

Tribhuvan University

Failure of the Superego in Paula Hawkins's *The Girl on the Train*

**A Thesis Submitted to Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, TU
In Partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

SaraswotiMagar

Symbol No: 6165

TU Regd. No: 6-2-716-196-2010

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

March 2021

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

SaraswotiMagar has completed her thesis entitled “Failure of the Superego in Paula Hawkins’s *The Girl on the Train*” under my supervision. She carried out her research from November 2018 to March 2021. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

Dr. KomalPhuyal

Supervisor

Date:

Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled “Failure of the Superego in Paula Hawkins’s *The Girl on the Train*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Saraswoti Magar has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Dr. Komal Prasad Phuyal

Internal Examiner

Prof. Dr. Dhruva Bahadur Karki

External Examiner

Prof. Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I am heartily thankful to my thesis supervisor Dr. KomalPhuyalat the Central Department of English, T.U., Kirtipur for his creative suggestion, comments, and guidance to complete the thesis. He has instructed and suggested to me to bring this thesis in its present form with great encouragement with his creative mind.

I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota, Head of Central Department of English for his encouraging suggestion. I am grateful to all the respected lecturers of the Central Department of English for their encouragement to my academic success.

Lastly, I am very thankful to my parents, friends for their wonderful support and suggestions. My sincere gratitude and acknowledgement to all those who implicitly or explicitly provide relevant advice during my research work.

March 2021

SaraswotiMagar

Failure of the Superego in Paula Hawkins's *The Girl on the Train*

Abstract

This research paper deals with failure of moral structures in Paula Hawkins's 2015 novel, The Girl on the Train. The novelist depicts modern British society in the text to make her claims regarding the fall of standard moral values in their society. The female characters live a very difficult life in which they face problems. This research paper studies the events and the behaviour of the characters who are guided by the repressed libidinal contents in the id. This study has taken Freudian model of psychoanalysis to study the novel. Freud has divided human personality into three elements Id, Ego and Superego. Ego plays a role of mediator to create balance between these two id primitive drives and superego moral and social drives. This study draws on morality of the characters that fails to adjust the subject in society.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, Superego, Libido, Morality, Pleasure

This research paper deals with the British novelist Paula Hawkins's 2015 novel *The Girl on the Train* written in British context showing the failure of the superego, presenting the woman having lots of suffering in her life, having burning desire of sex. *The Girl on the Train* is a psychological thriller novel by Hawkins. The novel deals with issue of human relation, abandonment, betray, infertility, murder and alcoholism. Novelist capture the British social context to expose the failure of the super ego by picturing women maintaining status quo outside while still burning sexually realize herself outside. Novel shows the lives of three women Rachel, Anna and Megan. The murder mystery of Megan brings the lives of those women together. The novel has unreliable narration and it is written in a diary form. All these three women wrote their point of view to the events. Rachel is a woman of thirty two years

old alcoholic, jobless and having a memory problem and infertility problem. Who everyday takes a train observing outside from the window of the train.

This study analyzes the psychological factor of the characters mainly Rachel, Megan and Tom. So, it focuses on the psychological factor of the characters in the novel by using the theoretical perspective of psychological lens of Sigmund Freud. Novelist tries to show the fall of strength of the moral value in the modern society through the behaviour and the action of the character in the novel. Rachel and Megan are a female character presenting the present suffering of the women in the modern society and next character Tom presents as a spoiled and evil character of the society. Through the character of the novel Hawkins depicts the reality of today's society. Because in modern time people gives value to their inner desire rather than the social norms and values. As the characters in the novel only focused to their desire. Like Tom who keeps illegal relation with other women though he is married twice. Not keep her silence to unfold about their relation and about her pregnancy. In our society marriage is taken as a pure and spiritual bound of two hearts but the characters take a relation only as a physical need of them. Therefore to fulfil their physical needs they have an illegal relation.

