

CHAPTER IV
THE ANALYSIS OF THE FOUR MAIN CHARACTERS
IN THE THE SOUND AND THE FURY THROUGH
SIGMUND FREUD'S PSYCHOANALYSIS

IV. 1. Benjy Referring to Id

Benjamin or usually called Benjy who is idiot, is one of the four Compson children. Benjy's characteristics in the novel refer to one of the three parts of human personality as proposed by Sigmund Freud, namely id. In this case, Benjy's characteristics and behaviors through the whole story are dominated by the nature of id.

Jerry M. Burger in Personality, Theory and Research stated Freud's theory about id that "id is concerned only to satisfy personal desires, regardless of the physical and social limitations that might prevent us from getting whatever we want" (56). It is also stated that id comes to the nature of human mind just at the earliest age.

Because Benjy is an idiot, he only has characteristics like a baby. In the first section of the novel, Benjy is thirty three years old described in the present time. He moaned all the time he found or felt something was not fit with him, or when he wanted something. Once, Benjy was playing with Luster, his nurse boy, at the river near a golf pasture. Benjy heard the golfer called

"caddie" for a man who was carrying the golfer's clubs. But Benjy assumed the word "caddie" refers to his sister. Luster insisted Benjy to stop his moaning.

("I" refers to Benjy)

"I is done it. Hush, now." Luster said. "Ain't I told you you can't go up there. They'll knock your head clean off with on them balls. Come on, here." He pulled me back. "sit down." I sat down and he took off my shoes and I rolled up my trousers. "Now, git in that water and play and see can you stop that slobbering and moaning"

(19)

From the quotation, we know how Benjy is depended on his nurse boy, Luster. Benjy did whatever Luster commanded him to do such as: sit, play, stop moaning and slobbering. Luster always helped Benjy do anything including the minor things such as taking off Benjy's shoes. These shows the characteristics of an idiot in which the intelligence of an idiot cannot develop and is difficult to learn something.

Benjy needed a special nurse boy to take care of him because Mrs. Compson could not take care of Benjy by herself. Whether eating, bathing, walking, Benjy should be helped by Luster. There has been three nurse boys for

Benjy: Versh was a nurse boy when Benjy was a boy, T.P. took care of Beny when he was a teenager, and Luster when Benjy becomes a "man" of about thirty three years old. Benjy often got troubles everytime Luster didn't pay attention to him, because Benjy would do or touch anything that interested him. The inability of Benjy to anticipate the situation whether it is harmful or not, was seen when Benjy, Luster, and Dilsey, the nigger cook were in the kitchen having some of Benjy's birthday cake.

("I" refers to Benjy)

I put my hand out where the fire had been. "Catch him." Dilsey said. "Catch him back." My hand jerked back and I put it in my mouth and Dilsey caught me. I could still hear the clock between my voice. Dilsey reached back and hit Luster on the head. My voice was going loud every time (72).

Once, Benjy tried to touch and talk with some girls passing in front of his house. But Benjy couldn't behave as any normal human beings when greeting other people. He could only moan and slobber and acted like a monster fighting his victims. Thiss actions had frightened the girls.

("I" refers to Benjy)

I could hear them talking. I went out the

door and I couldn't hear them, and I went down to the gate, where the girls passed with their booksatchels. They looked at me, walking fast, with their heads turned. I tried to say, but they went on, and I went along the fence, trying to say, and they went faster. Then they were running and I came to the corner of the fence and I couldn't go any further, and I held to the fence, looking after them and trying to say.
(63)

They came on. I opened the gate and they stopped, turning. I was trying to say, and I caught her, trying to say, and she screamed and I was trying to say.... (64)

To normal human beings Benjy's actions can be interpreted as an attack. We see that Benjy tried hard to grab the 'girls' dress. Although they screamed, Benjy kept on performing his action while trying to "say" that he didn't want to attack them. But the way he said is by moaning. Naturally, the girls could not understand him but merely considered that Benjy was making terrible sound. According to normal person this action cannot be accepted as moral action. It shows id drive that regardless the moral constraint.

