

I. *True History of the Kelly Gang* and Oedipus Complex: An Introduction

This paper attempts a psychoanalytic reading of Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang*, the second Booker Prize winning novel. This thesis is aimed at finding the Oedipus complex symptoms in the main character, Ned Kelly. It employs Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory of Oedipus complex symptoms. The main focus of the novel is Kelly's relationship with his mother. This thesis depicts Ned's relationship with his mother applying psychoanalytic theory.

Ned Kelly shows abnormal attachment towards his mother. His relation to his mother cannot be seen normal. So this novel contains oedipal theme and this novel can be read using psychoanalysis theory. Carolyn Bliss in his journal "Lies and Silences: Cultural Master plots and Existential Authenticity in Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang*" says:

A case might be made for an oedipal reading of Ned's character, since he believes he kills his father, who dies after serving a jail sentence for a crime Ned committed, and since his loyalty to his mother causes his mates to accuse him of loving her as other men love their 'donahs'.

(275)

His relationship with his mother is very sensual. There is a strong love bond between the son and the mother. Ned also seems the source of her emotional fulfillment. The novel focuses mainly on his emotional love with his mother. Besides his mother's love, his love towards Mary Hearn is also described in the novel. Xavier Pons in his journal "The Novelist as Ventriloquist: Autobiography and Fiction in Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang*" has said, "Mary Hearn's "love for Ned becomes the emotional heart of the novel." (46)

The psychoanalysis theory suggests that our emotional make-up and our relations to others are shaped by the love bond. Oedipus complex is a symptom in psychoanalysis. The term was taken from the name of a king in Greek mythology, "Oedipus ". The myth, which was arranged as play by Sophocles, told that Laius (king of Thebes) is told by an oracle that he would be killed by his son and so he leaves Oedipus out on the mountain to die. Oedipus is rescued by a shepherd and taken to the king of Corinth who raises him as a son. Oedipus, in turn, is told by the Delphic oracle that he will kill his father and marry his mother. Horrified by this, he flees Corinth. At crossed roads, he meets Laius, quarrels and kills him. At Thebes, he correctly answers the sphinx's question and wins the hands of Jocasta, his real mother, with whom he has two sons and two daughters. When at last the truth comes out, Jocasta hangs herself and Oedipus blinds himself with her golden brooch.

The symptom of Oedipus complex was borrowed by Sigmund Freud, a neurologist interested in finding an effective treatment for patients with neurotic or hysterical symptoms. It can be explained as a group of largely unconscious ideas and feelings which centre on the desire to possess the parent of the opposite sex and eliminate the parent of the same sex. According to Freud, the symptom of Oedipus complex is started in a phallic stage of human personality development. In this stage, child's concern is on genital area where possession of the phallus in boys and its absence in girls is a major concern of children. This tendency creates sexual desire toward the parent of the opposite sex. A boy is attracted sexually to his mother and doesn't want to share the mother with his father.

Oedipus complex symptoms has been common things in human life. Almost all men had passed this stage when they were young boys. Freud himself admitted on one of his letters sent out to his friend, Flies, on October 15, 1897, that he suffered

Oedipus complex. In conclusion, Oedipus complex symptoms have been parts of human personality development that will be passed. Nowadays, Oedipus complex which has been a psychoanalysis symptom on the development of human personality is not only existed in reality. The symptom is also existed in the characters of literary works, especially in novels. It is adopted by some writers to develop the character's personalities. So in the novel *True History of the Kelly Gang*, Peter Carey has portrayed Ned Kelly as an oedipal personality. Birns Nicholas in his journal *Contemporary World Literature: A World Not Yet Dead* writes:

Carey, however, is not using Kelly's emotional entanglement with his mother to mock him. The book at once paints a heroic portrait of Kelly while seeing him as vulnerable. It is no accident that in trying to understand Kelly's behavior, Carey turns to Freud rather than to Marx, even though Marx might be thought a better fit for a political insurgent. (190)

From Freud's view point, the self, or 'ego' is acquired through the relationship and excitable observation of fact and events specifically those observations in early childhood. Freud in '*Studies in Hysteria*' (1893-5) which was an outcome of collaboration with Josef Breuer considered patient's depression as a result of strong identification with parent. From Freud's view point, in our passionate devotion to others especially father or mother and intense sexual relationship the fact of transference is an influential element of individual experience.

Freud relates the idea of the self in connection with human sexuality. He finds the roots of desire in early cordial relationship between the infant and his mother. In those early days human child is totally dependent on the others. Consequently, relationship with other is significant to the formation of his subjectivity. In this time,

child's demands are totally under the influence of pleasure principle. It is a time when the child seeks for a special kind of pleasure. Freud remarks:

In this way one makes the first step towards the introduction of the reality principle which is to dominate future development. This differentiation, of course, serves the practical purpose of enabling one to defend oneself against sensations of unpleasure which one actually feels or with which one is threatened. In order to fend off certain unpleasurable excitations arising from within, the ego can use no other methods than those which it uses against unpleasure coming from without, and this is the starting-point of important pathological disturbances. (4467)

The novel depicts the psychological aspects of Kelly's life and his feelings about his mother. His relationship with his mother is passionate. He always tries to remain near her at the cost of the outside world. At the unconscious level, he is attracted towards his mother. He shows Bruce Woodcock in his book says, "Ned's relationship with his mother is equally complicated, and classically Oedipal. (151)

The individual psyche of the characters is portrayed in detail. The majority of *True History* is Ned's letter of self-explanation to his daughter whom he has never seen. It depicts crucial concepts of self, the Oedipus personality and character. It describes an interesting model of human subjectivity and concerns with the motives underlying human behavior.

Ned Kelly was a bushranger of Irish Australian origin born in June 1854/55 in Victoria. His father, Red Kelly, was an Irish convict who had clashed with Victorian Police when he was a young man. Ned was brought up in Beveridge which was situated north of Melbourne. He was baptized and later as a boy, enrolled for some

basic schooling. In this novel, Ned loses his father and is abandoned by his mother to become a Highway man and killer. Ned was the eldest of eight Children. His father shipped along with his mother to Australia during the Great Transportation. He worked very hard to start a new life in Australia. But the quality land was in the hand of numbers of people. When Ned was twelve years old his father died. Ned falls in love with Mary Hearn who has a baby from George King. At that time Ned begins his relationship with Mary. George King is the husband of Ned's mother. In that way, Mary Hearn is equivalent to his mother.

We can see a very abnormal connection between him and his mother. This relationship is because of the oedipal situation, and thus Ned accepts his mother's desires without doubt. He starts his life with an immense love for the mother. In fact, for all of us the situation is to some extent the same. We experience a deep anxiety in case of separation from her. Thus, it is very crucial to understand this relationship because we start life within it and live our lives through it. The portrait of Ned's self or his "ego" becomes clear to us through his relationships in early infancy and childhood. Kelly is also obsessed with the theme of rebellion and the aggressive conduct towards the father figure. Rebellion is a refusal of the law of the father. Freud called this concept 'primal horde.' From his view point, in the earlier gathering a father prohibited his sons from making a sexual relationship with the female people in the family.

Carey's Ned possesses instincts which are grounded in the pleasure principle. The principal aim of an individual is to gain pleasure. According to Freud, the stress and restriction between the pleasure principle and the reality principle are very intense and powerful. The point is that he reduced to his natural primitive instincts only because of his circumstances.

The novel in its characterization of Ned shows an inner anxiety between psychological desire of a woman and inner subjectivity. Exposing Kelly's love and loyalty for his mother represents Kelly as a warm, loving son who acted out of need and necessity. John Updike in his review says:

True History of the Kelly Gang is most moving and persuasive where, presumably, little record exists-Ned Kelly's childhood and the strong impression his doughty, sexy, hard-riding mother made upon him. His Oedipal attachment is given a wry qualification on the first page. (1)

According to Freud, oedipus complex is a problem occurred in a young boy in phallic stage. In this stage, a young boy is attracted sexually toward his mother and would like to place his mother as the object of his sexual desire. In the development, he doesn't want to share his mother's love with his father. He wants to own his mother completely. As he considers his father as the rival who has the same object of desire, he is afraid of his father castration. Ned Kelly realizes that his father is much stronger than him and he imagines that his father will castrate him because he tries to seize his father's own. His anxiety of his father castration drives him to repress his desire and starts to attract his mother's attention by identifying his father. This identifying is in purpose to prove his skillfulness toward his mother that he could do everything that his father could do and even better than his father. On this way, he tries to fulfill the demands of everything for having similarities with his father. The other result of Oedipus complex is that a young boy is attracted to his mother and posits his father as a rival, and very sensitive by disparagement statements about size, weakness, inability, and his lack of experience. Not only those things happened in a boy with Oedipus complex symptoms, but in his later life he will try to find a woman with some similarities with his mother in personalities.

The Oedipus complex symptoms is a common thing happens when a young boy passes the phallic stage. If he could successfully pass this stage, he will just identify his father characteristics and satisfy by his mother praises for everything he has done and for having similarities with his father. But, if he is fixated, he will continue to develop his personality by its symptoms until he finds another thing as the substitution of her mother figure of his object of desire. Furthermore, the orientation of Oedipus complex research may conclude as follows:

If a person comes to identify his father, strives to be like him and internalizes him – his beliefs, values interests, and attitudes.

If a person posits his father as a rival.

If a person is attracted sexually towards his mother.