This research paper examines the behaviour of the characters and the events of the novel. Rachel is a protagonist of the novel suffering with lots of problem. She is very much frustrated an alcoholic character because of her memory problem, infertility, joblessness and economic crisis. She divorced with Tom and living with her friend. Though she is fired from her job everyday she takes a train as she is heading for a job. During a travel she looks her ex-house now there Tom lives with his new wife and daughter. She becomes nostalgic when she sees her house. Due to her infertility both of them separated. While traveling she sees a couple together on

the balcony and name them Jess (Megan) and Jason (Scott). She thinks that they are the ideal couple for her and they are the complete couple of her incomplete married life. But when she sees Jess kissing with another man again her heart broke and she think that she is same as her ex-husband. Another female character Megan is also living her frustrating life having a desire of happy life. She has a traumatic past and having an extra affair with Tom that cause her death at last. She got married with Mac and had a baby whom accidentally killed by her later on Mac leave her along. It makes her so traumatic. Scott is her present husband who does not give her sufficient time again she becomes lonely. That's why she starts to have therapy session with Dr. Kamal. She tries to seduce him. She works as a baby sitter at Tom's house for a short time meanwhile they become closer and have an affair too. Tom antagonist of the novel keeps physical relation with all female character in the novel. Not only that he is fired from his job because he harass to all the female employee at office. He is a big liar, betray to his wife and keep relation with other woman. He killed Megan for his own sake. Tom blamed Rachel that he had been fired due to her misbehaves with his head at the party. But these all are Tom's imaginary reasons to make Rachel weak and to keep her away from his life because he wants to live life with Anna. He is a guy with desire to have a relation with new female to fulfil his physical need.

At the last of the novel Rachel remember everything how Tom makes her fool. She recovers her memory. She remembers the events of the Saturday the day of Megan disappear when she sees Tom with her. At that day Tom hits Rachel on her head and move with Megan but Rachel forgets the events and tries to remember frequently. After a few days she recalls her memory and knew that Tom killed Megan and she tries to make him confess his crime but Tom tries to keep her quiet

and attack Rachel in return Rachel stabs corkscrew on his neck for self-defence. It shows her aggression over his betrayal, sin, and lie.

This research paper focuses on Paula Hawkins's 2015 novel *The Girl on the Train* presents the mess life of a British woman trying to cope up with the difficulties resulting from the disturbance because of her married life where the superego fails to add meaning in her life. Analyzing the context through the lens of psychoanalytical perspective of Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). He had developed a theory of human psychology. Psychology is the study of the human mind. It is scientifically and systematically studying the human mind and behaviour. Freudian psychoanalysis is the theory of studying the human mind and that deals with human behaviors. Psychoanalysis is a treatment method where conscious and unconscious elements of the patients are observed in order to cure their illness. It is a technique to cure those mentally disordered people and make them interact with present and past things making them familiar.

In the psychoanalysis, Freud had provided evidence through his many recorded case studies. He has developed model of mind or human personality into three different parts, i.e., id, ego and superego. Freud focuses on human behaviour as the result of interaction among these three components of mind. This human personality has developed until the five years of childhood. Childhood is the fundamental stage of our personality development. "... the effect of the first identifications made in earlier childhood will be the general and lasting" (3965). According to Freud our personality develops during our childhood stage. Our family is the most important factor in our personality development.

Id is the first model of a mind it is a primitive impulses; that contains the sexual and aggressive drives and hidden memories. According to Freud id is based on

the pleasure principle it is the store house of libido it contains the repressed and unconscious desire and every human being has been born with id. It is the container of unconscious desire and wishes. According to Tyson, “ The id is devoted solely to the gratification of prohibited desire of all kinds –desire for power, for sex, for amusement, for food –without an eye to consequences” (25). Tyson argues that this Id is the seeker of all pleasure and it does not worry about any circumstances. It is an impulse that needs all desire like it may be sexual desire, holding of power or any those pleasure or wishes which a person needs. During this pleasure seeking person never think about any social norms, value and any rules regulation. So, Tyson argues again “In other words, the id consists largely of those desires regulated or forbidden by social convention” (25). Therefore, id always tries to fulfil all those wishes without any bother from those norms and value of the society.

The id is developed in the infant stage unconsciously and acts to satisfy self. Hence, id come with our birth and develops with our surroundings. Saul Mcleod explains about id: “The Id is an impulsive (and unconscious) part of our psyche which responds directly and immediately to the instincts. The personality of the new born child is all id and only later does it develop an ego and superego” (1-2). So, id is the original animalistic aspect of the self- characteristic of the infant. It is far from reality and it is disorganized thus it is an underground storeroom of buried thoughts, feelings, desire and experiences which is repressed and prohibited to come to surface.

