

The Impact of Oedipus Complex on Paul Morel's Personality in D.H. Lawrence's 'Sons and Lovers'

By

Fahim Cheffat Salman

UTHM, Johor, Malaysia

Email: fahimhamdawe@gmail.com

Dr. Sazuliana Binti Sanif

UTHM, Johor, Malaysia

Email: zuliana@uthm.edu.my

Abstract

The current study clarifies the effects of the Oedipus complex on Paul Morel, one of the novel's key protagonists. It also shows how the author crafts the characters. The emphasis was on the psychological variables that influenced the narration's tone. The English author of "Sons and Lovers," a work of fiction that strongly resembles Freudian concepts. With reference to the well-known play Oedipus, the well-known king describes how a son longs for his mother and begs for his father to die. This is the origin of the Freudian idea of the Oedipus complex. Here, it is explained how Paul's case reflects the Oedipus complex theory. The study's findings indicate that Paul Morel has this complex, which is why he is on his mother's side. Without his mother, who controls his thinking, he cannot design his future. His interactions with other women are solely for sex purposes. Because she does not want him to start a short-term relationship with her, Miriam, a pure and devout woman, leaves him.

Key words: Paul Morel, Oedipus complex, Freudian theory, psychological factors.

Introduction

One of the most elegant English writers and successful novelists of the 20th century is David Herbert Lawrence (1885–1930). Many autobiographical components are governed by Lawrence's well-known literary work *Sons and Lovers*, which was released in 1913 and contains experiences from his private life. His life is comparable to Paul Morel's, who has a tight relationship with his mother. Paul Morel can be seen grappling with his mother's emotional attachment. He is also seen battling a lot with Clara and Miriam, the two ladies.

Yuhaniz (2003) showed through the analysis that Oedipus complex is clear in Paul's personality. He also showed the influence of the complex even on his maturity. Joseph (2010) clarified that there are two types of Oedipus complex: the positive and the negative complex. Hayan et al (2016) mentioned that the positive relationship between Paul and his mother represents the first kind of complex whereas the negative complex is his wish to achieve his sexual desires by any means.

To Freud, Oedipus complex shows the idea for sexual sharing with the opposite sex. Oedipus complex centers on the major character, Paul Morel, and his mother.

Sons and Lovers- A Reflection of Freudian Novel

Sons and Lovers is an example of a Freudian adaption in that it deals with the character's inner life. It reflects their activities and behaviors and fully expresses their

individual personalities. The book is referred to as a Freudian one. According to S. Freud's view, a boy grows to be attracted to his mother while becoming repulsed by his father. When the boy reaches puberty, he finds it extremely difficult to build relationships with other girls. The reader of the current research will learn about Paul Morel, the main character, and his Oedipus complex, which caused him to be particularly attached to his mother. The irony in the book is that Paul struggles to get rid of his Oedipus mentality.

Data Analysis

Athematic analysis was followed to identify themes, meanings and concepts. Then, relied on the attitudes proposed by Virginia Braun & Victorian Clark (2006), the researcher intended to follow a thematic analysis appropriate to the research. Similarly, the sixth pattern by Lichtman (2014) also constructed the thematic framework. Despite many approaches of analyzing qualitative data, such as those by Ritchie and Lewis (2003), Miles and Huberman (1994), the researcher discovered the one suggested by Braun and Clark (2006) to be the most appropriate application for the current paper as its six steps made the analysis more suitable and systematic.

There are many reasons for following the thematic method: First, thematic analysis is a practical tool to interpret literary expressions and provide a wealthy and detailed interpretation and description of the data set. –It offers an accessible and theoretically flexible approach to analysing qualitative data (Braun & Clark, 2006: 2).

Since this area of study tackles literature, the theme is the core point of literary appreciation (modern novel). The theme here is the implied meaning (latent content). Themes in the thematic analysis do not rely on quantifiable occurrences of utterances in the novel but some internal expressions in the characters' tongues. The thematic analysis is systematic and subjective and deals with the inner meaning, not only with the surface meaning of the text. "Themes can be described as the subjective meaning and cultural-contextual messages of data" (Vaismoradi et al., 2016: 15). Likewise, the thematic analysis makes what is mediated between the characters in the novel, including messages, symbols, textual matters, and supported social interactions.