If a person always tries to find a woman who has similarities with his mother.

Peter Carey and His Life

The True History of the Kelly Gang is written by award winning author and twice winner of the Booker Prize, Peter Carey. He was born in 1943 in the small town of Bacchus Marsh in Victoria. He is the most distinguished and celebrated contemporary novelist of Australia. His novel has been studied from different viewpoints. He blends realism with fantasy in his fictions. His fictions are about fantasies of sex and violence. These fantasies remind the sense of defeat during childhood. There is a sense of deep frustration and dissatisfaction with these kinds of fantasies, apparent in many of Carey's fiction. Carey described his childhood as the youngest child as very happy and blessed yet carries a deep-seated sense he was somehow an orphan. In an interview with Andreas Gail, Carey expresses:

Setting out to write *True History*, I wanted to make something really beautiful, something that had never existed in the world before, with sentences that had grown out of our soil even though they had never been written or even thought before. And, of course, I wanted to look at the past, not to escape, but to illuminate our present. (4)

From 1948 to 1953 Carey attended the Bacchus Marsh State School. After pursuing his studies as a boarder at Geelong Grammar School, in 1961 he enrolled for a science degree course at Monash University in Melbourne, which he did not complete. Carey was sent to Geelong Grammar to board at the age of 10, an experience he thinks "must have been traumatic.

True History of the Kelly Gang is a novel about passion, love and desire. Carey investigates the conflict in Ned's character. Carey uses the Greek model of incest to depict Ned's unconscious desire for his mother. So he describes the emotional life of Ned Kelly

II. Ned Kelly as an Oedipal Personality: Analysis

Ned Kelly and Oedipus Complex

Ned Kelly was born in Victoria colony, Australia to an ex-convict father and free settler mother. Ned was the first born of eight children and lived in a poor condition. His family tried unsuccessfully to make their living as small farmers, called "selectors" under the new legislations of the 1860s, but found themselves oppressed by poor agricultural conditions and the power of the large land holders. His father dies young. He spends much of his time with his mother. So he was getting closer to his mother better than his father. His father Red Kelly was at one time arrested for killing and skinning a neighbor's calf. Sequentially, Red was convicted and without having the twenty-five pound money option to settle his fine, he was sentenced to six months in prison. He died when Ned was about twelve years old. The sentencing of his father left him with his mother and being the eldest carried the need to take care of the family's needs.

Ned shows strong affection to his mother. He had started his life with an immense love for the mother. He always praised her. He compares her hair with the crow's feathers. He likes her appearance very much. He is always attracted towards her body. From the age of the twelve, on the death of his father, he was passionately concerned for her welfare, and became enraged when other men lovers showed no consideration for her. He describes her as a queen. He likes her figure so much that he describes her dark-haired and slender. He says she is the prettiest figure he's ever seen. He describes no other woman as beautifully as her. His mother was his attraction. All his life he tried to stand beside her. He was more careful for his mother than himself. Whenever her mother wept, he used to run towards her and kiss her. As if she was his girlfriend, he took a great care of her. He was so attached to her that

even his stepfather calls Ellen his girlfriend." (233) In contrast to his mother, he has hostile relationship with his father. He never spoke politely with his father. Instead, he wanted him to be out of sight.

Among the other children he was the one who enjoyed her never-ending love and attention. Being the eldest one, he was the most responsible man who took care of the family. Of all the sons, he became his mother's favourite. He is ready to fulfill his mother's wish. He sticks with his mother and becomes like her shadow. In one sense, he became his mother's boy. He was very sensitive and delicate towards her. In order to help his mother, he left the school. His attention seemed always to be paid to her, when he was together with his mother. Moreover, they shared each other's feelings which are deeply hidden in their mind. They also shared happiness and sorrow with each other. In his eyes, she was elegant, attractive and beautiful young girl. Ned Kelly says:

Mother were still a handsome woman her hair as glossy as a crow's feather's the light of the hearth dancing in the sheen. She could of gone to sleep but instead she were brushing her hair again and when 200 strokes were done she started braiding and when the braid was woven she pulled it into a bun and now her head felt tight as a drum and she could not go to bed. (105)

When he is sold to Harry Power, he became homesick. He couldn't make any contacts with other girls because of his extreme love towards his mother. He could not maintain normal relation with other girls. In his life his mother is the only woman he really loves. He just wanted to work to please his mother. He always wanted to stay not far away from her. For Ellen Ned makes every effort to free her from Melbourne jail. He accepts his love for his mother. He says he loves her deeply. In many respects,

Ellen seems his true love. Peter Carey in his interview with Paul Morton states, "Anybody would say he had a close relationship with his mother, and his mother was a very feisty woman. And this is a relationship that has not been widely examined."

(1)

He is subjected to do things and actions compelled by his devotion towards her. He shows great attention to her and even when he leaves for a long time, he returns back hurriedly to protect his mother. He always worried about his mother's feelings. When his father was sentenced in jail, he took up the role of caring and comfort in his mother. His inability to protect her drives him to near madness and to risk not only his life but those of his gang. Ian Jones in his book *Ned Kelly: A Short Life* states:

His relationship with his mother is one of emotional dependency. His relationship with women are non-existent until the sudden, passionate affair with Mary Hearn that makes him a father avowing marriage – only for mother and child to disappear with equal suddenness and with hardly any lasting impact on Ned.(3)

The boy wants to take his mother for his own possessions, at the same time, regarding father as their enemy and wanting to take place in the position of father. He continually challenges himself to be the man of the family and proves his strength. Because of his Oedipus complex, he strives to prove he is stronger and more attractive than his father. Freud thinks that boys have a kind of psychology of loving mother and hating father from childhood. Because of mother's preference for sons, boys produce a special kind of tender feeling towards their mother. Freud says:

The enlightening information he was received has in fact awakened the memory-traces of the impressions and wishes of his early infancy, and

these have led to a reactivation in him of certain mental impulses. He begins to desire his mother herself in the sense with which he has recently become acquainted, and to hate his father anew as rival who stands in the way of this wish; he comes, as we say, under the dominance of the Oedipus complex. (2323)

He was dependent on his mother emotionally. He was driven by oedipal impulses. Since his earliest childhood he has an extreme devotion to his mother. But he cannot fulfill his desire because between him and his mother is his father. He thought that his father was more powerful than him .So he repressed his desire towards his mother because of the fear of his father. Because of the repression, Kelly unwittingly betrayed his own father by stealing a calf and sends him to the grave. On the other hand, as his mother sends him away from her, he cannot have his mother's love. He tried to repress his incestuous desire for his mother. Because of his repression, he becomes homosexual.

He has been associated with homosexuality. He wore perfumes and danced with men. He dressed as women and he also wore women's dresses. In the scene that follows Kelly's first encounter with Hart, Kelly's boxing match with Wild Wright, the motif of cross-dressing is extended further. Before the boxing match, Kelly exhibits some confusion about the silk boxing shorts he is asked to wear, which he mistakes at first for all green silk handkerchief, and then all pair of ladies' scanties. Such cross-dressing of clothing is present at various points throughout the novel. Homosexuality is also hinted when he suspected that Bill Frost would rub his private parts.

When Kelly is presented with the silk sash from the Shelton family, a gift for saving Dick Shelton, he mistakes it for "women's stuff" and thinks it is a dress to give his mother. George King's boots are described as having higher heels than a Cuban

more like a fancy woman's shoe. When Ned encounters Steve Heart, they exchanged sexually charged nature. He writes:

I ain't sissy he repeated I had a fascination about him I suppose and when he announced he would put his horse in my paddock. I did not prevent him. I kept my hands in my pockets as he lay [the saddle] across the fence. I'm a lady clare Boy he said. I put my hands deeper in the pockets. Wisely he came no closer I'll tell you what I am said he. That were a door I did not wish to open. (235)

Kelly's physical gesture of putting his hands in his pockets is both a signal of a sexual gesture. Sergeant O'Neil chortles laughs seeing Red Kelly dressed in rose-sprigged woman's garb. He intended to demoralize Edward Ned Kelly and his little brother Jem, which enhances its implications of travestism and homosexual copulation. In Kelly's first meeting with Mary Hearn he says that he has desired her so very badly that he had little time to think of Steve Heart. It means his homosexual feelings are replaced by Mary Hearn. Marija Pericic in his PhD. thesis *Myth, Memory and Misunderstanding: Irish –Australian Identity in Peter Carey's True History of the Kelly Gang* says:

The Kelly children take the discovery of the women's dress with roses on its hem that John Kelly had been seen wearing, as a shameful admission of his sexual perversion. Sergeant O'Neil also takes this view, telling the young Ned and his brother Jim that he had seen their father in the dress, and taunting them that 'he was off to be serviced by his husband. (5)

Ned Kelly's homosexuality can be seen when he meets Dan Kelly. His brother Dan tried to knock his legs out from under him and wrestled him onto the ground. They

rolled around in the dust. Sigmund Freud views that because of the repression a person becomes homosexual. Freud says:

A child's love for his mother cannot continue to develop consciously any further, it succumbs to repression. The boy represses his love for his mother: he puts himself in her place, identifies himself with her, and takes his own person as a model in whose likeness he chooses the new objects of his love. In this way, he has become a homosexual that he has in fact done is to slip back to auto-erotism; for the boys whom he now loves as he grows up one after all only substitutive figures and rivals of himself in childhood –boy whom he loves in the way in which his mother loved him when he was a child. (2275)

Kelly too experiences sublimation. As he cannot fulfill his sexual desire for his mother as it is socially unacceptable he instead delves into the artistic world. He starts to write. Ned's artistic world is what Freud called sublimation. Through sublimation he tries to channelize his energy towards his writing in order to escape the socially unacceptable norm of wanting to sleep with his mother. Sublimation is the process in which an instinct is expressed without showing a relation to its original aim. He has tried to transfer his abnormal love and passion to acceptable behaviors. Sublimation has become his channel to change his oedipal emotions into reasonable behaviors. When Kelly first writes, it is not erased on a slate but he becomes happy. Because of that he is distracted from the attempted seduction of his mother by the sergeant. The sergeant sharpens his pencil and acts very fatherly towards Kelly. He is fascinated with his pen. Kelly understands the power of the written word. Then he focuses on becoming ink monitor at his school, where his role would be as master of the implements of writing. He also studies Lorna Doone. At Kelly's boxing match with

Blind Wright, Joe Byrne approaches him and tries to strike up a friendship. He gives Kelly a copy of the novel.