Although Benjy has no morality, has no attention to the social limitations, he sometimes felt the affection given by someone, and was very close to those giving him affection. William Faulkner described this relation through Benjy's closeness with his only sister, Caddy. Caddy was the only one who loved Benjy very much. Caddy became the one who was never bored in paying attention to Benjy when other members of the Compson family were bored. Benjy could feel Caddy's mildness and affection and he seemed to respond to Caddy's attention through his own way as an idiot. It is seen in the novel that shows the affair between Caddy and Charlie. Benjy felt that this man would harm Caddy, because Benjy saw Charlie tried to embrace when approaching her.

("I" refers to Benjy)

The one in the swing got up and came, and I cried and pulled Caddy's dress.

"Benjy." Caddy said. "It's just Charlie. Don't you know Charlie."

"Where's his nigger." Charlie said. "What do they let him run around loose for."

"Hush, Benjy." Caddy said. "Go away, Charlie. He doesn't like you." Charlie went away and I hushed. I pulled at Caddy's dress. (57)

Benjy's and Caddy's closeness reminds us of the theory of personality. Both people are in the position referring to the id, while Caddy stands for the part of id particularly libido, the sexual desires.

IV. 2. Caddy Referring to Libido

It has been cited in chapter III that libido is a kind of human desires which deal with sexual drives. The position of libido is in id. To satisfy both id and libido, a person may not pay attention to the moral limitations.

In the novel, we understand that Caddy is the character belonging to libido, because through the story Caddy has experienced love affairs with several men. She did it to satisfy her sexual desires. In fact, she was aware that what she did was wrong, but her urges are very strong. Caddy's brother, Quentin, was angry with her since she has let Charlie kissed her for the first time. Quentin's was based on the dreadful thing that could happen after the kissing and not on the kissing itself. Quentin believed that this bring Caddy to the eternal regretness. Below are lines showing Quentin's anger toward Caddy that leads us to the principle that Quentin who is standing for ego, tries to take the id into reality.

("I" refers to Quentin)

What did you let him for kiss kiss. I didn't let him I made him watching me getting mad. What do you think of that?....

It's not for kissing I slapped you. Girl's elbows at fifteen Father said you swallow like you had a fishbone in your throat What's the matter with you.... (166)

From this quotation, we see that Quentin has slapped Caddy after she kissed Charlie. Quentin was not angry with the kissing, but the action that might happen after it. Dalton Ames was the second man whom Caddy had a love affair with. He was a stranger, a carnival man who came in town. Mrs. Compson was aware of Caddy's going out with him, so she asked Jason to spy on her. But Mr. Compson was angry with his wife's idea. He wanted his wife to just let Caddy went out with the man because as a normal growing up woman, Caddy had the same desire as every other women. Caddy was no longer a virgin by the time she and Dalton Amess had an affair. And nobody knew about this. A paragraph in section one of the novel shows clearly the loss of Caddy's virginity as viewed by Benjy. While in section two, the lines showing the los of Caddy's virginity as seen by Quentin, are cattered.

After the affair with Dalton Ames , Caddy went home, passing the living room where all the members of the family were there.

("I" refers to Benjy)

We could hear Caddy walking fast. Father and Mother looked at the door. Caddy passed it, walking fast. She didn't looked. She walked fast.

"Candace." Mother said. Caddy stopped walking.

"Yes, Mother." She said.

"Hush, Caroline." Father said.

"Come here." Mother said.

"Hush, Caroline." Father said. "let her alone."

Caddy came to the door and stood there, looking at Father and Mother. Her eyes flew at me, and away. I began to cry. I went loud and I got up. Caddy came in and stood with her back to the wall, looking at me. I went toward her, crying, and she shrank against the wall and I saw her eyes and I cried louder and pulled at her dress. Her eyes run. (84)

Benjy's attitude toward Caddy shows as if Benjy

subtlety knew what Caddy has done is related with her virginity. Benjy's attention as if as the repayment as Caddy's affection to Benjy. Benjy moaned everytime Caddy got close to Charlie, a boy who has tried to embrace and kiss Caddy. Benjy's moaning is a sign for Caddy that what she was doing with Charlie is wrong.

After Caddy went out with Dalton Ames and lost her virginity, Benjy was the only one who gave response: by pulling Caddy's dress, moaning, then by pulling her hand he led her to the bathroom. Benjy did it because he recalled the memory of several years ago. That time Benjy had moaned when he saw Caddy kissed Charlie. Because of this, Caddy left Charlie and took Benjy home. They entered the kitchen and Caddy washed her mouth.

