

A Psychoanalytic Interpretation of Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy: Theory and Practice



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Abstract: *This research paper embarks on a profound exploration of psychoanalytic theory, delving into its elements and their application within the narrative framework of a specific text. Psychoanalytic theory, developed by Sigmund Freud in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, posits that human behavior and emotions are largely influenced by unconscious mental processes. This research paper seeks to unravel the core elements of psychoanalytic theory and apply them to the novel Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy, examining how these elements shape the novel's characters and themes. Grounded in Freudian psychoanalysis, this study investigates the psychological dimensions of the novel's characters, highlighting themes such as unconscious desires, repression, and the Oedipal complex. Beyond character analysis, this study extends the psychoanalytic lens to the novel's overarching narrative and themes, exploring the tension between personal desires and societal expectations. By merging psychoanalytic theory with literary critique, this research paper contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the psychological forces that shape both the characters and the narrative, offering valuable insights for literary scholars and psychoanalytic critics alike.*

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, Id, Ego, Super Ego, Defense mechanism, Freud

1. Introduction

Freud's model of personality, comprising the unconscious, the conscious, the Id, the Ego, and the Superego, serves as the foundational framework for understanding the psyche. He explained the role of dreams in one's personality further explaining the psycho developmental stages in child's development. Freud talked about the role of culture and taboos in the life of humans as they have a strong impact in shaping them. According to Freud's structural model of the psyche (1923), the id, ego, and superego are in constant conflict, driving human behavior and shaping our interactions with the world. This introductory exploration of psychoanalytical theory aims to provide a comprehensive overview, elucidating its key components,

historical context, theoretical underpinnings, and contemporary relevance. Freud's structural model of the psyche posits three distinct but interrelated components: The Id, driven by instincts and hidden desires. Pleasure principle also operates through id as it needs immediate satisfaction of and desires without indulging in moral or social implications. The Ego, negotiating between desires and reality. Reality principle is the governing principle of ego, which leads mind to do the things according to the external world. The Superego, the moral conscience, collectively shapes human personalities.

This work leads to the understanding of the further human behaviors, which are important in shaping their lives. Psychoanalytical theory also

emphasizes the significance of developmental stages, particularly the psychosexual stages, in shaping personality and behavior. Freud in his book *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (1905) discussed individual's progress through distinct stages i.e. oral, anal, phallic, latency, and genital each characterized by unique conflicts and fixations. Unresolved conflicts during these stages can lead to maladaptive patterns of behavior and psychological disturbances in adulthood. Freud further explained the elements of psychoanalytic theory. He explained psychosexual development which has five stages:

- Oral: Birth till 18 months where child's pleasure seeking energy is focused on mouth.
- Anal: From 18 months to 3 years, this is the second stage of psychosexual development in which libido becomes focused on anus.
- Phallic: Third stage, which has, is spanning from 3 to 6 years and focusing on their genitals as the primary source of pleasure.
- Latent: It is the fourth stage which is from 6 years to puberty where libido is dormant.
- Genital: This final stage starts from puberty and lasts into adulthood this stage directs towards the peers of opposite sex. Each age solves the problems related to sexuality.

Theory of psychoanalysis explicates Oedipal complex, which Freud discussed in his book *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900) was the personalities of children, when a boy has unconscious desires for mother and rivalry for father and vice versa. This element is very important in understanding the behavior of children. It is a desire for the opposite sex parent and fear of punishment from the same sex parent. It is a widely recognized concept and helps in the interpretation of child's behavior. Another thing, which Freud defined, defense mechanism as a denial to do the things that are not in favor of humans. There are some common

defense mechanisms which can be seen easily in any piece of literature:

- Repression: forcing painful memories or ideas into the subconscious.
- Denial: The refusal to accept difficult facts or realities.
- Projection: Imputing one's own ideas or emotions onto another person.
- Displacement: Shifting feelings to a more secure target by diverting them from the initial source.
- Sublimation: Directing undesirable urges into constructive endeavors.
- Regression: Going back to a previous developmental stage in order to manage stress.

Freud believed that dreams are the "royal road to the unconscious" "these are dreams which show the inner conflicts and repressed desires of human beings. Dream analysis is a way to uncover the unconscious thoughts of the mind; dreams are the way to communicate with the conscious mind. Freud explored the important role of culture and taboos in shaping individual character because of the effect they caused on humans when they are living in a society. Freud explored the importance of the informal rules that guide behavior in social situations. They shape individual's personality by applying restrictions on sensitive topics. Freud introduces a concept in his book *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* that is love for life its Eros and the death instinct that are Thanatos. The interplay of these two instincts are very much important in understanding the complexities of human behaviors. Eros are the life loving creative forces which are helpful for individual to lead a happy and satisfied life while Thanatos represents the death drive force which leads towards harm, destruction and aggression.

1.1 Background of the study

The application of psychoanalytic theory in literature extends beyond the realms of psychology. It serves as a profound framework for analyzing characters and themes in fiction, providing insights into human desires, struggles

for power, and the individual's journey for identity. Freudian concept is very much important in understanding the complexity of characters their hidden and repressed desires. How they redirect their desires into the accepted norms of society. Readers cannot neglect the role of psyche which involves in the development of characters defining the cause of their actions, their fears and desires which are the motivational forces in any piece of writing. Psychoanalytical theory is very playing an effective role in interpreting any piece of literature because of personal desires and the effect of culture and taboos in their lives. Many novels in literature are hard to understand without applying psychoanalytical theory. Freud's theory enlightened other theorist such as Carl Jung, Alfred Adler and Melanie Klein. Jung expanded Freud's concept proposing 'collective unconscious' "a reservoir of universal symbols and archetypes shared by humanity. Alder focuses on the role of social dynamics and the pursuit of superiority in shaping personality while Klein emphasized the importance of early object relations and the internal world of fantasy. In literature, the role of psychoanalytical theory is very vital because of the understanding of the conflicts and desires of the characters, their relationship with the outer world and even the feelings and emotions within themselves. In the *Interpretation of Dreams* (1900), which opened to our understanding not just the meaning of dreams but also the nature and power of the unconscious, Freud told about his arduous struggle to achieve ever-greater self-awareness. (Bettelheim, 1982).