Ned tries to lessen his burdens of incestuous feelings by writing about them. He tries to do it through conscious and unconscious discourses which are evident in patterns of his letter to his unseen daughter. He thinks that his desires towards his mother are his sin. So it has to be expressed in another channel. So it is expressed in the form of art.

He writes Jerilderie letter. George O'Brien in his review *Down Under* says:

In the long run, his mistakes pile up to convey Ned's urgency to get story told. But they also gloss his sense of self and the nature of his presence, serve his urgency to get the story told. And in the short term, they gloss his sense of self, the nature of his presence, and even his male awareness. In addition, the errors underwrite the passage's odd sense of thriving through loss. (5)

Sublimation is the unconscious mental process by which instinctual, socially unacceptable feelings are transformed to socially acceptable feelings. If the ego can properly channel the unacceptable energy into socially acceptable forms, sexual drives are channelized in other endeavors, such as creative and artistic world. In the same way, Ned tried to channel all his emotions into something socially valued. We can see his attempts to attain sublimation. He has really worked hard to sublimate his desire and passion to writing. His quotes "Such is life" towards the end of the novel refers to the sublimality. Bruce Woodcock in his book *Peter Carey: Contemporary World Writes* says: "His desperation to get his mother released fuels Ned's increasingly frantic attempts to write and be heard." As Carey indicates, "one can think of this story as being all to do with a mother and her son." (152)

Freud says when we cannot achieve our desires; we vest our excess energy onto other activities. According to him, nothing can be repressed. If anything is tried to repress, it comes out in any forms. He calls it sublimation. He says that it is a kind of defense mechanism. He views that it leads the person towards maturity and civilization. He says that sublimation is the transference of sexual energy into any physical act. Freud explains:

Psychoanalysis can also show what precious contributions to the formations of character are made by these asocial and perverse instincts in the child, if they are not subjected to repression but are diverted from their original aims to more valuable ones by the process known as 'sublimation. (2825)

It can be said because of his extreme devotion towards his mother, he cannot leave his mother. He does not follow Mary to San Francisco where he was supposed to be. Mary left him with his own mother who was in jail. After Mary leaves, Ned has nothing to do but return his devotion to his mother and tries to free her from jail. He dies while trying to gain release for his mother, Ellen Quinn, from the Melbourne Gaol. After the paths that Ned chooses all through his life hinge on his mother. She gave him no choice. Kelly is tireless in his effort to help her and dies in a vain attempt to free her from prison.

Ned Kelly's Relationship with His Mother

Ellen Kelly is an Irish immigrant. Her husband died when Ned was twelve years old. She had many lovers and children by many numerous fathers. She had an unhappy marriage. She had many lovers. She became pregnant to them. She had eight children altogether. Kelly is the center of the son's world. Julie Hale in her review *True History of the Kelly Gang: Australian outlaw takes the stage* says: "Ellen remains the center of the son's affections even after she sells him at the age of 15 to a bushranger named Harry Power." She is much pained throughout her marriage and finds her only comfort in Ned Kelly. So her relationship with him is as a survival unit. Ned spent his most of the time with her than with his father which resulted in their close relationship. She became upset when Ned is out. They seemed like partners in some respects. Because of his extreme love towards her, he has jealousy towards his father. In her defense, he is willing to steal horses. It seems that Ned Kelly is her true lover. He admires her so much. He also drops out of school to help her to take care of the farm. Kelly says "My hands was blistered bleeding I could chop down 5 trees in one day". (57)

To find his oedipal relationship with his mother, we should delve into his infancy to see his Oedipus complex symptoms. During his childhood, he used to follow her crying. From that early moment we can find his extreme devotion to his mother. He had enjoyed warm relationship with his mother. On one occasion, Ned's mother wept when she was forced to desparate a cake that was baked for her husband. He ran to her side to comfort her but she did not even notice he was there. When she ignored Ned's attempt to console her, Ned felt inadequate. From this point on Ned tried very hard to care for his mother in the absence of his father. At this stage, love provides the vital emotional nourishment that the infant needs to survive and grow. To receive the

mother's love, for the infant, means to be alive. But at the time, the ego also fears that its loved mother will disappear. Thus, from the beginning, the ego is faced with a difficult problem; its ultimate aim is to have a good mother to establish a good and enduring relation with her. Therefore, he built a warm and harmonic relationship with her. He followed her thinking that he would protect her if anything wrong befalls on her. It is all out of his love towards his mother.

In the phallic stage, a boy is attracted towards his mother and hates the father figure. When he was just three years old he was conscious if anybody would harm his mother. When an English man was at his home, he became fearful that he might destroy his mother. So he became fearful with the Englishmen. He remained besides her fearing that he might do any harm to her. Ned Kelly says: "I cried put to her but she did not hear so I followed her skirts across the muddy yard. (9) Wherever she went, he used to go there in a hurry. Shahram Raesi Sistani in his journal *True History of the Kelly Gang: A Psychoanalytic Reading* says:

We see him at the age of three when he is accompanying his mother at the beverage Police Camp. He is introduced to us as an emergent subject. It is exactly at this early stage of acquiring subjectivity that we can see a close connection between mother and child which later on his life results in his relentless confusion concerning who he is and what he does. (970)

Oedipal complex is a problem occurred in a young boy in phallic stage. When the child enters the phallic stage, he falls victim to Oedipus complex. His first object of love becomes his mother. She becomes a subject to not only his love but also his erotic thoughts. He wants her for himself, making the father an opponent, which the boy will hate and try to get rid of. According to Freud, during four or five years old, a

child enters a phallic stage when the penis becomes the primary object of gratification. A young boy is attracted sexually to his mother as the object of desire. It happened to Ned when his love toward his mother was growing bigger. Freud says:

With the Phallic phase and in the course of it the sexuality of early childhood reaches its height and approaches its dissolution. Thereafter, boys and girls have different histories. Both have begun to put their intellectual activity at the services of sexual researches: both start off from the premiss of universal presence of the penis. But now the paths of the sexes diverge. The boy enters the oedipal phase; he begins to manipulate his penis and simultaneously have phantasies of carrying out some sort of activity with it in relation to his mother, till, owing to the combined effect of a threat of castration and the sight of the absence of a penis in females, he experiences the greatest trauma of his life. (4965)

An Oedipal personality becomes very curious towards his mother. Ned Kelly shows the same syndromes. Since his early stage he was attracted towards his mother's youngness. He would care her rough expression. He would inspect her closely and takes care of her small details. The oedipal complex syndrome is most common in children who remain most intimate with the mother. There is no doubt that Ned is continually exposed to his mother's relationships, whether they be between her and Ned's father or between her and one of her suitors. We know that the mother had a lot of lovers, and we know the size of the hut they lived in. We know there wouldn't be a lot of privacy in that hut. Because of the narrowness of the hut, the children were compelled to hear what his mother had done. The financial state of Ned's family only allows them a small hut with a sheet to separate the children from the parents. He

used to stay awake at night to listen his parent's conversation. He himself admires that it is a frightening sentiments for him to hear his mother speak such rough words. He thinks his mother is emotional for him. He searches all her mother's secrets. Kelly himself admits that a mother could not have secrets in a settler's hut. It indicates that he knows all the secrets of her.

