
ID, EGO, AND SUPEREGO OF GEORGIA IN GINNY & GEORGIA SERIES

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Abstract- *This study aims to describe the id, ego, and superego of Georgia represented in Ginny & Georgia series and the motivation of Georgia's behaviour in Ginny & Georgia series. In this study, the writers applies a qualitative approach to elaborate the data related to Ginny & Georgia series. The data was collected through the application of document or artifact analysis. The data analysis focused on the series' scenes and utterances using Freud's theory of psychoanalysis as the theoretical framework. This study shows an imbalance in Georgia's id, ego, and superego, as evidenced by her involvement in three acts of murders. Furthermore, the motivation of Georgia's behavior towards the murder she committed is her life and death instinct.*

Keywords: *psychoanalysis; id; ego; superego; human behavior*

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INTRODUCTION

Film is the genre of modern literature that is most similar to drama in terms of dialogue, plot, setting, characters, and characterization. Characters are concrete entities, such as animals or humans, that play a part in a narrative. Characters are designed to differentiate one creature from another (such as human, animal, spirit, robot, furniture, and other objects), while characterization refers to the description of the characters themselves. The description can include physical attributes such as gender, facial features, eyes, hair, attire, age, and posture. It can also refer to psychological descriptions, such as the personalities of characters.

Characters' personalities in literary works can be analyzed using a psychological approach to literature, usually known as psychoanalysis. This theory is commonly used to

analyze characters with complex personalities in literary works, such as Georgia in the *Ginny & Georgia* series. Georgia is the mother of two children from two different fathers. Georgia frequently relocates with her children to various cities to distance herself from a dark past in which she has been involved. Georgia does not want her children to know that she has killed two men who were her husbands, Anthony Green and Kenny Drexel. Moreover, Georgia is also responsible for the death of Tom Fuller, her friend's husband. The murders committed by Georgia are unique. Besides, the topic of murder itself is fascinating. Everyone is curious about the motivations of killers and attempts to understand how a human being could kill another. For that, the writers were intrigued to study Georgia's personality through the lens of Freud's psychoanalysis theory to understand Georgia's id, ego, and superego, as well as the motivation of Georgia's behavior that caused her to murder Anthony, Kenny, and Tom.

The purpose of this study is to describe the id, ego, and superego of Georgia represented in *Ginny & Georgia* and to find out the motivation of Georgia's behavior in *Ginny & Georgia*. This study focuses only on the id, ego, and superego of Georgia represented in *Ginny & Georgia* from season one until season two, which showed her maladaptive behavior, that is, the murder of three men and also the motivation of Georgia's behavior in *Ginny & Georgia* using Freud's psychoanalysis theory of personality. Freud (1927) proposed that the structure of human personality consists of three aspects, the id (*das es*); the ego (*das ich*); and the superego (*das ueber ich*). The id, ego, and superego, according to Freud, are not separate compartments within the mind. They blend like telescope sections or colors in a painting.

According to Freud (as cited in Churchill, et al., 2010), a healthy personality requires a balance of the id, ego, and superego. Freud believed that an imbalance between these elements would result in maladaptive behavior. Antisocial behavior is one type of maladaptive behavior. Antisocial behavior is classified into two categories; criminal behavior, such as rape, murder, theft, robbery, and fraud, and; self-destructive behavior or that of others, such as arson, drug use, suicide, public disturbances, and prostitution. The id is the only personality component present at birth (Corey, 2013). The id is completely unconscious and represents the dark, inaccessible side of personality, a chaotic cauldron of seething excitations (Freud, 1933). However, the id is completely illogical and amoral, and has no concept of reality. As explained by Freud (1961), the id is driven by the pleasure principle, the belief that all impulses must be satisfied immediately to avoid tension. The id is like a child who desires immediate gratification. If its first choice doesn't work out, it wants something else as a replacement (Ewen, 2014).

The id contains things that are innate, including instincts. According to Freud (as cited in Ewen, 2014) human behavior are motivated by powerful innate forces (instincts). Refer to Freud's psychoanalysis theory, Ewen (2014) explain instinct as an innate motivating force and activated by a state of need. Freud distinguish two classes of instincts, one of which is Eros. Freud (1961) used the term Eros in his work *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* as he refers to life instinct. Eros, regarded as the life instinct, is primarily concerned with the preservation of life, that includes both for the individual and the perpetuation of the human species. Capuzzi & Stauffer believe that (2016) Eros motivates individuals to participate in behaviors that uphold their own well-being, including activities such as protecting their health, as well as ensuring their personal safety. Gay (1989) in his work *The Freud Reader* also stated that Eros is an instinct that compels individuals to preserve their existence, not only behaviors associated with sexual activity but also those rooted in affection and emotional attachment.