1.2. Rationale of the study

While psychoanalytic theory offers a lens for understanding characters and themes, criticisms regarding its complexity and focus on individual experiences prompt a nuanced discussion. Theoretical diversity and the neglect of social-cultural factors are acknowledged, emphasizing the need for a balanced understanding. It gives a better understanding in unlocking the changes, which come in character's character building. It is important to explore the role of all the elements of psychoanalytic theory while reading a relevant piece of literature. This research helps

to understand and uncover the multi layers of characters. By applying its elements, one can better explore the unconscious motivations of characters. In this study researcher is providing a framework, which helps readers to find out the psychological factors, which influence humans. Contemporary psychoanalytical perspectives continue to enrich our understanding of human psychology, offering valuable insights into topics such as trauma, attachment, and cultural phenomena. Psychoanalytic therapy, though often critiqued for its lengthy duration and subjective interpretation, remains a potent therapeutic approach for addressing deep-seated psychological issues and fostering personal growth. In this research researcher has identified the elements of psychoanalytical theory and applied them on *Jude the Obscure*. Working of Id, ego and super ego is stated as under:

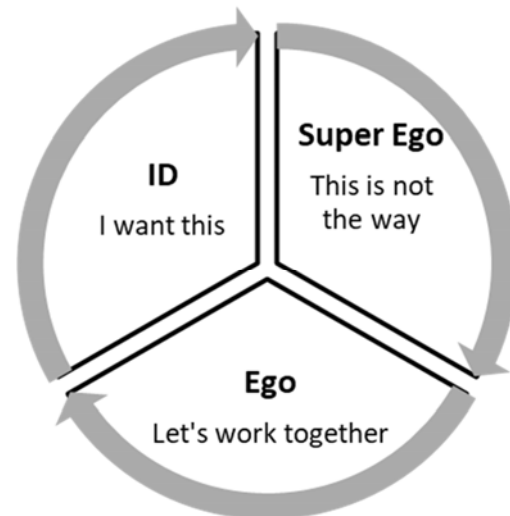


Figure 1. Freudian concept of psychoanalysis

1.3 Research Questions

1. How can the concepts of the Id, Ego and Superego be identified and analyzed within the narrative structure of the novel *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy?
2. How do defense mechanisms, such as denial, repression, projection, and other psychoanalytic concepts, manifest in the behaviors and interactions of the main characters in *Jude the Obscure*?
3. How do the characters' neurosis reflect

the societal constraints and expectations placed upon them, and how do these constraints influence their mental health and relationship?

1.4 Purpose of the study

This study explores the theoretical underpinnings of interpreting characters through the psychoanalytic lens. Concepts like role of id, ego super ego" and "repression" form the basis for studying past behaviors and understanding the impact of memories on human behavior. This chapter explores how much dreams are important in showing the inner conflicts of characters. Researcher has discussed different elements, which are important in shaping individuals. "Freud's concept of the Oedipus complex suggests that children's desires for the opposite-sex parent and rivalry with the same-sex parent are crucial in shaping adult relationships and personality (Freud, 1913)."Freud exploration of the oedipal complex gave a vision to understand the inner conflicts of the child regarding his emotions towards the opposite sex parent. Psychoanalytical theory gives a better understanding to know the character's urge to do anything weather it is in good direction or in bad. It is making reader eligible to understand the actions of the characters that why are they doing these actions and what are the feelings and desires, which motivate them to do these actions. Characters are the main representatives in any piece of writing and their understanding mean reader is going to explore the multilayers of their inner. Psychoanalytical elements are very important in any piece of writing without exploring them one cannot understand the real motive of the writer.

1.5 Literary Scope of study

Jude the Obscure, Thomas Hardy's final novel, is a profound exploration of human nature, societal constraints, and personal despair. Published in 1895, the novel's bleak portrayal of its characters' struggles garnered significant controversy. Hardy delves deeply into the psyches of his characters, making *Jude the Obscure* an excellent subject for psychoanalytic analysis. Through the lens of psychoanalytic

theory, we can uncover the unconscious motivations, conflicts, and defense mechanisms that drive the characters' actions and the novel's themes. Sigmund Freud developed psychoanalytic theory, which emphasizes how the unconscious mind shapes behavior. The id, ego, and superego; the significance of early experiences; defense mechanisms; and the Oedipus complex are important ideas. Jude Fawley, the novel's protagonist, embodies many of the struggles central to psychoanalytic theory. His longing for education and intellectual fulfillment represents his aspiration for self-actualization, often thwarted by unconscious desires and societal constraints. Jude's early experiences and interactions with authority figures profoundly shape his psyche. Jude's childhood, marked by abandonment and neglect, leaves a lasting impact on his psychological development. Raised by his great-aunt, Jude lacks the nurturing environment essential for a stable sense of self. According to Freud, early childhood experiences play a crucial role in shaping an individual's unconscious desires and conflicts. Jude's yearning for acceptance and love can be traced back to his disrupted family life.

A key idea in Freudian theory, the Oedipus complex, postulates that infants have latent sexual cravings for their same-sex parent and jealousy against their opposite-sex parent. While Jude's situation deviates from the typical Oedipal framework, his relationships with women, particularly Arabella and Sue, reveal underlying conflicts. Jude's attraction to Sue, who shares his intellectual aspirations, can be seen as an attempt to resolve these deep-seated conflicts. Freud's structural model of the psyche — comprising the id, ego, and superego— provides a framework for understanding Jude's internal struggles. The id, representing primal desires, is evident in Jude's impulsive decisions, such as his marriage to Arabella. His pursuit of academic and spiritual goals reflects the ego's attempts to mediate between the id's demands and the realities of the external world. Jude's internalization of societal norms and moral values, embodied in the superego, creates intense inner conflict, particularly as he grapples

with his ambitions and the oppressive constraints of Victorian society. Sue Bridehead, Jude's cousin and love interest, presents a complex character study through psychoanalytic theory in Thomas Hardy's "Jude the Obscure." Sue Bridehead exhibits several defense mechanisms that reflect her complex psychological state and responses to the oppressive social and moral constraints of her time. These mechanisms help her cope with her inner conflicts and the external pressures she faces. Sue often resorts to intellectual discourse and rationalization to distance herself from her emotions and the chaos of her personal life. By focusing on intellectual and philosophical discussions, she tries to maintain a sense of control and detachment. She suppresses her sexual desires and emotional needs, partly due to her upbringing and partly because of the moral and social expectations of the Victorian era. This repression leads to significant inner turmoil and contributes to her erratic behavior and decisions throughout the novel. She sometimes projects her own fears and insecurities onto others, particularly Jude. For instance, she often attributes her reluctance to fully commit to Jude to external circumstances or societal expectations rather than acknowledging her own internal conflicts. Sue frequently denies her true feelings for Jude and the implications of her actions. Her initial refusal to recognize her love for him and her later denial of the consequences of their relationship illustrate this defense mechanism. At times, Sue regresses to childlike behavior, seeking comfort and safety in familiar patterns rather than facing the complexities of adult relationships. This is evident in her retreat into religious fervor and asceticism after the tragic death of her children, which represents a return to a simpler, more structured way of coping with her grief and guilt.

Richard Phillotson, Sue's schoolteacher and later husband, represents the superego's moral imperatives and societal expectations. Phillotson's adherence to duty and convention, despite personal cost, exemplifies the internalization of societal norms and the resulting psychological conflict. His decision to marry Sue, despite their lack of emotional

compatibility, reflects his commitment to societal expectations and moral duty. His willingness to release Sue when she expresses her desire to be with Jude demonstrates his internal struggle between personal desire and moral obligation. Phillotson's actions highlight the superego's role in shaping behavior through internalized values and norms. His guilt over his perceived failure to uphold societal standards drives many of his decisions. His eventual acceptance of Sue's departure illustrates the painful reconciliation of personal and societal demands. Phillotson's character underscores the psychological burden of conforming to external expectations, a central theme in Hardy's critique of Victorian society.

