

NATURE VERSUS NURTURE IN CRIME: A CRITICAL STUDY OF HUMAN PSYCHE IN AGATHA CHRISTIE'S FICTIONS *THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD* (1926) AND *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS* (1934)**Nishrita Gogoi**

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ABSTRACT

The conflicting perspectives of crime can be judgmental in throwing light to what contributes for a crime to happen. There have been numeral layers of interpretation whether the genetic abnormalities of the psychic personality or whether the traumatic incidences or situation that he or she come across in life can be held responsible to propagate crime. There had been execution of unexpected felonies by individual's whom we reckon to be benevolent and trustworthy and the causes of it can be varying factors related to psychological and sociological factors. In order to better comprehend the factors responsible for the commitment of crime and its prominence in the field of literature this research paper would like to drastically analyze and examine Agatha Christie classic crime novels *The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd*(1926) and *Murder on the Orient Express*(1934) because crime, mystery and detection runs parallel in these novels.

Keywords: aggression, crime, criminal behavior, motive, human psyche, social factors, unconscious.

1.INTRODUCTION

The subject of crime became a major concern in the advent of modernization and technology and it can be evident in many of the crime writers from the golden age of detective fiction that weightily dealt with the excitement of identifying the culprit. The crime fiction is based on the psychology of the characters importantly on the crime and the criminal perpetuating it. The features in Agatha Christie's novels *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*(1926) and *Murder on the Orient Express*(1934) depicts the characters suffering or getting affected by the degradation of morality in mankind during the time of world war, as we have witnessed the characters or victims associated with the murders getting exploited either directly or indirectly in a way. It also reflects the society of that time of Great Britain where there was hardly any place which was not perturbed with the problem of crime. This research paper explores the motives and desires in Human psyche and presents the complexity in both the novels and the theories that are taken into consideration for analyzing this research thesis and will significantly comment on the critical personality of the characters in Christie's mentioned novels and the recurring interaction of Freud's personality theory in the

individuals psyche which affects the motives, desires, needs and adjustment which gives rise to different psychological anxiety and will drastically argue on the debate of Nature versus Nurture in Crime and will be dealing with the deception that the characters in the novels follow as a result of their motives and desires and will analyze on why individuals are sometimes compelled to commit heinous crime even they have good nature and whether an individual act according to the ones nature or psychic personality or the sociological factors concerning them and on the matter of the unconscious inhibition in the characters of the novel and the importance of nature versus nurture in creating a criminal with the interactions of Sigmund Freud's personality theory namely the id, ego and the superego. Agatha Christie through her novels shows that the deceptive truth and violation of the superego may lead to the feeling of guilty and anxiety in the characters.

1.1 Objectives:

The purpose of this study is to critically analyze how interactions of Id, ego and superego may affect the characters desires or needs, emotions, motives and adjustment to a particular situation and will significantly discuss how this factors display emotions and aggression in the characters of the novels. Therefore this research paper seeks to study the cause of complex behavior of the major characters in both the novels and how both the weakness in the personality of an individual and the life experiences and incidences can be influential and responsible as factors encouraging or stimulating crime thus depicting that the personality of an individual can be drastically shaped by situations and other varying factors that the individuals unconsciously inhibit and therefore nature along with nurture is responsible for crime. This paper will reflect upon why it is necessary to understand the psychic structure of an individual and why we must contemplate both the psychological and sociological factors influencing his or her behavior towards a particular situation before advancing or coming to a particular solution regarding what boosts crime and therefore Agatha Christie's novels *The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd*(1926) and *Murder on the Orient Express*(1934) have been taken to analyze this conflicts.