Ned also mentions the bed of his mother. It reminds the bed of Jocasta. He dreams of his mother even in jail. He wishes to be alone with her. He tries to prove his masculinity to his mother as well as outside the family. On one occasion, when he is unable to see his mother's face, he saw her back. He inspects her back out of sheer curiosity. He describes the moment as a lustful boy describes his girlfriend. He compares her back with a shivering cat. His curiosity to his mother causes his mates to accuse him of loving her as other men loves her 'donahs'. (275) Ned says:

I saw the pearly cord going from her stomach down to the dark my eyes and cut and It were just as the old scissors crunched into the flesh that Maggie led Dr. May into our hut and there he saw a 11.yr. old Irish boy assisting at his sisters' birth. He seen the earthen floor the soot black scissors the frightened children peering out from behind the curtained beds and all this he would feel free to gossip about so every child at Avenel School would soon get the false idea I seen my mother's naked bottom. (31)

He seems to be curious to see his mother's body. While his mother was giving birth to his sister, he wanted to look at her. But his mother did not allow him. She told him to keep his back turned. He, like an exactly romantic lover, watches every physical movement of his mother, enjoys her dressing up with plenty of delight and sensual pleasure. He tries to see what his mother has done secretly. He says "Cut she said I

saw the pearly cord going from her stomach down to the dark I shut my eyes and cut [.]" (31) This event gives cause to a false rumor that he had seen his mother's naked bottom. On hearing this he becomes humiliated. Once when he was watching whom he thinks is his mother riding, Ned is thrilled to behold her back. He becomes delightful to see his mother's skirts rucked up to show her knees. Marija Pericic in his Ph.D. thesis entitled *Ghost of Ned Kelly: Peter Carey's True History and the Myth that haunts us* states, "The oedipal implications of this sequence are clear, with Kelly's reference to his mother's visible knees and his description of her as 'thrilling to behold'." (70) He is curious about his mothering body. Out of his curiosity, he follows her. Trevor Byrne in his book *The Problem of the Past: The treatment of history in the novels of Peter Carey and David Malouf* states, "The book manages to retain the irresistible drama of Fitzpatrick's desire for the fourteen year old Kate and integrate into the curiously ambivalent relationship Ned has with his mother." (200)

According to Freud, a child has a burning and tormenting curiosity to see the female body. He feels happy and comfortable when she touched him. It is no doubt that Ned Kelly spends more of his time with his mother than his father. He loved his mother very much. He liked her appearance since his early age. He cares about her figure. Freud says:

The little boy may show the most undisguised sexual curiosity about his mother, he may insist upon sleeping beside her while she is dressing or may even make actual attempts at seducing her, as his mother will often notice and report with amusement, all of which puts beyond doubt that the erotic nature of his tie with the mother. (3399)

The warm relationship between him and his mother is strengthened by the oedipal situation, and thus Ned accepts his mother's desires and standards without doubt. He

clings to his mother emotionally. At times, his relationship with his mother is disturbingly passionate. He attempted to win her love in many ways. When he returned from a journey through bushfire, she was waiting him passionately. Ned is also surprised how she knew he was coming. As if he had met his girlfriend, he said that she had put her heart across in her. For her he was a darling boy. She feels relieved when he is with her. He was very fond of his mother. She is also very fond of him. She always expected something from him. From Ned she expects that he loves her more than other sons. He became pleased when she talked about the marriage bed. When his father goes away, he calls her treasure. The term 'treasure' lends strong sexual connotations. The term 'treasure' in the Freudian symbology refers to someone who is loved in dreams or in conscious life.

Like her lover, he is always conscious about her hair style. He was attracted towards her new bright dress which he finds too girlish for her age. When he asks his mother about George King, she says that she can't marry him until Ned is present there. Ned also envies him as he is as young as himself. Moreover, Ellen also chooses her husband who is similar in age with her son. He also keeps sensual feelings towards his mother. He thought that his mother would be pleased watching his naked body. He always liked to kiss her. He becomes pleased when he can hold his mother's hand and becomes happy when she puts her arm around his shoulder. He wants to have his father out of the way to get rid of him, so that he might be alone with his beautiful mother. Moreover, he takes interest in her stories which are related to sex. In this way, his mother becomes like his sexual idol. He admits that as he could not see her face, he saw 'her back shiver like a cat with a ringworm.' (39) Once when his mother followed him inside the hut, Ned said that she turned her back towards him. Looking at mother's back is his sexual attraction towards her.

He presupposes that his mother also has sexual feelings towards him as he says that she kept her feelings between her and the fire. He admits that he has committed some grievous offence against his family. He discloses that he wished to hate his own father when he was a child. When his mother pretended not to see him, he became furious at her calling her unnatural mother. According to him, a son is important to a mother than a sister. Because of his love with towards his mother, he chooses the girl who is similar to his mother. He chooses s girlfriend who was already a girlfriend to his father. Mary Hearn is equivalent to his mother. In this way, he fulfills his desire to sleep with his mother.

Moreover, he takes interest in the novel, *Lorna Doone*, in which a boy like him has become fatherless. There are many similarities between the boy and him. To take interest in a character who is fatherless indicates his psychology of being very close to his mother not hindered by his father so that he could get herself all to himself. When his mother gives birth of his sister, he informs about it to his father from far away. He does not like to go to the place where his father is kept. Instead he says that it was his father's solitary gaol. Carolyn Bliss finds oedipal character in Ned Kelly. He believes that Ned Kelly is too loyal to his mother. He calls her young and the prettiest figure as if he is describing his own girlfriend. He says, using a striking image, "Shush shush said I it were only as I had her that I knew how deep I loved her; we was grown together like two branches of an old wisteria." (232)

On the other hand, she was full of laughter when she is in his company. She also kisses her son to comfort her. In the absence of him, she feels very restless. She behaves as if he was her only son. She always expected something from him. From Ned she expects that he loves her more than other sons. Even if he says that Dan is also her son she does not like to talk about him. Ned himself admits that all his life he

had stood by her. He takes her in his arms completely. He becomes sick when his mother obeys George King. Frank Molly in his journal *Romantic Ireland's Dead and Gone*; Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang* says:

Moreover, whilst more accounts do mention the affection between son and mother this is further developed as though Ned wanted to get across to his daughter a message of filial obligation. From age of twelve on the death of his father, he is passionately concerned for his mother's welfare, and he becomes enraged when other men, lovers usually lack consideration for her. He is even teased by mainly types for treating her like a kind of girlfriend. (122)

While he was still a child, he had developed a special affection for his mother. He regards she belongs to him only. He used to take interest on the stories related to incest. They always argue about horses which are the symbol of sex, blood and breeding. David Coad states: "The one love of Ned's life, as Carey demonstrates, was his mother." (2) Ned shows great attention to his mother. No matter how hard he tries to get away, even when he is gone for years, Ned is always forcing himself back to the harsh life in Avenel in order to protect his mother. Ned admits the source of family loyalty, his love for Ellen Kelly. Their subject of discussion was also sexual. They would argue about blood and breeding. He says that blood and breeding is the common subject of their conversation. An oedipal boy is very fond of his mother. He becomes sexually attracted towards his mother. He has unconscious attraction towards her. Freud believes that children naturally have sexual drives and the first focus of these feelings is the parent of the opposite sex. Freud writes:

The sexual instincts are at the outset attached to the satisfaction of the ego-instincts; only later do they become independent of these, even we

have indication of that original attachment in the fact that the persons who are concerned with child's feeding, care, and protection becomes his earliest sexual objects: that is to say, in the first instance his mother or a substitute of her. (2942)

As he had an emotional dependence on his mother, he did not want to separate with his mother. It seems that he suffered from the feelings of fear of abandonment. So he never liked to be far from her in his early stage of life. He was totally dependent on his mother. Because of his fear of abandonment he wants more attention from her. Even after hugging her and kissing her, he says that she couldn't feel that he had been there.

He stayed in Australia out of loyalty to his mother but at the cost of his relationship with Mary and his own life. His separation anxiety becomes comical as he struggles to hold onto his position as head of the family. His struggles over his dead father's chair to remain with his mother. But he always fears the separation with his mother. When he was far away from home, he looked forward to getting home as soon as earlier because he did not want his mother alone. He tries to write the final farewell with his mother. As he was obsessed with the fear of separation, he had already imagined the final moments about the separation with his mother. From his very earliest childhood memories, Kelly displays symptoms of having suffered separation trauma. Because of separation, he is hysteric and obsessional. He is more vulnerable and fragile. He suffers from the Oedipus complex in his regressive drive to regain the attachments to his mother. We can also say that because of his fear of separation anxiety, he drops out of school. Later, his apprenticeship to Harry Power caused a temporary separation from his mother. His mother felt that Ned needs to

distance himself from his mother to grow up and so he was sent away. She sold him to an ex-suitor, the bushranger Harry Power.

A child who is securely attached to his mother becomes unhappy when she disappears. He goes through feelings of separation anxiety. They believe that their survival is dependent on mother. Because of his fear of anxiety of separation, he always follows her. Most of the time, he is threatened by the mother's disappearance. As soon as his mother approached near him, he hurried beside her. In his childhood when he was taking the warmth of the fire, he becomes fearful with the Englishman thinking that he would take his mother away from him. He feels insecure in front of him. Because of his fear, he thinks that the Englishman is the most powerful man. At that moment he gives more attention to the man than to the fire. He thought that he was so powerful that he could destroy his mother.