Ego is a rational pragmatic part of human personality. It is based on a realistic part of human lives. It is based on reality principle. It creates balance between inner demands and outer reality. Tyson writes: “The ego, or the conscious self that experiences the external world through the senses, plays referee between the id and superego, and all three are defined by their relationship” (25). Ego is self-conscious. It

thinks, feels and wills. It maintains all the functions and makes them realistic, rational and possible. It knows the outer world and helps to balance between outer reality and inner demands.

Ego serves as a medium between Id and Superego. It is the voice of reason and rationality. The Ego ensures that not all the psychic activity in the Id is expressed or followed through, as some impulses within the Id may prove to be harmful to the individual. Hence, ego is the protector and it judges our action. Ego is the bridge between Id and superego. Ego is the outcome of the individual possessiveness. Freud takes ego as a rider and id as a horse, Freud describes ego:

. . . the ego is that part of the id which has been modified by the direct influence of the external world through the medium of the Pcpt.-Cs; in a sense it is an extension of the surface- differentiation. Moreover, the ego seems to bring the influence of the external world to bear upon the id and its tendencies, and endeavours to substitute the reality principle for the pleasure principle which reigns unrestrictedly in the id. (3959)

The ego is the reality part of our personality; it is the director of the human personality. Its function is to perceive the conscious thought; make a judgment to an action through internalizing the internal desire and external circumstance of the situation. Furthermore, Saul Mcleod argues:

The ego operates according to the reality principle, working out realistic ways of satisfying the id's demands, often compromising or postponing satisfaction to avoid negative consequences of society. The ego considers social realities and norms, etiquette and rules in deciding how to behave. (2)

Ego is about the social realities that internalizes the situation of external world and balanced between outer realities with internal desire. In the infant stage Id is dominant to

a person and in maturity ego rules over the id. But sometimes there arise a conflict between id and ego. When id has control over the ego it creates abnormality in the individual's behaviour.

Super ego is based on social values and moral conscience. It works to control one's id and ego. It judges the human psyche which oriented norms and values that helps to distinguish between right and wrong. So superego is based on morality principle. Saul Mcleod writes: "The superego incorporates the values and morals of society which are learned from one's parents and others" (3). Therefore superego is about the moral value practiced in society that bound people in a certain limitation. Society is the unity of the family and every family has its own culture. We are the productive of individual culture in society. That all family culture and those social authorities enforce to shape superego. Again, Saul Mcleod writes about superego, "The superego's function is to control the id's impulses, especially those which society forbids, such as sex and aggression. It also has the function of persuading the ego to turn to moralistic goals rather than simply realistic ones and to strive for perfection"(3). Superego classifies all the functions of the mind and forbidden id and ego to operate and fulfil its wishes and desires. Thus, superego is a judge of the human psyche that obtains very social norms and values.

The superego based on moral principle, it works against id. Id is trying to fulfil its libido or sexual desire but superego do not let id to act according to its wish. Superego is mostly unconscious and partly conscious. It is known as conscience and moral principle, "The Superego is an extreme version of the Ego. Whereas the Ego serves as the rationale agent, the Superego is driven by a strong moral conscience and is therefore known as the "morality principle" (131). Largely unconscious, the Superego strives towards an unattainable human perfection. "Freud attributes the

development of the Superego to the parental influence that manifests itself in terms of punishment for what society considers to be bad behavior and reward for what society considers good behavior” (131). Therefore, these three models of human personality have its own function.

Id is all about human wish and desire where it is based on pleasure principle. Ego is about rationality and reality is based on reality principle and superego it is all about the social rules regulation, norms value and authority. So it is based on morality principle. Waugh also writes, “The mental apparatus composed of three agencies which interact with each other; the id seat of instinctual drives; the ego, which wards off the instinctual of id; and the superego, which accumulates traces of authorial figures and acts as a critical agency towards the ego” (205). We have three important mental apparatus; they are id, ego and superego. Where Id is about the natural desire, ego guide to id and superego is morality.