Construction of the Novel

The novel has two major parts. The first part shows ruined life of Mrs. Morel with uneducated and neglected miner who is often spends his money in gambling. He plays the role of gentleman, but he doesn't act the role quite well.

As a result of unsuccessful relationship with the husband, Mrs. Morel moves her attention towards her sons especially Paul. After the death of her elder son, William, she becomes depressed and lonely. The new shift becomes to her son Paul Morel. The new emotional attachment between Mrs. Morel and Paul turns the novel and generates a new theme.

The second part of the novel is about Paul and his relationships with other females as well as his mother. It also explains the platonic relationships with Miriam. Then Mrs. Morel starts to think of a way to depart Females' relationships with Paul. Nevertheless, Paul establishes relationship with Clara who succeeded in achieving Paul's sexual desires. Although Clara achieves Paul's desire, but she cannot liberate him from mother's domination.

Realizing the Oedipus complex

The two major characters William and Paul Morel promotes the idea of Oedipus complex in the novel to end up without fulfilling relationships with other females except their mother. D. H. Lawrence discovered this psychoanalytic by Freud in this novel. This theory raised as an effective theory of the past century as utilized by him in his *'Interpretation of Dreams'* (1899). According to Freud, kids during their early life develop unconscious sexual desires towards the parent of the opposite sex. Essentially, this theory was developed to show the components of the personality id, Ego, and super ego.

Sigmund Freud got benefit of the story of Oedipus, Athenian tragedy by Sophocles. In this fiction, Oedipus marries his mother after unconsciously killing the father. Freud demonstrates that male child develops seduce feelings towards other opposite sex especially the mother which turns them into hateful towards the father.

Sons and Lovers legalize Paul's emotional relationship with his own mother, but fruitless relationships with other females, like Miriam and Clara. As a matter of a fact that Oedipus complex is noted to appear in both William and Paul with a different impact.

Paul's Deficiency in Achieving his Desires

Paul Morel has the sense of being unable to understand what he wants from females' relationships. Harison (2007) claimed that Paul cannot lend himself to females whom he wishes to establish love relationships from both spiritual and sexual sides. He only can see spiritual relationship with Miriam.

Paul apparently gains a non-stable emotion across women. As a matter of a fact he is in a bewildering situation even towards his mother. At last he puts morphine to put an end to the suffering and free himself from her domination.

What D. H. Lawrence is concerned, as to his main characters is the freedom to continue over a different of topics so as to see his characters employ a diversity of narration and to make them speak in a variety of linguistic styles.

It is fitness mentioning that the majority of Lawrence's characters are granted with double spheres of survival: the life within that's is discovered and promoted as novel progress, and the life as an individual of a social group with strong traditions. In terms of presentation, the internal developments of characters tend to be introduced through narrative style.

Conclusion

Generally, D. H. Lawrence's fiction mainly *"Sons and Lovers"* has been effective in replacement the general understanding of sexuality. The works of Sigmund Freud theories have supported to study the psychological state of Paul Morel. The Oedipus complex does not just manipulate the life of the mother, Mrs. Gertrude Morel, and Paul but it also influences the life of others like his elder brother, William, Clara and Miriam. William submitted to emotional conflict between his passionate for Lily and his mother, and finally guided him to death. Paul finds it sever to accept Miriam as his lover even after widening physical relation with Miriam. Clara also found out Paul's attachment to his mother.

In spite of severe criticism to Lawrence, he insisted on depicting his characters' sexuality. The writer wants to convey that Oedipus complex is the reality of the modern

world. There are male children who feel attachment to their mothers because they find it is very difficult to get along with their life of partners.

Actually, William and Paul are confused on how to preserve the pure and unique relationship with their mother and future wives. A perfect solution to this case can be a responsible role by both the mother and father of the sons. Mr. Morel does not prove to be a suitable husband and father, Mrs. Morel would never have been convinced with the marriage by Mr. Morel. This would have made William and Paul have a negative idea about the permanent marriage. This also influenced their views towards relationships with other females and made them cancelled the concept of marriage as a sacred institution. Consequently, Oedipus complex is clear by the behavior of Paul who loves his mother and cannot imagine his life without her. He hates his father to the extent he prays God to take him away. The problem of Oedipus complex in the novel helped to characterize this psychological issue in the society at that time and modern time. This marks Lawrence's novel *'Sons and Lovers'* as a classic example of psychological development.

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