("I" refers to Benjy)

Caddy and I ran. We ran up the kitchen steps, onto the porch, and Caddy knelt down in the dark and held me. I could hear her and feel her chest. "I won't." She said. "I won't anymore, ever. Benjy. Benjy." Then she was crying, and I cried, and we held each other. "Hush." She said. "Hush. I won't anymore." So I hushed and Caddy get up and turned the light on and Caddy took the kitchen soap and washed her mouth at the sink. Caddy smelled like tree. (58)

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Such were Caddy's and Benjy's relationship. Each showed his or her solidarity as the "member" of id. None of the other members of the Compson family really loved Benjy, except Caddy. Even Mrs. Compson seemed unwilling to accept Benjy's unfavorable condition. She was even half-hearted when she had to touch Benjy.

("I" refers to Benjy)

"Look at me." Mother said.

"Benjamin." She said. She took my face in her hands and turned it to hers.

"Benjamin." She said. "Take that cushion away, Candace."

"He'll cry." Caddy said.

"Take that cushion away, like I told you." Mother said. "He must learn to mind."

The cushion went away.

"Hush, Benjy." Caddy said.

"You go over there and sit down." Mother said. "Benjamin." She held my face to hers.

"Stop that." She said. "Stop it."

But I didn't stop and Mother caught me in her arms and began to cry, and I cried. Then the cushion came back and Caddy held it above Mother's head.... (78)

None of the people in the Compson family knew about Caddy's tragedy with Dalton Ames. However, Caddy told her brother, Quentin. Quentin, after knowing what had happened, wasn't angry with Caddy, but was angry with Dalton Ames. When Caddy learned about Quentin's rational, calm, and attentive attitude, Caddy felt that she could rely on her brother for protection. Unknown to Caddy, before she told Quentin her "tragedy", Quentin in fact had a bad feeling. He hoped that it would not come true. However his hope had come to nothing when he heard Caddy's weeping in her room.

Quentin could not bear seeing Caddy's condition. Driven by his responsibility he had taken Caddy away from home. Nobody knew what had happened with them. Mrs. Compson's conversation with her son Jason indicating the family's unawareness of Caddy and Quentin's "tragedy". This scene stated the period when Caddy has gone away and Quentin has committed suicide.

"They deliberately shut me out of their lives," she says, "It was always she and Quentin. They were always conspiring against me. Against you too, though you were too young to realize it. They always looked on you and me as outsiders, like they did your Uncle Maury. I always told your father that they were allowed

too much freedom, to be together too much. When Quentin started school we had to let her go the next year, so she could be with him. She couldn't bear for any of you to do anything she couldn't. It was vanity in her, vanity and false pride. And then when her troubles began I knew Quentin would feel that he had to do something just as bad. But I didn't believe that he would have been so selfish; as to - I didn't dream that he -" (195)

The citation above implied Caddy's committing incest with Quentin. Caddy's love affair with several men all sing Charlie, when she was fifteen years old may be considered the lightest sin compared with those of her committing adultery with Dalton Ames and incest with her brother, Quentin.

After analyzing Caddy's sexual experiences I conclude that Caddy's character can be indicated as libido.

IV. 3. Quentin Referring to Ego

Guches, in Sequal: A Handbook for the Critical Analysis of Literature stated that ego refers to the reality principle. It means that the ego governs the id and

satisfy the id's drives into socially acceptable way (115). It is the essence of the ego's mechanism psychologically.

In The Sound and The Fury, Quentin is the character which refers to ego. According to the theory stated in the previous paragraph, ego tries to fulfill the id's drives. It cannot be denied that the relation between id and ego is very close. The most significant point of the novel shows Quentin's close relation with Caddy, as seen in the part showing Caddy's loss of virginity. Caddy was confused and disoriented. She was afraid to tell her parents, but she felt that she had to. She couldn't keep the tragedy all by herself. By and by her parents and the other members of the family must learn about her pregnancy. In such a state, Caddy finally told the truth of what had actually happened between she and Dalton Ames, the man who had seduced her, to her brother, Quentin. Quentin's response had lessened Caddy's tension, because because Quentin wasn't angry with her. On the other hand, Quentin offered Caddy to leave home by using his matriculation money. Quentin had performed a risky deed because he understood Caddy's serious trouble and therefore wanted to help her. The ego attempts to satisfy id's desire is shown in Quentin's taking Caddy to Cambridge using his matriculation money.

