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Quest for Solace: Psychoanalytical Reading in John Irving's

A Widow for One Year

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Letter of Recommendation

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Letter of Approval

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Abstract

The research examines John Irving's *A Widow for One Year* from the perspective of Freudian Psychoanalysis with the exploration of sexual instinct as having integrating force in the life of those who have gone through psychic disorder owing to the various undesirable events like that of family disintegration, seduction etc. It explores the elements of 'Oedipus Complex' and 'Electra Complex' in the relationship between Eddie and Marion, and then, Ruth and Ted respectively. It also brings into forth the idea that sexual instinct has the aesthetic dimension. Thus, the characters get solace either through their sexual activities or by changing such things into higher non sexual drive.

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I. The Concept of Psychoanalysis and *A Widow For One Year*

The research seeks to explore the sexual factors that assist in integrating the disintegrated human psychology, and eventually paves the way for solace throughout the life of major characters in John Irving's *A Widow for One Year* (1998). More specifically, it puts spotlight upon the libidinal activities and its healing effect in the life of those characters who have been suffering from family disintegration. Drawing upon the theoretical framework of Freudian psychoanalysis and other critical perspectives over psychoanalysis, the research focuses upon the irrational part mainly the sexual aspect in the life of the major characters so as to excavate its redemptive aspect.

Moreover, the research focuses on the story of a disintegrated family in which family members fail to cope up with one another. Ruth Cole, one of the major characters of the novel, is a four-year-old daughter to the couple of Ted Cole and Marion Cole. Frequently haunted by her two older brothers, who died four years earlier in a car accident, Cole has been suffering too much from the family disintegration. She constantly remembers them whenever she glances over their pictures hanging on the wall. The novel delicately balances a young man's sexual instinct with married couple's grief over their lost sons as well as fear of losing their remaining child, Ruth Cole. Most of the major characters in the novel engage in search of love and sexual relation in one way or another. Having the bitter nightmarish childhood experience, Ruth Cole succeeds to maintain balance in her life by making sexual affair with many boyfriends she has been living with.

Furthermore, the research examines the relationship between mother and son, father and daughter, on the light of the concept of 'Oedipus Complex' and 'Electra Complex' respectively. It is because of the unconscious desire to be one

with father; Ruth Cole fantasizes her father's penis with pencil and erasure. And finally she marries with Allan, a person who resembles her father, so as to fulfil her repressed desire of having sex with her father. Similarly, it is due to the attraction towards his daughter; Ted seduces many girls who resemble her daughter. On the other hand, Eddie, a resembling son of Marion, is attracted towards her. Despite the social norms and values, they make love in a room when Ted has gone outside the home.

Since the time Irving's *A Widow for One Year* appeared in the literary scenario in 1998, it became able to attract the attention of many critics and scholars. With the ending of the twentieth century and then beginning of the twenty first century, this novel was read by a considerable number of critics whose interpretation is different according to their own understanding. Irving's *A Widow for One Year* has various qualities.

A Widow for One Year is regarded as the experimental novel because it presents women character differently than the other novel and talks about the humourous love which also does not give the powerful theme of love. In this connection, Candia Mc Williams states:

The women in *A Widow for One Year* behave too much like men; condemn the unfunny comedy and slapstick humour, dislike the obsession on sex and bloody parts. He admits that the novel's theme is patently prompted by love but asserts that the book fails in its execution of so powerful a theme. (55)

Here, he critiques in the newly presentation of the women characters in the novel where women characters are presented as the male characters.

Some critics even point out the issue of the autobiography in the novel. Through the imagination of the major character Ruth, Irving tries to explain the different sorts of fictions. According to Dan Gaddes, "Irving clearly does imagine his crazy stories and episodes, but they are also well larded with recognizable locales of Irving's life and patterns from his fiction" (1). In the given lines, Gaddes argues that Irving imagines the stories about his own life and includes the events what happens in his life. Here he looks the relation of his text with his own life which is nothing more than the search of biography in the text. But Irving does not want to be reduced by the charge that he is just searching up of autobiography-that's the position of the boisterous Hannah Grant character about Ruth's work. Ruth spends a long time imagining her characters before writing, as Irving has claimed to do.

Similarly, another prominent critic, John Gardner, reads the language used in the novel. The use of language details is manipulated adroitly, which enable us to enter in the story of novel forgetting other things. It is the smooth flow of language that helps the reader to penetrate the hidden psychology of the characters which is motivated by the sexual instinct. As Gardner writes:

We read five words on the first page of really good novel and we begin to forget that we are reading printed words on a page. We begin to see images-a dog hunting through garbage cans, a plane circling above Alaskan mountain, an old lady furtively licking her napkin at a party. We slip into a dream, forgetting the room we're sitting in, forgetting its lunchtime or time to go to work. We recreate, with minor and for the most part unimportant changes, the vivid and continuous dream and dream that dream again. If they are vague, careless, blurry, or if they are not enough of them to let see clearly what is being presented, then

the dream as we dream it will be cloudy, confusing, ultimately annoying and boring. (4)

In the above lines, Gardner appreciates the use of language in the text. For him, readers forget each and every things about themselves after reading only the five words of text, for it indulges images with full of curiosity which hunts the mind of the readers. The images used in the novel *A Widow for One Year* do not let reader to remember other things because they come in the mind of the reader as dog hunting through garbage cans, a plane circling above Alaskan mountain. He further argues that readers jump into the dream and they remember those images continuously. The dream world of writer is not vague, blurry and careless for reader's understanding about text. For him, the text can never be confusing nor it is boring and annoying rather it is enjoying.

Regarding the novel, William H. Pritchard reads the novel and the author in connection with other novelist before him. Irving is often accused of taking the writers like Thomas Hardy and Charles Dickens as his model. Irving has followed Dickens in the novel *A Widow for One Year*. As William H. Pritchard states; "This review of *A Widow for One Year* stresses Irving's kinship to Charles Dickens, explores the comic touch, praises the book's readability, and places the new novel in the context of Irving's earlier work" (7). Pritchard argues Irving as the well follower of Dickens. And he further says that Irving explores the comic touch and praises the novel's readability in the context of comparing with his earlier texts. Here he claims that this novel can also be easily comprehended due to the technique used in it like his other earlier novel.

Power of Irving's creativity is seen through the use of style. And critics view this novel in comparison to the novel *The World According to Garp*, which is mainly

considered as his masterpiece. This view is supported by the idea of Davis and Womack which is given clearly in the following citation:

A Widow for One Year (1998) is a much more fully realized entry in his fictive canon – and particularly in comparison to the flawed *A Son of the Circus*. Although it never reaches narrative qualities of Irving's best novels (they include *The World According to Garp*, *The Hotel New Hampshire*, and *The Cider House Rules*), the novel is a stylistic triumph. The author's powers as a creative tactician are in full bloom.

(18)

In the above citation, Davis and Womack argue the novel as the canonical novel comparing it with *A Son of the Circus*. They also state that this novel's narrative quality is not rich like Irving's *The World According to Garp*, *The Hotel New Hampshire*, and *The Cider House Rules* novel but it is rich because of its stylistic use. And finally they appreciate the writer's creativity in the novel. They find this novel as the canonical novel due the use of writer's creative quality in the novel.

The presentation of women characters and the use of stylistic narrative make the novel experimental. In this connection, another prominent critic Campbell expresses such view in the following lines:

He believes it to be his riskiest and most experimental novel to date because of the female protagonist and the mixture of different forms of fiction. A successful experiment, according to him, because it gives readers the opportunity to explore characters, cross boundaries and envision new horizons. The strengths of the novel are Irving's presentation of a narrative of traditional power structures ... in such a way that the reader is invited to explore the narrative and call it into

action. Campbell, like many other reviewers, points to the Dickensian link, and calls Irving a self-acknowledged follower of nineteenth-century literary tradition. (161-62)

Campbell argues that this novel is the risky and experimental because of characters and used different forms of fiction. It is experimental because it gives opportunity to the reader to explore about the characters, cross boundaries, and envision new horizons. For him, the strength of novel is Irving's presentation of novel in narrative technique which technique invites reader to explore about it and creates action. Like other critic, he also calls Irving a self-acknowledged follower of nineteenth-century literary tradition. The critic consider as best novel with the foundation of such quality in the novel.