Hardy's exploration of repression and unconscious motivations extends beyond individual characters to encompass broader themes in "Jude the Obscure." The novel's depiction of societal constraints, unfulfilled desires, and tragic outcomes reflects the pervasive influence of unconscious forces on human behavior. The oppressive social and religious norms of Victorian society serve as a backdrop for the characters' struggles. Jude's and Sue's aspirations are continually thwarted by rigid societal structures, leading to profound despair. The novel's critique of these norms reveals the psychological toll of repression on individuals seeking fulfillment. Hardy's portrayal of his characters' tragic destinies highlights the role of unconscious motivations in shaping their lives. Jude's and Sue's repeated failures and misfortunes can be traced to unresolved psychological conflicts and deep-seated desires. The interplay of conscious aspirations and unconscious drives creates a sense of inevitability, underscoring the novel's bleak outlook on human potential.

Jude the Obscure offers a rich tapestry of psychological complexity, making it an ideal subject for psychoanalytic analysis. Through the lens of Freud's Psychoanalytic theory, researcher uncovers the unconscious desires, conflicts, and defense mechanisms that drive the characters and shape the novel's themes. Hardy's exploration of repression, societal constraints, and personal despair provides a profound

commentary on the human condition, revealing the deep psychological currents that are responsible for the characters' tragic destinies. By delving into the psyches of Jude, Sue, Arabella, and Phillotson, one can gain a deeper understanding of the novel's enduring relevance and psychological depth.

2. Literature Review

The psychological theories of Freud revolutionized our comprehension of human behavior and the unconscious mind, profoundly influencing literary analysis and interpretation. Psychoanalytic theory provides a framework for examining unconscious motives, desires, and conflicts that shape characters' thoughts, feelings, and actions. *The psychoanalytic theory of personality of Freud (1899)* is a cornerstone in the field of psychology, introducing complex mechanisms through which human behavior can be understood. *His theory is centered on* the concepts of the id, ego, and superego, which interact to shape an Operating under the pleasure principle, the id's primary motivation is to seek immediate pleasure and avoid pain. It is characterized by a relentless pursuit of gratification, constantly striving to fulfill its desires without *consideration of* the constraints of reality or the consequences of its actions.

The earliest component of the personality to emerge is the id, which is present from birth. *The most primitive part of the personality structure is formed by* instinct, desire, and need. *The unconscious self includes the fundamental biological drives and reflexes necessary for survival and immediate pleasure. The id is motivated by the pleasure principle and strives to satisfy all impulses instantly. It has been driven by a constant quest for pleasure and avoiding harm. A feeling of pain and tension are created when the needs of the id are not met. It is not always possible to fulfill all desires right away. The individual employs primary process thinking, a technique that allows them to imagine their ideals, temporarily easing the tension. It does not take into account the constraints of reality because it is unconscious level. It's irrational, impulsive, and selfish, only interested in satisfying its immediate wants. Throughout an individual's life, the id retains its*

infantile nature. It never evolves to consider reality or the consequences of actions, as it is perpetually rooted in the unconscious mind. To maintain a balance and ensure appropriate behavior, the development of the ego and the superego is crucial. These components of the personality emerge to regulate the id's impulses and align them with the demands of reality and societal norms.

In essence, Freud (1923), claimed that the id is the most fundamental and primitive part of the personality, present from birth and driven by instinctual desires. It operates unconsciously and seeks immediate gratification, often through primary process thinking. However, to navigate the real world and maintain social harmony, the ego and the superego develop to regulate the id's impulses, introducing elements of rationality and morality into the individual's behavior. This intricate balance between the id, ego, and superego forms the foundation of human personality and its continuous development throughout life. The id is the foundational aspect of our personality structure, forming the core of our unconscious mind. Present from birth, the id is driven by pure instinct, operating on the most basic level of human experience. It houses the essential biological drives and reflexes necessary for survival and immediate gratification, such as hunger, thirst, and the need for comfort. This primitive aspect of personality is not influenced by logic, morality, or social norms, making it a force of raw, unfiltered desire.

The ego, which represents the reasoning aspect of the personality, is responsible for mediating between the irrational demands of the id and the outside world. It operates under the reality principle, which takes into account whether or not the id's wishes can be satisfied in a way that is acceptable to society. Secondary process thinking is a more practical and logical way of approaching problems that the ego uses to negotiate the complexity of reality. *An individual's actions and thoughts are influenced by their actions and thoughts. The second component to develop according to Freud, the ego, is the focus of this dissertation. The ego's primary task is to act as a mediator between the*

primitive desires of the *individual* and the external world, ensuring that *their expressions conform to social norms*.

2.1 The Function and Evolution of the Ego:

Freud(1923),explained that ego emerges from the unconscious part of the mind that contains our most primitive drives and desires. The ego is tasked with acknowledging and dealing with reality, unlike the id, which relies solely on the pleasure principle in search of immediate satisfaction. The reality principle is used by the ego to satisfy the id's desires in realistic and socially acceptable ways. This often involves delaying gratification, compromising, or using other strategies to avoid the negative consequences of transgressing societal norms and rules. The reality principle is fundamental to the functioning of the ego, as it works to navigate the demands of the id while taking into account the constraints of the external world. This process is known as secondary process thinking, which is characterized by rational and problem-solving thought processes. Unlike the primary process thinking of the id, which is irrational and focused solely on immediate gratification, secondary process thinking involves planning, strategizing, and reality-testing. This enables individuals to maintain self-control and adapt to their environment effectively.

Secondary process thinking allows the ego to seek pleasure in ways that are realistic and socially sanctioned. While the id seeks pleasure indiscriminately, the ego's role is to find ways to fulfill these desires without incurring social penalties. It is not concerned with moral judgments of right and wrong but rather with maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain in a manner that is realistic and acceptable within the given social context. Conscious, preconscious, and unconscious are the levels of operation.

The ego operates on multiple levels of consciousness, including the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious. It's all about taking reality into account and making judgments and choices based on what's around you. Thoughts and memories that are not currently in awareness can be easily accessed

when needed at the preconscious level. Smooth cognitive and emotional functioning can be achieved by bringing these preconscious functions into consciousness with minimal effort. The unconscious level is where the ego's work is carried out. The ego suppresses forbidden desires and thoughts, keeping them hidden from conscious awareness. It's a defense mechanism to avoid the stress that would ensue if these unacceptable desires were revealed. Thus, the ego serves as a gatekeeper, managing the flow of information and impulses between the conscious and unconscious mind.

Freud (1923) elaborated that Psychoanalytic theory is very helpful in understanding the intricate mechanisms of human behavior and development. The final component to emerge in the personality structure is *the superego*, one of the crucial components in this theory. Freud's psychosexual stages and its role as the moral compass of the personality are explored in this dissertation, which examines the formation, structure, and functions of the superego. Between the ages of 3 and 5, the superego begins to emerge, a period Freud(1905), referred to as the phallic phase of psychosexual development. Children become more aware of their bodies and the differences between the sexes during this period. The resolution of the Oedipus complex, where the child develops a deep sense of identification with the same-sex parent, significantly influences the formation of the superego. The identification of parental values and norms is foundational in the internalization of parental values and norms, which constitute the early building blocks of the superego.

In the personality theory of Sigmund Freud (1938), development is described in terms of stages defined by the specific expression of sexual, or libidinal, urges. The regions of the body responsible for sexual pleasure at specific ages are identified as the focus of each developmental stage. A framework for understanding how early experiences shape personality and behavior is provided by Sigmund Freud's theory of psychosexual development. The stages of psychosexual development, according to Freud, are marked by the concentration of the libido's pleasure-seeking

energy on different parts of the body *as children grow*. This dissertation *delves into the complexities* of these *phases*, examining their significance in psychological growth and their lasting impact on a person's character.

