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THE ARCHETYPAL ANALYSIS ON MAIN CHARACTERS OF STEPHEN KING'S *RITA HAYWORTH AND SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION*

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Abstract

This research article explores the application of Jungian archetypal theory in analyzing Stephen King's novella, *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*. The primary focus of this analysis is to uncover the archetypal identities embodied by the central characters, Andy Dufresne and Ellis "Red" Redding. Employing a close-reading method, the researcher examines the novella to gather relevant data for this study. By delving deep into their individual journeys and psychological transformations, the objective of this research is to unveil the underlying archetypal forces that shape their roles within the narrative. Drawing inspiration from Carl Jung's concept of archetypes and the collective unconscious, this analysis identifies Andy Dufresne as a manifestation of the "trickster" and "hero" archetypes, as evidenced by his portrayal in the story. On the other hand, Red embodies the "mentor" archetype, serving as a seasoned inmate and the narrator of the novella. In this way, the study sheds light on the archetypal dimensions present in the characters of the novella.

Keywords: Jungian archetypal, main characters, psychological transformations

Abstrak

Artikel penelitian ini menjelajahi penerapan teori arketipe Jungian dalam menganalisis novella Stephen King, *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*. Fokus utama dari analisis ini adalah mengungkap identitas arketipe yang diwujudkan oleh tokoh-tokoh utama, Andy Dufresne dan Ellis "Red" Redding. Dengan menggunakan metode close-reading, peneliti mengkaji novella tersebut untuk mengumpulkan data relevan dalam penelitian ini. Dengan menyelami perjalanan individu mereka dan transformasi psikologis yang mendalam, tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkap kekuatan arketipe yang mendasari peran mereka dalam narasi. Mengambil inspirasi dari konsep arketipe dan alam bawah sadar kolektif Carl Jung, analisis ini mengidentifikasi Andy Dufresne sebagai manifestasi arketipe "trickster" dan "hero," seperti yang tercermin dalam cerita. Di sisi lain, Red menggambarkan arketipe "mentor," sebagai narapidana berpengalaman dan narator novella tersebut. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini memberikan pemahaman yang lebih dalam tentang dimensi arketipe yang ada dalam karakter-karakter novella ini.

Kata Kunci: arketipe Jung, tokoh utama, transformasi psikologis

1. Introduction

Archetype is a term proposed by Carl Jung in 1902. It is a psychology deliberately affiliated with the arts, culture, and the history of ideas, arising as they do from the imagination (Hillman, 1985). According to (Leigh, 2011), archetype refers to the shared unconscious aspects of the human mind, residing in the depths of the psyche. It comprises symbolic “forms” representing stories, locations, or images that have been gathered from the collective human experience over time. Leigh also mentioned that these archetypes tend to manifest frequently in dreams, myths, literature, fantasies, and other sources of imagination. Leigh’s statement is supported by James Hill in his book titled *The Jungian Experience* because he stated that it is impossible for us to directly know or experience the archetype itself. Instead, what we encounter is an image or a sense of its presence, which can be observed through the arrangement of images, such as in fairy tales or dreams. Though it is closely related to one’s psyche, archetypal analysis could also be used in analysing a work of literature since archetypal analysis could also be used to identify recurring themes and symbols in a work of literature.

According to (Gijo & George, 2021), archetypal criticism involves the interpretation of a text by examining the cultural patterns embedded within it. These patterns are rooted in elements like myths, rituals, race, nation, or social groups. Furthermore, archetypal criticism is seen as a synthesis of structural criticism and historical criticism. The primary goal of archetypal criticism is to recognize and identify the mythic elements present in a work of literature that contribute to its profound and enduring impact (Gillespie, 2010). The concept of archetypes itself is universal and timeless symbols that have existed in human culture and mythology for centuries.

By identifying archetypes, or humanly patterns of human behaviour and experience, one can gain deeper insight into the characters, themes, and motifs within a work of literature. In this paper, the present writers will apply archetypal analysis on the novella *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* by Stephen King.

