did not die?” “She died when I’ was dead.”

If you took a little time and did not enter forcibly into my house and room, now I was dead and I was not at your service, then you could say my wife died, but you could not to say that” (Rahimian, 2014, pp. 8-9).

Mr Mossadegh said: “But Malektaj gave you the news of my death.

I said: Mr. Mossadeq, you did not die for me. You would never die for me. Even if Malektaj gave me the news of your death. (Rahimian, 2014, p. 12).

I said: “The past was over, Malektaj, you got up? I knew you wanted to scare me, I knew you did not die. Now went to make up like a lady” . (Rahimian, 2014, p. 25)

“Did not forget, I had been dead,” Malektaj said.

I said, “No, you have been harassing. I knew that you had been alive, like Mr. Mossadegh, who always had said to be died, but I knew he had been alive. Look he was happy and health sitting beside me”. (Rahimian, 2014, p. 52).

“I said: did not worry, because she had been dead and never grew up! You had to accept that she had been dead and you should not be distracted to her. Afterwards, neither she worries about you, nor you worried about her, even if it did not believable issue.”

Dr. Noone said: “I did not remember” (Rahimian, 2014, p. 65).

Being beaten by people is a painful memory for Dr Noone that he deliberately tries to forget, and despite the symptoms his wife gives him, Dr. Noone himself continues to deny it.

“I smiled and said:” Mr. Mossadegh had died, unless Mr. Mossadegh was a dying man, he died? “Then I asked sadly: Malektaj, did Mossadegh die? Malektaj said softly: “It had been one year ago.” The newspapers wrote too.

I said: “Right now, before power outage, he went straight to the room and so on” (Rahimian, 2014, 81-82).

Suppress or retrograde

The concept of suppress in Freud’s personality theory plays an important role and is involved in the whole behavior of the neurosis. The suppression is a kind of unconscious forget fullness against something that causes our discomfort or resentment and is the most basic and most common defense mechanism. One tries to eliminate the consciousness of the desires or memories that are too overwhelming, disturbing and anxious (with inappropriate thoughts and memories that cause embarrassment and feelings of guilt), and refrain from remembering them, like a person who recalls only vague memories of it after three years of accident, or at least does not want to remind the image of the incident. Freud writes in an unpleasant book of culture about this mechanism: “Suppress is in the form of a historical phenomenon, the effective capture of instincts, based on and for the purpose of suppressive supervision, imposed not by nature but by man oneself (Freud, 2004).

“Malektaj at the threshold of the room said: “Did you recall how I got a taxi and took your half dead body the hospital onely?”

I said: Mo, I did not remember

Malektaj said: “How did not you remember?” I promised you that when you were beaten, the neighbored shameless and ungrateful residents stood and looked at the windows of their houses, watched how you were beaten, you had been beaten somewhat your breathed forcibly.

Dr. Noone said: “I did not remember” (Rahimian, 2014, p. 65).

For example, where Malektaj gave Mossadegh’s death to Dr. Noone, we still face his denial:
Compensation or retaliation

Alfred Adler considers the feeling of being minor as a real motive for all abnormal behaviors. In his view, these behaviors can be categorized from submission to rebellion, from evil to obedience, and bondage etc. The mechanism that a person uses to fight against his own minority is always based on a fixed principle, and that principle is to compensate or retaliate. The compensation does not just mean eliminating a failure, because this feeling seems to have gone away apparently, but it may still remain with the individual. There are various types of compensation, including “aggressive compensation”, sometimes called retaliation, because it forces one to take revenge on others and himself to compensate for it, in order to reduce the pressure of others to blame and that of conscientiousness.

I said: “Malektaj, entertainment was finished. Here, neither flower was planted in this house, nor a chicken or a cock, but I forbidden all the pleasures of life on myself and within this house”. (Rahimian, 2014, pp. 82-83)

Malektaj said: “Mohsen, you were crazy, both crazy and drunkard.” From the day you came out of prison, you also drank a glass of wine, you did not give up this bottle of whiskey and it’s getting worse to bear on you day after day”. (Rahimian, 2014, p. 58)

Isolation, aggression

The experts of psychology believe that the person always to respond to the frustration and the pressure created shows three reactions: 1) aggression 2) return 3) indifference. They argue that the aggression always manifests itself as a failure. Sometimes the returns, seclusion and isolation are also the consequences of this failure (Azimi, 1971).

Dr. Noone, meanwhile, chose the second method, seclusion and isolation.

“Malektaj said: Mohsen, you had been changed a lot, I did not believe that Mohsen who is kind and nice, turned into this strange person. You did not know what you looked like an iron person with long hair and beard. You did not want to have a haircut. It was workable to look at yourself in the mirror, what you look like. With this huge body, you still wore your pants for fifteen years, since morning to night, you were at home, but the knot of this crocheted does not go away your neck. Look your long and disheveled hair and beard at the mirror, you resembled just a dervish. Let’s me knew what happened to you, and what you are going to do”. (Rahimian, 2014).

“My mother came back the door and gasped. She said: “Mohsen, open the door, I wanted to talk to you. I wanted to know why you imprisoned yourself a year ago in this house.” I did not breed a boy hanging himself behind the door, and Malektaj would say you were drinking a glass of liquor non-stop, why? For what? I thought you lived alone for several months, and then you became wise again, returning to work and your life. “But Malektaj would say you were getting worse and fell into a well day today that you dug with your own hand etc.” (Rahimian, 2014, p. 63)

“You were just out of the jail, you just got upset, but over time, you filled your mind by this suspicion, as if that interview was getting worse day to day, why did you lose this yourself?” Malektaj said” (Rahimian, 2014, p. 65)

CONCLUSIONS

The adaptive analysis of “Dr. Noone loves his wife more than Mossadeq” with the psychological defense mechanisms, suggests the fact that psychological states and actions in the creation of this story and its characters, especially Dr. Noone as the main character in the story played a bold and essential role, and many of the events the audiences address are the result of mental, psychological, emotional, and defense mechanisms, which have shaped a fascinating story that has a psychological review capability.

In the study, it is concluded that humans use different mechanisms of defense, depending on the circumstances in which they are and followed by anxieties and contradictions that arise in their personality and in themselves. Mohsen Noone to escape the crises that the coup created for his personal and political life, had used various mechanisms such as replacement, reasoning, denial, suppression or retrogression, compensation or retaliation, and isolation or aggression for the situation happened.

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