His feelings of psychological separation from her are most evident in his writing about Annie Kelly's and Alex Gunn's wedding party. Kelly positions him in the kitchen door so that he can watch his mother dancing. He is fixated on his mother. There are incidents and themes between Ned and Mary that emphasizes Ned's fixation with his mother. He writes:

From this doorway I also could observe my mother in her bright red dress with bustle she were dancing with a ferret faced fellow in a checked tweed coat I refer to that ignoramus Bill Frost. My mother were v. bright and happy until she spied me watching. Then she abandoned her Englishman and sought me out. Come said she lifting the hem of her fancy dress and drawing me out through the steamy slippery kitchen into the hotel vegie garden where my Uncle Wild Pat the Dubliner were lying blotto under the tank stand. (75)

The portrait of Ned's self or his 'ego' becomes clear to us through his relationships in early infancy and childhood. He has got a fear of abandonment and maternal deprivation. The absence of mother's love hinders a child to have a meaningful life in a meaningful world. This is actually a normal stage of early infancy; however the mother fails to convince the child that she really loves him as a person, then it becomes enormously difficult for the child to maintain an emotional relationship with her on a personal basis. Adam Prentis in his PhD thesis *Ned Kelly: Aspects of Myth and Manhood in Texts from three Generations* says:

A reader of Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang* might easily see a strong connection between teenage Ned's abrupt separation from his mother and his strange and unpleasant under the guidance of Harry Power with the traditions of Aboriginal tribes. (15)

An anxiety appears in a child out of separation from the mother. As the child thinks that his mother fulfills all his needs. So in the absence of her, he becomes helpless. As a matter of fact, for all of us the situation is to some extent the same. We experience a deep anxiety in case of separation from her. Thus, it is very crucial to understand this relationship because we start life within it and live our lives through it. Freud says:

Only a few of the manifestations of anxiety in children are comprehensible to us, and we must confine our attention to them. They occur for instance, where a child is alone, or in the dark, or when it finds itself with an unknown person instead of one to whom it is used—such as its mother. Those three instances can be reduced to a single condition—namely, that of missing someone who is loved and longed for. (4292)

He knows well that his unacceptable emotional feelings towards his mother cannot be fulfilled. The society does not accept it. So it needs to be repressed his love towards her. He represses his love. Because of his repression, he becomes homosexual. But his love towards her cannot be eliminated. Instead it remains in his unconscious mind. He rather becomes fixated on her. He always carries her image in his mind. He cannot leave the colony but confront the enemies declaring "I cannot abandon my mother Mary you know that." (370) He declares that the only person he cannot forget is his mother. He always carried the everlasting image of his mother. Lyn Innes writes: "When she urges Ned to choose life by leaving the country with her, rather than death by staying in Australia with his mother, he chooses to remain with his mother". (92)

After the death of his father, he has no fear with his father. He felt no threat from his father. Instead he feels secure with his mother. Moreover, he seems to have fixated with his mother and because of this he is unable to keep normal relationship with Mary Hearn. As a result, his relationship with Mary Hearn is reduced to friendship. It seems that Ned had Oedipus complex because of abnormal maternal love. He admits that his disposition changes towards his mother. He was so devoted to her that he vows he would never betray her. Ellen also loves him more than other sons. She hugs him more than other sons. Ned was also concentrated on her. He was always curious that how his mother reacts. He admits that he remained most of the time with her. He cannot go with Mary Hearn to San Francisco. He fulfills the role he has been cast in since his childhood. He had promised to himself that he would not betray her. His fixation can be proved from the following. He writes:

All my life I had stood by her when I were 10 I killed Murray's heifer so she would have meat when our poor da died I worked beside her I were the eldest son I left school at 12 yr. of age so she might farm I

went with Harry Power that she might have gold when there were no food I laboured when there were no money I stole and when the worthless Frost & King closed round her like yellow dingoes on a chained up bitch I sought to protect her. (275)

They told each other their feelings which were deeply hidden in their minds. The woman who would stay with him in his mind was only his mother. In his life, his mother is the woman that he really loves. He loves his mother best. He sees no other woman as beautiful as his mother. Morag Fraser in his book reviews says:

Carey's Ned is a boy too attached to his mother. 'Hubba bubba Mumma is your girl' is his brother Daunt's taunt. The oedipal bond is a deft narrative device –it explains some of Ned's moves. With his mother still imprisoned, knows his duty—to get money, see his mother free, and assume responsibility for the family—to stick around rather than lightening out for the territory. (1)

He was deeply attached to her. He feels that he cannot live without her. As he is the eldest one, he is the focus of his mother's attention. His mother also feels hurt at his going away from him. He has passionate relation with her. He becomes so intimate with Ellen Kelly that his relationship with her seems sexual. According to Freud an oedipal personality finds the image of his mother more pleasing. Freud says:

Psychological considerations of a deeper kind justify the assertion that a man who has become homosexual in this way remains unconsciously fixated to the mnemonic image of his mother. By repressing his love for his mother he preserves it in his unconscious and from now on remains faithful to her. (2274)

Mary Hearn as His Mother's Substitute

Ned does not have many opportunities to meet with girls. He does not show any attractions towards the girls. He grows up naive and inexperienced in romance, focusing on his 'mainly' role of protector and provider. Mary is the only woman with whom Ned makes contact. She was born in San Francisco. There are many incidents and themes between Ned and Mary that emphasize Ned's fixation with his mother. Ultimately he makes plans to escape the colony with her after she becomes pregnant with his child.

He is attracted towards Mary Hearn because he sees many similarities between his mother and Mary Hearn. He finds some qualities of his mother in Mary Hearn. She has some qualities as his mother has which reminded him his mother. For him both of them are slender and beautiful. Because of that Ned becomes able to replace his object of desire from his mother to her. Ned thinks that she is beautiful like his mother. When Mary takes a gift from him, she brushes it against her cheek. He compares it with his mother touching a red rose to her face. Moreover, while he sleeps with Mary Hearn first the first time, he remembers on wondering whose milk he is stealing while sucking her breast. He certainly means his mother's milk. Meantime, he discovers that Mary Hearn has already a son from George King who is the husband of his mother. Then he begins to hate the child. In this way, she is equivalent to his mother. He chooses a woman who is equivalent to his mother. Moreover, he takes care of her like his mother. He also treats her like his mother. On the other hand, he feels that she treats him as the same way as his mother treats him. He likes her motherly behavior and personalities which resemble to his mother.

Ned's relationship with Mary Hearn illustrates his movement from the lack he recognizes to a desire to fulfill again. In this way Mary is the symbol of both maternal

and sexual love. It is true that Mary initiates him into adulthood. She provides Ned with a means of self-esteem and a certainty of sexual activities. It is Ned's unconscious desire for his mother. His relationship with Mary overpowers even his feelings for his mother, as in one moment he proposes to Mary and claims he does not care what his mother might think of the matter. He is lost in passion, yearning for Mary at all times and fancying himself to be Romeo. When he meets Mary Hearn, he gives her a new dress. He also gives dresses to her in the second visit. One of the dresses worn by his mother then ends up on the woman who looks like his mother, whom Kelly falls in love with. She turns to be Mary Hearn. He sees the image of his mother in the girl whom he loves. He treats Mary Hearn like his mother.

Then we was playing what they call THE GAME you never knew so many hooks and buttons and sweet smelling things we took them off her one by one until she lay across her bed there were no sin for so did God make her skin so white her hair as black as night her eyes green and her lips smiling. She were a teacher with a mighty vocation pulling and dragging when I took her she were slender and strong as a deer her breasts small but very full she threw back her head offering her pale throat to me I run her to ground I took her breasts took them in my mouth sucking & suckling I didn't know whose milk I stole but she were crying out and holding my hair it were the best thing that happened to me in my life. (244)

Most of the time he refers Mary Hearn as slender as his mother. He says that she is so wonderful that he has never seen such beautiful woman before. So he describes Mary just like his mother. Mary Hearn seems like a romantic device or a symbol of Ellen. Her similarity with Ellen Kelly is proved when Ned Kelly once mistakes her for his

mother, Ellen Kelly. He sees every woman as his mother's substitute. Lyn Innes states, "Carey also invents him for a wife, Mary Hearn, who is so like his mother that at one point he mistakes Mary for Ellen Kelly, and who also had a child by his mother's lover George King." (90)

An oedipal son tries to find a woman with some similarities with his mother in personalities. He is always in search of the woman whom he can see his mother. He chooses a woman who is similar in quality and behavior with his mother. He wants to exchange his mother for some other sexual objects which can replace his ego for him, whom he can give such love and care as he had experienced from his mother. In this way, he wants to avoid incestuous relation with his mother. He wants safe landing of his abnormal feelings. Sigmund Freud says:

Even a person who has been fortunate enough to avoid an incestuous fixation of his libido does not entirely escape its influence. It often happens a young man falls in love seriously for the first time with a mature woman or, a girl with an elderly man in a position of authority [.....] since these figures are able to re-animate pictures of their father or mother. (1540)

On the other hand, there is hostility between Mary Hearn and Ellen Kelly. We can see an apparent rivalry between them. Because of rivalry, Ellen Kelly and Mary Hearn do not speak a word when Mary visits Ned's house. Ellen never looked at her. She did not talk with Mary Hearn. She spoke with Mary only when she was about to leave. Because of that jealous reaction of his mother, Mary cries on her way back to Benalla. Later, when he mentions about their marriage, Mary Hearn does not react. Because she fears about his mother's feelings towards their marriage, she hesitates to stay near Ned Kelly. As Ned Kelly asks her to stay near Eleven Mile Creek, Mary

replies that his mother hates her. Mary Hearn herself compares her love with Ellen Kelly's love. Because of the fear of his mother, Mary wishes to immigrate to America thinking that she could stay with Ned Kelly after she becomes pregnant with his child. But Kelly remains behind unwilling to leave Australia until his mother is released. Without letting his mother know, Ned secretly pays \$2 for a room which Mary Hearn rents. On the other hand, since Ellen Kelly has met Mary Hearn, she started to feel sad. She time and again says that her hut is damned. She has also begun to hate George King. She also makes him feel guilty for wanting to be with Mary Hearn. She thinks that her son's love towards her can be replaced by Mary Hearn's love.