The novella, first published in 1982, tells the story of Andy Dufresne, a banker who is wrongfully convicted of murder and sent to Shawshank State Penitentiary. There, he befriends a fellow inmate named Red and uses his intelligence and financial skills to gain favour with the guards and improve the lives of his fellow prisoners. Through Andy's journey, the present writers see three forms of archetypes that appear, which are the hero,

the mentor, and the trickster. Also the present writers will be mentioning the persona of Andy Dufresne.

The present writers find multiple studies that analyses the novella and the movie. The previous studies that have been conducted took the theme of hope as hope is reflected both in the novella and the movie (Garcia, 2013; Saragih 2016; Parse, 2016; Winemiller, 2017; Mueller, 2019). Even so, the present writers will be looking deeper into the ones that are parallel to the theme of the present writers' research paper. There are two previous studies concerning the novella and the film that took the theme of psyche and used the approach of psychoanalytic analysis. The research papers are Defence Mechanism of Andy Dufresne in Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* written by Noerliz Isnaini and Andy Dufresne's Reaction of Him being Unfairly Treated as Seen in Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* by Daru Kurniawan.

The first research paper written by Isnaini titled Defence Mechanism of Andy Dufresne in Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* used the qualitative method and the theory of psychoanalysis about defence mechanism by Freud also the new criticism theory in analyzing the character and the characterization. The findings for this research paper are that Andy's character uses different types of defence mechanisms in coping for his situation, the first one is rationalization, intellectualization, regression, repression, reaction formation, and projection.

The second research paper written by Daru Kurniawan titled Andy Dufresne's Reaction of Him Being Unfairly Treated as Seen in Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* used the qualitative method and the psychological approach. There are two findings for this research paper, it is how Andy Dufresne's character is perceived; good looking, persuasive, calm, honest, optimistic, persistent, introvert, tough, independent, crafty, and manipulative (Kurniawan, 2007) and how Andy's struggle begins when he attends the session in the court and takes his own defence.

Despite having the same novella as the main data of the research, the present writers will not be looking into the same theme or be having the same result as the research papers stated above. The present writers will be examining two of the characters in the novella, Red and Andy Dufresne, and the present writers will be using Jungian archetype theory in analysing the two characters.

2. Methodology

The methodology of this research paper is the qualitative method. The present writers specifically applied the close-reading method while analysing the novella. Though there are many forms of archetypal analysis, the present writers will only be using the archetypal theory proposed by Carl Jung. Data sources of this research paper are taken from books and articles regarding Carl Jung's archetypal theory and the novella entitled *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*. Data collection is done by thoroughly reading the novella and collecting dialogues and interactions that may show how the characters represent the archetypes. Then the analysis continued as the present writers compare the findings to the types of archetypes proposed by Carl Jung.

3. Findings and Discussion

There are two characters that caught the present writers' attention while reading the novella. It is the character of Andy Dufresne and Red; Red is a lifelong inmate of a murder charge and Andy Dufresne is falsely accused of a murder. Their interaction inside the prison is interesting to look deeper into. Jung stated in his book translated by R.F.C. Hull, that there were four main archetypes, which is the mother, rebirth, spirit, and trickster.

While Leigh stated that there are several key archetypes, the persona (one's social mask), the shadow (one's dark or evil side), the anima/animus (one's hetero-gendered aspect), the mother, the child, the wise old man, and, most important, the Self (Leigh, 2015). The exact number of archetypes in a human mind is not yet identified because every human mind is unique and the archetypes are also influenced by one's culture, archetypes are the contents of the collective unconscious that can be found across cultures. Though there are many forms of archetypes, the present writers will only be mentioning the ones that are relevant with the analysis; the trickster, the hero, and the mentor.

Jung in his book titled *Archetype and the Collective Unconscious* stated that the trickster archetype is closely related to a figure who tends to disrupt norms and customs, challenging the established structures while in the end bringing out change. Since having the tendency to play jokes which could result in people disliking him or doing bad things in return, the profession as the trickster archetype could also endanger the person, Jung took the example of the shaman and medicine-man (Jung, 1968).