The women characters of the novel are not presented as in the other novel of the contemporary period. Women characters in the novel are presented as male characters so the critics get confused while analyzing about their gender. In this respect Candia Mc William views:

Eventually we cease to believe in Ruth's gender' this is a creative disaster. Her appetites and reactions seem increasingly to be those of a man, so that her widowhood, when it comes, does not harrow us anything like as much as the loss of her brothers. The effects of this lessen the power of an ending that might have been restorative and redemptive, when love returns to her, and to those who most love her.

(2)

He argues Ruth as complex, often self-contradictory character. The writer deals about the creativity in Ruth which was not seen in the women of Irving's time. He says that she is presented as the strong character because she is not mourning in the death of

her husband instead she deals her second marriage. It shows that at that time it is impossible to find such character at that time. As her family was affected by her brother's death she was not affected by her son's death. According to him, Irving portrayed women characters are as strong as male characters and they equally handle their situation as male characters. He says that the Ruth's widowhood does not create any sympathy in reader because she manages her situation by doing another marriage. So, he focuses here on the representation of character either as male or female.

Although the above mentioned critics have analyzed the novel from various perspectives, none of them have studied *A Widow for One Year* from the perspective of psychoanalysis. Thus the primary objective of this study is to analyze the sexual factor, which is the main tool to heal the disintegrated psychology and it paves the way for the consolation through the life of major characters in the novel. Furthermore, this project also aims to bring forth the issues of family trial, separation, sexual relation, loss and creativity resulted by libidinal drives as one of the healing object in the life of major characters in the novel. Although this study makes significant use of concepts developed in psychoanalytical domain, it does not offer a comprehensive analysis of psychoanalytical theories. Rather, an analysis of human psychology as conceptualized by Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis remains basic tool of the analysis. For this purpose, the research has included the theories and criticism made about psychoanalysis; necessary tools and techniques as well as guideline to prove its hypothesis.

Psychoanalysis is a term that is developed by Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, in the last decade of nineteenth century. Psychoanalysis was initially developed as therapeutic technique for the treatment of hysteric patient; it is expanded later as technique for the psychological study of the psychosexual development of the

human personality. Freud studies individual psychology in relation to the society. Freudian psychoanalysis studies the human psychology in terms of the structures of the mind: conscious, unconscious and subconscious, and the function of the mind: id, ego, and superego. The human instincts like repression, depression, sublimation, Eros, Thanatos and anxiety are the sole products of social discourse that defines human identity and their relationship among one another.

So, psychoanalysis is a technique of psychological studies of the psychosexual development of human personality, the unconscious mental activities and a means of treatment for neurotic patients. Freud comments:

The term "psychoanalysis" has three different meanings. It is, first, a school of psychology that emphasizes the dynamic, psychic determinants of human behaviour and the importance of personality. Secondly psychoanalysis refers to a specialized technique for investigating unconscious mental activities. Finally psychoanalysis is a method of interpreting mental disorders especially the psychoneuroses.

(179)

The unconscious is perhaps the most fundamental and defining idea of psychoanalysis, though it has a much longer history. For Freud, only a small proportion of human mind is knowable through rational thought. The greater part is outside conscious awareness and full of hidden dangers. It makes its presence felt in a variety of ways including dreams, slips of tongues, and the clinical method of "free association". The psychoanalytic unconscious acts as the repository for experiences thoughts and feelings that are unacceptable to, and are repressed by, the unconscious mind.

Moreover, with appreciating the idea of Freud, another psychoanalyst Robert S. Wood Worth says:

The forgotten experiences and unnamed desires and attitudes that came to light in free association were so often of a sexual nature that Freud early came to epitomize the predominant if not exclusive importance of sexual difficulties and conflict. Hostility motives and ambivalence also comes to light but were regarded as arising from frustration of sex desire. (165)

As is clear from the lines above, frustration gets relief by the sexual relationship. If sexual desire is not fulfilled hostility and ambivalence come into force. Wood worth's vision is assimilated in the novel as the characters get relief from their disintegrated life by the means of sexual relationship that they have among each other.

Human psychology is an instinctual structural phenomenon of the mind constructed by social norms, rules, environment, and laws and normative of the society. The structure of society bases the formulation of an individual's behaviours, habits and psyche. Psychoanalysis is taken as the study of nature and behaviour of abnormal people whose mental condition is not in order. It means the personality of each individual is developed according to the experience what they get in life. Here this research will focus to excavate the presentation of character which is guided by id, neurosis, unconscious, erotic desire and the characters psyche which is always looking the sexual relation as best of getting solace in any form.

On the basis of above mentioned Psychoanalysis theory, mainly initiated and developed by Sigmund Freud, Robert S. Wood Worth, and other prominent theorists, the researcher has targeted to excavate the sexual factors that help in eliminating the

frustration among the characters suffering from the family disintegration in the novel *A Widow for One Year*.

To justify the hypothesis, this study is divided into three different chapters. The first chapter includes the general introduction to the study. The second chapter is textual analysis with the application of psychoanalytic tools to explore the journey of the characters from sex to solace. Third chapter will be conclusion to sum up the analysis done in earlier chapter. All chapters of research will attempt to revolve around the problematic issues of neurosis, Id, and the orientation of the characters about sexual relation to find out the pleasure or satisfaction in this dissertation.

II. Quest for Solace: Psychoanalytical Reading in Irving's *A Widow for One Year*

The research analyzes how the characters endeavour to get solace from their frustrated psychology in John Irving's *A Widow for One Year*, a novel that revolves around sexual relationship among the characters. In a dysfunctional family, the family members fail to cope with each other. In order to cope up with such adverse environment, they take help with sexual pleasure, and thus make sexual relationship; Ted Cole keeps sexual relation with children's mother as well as with the girl of Ruth Cole's age, Eddie O Hare being the assistant of Ted Cole keeps sexual relationship with his master's wife and other characters are also indulging in sexual activities.

Although the characters are in dysfunction they get pleasure in sexual activities. Corresponding this, in his book *The Theory of Instinct*, Sigmund Freud says: "Sex energy is the creative and intellectual source of life" (45). For Freud, sexual instinct has the creative potentiality which has healing power. In the way Freud says, is the way Irving presents Sex as having healing power. In the novel, Marion, wife of Ted, says to Eddie how the sexual relationship with him has been "making [her] happier and happier" (64). Despite the fact that she is in the period of mourning in the death of her son, she becomes happier and happier while making sexual relationship with Eddie O Hare. Like Marion, other major characters in the novel are gone through the dysfunctional situation and they are engaged in search of love in one form or another.

Ruth, one of the major characters, has been grown up in absence of parental proper love and suppression of sexuality. So, she fulfils her desire by keeping sexual relationship with different boyfriends and reveals even in the fiction she creates. In separation of his parents, Eddie O Hare is drawn towards a beautiful yet emotionally distant Marion. As a result, they make love "sixty times" (124). Ted Cole is upset

with his wife's situation so he seduces the children's mother by writing children's book to escape from such situation. In the novel, characters are indulged in the casual sexual relations. Casual sexual relations and genuine feelings between two people are set opposite throughout the novel.

According to Freud's view, the personality of the people is developed through childhood experiences. His concept of psychoanalysis focuses on the study of childhood experiences to study development of human psyche which, he, in his *The Essentials* states:

It is first, a school of psychology that emphasize the dynamic, psychic determination of human behaviour and the important childhood experiences in moulding the adult personality, secondly, psychoanalysis refers to a specialized technique for investigating unconscious mental activities. Psychoanalysis is a method of interpreting and treating mental disorders, especially psychoneurosis.

(179)

In the above citation, Freud takes the school of psychology to point out that an individual's behaviour, personality and his manner is the outcome of his childhood experience. And he further argues that psychoanalysis is the technique to investigate and interpret the mental disorders and psychoneurosis in the characters due to his childhood experiences.

