



AN ANALYSIS OF STELLA’S AND WILL’S LOVE LANGUAGE AND FREUDIAN TRIPARTITE IN “FIVE FEET APART” FILM

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Abstract: The phenomenon that leads to the creation of this research is the implementation of love language in the “Five Feet Apart” film, and the inner workings of the three Freudian elements of the mind through the implementation of love language. This research has the objective to analyze the Freudian Tripartite using the framework of love languages, aiming to comprehend the personalities of characters in the film “Five Feet Apart” and unveil the relationship between the Freudian Tripartite and love languages through an analysis of their dialogues and behavior's. This research employs qualitative method with a descriptive framework, in which the object of study is the film itself. The observational and non-participatory technique is utilized to collect the data, with the researcher acting as the instrument of the research. Qualitative data analysis employs the identity referential technique, focusing on utterances spoken by characters, namely Stella and Will. The analysis of findings reveals a substantial correlation between the three components of the Freudian Tripartite and the five love languages. This research unveils the interconnection between the expression and reception of love with psychological elements, emphasizing the influence of the mind on the behaviors demonstrated by characters such as Stella and Will in their expressions of love. Consequently, this study contributes to a novel comprehension of how psychological factors intricately shape the manifestation of love within human relationships. By interpreting the correlation between Freudian Tripartite components and the five love languages, the research sheds light on the connection of psychological dimensions in the view of affectionate behaviors.

Keywords: Qualitative research, Freudian Tripartite, love language, Five Feet Apart, psychoanalysis.

Introduction

Literature is an expression that reflects our interactions, the problems we encounter in society; Therefore, we cannot separate literature from people. Literature is considered to be all written expression, with the limitation that not all written material can be classified as literature in the strict sense of the term (Klarer, 2005). Literature refers to creative works which the content is created by its creator to be enjoyed, understood, and utilized by society (Damono, 1984). In general, literature is categorized into various genres such as poetry, novels, short stories, plays, and

films. Presently, when delving into literary analysis, films are frequently scrutinized at an academic level, particularly within literary studies. Defined as a compilation of recorded moving images intended for presentation on television or in cinemas to convey a narrative (Hornby, 2010), films are intricately connected to the realm of literature, as noted by Bennet and Royle (2004). Contemplating films provides a creative perspective on literature, positioning film as a form of prose fiction within the literary landscape.

Films possess a distinctive ability to impact audiences, serving as a means of

information and communication (Henry, 1994). For some individuals, films are perceived as an art form that fosters the imagination and allows for the exploration of fantasies. It is argued that literature plays a crucial role in the transmission and expression of cultural and social values, with language as its medium and a reflection of life (Wellek & Warren, 1954). Acting as an audio-visual medium, films enable audiences to both see and hear the characters' expressions in the film (Rosalia, Noerazizah, & Anggraeni, 2018). Furthermore, Klarer (2005) contends that films exert a significant influence on fine arts. Appreciated by a diverse audience, films often draw special appeal, with some narratives rooted in true stories designed to intrigue or entertain viewers. Notably, romantic films captivate the interest of certain individuals, with themes of love and affection, coupled with dramatic plots leading to heartbreak, constituting the genre's strength.

The essence of romance is intimately tied to the concept of love, and effective communication is vital for the success of a romantic relationship. This connection between romance and communication is rooted in the understanding of psychology, which is the scientific study of human behavior within their environmental context. The concept of love languages, introduced by Chapman (2014), further explores how humans have their suitable method to express and receive love in various relationships. These languages encompass five universal methods: the exchange of gifts, physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, and acts of service. Chapman's idea revolves around comprehending and expressing affection in ways that align with the needs of our partners. Identifying both our partner's love language and effectively communicating our own establishes mutual understanding, fostering feelings of love and

appreciation. Chapman elucidates how these love languages can be employed to demonstrate care for loved ones in a manner that profoundly resonates with them. Recognizing one's primary love language becomes a valuable tool in fortifying relationships, enabling the communication of love in ways that hold the most significance for each individual involved. In essence, the concept of love language encompasses five distinct ways through which individuals express and receive love within a relationship.