Mary Hearn becomes sad when she meets Ned Kelly's mother. Mary Hearn is like his mother's rival. Because of jealousy, when Ned takes her to meet her, his mother never looked at Mary. She did not talk with Mary Hearn. She talks to her only when Mary is about to leave. Mary was like an iron rod in her heart for Mary. Ned writes:

Tears flows down from her face. Very nice to have met you said my mother it were a branding iron laid upon my heart .On our way to Benalla I saw the tears flow down. Mary's pretty cheeks when I asked would she marry me she asked what about mother's feelings I said my mother could go to Hell. (257)

Because of the death of her husband Ellen has transferred all her love and affection to her son. But she thinks that Ned's relation with Mary would hinder her relationship with her son. She cannot bear this as she is jealous of her. She thought that Mary would take her son away from her. Out of jealousy, she wants her son all to herself. Because of jealousy, she becomes so passionate with him that she says she misses him

bad and she comes for her. Even when he tells her that Dan was also her son, she does not like to talk about him.

Ellen Kelly thought that the girl's love will eventually oust her from the heart of her son. Mary is also jealous towards his mother. She forces Ned to run away from his mother to San Francisco. She tells him that the best thing he can do is to go as far as he can from his mother. But Ned becomes offended from her suggestion. Mary compares her love with his mother. She even asks him if he loves his mother more than her. Ned replies, "It aint the same." (370) It means he loves his mother more than Mary Hearn which is proved in his reluctance to run away with her. Sarah Heinz in her review *Cu chulainn Down Under: Peter Carey's True History of the Kelly Gang and ambivalences of Diasporic Irish Identity Construction in Australia* says:

Mary replaces Ned's mother as an allegory of Ireland, a country that Ned has indeed never seen before but which seems familiar through its mythical retellings. It is no coincidence, then, that Mary is often compared to Ellen in character, behavior and appearance. (1)

As the mother does not want to share her love towards another woman, she shows hostility towards the one who comes between her son and herself. Ellen Kelly was receiving his full care and love from her son. In one sense he was a compensation for was But when she saw him with another girl she became jealous. She became fearful that her place would be taken by another lady. Freud says:

A man, especially, looks for someone who can represent his pictures of his mother, as it has dominated his mind from his earliest childhood; and accordingly if his mother is still alive, she may resent this new version of herself and meet her with hostility. (1540)

Because of his extreme love towards his mother, he remained away from the other girls. He was inactive in relations to other girls. Women were there to admire him and encourage him. He did not show any interests to meet and interact with them. Although Ned has a number of sisters, he did not spend much of his time in their company. He even does not realize that his elder sister Annie has matured. Though he sometimes shows some kind of relationship with women, he is very passive in this respect. So even his younger brother Dan in a moment of drunken teenage spite sneers at him that he has no girl because he has his mother as a 'girlfriend'. (225) At the same time, he remains quite untouched in the matter of girls. At fourteen, he says "I were trying so hard to be a man I had kept myself a child, looking at my sister. (17) He notes with sadness, "My last hope of youth was stripped away I had never kissed a girl but were old enough to be a married man." (194)

It can be claimed that Ned's emotionless relationship with Mary Hearn is a reaction to his mother's abnormal affection. In comparison to his mother, he finds Mary colorless. He is torn between passion and love of mother. Freud thinks that Oedipus complex is the most important event of a boy's childhood as it had a great effect upon his subsequent adult life. He believes that as a result of this unconscious experience a boy with an Oedipus complex feels guilt and strong emotional conflicts. Ned has an unnatural devotion towards his mother. Due to his extreme love towards her, he cannot repress it. If a person cannot repress his attraction towards his mother, he cannot transfer his feelings from his mother to a suitable partner. As Ned regarded Mary Hearn as the substitute of his mother, he could not have normal affection with Mary Hearn. Since his love and devotion towards his mother was very deep, it was impossible for him to exchange his love with other women. He has problems finding a satisfying relationship with any woman other than his mother.

His inability to keep a healthy relationship with other women is proved when he refused to follow Mary Hearn to San Francisco. He did not want to lose his mother. For him losing his mother is to lose everything. He refused to abandon his mother in jail. He feels the need to protect his family from dishonor and danger. For her protection, he is willing to risk his life. He does not hesitate to attack men who are much stronger than him when they speak ill of his mother. He put his life at stake for the sake of his family. This abnormal love affair between Ned Kelly and his mother affected him very much. Because of his oedipal complex, he could not continue his normal love affair with Mary Hearn. He could not love a woman. At last his emotions could not get development and sublimation. Because of the influence of his mother, he suffered much and met tragedy in love. Lyn Innes in his review *Resurrecting Ned Kelly* says, "When she urges Ned to choose life by leaving the country with her, rather than death by staying in Australia with his mother, he chooses to remain with his mother. (91) He was always concerned about his mother's safety. When they were planning to go to Gippsland, Steve Hart said that he couldn't leave Mrs. Kelly. When he became fail to protect her, he was nearly mad. He blamed himself. He said that he was a big fool. In order to help her, he left his school. His main purpose was to help his mother. Each revenge situation in Ned's life has as its basis love for his mother. Birns Nicholas in his journal *Contemporary Australian Literature: A World Not Yet Dead* says, "Carey also invents Mary Hearn, Ned's beloved, who bears his daughter. Has Carey perhaps invented Mary to indicate that Ned's Psychosexual, Oedipal aspects did not preclude him from forming a mature and passionate attachment with a woman?" (192)

He desires to protect her, and tries to receive for her approval and love.

Because of his fixation with his mother, he becomes unable to love Mary in a normal

way. He loses the ability to keep a relationship with other women. He has difficulties in staying in emotional relationship with Mary Hearn. According to Freud, a boy who is fixated on his mother cannot establish a love-relationship with someone else.

Sigmund Freud says:

The typical process, already established in innumerable cases, is that a few years after the termination of puberty a young man, who until this time has been strongly fixated to his mother, changes his attitude; he identifies himself with his mother, and looks about for love-objects in whom he can re-discover himself, and whom he might love as his mother loved him. The characteristic mark of this process is that for several years one of the necessary conditions for his love is usually that the male object shall be of the same age as himself was when the change took place. First there the fixation on the mother, which makes it difficult to pass on another woman. (3907)

Ned Kelly's Relationship with His Father

The oedipal complex deals with the conflict between father and son. Particularly when the son tries to eliminate his father in order to get his mother's love all to himself. Much of the time, the son aims to remove his father. Ned feels they are standing in two different worlds. The relationship does not run smoothly between Ned and his father. So there is inharmonic relationship between them. His inharmonic relationship with his father strengthens as he prefers his mother to his father. He writes, "My father were lost just 2 yr. before and I didnt deserve to lose a mother too not even if I had offended her she should not cast me out." (84)

By age 11, while assisting his mother in childbirth, he has already replaced his father in his imagination. Ned Kelly proves his oedipal personality by killing the bull calf to feed his starving family. Because of that crime, his father beat him with a belt that left a mark he carries until his death. The killing of the bull calf by Kelly to feed his starving family is a crime enacted in place of his father's failure of the role of the provider. Because of that crime, his father loses his life. So Kelly becomes the oedipal son by being successful in ousting the first rival for his mother's affections. He becomes the cause of his death. Similarly, when he fights with Bill Frost, his mother's suitor, he also thinks that he kills him. When he finds out the baby of Mary Hearn, he at first thinks that the child is his own but when he remembers his father he gives his feelings of having fathered the child. Ned explains, "So you can see I had become a very serious boy it were my job to replace the father as it were my fault we didnt have him anymore." (43)

His mother makes relationship with many people who do not take Ned as one of the family members. His banishment from that position and replacement by Ellen Kelly's lovers precipitates violent confrontation with Bill Frost and George King.

Those who possess his mother become his bitter rivals. His murderous violence is aimed as much at his mother's succession of suitors as at the police. He showed hatred to anyone who tried to possess her. Because of that hatred, he did not let his uncle to speak with his mother. Instead, he fought with him. Harry Power tries to enforce power over him and he becomes discontent with him. Because of that he also fights with Harry Power's friend. Thus, his attention is directed at defeating his rivals and saving his mother. Soon after that fight, Ned is released from service with Mr. Power and gains from freedom. His all criminal activities throughout his life are an attempt to gain his masculinity to win his mother's love and approval. Ned thinks that his father gradually deteriorates in the role of husband and father. He thinks his father loses his position in the family life. His Oedipal love with his mother and rivalry with his father is apparent when Dan says: "You got grudge against George cause he married your girl." (225)

In contrast to his mother, he dislikes the appearance of his father. He addresses his father 'her husband' instead of 'my father'. He addresses his mother the first person 'we'. Ned thinks that his father does not deserve to stay in his memory. He thinks that his father is his rival. Because of their rivalry, he says that they 'did not speak a dozen words from that day on until his death. (40) Before his father's death, he behaves as if his father has died. Even after his father's death, he does not like to talk about him. When his father was in prison, he throws a stone at his father's cat. It shows his hatred towards his father. He assumes that his mother does not want his father back. When he really returns from jail, he was so surprised that he could not speak a word. He writes:

I lost my own father from a secret he might as well been snatched by a
roiling river fallen from a ravine I lost him from my heart so long I

cannot even now make the place for him that he deserves. Forever after I unearthed his trunk I pictured him with his broad red beard his strong arms his freckled skin all his manly features buttoned up inside that cursed dress. (21)