1.2 Research Methodology:

In order to study and analyze the main argument of this paper I shall deal with textual analysis method and Psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud which I find relevant to my topic. My analysis part examines the books that I have chosen through various primary and secondary sources. This research critically examines Agatha Christie's crime novels *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* and *Murder on the Orient Express* and the characters psychic structure of personality interacts with other each other and how it affects one's emotions, motives, adjustment and leads to anxiety and fear. IP

This research basically focuses on the crime and criminal behavior and its outcome of what contributes or propagates a crime to happen, whether it is the nature of a person or lack of self control? Or whether the social conditions or deeply agonizing incidences are also prominent factors to have a hand in crime? Whatever may be the reason for crime to happen both the nature or lack of self control and the nurture or the disturbing situations that the criminals encounter may provoke the crime to take

place. Thus my research paper is based on these issues and to support this analysis I have used Sigmund Freud theoretical book *The Ego and the Id* and Navin Kumar text *Criminal Psychology*.

1.3 Literature review:

The study of Christie's novels has appeared and has been vividly discussed by various research scholars and academicians in different journals and articles. They have pointed out numerous viewpoints regarding the novels which could prove relevant in my research. Agatha Christie in her novels points out complexness of the characters as a reflection of the society of her time.

In an article namely "Of Agatha Christie's Gendered Criminal Exuberance" (Vol- 8, Issue-IV, Aug 2017) by M.Parthiban highlights the factors responsible for the presence as well as the absence of women as sleuths, criminals and protagonists in crime writings by giving special reference to *Murder On The Orient Express*. It is undeniable that women can also perpetrate flagitious crime when situations demand or tempt them. It also attempts to capture glimpses of women endeavors in the field of detection.

In an article "Christie's Helpful and Harmful Health Providers: Writings On Physician and Pharmacists" (Vol 33. No.1,1991) by Michael C. Gerald explores that about dozen of criminals in Agatha Christie's novels and commenting about the novel *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* we witness health professional and physician like that of Dr Sheppard who commits suicide with an overdose of Veronal which describes that the fruits of scientific theories has been misapplied.

In "Study of the unreliable Narrators in Christie's *Murder Of Roger Ackroyd* and *Lolita*" by Goran Haljestam depicts the unreliable narrative technique of the narrators affecting the psychic of the reader. Therefore in the novel *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* at certain points it is observed that the reader is seen cathected to the narrator even though he is clearly a criminal.

2.ANALYSIS

2.1 Exploring the motives and desires in Human Psyche.

S.K Mangal in his book '*An Introduction to Psychology*' states that:

"Every human being has a strong desire to achieve some or other things like money, fame, reputation, degree, merit, position, medals, good life partner, spiritual attainment etc, not only for raising his status in the eyes of others but also for satisfaction he gets out of his own accomplishment."(Mangal 55)

The unconscious motives and desires results with the interaction of the *pleasure, reality* and *moral* principles and for which the characters in Agatha Christie's novel *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* and *Murder on the Orient Express* shows certain aggressions and emotions. We come across certain characters that have motives or desires. The desire for money or revenge for which they earnestly or persistently tries to deceive or persuade their wants and therefore to behave in a particular way in a particular moment can be understood in terms of motivation. The need to achieve may reside in the mind of people for which the individuals are adjured towards a goal and in order to achieve what they want they look forward for deception by telling lies. And these features are evident vastly in the murderers of both the novels. Therefore,

the psycho-sociological needs can be said to arise through social learning as a result of socio-cultural interaction and therefore this drive prove as a reinforcer of the behavior in the continuity and maintenance of behavior. Fear of anxiety, desire for approval, striving for achievement, aggression and dependence etc are the psycho-sociological needs that control the movements of the people.

“Motive work as a basic activating force behind a particular behavior”
(Mangal 57)

The needs, motives, desire and various other factors are results of various anti-social works. There are numerous complexities shown in each of the characters in the novels where there behavior shows certain extent of evidences that their minds consists of some concealed unconscious motives. Almost many characters were exceptionally excitable, depressed, auspicious, dynamic, and aggressive and rescuing themselves by being surreptitious of their emotions in front of the detective Hercule Poirot. Every characters have sort of secrets and many of them were somewhat related to the involvement in the crime. Therefore when the need to secure their secret arises they unconsciously look forward for deception by telling lies. There were many instances in the both the novels when the characters keep their pace in lying again and again just for their motives to be fulfilled whether it be the criminals who are strongly involved in perpetrating the crime or the other minor characters who for their concealed motives were forced to take the medium of anti-social behavior. Therefore there was display of emotions and aggression when asked about anything.