Assimilating the very idea of Freud, John Irving presents Ruth Cole as observing the sexual activities of her mother and Eddie O Hare even in her four years age. As he narrates, "When Ruth Cole entered in her parents' bedroom, she saw the naked young man who had mounted her mother from behind, he was holding his mother's breast in his hands and humping her in all fours like a dog" (4). This line

clearly shows the environment in which Ruth is brought up. Ruth Cole observes her mother Marion's sexual act with Eddie O Hare. In the same way, she sees the sexual organ of too many people which is clearly mentioned in the given line, "nakedness was not hidden among the Coles" (4). This clearly states the environment of Cole family where people are not concerned about the nakedness so Ruth sees the many people's sexual organ of those people who used to come to swim in her house. Such glimpses of nakedness arouse curiosity in her mind. She does not hesitate to tease her father, Ted when she sees his penis, "Your penis is funny," she said (15). This line clearly states how the personality of Ruth is developing.

Such family environment develops her erotic personality which paves the way for the fulfilment of such erotic desire either in reality or in her creation. This is truly seen in the following lines as told by the narrator, "The red-light district was her discovery; encouraged her" (360). This line clearly expresses how her childhood experiences make her psyche more sexual act oriented. Here she chooses the area of research to the red light district due to her psyche and finds it as encouraging force. Owing to the development of her personality in such environment Ruth says: "It's not too big. It's just the right size for me" (443). This line clearly shows the impact of her childhood experiences. While discussing about the sexual intercourse that she has kept with Allan, Ruth says to Hannah that the sexual organ of Allan is of right size for sexual relation. Thus, her childhood experiences do not create her psyche only sexually oriented but also provide the capacity to talk about the appropriateness of sexual organ in her life. So, all these things illustrate that the childhood environments affect in the development of personality.

For Freud, the goal of psychoanalysis is to resolve psychological problems, often called disorders or dysfunctions; the focus on patterns of behaviour that are

destructive in some way. Freud, inventing the new science of mind, vehemently challenged the hitherto internalized rational and compassionate human image and exposed to the world the darker side of human psyche that is dominant in his actions and behaviour. Psychoanalytical concepts such as sibling rivalry, inferiority complexes, and defence mechanisms are in common use while analyzing the human psychology. In this connection, Tyson reads the idea of Freud on Psychoanalytical concept as:

Psychoanalysis is a critical theoretical approach, it's helpful to understand the behaviour of literary characters because literary characters are not real people and, therefore, do not have psyches that can be analyzed. But it is legitimate to psychoanalyze literary characters as if they are real. So, it provides the best insight to the author to know the characters psychology. (34)

Here, Tyson means to say that psychoanalytic concepts are not only limited to examine the human psyche rather it explores the psychodynamics of literary characters. Any human production that involves the images, that seems to have narrative content, or that relate to the psychology of those who produce or use it in his literary text.

Ted hires Eddie O Hare as his assistant so that he can be a good lover of Marion. Ted knows it and willingly wants to make her his lover so that Marion will be satisfied. Tyson is applicable to explore the hidden psyche of Ted Cole, which is expressed in the following extracts:

His name was Eddie O Hare. In the summer of 1958, he had recently turned sixteen having his driver's license had been a prerequisite of his first summer job. But Eddie O Hare was unaware that becoming

Marion Cole's lover would turn out to be his real summer job. Ted Cole had hired him specifically for this reason, and it would have lifelong interest. (8)

This extract clearly discusses on the psychological development of person in relation to the environment in which they are brought up. Eddie comes just to be Ted's assistant but his job is not limited only in it. Because the coveted desire of Ted is to use the summer season by making the love relation between his wife and Eddie. And finally Eddie perceives his status as the lover of Marion in his unawareness. In surface, Ted Cole keeps Eddie O Hare as his assistant to drive the car but the purpose of his psyche is to give solace to his wife who has been suffering from the death of her two sons, Thomas and Timothy.

In Danni B. Thomas's words, psychodynamics refers "the aspects of perceptual process by which individual relate to the distal symbolism of the political environment are explored through a conjunction of object theory and intensive analysis methodology" (243). It clarifies that the psychoanalytic approach is the internalization of interpersonal relationship, the study of how interpersonal relations determine psychic structures, and how these intra-psychic structures perceive, modify and react past relations with in the context of present interpersonal relations. Thus, the fundamental focus on the relationship of the person to his human environment as he perceives, experiences, or structures it. Hence, the world of objects and political environment indicates the society. It shapes the individual's psychology and habits.

Tyson's and Thomas's concept of psychoanalysis can be taken to interpret psyche and motive of characters. One of the major characters, Ted Cole's motives of making unfair relation with his wife Marion and his assistant Eddie O Hare is explored into the following extract:

The truth is, Ted was chronically attracted to younger women; Marion had been only seventeen and already pregnant with Thomas, when Ted married her. At the time, Ted was twenty three. The problem was, as Marion grew older and although she would always be six years younger than Ted. Ted's interest in younger women persisted. (12-13)

As Marion is turned old, Ted's interest is growing towards the other younger women. He does not get any solace in his relation with Marion. For solace, his interest persists for younger woman. In order to fulfil his coveted desire, he wants to be far with Marion and brings Eddie O Hare as his assistant. Marion is shocked in the death of her sons. She is "repeatedly struck by those boys who bore any resemblances to Thomas or Timothy" (9). In such time, Ted is certain if she sees man similar to her sons she gets solace. It shows her excessive love for lost sons. Ted Cole chooses Eddie O Hare as his assistant due to Eddie's resemblance with sons. In this way, Ted Cole fulfils his internally hidden motive. Here, his hidden psyche is searching solace in sexual act. And his motive sees solace of his wife Marion in sexual relation of her and Eddie O Hare. The relation of Marion and Eddie is outcome of his hidden motive.

Freud's theory of psychoanalysis has become the most influential personality theory of modern era. The influential concept of Freud is pointed by the Guerin in these lines; "Understanding the forces at work in personality and internal structures which channels and directs them" (129). He says that Freud gives emphasis on sexual motivation in the development of personality. This concept can be applicable in the major characters of novel because, here sexual motivation plays main role to shape personality of the characters. One of the major characters, Eddie O Hare's personality is shaped by her sexual motivation. He comes as the assistant of writer Ted Cole but his sexual motivation makes him Marion lover. His sexual motivation can be seen in

the following lines; “Eddie, who was naked –and who always masturbated by rubbing his penis with his left hand against the inside of his right thigh-had pressed his face into the open blouse and bra. With his right hand, he stroked the unimaginable silky softness of Marion’s panties” (62). These lines clearly show Eddie’s motivation for the sexual act with Marion. So he remembers Marion and does that with her clothes. And finally such sexual motivation helps him to keep sexual relation with Marion and fulfils his desire.

Sexual motivation does not limit one within sexual acts rather it shapes his creative personality; it further helps him to be a writer. Guided by sexual motive, human beings are in the quest of solace either from the sexual intercourse itself or from describing the events of sexual relationship through the emotive language. In the novel, Eddie, as a person guided by sexual motivation is in the quest of solace either from one way or another; either from the sexual intercourse with Marion or from describing those events while writing the book. Indeed, it establishes him as a writer. In his book, he expresses his experiences in the following way: “Eddie wrote: “we’ve been doing it for six, almost seven weeks, and we usually do it twice a day-often more than twice a day. But there was the time she had an infection, and we couldn’t do it” (124). Eddie’s motivation help him to get the extreme pleasure and helps him to turn his life from writers’ assistant to writer himself as Freud emphasizes sexual motivation plays important role to shape the personality. It is applicable in all characters of the novel like Eddie O Hare. Ted Cole established himself as the children’s famous writer because of his motivation. His motivation is to seduce the children’s mother which is seen in this lines; “the young mothers were the ones who recognized him and approached him of course” (25). This line clearly signifies that

Ted Cole is highly oriented to make his attachment with the mother than children. He has desire of seducing children's mother. Mothers know him well than their children.