Another opposing force to Eros is Thanatos. The concept of Thanatos was initially introduced by Freud (1961) in his essay *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, where he conceptualized it as the death instinct. In his essay, he proposed the theory that all individuals are inherently inclined towards death and destruction, famously asserting that "the aim of all life is death". According to Freud's perspective, individuals commonly direct the death drive externally, resulting in the manifestation of aggression towards others (Jones-Smith, 2020). Aggression and violence result when this energy is directed outward onto other people. Eros and Thanatos are united though not necessarily in the same amount. The human race cannot persist without either one (Ewen, 2014).

According to Freud (1927), the ego is a component of the id that has been altered by the influence of the outside world. The ego, unlike the id, spans the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious levels. The ego is the only aspect of personality that can interact with its surroundings. It is logical and rational, and it creates realistic plans of action to meet the needs of the id.

Although the ego is also interested in pleasure, it suspends the pleasure principle in favor of the reality principle and delays the discharge of tension until a suitable object can be found. This makes it possible to avoid errors, such as drinking from a bottle of bleach when you are thirsty; to avoid punishment, like a parental slap for trying to eat a forbidden object; and to increase pleasure, as by rejecting an edible but unappetizing object and waiting for a tastier one (Ewen, 2014).

The secondary process refers to the ego's rational, pleasure-delaying, problem-solving, and self-preservative mode of thought (Freud, 1940). The ego's relationship with the

id is intimate and complex. The ego may be servile and strive to maintain good relations with the id at all costs. Alternatively, the ego's concern for self-preservation may cause it to oppose the impulsive id:

... in its relation to the id [the ego] is like a man on horseback, who has to hold in check the superior strength of the horse; with this difference, that the rider tries to do so with his own strength while the ego uses borrowed forces. The analogy may be carried a little further. Often a rider, if he is not to be parted from his horse, is obliged to guide it where it wants to go; so in the same way the ego is in the habit of transforming the id's will into action as if it were its own (Freud, 1927).

As believed by Freud (1927), the superego develops as a result of parents' interpretation of social standards taught to their children through prohibitions or orders. The superego is both conscious and unconscious. The superego is made up of two parts: the conscience, which punishes illegal thoughts and actions, and the ego ideal, which rewards desirable behavior. The unconscious contains much of the superego, which has a close relationship to the id. It punishes the id's illicit impulses as severely as actual wrongdoing, but it can only directly influence the ego. As a result, both forbidden impulses and inappropriate behaviors generate tension between the superego and the ego, which the ego perceives as guilt or moral anxiety. Because emotions exist only in the ego, the conscience causes the ego to feel guilty (Ewen, 2014).

Many researchers have carried out psychoanalysis theory, especially in analyzing character. Elisa (2017) analyzed the id, ego, and superego using the theory of psychoanalysis to analyze the desperate love experienced by Elizabeth, the main character in the novel. Meanwhile, the writers in this study use the theory of psychoanalysis to analyze the murder committed by Georgia, the main character in the series. Elisa's findings related to the psychoanalysis theory are that the id, ego, and superego are the main characters that are not balanced, which is similar to the current research findings. The difference is that the imbalance between the id, ego, and superego affects Eros and Thanatos in Elizabeth, causing stress and desperate love. When experiencing desperate love, she commits self-destructive actions, including suicide and taking drugs. Meanwhile, the current study found that Georgia's imbalance of id, ego, and superego resulted in her having maladaptive behavior in the form of murder she committed to Anthony, her first husband; Kenny, her second husband; and Tom, her friend's husband.

Moreover, Delyanti (2020) also used the theory of psychoanalysis to analyze the mental problems experienced by Jessica, the main character in a novel. Delyanti found

that the mental problems experienced by Jessica were stress, depression, and anxiety. This problem stems from the dominant id, in which the ego and superego do not have the opportunity to negotiate the id. The dominant id is also found by the writer in this study. The difference is that the current study does not find Georgia's mental problems because the current study does not focus on these problems.

Endrawati, Moge, & Maukar (2022) used psychoanalysis theory to analyze how Estella's id, ego, and superego are in the film Cruella. They found that Estella's id is represented by her eccentric and barbaric thought of revenge. Estella's ego is revealed through how she organizes her revengeful thoughts more realistically. Meanwhile, the superego is portrayed by her guilty thoughts, and she realizes her true self. Like Cruella, Estella has an id as her primary thought, an ego that often steers her spirit and a superego that is her least dominant thought. The difference is the current study found that Georgia's id is way too strong and dominates the ego, and Georgia's superego is underdeveloped.