In *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* the death of Mrs Ferrars from the consumption of Veronal and the unfortunate mysterious murder of Mr. Roger Ackroyd and a series of continuous detection by the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot brings out some hidden deep secret of many characters in the novel. Poirot uses certain methods and prolific logical deduction to bring out the deceptive truth of every character and the motives and anxiety that prevails in the unconscious structure of their minds. There were many instances of hidden motives and desires. Infact, in many of the characters every deception was the intent to gain money like Dr. James Sheppard blackmailing Mrs Ferrars for money; Capt. Ralph Paton, Ms Flora Ackroyd and Mrs Ackroyd desire for money, Mr Parker secret as a blackmailer. On the other hand Ursula Borne’s secret marriage with Capt. Ralph Paton, Miss Russell secret about her son Charles Kent and Major Blunt love for Flora Ackroyd etc are various instances that proves that the characters have certain desires in the novel *The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd*. When Hercule poirot accused the characters for their lies and their concealed motives nobody could face him, not even the narrator Dr. Sheppard as he states:

“Each one of you has something to hide.....His glance, challenging and accusing and each pair of eyes dropped before his. Yes, Mine as well”
(Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 190)

Capt. Ralph Paton stepson and Mrs Acroyd the sister in law of Mr Roger Ackroyd desires for money and has been understood from the lines stated below:

“My dear girl,” he said, “Don’t you realize that it is quite on the cards the old man will cut me off with a shilling? I shall be a rich man when the old fellow pops off.”(Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 41)

“That twenty thousand pounds ought to have been left to me- not to Flora.”(Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 153)

“Yes – I’ve got to play a lone hand. . .” (Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 44)

The anxiety and fear in the characters remains associated with the instinct to escape. In certain circumstances the fear of an individual gives rise to certain behavior patterns that they started acting in a nervous way. In the case of Dr. Sheppard we see such instances when Mr. Roger Ackroyd reads the suicide letter of Mrs Ferrars and when he noticed Mr Parker at the door trying to listen to his and Mr Ackroyd conversation and on another instance when his sister Caroline assumes Capt. Ralph Paton to be in Cranchester because he was afraid and aware of the fact that his truth may leak out. Mrs Ackroyd and Mr Parker can be exemplified as a victim of anxiety and fear in which they themselves accept the truth of being guilty after being confronted by Poirot. Similarly in *Murder on the Orient Express* we witness the Mary Debenham's story of a murderer in her coach can be exemplified as a way to escape from punishment.

“No,’ I Cried impulsively, ‘read it now.’ Ackroyd stared at me in some surprise. ‘I beg your pardon, ‘I said, reddening. But for some reason, obscure to myself, I continued to urge him. (Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 63)

Similarly, In *Murder on the Orient Express* we observe Princess Dragomiroff interactions with the reality principle and the revelation of her inner fear when she realized that the murderer of Cassetti won't remain hidden for much time from Hercule Poirot as she states:

“Hercule poirot,’she said ‘Yes I remember now, This is destiny.’(Christie, *Orient Express* 120)

In the novel *Murder on the Orient Express* Freud's personality trait theory brings to focus the conflicts that emerge in the characters with the id-ego conflicts and aggression is seen more of an id impulse which is normally under control but could leak out in the case the individual has not learn appropriate ways of directing such impulses.

Thus, S.K Mangal states that:

“The individuals are seen to frown, howl, grind their teeth and close their fist under the influence of emotional reaction.”(Mangal 63)

Therefore in the case of MacQueen, Princess Dragomiroff, Colonel Arbuthnot, Colonel Adrenyi and Mary Debenham from “*Murder On the Orient Express* ” we evidence such certain instances in the novel that shows that where the verbal behavior points towards the aggressiveness and the satisfaction they received after Cassetti's murder and their reaction shows the suppressed anger they had for Cassetti.