As mentioned earlier, the expression of love is intricately linked to the human psyche, and a common method of analysis involves Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, known as the Freudian Tripartite. This theory explains how the human psyche is organized into three elements that influence behavior: Id, Ego, and Superego (Guerin, 2005). The id represents the primal, instinctual part of the mind containing sexual and aggressive urges, the superego functions as a moral conscience, and the ego serves as the practical intermediary between the desires of the id and the constraints of the superego. Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical theories provide a valuable framework for exploring literary works like novels, poems, and other compositions (Giordano, 2020).

Despite the widespread use of psychoanalysis by various researchers, there is an increasing interest in examining the Freudian Tripartite from a fresh standpoint. The phenomenon that leads to the creation of this research is the implementation of love language in the "Five Feet Apart" film, and the inner workings of the three Freudian elements of the mind through the implementation of love language. The researcher aims to explore into the Freudian Tripartite through the framework of love languages, seeking to understand the personalities of characters in the film "Five

Feet Apart" and find out the relationship between the Freudian tripartite and love language by analyzing their dialogues and behaviors.

Previous Study

There are other studies which researcher took as a comparison. The first previous research was conducted by Amelia and Daud (2020), entitled "Freudian Tripartite on Detective Fiction: The Tokyo Zodiac Murders," they utilized psychoanalysis to unravel the unconscious psyche in a detective fiction narrative. The study provides insight into the analysed character through the lens of Freudian tripartite psychoanalysis. It suggests that her unconscious psyche shapes her personality, leaning towards fulfilling her desires rather than adhering to the moral and societal expectations represented by the Super-Ego. This inclination results in her remaining true to herself while possibly neglecting or disregarding the potential consequences of her actions. This interpretation hints at a complex character who navigates the interplay between unconscious desires and societal norms, showcasing the internal conflicts that can arise within individuals.

The second previous research is taken from Putri, Aryani, and Matradewi (2021) which also utilized psychoanalysis. The study highlights the significance of the conflicts experienced by the main character in relation to the Freudian concepts of id, ego, and superego. This suggests that the character's internal struggles and decision-making processes in dealing with conflicts can be understood through the lens of these psychological components. The connection between psychological aspects and conflict resolution underscores the impact of the characters' mental processes on their judgment and decision-making. This analysis provides valuable insights into the

intricate connection between psychology and narrative conflict.

The third previous was done by Ariyanti and Widianingrum (2023), reveals how Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is linked to the character's personality traits, which are the Id, Ego, and Superego. The character, Ellie balances fulfilling her needs with shaping her personality. Her Id-driven intelligence ensures her physiological needs are met, while her Ego-driven actions, including fraud, consider consequences for safety needs. Her Ego also influences self-esteem as she grapples with appearance changes. Lastly, her Superego guides her towards acknowledging mistakes, seeking peace, and pursuing knowledge at college for self-actualization. The study emphasizes the importance of aligning personality with needs fulfillment, acknowledging sacrifices, and learning from the character's journey.

The fourth previous research was by Jing and Chenglian (2020), they employed similar approach by identifying the id, ego, and superego of the protagonist, James, using psychoanalysis. Their study describes how a person under the influence of the dominant id, may engage in harmful actions for the sake of self-esteem and personal interests. However, when confronted with their past experiences, individuals find the courage to be sincere and confront their true selves. This process leads to a gradual self-redemption, allowing them to truly embody the superego, free themselves from external expectations, and undergo significant personal growth on their life journey. It proves how the three psychic elements affect personal development.