The hero archetype always refers to a powerful hero or god-man who defeats evil and releases his followers from destruction and death. Carl Jung wrote "*The hero's nature*

is human but raised to the limit of the supernatural" (Jung, 1968 p. 166). The hero archetype's main goal is to defeat the monster of darkness, Carl Jung took the example of God for the hero archetype. It is known that the supernaturalness of the hero archetype also includes the human nature aspect of the archetype, the figure of the hero can gradually be differentiated into a symbol of the self. However, there is also a second identification, which states that the image of the hero evolves in a manner that reflects each stage of the evolution of the human personality.

The mentor archetype which is also known as the wise old man, the mentor or the wise old man act as the guide for the hero, "it is the figure of a wise old man who symbolises the spiritual factor. Sometimes the part is played by a 'real' spirit, namely the ghost of one dead, or, more rarely, by grotesque gnomes like figures or talking animals" (Jung, 1968, p. 215). The wise old man provides the hero with advice that might go a long way and be useful for the hero's journey. They appear in a situation where insight, understanding, good advice, determination, planning, etc. are needed but cannot be mustered on one's own resources

3.1. Andy Dufresne

Andy Dufresne is someone who was falsely accused of a crime and he got put to prison by the authorities. While inside the prison, he showed self-composure and he showed great determination to try earning a retrial. He possesses a quiet determination and unwavering belief in his own innocence, which becomes a driving force throughout the narrative. The present writers believes that Andy represents two types of archetypes which are the trickster and the hero.

3.1.1. The Trickster

The trickster archetype is associated with cunning ability to challenge authority or deconstruct the status quo. Andy Dufresne embodies the characteristics of the trickster archetype in his actions and personality.

"Maybe you want to try an escape? Going under the wall? Because if you do -" He laughed politely. When I saw the rock-hammer three weeks later, I understood why. (King, 1982, p. 54)

His first interaction with Red was about smuggling a Rita Hayworth poster and a rock-hammer. Red didn't notice at first but later on 12 March 1975, it all made sense to him. When Red said *"Maybe you want to try an escape? Going under the wall? Because if you*

do -", he, without knowing, already figured out what Andy's plan was. One of the characteristics of the trickster archetype is the cunningness, Andy showed he is someone who is cunning by never sharing his plan with anyone, even his closest companion, and certainly he tricked the prison guards into believing that he was a good inmate by hiding his secrets so well. Andy used disguise and secrecy in a way so that no one would ever suspect.

"The poster was right over his bunk. There had been a poster there, in that exact same place, for twenty-six years. And when someone-it was Warden Norton himself, as it turned out, poetic justice if there ever was any-looked behind it, they got one hell of a shock." (King, 1982, p. 257)

Andy's plan was so simple and yet nobody noticed, he made a hole on his wall, not large enough for a grown man to go in to. Another characteristic about the trickster archetype is the courage to challenge the authority. Andy challenged the authority by making the guards and warden question their credibility when they found what had happened.

"You'll need a tax lawyer or a banker to set up the gift for you and that will cost you something," Andy said. "Or...if you were interested, I'd be glad to set it up for you nearly free of charge. The price would be three beers apiece for my co-workers -" (King, 1982, pp. 114-115)

In doing the guards' and the warden's taxes, Andy got himself privileges. Andy worked in the prison library, he wanted the library to be renovated but his letters were always turned down until Stamas (the prison guard) decided to help him send the letter. In doing this gesture Andy had courage to change the status quo since he made the guards and warden trust his motive of truly siding with them, when in reality Andy did this for his benefits too.

3.1.2. The Hero

The hero archetype is associated with qualities such as bravery, resilience, and a strong moral compass. Ever since Andy was put into Shawshank, his intention was always about proving his innocence and possibly seeking redemption or legally having the chance to get out. When the chance actually comes, the warden did him dirty and made it impossible for him to get a retrial.