“If ever a man deserved what he got, Ratchett or Cassetti is the man. I'm rejoiced at his end. Such a man wasn't fit to live!”(Christie, *Orient Express* 85)

“Princess Dragomiroff drew herself a little more erect. ‘In my view, then, this murder is an entirely admirable happening! You will pardon my slightly biased point of view.’” (Christie, *Orient Express* 119)

Thus we evidence such aggression in the characters of *Murder on the Orient Express* where their behavior is an example of patterns modeled through life experiences. People are aggressive to the cause of violent criminal behavior. The interaction of id, ego and superego affects the mental processes on how people view the world around them and solve problems. The expression or emotional experience may take the oral form in the shape of verbal exchange, with the increase in aggression damaging and killing whatever comes there way is undeniably possible. Hercule Poirot was very

much surprised at many instances in the novel, where he observes certain odd expression in the behavior of Colonel Arbuthnot who has served as a law keeper. But interestingly here he gives an unexpected statement over the murder of Samuel Ratchett aka Cassetti.

“Arbuthnot’s face grew rather grim. ‘Then in my opinion the swine deserved what got. Though I would have preferred to have seen him properly hanged-or electrocuted, I suppose, over there. Infact, Colonel Arbuthnot, you prefer law and order to private vengeance?’ ‘Well, you can’t go about having blood feuds and stabbing each other like Corscians or Mafia,’ said the Colonel, ‘say what you like, Trial by Jury is a sound system.’”(Christie, *Orient Express* 133)

In the case of the major characters involved in the murder and from stabbing him a dozen times it is clear that the suppressed anger that individuals had in their unconscious mind for Samuel Ratchett were involuntarily revealed in the form of aggression and emotion. Mary Debenham and Greta Ohlsson expressing their emotions through the flows of tears can be said be an example of this type.

“Greta Ohlsson was indignant. Her yellow bun of hair quivered with emotion. ‘That there in the world such evil men! It tries one’s faith. The poor mother. My heart aches for her.’ The amiable Swede departed, her kindly face flushed, her eyes suffused with tears. (Christie, *Orient Express* 110)

“It was abominable-wicked....Tears had come into the woman’s eyes. Her motherly soul was moved. (Christie, *Orient Express* 161)

The complexity in the characters lies in the aggressive reaction and feeling of the characters on the matter of Ratchett’s death is formulated by the motive and desire for revenge that the characters possess in their mind. The emotional trauma that the characters went through is the results of the emotional upsurge adversely affecting the process of reasoning and thinking powers thus leading to crime. Thus, we can say that emotions play a very important role in the novels. The psychological changes that generally direct the characters to perform some or other types of behavioral acts or patterns are evidences of emotions that rise unexpectedly and thus can be an example of aggression that subsides steadily in the characters of both of the novel. S.K Mangal states that:

“Every emotional experience may involves many physical and physiological changes in an individual and therefore some of the changes are easily observable in behavior such as the bulge of eyes, the flush of face, the flow of tears, the pulse rate, the beating of the heart, the choke in the voice, evidences increased perspiration etc.” (Mangal 62)

Thus we are evident of this behavior in the characters of *Murder on the Orient Express* when Mary Debenham, Hector Princess Dragonmiroff expresses their anger and hatred towards Cassetti and said that a devil like Ratchett deserves to die. Thus in this chapter we see the innermost strivings and motives do not permit a person to abide in peace whereas when he or she cannot adapt himself to the situation leads to certain disagreements that favor unbalanced adaptation or maladjustment of psychic personality. Thus from this chapter we can ultimately conclude that desires and motivation towards a particular thing can compel the individuals or the human species to behave in a very complex way and it may direct the individuals movement from within to a particular ambition or destination that may bring gratification and bliss to one’s needs as we have evidenced in the behavior of the major characters and how

their inner turmoil or conflict gives rise to certain behavioral pattern such as aggression and emotion.