Freud's seminal work, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, published in 1899, revolutionized the understanding of dreams in psychology. Freud believed that dreams were a form of wish fulfillment, a concept that has profoundly influenced psychoanalysis. *The mechanisms of dream formation, the function of dreams and their role in understanding the unconscious mind has been explored in this study. Freud created the Theory of Dreams.* Freud's theory of dreams is rooted in his psychoanalytic framework, which divides the human psyche into the id, ego, and superego. *The unconscious mind's dreams, according to Freud, reveal buried desires and unresolved issues.*

Freud (1900), believed that dreams are a form of wish fulfillment, *which is central to his theory.* Dreams allow the expression of repressed desires that cannot be satisfied in waking life, *which can be expressed through dreams.* A person dreams of winning a large sum of money, fulfilling their desire for financial security. *It is a safe way to express desires that might otherwise get you down or upset.* Release of previously hidden material. Dreams serve as a release valve for repressed material, allowing thoughts and emotions that have been pushed out of conscious awareness to be expressed. A dream in which a person confronts a repressed traumatic memory *is an example. Dreams can facilitate emotional processing and healing by bringing repressed material to the surface.* Dreams can facilitate emotional processing and healing. Dreams can sometimes provide solutions to problems or *insight into one's life, according to Freud his theory doesn't really center on this one, but it's still considered a possible upside to dreaming.* A person dreaming of a creative solution to a work-related issue. In this way, dreams can be seen as a form of unconscious problem-solving, offering perspectives that might not be accessible during waking hours. Dream content is manifest and latent. *Dreams had both manifest and latent*

content. The manifest content *of the dream* is the actual narrative and imagery of the dream as remembered by the dreamer. The *hidden psychological meaning behind the dream* is known as the latent content.

Freud (1900) specified that unconscious mind is accessed by several techniques designed to reveal the latent content of dreams. *Free Association* Freud used free association in dream analysis as a key method for dream analysis. The dreamer is encouraged to speak freely about whatever comes to mind regarding the elements of the dream, without censorship or judgment. *It is possible for a dreamer to be asked to describe their thoughts and feelings about a particular dream image. Unconscious connections can form, hinting at the deeper meaning of the dream. Symbolism is important. Dreams are symbolic, according to Freud, to represent our subconscious thoughts and desires. Understanding the meaning of the symbols in the dream is crucial. A journey might represent personal growth or change, while water might represent emotions. Certain symbols recurring across different individuals and cultures have been influenced by Freud's extensive work on symbolism.*

Freud (1900), recognized the value of common dream symbols, but he also emphasized the importance of personal context. *Depending on the individual's experiences and associations, the meaning of a symbol can vary greatly. For example, a snake might symbolize danger or temptation for one person, but transformation and healing for another. Understanding dreams requires a grasp of both universal symbols and the individual's particular circumstances. Dreams play a role in psychoanalysis. A direct route to the unconscious mind was offered by dreams in psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysts can gain insight into their patients' unconscious desires and conflicts by analyzing dreams, which can facilitate therapeutic progress. Transference is the process through which patients project feelings and attitudes from significant relationships onto the therapist. Transference dynamics can be revealed in dreams by revealing unconscious thoughts and feelings about the therapist. A patient might dream about*

a confrontation with a figure representing the therapist, which could indicate unresolved feelings of anger or dependence. The therapeutic relationship can be navigated by understanding transference through dreams.

Freud (1913), gave the concept that Cultural norms and taboos are influenced by the role of unconscious mind of humans . Freud's exploration of taboos and cultural norms is linked to his broader concepts of the unconscious mind, repression, and the functioning of the id, ego, and superego. This research investigates the significance of taboos and social conventions in Freud's theory, examining how they affect psychological growth, individual behavior, and social institutions. According to Freud (1913), the unconscious mind is home to memories, desires, and thoughts that are not available to conscious awareness but yet have an impact on emotions and behavior. Taboos and cultural norms are important in shaping the content of the unconscious mind, affecting both individual psychology and social dynamics. Freud's exploration of taboos is rooted in his investigation of the dynamics of repression and the conflict between the id and the superego. What has considered unacceptable or forbidden in a culture is known as a taboo. The role of taboos regulating behavior and maintaining social order is revealed by Freud's analysis.

Freud(1915),explained that keeping distressing thoughts and desires out of our minds is known as repression. Repressed desires and impulses are often related to taboos and forbidden behaviors. The suppression of content that is considered taboo helps people avoid the trepidation that comes with breaking social rules. For example, a person who has an incestuous fantasy may experience anxiety and guilt, leading them to repress these thoughts and avoid confronting them directly. Social control is facilitated by taboos, which define acceptable and unacceptable conduct. The censorship of taboo-related content allows individuals to navigate social norms while avoiding the psychological distress that might arise from acknowledging these forbidden desires. The evolution of cultural and societal structures was

explored by Freud. Freud explored the origins of taboos and their impact on early human societies in his work Totem and Taboo. Social cohesion and moral regulation were influenced by taboos, according to him.

Freud (1917), conceptualized that neurotic symptoms can be caused by conflicts between repressed desires and cultural norms. Unresolved conflicts between unconscious desires and societal expectations may reflect neurotic symptoms, such as phobias, obsessions, and compulsions. There may be underlying anxieties related to societal standards of hygiene and order in an individual who experiences obsessive fears about cleanliness. The way neurotic symptoms are expressed and expressed is shaped by cultural norms. Understanding the cultural context of these signs can provide insight into the underlying conflicts and aid in achieving therapeutic resolution. The cultural norms influence personality development and psychological functioning. Freud's psychosexual development theory highlights the influence of early experiences and cultural context on the formation of personality traits and behavioral patterns.

Freud (1900), created the idea for the Oedipus complex, one of the most important and contentious additions to psychoanalytic theory. Unconsciously, children feel jealous of their same-sex parent and harbor sexual impulses for their opposite-sex parent. This complex is a cornerstone in understanding human psychosexual development and has influenced various fields, including literature, psychology, and cultural studies. This research provides a comprehensive analysis of the origins, theoretical foundations, and literary implications of the Oedipus complex, providing a comprehensive analysis suitable for advanced studies in English literature. The Oedipus complex was incorporated into the theory of psychosexual development by the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud. The Greek mythological figure Oedipus, who unintentionally killed his father and wed his mother, is the inspiration behind the name of this complex. It talks about a child's unspoken longing for their parent who is the other

sex. Freud's Oedipus complex formulation has had a profound impact on psychoanalytic theory and has been the subject of extensive debate and interpretation within literary studies. The *legend of Oedipus*, which is the *basis for* Freud's theory, is rooted in Sophocles' play "Oedipus Rex." A prophecy that *Oedipus* would kill his father and marry his mother *led to his abandonment at birth*. Despite *his best efforts*, Oedipus *accidentally fulfilled* the prophecy, *resulting in a tragic acknowledgment and unforeseen outcomes*. The *incorporation* of this myth into psychoanalytic theory by Freud underscores the universality of *subconscious* desires and familial *tensions*. Freud provided a framework for understanding the deep seated and often hidden motivations behind human behavior by *linking the myth to psychosexual development*.