The readers have seen Quentin's ego by the time Caddy's "tragedy" with Dalton happened. Quentin was very angry with Dalton, and even threatened to kill Ames. However, Quentin realized that Caddy's "tragedy" had been done, and Caddy herself loved Ames. Because of these Quentin was aware that his anger with Dalton was useless. In connection with Freud's theory, Quentin's realization showed that his ego had arisen. Quentin's ego had succeed to stop his id's action to kill Ames, because he realized it was useless and even would lead him to confront more difficulties.

IV. 4. Jason Referring to Superego

Burger stated in Personality Theory and Research that the nature of superego represents society's and particularly the parents' values and standard (57). In accordance with this theory, Guches stated that "If a society regards a particularly id's impulse toward pleasure as socially acceptable and the ego cannot divert the impulse, the superego blocks its fulfillment...." (116).

The character in The Sound and The Fury that refers to superego is Jason. Jason's behaviors and attitudes referring to superego is when the fall of the Compson family was becoming more obvious. Jason's elder brother, Quentin, had died after committing suicide; Jason's sis-

ter, Caddy, has left home and never returns home; Jason's father, Mr. Compson was dead. Those who were left at home were, Jason, who worked as a clerk in a hardware store; his sick mother; his thirty three year old brother, Benjy; and his niece, Caddy's daughter named Quentin. Caddy's daughter was named Quentin. To minimize the confusion concerning the two similar characters I will call Caddy's daughter as Quentin II. Quentin II's father was Dalton Ames. She was seventeen years old and had difficulties in obeying social values. Jason was the one that ruled and commanded everyone in the family. He was the only one who took the responsibility of the running the Compson ; despite the burdensome that he had to face regarding the attitude and behavior of the members.

In fact, Jason was cruel and rude. Probably the trouble occurred from his responsibility in keeping the family in good order. Jason hated his sister, Caddy, and had social jealousy toward his dead brother, Quentin. Seventeen years ago, before married Herbert, she had said that Herbert would give Jason a job as a bank clerk in Herbert's bank. But it was unkept promise, a promise that had never been fulfilled. Jason's hatred toward Quentin was due. Quentin had a chance to study at Harvard College. However, when Jason's turn came, the financial condition of the family was so bad that it was impossible

to pay the fee. Beside that, the land belonging to the Compsons has been sold to finance Caddy's wedding and Quentin's education in Harvard. The paragraph quoted shows how Jason had complained to his mother concerning the family's troubles.

"I don't mean," she says. "You are the only one of them that isn't a reproach to me."

"Sure." I says. "I never had time to be. I never had time to go to Harvard like Quentin or drink myself into the ground like Father. But of course if you want me to follow her around and see what she does, I can quit the store and get a job where I can work at nighth.... (224)

Here we learn was jealous of his brother, Quentin, who had a chance to study at Harvard, while Jason never had because of the financial condition of the family. He had to work to support the family needs instead. He was also jealous of his father, who was always drunk during his life. After his death, Jason has to work hard to support the family. He has no time to be drunk. This quotation shows Jason's superego that can distinguish between the good and the bad. Jason's superego had been formed through his education that to be drunk is bad, that he has to work hard because his father was dead while the Compsons no longer on their wealth.

Jason's oppression is pointed toward Quentin II. Jason called her a bitch because she could never obey orders and disciplines. She always run away from school, and even had threatened to leave school. We are given about Quentin II's conduct from Mrs. Compson's remarks to Jason.

"But to have them think that... I didn't even know she had a report card. She told me last fall that they had quit using them this year. And now for Professo Junkin to call me on the telephone and tell me she's absent one more time, she will have to leave school. How does she do it? Where does she go? You're down town all day; you ought to see her if she stays on the streets." (135)

According to the theory of personality, Quentin II's position can be referred as id, while the superego tends to stop the id's desires, therefore, both Jason and Quentin II are always in conflict. One passage presenting the bitter conflict between Jason and Quentin II showing that both are rude.