In the fifth previous research, a study of ethical dilemmas in relation to Freudian psyche was conducted by Anggraeni & Widayanti (2019). The results suggest that these characters experienced ethical dilemmas before making decisions, primarily driven by a consideration of the

impact of their actions on others or themselves. The study indicates that such dilemmas tended to be more representative of the ego, implying that the major characters were able to exercise control over their actions and speech, and serve as a preventive measure, discouraging characters from engaging in inappropriate actions that might harm others or themselves. Another study of conflict and its relation to Freudian Tripartite is done by Dewi et al (2023). The results imply that both main and supporting characters face internal and external conflicts. Internally, they struggle to navigate their tripartite psyche. The decision to engage in an affair appears to be fueled by unmet emotional needs related to love and satisfaction.

The sixth previous research is regarding barbarism by Lin-Juan (2020). They studied the literary work entitled "Lord of the Flies" is the masterpiece of the esteemed British writer William Golding, unveiling the theme of inherent barbarism within human nature. This study employs Freud's Tripartite Model of Human Psyche to explore the psychological perspective of Jack, delving into his personality traits. It brings to light the various states manifested within the domains of id, ego, and superego, emphasizing how societal norms and civilization act as constraining forces on the primal instincts of human nature.

The seventh previous research was from Tambunsaribu (2018), he also made a notable contribution to the study of psychoanalysis by focusing on the character Melody in Sharon M. Draper's "Out of My Mind." In their analysis, they delved into the character's unconscious psyche, employing Freudian tripartite psychoanalysis to gain insight into Melody's complexities and motivations. Lastly, there is also a similar study done by Loway (2023), through a careful examination of the three psyche elements, they identified the most dominant

personality within Kat Stratford's character based on Sigmund Freud's theory. Given the frequent application of Psychoanalysis in the aforementioned studies, the researcher has been intrigued to explore the Freudian Tripartite from a different perspective. The forthcoming study involves not only investigating the Freudian Tripartite but also through the perspective of love languages to discern the personalities of the characters within the chose data source.

Theoretical Review

The way to analyse the psychic workings of the characters that abide to the concept of love language, one must know how each of the five love languages is implemented. Love language according to Chapman (2014) has five major points which are:

Words of affirmation, centers on verbal expressions of affection, praise, and appreciation, which hold significant value even in the simplest form. Complimenting partners and acknowledging their strengths can have a profound impact, making them feel valued and cherished.

Quality time - revolves around providing undivided attention and creating meaningful experiences with loved ones. The objective of quality time is to share an experience and part ways with a sense of gratitude, leaving both individuals with a positive attitude towards having spent valuable time together.

Physical touch, is the way of expressing love through physical gestures and closeness. Beyond intimate moments, individuals with this love language feel loved when their partner engages in actions like holding hands, touching their arm, or gently caressing their hair.

Act of service, in essence, it encompasses participating in actions that aid and bolster your partner, ultimately contributing to their overall well-being.

Examples include offering assistance when your partner requires it, helping with household chores like dishes, providing transportation, tending to their sickness, or assisting in carrying their shopping bags.

Receiving gift, revolves around the meaningful exchange of gifts as tangible expressions of love and consideration. Whether through thoughtful surprises, birthday presents, or small tokens, individuals with this love language appreciate gestures that reflect care and thoughtfulness.

Methodology

The research adopts a qualitative method, specifically employing a descriptive framework to interpret the correlation between love language and the Freudian Tripartite. The primary data source for this study comprises the dialogues and actions performed by Stella and Will in the film "Five Feet Apart." The instrument of research is the researcher himself. To gather the data, the observational and non-participatory technique, as outlined by Sudaryanto(2015), was utilized. Qualitative data analysis is used to analyze the gathered data, transforming descriptive information into explanations or interpretations. In this analysis, an identity referential technique is utilized. This technique, as defined by Sudaryanto (1993), involves the examination of data, specifically utterances spoken or produced by the speaker. The research procedure commenced by watching the film online, followed by creating the transcription of the film. Subsequently, specific quotations related to the three psychic elements and the five love languages were highlighted within the transcription. The collected data were then subjected to analysis, employing both the psychoanalytical framework of Freudian Tripartite and the love language theories.