The superego can be underdeveloped, causing the individual without effective inner guidance. Children raised without love lack proper standards, lack appropriate tension between the ego and superego, and have little hesitation to aggress against others. (Freud, 1930). Based on the explanation above, the writers concluded that the id, the ego, and the superego cannot be separated because human behavior is always the result of the cooperation of these three aspects.

METHODS

Research design

In this study, the writers used qualitative research methods. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research seeks to investigate and comprehend the meanings that individuals or groups ascribe to social issues or human problems. Lewis, Nicholls & Ritchie (2003) stated that for research questions that require an explanation or an understanding of social phenomena, qualitative methods are suitable. According to Mack (2005), qualitative research is characterized by its ability to provide complex explanations as to how people experience various issues. This writer believes that this method is appropriate to use, in hopes that it will provide clear explanations about Georgia's id, ego, and superego.

Data Collection

In this study, the writers used document or artifact analysis by Ary, et al., (2010) to collect the data. Ary, et al., (2010) stated that the term "document" refers to a diverse range of written, physical, or visual materials. A document may manifest as a form of popular culture, as a book, film, or video. The following are the steps in collecting the data. First, the writers watched all *Ginny & Georgia's* episodes via *Netflix*, which can be accessed at <https://www.netflix.com/id/> several times to prevent misunderstanding. Second, the writers captured the scenes and utterances showing the id, ego, and superego of Georgia in *Ginny & Georgia* and the motivation of Georgia's behavior in *Ginny & Georgia*. Last, the writers took notes and sorted the scenes and utterances showing Georgia's id, ego, and superego in *Ginny & Georgia* and the motivation of Georgia's behavior in *Ginny & Georgia*.

Data analysis

The data collected in this study were analyzed using multiple stages for qualitative data analysis as proposed by Ary, et al. (2010) started from (1) familiarizing and organizing and, (2) coding and reducing, to (3) interpreting and representing. In analyzing the data, the writers followed the steps suggested by Ary. First, familiarizing and organizing. As the first step of the data analysis, the writers made an effort to reread and review all the collected data for improved comprehension of it. In *Ginny & Georgia*, the data were gathered from scenes and utterances that showed Georgia's id, ego, and superego. The writer then organized the data into a written list. Second, coding and reducing. During this step, the writers coded the data according to specific criteria. The criteria included the examination of Georgia's id, ego, and superego, as well as an analysis of the motivation of her behavior. These criteria helped the writers in organizing the necessary information. The criteria were then reduced to Georgia's id, ego, and superego in each murder she committed, as well as the motivation for Georgia's behavior in each murder she committed. Last, interpreting and representing. In this step, the writers used critical analysis to interpret all the data from the study to provide answers to the research questions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Id, Ego and Superego

The id is illogical and amoral in psychoanalysis. To fulfill the pleasure principle and avoid tension regardless of the consequences, the id must be implemented immediately. The writer discovered part of Georgia's id when Georgia tried to kill Anthony Green. After running away from her abusive family, Georgia ended up in New Orleans with her daughter, Ginny, and began to work as a hotel maid. Anthony Green, the hotel's owner, was interested in Georgia, and sometimes, he kept an eye on Ginny when needed. To make additional money, Georgia decided to start an illegal poker ring and get caught; she got arrested for it. When she was in prison, the social worker took Ginny to foster care.

Desperate to reclaim custody of her daughter, she married Anthony Green. By marrying Anthony, she thought she could make the social worker sure that she could take care of her daughter because she married an adult, plus a hotel owner. However, only a short time later, Anthony became so controlling to Georgia. In season 1, the 8th episode of *Ginny & Georgia*, Anthony forced Georgia not to leave the house and threatened to report her to the social workers so that Ginny could be returned to her. Their conversation can be seen in the following utterances:

Anthony : Where are you going? (00:12:22)

Georgia : Out. (00:12:22)

Anthony : Well, I'd prefer you stay here with me. (00:12:23)

*Georgia : Anthony, I haven't left this hotel in three days I'm going insane.
(00:12:31)*

Anthony : I could always call back the DSS worker. (00:12:33)

Georgia has been in the hotel for three days and wishes to leave, but Anthony threatens her. If Georgia refuses to stay at the hotel, Anthony will call the social worker and take Ginny back to foster care. It undoubtedly put Georgia under pressure. In this type of situation, Georgia's id takes control. Georgia's id compels her to act on the impulse immediately to relieve tension by attempting to kill Anthony without regard for the consequences. Georgia's id appears when she offers Anthony a glass of ice. While

Anthony got lost in his favourite television show, Georgia quietly poured plenty of pills into his drink, which led to his death due to an overdose.