"Come on," I says. "Put that cup in the sink, and come here."

"What you up to know, Jason?" Dilsey says.

"You may think you can run over me like you do your grandmother and everybody else," I says,

"I'm waiting for supper," I says.

"Hit's on the table," she says. "I done told you."

"Is it?" I says. "Excuse me. I didn't hear anybody come down."

"They ain't comin'," she says. "You come on and eat, so I can take something up to them."

"Are they sick?" I says. "What did the doctor say it was? Not Smallpox, I hope."

"Come on here, Jason," she says, "So I kin get done."

"All right," I says, raising the paper again. "I'm waiting for supper now."

I could feel her watching me at the door. I read the paper.

"Whut you want to act like this fer?" she says. "When you knows how much bother I has anyway."

"If Mother is any sicker than she was when she came down to dinner, all right," I says. "But as long as I am buying food for people younger than I am, they'll have to come down to the table to eat it. Let me know when supper's ready," I says, reading the paper again. I heard her climbing the stairs, dragging her feet and

grunting and groaning like they were straight up and three feet apart. I heard her at Mother's door, then I heard her calling Quentin, liked the door was locked, then she went back to Mother's room and then Mother went and talk to Quentin. Then came down stairs. I read the paper. (320)

Jason did not respect Dilsey who became the Compsons' housekeeper since Jason early childhood. He insisted that Dilsey, who has become an aged person, ascends the stairs and knocks from door to door to summon the

Jason had done something bad by stealing Quentin II's allowances. Caddy, Quentin II's mother had regularly sent her money. Jason only gave a small sum to Quentin II, while saving the rest in his room. Everytime he got a check from Caddy, he lied to his niece about the amount of the money.

"What do you want with money?" I says.

"She said she would," she says, "Give it to me. Please. Jason. I won't ever ask you anything again, if you'll give it to me yhis time."

"I'm going to, if you'll give me time," I says. I took the letter and the money order out and give her the letter. She reach for the money order, not hardly glancing at the letter.

"You'll have to sign it first," I says.

"How much is it?" she says.

"Read the letter," I says. "I reckon it'll say."

She read it fast, in about two looks.

"It don't say," she says, looking up. She dropped the letter on the floor. "How much is it?"

"It's ten dollars," I says.

"Ten dollars?" she says, staring at me.

"And you ought to be damn glad to get that," I says, "A kid like you. What are you in such a rush for money all of a sudden for?"

"Ten dollars?" she says, like she was talking in her sleep, "Just ten dollars?" She made a grab at the money order. "You're lying," she says. "Thief!" she says, "Thief!" (264)

Jason's stealing Quentin II's money may indicate that Jason was taking his revenge against Caddy from her promise several years ago. The promise that Caddy's husband, would appoint Jason as one of Herbert's bank employees. Now, he only got a job at a hardware store and has to take care of Quentin II.

From Jason's characteristics I have made a conclusion that Jason was not only rude and cruel by oppressing Quentin II but also by stealing her money as well. Natu-

"But you'll find out different. I'll give you ten seconds to put that cup down like I told you." She quit looking at me. She looked at Dilsey. "What time is it, Dilsey?" She says. "When it's ten seconds, you whistle. Just a half a cup. Dilsey, pl--"

I grabbed her by the arm. She dropped the cup. It broke on the floor and she jerked back, looking at me, but I held her arm. Dilsey got up from the chair.

"You, Jason," she says.

"You turn me loose," Quentin says. "I'll slap you." (227)

The passage also states that Mrs. Compson is helpless in controlling Quentin II. Only Jason can overcome Quentin II's misbehavior. We also learn that both Jason and Quentin II are rude. Everytime Jason forbids Quentin II from doing something, she hardly ever obey him.

It is pointed also that Jason is being strict because he wants everybody in the house to respect him. He has no affection toward his nigger servants, Dilsey and Luster. Jason would be angry when supper time or other meal time is being served late. There is no excuse for anybody in the house for not joining him during the meal; since he is the breadwinner of the family.

rally, Jason's behavior had caused the never-ending conflicts between Jason and Quentin II. The conclusion also holds the fact that Jason refers to superego.

BAB V
CONCLUSION