In this connection, it is noteworthy to bring an idea of Freud, who argues that the human psyche is always guided by sexual desire and they change their desire into aesthetic dimension to save them from social norms and values. In his book, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, Freud offers us different insight:

The progressive concealment of body which goes along with civilization keeps sexual curiosity awake. This curiosity seeks to complete the sexual objects by revealing its hidden parts. It can however, be diverted in the direction of art, if its interest can be shifted away from the genitals in to the shape of the body as a whole. (156)

In the above lines, Freud clearly illustrates that inherent sexual instinct of human beings has the aesthetic dimension so it can be converted into the aesthetic beauty. Freud believes that if the sexual instinct is shifted from the genitals to the whole body, it can be sublimate towards art. The shift from the part of the body towards the whole body is motivated towards the creation of the art.

Indeed, aesthetic quality constitutes the whole question and no explanation is given or attempted. Now this amounts result from sexual curiosity and creates the desire to know something about the functioning of sexuality. The interest in the shape of body in its totality is another order and appeals to an aesthetic dimension, the source of which remained to be named. Freud's view focuses how human beings conceal their extreme sexual desire in aesthetic way. Here the character Ted Cole has extreme desire for too many women but he does not utter his desire directly rather he establishes himself as the children's writer and seduces to their mother. He conceals it even with his own assistant which is proved by following lines: "Eddie did not open

or read Ted's mail, and most of the letters Eddie retyped for Ted were Ted's replies to children. Ted would write to the mothers himself. Eddie never saw what the mothers wrote to Ted or Ted's response to them" (52). These lines clearly describe the change of sexual desire into the aesthetic dimension.

Similarly, letters have the aesthetic dimension as they are the outcome of sexual instinct of Ted. As nobody knows what he has written into the letter, he is free to write whatever he likes to express. His activities clearly signify that he is making the tools to aesthetic dimension to fulfil his desire. All of his activities, for narrator, are sex oriented; "Ted's truest craft, Marion observed was his systematic discovery and seduction of the prettiest and unhappiest of the young mothers among the faculty wives; an occasional student would fall prey Ted, too, but the young mothers were more vulnerable game" (70). This line proves that his writing is much more oriented towards sex. Having the aesthetic dimension, his writing, as the outcome of sexual instinct, motivates the children and their parents towards sex. In fact, in his quest for solace, he makes others victim.

In *Civilized Sexuality Morality and Modern Nervous Illness*, Freud writes:

"Experience shows as well that women, who, as being the actual vehicle of the sexual interest of mankind, are only endowed in a small measure with the gift of sublimating their instincts" (179). What Freud means to say is that women are the vehicle of sexual interest for male. Men are always looking after the women with the intention to make sexual relation with them. Corresponding this, Ted Cole is always looking after women with the intention to fulfil his sexual desire. As narrator states: "Every summer he seduced at least one mother at fair weather writers' conference in California, and another at a conference in Colorado, and another in Vermont" (284). The motive behind his attending of the writer's conference at California, Colorado,

and Vermont is to seduce at least a one mother in fair weather of summer. Here his activities are set to meet his need of his sexual desire. In a sense, his success to attend international conference is motivated by his sexual desire. It can be further assisted by the idea of Freud, who argues that there is important role of sex vehicle either to gain success or not to gain any success in life of men. Here Ted Cole becomes successful writer because of his relation with women. He gives continuity to such activities throughout his life. He is seventy six years old but his age does not stop him from keeping relation even with young girl:

He was popular on college campuses-especially at state universities in out-of-the-way states. With occasional exceptions, today's college students were too young to be seduced by even as ageless a man as Ted was , but the neglected loneliness among faculty wives whose children grown up and left home was unabated; those women were still younger to Ted. (284-85)

The above line clearly shows the role of women for his recognition. He is very well known in college states and everywhere. Now he is very old so the college students are too young for him but his age no longer stops him. Even in his old age he continues his relation with the women whose children are grown up and already left home. This clearly illustrates that the sexual relation between men and women gives solace in the journey of life and help in the development of their personality.

Regarding sex and sexuality, Freud argues: "The concept of sexuality and at the same time of sexual instincts has to be extended so as to cover many things which could not be classed under the reproduction function" (45). Here Freud means to say that we can consume that our sexuality is a part of our identification. Freud also believes that the libido is developed in any individual by changing its object, a

process categorized by the concept of sublimation. He argues that human are born 'polyhumous', that any object can be source of pleasure. He further argues that even infants are sexual being through different stages oral, anal, and genital in which pleasure is focussed in different parts of the body. Freud argues that the children passes through a stage in which they desire their mother as a sexual object but that child repressed this desire because of taboo nature. Freud talks about the sexual instinct which is hidden because of some taboos but it is always with them so they try to fulfil if they get chances even from children to old man.

In the way Freud argues, is the way Ruth Cole has desire of fulfilling repressed sexual desire. When taboo makes disturbance, she fulfils it in different way. She has desire of keeping sexual relation with father. But she does not get chance to do it. She associates "her father's physical appearance with pencils and erasers" (23). She remembers her father's sexual organs while seeing pencils and erasers due to the domination of sexual instinct. Though her instinct sees solace in sex, she is controlling her desire in society to save from social taboo. Same sexual instinct's guidance can be seen in other character as well.

In the same way, other references of sexual instinct can be taken. Wim and Ruth have this instinct to get solace from sexual relation which Wim states: "When he thought she was still asleep, he masturbated beside her again this time sneaking his hand under her T-shirt and holding fast to one of her bare breasts. She pretended to continue sleeping while he ran to the bathroom to wash his hand' (390-91). Sexual instinct is seen in both Ruth and Wim. Wim is masturbating catching the breast of Ruth to fulfil his sexual instinct because that taboo is stopping him from doing so he takes the help of masturbation to fulfil his desire. At the same time, Ruth Cole pretends as though she does not know his activities. Because she has sexual instinct

but she cannot offer Wim directly due to social taboo so she enjoys in Wim's activities and let him to catch her breast to fulfil her desire.

The id is a reservoir of unconscious wishes and drives. It is lawless, asocial and amoral. Its function is to gratify our instincts for pleasure without regard for social conventions, legal ethics, or moral restraints. For Freud, the id functions to fulfil the primordial life principle, which considers being the pleasure principle. It manifests itself in dreams, jumble of thoughts and intoxication. Tyson asserts Freudian ideas, in the following ways, and says, "The id is devoted solely to the gratification of prohibited desire of all kinds—desire for power for sex, for amusement in other words, the id consists largely of these desires regulated or forbidden by social convention" (25). Here, Tyson means that, the id consists largely of those desires regulated or forbidden by social convention. Id is the depository of innate instinctual drive and always seeks instant satisfaction. Id stores suppressed desires and searches for power, for sex, for amusement forgetting social norms or convention.

The instinct of major characters is guided by id so they forget their position and post instead they look after fulfilling their desire. One of the major characters, Ted Cole is a writer of children's book. His psyche is guided by id so he does care about his position instead searches means to fulfil his desire. His sexual relation with different women is medium of getting satisfaction wherever he goes. Here, Ruth says: "It was at writers' conference where Ruth was first confronted with the phenomenon of her father sleeping with a young woman who was even younger than she was a fellow college student" (26-27). Ruth argues that, her father is in the writer's conference, forgets his post and position. In one hand he is a writer and at the same time he is the father of Ruth. In the way of searching solace, he forgets both of these things and finally arrives to keep sexual relation with a girl for his satisfaction who is

younger than his own daughter. The domination of id does not let him to remember any other things it just revolves around to search the way for fulfilling his desire.

In the same way, the character Marion is also guided by id so she cannot maintain her position and post. She is the wife of Ted and her two sons are just dead. Now she is in frustration with Ted's relation due to the death of her son. She forgets her position to fulfil her desires by keeping sexual intercourse with Eddie. Eddie is her husband's assistant but her erotic desire does not let her to remember about her position and she keeps relation with Eddie that is mentioned clearly in the communication between Marion and Eddie:

'Come hither boys' Marion translated in a whisper.