Freud (1920), extended his vision to the theories of Thanatos (death drive) and Eros (life drive) which are fundamental to understand human behavior and motivations. These dual forces, which represent the instincts toward life and death, play a crucial role in the dynamics of the psyche and influence various aspects of culture and literature. A comprehensive analysis suitable for advanced studies in English literature is offered by this thesis. *The beginning. The dual nature of human instincts was described by the concepts of Thanatos and Eros by the father of psychoanalysis. Life drives include instincts related to survival, reproduction, and pleasure. The instinctual pull towards aggression, self-destruction, and a return to inertia is represented by Thanatos. Together, these motivations provide a framework for comprehending the complexities of human behavior and the underlying forces that shape our interactions and cultural productions.*

Freud's development of the concepts of Thanatos and Eros emerged from his psychoanalytic theory, which seeks to explain the dynamics of the human psyche. *The pleasure principle, governed by the life drive, Eros, was Freud's initial focus.* However, his later work incorporated the *idea* of a counteracting force, the death drive, Thanatos, to account for the destructive and self-sabotaging behaviors

observed in individuals.

2.2 Theory of Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalytic theory, which was originally developed by Sigmund Freud and later expanded by figures such as Carl Jung, Melanie Klein, and Jacques Lacan, has been a transformative influence across various disciplines, including psychology, sociology, cultural studies, and English literature. Psychoanalysis aims to uncover hidden motives that shape our actions, feelings, and thoughts. Psychoanalytic theory provides a framework for understanding the deeper psychological dimensions of texts, offering insights into character motivations, narrative structures, themes, and symbolism. In the realm of English literature, psychoanalytic theory offers insights into character motivations, narrative structures, themes, and symbolism. A comprehensive overview of psychoanalytic theory, its fundamentals, historical development, key theorists, and its application in literary studies is the goal of this review of scholarly works. *Psychoanalysis is based on the work of Sigmund Freud, who is considered the father of psychoanalysis. The foundation for psychoanalytic thought was laid by Freud's exploration of the unconscious and dream interpretation. Various branches and schools within psychoanalysis were developed as Freud's ideas were expanded and challenged by his contemporaries and successors.*

Feminist literary criticism frequently incorporates psychoanalytic theory, especially in examining how gender and sexuality are constructed in literature. Psychoanalytic feminism, drawing on the works of Freud, Lacan, and Kristeva, investigates how literary texts both reflect and contest patriarchal norms and ideologies. In Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*, the protagonist's descent into madness can be seen as a response to patriarchal oppression and the suppression of female desire, using Freudian and Lacanian ideas. Similarly, Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* portrays Esther Greenwood's struggle with mental illness as a reflection of the conflict between feminine identity and societal expectations, making it a valuable subject for

psychoanalytic feminist critique.

Queer theory has also engaged with psychoanalytic concepts, particularly in exploring the formation of sexual identity and desire in literature. Freudian and Lacanian theories about sexuality and the unconscious have been utilized to examine texts that address non-normative sexualities and identities. In Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the protagonist's pursuit of pleasure and eventual downfall can be analyzed through a psychoanalytic perspective, exploring themes of desire, repression, and the unconscious. Similarly, in Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, the fluid nature of gender and identity can be studied using psychoanalytic concepts, offering insights into the construction of sexuality and selfhood.

Although psychoanalytic literary criticism provides valuable tools for analyzing texts, it also faces several challenges and criticisms. A common critique of psychoanalytic literary criticism is its tendency to focus too heavily on the author's personal biography and psychology, potentially overlooking the text itself. While insights into an author's psychological state can provide useful context, some critics argue that an analysis centered on the text—focusing on characters and narrative elements—may be more effective for literary interpretation. Another criticism of psychoanalytic criticism is its potential for reductionism, where complex characters and narratives are oversimplified to fit into psychoanalytic theories. Detractors suggest that literature often defies such straightforward interpretations, and psychoanalytic approaches should avoid reducing characters or themes to simplistic psychological explanations. Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, though originally developed within psychology, has profoundly impacted literary criticism and analysis. The theory's concepts of the id, ego, and superego provide a useful framework for understanding the psychological motivations of characters, authors, and readers. This review examines how psychoanalytic ideas have been applied to literary analysis, considering both the strengths and limitations of this approach.

2.3 Thomas Hardy as a Novelist

Thomas Hardy, an essential literary figure who bridged the Victorian era and the dawn of the 20th century, initially pursued a career in architecture before transitioning to writing, where his talent truly flourished. While some of Hardy's works exhibit moments of humor, his writing is largely infused with a brooding irony, reflecting his belief that humans are often at the mercy of indifferent, impersonal forces. This philosophical outlook is particularly evident in his novels, which Hardy divided into three categories: novels of environment and character, which includes his most well-known works, such as *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891), *The Return of the Native* (1878), *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1874), and *Jude the Obscure* (1895); novels of ingenuity, such as *Desperate Remedies* (1871); and romances and fantasies, such as *A Pair of Blue Eyes* (1872–1873).

First serialized in *Harper's*, *Jude the Obscure* sparked a significant amount of controversy upon its release, with reactions ranging from moral outrage to disappointment that it was not as scandalous as expected. This intense backlash eventually drove Hardy away from writing novels and into the world of poetry. Hardy himself, in the preface to *Jude the Obscure*, explained that the novel sought to depict "a deadly war waged between flesh and spirit," as well as to point out the tragedy of unfulfilled dreams. Alongside this central theme, the novel also critiques societal conventions and explores the profound loneliness of the human condition.

The tension between flesh and spirit is evident in the character of Jude. His relationship with Arabella Donn highlights his carnal desires, while his intellectual pursuits and high ideals reflect his spiritual aspirations. Jude's fixation on Sue Bridehead embodies both of these aspects—he is drawn to her intellect and emotions but also physically attracted to her. However, Jude's failure to reconcile these conflicting desires undermines his personal goals. His aspiration to study at Christminster (a fictionalized Oxford) is thwarted not because of a lack of effort or ability but because of his social class. Similarly, his hope for a meaningful and lasting relationship with Sue fails, as her own complex and

contradictory personality contributes to their mutual downfall.

At its core, *JO* is a meditation on the futility of dreams and the crushing weight of societal expectations. The novel's tragic dimensions are evident in Jude's life, a man who, despite his talent and determination, is repeatedly denied access to the education and personal fulfillment he craves. Jude's unfulfilled academic ambitions highlight the rigid class structures that prevent even the most capable individuals from achieving their potential.

Sue Bridehead, one of the novel's most complex characters, serves as a focal point for Hardy's examination of Victorian social constraints. Her character embodies the tension between intellectual freedom and emotional repression. Sue initially rejects traditional values, but the death of her children drives her to seek atonement by returning to her estranged husband, Mr. Phillotson. In doing so, Sue demonstrates the destructive power of societal expectations, illustrating Hardy's critique of the suffocating moral codes of his time.