"I think we can put it together," Andy said. "With Tommy Williams and with my testimony and corroborative testimony from records and employees at the country club, I think we can put it together."

*"Tommy Williams is no longer an inmate of this facility."
"What?" "He's been transferred."*

"Transferred where?"

"Cashman."

"At that, Andy fell silent. He was an intelligent man, but it would have taken an extraordinarily stupid man not to smelt a deal all over that." (King, 1982, p. 200)

Andy showed a strong moral compass by never acting outside his character and never jeopardising his chance of getting a retrial even though the warden did him dirty. He is portrayed as a calm and composed character, he showed composure when talking with Red about what he would do once he finally got out of the prison and even offered Red a job. Even when being in prison, Andy kept being selfless and noble. His actions demonstrate compassion and a willingness to uplift others, no matter what circumstances they are in.

3.2. Ellis "Red" Redding

Red is a lifelong inmate in Shawshank. He was imprisoned because he committed murder of his wife, his neighbour, and the neighbour's son. The novella was narrated by Red and was seen through his point of view. Red was the only inmate who successfully got close to Andy, and he became a guide for him in the prison.

3.2.1. The Mentor/The Wise Old Man

The mentor archetype represents a wise and experienced individual who guides and supports the hero on their journey. Since Red is the longest convict in Shawshank, he possesses years of experience with how things are in the prison and with other inmates. Red has a reputation as someone who can get it all in Shawshank. Therefore, Andy first asked Red if he could get him a Rita Hayworth poster, then a rock-hammer.

Red provides Andy not only with things that he asked for but they formed a bond during the years they spent together.

"What has happened in my life? Can't you guess? I was paroled. After thirty-eight years of routine hearings and routine details (in the course of those thirty-eight years, three lawyers died on me), my parole was granted. I suppose they decided that, at the age of fifty-eight, I was finally used up enough to be deemed safe." (King, 1982, p. 311)

How Red represents the wise old man archetype could be seen in how many times he has been on the parole list but has always been turned down, even so, he kept his cool and didn't do anything that could jeopardise his way out. Slowly but surely, his parole day finally

came. His self control finally allowed him to earn his long awaited parole. By the way, he narrates both the novella and the movie, and gives reflections and lending a wise and introspective voice perspective to the narrative.

"Andy was squatting Indian-fashion against the wall, chunking two small rocks together in his hands, his face turned up into the sunlight. It was surprisingly warm, that sun, for a day so late in the year." "Hello, Red," he called. "Come on and sit a spell." I did.

"You want this?" he asked, and handed me one of the two carefully polished millennium sandwiches" I just told you about "I sure do," I said. "It's very pretty. Thank you."

"He shrugged and changed the subject "Big anniversary coming up for you next year." I nodded. Next year would make me a thirty-year man. Sixty per cent of my life spent in Shawshank Prison." (King, 1982, pp. 214-215)

Both Andy and Red being longtimers brought them closer if compared to other inmates. Red's mentor archetype could also be seen in how he provides Andy with comfort, noting that Andy is not the easiest character to be close with. One of the characteristics of the mentor archetype is how they support the hero on their journey, even though it is not written but Red's action showed that he supports Andy by being his friend and gaining a deeper relationship with him.

4. Conclusion

Archetype is a branch from analytic psychology which is also a branch from the widespread of psychoanalytic. Archetypes often appear in dreams through symbolic forms. Even though archetype is closely related to one's psyche, archetypes could also be used to analyse a character's personality. Here, the present writers used archetypal analysis by Carl Jung on Red's and Andy Dufresne's characters in Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*.

The analysis resulted in Red and Andy representing different types of archetypes; Andy represents two archetypes, the hero and the trickster, as he showed great determination and strong moral compass while he was in prison and even during times he was poorly treated by the guards and warden, also when he challenged the prison authorities by pulling a simple yet unnoticable escape plan; and Red represents the mentor archetype because he guided Andy and provided comfort for Andy when he was unjustly treated by everyone else.

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