'ut viri sitis' Eddie concluded; he'd noticed that Marion had taken his hand and against the crotch of her panties.

'and become men' Marion whispered. Again she gripped the back of his neck and pulled his face against her breasts. 'But you still haven't had sex, have you?' she asked. (77)

In the above extract, Marion has extreme erotic desire due to the frustrated relation with her husband. So she is oriented only to fulfil her desire by keeping sexual intercourse. She is pushing to Eddie to do sex with her which is clearly seen in the above extract. When she is with Eddie she offers him for sexual act. She encourages Eddie to move her sexual organs to get solace. She forgets all her position and post while fulfilling her erotic desires.

In the same way, Eddie is not aware about his position when he is guided by id. He comes in the Teds' house as his assistant but his erotic desire does not let him to think about the gap between his master and him. His erotic desires create the sexual desire in him about masters' wife instead of creating respect about her. He keeps the

sexual relation with his master's wife that he describes in his book "Okay. Although I am Mr. Coles' assistant, I have been sleeping with Mrs. Cole this summer. I would estimate that Marion and I have made love about sixty times" (124). In the given lines, he clearly says that he knows he is the writers' assistant and accepts that the domination of id does not let him to remember about his position and he keeps the sexual intercourse sixty times with the writer's wife Marion Cole.

While id dominates one's mind, it does not let to think about other things. It diverts the person's mind around the erotic desire and makes him forget other things. The character Eddie O Hare forgets other things due to erotic desire which is also clearly seen in following lines also:

Before Eddie went back to his room, he took another look at Marion. Her eyes were closed, her lips were parted in her sleep, and her body had given up its terrifying rigidity. Only a sheet covered her hips; her upper body was bare. It was a warm night; Eddie nevertheless covered her breasts with the sheet. She looked a little less abandoned that way.

(91)

The above lines clearly show that the mind of Eddie dominated by the sexual instinct, that is, in Freudian term, is dominated by id. So, instead of doing the tasks which are supposed to be done by the writer's assistant, he is seriously caring Marion's body even during the time of sleeping. His meditations more on the sensual organs of Marion rather than on his tasks shows that he is motivated by the sexual instinct every time.

While defining id Freud, in his essay, *Creative Writers and Day Dreaming* says that Id is related with erotic which located at the unconscious level of human mind and guides to the sexual desires. Thus, the characters of the novel seem

completely guided by erotic desires because most often they are concentrated on sex. As Hannah raises the issue of sex before talking about other things “Have you had sex yet? I mean with Allan” (442). This line clearly shows that most of the characters of the novel are concerned about sexual act so if they have any time to talk they begin from the issue of sex. Another time also he begins from the issue of sex; “she knew that Allan Albright was the next person she should sleep” (291). It clarifies that their mind is guided by sexual desires. So they think only about the sexual activities. In this connection, Tony Thwaites Defines id by relating it to the personality:

The id is the dark, inaccessible part of our personality, what little we know of it we have learnt from our study of dream –work and of the construction of neurotic symptom, and most of that is of negative character and can be described as a contrast to the ego. We approach the id with analogous; we call it chaos, a cauldron full of seeking excitations. It is filled with energy reaching it from the instincts, but it has organization, produces no collective will, but only a striving to bring about the satisfaction of the instinctual needs subject to the observance of the pleasure principle. The logical laws of thought do not apply in the id, and this is true above all of the laws of contradiction.

(38)

As is clear from the lines above, id is the dark aspect which is hidden in human psyche which dominates personality. Unlike ego, it only endeavours to seek pleasure which is mainly sexual. Without consulting social norms and values, id tries to seek its satisfaction and acts according to the pleasure principle. It's instinctual is to observe the need of pleasure principle. Approaching the id, we try to find the chaos and pleasure seeking tendency.

In the novel, the characters see the pleasure into the sexual activities and act for it. Here is description about the women characters who works into the red light district, they are not caring anything about social norms values. They are mostly oriented to fulfil their sexual desire. While choosing the area of research she is guided by sexual desire, for she chooses red light district. While researching she has an opportunity to talk with a prostitute. As Ruth tells to the prostitute, “You don’t have to undress. We are just talking with you” (395). Although Ruth tries to show herself as not guided by pleasure principle by uttering such words to those prostitute but in reality she is excessively guided by it. If she is guided by it she does not choose the red light area as her research area.

The people from teen ager to ageless go into red light district to fulfil their desires. Though Ruth does not show her intention to save her from the social norms and values, but Wim, who has gone with her, cannot control his pleasure oriented psyche. When prostitute tells to Wim, “touch my breast. Go on, touch them”, he says to Ruth “touch them” (396). Wim does not think about other things like social norms and values but he only desires to play even with the body of prostitute in the quest of solace.

Hannah is also best example of this novel who is highly guided by sexual desire. She does not care even about her health while she is guided by extreme sexual instinct. Although she is “a year younger than Ruth Hannah had always seemed older, not only because, Hannah had had three abortions before Ruth managed to loss her virginity but also because Hannah’s greater sexual experience lent her an air of maturity and sophistication” (277-78). These lines clearly portray Hannah’s carelessness about her health. When human being sees pleasure in sexual act or when they get extreme joy in sexual act, they do not care anything else. In fact, it is the

cause of Hannah's oldness. While getting solace in present, she fails to think about its future result. It clearly shows that Hannah, who does not care about her health, also never care about the social norms and values. As she is guided by principle pleasure and she wants to gain it even keeping her health in risky.

By keeping her health in danger, Hannah aborts three times in the quest of solace. Even after it, she wants to quench her sexual desire through Ruth's father Ted "Hannah flirted with Ruth's father" (231). Hannah's act clearly shows her extreme interest in sexual activities because she flirts even her friend's father. Due to her extreme interest in sex, she starts it from her early age: "Hannah, of course, hadn't waited; she'd had several times at Exeter, and her first abortion before she graduated" (224). This line clearly shows that if her first abortion was before her graduation she was highly controlled by id and did many sinful activities going against social values because abortion is also sin but she does not care other thing she cares only about fulfilment of her desire even from her early age.

Eddie, another major character, is also guided by the pleasure principle. He does not care about social norms values. When he is separated after long sexual relation in summer days with Marion, he is trying to establish such relationship again which is quoted in these lines:

In the year of his graduation from Exeter (1960), Eddie was prompted to seek a summer job away from home; this desire, in combination with Eddie's developing awareness that he was attracted to older women-and that they were attracted to him-would lead Eddie to remember Penny Pierce's business card, which he had saved. (189)

The above lines clearly show the domination of id upon Eddie. So, he is searching new girls to fulfil his intention which is pleasure oriented. He chooses the girl named

Penny Pierce from all the others. He is also interested to keep the sexual relation with the older women, "He realized that Mrs. Pierce might have been offering him more than the job" (191). This line indicates the intention of id guided psyche of Eddie. Here he is expecting the things beyond the job of frame shop. It means he is expecting the thing as he had got while working in Cole family. His mind is full of unconscious psychic forces. This unconscious mind forces him to point out the Ruth's sensual part of the body in his novel *Sixty Times* for his satisfaction, "Ruth's thin upper lip was Marion's upper lip; her full breasts, which were slightly pendulous, were her mother's, too. However, without Marion's long waist, Ruth's breasts appeared too big for the rest of her" (220). He shows his concern about the sensual organ than the other things due to his unconscious mentality. And this mentality gives him pleasure in the description of such sensual organs.

Similarly, Ruth, the central character of the novel, is also guided by id. The only difference is that she does not continue it from her early age. But her activities to go at red light district and to keep sexual relation with Per Swedish and to marry all are her confession for the fulfilment of sexual desire. It means no one is beyond the id or sexual desire. They born with it and continue in their life. Ruth says, "The sex was okay" (282). This line clearly indicates that all enjoy in it. So their enjoyment forces them to forget all social norms. They look only for the fulfilment of sexual desire to get pleasure. Ruth Cole also gets the pleasure in it.