Freud talked about the stage of mind or the origin of the human mind. There are three levels of the human mind: they are conscious, subconscious and unconscious. Freud focuses on the unconscious mind. Because he said that a big portion of the human mind is guided by the unconscious mind. The unconscious mind is a reservoir of the buried thought wishes feeling and emotion. It is the dark side of the personality that has no concern with the morality, reality, good and bad side of the society. Unconscious mind is very powerful and dynamic and it always tries to come into the surface of the conscious. So the unconscious and repressed desires come out symbolically in the dreams, slip of the tongue, mental conflict and unwanted behaviour. According to Freud we were born with our unconscious / id. Freud mainly focuses on this unconscious mind. So, he said that this unconscious mind is the

storehouse of sexual desire and the hidden desire. Freud talked about two kinds of unconscious mind.

Subconscious (preconscious) mind is the middle between conscious and unconscious mind. It is the store house of the memories. It is suddenly involved with past memories. It is closer to the conscious. Likewise, the conscious mind deals with the present time. It is all about awareness and reality. It is related to the external world which is real. Freud defines:

. . . consciousness is the surface of the mental apparatus; that we ascribed it as a functional to a system which is spatially the first one reached from the external world – and spatially not only in the functional sense but, on this occasion, also in the sense of anatomical dissection. (3953)

Freud has presented a concept of various “Defence Mechanism.” In the human mind sometimes there a struggle takes place between ‘reality principle’ and “pleasure principle.” When a person’s physical and emotional desire and demands often come into conflict because of those forces like reality, those social norms and values, different rules and regulation , terms and conditions there occurs a struggle between reality principle and pleasure principle in the mind.

During the struggle between the reality and pleasure principle the person chooses a different defence mechanism to get control over the reality and pleasure principle. Tyson argues that, “Defences are the process by which the contents of our unconscious are kept in the unconscious. In other words they are the processes by which we keep the repressed in order to avoid knowing what we feel we can’t handle knowing” (15). So, this is the process where a person makes control over the desire according to the situation by using different defence mechanisms.

The concept of defence mechanisms introduced by Freud they are such as repression, projection, regression, rationalization, displacement and so on. There are various defence mechanisms more than mentioned here. Defence mechanism is the psychological strategies that are unconsciously used to protect a person from unacceptable emotion, thought and feelings. The selection of those defence mechanisms depends upon the person, situation and desire of the person to reduce the anxiety arising from unacceptable stimuli. When the anxiety becomes overwhelming, the ego's place to protect the person by employing the defence mechanism.

Repression is the control mechanism; it is an unconscious mechanism employed by the ego to keep the inner pain away and reconcile reality with the both id and superego. The wishes, thought, memories and desire are kept hidden unconsciously that may cause anxiety. Freud has described the repression as, "The state in which the ideas existed before being made conscious is called by us repression and we assert that the force which instituted the repression and maintain it is perceived as resistance during the work of analysis" (3948). Projection is the mechanism, there a person does not wish to acknowledge their undesirable things and they project their fierceness onto others and get pleasure themselves.

Displacement is another important defence mechanism introduced by Freud. Displacement is a process that a person makes a substitute target for comfort. The target may be the person or the object that can be a symbolic substitute. The use of a displacement person taking out frustrations, feelings and impulses on an object or person that is powerless. Through displacement a person reduces their frustration, anxiety, pain and so on. Freud argues that this displacement is the mechanism that makes the person fully satisfied with their displacement of the anxiety, pain and frustration.

Another defence mechanism is rationalization. It is a mechanism that involves explaining an unacceptable behaviour or feeling in a rational or logical manner. People use different reasons to come up in comfort. Now another defence mechanism is regression. In this mechanism a person reacts like an infant quickly to move away from the anxiety, frustration and pain. Furthermore, Anna Freud, daughter of Sigmund Freud has developed this defence mechanism. Freud focuses on the individual unconscious. His concept on psychoanalysis is that every human personality depends upon sexuality. Freud focuses on the unconscious mind that is the first and major premises of the individual mental process. And according to him that human behaviour is directed by the psychic force libido or sexual energy. He also defines that the work of literature is also related with its creator's psyche and biography.