While initially criticized for its perceived immorality and bleakness, *Jude the Obscure* has come to be regarded as one of Hardy's greatest novels. Its themes of personal failure, societal oppression, and the cold indifference of the universe resonate deeply within the framework of modernist literature. The novel's tragic elements—underpinned by Hardy's use of coincidence and fatalism—underscore the larger philosophical ideas at play, cementing its status as a timeless critique of the human condition. In conclusion, *JO* stands as a poignant exploration of the unattainable dreams and harsh social realities that shape human experience. Hardy's masterful portrayal of characters trapped by their desires and societal roles offers readers a powerful reflection on the limits of individual agency and the often tragic consequences of ambition.

3. Methodological Framework

This research paper is a qualitative interpretive approach to explore how psychoanalytic theory can be applied to English literature. This means that researcher is closely reading and analyzing literary texts, like novel, *Jude the Obscure* through the lens of psychoanalytic theory. This research paper is a two dimensional study where first priority is given to the identification of the elements of the theory and second preference is given to the application of the theory on the novel.

3.1 Research Design

This research is a qualitative study that is based on the questions mentioned above. The data has been collected and analyzed by keeping in consideration, psychoanalytic theory, research questions and objectives of the research. Various resources, including library materials, internet sources, reviews, research journals, periodicals, and interviews with writers, has utilized for data collection. The textual analysis involves:

- Close Reading: A thorough examination of the text to uncover passages and elements that align with psychoanalytic theory.
- Character Analysis: Investigation of the main characters' psychological profiles and conflicts using Freud's concepts.
- Thematic Analysis: Identification of themes related to psychoanalytic theory, such as repression, desire, and societal constraints.

Secondary sources include academic literature, critical essays, and books on Freud's psychoanalytic theory and Hardy's work. These sources provide context, support, and additional perspectives for the analysis. Textual Analysis underwent close reading and analysis of selected literary text (e.g., novel) to identify elements of psychoanalytic theory, such as themes, motifs, characters, and narrative structure.

Table 1. Textual Analysis Framework

Element	Jude the Obscure (Application)	Description
Id	Jude's desire for Sue	Primitive, instinctual needs
Ego	Jude's ambition	Rational, mediating force
Superego	Jude's guilt and anxiety	Moral component, internalized norms
Oedipus Complex	Jude's relationship with Sue	Unconscious desires for opposite-sex parent
Repression	Jude's suppressed desires	Unconscious defense mechanism
Projection	Jude's perception of Sue's feelings	Attributing own thoughts to others
Sublimation	Jude's passion for learning	Channeling instincts into creative outlet
Defense Mechanisms	Jude's rationalization, denial, and escapism	Coping strategies for stress and anxiety
Eros	Jude's love for Sue, desire for human connection	Life drive, love and relationships
Thanatos	Jude's self-destructive tendencies, suicidal thoughts	Death drive, self-destruction and aggression

Elements of the Psychoanalytic Theory present In The Novel *Jude The Obscure* BY Thomas Hardy. Characters, which are under observation according to psychoanalytic theory, are given below:

Table 2: Character description and theoretical analysis

Jude	Id, Ego, Super Ego, Repression, Defence Mechanism, oedipal complex and Neurosis.
Sue Bridehead	Id, Ego, Super Ego, Defence Mechanism, Neurosis, Fixation and Repression.
Phyllotson	Id Ego, Super Ego, Repressed Desires .Oedipal Complex, Fixation, Paternalism, Sublimation, Defence Mechanism, Neurosis And Self-deception.
Arabella Donn	Id, Ego, Super Ego, Repression, Fixation, Oral Fixation, Neurosis And Defence Mechanism.

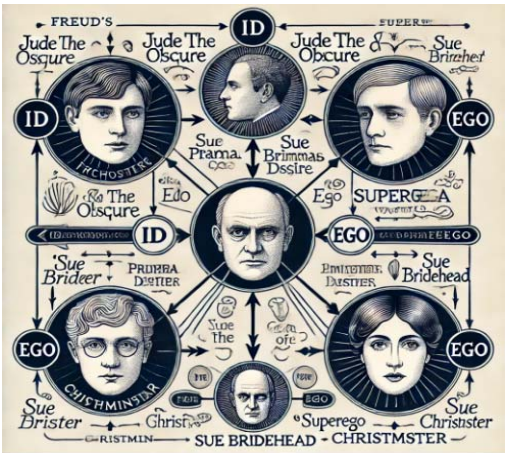


Figure 2: Theoretical Framework Mapping

4. Findings and Discussions

The current consolidates the findings from applying Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory to Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*. The analysis has delved into several key psychoanalytic concepts, including the id, ego, and superego; defense mechanisms; psychosexual development; dream analysis; cultural norms and taboos; the Oedipus complex; and the drives of Eros and Thanatos. By exploring these theoretical constructs, this chapter aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the novel's characters, their motivations, and the thematic elements within

the narrative. This examination not only sheds light on Hardy's characters but also underscores the broader importance of psychoanalytic theory in literary analysis. This research clearly finds out the traces of elements of psychoanalytic theory. Freud's notion of the id represents the primitive, instinctual part of the psyche driven by the need for immediate satisfaction. In *JO*, the id's influence is evident in the characters' fundamental desires and impulses.

Jude's unrelenting quest for intellectual and emotional fulfillment exemplifies the id's pursuit of pleasure. "I couldn't help loving you—it was my nature to" (Hardy, 1895, p. 250). His deep-seated attraction to Sue Bridehead represents a desire for immediate gratification and emotional connection, leading to both internal and external conflicts when these desires clash with societal expectations and personal constraints. Sue's behavior and emotional reactions also reflect the influence of the *id*. Her strong desire for a profound emotional and intellectual connection with Jude underscores her pursuit of pleasure and satisfaction. Sue's fear of intimacy and her complex emotions towards Jude reveal her instinctual desires grappling with societal norms, desires and external demands. "I have no gift. I must plod on as I best can." (Hardy, 1895, p. 95). Jude's ego is seeing the truth of his circumstances in this instance. He confronts the reality that external societal restraints make it difficult for him to fulfill his dreams, which tempers his ambitions and wants. This exemplifies how the ego maintains equilibrium between the demands of the id and the external environment. Jude and Sue in *JO* attempt to strike a balance between their inner wants and outside demands. Jude's attempts to succeed academically and establish a life with Sue serve as an example of how the ego mediates between his ambitions and his limitations. His choices demonstrate how he is trying to balance his own goals with those of society, highlighting the role the ego plays in regulating pressure from both the inside and the outside. Sue's behavior, like her marriage to Phillotson in spite of her lack of genuine love, is a prime example of how the ego works to balance an individual's needs with

those of society. Her decisions demonstrate how challenging it may be to balance social pressure to fit in with one's own inner conflicts.

The ego serves as the rational aspect of the psyche, balancing the id's desires with the realities of the external world. It operates based on the reality principle, mediating between internal desires and external demands. "I have no gift. I must plod on as I best can." (Hardy, 1895, p. 95). Jude's ego is seeing the truth of his circumstances in this instance. He confronts the reality that external societal restraints make it difficult for him to fulfill his dreams, which tempers his ambitions and wants. This is an illustration of the ego's role in balancing the needs of the id and the outside world. In *JO* Jude and Sue tries to make a balance between their internal desires and external pressures. Jude's attempts to attain academic success and build a life with Sue illustrate the ego's role in mediating between his desires and practical constraints. His decisions reflect an effort to harmonize his personal ambitions with societal expectations, highlighting the ego's function in managing internal and external pressure. Sue's actions, such as her marriage to Phillotson despite a lack of true affection, exemplify the ego's work in reconciling personal desires with societal norms. Her choices highlight the difficulties of navigating internal conflicts and societal pressures to conform.