Freud in the same context argues "id as, inborn part of unconscious mind that uses the primary process to study its needs and that acts according to the pleasure principle . . . the attempts of the id is to seek immediate pleasure and avoid pain regardless of harmful it might be to others" (466). It means id is uncontrolled. It seeks instant satisfaction of primitive irrational as it has pleasure seeking impulses.

Corresponding to Freud, Ruth Cole fails to conceal her instinct and ultimately exposes it. As Ruth tells to Allan, “Nothing strikes as remarkable anymore”. Desiring to marry with Allan, Ruth adds “Nothing is as important as having sex with you” (434). It vividly shows that Ruth is unable to control herself as her mind is dominated by id. The id works as the uncontrolled force throughout her life. It is uncontrolled not only in young age but also in childhood and old age which is illustrated from Marion’s desire to have sexual relationship with Eddie even in her old age, “I’ll sleep with you Eddie-if it’s all right” (581). This line clearly shows that the sexual instinct of human beings never dies. Here Marion also has sexual desire even in her old age and curious to do so she promises to have it with Eddie if she feels well. Another character Ruth also says, “Even older man found more companionship insufficient, naturally they’d had wanted sex, too” (582). From this line, it can be said that the quest for solace through sex is continue forever. As old men see the solace in sex than companionship, they take sex as getting solace.

While talking about Psychoanalysis, Freud developed the concept of ‘Oedipus Complex’ to study the pleasure seeking on the context of reading Sophocles myth Oedipus. ‘Oedipus Complex’ is also significant subject for the study of human psyche in psychoanalysis. In this concept, we study that the son always wants to be proximate to his mother and develops hatred to his father due to that there is antagonistic relationship between father and son. The male infant conceives the desire to eliminate father and becomes the sexual partner of mother. However, because of fear of castration (being outcast from society), he cannot take sexual relationship with his mother; father is an obstacle due to which he falls in complex. In this study, we focus on the mother’s equal interest about her son which also creates the complex situation. Father is the symbolic representation of the society, and small infant as well as mother

is always obstructed by his father to make the sexual relation between them. It means an individual is always bounded by social norms and values. Therefore, there is correspondence between father and society.

In the same way, such problem in the case of girls is called 'Electra Complex', the daughter's desires to have sexual relation with father. In this sense, Reassessing Freud's Case Histories, Frank J. Sulloway sees the human psychology as the construction of the society. He writes:

The peculiar social organization that makes an individual, a psychoneurosis patient, the social construction of psychoanalysis- therefore represents a mirror image in the practical realm. The social taboo creates a problematic psycho- pathetic people and psychoanalytic therapeutic technique is helpful to healing them. (246)

In the above lines, Sulloway means to say that human psychology is a creation of society. It suggests that the psychology of human being is formulated by the social structure and its norms and values. An individual acquires knowledge, according to the accepted methods of community. When the people go against the social norms they certainly have to face complexities. That happen when they are uncontrolled by their desire. In the novel, the major characters are gone through the psychological problem of what Freud calls 'Oedipus Complex' as well as 'Electra Complex'.

After the death of Marion's two sons, Thomas and Timothy, Eddie comes as the representative of Marion son in her life. Eddie resembles those two sons of Marion, "In the picture, Eddie was two years younger than Thomas and the same age as Timothy at the time of their deaths. Nevertheless, Eddie looked more like Thomas than like Timothy" (10). Here the age of Eddie is similar with their one son and appearance is same with another son. Although, Eddie comes as her assistant, he turns

out to be the representative of her son. Marion loved her both sons too much; “She was repeatedly struck by those boys who bore any resemblances to Thomas or Timothy” (9). This line shows Marion’s excessive love for the son which in Freudian term is ‘Oedipus Complex’, that is, mothers excessive interest in her son. Her excessive love forces her to fall in love with the Eddie who has come as representative of her son. When Marion begins to love Eddie as her son, the narrator narrates how it is going on:

With the long, pink nail of her index finger, Marion was tracing the borders of Eddie’s bare shoulders; it was an unconscious but intensely focussed gestures. Ted had to wonder if he wasn’t more of his wife’s increasing obsession with who resembled Thomas or Timothy than poor Marion was. After all, she hadn’t slept with them yet. (11)

The above lines mentioned the Marion’s excessive desire for her son that love force her to care the photo also too seriously. She cares Eddie’s bare shoulders tracing with her nail. It clearly shows that there was sexual desire of her about her son which is in her unconscious mind. She could not fulfil her desire of sleeping with her sons so she wants to fulfil it by Eddie. And here Ted is caring his wife’s obsession about the boy means he is standing as obstruction defined in the Oedipus Complex.

Marion’s mind is totally controlled by unconscious desire about her sons. Such deep attraction creates the deep relation with Eddie. Eddie, as the representative of her son, is also attracted towards Marion which is mainly caused by Oedipus Complex that he is living with. Time and again he is attracted towards her sexual organ so he “notices her breast” (50), when he gets opportunity. It indicates his psychological problem of ‘Oedipus Complex’. As Sulloway describes, this desire comes in the life but it has to be controlled to adjust in society. If this erotic desire is not controlled

they have to face the complexities. Here the narrator says; “they made love in Eddie’s room” (83). Due to his excessive love towards her mother, he fails to control himself and makes love in the room when Ted has gone outside. Both mother and son do not care the social norms and values. But they cannot continue it for society takes it taboo.

In the same way, ‘Electra Complex’ can be found in the relationship between Ted and Ruth. According to Freud ‘Electra Complex’ deals with the relation between father and daughter, in which they are sexually attracted to each other. Ruth Cole, one of the central characters, is always sexually attracted to her father. She unconsciously cares her father’s sexual organ than other things. When she awakes suddenly in the mid night, she utters “Daddy” and goes towards her father instead of mother “she’d remembered that it was her father’s turn to stay with her” (14). This is her hidden unconscious desire’s representation so we can say she has sexual interest with her father. Moreover, she enjoys in comparing her father’s sexual organ with other thing about which the narrator says; “Ruth would always associate her father’s physical appearance with pencils and erasers” (23). This means she is fulfilling her desire to have sex with her father by talking about her father’s sexual organ.

Ruth has been attracted to her father due to the ‘Electra Complex’. But owing to social norms she cannot fulfil her desire. In order to fulfil her suppressed desire she marries with Allan, which has resemblance with her father. On the other hand, Ted continues to seduce the girls which resembles the age of his daughter. And in such way to fulfil her desire she married with Allan to fulfil her desire of having sex with her father seeing similar figure as her father. Which sameness she mentioned in these lines; “Allan is eighteen years older than I am, Daddy,” Ruth had acknowledged. But “he is like you. He’s very healthy” (286). These lines clearly show the daughter’s

excessive interest to sleep with her father. When the norms and values of society do not let her to do so, she takes safe landing to fulfil her desire of sleeping with father by marrying Allan. She stops creating complexities and able to spend her life happily. Ted's activities also indicate his desire of sleeping with his daughter. He seduces the girls who are younger than Ruth. Here we can say he seduces the younger girl to fulfil his desire of sleeping with his daughter.

Owing to the psychological complexity of 'Electra Complex' and 'Oedipus Complex', that the major characters are living with, father Ted turns out to be good for Daughter Ruth whereas Marion turns out to be better for sons which narrator says: "Ted was better father to Ruth than she was mother. And Marion had always been so much superior parent to her sons! Lately she almost hated Ted for absorbing his grief better than she could absorb hers. What Marion could only guess was that Ted might have hated her for the superiority of her sadness" (31). The given lines describe about the better relation between mother and son. In the same way, the relationship between daughter and father is good. So here father is good for daughter and mother is good for son as explained in Electra Complex and Oedipus Complex.