The writer found parts of Georgia's ego when she planned a very neat murder of Kenny Drexel. Instead of sabotaging Kenny's vehicle to cause an accident, Georgia mixed Wolfsbane, a poisonous plant, into Kenny's protein shake when he was about to drive. Kenny drank the protein shake that Georgia had combined with the poisonous plant while driving his car, and it caused him to have a cardiac arrest while driving. The car lost control and crashed into a ravine after hitting a massive rock. Georgia planned Kenny Drexel's murder, so it looked natural since the ego is based on reality and allows humans to avoid guilt and punishment.

Georgia's ego continues even after she kills Kenny. Georgia removed Kenny's body from his burial to conceal any proof. Kenny's ex-wife assumed Georgia married Kenny for his wealth since he was wealthy. His ex-wife also refused to believe that Georgia and her children had received all of Kenny's assets. Kenny's ex-wife eventually employs a private investigator named Gabriel Cordova to look into Kenny's death and Georgia's participation. Gabriel confronts Georgia about Kenny's death during Mayor Paul Randolph's re-election reception in the 10th episode of Season 1, but Georgia looks unbothered as joyful fireworks go off above. Georgia implicitly tells Gabriel that she used fireworks to get rid of Kenny's ashes as seen in utterances below.

Gabriel : What'd you do with that body, Georgia? Hmm? (00:49:14)

Gabriel : I know you're responsible for digging it up. (00:49:18)

Georgia : Pretty, aren't they? (00:49:36)

Georgia : I love fireworks. (00:49:37)

Georgia : I find it takes something that big and bright to really... (00:49:39)

Georgia : scatter the ashes (00:49:44)

Georgia : of the past. (00:49:46)

The utterances above show Georgia's ego, which allows her to avoid punishment by concealing all evidence of the murder she committed against Kenny. Kenny's body was removed from his grave and cremated, and the ashes were used as fireworks. As a result, because no evidence was left behind, Gabriel, the Private Investigator, was unable to hold Georgia responsible for Kenny's death. The writer concluded that the **superego** can be underdeveloped. Children who do not receive love and affection do not have the

proper tension between ego and superego and are quick to attack others. Georgia was born into a dysfunctional family. Shane Reilly, his biological father, was arrested and imprisoned in New Mexico for attempted murder. Daisy Reilly, his mother, was struggling with her dependency on drugs. Georgia's mother remarried Ed Atkins, another troubled man. Her stepfather had abused Georgia since she was a child, but her mother had no idea because she was always drunk.

The writer found parts of Georgia's superego when she killed Tom, an innocent man. Georgia doesn't have the proper tension between her ego and her superego because her superego is underdeveloped. Her superego is undeveloped because she was born into a problematic family and raised without love. As a result, she only had a little hesitation when she took a pillow and strangled Tom to death. Even though she was crying, feeling guilty because the conscience contained in the superego punished her illicit actions, her underdeveloped superego kept her suffocating Tom with a pillow.

The motivations of Georgia's behavior

In psychoanalysis, human behavior is motivated by powerful innate forces: life instinct, which causes humans to sustain their lives by doing things like looking after their safety, and death instinct, which can channel this death drive outward and manifest as aggression toward others. Both of these instincts are activated by necessity and collaboration. The writers found three aspects of Georgia's instincts in this section.

First, when Georgia tried to murder Anthony Green. Georgia is arrested at the age of 17 for running an illegal poker ring. When Georgia was in prison, the social worker took Ginny to foster care. To get Ginny back, she decides to marry Anthony Green, a wealthy man. Unfortunately, Anthony becomes so controlling of Georgia after they marry. He did not let Georgia leave the house and threatened that he would report her to the social workers so that Ginny could be returned to foster care. As a result, the life instincts and the death instincts are activated.

These instincts are triggered by her need to preserve her life to protect herself and her child after being threatened by Anthony. Georgia's life instinct compels her to maintain her life after being threatened, while her death instinct is channeled out and expressed through aggression. The part of Georgia's instincts can be seen when she put a

lot of pills into Anthony's drink. Anthony died of an overdose after drinking from a glass of ice Georgia had given him and ended up passing away because of an overdose.

Second, when Georgia tries to kill Kenny. When Kenny saw Ginny practicing yoga, he tried to improve her posture. Ginny tells Kenny to stop touching her sensitive area under the pretext of adjusting her posture, but Kenny does not listen. Georgia was aware of this but pretended not to. Georgia, as a mother who has caught her husband sexually abusing her daughter, wants to protect Ginny and guarantee that Kenny never abuses her again. As a result, her life and death instincts are activated by the need to maintain her life. Georgia's life instinct compels her to protect herself and her child. As a result, her death instinct takes over and causes her to murder Kenny by giving him his daily protein shake, which she had mixed with wolfsbane, a poisonous plant. The protein shake mixed with wolfsbane causes him to go into cardiac arrest while driving. At that point, the car lost control, causing him to crash into a ravine and collide with a boulder.

