

CHAPTER II

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

This study attempts to analyse the development of Todd's dignity as the main character in *Flying Home*. To analyse the problems, the intrinsic approach is used since the study focuses on the inner elements of the short story, those are character and setting.

To make the analysis of the development of the main character's dignity deeper, then the psychological approach supported by Alfred Adler's theory is applied. For further understanding about the relationship of the main character with other characters in the short story, and its influence on the main character's development of dignity, the sociological approach supported by theories of race and ethnic relationship by Paul B. Horton and Charles L. Hunt will also be used. By using these theories and approaches, hopefully, we can achieve a better understanding about the development of the main character's development as a complete and continuous process.

The argument that the novel and the short story are separate entities which share the same prose medium but not the same artistic methods is crucial to an understanding of short fiction. This problem was anticipated by Chekhov who in 1889 had asserted that the short story, like the stage has its own conventions, its own need to concentrate for the reader an impression of the entire work at the end.

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Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) developed a theory of the short story which he described in a review of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Twice-Told Tales*. Poe was convinced that *worldly interest* prevented most readers from concentrating on their reading, and as a result they lost the *totality* of comprehension and emotional reaction that careful reading should permit. He added to his practical consideration; that a short, concentrated story (which he called *a brief prose tale*) could create a powerful, single impression on the reader. Thus he concluded that the best work of fiction was the short story that could be read at a single sitting of not more than an hour.

The novelist usually covers a long period of time, presenting not only a few individuals but also something of a society. He often tells of the development of several many-sided figures. In contrast, the short-story writer, having only a few pages, usually focuses on a single figure in a single episode, revealing his character rather than recording his development. In the short story we have a sense of a present mood or personality revealed, rather than the sense of a history reported. The revelation in a story is presented through incidents, of course, but the interest commonly resides in the character revealed through the incidents, rather than in incidents themselves. Little *happens*, in the sense that there is little rushing from place to place. What does *happen* is usually a mental reaction to an experience and it is the mental reaction rather than the external experience, that is the heart of the story

A. INTRINSIC APPROACH

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, the writers of *Theory of Literature* stated that the natural and sensible starting-point for work in literary scholarship is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves. It means that the understanding to the work of literature is based on the analysis of intrinsic element such as plot, character, and theme.

Based on such understanding above so this analysis will start its point on the intrinsic elements that are character of Todd who is trying to develop his dignity and setting in the short story which shows the interaction between the main character and his surrounding.

A.1. CHARACTER

The modern short story writer is content if, allowing the reader to glance at his characters as through a window, he shows them making a gesture which is typical; that is to say, a gesture which enables the reader's imagination to fill in all that is left unsaid. Instead of giving us a finished action to admire, or pricking the bubble of some problem, he may give us only the key-piece of a mosaic, around which, if sufficiently perceptive, we can see in shadowy outline the completed pattern (L.A.G. Strong).

Character in literature generally and in short-story specifically is an extended verbal representation of a human being the inner self that determines thought, speech and behaviour. Through dialogues, action and commentary, authors capture some of the interactions of character and circumstance. Short

the social and biological pressures of the moment. Therefore, since this analysis is focusing on the main character's personality then it will be better to broaden and deepen if this analysis is supported by Alfred Adler's theory of *The Striving Toward Superiority and Perfection*. This theory is not only advantageous on the way its explanation describes the process of development in Todd's dignity but also will help to determine the core of personality of the main character.

B.1. ALFRED ADLER'S THEORY

It would be well to start this section with a greater sense of Adler's thinking concerning his postulated core tendency of personality. The core tendency of personality can be simply stated for Adler. That is *the striving toward superiority or perfection*. The goal of the striving toward perfection is not social distinction or a position of power. Rather it is the full realization of the ideal life. In describing the striving for perfect completion, Adler (1930, p.398) says :

I began to see clearly in every psychological phenomenon the striving for superiority . It runs parallel to physical growth and is an intrinsic necessity of life itself. It lies at the root of all solutions of life's problem and is manifested in the way in which we meet these problems. All our functions follow its direction. They strive for conquest, security, increase either in the right or in the wrong direction. The impetus from minus to plus is never end. The urge from below to above never ceases. Whatever premises all our philosophers and psychologist dream of – self preservation, pleasure

principle, equalization – all these are but vague representations, attempts to express the great upward drive.