2.2 Prominence of Nature versus nurture in crime.

The debate of whether the nature or psychic structure of a person is the reason behind crime or the experiences and incidences that an individual faces in life can be understood as an explanation from the point of what actually provoked crime in both the novels. Psychological and sociological theories of crime have been dominant in criminology to study the reason of criminal behavior. The nature-nurture debate that some characteristics of an individual are explained by the human's intrinsic nature whilst others reflect the influence of environment plays a very essential role in identifying the reason behind every act of an individual. Previously we discussed about the concealed motives and desires that the individual possesses secretly and how this psychological factor gives rise to certain aggression and emotion in them. In both the novels we observe that the tensions and conflicts within the individuals are same and how it was symbolically expressed in the form of a crime with a direct relationship with the interaction of both sociological and psychological factors. The major theories explain that the characters had certain desires and anxiety in their mind for which they seek comfort in deceptive truth. The central point of argument is that the nature alone or nurture alone cannot completely determine the cause or the development of crime. There are several instincts such as motives, needs, desires, and factors such sociological and psychological and it depends on the individual adjustment to a particular situation on how much polite he or she can remain in a social environment with less conflict or maladjustment.

In *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* the readers utter astonishment and disappointed was when the murderer turned out to be the narrator itself of the story whom we deemed as trustworthy and interestingly he did not even considered himself to be blame worthy of the crime. Sheppard used his talents and intelligence of medicines and technology to deceive others and even he did not feel guilty of the crime that he committed. He was responsible for taking the lives of two people. We learned from Dr. Sheppard that Mrs Ferrars killed her husband which was confronted by Dr. Sheppard and how he took this opportunity to seized and demand money from Mrs Ferrars. Was this act the outcome of his unconscious feelings regarding his lower social status? The answer is yes. Edwin Sutherland's Differential Association Theory states that:

“...criminal behavior is learnt through social interactions in which people are exposed to values that are favourable to violations of the law. More specifically, Sutherland maintained that a person is more likely to become a criminal when he or she learns more values...” (Kumar 8)

Therefore, Sutherland's theory proves that Dr Sheppard wanted to deceive the people who were closely acquainted with him. The way he made Capt Ralph Paton a bigger suspect in everyone's eyes by keeping him isolated from the case so that the evidences makes Paton indictment for the murder of his step father. Dr Sheppard was not really defending Capt. Ralph Paton by hiding about his whereabouts, but instead he was trying to fulfill his megalomaniac tendencies and desires to accuse him by making him seem black in everyone's eyes because he knew Ralph weakness and his secret of being married to Ursula Borne and as Ralph unknown of the reality blindly

considered James to be his best friend in Cranchester. We witness Dr Sheppard discomfort about this issue in many instances. He even handed over his diary to Poirot to mislead him but Poirot was very diplomatic to be a victim of such intelligence. Hercule Poirot was rather Machiavellian in nature though not selfish but he played the tactics of Machiavelli because he was interested in achieving the ambition and considerably excelled in exploiting and manipulating or shaking the calm composure in characters behavior.

Robert Merton significantly discusses about Strain Theory and states that:

“Crime is largely a product of the strain felt by certain individuals in society...

Merton argued that while some of these will be happy with lesser goals that are achievable, others will turn to illegitimate means.”(Kumar 7)

Dr James Sheppard belonged to middle class professional physician but what propelled him to commit the crime was his excessive urge for money. He blackmailed Mrs Ferrars for money for which she chose the path of suicide to escape from the mental anxiety that she was going through. Thus, Merton sociological theory of crime may be an example of such where the greed for more money and to free himself from the clutches of police Dr Sheppard continues to cheat and beguile Poirot and others. Similarly in the case of other character like Flora Ackroyd she lies and tries to conceal her theft of money which she does because she claims that she never had enough of money and for which she was compelled to steal money in order to balance her social standards.