One day Ned was told that his father had been seen riding through the countryside attired in a dress. It is a bizarre occurrence which he discovered to be true. Surely this was a sign of some abnormality. Ned was too embarrassed ever to ask his father for an explanation. His inharmonic relationship with his father is further strengthens as he prefers his mother to his father. When his mother calls him cowardice, he becomes soothed. He calls his father a fool and lazy. When he was sold to Harry Power he says that he does not deserve to lose his mother just like his father. When his father comes near to him he becomes restless. He becomes pleased when his father went to prison thinking that he could enjoy the company of his mother if his father is away. On an occasion, Ned kills a stolen calf and his father beats with a belt that left a mark he carries until his death. He says that he can enjoy the treasure of his mother if his father is away. What he wants to do is to replace his father. It is further proved that Ned is not sorry about his father's death. This is the sign of Oedipus love for his mother and his hatred towards his father. As Lyn Innes says:

Carey takes elements of *The Jerilderie Letter*, such as its closing declaration to create Kelly as obsessed with replacing his dead father in his mother's affections and esteem. He thinks that he has done sin towards his father. A foreshadowing of this search takes place in the information we acquire from Ned's remembrance of his childhood. (90)

An Oedipal boy becomes jealous and feels hostility towards his father. He hates his father very much. Kelly discovers a secret about his father that puzzles him for most of the time. It is told that his father is transvestite. Kelly investigates and soon finds a dress that his father has hidden. Thoroughly ashamed and disgusted, Kelly burns the dress while his father is away. The discovery of John Kelly's dress has a great effect on Ned Kelly, and causes a rift in their relationship, as Ned distances himself from his father from that point on. His reasoning implies that sexuality is a family trait that a son inherits from the father. Even after his death, his father remains an abiding presence. He is also haunted by the ghosts of his own parents. He regards his father as the rival of his love because his father is the disturbing factor for his desires. Freud writes:

What I have in mind is rivalry in love, with a clear emphasis on the subject's sex. While he is still a small child a son will already begin to develop a special affection for his mother, whom he regards as belonging to him; he begins to feel his father as a rival who disputes his sole possessions. (3295)

Moreover, he becomes very jealous towards his father. Because of his jealousy towards his father, he listens to his secret conversation with Ellen Kelly. He would stay at night to listen to his parent's conversation. Although he had vowed not to interfere in his parent's business but he couldn't keep his promise for a long time. He hates every person attached to his mother. He is equally envious with his mother's suitors. His relationship with his mother's suitors is violent. It is as though Ned is the son of two fathers, both of whom he must murder. His murderous violence is also aimed at the police. Ned says that Harry Power showed no sympathy towards him. He thinks that Harry Power is diverting his mother's love from him. He is jealous with Bill

Frost. He says that Bill Frost has not only occupying his bed but also his father's chair. Once he was running away, Harry was hanging around Ned's mother. Harry had made his mother believe that Ned had gone travelling in New South Wales but on the other hand he told Ned that troops were carried at Eleven Mile Creek so as to avoid Ned Kelly to come near his mother. His mother said that he was in danger. But according to Ned, Harry Power himself was his threat which his mother does not mention. He even tried to distract her feelings from Harry Power, his rival father. When Ned returns home from Pentridge Gaol, he became furious as he sees George King at home. After the incident of seeming murder of Bill Frost, Ned Kelly is again binds to Harry Power. But he discovers that Power has been sleeping with his mother. At that time he burst into fury. Knowing Ned's attitude, he says that he should not fight with George. He is reluctant to obey his father's orders. Once when he watches Mary Hearn breastfeed her child, he is softened but his view of the child changes when he discovers its father is King's, his mother's new husband. Because of his feelings of jealousy, he becomes very attentive towards his mother. Out of jealousy he says:

Angry bunions swollen veins it were a queer thing to see a stranger's big flat feet sticking out of the bottom of my mother's blanket next morning and to be honest I will confess I would much prefer that she invited no knew husbands to her bed. (66)

He hears the words of his mother which he himself admits as “frightening sentiments”. (9) He says that it was not good to hear his mother's such words; he means to say the vulgar words. But he becomes jealous when she says the same words to his father. He was very close to his mother all his life. He seems to own his mother

completely. He does not want to share his mother's love with his father. Bruce Woodcock in his book *Peter Carey* writes:

Ellen Kelly was a wild woman. She had lovers, husbands, children by numerous fathers. If we only imagine her son as a hero, then we cannot allow him to be jealous of these men. But if we allow ourselves to think of him as a growing boy we can permit him to be human. (151)

A son suffers from jealousy because of his mother's preference to his father. He acts like a jealous son. He feels hostility towards his father. Freud writes:

Observation has directed my attention to several cases in which during early childhood impulses of jealousy, derived from the mother-complex and of very great intensity, arose against rivals. (3908)

A boy does not want to share his mother's love with his father. He wants to own his mother completely. As he considers his father as the rival who has the same object of desire, he is afraid of his father castration. He realizes that his father is much stronger than him and he imagines that his father will castrate him. Once when his father returns from jail, he was occupying his father's chair. His father also became angry with him. He forcefully made Ned leave the chair. Being irritated, his father stares at him. At that moment, Ned suspects that whether he has known his sin. So he becomes afraid that he might know his sensual love towards the mother. He thinks that he has done sins against his father. He becomes fearful when his father turned his eyes on him he feels that he is looking into his heart for the sins he has committed against him. Only after he has gone, he becomes quiet. He thought that his father was angry with him on the account that he wants to be in his father's place. He feels that his father is going to punish him. Ned writes, "My father dismounted and then carried his

saddle and bags into the hut I were waiting by the door to get my punishment but he never even looked at me. After a while, he gone up the pub. (21)

Moreover, he kept doubt upon his mother's suitors. He suspected that they would do any harm to him. It is equivalent to anxiety of castration. It is true that he was suffered from castration anxiety. Ulku Oren in his review says, "The novel is full of several references of homosexuality, incest, castration anxiety, various fetishes, Oedipal impulses and gender role reversal. (5)

Freud says the fear of castration by his father prevents the male child from continuing to have incestuous desires for his mother. So the child represses his sexual desire, identifies with his father and someday to possess woman as his father possesses. He becomes fearful with his father. Freud says:

Later on in his boyhood when he feels that his father is a powerful rival in regard to his mother and becomes aware of his own aggressive inclinations towards him and of his sexual intentions towards his mother, he really is justified in being afraid of his father, and the fear of being punished by him can find expression through phylogenetic reinforcement in the fear of being castrated. (4301)

According to Freud, repression is the most common mechanisms. Repression is the process by means of which unacceptable thoughts, instincts and emotions which are in the conscious mind are suppressed and inhibited in the unconscious mind.

Repression involves turning something away in an attempt to keep it out of the conscious mind. When we repress any feelings, such feelings are expressed in forms of dreams. Everyone has some childhood experiences which are rooted in his unconscious mind. Such forgotten experiences of childhood are accessible to dreams. In his childhood, Ned Kelly couldn't express his incestuous desires towards his

mother because of the presence of his father. Ned says, " I dreamed about my father every night he come to sit on the end of my bed and stare at me his puffy eyes silent his face lacerated by a thousand knife cuts." (28)

In his childhood, he used to be afraid of his father. He had repressed his desire. He wanted to have his mother all to himself. He might have wished the death of his father as he was the only hindrance of his love towards his mother. Mary Ellen Snodgrass in his book *Peter Carey: A literary companion* says "As dreams and wicked fantasies infests his thoughts, Ned turning against his own father, a sin that takes on biblical proportion for its betrayal of the family patriarch." (260)

According to Freudian psychoanalysis all mental processes are not spontaneous. In fact they are determined by previous experiences, usually from the childhood. He keeps under repression his libidinal feelings towards his mother.

Sigmund Freud says:

In some instances, indeed, it is only possible to arrive at the meaning of a dream after one has carried out quite a number of reversals of its content in various respects. For instance, in the case of a young obsessional neurotic there lay conceal behind one of his dreams the memory of a death –wish dating from his childhood and directed against his father, of whom he had been afraid. (797)

As Ned has feelings of jealousy towards his father as he is an obstacle between him and his mother. And he also fears retaliation from his father if he is caught. So he represses his feeling towards his father. The second means for the complex to be resolved is that, as the boy develops he generally resolves his complex by incorporating the father's goals and standards into his own behaviour. In short, the boy

strives to be like his father and focuses less on his mother. The same problem arises here; Ned's father dead. Ned has no father figure though. When Ned first sets off with Harry Power, he says, "I were travelling full tilts towards the man I would become." (73)

Then, he begins to identify with the father. He adopts his values in his life. Ned fights bitterly to stay by his mother's side and help her placing himself in the role of his father. Even after his death, his father remains an abiding presence. He is also haunted by the ghosts of his own father. He wants to be just like his father. It can be seen when he wears his father's coat. He writes: "Inside our hut my mother were lying in her crib with all manner of coats and dresses and blanks piled on top of her. From this nest I removed an old brown oilskin coat that were my da's i put it on." (129) He wants to be like his father in the eyes of his mother. He writes "The land is very good at Avenel but there were a drought and nothing flourished there but misery. I were the oldest son I thought it time to earn my place". (24) Moreover, he chooses the girl as his girlfriend who was already a girlfriend to his father. His father's suitors were his partners. When fighting with his uncle to save his mother from him, he fought in the same manner his father used to fight. In every activity, he tried to copy his father's behavior.