Third, when Georgia tried to murder Tom. Tom is the husband of Cynthia. Georgia found Tom was seriously ill and had entered a coma when she picked up Austin from Cynthia's house, where Austin was playing with Zach, Cynthia's son, in episode 9. Cynthia told Georgia that her husband, Tom, had survived for several weeks longer than predicted. Cynthia struggled with the situation. She told Georgia that seeing her husband in a situation like that has been extremely difficult, and she wants the suffering to be over. She also stated that she wants Zach to remember his father as he used to be rather than in his current bedridden state. At the end of their conversation, Cynthia, as a real estate agent, said that Gil would never be approved for housing in Wellsbury because Cynthia realized that Gil, Georgia's ex who had just arrived in town, was dangerous.

Georgia's life instincts are activated after their heartfelt conversation. Her desire to help triggered both her life and death instincts. Georgia's life instinct compels her to help Cynthia after hearing about what she's going through. Cynthia had also helped her in dealing with Gil, her troublesome ex. As a result, her death instinct is channeled and manifested as aggression. Georgia's instinct can be seen when she tries to kill Tom. When Cynthia went upstairs to check on her son, Georgia entered Tom's room and strangled Tom to death with a pillow. Georgia believes that by killing Tom, she is helping to end the Fuller family's suffering and allowing them to move on.

Discussion

From the findings, the writers concluded that the answers to the questions. The first research question is that Georgia's id, ego, and superego are imbalanced and represented by the three murders she committed against Anthony Green, her first husband, Kenny Drexel, her second husband, and Tom Fuller, the husband of her friend, Cynthia. The writers found that Georgia's id dominates her. Furthermore, the writers found that Georgia's ego cannot control the id's impulses because it is too strong. It is caused by of the dominant id of Georgia, her ego becomes servile and willing to do id's impulses to remain on good terms with the id, which is in line with Freud's analogy of the horse and the rider.

According to Freud (1927), if the rider (the ego) does not want to separate from his horse, he is obliged to lead him (the id) where he wants to go. Georgia's superego is underdeveloped because she was born into a problematic family and did not receive enough love. Freud (1930) believed that children who are raised without love do not have proper standards, do not have appropriate tension between the ego and superego, and have little hesitation to aggress against others. Because of that, Georgia only has a little hesitation when she kills Anthony, Kenny, and Tom.

In the second research question, the writers concluded the answers to the questions for the second research question that the motivation of Georgia's behavior is her life and her death instinct. According to Freud (as cited in Ewen, 2014), human behavior is motivated by powerful innate forces (instincts). Her life and death instincts become activated by her need to maintain her life. This is in line with the definition of instinct in Freud's psychoanalysis theory that innate motivating force is activated by a state of need Ewen (2014). Her life instinct compels Georgia to keep herself and her child safe. Her life instinct, which is rooted in affection and emotional attachment, also compels Georgia to help Cynthia when she finds that Cynthia is in distress. As a result, her death instinct is channeled out and makes her kill Anthony, Kenny, and Cynthia's husband, Tom.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the discussion in the previous section, the writers concluded that Georgia's id, ego, and superego are imbalanced. The imbalance between her id, ego, and

superego is represented through the three murders she committed against Anthony Green, Kenny Drexel, and Tom Fuller. It is evidenced by her dominant id, her ego that cannot control her id because it is too strong, and her superego is underdeveloped since she did not receive enough love from her parents. As a result, the imbalance between the id, ego, and superego causes maladaptive behavior in Georgia in the form of murderous behavior.

Furthermore, the writers also concluded that the motivation for Georgia's behavior are her life and death instincts. Her life and death instincts become activated by her need to maintain her life. Georgia's life instinct compels Georgia to keep herself and her child safe. As a result, her death instinct is channeled out and makes her kill Anthony and Kenny. The conclusions above show that the imbalance between id, ego, and superego can lead a person to have maladaptive behavior. Life and death instinct can also motivate every human behavior.

Finally, according to conclusion above, the writers intend to provide a suggestion to further researchers, especially for future researchers who want to analyze the Ginny & Georgia series using psychoanalytic theory. The writers hope that the next researchers can analyze the character of Ginny, who has a mental illness in the Ginny & Georgia series, which has yet to be analyzed in this study.

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