Results and Discussion

The analysis and result are listed into number of data, by which the researcher will descriptively explain the implemented love language and how the inner workings of the characters' mind works.

Data 1 (28:07)

Stella: "You're supposed to take your AffloVest right now, and did you take your Creon?"

Stella insists that Will follow his health regimen, including wearing his AffloVest and taking prescribed medicine, as outlined in his health plan. She expresses concern that neglecting the regimen could worsen his health. Additionally, Stella has OCD, leading her to be particular about orderly and specific ways of doing things. When Will does not adhere to the regimen, Stella's OCD intensifies, causing emotional distress and prompting her to direct him to follow the plan. Despite the control issues associated with her OCD, Stella's actions reveal her genuine concern for Will's well-being, unconsciously implementing the love language of act of service.

From a psychoanalytic perspective, Stella's behavior involves the interplay of the ego and the superego. The ego, driven by rational decision-making, recognizes the importance of adhering to the health regimen for Will's benefit. The superego, reflecting moral and ethical considerations, influences Stella's actions as she strives to ensure Will's health and well-being, even if it means enforcing the regimen due to her OCD tendencies.

Data 2 (28:16)

Stella: "Okay, I can't trust you, so this is how it's gonna work. We'll do our

treatments together so that I know that you're actually doing them. Okay?"

Will: "Always looking for ways to spend more time with me, aren't you, Stella?"

In this dialogue, Stella expresses her concern for Will's well-being and suggests a method for him to adhere to his treatment, proposing that they do their treatments together through video calls. This proposal implies a desire to spend more time with him, and Will teases her about it, indicating his willingness to spend time together. This implies that they are implementing the love language of quality time.

From a psychoanalytic perspective, their actions involve the interplay of the ego and the id. The ego, driven by rational decision-making, acknowledges the importance of sticking to the treatment plan for Will's health. Simultaneously, the id, representing the instinctual and impulsive part of the psyche, seeks immediate gratification and connection, which is manifested in their desire to spend quality time together. The proposal for joint video call treatments reflects a harmonious balance between their practical health needs and their emotional desire for connection.

Data 3 (28:35-29:20)

Will and Stella proceed with their mutual treatment, spending time together as she guides him through the proper way of doing it. This shared activity also reflects the act of spending quality time together. From the perspective of psychoanalysis, this scenario involves the interplay of the ego and the id.

The ego, driven by rational decision-making, acknowledges the importance of adhering to their treatment plan for their health. Simultaneously, the id, representing the instinctual and impulsive part of the

psyche, seeks immediate gratification and connection, which is manifested in their joint treatment sessions as a way of spending quality time together. The balance between their practical health needs and their emotional desire for connection is evident in their shared efforts toward mutual well-being.

Data 4 (31:10-31:30)

Stella: "No, I'm gross, sweaty, and smell."

Will: "My hair is dirty. I'm too tired. My med cart is messy."

Stella: "Fine. I'll sweat harder then. Just for you."

In the scene, Will expresses a desire to draw a sketch of Stella, but she initially refuses. Her decision changes after he mentions feeling tired and having a messy med cart. Two factors contribute to this change: her OCD is triggered by the mention of the messy med cart, and she also feels a slight concern for Will. Stella eventually accepts the offer, stating, "Just for you," indicating her willingness to help Will. This is her way of expressing the love language of acts of service.

From a psychoanalytic perspective, Stella's actions involve the interplay of the ego and the superego. The ego, representing rational decision-making, acknowledges the opportunity for a meaningful connection with Will through the drawing. Simultaneously, the superego, reflecting moral and ethical considerations, influences Stella's actions as she chooses to help Will despite her initial reluctance, demonstrating care and support for him.

Data 5 (31:40-32:50)

In the scene where Will and Stella spend time together, with Will drawing her sketch as per their agreement and engaging

in conversation about Stella's to-do-list, the activity is a form of quality time. The fact that Stella agreed to the request is influenced by the interplay of the ego and the superego in her psyche.