An Oedipal person visualizes himself in the role of his father, working for and protecting his family. His banishment from that position and replacement by the Kelly's lovers precipitates violent confrontation with Bill Frost and George King. He tells that he had seen his father's shadow never losing a chance to be with him since the death of his father. Ned visualizes himself in the role of his father, working for and protecting his family. Bruce Woodcock in his book Peter Carey writes: 'It is no

secret that Ned Kelly's father died when he was 12, that he was the eldest boy, that he took responsibility for his family and became "the man". (151)

From his earliest childhood, he wants to take the role of his father. Once when his father had returned from the jail, he was occupying his chair. Ignoring his father's order, he became reluctant to leave the chair. Later, after the death of his father when he was returning from the jail, he found Bill Frost occupying the chair. He got very furious. After the death of his father, he was the person who occupies the chair. In this way, he has great fascination with his father's chair. Paula Shields in her review *The Reluctant outlaw* says:

His mother Ellen also plays a pivotal role in her son's destiny, with her own family's history of being on the wrong side of the law, her desperate, single-handed efforts to raise her ever-growing family, and the stream of suitors who use and abandon her, drawing Ned into the ambiguous position of helpmate and father figure. (2)

According to Freud, the most important of Oedipus complex is that a boy comes to identify his father and adopts his values, beliefs, interests and attitudes Ned fights bitterly to stay by his mother's side and help her placing himself in the role of his father. Sigmund Freud writes:

Identification is known to psychoanalysis as the earliest expression of an emotional tie with another person. It plays a part in the early history of the Oedipus complex. A little boy will exhibit a special interest in his father; he would like to grow like him and be like him, and take his place everywhere. We may say simply that he takes his father as his ideal. The behaviour has nothing to do with a passive or feminine attitude towards his father's; it is on the contrary typically masculine .It

fits in very well with the Oedipus complex, for which it holds to prepare the way. (3797)

His feeling towards his father is ambiguous too. On the one hand, after the confrontation between his father and a local police that ends in his father's imprisonment in a jail, Kelly goes on to feel how life at home without his father has become in many ways more pleasurable. On the other hand, he feels he lost his father in number of ways –because of the story O'Neill tells about his father's treachery to his Irish community, because of the episode of his father wearing the dress which Ned only understands later, and not least because his father dies as he says, “were this not he who give me life now all dead and ruined? Father, son of my heart are you dead from me are you dead from me my father?” (33) Sometimes he feels guilt and anxiety towards his father. He says his life was far harder because of the absence of his father. His feeling of guilt towards his father is expressed in his dream, too. He says:

I were v. guilty I could never have admitted that life without my father had become in many ways more pleasant. Only when his big old buck cat went missing did I frankly tell my ma I were pleased to see it gone. (28)

He further feels his lackness as he says, "How I wished for a better man a Captain to advise me. My own father died when I were 12 yr. old the only boss I have ever had were Harry Power.'(38) At some times he admires him and sometimes he finds hatred towards his father. He once acknowledges the practical abilities that he has learned from his father which are" locked forever in my daily self. (21) Bruce Woodcock says:

Ned feels he has 'lost his father in a number of ways, because of the story O'Neill tells about his fathers' treachery to his Irish community -

because of the episode of father wearing the dress which Ned only understands later, and not least because his father dies-but his feelings are complex and ambiguous, as his heartfelt cry at the end of 'Parcel 1' testifies this not he who give me life now all dead and ruined? (151)

He seems to have torn between the two attitudes towards his father; on the one hand, he accepts his father's role in his life. On the other hand, he hates his father. In this way, an oedipal son shows ambivalent attitude towards his father. His relation is composed of conflicting affectionate and hostile impulses. He shows every sign of being moved by ambivalent feelings. Sigmund Freud describes:

The relation of a boy to his father is, as we say, an ambivalent one. In addition, to the hate which seeks to get rid of the father as a rival, a measure of tenderness for him is also habitually present. The two attitudes of mind combine to produce identification with the father; the boy wants to be in his father's place because he admires him and wants to be liked him, and also because he wants to put him out of the way. (4559)

Causes of Ned's Oedipal Complex

Social factors

Although Oedipus complex is seen in all children, they become able to overcome this later and move on to another stage. But in the case of some persons the circumstance itself plays a vital role to make a person an oedipal. The abnormal relationship between Ned Kelly and his mother was influenced by social environment of that time. Ned revolts against the more powerful authorities that oppress his family. The social environment was against them. The authority put them into severe torture. He as well as his whole family became the victim of the police persecution. His own uncle also attempts to rape his mother. Then he burns his house. Ned was sentenced to three years imprisonment for a crime he did not commit. He along with other relatives was persecuted by the police and the British. Because of that he became protective towards his mother. Because of that he had to care his mother. He had to hover around him.

Personal factors

He had rough childhood. Fighting between his parents is a common occurrence. But he lost his father at a very early age. They lived in poverty. He was the oldest son with a number of brothers and sisters. Much of the work was required from the eldest boy and he felt that responsibility. Because of the poverty of the family, Ned had to drop out of the school. So it let a lot of time to stay with his mother. His mother had an unhappy marriage with her husband. So his mother and father were enduring the pain of the marriage without love. Ned says, "I wish I had known my parents truly loved each other. (10) For her, Ned had become the only reason to live. His father was always absent at home. He worked just to please her. Since his childhood he was very sensitive. When he was a boy he was delicate and

needing much care and protection. He used to follow her like her shadow. His father was always away from home. His father did not become able to give love and care to his mother. Because of that his mother's love is transferred on him. Her abnormal love is the reason of his abnormal feeling to her. He has problem in channelizing his love to other women beside her. This leads to an underdeveloped super-ego that created difficulties in realizing what is right and wrong and what is ethically and morally correct. His other relatives too distant to matter, the only one left is Harry Power, whom he ultimately denounces him as liar. Ned is thus left to fend for himself, powered by the bitterly negative motivation of deciding not to be like the adults he knows. This reinforces his feelings for his mother, as he sees himself as her sole protector, the only man faithful to her. He also makes excuses for never marrying a girl.

III. Ned Kelly as Oedipal son: Conclusion

After analyzing the Oedipus complex in Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang*, a conclusion can be drawn that there was an Oedipus complex symptom in Ned Kelly as the main character of the novel. It can be deduced that the psychological symptoms can be found in Ned Kelly. He was exposed to many factors that contributed to his oedipal complex. The sentencing of his father left him with his mother and siblings, and being the eldest carried the need to take care of the family's needs. So he could not resolve this complex.

An oedipal personality has an abnormal love towards his mother. He is deeply in love with his mother and almost all of the troubles he goes through is rooted in this love. There is ample evidence, in fact, that Ned in early childhood enjoyed a warm relationship with his mother. Ned attempted to win her love in many ways, even in his rejection of accompanying Mary to America, the one whom he recognized as his mother's rival. So the case of Oedipus complex can be found from his actions. His relationship with his mother had a significant influence on his personality. The whole of his youth was governed by a strong attachment to his mother. Some of his criminal activities for becoming an outlaw are depicted being influenced by his relationship with his mother. His need to care for his mother and ultimate devotion rejecting Mary Hearn is because he suffered from Oedipus complex. So his unconscious attempts to have loving relationship with his mother can be seen because of his Oedipus complex.

As the result of Oedipus complex symptoms, a person comes to identify his father. In this case, Ned Kelly wanted to be a person like his father. He tried so hard to copy his father's personality. He tried to be a better man than what his father was in order to win his mother's love. He unlawfully slays a heifer, and does so in such a brutal manner that his action parallels his father's slaughter of an animal in the ritual

of “Molly’s Child” in Ireland. He plays the role of protective father and husband. In this way, he is Oedipal in character.

Besides, an Oedipal personality starts to posit his father as a rival. He started a bitter competition with his father as a result of his jealousy toward his father because his father is the owner of his mother. He kept his jealousy both towards his father and the suitors of his mother. He became jealous of the sexual relationship between his mother and Harry Power. Because of the same jealousy, he shot Bill Frost. So he is obsessed with oedipal jealousy.

An Oedipal person tries to find a woman who has similarities with his mother. It was Mary Hearn who is like his mother. He is attracted towards Mary Hearn because she resembles his mother in many respects. Mary is slender just like his mother. He compares his mother and Mary Hearn on an equal basis. Mary has the same qualities as Ned’s mother. Even in his first sexual intercourse, Ned treats Mary the way a baby treats its mother. Moreover, after passing of his father, Kelly had a chance to own his mother by himself. When he sleeps with Mary the first time he remarks on wondering whose milk he is stealing while sucking her breast. As Kelly tries to find a woman similar to his mother, we can say that he suffers from Oedipus complex.

Although Ned Kelly in Peter Carey's novel *True History of the Kelly Gang* is depicted as an outlaw, he was responsible towards his family. I conclude that Oedipus complex symptoms in Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang* was performed by Ned Kelly through his love towards his mother and jealousy toward his father and his mother's suitors. The relationship between Ned and his mother –her giving birth ,his fear that people will talk of him having seen his mother's bottom ,the accusations that he is both a mother's boy and her boyfriend ,his punishment of the men who leave her

proves his oedipal instinct towards his mother. Moreover, Ned Kelly has been under the influence of repression, castration anxiety and sublimation. He fulfills all the criteria of Oedipus complex. So the protagonist, Ned, suffers from this Freudian concept. He is seen to have Oedipus complex symptoms. However, he was overcome by his extreme love towards his mother. His Oedipus complex is not resolved .So he cannot move on to another stage of psychosexual development. He becomes mother-fixated.

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