It may sound as if Adler means something like the actualization tendency, with its emphasis upon inherent potentialities. This is not the case. Adler draws the analogy to physical growth only to dramatize his belief in the inevitably and ubiquitousness of tendency toward perfection. Achieving perfection, however is not a matter of expressing potentialities so much as a matter of achieving completion. Adler emphasis is clearly seen in his concept of *fictional finalism* which expresses the goal of the core tendency. The word finalism merely refers to the reaching of an end or goal atate and the tendency to go in that direction. The word fictional is crucial in that it indicates that what the person is striving to reach is an ideal or fiction. Ideals are not potentialities rooted in genetic blueprint. The most abstract and general ideal is that of perfection which is the core characteristic associated with the core tendency.

Another important aspect of the core tendency reflected in the quote presented above is that, in tension terms, Adler presumes that all people strive toward the increase, rather than the decrease of tension. The references to attempting to be superior, to physical growth and to a great upward drive that goes from miinus to plus all strongly suggest increases in complexity, effort and energy. Clearly, Adler does not see the person as striving for peace, quiet and tension reduction.

This perfection version requires that the person work hard to make a reality of what is only a vague possibility in him at birth. The person's striving for

perfection will only occur if he holds it as an ideal and disciplines himself accordingly. Witness Adler's (1964, p. 31) words on the matter :

The high degree of cooperation and social culture which man needs for his very existence demands spontaneous social effort and the dominant purpose of education is to evoke it. Social feeling is not inborn, but it is an innate potentiality which has to be consciously developed.

Although he is speaking here mainly of the part of superiority striving that involves trying to perfect your society as well, he has the same emphasis for more individualistic efforts to better oneself.

At first Adler indicates that the striving toward superiority is innate and that it may manifest itself in a large number of different ways. Going on from there, Adler offers a number of ideas concerning the precise sources of *the great upward drive*. These ideas are organ inferiority, feelings of inferiority and compensation which in their most general forms should be considered core characteristics of personality. He developed the notion that people attempt to compensate for organ inferiority and that this compensatory effort has implications for their living. The compensatory effort can be directed at the organ inferiority itself or at the strengthening of related though different organs as in the of the blind person who develops extraordinary auditory sensitivity. Also consistent with the concept of compensation is the shift in reliance to other, stronger capabilities.

Then he broadened the notion of organ inferiority to include any feelings of inferiority, whether they arise from actual physical handicaps or from

subjectively felt psychological and social disabilities. The final step was settling on the view that feelings inferiority are of paramount importance and that such feelings arise from incompleteness or imperfection in any sphere of life (Adler, 1931). Indeed, an important and valuable sense of inferiority is that which comes from the contemplation of complete perfection. Says Adler (1956, p.23) :

In comparison with unattainable ideal perfection, the individual filled by an inferiority feeling and motivated by it.

For Adler's, feelings of inferiority are the subjectively appreciated aspect of the striving for superiority. As such, feelings of inferiority are not only constructive forces for living, they are a ready basis for the diagnosis of the lines along with the core tendency of personality will be expressed in any given person. Indeed, feelings of inferiority which normally precede attempts to achieve superiority and so such feelings cannot only be determined independently of strivings toward superiority but can also be used as predictors of such strivings.

For Adler, though the tendency to strive forward superiority is itself innate, the directions in which it leads the person are expressive of idealizations of life. Indeed, the most likely directions are those in which inherent potentialities are meager. The aim of the tendency to strive toward superiority is complete perfection and this carries the definite connotation of overcoming any limitations in potentialities that may exist in the person.

So in determining the lines along which the superiority tendency will find expression the content of feelings of inferiority is of diagnostic importance. The other thing in Adler's position relevant to determining the content expressive of

the superiority tendency is the assumption that man is both an individual and social being. In the realm of individual living, man will strive for perfection himself, and in the realm of group living, he will strive for the perfection of society. The individualistic and social expression are simply different facets of the same tendency to strive for superiority (Adler, 1939).