Dr Sheppard possesses the characteristics of a Psychopath because of his ingratiating and charming manners and his contribution and discipline towards Hercule Poirot in solving the mystery of the crime makes him have favorable impressions on the every of the characters including the readers of the novel but in reality the psychopaths are selfish, stubborn and ego-centric as evidenced later in the novel and can be said to have no remorse for the crime that he committed. Therefore we can emphasize that a person may enter upon a criminal career in order to satisfy their unconscious motives and repressed mental conflicts. According to psychoanalysts even the general people and the hardcore criminals harbor antisocial, destructive and offensive impulses. Sigmund Freud states that:

“..Ego is especially affected by perception, and that, speaking broadly, perceptions may be said to have the same significance for the ego as instincts have for the id.”(Freud 54)

Thus we see that Dr Sheppard was dominated by *Pleasure principle* i.e. the Id and also the Reality principle i.e. the ego and there was continuous contradiction between this two because Dr Sheppard had the ability to perceive the reality of what will happen if he does not kill Ackroyd and that is what led him to commit the crime. He could not prevent his innermost desires and emotions to stop himself from committing the crime and there was concealed fear in his mind and because he was well known of the fact that his sister Caroline was too good at detecting lots of hidden things. And therefore we also witness that Dr Sheppard tried his best to divert Caroline’s interest from the suicide case of Mrs Ferrars but she was extremely inquisitive and a gossip to withdraw from the case. We see her giving her remarkable opinions during the investigation of the murder case and therefore we witness the factors of fear and anxiety that existed within Sheppard conscious mind because he feared of getting caught.

“You want to know as just as much as I do. You’re not so honest, that’s all.”(Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 220)

“All along I’ve had a premonition of disaster, from the moment I saw Ralph Paton and Mrs Ferrars with their heads together.”(Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 365)

“All my greatest fear all through has been Caroline. I have fancied she might have guess.” (Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 368)

Dr Sheppard desire to escape from the pain of punishment forced him to murder Mr Roger Ackroyd. He was a victim of Id. His greed for money obliged him commit crime after crime and interestingly he does not consider him guilty for the crime he had done. As he states:

“I feel no pity for her. I have no pity for myself either” (Christie, *Roger Ackroyd* 368)

In this regard it may be also that Dr Sheppard had a very high self concept about himself. But why he thought that? As Harter states:

“In Psychology, self concept generally refers to individual’s knowledge and beliefs about themselves-their ideas, feeling, attitudes and expectations.”(Woolfolk 109)

Therefore, we can mainly consider that crime happens when a person has more self esteemed and lack strength to dominate his or her Id because it makes them unable to see their faults as they feel they are always doing the appropriate stuffs and also when he has the opportunity to do so in the right circumstances. We are aware of the fact that Dr Sheppard was closely associated with the people that he cheated and therefore this familiarity with the victims of the story assisted him to be criminally indulged in order to escape the agony or pain.

Sigmund Freud states that:

“the exacerbation of this Ucs sense of guilt could turn people into criminals. (Freud 76)

And that what happens in *Murder on the Orient Express* when we understands that the twelve passengers on the Orient Express who avenges the kidnapping and the despicable murder of little Daisy Armstrong by plotting and killing Lenfranco Cassetti alias Samuel Ratchett .We learnt that injustice that was done by law to the Armstrong family was avenged by a jury of twelve members because of the sense of guilt that was taking place in them as they were relatively close acquaintances and family members and the thought of injustice was killing them inside for which they even did not hesitated to kill him. This act can be said that instant desire for something is the horrible outcome and the criminals perpetrating it whether be it Dr Sheppard or the twelve murderers, both this cases can be relatable to Glasser’s Choice theory. As it states that:

“The classical school of criminology explains the criminal behavior as an individual choice and not something which is involuntary.....humans get involved in criminal behaviour out of choice and it is a well-planned decision that they choose to get involved in. There can be many reasons which can be the basis of such behaviour. People might get involved in such behaviours in order to satisfy their basic right or higher order needs.”(Kumar 9)

The passengers in the Orient express were much emotionally attached to the Armstrong family and therefore they were adamant in their opinion to take vengeance

for the injustice done to them. They came in a group of twelve members and were motivated to commit the crime and thus the situation or circumstances that they were in a group and in majority encouraged the crime to happen. They could not control their ego as it were dominated by the id and also the superego.