The ego, driven by rational decision-making, recognizes the value of spending quality time together and engaging in activities that foster connection and understanding. Simultaneously, the superego, reflecting moral and ethical considerations, may influence Stella's decision to agree to the request, as it aligns with the positive and bonding nature of the activity. The harmonious interaction of the ego and the superego contributes to Stella's willingness to engage in quality time with Will.

Data 6 (32:53)

In the next scene, Will reveals his to-do-list, and one of the items is "Sex in the Vatican." This statement is made with the implication that he is joking about engaging in sexual intercourse with Stella in the Vatican, teasing her about his feelings for her. The "sex" joke can be considered an expression of his desire for physical touch.

From a psychoanalytic perspective, this situation involves the interplay of the ego and the id. The ego, representing rational decision-making, acknowledges the playful nature of the joke and its potential to strengthen the emotional bond between Will and Stella. Simultaneously, the id, seeks immediate gratification and connection, which is expressed through the playful and flirtatious tone of the joke, indicating a desire for physical intimacy.

Data 7 (33:17)

Will: "I'd like to travel the world"

Stella: "Thank you"

Will: "For what?"

Stella: "For saying something real"

Will expresses his desire to travel the world, capturing Stella's attention. Stella, who also has the same desire but is limited by her illness, responds with a sincere "Thank you" to Will for saying something that resonates with her feelings. The act of giving thanks is considered a form of words of affirmation.

From a psychoanalytic perspective, this behavior involves the interplay of the ego and the id. The ego, representing rational decision-making, recognizes the genuine connection and understanding conveyed by Will's words. Simultaneously, the id, seeks immediate gratification and connection through the shared desire for travel, prompting Stella's grateful response as a form of words of affirmation.

Data 8 (35:32)

Stella receives a drawing from Will as a birthday gift, and her smile communicates her appreciation for the thoughtful present, exemplifying the love language of receiving gifts. From the perspective of Freudian tripartite, this situation illustrates the influence of the superego—the part of the psyche associated with conscience, moral values, and social norms. Stella's smile and appreciation reflect her recognition of the emotional value and significance of the gift, aligning with her superego's emphasis on positive social interactions and expressions of care.

Data 9 (36:14)

Stella: "I think it's actually pretty good."

Stella reaches out to Will to express her appreciation for his gift, offering a compliment as a form of words of affirmation. From a Freudian tripartite perspective, this highlights the dominance of

the superego. The superego, associated with conscience and moral values, plays a prominent role as Stella acknowledges the positive qualities of the gift and engages in a socially affirming act by expressing gratitude and admiration.

Data 10 (39:04)

Will: "You are not afraid of dying. You have survivor's guilt."

Will comes to comfort Stella regarding Abby, her deceased sister, showing concern as a form of act of service. During their conversation, he discovers that Stella follows the hospital's strict routine not out of fear of death but due to survivor's guilt. This causes a neurotic psyche, where the overdominant superego contributes to anxiety and deep guilt. In contrast, Will's ego takes control, leading him to express things adhering to reality. However, this reality-based approach makes Stella angry with him.

Conclusion

The intricate dynamics of expressing love are intimately connected to the human psyche, analyzed through Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, known as the Freudian Tripartite. Upon analyzing 10 data, it becomes evident that there is a correlation between the three components of the Freudian Tripartite and the love language. Among these data, 2 instances fall under the category of words of affirmation, 3 in the category of quality time, 1 in the category of physical touch, 3 in the category of acts of service, and finally, 1 in the category of receiving gifts.

This research reveals that the expression and reception of love are deeply intertwined with psychological elements, emphasizing the influence of the mind on the behaviors exhibited by characters like

Stella and Will in their acts of love. This research contributes to a new understanding of how psychological factors intricately shape expressions of love within the realm of human relationships. By interpreting the correlation between Freudian Tripartite components and five love languages, this study provides insights into the complex interplay of psychological dimensions in the manifestation of affectionate behaviors.

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