While talking about psychoanalysis, Freud divides the human mind into three levels: the conscious, the preconscious and the unconscious or subconscious. The conscious is that part of the mind which provides immediate awareness, perception, thought or feeling of mental events and memories. Consciousness is also a process or sequence of events. William James mentions "it as a stream of consciousness that means continuity of process" (67). The Consciousness constitutes the relationship to the environment. Consciousness is the sequence of events. Here we can study the sequence of events that occurred in the life of character applying this concept in the novel. If this is the study of sequence of events, the events that occurred in the life of

character are more sexual on the novel. The sexual event takes place in the character Ruth Cole's life that can be found in the following lines:

“Please stop,” she asked him, but he could feel her pushing her hips back against him and he humped her all her all the harder. When he was finished with her, Ruth lay on her left side, facing the empty bed; she listened to Scott flushing away another condom. At first she felt she was bleeding, but it was only an excess of lubricating jelly. When Scott came back to bed, he tried to touch her breasts again. Ruth pushed his hand away. (325)

If the psychoanalysis deals about the sequence of events in conscious level of mind, the above lines are the description of events that occurred in the life of Ruth. It is event related to the sexual intercourse. In these lines, she is asking Scott to stop him from the keeping sexual relation but he does not stop and Ruth left in empty bed after that relation. She listened to Scott flushing another condom. When he tries to touch her breast coming in the bed she pushes his hands away. This event is also about the sexual activities. It means all the events described in the novel are all about the sexual activities.

For Freud, preconscious mind is the store house of memories and wishes. If it is the store house of memories and wishes it deals about memories and wishes of character. Here the character who spends his early days that memory is stored in him and his wishes about her are same even in his old that wish led him to fall in love with the Ruth which is seen clearly in the following lines:

As a sixteen- year-old, Eddie had fallen in love with Marion's sadness, which seemed a more permanent part of her than her beauty. Yet beauty is remembered after beauty leaves; what Eddie saw reflected in

Ruth's face was departed beauty, which was another measure of the love Eddie truly felt for Marion. But Eddie didn't know that he was still in love with Marion; he truly believed that he'd fallen in love with Ruth. (514-15)

In the above lines we can see the memory of Eddie about Marion. That shows his extreme love about Marion. When he was talking with Ruth Cole he sees the reflection of Marion in Ruth and he starts to remember the events that had occurred in the age of sixteen and he feels himself as the man of sixteen years. His memory creates the wishes in him and he stares at Ruth gazing and believes that he is in love. Here we can see equally memory as well as wishes.

While describing about the division of mind in psychoanalysis, Freud lays emphasis on unconscious mind too. The unconscious mind, according to him is the reservoir of buried thoughts, emotions, feelings, wishes and impulses that can be brought into consciousness. The unconscious is timeless and chaotic in nature, infantile, and primitive. It is the dark side of personality which has no concern with morality, reality, good evil, and norms of the society. The content of unconscious comes from two sources; animalistic feelings and striving. It has not conscious and repressed wishes and thought. For this, George Bridges notes;

The nature of unconscious, according to Freud is dynamic. It consists of repressed childhood wishes which are never striving to express themselves. It is also intimated above, sexual energy. Freud calls it libido. The sexuality of the unconscious is however, a perverse sexuality. (75)

Approving the idea of Freud, Bridge says that unconscious is dynamic and it consists the repressed childhood wishes. It is intimated in sexual energy which Freud calls libido and finally says the unconscious is the store of powerful sexuality.

Here, Ted Cole can be taken for applying Bridge's psychoanalysis concept of unconscious mind. Ted Cole's mind is always guided by libido with powerful and dynamic desires. His wishes are powerful so he could not control his wishes and always runs after fulfilling his wishes. The reference of his unconscious mind which the character Ruth Cole has written in her diary are in the following lines: "Eddie O Hare was the antithesis of her father. At seventy-seven, Ted Cole was now chasing women who were, Ruth's age, although he was less and less successful at it. His more common successes were in their late forties- women who were Eddie's age!"

(267). The given lines deal accurately about the unconscious mind of Ted guided by libidinal forces. The character Ted is seventy six years old but his libido is still energetic. He cannot control his libido till his old age because that is hidden in his unconscious mind which is very powerful. He is chasing the women of Ruth's age even at the age of seventy six. When he cannot get success on those women finally he makes victim to the women of Eddie's age to fulfil his desire. He does not wish in other thing even in such old age. It clearly signifies that human being search solace into sexual relation and continues forever. There is domination of unconscious in other characters as well.

Ruth Cole's psyche also has domination of unconscious due to repression of her childhood. Her mind has the unconscious sexual feeling which is clear in the following lines:

Ruth had grown up naked men, and her naked father, running out of the outdoor shower and jumping into the pool. As sexuality in

experienced as she was, Ruth had seen a lot of penises. It was perhaps this image of unknown men showering and swimming naked with her father that had caused Ruth to question Hanna's assumption that bigger was necessarily better. (287)

The above line describes about Ruth's wishes which were repressed in her childhood. Ruth sees too many penises along with her father's penis while showering and swimming. She sees but she cannot play with them. And such things continuously hunt her mind. Here people are showering and swimming naked means they are working with domination of unconscious. While talking with Hannah, Ruth Cole expresses things from her unconscious mind and says that bigger one penis is better. It clearly shows that when unconscious mind guide mind it cannot be controlled. So she uttered her desire of big penises through the unconscious level of mind.

Psychoanalytical concept of neurosis can be taken to study the character's sexual activities. The term neurosis is originated in eighteenth century and used in the variety of meaning in nineteenth century. The concept of neurosis complains about someone whose behaviour is consistently annoying. Popularizing the concept of neurosis, Freud argues that it is a type of emotional disturbance. He views neurosis as a pattern of behavioural and psychological disturbance produced by conflict with the personality structure. According to Freud the neurotic individual fails to pass successfully through the critical stage of life. Here Horney states: "Neurosis is an exaggerated form of normal reaction to stressful events" (1). Horney says that neurosis concept is the reaction on stressful events.

The central character Ruth has reaction against stressful events. Her reaction is against her father's stressful event. The creation of stressful events can be seen clearly in the following lines:

Ruth stood as still in her father's bedroom as she would have stood if Hannah and her father had been naked in bed in front of her. The sea breeze blew through the bedroom window again; it blew shut the door behind her. Ruth felt as if she'd been locked in a closet. If something had brushed against her (a dress on a hanger) she would have fainted or screamed. (294)

The above lines say about the sexual relation of Hannah and Ted. They are naked on the bed and performing sexual act. Ruth is seeing all things silently. In one hand, Hannah and Ted are searching solace in sex but at the same time it creates irritation in Ruth. Nature is going as usual but neither Ruth can scream nor can avoid it because their activity turns to be stressing events of her life.

The above extract is about stressful event in her life. She had not expected such event in her life. But it happened. It creates the disorder in her life. And she could not pass easily through this stage of life. When she could not tolerate the sexual relation between Hannah and her father Ted, she reacted with Ted and Hannah that reaction is in these lines: "I want you to get out of here, too, Daddy," Ruth told her father. "I want to be alone. I came home to be with you, and with my best friend," she added. "But now I want you both gone" (297). These lines clearly show that the stressing act of Ted and Hannah creates disorder in the Ruth Cole. She cannot take their activities easily. She decides to be alone. Neither she wants her father nor to her best friend. And this stressing event leads her for mental struggle.

Neurosis reveals inner mental struggle and discordant social relationship. Furthermore it manifests emotional stress, conflicts and frustration. Emphasizing such issues J. D. Page writes:

Neurosis or psychoneurosis is taken as a minor mental disorder characterized by inner struggle and discordant social relationship. It is the initial stage of any other psychotic stage. But essential feature of psychoneuroses are that they are precipitated by emotional stress, conflict and frustration. They are not produced by physical disorders and do not respond to routine medical treatment. Psychoneurosis are such that compulsory hospitalization or segregations unnecessary. A few patients voluntarily seek hospital treatments but the majority live at home usually continue their customary business and activities. (90)

In the above citation, Page argues that psychoneurosis is all about neurotic behaviour or mental disorder that frequently misevaluates demands and becomes anxious. It is inner struggle and discordant with social relationship. It is taken as the initial stage of psychotic. It is not taken as product of physical disorder but it is just stress on mind so patient does not go hospital rather they search the treatment continuing customary business and activities.