“Social facilitation theory states that performance on a task gets enhanced, or facilitated in the presence of others....in the presence of motivating peer group the individual might be facilitated in conducting highly aggressive and even criminal behaviour. (Kumar 24)

Thus, this theory maintains that others participation in act affects the Id of an individual as it provokes the conscious ego to satisfy the personal gratification even though it might be a criminal act and thus allowing the behaviour to be considered even normative in such situations. Hercule Poirot through a series of investigation and inquiry with every characters brought into light that all the passengers in the coach are somehow related to the Armstrong family and that every one of them is elaborating acts and deceiving him by lies. And this act of deceiving is eventually understood that there was fear and anxiety in the mind of the people perpetrating the crime. We witness in the previous chapter that the concealed motives and desires are expressed in the forms of emotions, aggression and the revenge taken by the jury of twelve members who executed the criminal in the most brutal way by stabbing him twelve times. Another significant thing that consists in the whole novel is the roots of evil in the dawn of civilization as Antonio Foscarelli states:

“..in a great civilization such as America” (Christie, *Orient Express* 147)

Thus the irony of being civilized and the fruits of development have been satirized in the novel by Christie. The sluggish attitudes from the law enforce encourages the criminals in their nefarious activities. Thus, representing the undeniable scarcity of adequate law, injustice to morality and criminal violence in those times. And because of this we evidence Hercule Poirot choosing the second option in spite of knowing all the truth. What made him do that? Did he too become a servant of super-ego like the other twelve passengers? And the answer is yes his superego dominated his ego principles, because he knew that injustice has been done to the Armstrong family by law because no punishment was given to him for the brutal crime Cassetti committed. Hercule poirot did not seem to like Ratchett from the beginning of the novel. There were several points that prove this point. One of them is:

“If you forgive me for being personal- I do not like your face, M.Ratchett,’ he said.”(Christie, *Orient Express* 31)

Poirot states:

“having placed my solution before you, I have the honour to retire from the case...”(Christie, *Orient Express* 274)

Therefore it justifies that he was consciously occupied with the assassination of Cassetti as something that happened to be morally justified. Sigmund Freud states that:

“..the excessively strong superego which has obtained a hold upon consciousness rages against the ego with the merciless fury, as if it had taken possession of the whole sadism available in the person concerned. Following our view of sadism, we should say that the destructive component and entrenched itself in the superego and turned against the ego. (Freud 77)

Thus we can conclude that understanding the criminal behavior or not simple as it appears. Factors at the individual level, group level and societal plays a major role. Stern in his argument of the nature-nurture debate states that:

“the amount of stretch a particular rubber band actually shows will depend upon both of its basic “stretch ability”- and the amount of pressure, or “pull” exerted by the people in its environment. Similarly the amount of any particular trait that a person will show depends upon that person’s inborn potential, or “stretch” for the trait and the degree to which the person’s environment “pulls for” the development of that trait. “(Morgan et al. 414)

The behaviour and mental processes of the individual is influenced by the factors of family, community, religion, society and the larger governmental functioning. The experiences an individual derived from life can be a major factor behind criminal tendencies. With the advent of modernization the moral consciousness of the people disappeared and how greed for money and power resulted in countless unharmonious and inhumane tasks like blackmailing and murder can be evident in both the stories. Therefore, we can say that personality of a person can be shaped by the circumstances or experiences that he or she encounters in life and also by the lack of self control the individual possesses are the reasons behind crime. An individual is adjusted or maladjusted depends on the movement to the extent or thoroughness to which harmony prevails among his manifold drives, motives and ideals., the level to which his requirements and aspirations are amply attained, the length to which an individual passions and activities are conformity with the claims, demands and standard norms of the individual social groups. The motives and desire in human psyche as the psychological factors can be perceived as a problem that arises with the interaction of the pleasure principle, reality principle and the moral principle as well as the certain sociological theories and factors put forwarded by the theorists proves that the strain felt in a society, presence of a motivating peer and when an individual learn more value are reason behind the commitment of crime. Thus we can conclude that both nature and nurture are responsible in perpetrating crime.