Most of the literature available in the libraries and online sources focus on different view on novel. This research paper focuses to psychological view to the novel. Hawkins is a British female novelist 2015 *The Girl on the Train* is her best seller book. She started her life as a financial journalist. Before publishing the novel she wrote a novel and other books under the pseudonym Amy Silver. Paula Hawkins's 2015 *The Girl on the Train* discloses the failure of the superego that presents in the British social context, where the novelist presents the female character suffering from difficulties in her life that does not make her satisfy her sexual life.

The Girl on the Train is Hawkins's first crime fiction written with her real name "it is a commuter's story, the story of a lonely woman who forms an attachment to some people she see on her commute and gets sucked into their lives"(18).The novel deals with the three unreliable characters. Hawkins says, "I like unreliable narrators. Alcohol is one way of making people very unreliable. It messes with their

memory as well as their truthfulness... I did want that sense of 'yes, she is quite normal, oh she's a bit weird oh no...'(18). Rachel is a first female narrator, thirties who has fallen on hard times. A youthful marriage ended badly, and Rachel's ex-husband remains in the home they bought with his new wife and their baby. Rachel Fired from her job because of alcohol abuse, she does not tell anyone she has lost her job. Instead she takes the train to the city every morning, and the commuter line stops at a signal near Rachel's former home. To avoid looking in the yard of her old address she concentrates on the garden and second-floor balcony a few doors down where a younger couple lives. One day Rachel sees a strange man with the woman she has named Jess, and then Jess vanishes.

The novel has fragments of narration in the first person voice. Rachel, Megan and Anna are the three female narrators of the common story in the novel. They three narrate the story from their own perspective. Author Ivor F. Goodson and Scherto R. Gill argue on narration "Life is meaningful, but the meaning is implicit and can become explicit in narrative and through narration" (5). So, life is not as easy to understand there are many things in our life but when a person expresses the story only it becomes to understand. There in the novel Rachel Megan and Anna narrate their story how they spent their life. Narration collects the events of our life. Grassie has said that, "Narrative is considered central to being human because much of our sense of purpose and meaning, selfhood, values and aspiration are based on our narratives" (qtd in Goodson and Gill). Ivor F. Goodson and Scherto R. Gill define also define narrative as follow:

In the narrative construct, human actions are united with their intention, values and purposes. When life is narrated, it is also lived, according to its narrative construction. Life becomes enacted narratives' (ibid.). This consolidates a

mutually constitutive relationship between life and narrative: life forms the fundamental basis of narrative and narrative provides order, structure and direction in life, and helps develop meanings in richer and more intent-grated ways. (6)

In the novel, the character narrates the story and we come to know their story in the integrated ways. The novel has a three narrators, they narrates their life according to their own view as they construct. So, the every narration has own intention and it is constructed as their wish. So, the first narrator Rachel narrates her suffering and hard time of her life which is different from other. She has her own story which has been narrated from her side that shows her life. In her narration she narrates her life and her intention to detecting murder mystery of Megan. Megan is another character, who also has her own narration of her suffering life and traumatic past. Through her narration she narrates her past and future, that gives her clear vision of her future plan and past experiences. As a narration provide order, structure and direction of the life these three narrators has their different order of life and direction of life. Like Rachel she wants to spend her life with her husband and have a baby. Another narrator Megan also wants to forgets all her bad past and spend her rest of life with happily being a good wife and mother but she become a victim and killed by Tom. Anna, wife of Tom is the third voice in the novel, who simply wants to live her life without any disturbances from Rachel's side and wants to keep her family far from the reach of Rachel.

There is an article that analyses the novel in geographical fear and domestic noir. The article pays attention to the interaction of emotion and space. While talking about the space that the cities are taken as the space of freedom and safety, but the

public places become unsecure for females. The underpass where Rachel and Megan become a victim and also that underpass help Rachel to realize or recall her dark past:

. . . the underpass eventually becomes the counter to the supposed spaces of security represented by the two homes that Rachel idealizes. This dark passage reveals how the actual location of danger remains unidentified as it is hidden behind a veil of emotions; the social construction of domestic love prevents the identification of home as potential sites of violence, and rather points to the public as a source of danger. Once more Rachel's embodiment of space is essential to her realization. (118)

The underpass is the place where Rachel saw Megan last time with Tom.