Freud (1900), explains the rule of morals in the lives of humans. The moral and ethical norms that one has internalized from society and culture are represented by the superego. The superego is a metaphor for the moral and ethical principles that people internalize from society and authoritative characters. It sets moral boundaries and assesses conduct in accordance with social norms. "I am certain one ought to be allowed to undo what one has done so ignorantly! I have been reverencing the wrong thing all my life!" (Hardy, 1895, p. 320). Jude's sense of guilt and moral conflict throughout the novel reflects the influence of the superego. His feelings of inadequacy and failure are shaped by internalized moral standards, contributing to his despair and disillusionment. Sue's adherence to societal norms and her eventual acceptance of

traditional roles illustrate the impact of the superego. Her internal struggle between personal desires and societal expectations highlights the superego's role in shaping behavior and emotional well-being.

Defense mechanism, as proposed by Freud, explain how people manage their inner tensions and uneasiness. The novel's protagonists display a range of defensive strategies, including projection, displacement, denial, and repression. Jude's attempts are successful. He is able to endure expected "instinctual experience" by means of idealization and rationalization. He can actually regulate all of his emotions to the point that control becomes an issue for him. He eventually loses the ability to communicate emotions that are appropriate for a certain circumstance or person. He is unable to harbor resentment for Arabella (223, 473). The narrator claims that despite his desire to "annihilate" his opponent Phillotson, "his action did not respond for a moment to his animal instinct" (196). In other words, Jude finally becomes so collected and logical that he reacts without emotion. Under the sole influence of reason, he makes the rational and seemingly inevitable decision to end his own life. He accomplishes what, on some level, he had always wanted to do by doing this. According to D. H. Lawrence, "That was his obsession." His desire was to be completely detached from his own life."

Repression involves pushing unacceptable desires and memories into the unconscious to manage internal conflicts. Sue's aversion to physical intimacy and her emotional breakdown indicate repression. Her inability to face her true feelings and societal pressures reflects a defense mechanism used to handle internal conflicts, leading to considerable psychological distress. Jude's tendency to avoid confronting his personal failures and his continuous pursuit of unattainable goals exemplify repression. This defense mechanism helps him manage internal conflicts but ultimately contributes to his ongoing struggle and eventual downfall. He represses his desires for a different life as he says in these lines. "The stone-mason's trade was as respectable as any, but Jude felt he had the intellect for more." (Hardy, 1974, p. 39)

Denial involves refusing to acknowledge unpleasant realities to avoid facing painful truths. Jude's denial of his failures and the harsh realities of his situation demonstrates his use of denial as a defense mechanism. His persistent belief in the possibility of success despite clear evidence to the contrary highlights how denial affects his psychological state and behavior. These lines reflect Jude's internal struggle and thoughts about his past relationship with Arabella, suggesting the lingering legal bond between them, despite the emotional and physical distance. "She had been his wife, and, though he did not admit it to her, there was still a law that made him her husband." (Hardy, 1974, p. 95)

Projection involves attributing one's own undesirable thoughts or feelings to others, thereby externalizing internal conflicts. Arabella's manipulative behavior and Jude's perceptions of her actions reflect projection. Arabella's influence exacerbates Jude's internal struggles, demonstrating how projection affects his psychological state and interactions with others. Sue attributes her own emotional conflicts onto others, particularly Jude.

"You are as bad as I am, Jude. You would have us both trample on everything that's sacred." (Hardy, 1974, p. 176)

Displacement involves redirecting emotional responses from the original source of conflict to a less threatening target. Sue's decision to marry Phillotson, despite a lack of genuine affection, represents a displacement of her repressed desires and fears. Her choice reflects an attempt to conform to societal expectations while avoiding a confrontation with her true emotions. Freud's theory of psychosexual development suggests that individuals progress through distinct stages, each centered on different erogenous zones. Issues during these stages can lead to psychological challenges. The oral stage focuses on activities related to the mouth, such as sucking and biting. Jude's dependence on validation and his need for approval may be related to unresolved conflicts from the oral stage. His pursuit of emotional and intellectual fulfillment reflects an oral fixation influencing his behavior and relationships. The anal stage

involves issues of control and autonomy, particularly related to toilet training. Jude's difficulties with self-control and societal expectations can be linked to unresolved conflicts from the anal stage. His feelings of inadequacy and failure may stem from issues related to control and autonomy. The phallic stage involves the development of the Oedipus complex and identification with the same-sex parent. Jude's idealization of Sue and his conflicts with Arabella can be interpreted through the lens of the phallic stage and the Oedipus complex. His unresolved oedipal desires and rivalries influence his relationships and internal conflicts. The latency stage focuses on social and intellectual development. Jude's academic ambitions and intellectual pursuits reflect his efforts during the latency stage. His struggles and aspirations during this period are shaped by unresolved conflicts and desires. The genital stage involves the maturation of sexual and emotional relationships. Jude's challenges in forming a fulfilling relationship with Sue highlight the difficulties of the genital stage. His unresolved conflicts and desires influence his ability to establish mature and satisfying relationships.

Freud's study of dreams provides insight into unconscious content and symbolic meanings, revealing repressed desires and conflicts. Jude's dreams mirror his internal struggles and aspirations. His dreams about academic success and idealized relationships with Sue uncover repressed desires and unresolved conflicts. The symbolism in these dreams highlights the tension between his aspirations and reality. Sue's dreams, reflecting her fears and anxieties, offer insight into her emotional state. The symbolic elements in her dreams reveal internal conflicts and the effects of repression, providing a deeper understanding of her psychological struggles and the influence of societal norms.

Freud's psychoanalytic theory emphasizes the role of societal norms and taboos in shaping behavior and psychological conflicts. 'We are horribly sensitive; that's what's the matter with us! It is as if we were pounded in a mortar by a cruel society, and no wonder we are disfigured. But there is no reason why we should be

disfigured so.' !" (Hardy, 1895, p. 217). Sue's dialogue emphasizes how stiflingly society rules affect people and their relationships, which is consistent with Hardy's criticism of Victorian habits. In *JO*, cultural expectations and taboos significantly influence the characters' experiences. Jude's struggles with societal expectations, including his academic failures and unconventional relationship with Sue, illustrate the impact of cultural norms on his psychological state. The pressure to adhere to societal standards contributes to his sense of inadequacy and failure, leading to his eventual downfall. Sue's conflict with societal expectations, particularly concerning gender roles and sexual norms, underscores the impact of cultural taboos on her psychological well-being. Her eventual acceptance of traditional roles and emotional distress highlight the profound influence of societal constraints on her behavior and mental health.

The Oedipus complex involves a child's unconscious desire for the opposite-sex parent and rivalry with the same-sex parent. In *Jude the Obscure*, aspects of the Oedipus complex are evident in Jude's relationships and internal conflicts. Jude's idealization of Sue can be seen as an unconscious longing for an idealized maternal figure. His emotional dependence on Sue and pursuit of her represent unresolved oedipal desires. This dynamic underscores the influence of the Oedipus complex on Jude's relationships and internal struggles. Jude's idealization of Sue can be interpreted as a projection of maternal longing or a subconscious need for nurturing, resembling aspects of the Oedipus complex where the male protagonist transfers unresolved feelings toward a maternal figure onto a romantic relationship.