2.CONCLUSION

This research paper attempts to bring the elements and factors of motives and desires in an individual that are responsible for the sociological and psychological factors influencing the individual and on what constitute for a crime to happen and elaborately discusses on the psychological issues influencing crime and the problem statement that manifest the prominence and relevance related to it. This paper basically focuses on the personality theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud with reference to Agatha Christie’s novel *Murder on the Orient Express* and *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*. Thus exploring the motives and desires in Human psyche in the characters describes about the concealed desires and motives that characters in both the novel possesses and the inability to adjust to a particular situation within the characters are expressed in the forms of aggression, emotion, fear and anxiety and how this factors paved the way in deception that the characters in the novels follow. As analyzed each and every characters in the novels have secrets and concealed motives at a deep unconscious level and the way they remained torn between the Id, ego and superego.

On the other hand, exploring the debate of nature versus Nurture in crime it gives us understanding on the debate of whether the nature or personality of a person is responsible in making an individual criminal or either nurture or the experiences and understanding of life shapes and mould the decisive making capabilities of the individuals mind. From this we can perceived that instinctual drives give rise to certain conflicts in the unconscious mind and therefore its interaction with the social circumstances may provoke an individual act in various antisocial way as we have witness in the characters of the novel *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* that Dr. James Sheppard and other characters have intense greed for money for which they seek the path of lying and in order to escape from the punishment gives misleading information. The characters behaviour is results of sociological needs that drive them to deceive others. Sheppard urge for money that leads to heinous crime is an example of technological advancement devoid of the mental progress at the same pace, lack of awareness, the tendency to cover issues than talking about them, the materialistic definition of success and how the fruits of development have been misused to situations. On the other hand in the case of *Murder on the Orient Express* when we analyze the members we can estimate that the individuals are responsible for perpetrating the crime had been seeking for revenge and factors such as psychological as well as sociological factors both are responsible for drastically influencing the minds of the characters.

With a detailed study of the research topic we found that the behavior of every individual is interconnected with the psychological and sociological aspects of human being in a particular society. The psychological problems can be perceived as a problem that arises with the interaction of the *Pleasure principle*, *Reality principle* and the *Moral principle*. While on the other hand the sociological problems such as the strain felt in a society, presence of a motivating peer and when an individual learn more value. In this dissertation the writer has made an attempt to portray or throw light on how crime fiction can be related to psychology and how it shows the reality of the real life criminals and the way they are possess certain kinds of instinctual drives that are responsible for occurrence of a crime. The Personality trait theory of Sigmund Freud had been engaged to better comprehend and prove the main argument or hypothesis of this dissertation. In *Murder on the Orient Express* the superego is the dominating factor, even more than the id. The circumstances of injustice that came down as a strokes of hammer to the Armstrong's relatives and acquaintances would not have been healed if they would have not come together to prosecute an individual like Cassetti. Even when their ego acted as barriers against the animalistic urge or Id it could not be controlled because Ratchett crime was heinous and unforgettable. In *The Murder of the Roger Ackroyd* the Id and the Ego comes in contradiction with each other repeatedly because the characters are obsessed with their priority and desires of gaining money and deceiving each other while on the other hand they are also conscious of the fact that this may lead them to serious problem. Dr Sheppard anxiety and fear of getting caught made him murder Roger Ackroyd and interestingly he never considers himself responsible for his deeds. Thus it is understood that he is mostly driven by the Id principle.

Therefore, it can ultimately conclude from the analysis that Agatha Christie's genre of crime and detective fiction and how the characters in her novels can be explored in the light of maladjustment and dysfunctional personality and how human behavior is

motivated and exploited by various psychological factors and also sociological factors and therefore both the nature and nurture are responsible in executing a crime and thus it is undeniable through the descriptive study of the novels and the theories.

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