It is the public place that Tom hit Rachel and Jungle is also a public place where Tom killed Megan and buried her death body. So the public place can take as source of danger not only that Rachel also becomes a victim of the violence in her own house by her own husband. *The Girl on the Train* is a crime fiction and the most significant subgenre of crime fiction is "Domestic Noir." According to the Gill Pain "that crime fiction is about confronting and taming the monstrous. It is a literature of containment, a narrative that 'makes safe'" (qtd in Gonzalez 111). Julia Crouch where she describes the novel as follows:

It takes place primarily in homes and workplaces, concerns itself largely (but not exclusively) with the female experience, is based around relationships and takes as its base a broadly feminist view that the domestic sphere is a challenging and sometimes dangerous prospect for its inhabitants. (qtd in Gonzalez 111)

The novel is about the story of three women and their interaction of emotion and space with public and private. Females are centrally occupied by the emotion of the

fear. Anna who is frightened with Tom unaccepted behavior. Somewhere he harms to her little child. All the women are emotionally attached with the space. Rachel main protagonist has divorced with Tom who daily travelled on train and sees her old house where she used to live with Tom but now Tom lives with Anna and their baby there. These women are indirectly interconnected by their relation with the killer Tom. As the first voice in the novel, Rachel faces the many problems:

Rachel as an alcoholic harassing her ex-husband and his new family is weakened little by little, and instead we begin to understand that her distorted vision of the events is marked by her extended exposure to Tom's violence. The blackouts she has are in part a psychological mechanism developed to protect her from the violence she was exposed to, but they also constitute an obstacle. (113)

Rachel is ex-wife of Tom and a main voice in the novel. She has a very troubled life. Because of her infertility she started drinking later she become an alcoholic. She often calls and message to Tom and Anna. Sometime she threatens her, because she took away her husband. This frequently disturbance of Rachel to Tom and his family show her anger over Tom's betrayal over her. Tom takes a benefits of Rachel's memory problem and this problem brings lots of problems in her life too. As she forgets the events happened on Saturday, the day of Megan disappear. So, her memory problem becomes a reason of her suffering. Hence, she is living a very trouble life, "The light is bright, but I can't see all that well" (60). She is living with her friend Cathy. She was fired from her job but she commutes on her train. She is facing a lot of problems: "I have lost control over everything, even the place in my head" (24).

Likewise, Carla Rodriguez Gonzalez mentions the emotional attachment of the character with the geography and also shows the emotion of the fear. Rachel now

lived with her friend but she cannot forget her past and her home where she used to live with Tom. So she observes her home through the train and also observes another home where she sees a couple and imagines alternative realities. And the train gives her a regular routine which makes meaningful movement to others for her.

There is another article by Vijayakumar that discusses novel about the relationship of woman and man and the support of woman for woman. At the last of the novel two women help each other. Rachel killed her husband at the same time Anna also help her to kill Tom, “He, had this look on his face of shocked, of hurt. I wanted to say to her, it’s no good, you won’t be able to help him now, but then I realized she wasn’t trying to stop the bleeding. She was making sure. Twisting the corkscrew in further and further, ripping into his throat...”(408). Both of them are betrayed by him. He had killed Megan.also Rachel wants to find out the murderer of Megan. at the last of the novel she went to Megan’s graveyard, where she found no any loving memory ,no beloved wife or daughter or mother. It makes Rachel so sad for her. The aim of the novelist is to increase the bounding of a sisterhood in the society and maintain the peace and gender equality. In this point Vijayakumar quotes:

Women haven’t learned yet to be supporters of each other, but that’s changing rapidly. She badgered all her gender by her attainment like: ‘my mission is to help women connect with each other to make the world a better place. I have a vision propelling the effort to build a global community of strong women... women helping women: it can be a real movement to grow a sisterhood for a better tomorrow.’ (3655-6)

The novel shows as women are the enemy for them in one hand and they are supporter in another hand. As Anna married with Rachel’s husbandit means that she snatches her happiness. In the same hand Megan keeps a relation with Anna’s

husband. These all circumstances present the lack of sisterhood in the society. But at the end of the novel these women are helping and supporting each other. When Rachel is defence herself from the beating of Tom at the same time Anna helps her to part from Tom and also help Rachel in police station saying that Rachel does not killed Tom it was just self-defence. Also Rachel desperately tries to find out the murderer of Megan. These all incidents presents that there is a good sign of developing the sisterhood, which will brings peace and harmony in the society.