"He could not help thinking of her as exceptional, and her meaning to him as unique." (Hardy, 1974, p. 126)

Jude's troubled relationship with Arabella, characterized by manipulation and betrayal, reflects the Oedipus complex. Arabella's influence exacerbates Jude's internal conflicts, illustrating how unresolved Oedipal tensions impact his psychological state and interactions.

Freud's concepts of Eros and Thanatos provide insight into the characters' motivations and behaviors. Eros, the life drive, represents the pursuit of growth and connection, while Thanatos, the death drive, embodies destruction and aggression. Jude's pursuit of intellectual and emotional fulfillment, and his relationship with Sue, reflects the influence of Eros. His drive for personal growth and meaningful connections highlights how the life drive shapes his actions and desires. As Hardy describes the feelings of Jude for Sue that "Unlike a boy's first passion for his sweetheart, he was in love with her—at last, as deeply as a man can be with a woman. "Jude's intense love for Sue is a metaphor for the life force, Eros, which is the need for fulfillment and connection. Jude's sense of futility, self-destructive tendencies, and resignation illustrate the impact of Thanatos. The death drive's influence is evident in his repeated failures and ultimate downfall, reflecting the destructive power of Thanatos in his life. "They were as cold and lifeless as stones, if not dead. Jude longed for his demise. He yearned for demise. to never again see Sue."(Hardy,1985,p.305)

Jude's hopelessness and desire for death are a perfect example of Freud's theory that his will to die is superseded by his death drive, or Thanatos. Sue's fear of intimacy and her emotional breakdown highlight the role of Thanatos. Her repressed desires and self-destructive behaviors reflect the death drive's impact on her psychological well-being, demonstrating how Thanatos contributes to her internal conflicts and distress. The character of Little Father Time, with his tragic actions and suicide, symbolizes the pervasive influence of Thanatos. His violent behavior and ultimate death represent the transmission of the death drive across generations and its effect on the characters' lives.

5. Conclusion

The application of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory to Thomas Hardy's *JO* provides a comprehensive understanding of the novel's characters and themes. Freud's theories illuminate the psychological dimensions of the characters, revealing the complex interplay of desire, repression, and internal conflict. Jude's

goals for love and education, especially his obsession with Sue Bridehead, are manifestations of his wants, which are symbolized by the id. These aspirations, however, are at odds with the limitations imposed by religious and societal conventions, which stand in for the superego. A psychological crisis results from Jude's ego's attempt to mediate between these opposing forces while it is stuck in the middle. His constant inability to balance his wants with the outside world leaves him feeling guilty, depressed, and frustrated—all characteristics of Freudian repression. Jude Fawley's struggle between his aspirations and the destructive forces of Thanatos, along with Sue Bridehead's challenges with societal expectations and repressed desires, underscore the depth of Hardy's exploration of human behavior. The character of Sue Bridehead also alluded to Freudian elements; this is especially evident in her complicated connection with her sexuality and her defiance of conventional gender norms. Her vacillation between repression and desire is a reflection of ambivalence, which Freud identified as the conflict between the unconscious and conscious minds. It is possible to see Sue's final retreat into strict religious orthodoxy as a type of repression, in which her superego takes control and stifles her previous emotions and wants. Moreover, Jude's relationships provide an indirect clue to one of Freud's main theories: the Oedipus complex. An unconscious expression of the Oedipal dynamic could be his enduring connection to Sue, his cousin and a kind of mother figure. The unresolved Oedipal tensions that Freud argues influence adult relationships are echoed by Jude's inability to fully acquire her and the social prohibitions surrounding their relationship.

Conclusively, the psychoanalytic theory of Freud provides significant insights into the psychological aspects of *JO*, especially his theories regarding repression, the id, ego, and superego, as well as the Oedipus complex. The characters in the book follow tragic paths that are inescapably brought about by suppressing desire and the strong influence of social conventions. These characters are motivated by

unconscious impulses and conflicts that are consistent with Freud's theory of the mind. When viewed via this Freudian prism, *Jude the Obscure* becomes a deep investigation of the human psyche, with the interior conflicts of the characters serving as a metaphor for the larger struggle between moral rules and personal impulses.

5. Recommendations

This research highlights the significance of psychoanalytic theory in literary analysis, demonstrating how these concepts enhance the understanding of characters and thematic elements. By applying Freud's ideas, one gains a deeper insight into the psychological underpinnings of Hardy's work, illustrating the profound impact of internal conflicts and external pressures on the characters' lives. The integration of psychoanalytic theory into literary analysis reveals the intricate dynamics of desire, repression, and destruction, contributing to a richer interpretation of *JO* and advancing the study of literature through a psychoanalytic lens. Future research on Hardy's other books, such as *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* or *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, could employ psychoanalytic theory, even if this study concentrates on *Jude the Obscure*. By examining these texts through Freudian lens, one may be able to gain a greater grasp of the psychological aspects of Hardy's literary universe and gain deeper insights into how he portrays repression, desire, and inner struggle.

- Comparative research between Hardy and other Victorian authors, such as George Eliot or Charles Dickens, could provide a more thorough knowledge of psychoanalytic components in literature. Literary criticism might be enhanced by examining the ways in which various writers portray psychological conflict, repression, and social conditioning in light of psychoanalytic theory. This would also highlight the differences in the representations of the human psyche in literature from the 19th century.
- The main subject of this work is Freudian theory. Other psychoanalytic frameworks,

like Jungian analysis, which focuses on archetypes and individuation, or Lacanian psychoanalysis, which highlights the significance of language and the symbolic order, may be incorporated into future research. By using these ideas to analyze *Jude the Obscure*, psychoanalytic literary analysis may be expanded to include fresh perspectives on character behavior, symbolism, and narrative structure.

- Theory Integrating psychoanalytic analysis with the social, cultural, and historical circumstances of *Jude the Obscure*'s writing and reception might be a fruitful avenue for future research. A more complex and nuanced reading of the novel can be achieved by examining the ways in which Victorian gender roles, class systems, and social conventions impact the psychological conflicts and repressions of the characters.
- The psychoanalytic components found in *Jude the Obscure* point to a tight connection between psychological realism and narrative structure. Subsequent research endeavors may concentrate on examining the ways in which Hardy's narrative devices, such as his use of free indirect language, influence the portrayal of the subconscious mind, suppressed desires, and psychological turmoil. Analyzing the relationship between psychoanalysis and narrative style might provide light on Hardy's psychological nuance and inventiveness as a writer.
- Deeper levels of character analysis and topic inquiry may be encouraged in students by introducing psychoanalytic theory into literary instruction at higher study levels. Students could link literary analysis and psychological theory by studying *JO* through a psychoanalytic lens, promoting a multidisciplinary approach to comprehending story production and human behavior.
- In conclusion, this research shows how *Jude the Obscure*'s profound psychological complexity can be revealed by applying Freudian psychoanalytic theory to the novel. By extending this research via comparative

analyses, different psychoanalytic frameworks, and additional narrative technique investigation, fresh perspectives on Thomas Hardy's writing and the area of psychoanalytic literary criticism may become available.

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