Neurosis results in violence. Because characters suffered from neurosis perform the odd activities. For this, Coleman states; “Neurotic are typically anxious, ineffective, unhappy, and often guilt ridden individuals who ordinarily require hospitalization but nevertheless are in need of therapy” (265). It means the patient of neurosis are typically anxious ineffective and unhappy and often guilt ridden. So they do not look for hospitalization. They want to cure by their own activities. Their activities are full of violence and perform activities in challenging way not caring other things.

In the way Coleman argues, is the way Ruth suffers by the psychoneurosis because of her father Ted and Hannah’s stressing activities. She does not look for

hospitalization. She goes for mental struggle with them. She is frustrated by stressing event. She wants to get relief from this emotional stress and frustration. Ruth's activities are motivated to get relief from stressing events and frustration. She makes sexual relationship with Scott due to the frustration that her father has left her and consistently has sexual relationship with other girls. As narrator narrates the event of sexual intercourse between Ruth and Scott:

He kissed her for a long time, and he liked her for even longer time; she didn't need any of the jelly in her father's night table drawer. She came just a few seconds after he was inside her, and she felt him come only a moment later. Nearly the whole time, but especially when Scott was licking her, Ruth watched the open door of her father's bedroom; she listened for her father's footstep on the stairs, he listened for her father's footstep on the stairs, or in the upstairs hall, but all she could hear was clicking or tapping noise in the dryer. And when Scott entered her and she knew she was going to come, almost instantly –the rest of it would be over very quickly, too-Ruth thought: Come home now, Daddy! Come upstairs and see me now! (320)

The above extract clearly indicates Ruth's neurosis affected mind. She participates in sexual activities with Scott to challenge her father. She is not caring either her activities is violence or not. She seems just in search of relief from emotional stress. She is very annoyed with her father. Her father's activities create the disorder in her life and lead her to keep the discordant social relationship. Here, she is with Scott Saunders who is her father's squash playing partner. She is keeping sexual relation with him keeping door open. And she is waiting to see her father in door. She wants to react against her father's emotional stress by showing sexual activities of her and

Scott. When she does not see her father at door, in this extract, she asked her father to come and see her. As neurotic patient, Ruth could not pass easily critical stage of life. And she also takes shelter in sexual intercourse to react against her father. When she finds her father and Hannah's sexually activities, this annoyed her and she keeps unfair sexual relation with Scott to react against her father and friend Hannah. It means sexual act works as means of solving problems of life and helps to get solace reacting against the disordered situation of life.

According to the psychoanalytical criticism, artist possesses special abilities to differentiate them from the patently neurotic personality. This concept can be applied to study genius quality of writer. That genius helps writer to change their sexual drive into higher non sexual drive. M. H. Abram, in his *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, writes, "Artists shift the instinctual drives from their original sexual goals to non sexual "higher goals" (249). The creativity of artist is also his/her wish-fulfilment. This especial quality makes the shift of instinctual drives from their sexual goals to higher non sexual goals.

In summer season of 1958, Eddie and Marion keep sexual relation. While writing book, the main source of his writing becomes the incidents of sexual intercourse: "They could not make love because Marion had an infection-sex was painful for her. She lay nevertheless lay beside Eddie and held his face against her breasts while he masturbated to his heart's content" (86). These lines indicate how sexual relation can be source of writing book. When they are separated to each other they have no longer any opportunity to have sex. In such situation, they are established as writer by utilizing their original sexual drive into higher nonsexual drive. They possess the especial abilities to differentiate them radically from the

patently neurotic personality so they change their way of wish-fulfilment into creativity.

Eddie has genius so he establishes himself as well known after the separation with Marion. He makes literary creation as the means of his wish-fulfilments to get solace in his life. He publishes the book *Sixty Times* with the mode of fantasy. The content of his book is about his and Marion's sexual activities. Writing such things, he makes creativity as medium to get satisfaction and solace. Eddie writes, "I would estimate that Marion and I have made love about sixty times" (149). Eddie expresses his sexual relation into higher non sexual level and writes he keeps sexual relation with Marion sixty times.

Eddie's genius becomes the source of his wish-fulfilment. In one hand, his genius is able to take him back to his reality and at the same time his genius is able to change his reality into creativity. He artistically presents all his experiences into creativity to get the solace in it. But the content he chooses to write a novel is all about sexual relation of him with Marion. Finding solace in sexuality, he prefers the matter of sexuality in his writing. Regarding sexual relation, Eddie calls to Marion "the sexual beginning and the sexual peak of life" (266). Because of his excessive desire of sex, he gives such value to the sexual intercourse. His emphasis in sex means solace is found in sexual intercourse. And in the same way, Marion also changes her original sexual drive into higher non sexual drive and able to establish herself as the mysterious writer with her genius. The characters Ruth Cole and Ted Cole also establish themselves as the best writer changing their original sexual drive into higher non sexual drive.

Summing up, the research analyzes the unconscious part of human psychology as determining factor of their personality. Corresponding to the Freudian

psychoanalysis, and his concepts of Oedipus Complex, Electra Complex, neurosis, and id, it explores how John Irving has depicted the relationship between characters as guided by such unconscious factors. It also deals about the role of family in the development of characters' psyche. More specifically, it deals with the character's quest for solace from the fragmentation and disintegrated psychology through the means of sexual intercourse. In search of solace, the major characters have potentiality of changing their original sexual drive into higher non sexual drive.

III. Redemption via Sex in *A Widow for One Year*

In John Irving's *A Widow for One Year*, the major characters strive to get redemption from the disordered psychology through the sexual affair that they have among each other. Particularly, the unconscious human psychology becomes the guiding force of their life. Drawing upon the theoretical framework of psychoanalysis, it can be concluded that the interrelationship among the characters is the outcome of the suppressed desire, they have been living with. Indeed, the hidden psyche of the major characters has creative dimension that eventually establishes them popular writer.

Most of the major characters like that of Ted, Eddie, Ruth and Marion are guided by id, the unconscious part of the human mind. Such excessive sexual instinct moves their life in accordance with the principle of pleasure. The society tries to keep them under the strict rules of social norms and values, but they fail to fulfil the social expectation and oriented towards the means of pleasure. In fact, they are in the quest of solace via the fulfilment of sexual instinct.

The characters' childhood psychology is the determining factor of their personality in young age. Ruth Cole is brought up in the environment in which she can observe the sexual intercourse between her mother Marion and Eddie O Hare, her father's assistant many times. In her family, the family members openly talk about the subject matter of sex. So, her psychology motivated towards sex; she chooses 'red light district' as the area of research. She does not hesitate to talk about the matter of sex in the later part of her life.

Along with that, Eddie has resemblance with the dead sons of Marion, Thomas and Timothy, so she is attracted towards him due to the 'Oedipus Complex'. Similarly, Marion is the woman of Eddie's mother's age. As she resembles his

mother, he is also attracted to her owing to the 'Oedipus Complex'. Although society takes the relationship between them as taboo, but due to their extreme sexual attraction towards each other, they make love to each other in search of solace.

Likewise, another major character, Ruth Cole is attracted towards her father Ted Cole because her psychology is affected by 'Electra complex'. She is too much attracted towards the sexual organ of her father and fantasizes her father's penis in pencil and erasure. Finally, she gets married with Allan, the man who resembles her father. In fact, she marries with him in order to fulfil her desire of having sex with her father. In the same way, Ted, being attracted towards his daughter, seduces the girls of his daughter's age.

The sexual instinct is also found as having the aesthetic dimension of creativity in the novel. Marion's suppressed sexual instinct and her experience of sexual intercourse is, after all, her sources of writing. It is her genius that changes her original sexual drive into higher non sexual drive. In the same way, other characters like Ted, Eddie, and Ruth also convert their sexual drive towards the higher drive of creativity, and thus, succeed to establish themselves as great writers.

Hence, Irving's novel draws the conclusion that the determining factor of personality among the characters is unconscious, the part of psychology that is dominated by irrationality, mainly sexual instinct. Such an instinct, after all, assists in integrating the disintegrated and fragmented psychology either from the original sexual drive or from the higher non sexual drive of creativity, and thus, it is a means to get solace in the life of those characters.

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