The Girl on the Train (2015) by Paula Hawkins reveals the failure of superego presenting the woman character who is very frustrated to her life though she comes up with maintaining her life routing having an intense sexual desire. Rachel, the protagonist of the novel having memory problem troubles in her life, “I wait for the memory to come. Sometimes it takes a while. Sometimes it’s there in front of my eyes in seconds. Sometimes it doesn’t come at all” (61). She suffers with memory problems; sometimes her memory comes in present sometimes not. As in the methodology Freud talks about two kinds of unconscious mind:

The repressed is the prototype of the unconscious for us. We see, however, that we have two kinds of unconscious – the one is which is latent but capable of becoming conscious, and the one which is repressed and which is not, in itself and without more ado, capable of becoming conscious. (3949)

Freud talked about two kinds of the unconscious mind where our desire wishes repressed into our in it. We people do have certain desire which stay in repressed because of the certain social norms and value. But it cannot stay suppressed for a long time. Hence it comes out either directly or in disordered form. Repression is a kind of control mechanism used by ego in order to move away from pain that created by unfulfilled desire.

The protagonist has a desire to have her own child. She tried to have baby very fiercely but it does not come true. Her infertility is a main cause of her sadness or tension, “It didn’t happen. No doctor has been able to explain to me why I can’t get pregnant. I’m young enough, fit enough; I wasn’t drinking heavily when we were trying. My husband’s sperm was active and plentiful” (110). Though she is physically fit and fine but she cannot get pregnant and her husband is also fine. She is totally upset. There is no reason behind her infertility. So that she used to drink to run away from her problem. “I felt isolated in my misery. I became lonely, so I drank a bit, and then a bit more, then I became lonelier, because no one likes being around drunk. I lost and I drank and I drank and I lost” (112). She becomes lonely. No one is there to consult her even if her husband is not with her so she starts to drink a little bit to get rid of from this isolation. Later, that became her habits. She has a dream of own baby with whom she could spend a happy moment in the park. For that she learns to care for a baby and wants to buy toys for her baby. This imagination makes her so happy. It is her repressed desire which is hidden in reality but comes in her imagination. She lives with the desire to play with her own baby in the park:

I dreamed of coming here with my own baby. I thought about the buggy I would buy, all the time I would spend in Trotters and at the Early Learning Centre sizing up adorable outfits and educational toys. I thought about how I would sit here, bouncing my own bundle of joy on my lap. (110)

Her motherhood is not fulfilled, that her desire shows the sequence of repressed desire. As the repressed desire comes out in disorder form Rachel sometime goes to see Anna’s baby.

The loss memory of the protagonist gives a storyline to the novel. She forgets the events in her life but trying to bring them back. That is why she tries frequently to bring back her memory. “I try desperately to piece together what I saw, but nothing

comes. Nothing real, nothing helpful. Nothing I could say out loud” (224). Rachel is collecting her fragmented memories to build a real incident that happened that night, but it is very hard for her, her memory does not work in a proper way.

According to Freud, the unconscious mind is the fundamental defining idea of psychoanalysis. It is very powerful and dynamic. It always tries to come into consciousness it can be come out in conscious with our effort. Relating with novel that the protagonist also take back her memory which remain into the unconscious mind. She forgot the events happened on that Saturday evening. At the end of the novel she remembers her memory,” you think I don’t remember anything, but I do. I saw you. After hit me, you left me there, in the underpass...” (376).

Unconscious mind tries to come out in conscious. It deceitfully comes in conscious through symbolically in dreams, slip of tongue, mental conflict and neurotic symptoms. For this point Patricia Waugh also writes:

. . . psychoanalysis studied neurotic symptoms in conjunction with dreams, jokes, and ‘the psychopathology of everyday life’- that is mistakes of all sorts, such as slips of the tongue or of the pen, bungled actions, forgetting (for example , ‘the forgetting of proper names’)- as well as art, literature, and religion, with a view towards establishing the law of functioning of the ‘mental apparatus’, as Freud called his hypothetical model of the mind or the psyche. (200)

So, the unconscious mind is always ready to come in present hence through dreams, jokes, slip of tongue it present in our behavior. These all unconscious activities show the condition of real conscious life of the people, forgetting of the certain name of place, person that also shows the neurotic symptoms. So, the mistake, slip of tongue or pen, forgetting etc. are the hypothetical model of the mind or the psyche for Freud.