We should note that the expression of the superiority tendency over time results in the formation of a *style of life*. The style of life is a pattern of characteristics, determined both by the feeling of inferiority and the compensatory attempts engaged in by the person. But the style of life is not the same as these feelings and compensations, rather it is the habits and traits resulting from them. As does the character type or concept of psychoanalytic theory, the style of life concept accounts for differences between people and is therefore a peripheral characteristic of personality. It is the family atmosphere during the early years that leads to the development of styles of life that are destructive or constructive. If your parents respect and encourage you, a constructive style will develop. A destructive style results from parental disrespect and abandonment. Constructive styles, which are the highest form of living, are defined in terms of cooperation and generous interaction with people in the process striving for perfection. Destructive styles are defined in terms of competitiveness and jealousy toward others in striving for perfection.

C. SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

In *Sociology* written by Paul B. Horton and Charles L. Hunt they defines

Race as :

Race is a group of person which is quite different with other group in term of their physical inborn characteristic ; besides it determined by definition used by society.(p. 60)

In this recent years, the Negro descendant in America is mostly called as *The Black* not *Negro*. Those two predication are relatively not different because Negro in Spanish means black. In this analsis I prefer to use *The Black* because of the reality that almost each race in America has related by marriage for many years so that almost race has mixed up.

Prejudice is a word derived from Latin consists of *prae* means before and *judicium* means judgement. That word is a definiton of a kind of judgement appeared before considering the whole facts (Horton, p. 65). There are five causes of prejudice that are :

1. Ethnocentrism which tends to make us considering our group members as the good ones and everyone outside our group is bad.
2. There is a realiity that we make judgement towards anyone we don't know so well.
3. Based on the experiences from other person we make generalisation about other groups.
4. We tend to define stereotype which support our assumption about how the relation and special rights from different groups.

5. We tend to apply our stereotype with someone compete us.

In terms of interethnic group relationship, Discrimination is a way to treat someone based on group classification, not based on individual qualities. to make rejection and acceptance on someone based on his ethnic group identity without considering his personality and quality earnestly (Paul B. Horton, 1984, p.66). The Black and The White tend to have different perspective concerning The Black Condition. Most of the White think that the treatment is good enough while most the Black think that the treatment is not satisfied enough (Gallup, 1981 p.35)

Banton (1967, p.388) an English sociologist believed that the diversity of perspective is a unique characteristic of perspective of majority and minority. The majority is stress on recent progress and the minority is stress on how far the real result they want.

Charles H. Cooley has mentioned that people transform themselves and their worlds as they engage in social interaction in terms of *looking glass-self theory*. This terms refers to the condition of someone which his self-conception which is based on the respons of other persons (Horton, p.235). That kind of transformaation doesn't concerned with the objective facts. The self conception developed through complex process. This concept is only a description that someone will only develop with the help of other people.

D. RELATED STUDIES

In *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing*, Edgar V. Davids states that in *Flying Home*, the black American writer, Ralph Elliison presents a

story about justice by showing how a young black Air Force pilot is subject to injustice (p.363).

Dauids is also showing that Ellison's dominant ideas is the very basic one that all human beings are equal regardless of race.His values are made clear as he directs disapproval against those who are so locked into their prejudicial habits that they do not help but rather intimidate an injured human being (p.365).

Dauids argues that in Ellison's *Flying Home* the character Todd symbolizes the plight of the black who denied the assistance and support that the whites take for granted (p.366).He also believes that Ellison make objective the idea that racial barriers separate human beings and make them cruel when it would be to everyone's interest (such as wining a war) to unite and be helpful (p.366).

On the other way Ralph Ellison as the writer of *Flying Home* has been admitted as the one whose writing is examines the problem of growing up the Black in America from the cosmopolitan literary modernism. Ellison dipped his bucket in two wells : the Black life and culture that is the literary extension of the blues (Barbara Christian, 1970, p.3).

BAB III

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TODD'S DIGNITY