She has a disturbing nightmare. “I find myself in the underpass by Blenheim Road, the way back is blocked and I cannot go further because there is something there, something waiting, and I wake I pure terror”(198). Her terrible nightmare symbolizes her suffocation. That is her unconscious memory which has come through her dream. Her dream shows her unconscious desire to find out the murderer of Megan.

As Freud noted that our unconscious memory comes in conscious with our effort to let it out because the subconscious mind helps to recall those memories. Rachel the protagonist frequently tries to let out her forgotten memory. Later on she able to remember her lost memories, “I saw her. I think I saw her, outside the underpass by the station. I saw her that night... the night Megan went missing” (239). Slowly she recovers her memory and she remembers that she saw Megan near the underpass that night. Her memory slowly comes into consciousness which helps her to find out the real truth of that night which was lost from her memory.

Another female character Megan is also a female character. Who have a very traumatic past and unsatisfied life. She has wishes for a happy life, “When I close my eyes, my head is filled with images of past and future lives, the things I can’t get comfortable with, because every way I turn I run into dead close” (217). Megan is bored with her life, Scott and his house. She is unhappy with her present life and remembering her past, thinking about her present and future, past was full of tragedy, present is full with uncomfortable and future which remain only in the imagination. She wishes to live a very pleasurable life but she can’t because she does not get what she wants.

Psychoanalysis is a treatment of reading a human mind as well as a therapy of the nervous and mental disorder. Therapy tries to cure mental disorder by interacting of the conscious and unconscious elements of human mind. It is the treatment method

of psychological problems. During the therapy session patient disclose their all facts. As the character Megan unfold all her traumatic past and dissatisfied presents. Megan wishes to have a perfect life, wants to be a perfect wife and a mother. She wants a baby but due to the busyness of her husband Scott, she could not fulfill her desire. Her desire remains repressed. Her illegal relation with Tom and seductive behavior with Dr.Kamal shows her pleasure seeking behaviour, “I moved closer to him, put my hands on his hips and turned him around. He took holds of my arms again, his long finger locked around my wrists...., and then I really lost my temper” (181).Megan is attracted to Kamal. She seduces him because she wants to spend a romantic moment with him but Dr Kamla. As Freud describe that human behaviour is guided by sexuality. For him sexual energy is psychic force libido. Though our strong social norms and value do not let us to fulfill according to own wish. Our repressed desire is a unconscious layer of mind does not care to any morality, norms and value of the society. “If you want someone badly enough, morals and certainly professionalism don’t come into it. You ‘II do anything to have them” (180). In front of the desire morality does not work. People do anything to fulfil their desire and wishes.

Tom is a male character or the antagonist of the novel who is strongly guided by the id. According to the Freud id is based on pleasure principle that is the reservoir of libido, where unconscious, sexual and aggressive ideas originate. Tom have a relation with all women characters in the novel even he was fired from his job due to his harassing behaviour to female employers. But he told that he was fired due to Rachel’s misbehavior with his boss at the party which was all imaginary.

The three important mental apparatus: they are id, ego and superego. Where id is about the desire developed in the infant stage remain unconsciously, ego developed with conscious at present and superego that is all about morality, Where morality

exists with rules and regulation that bound the human in the society. But nowadays people ignore the value of the society. Their desire is more important than society. They do anything to fulfil their wish. In the novel, we can see that superego is falling down nowadays. Morality is worthless before the desire of human beings,

Morality and profession go far way in front of the desire. A person does not see anything in front of their desire. Like Megan seduced Dr. Kamal, "I moved closer to him, put my hands on his hips and turned him around. He took holds of my arms again, his long finger locked around my wrists" (181). Megan is attracted to Kamal. She seduces him, because she wants to spend a romantic moment with him because she is fed up with her past and not satisfied with her present. She wants to forget all the traumatic past. She is having therapy session with Dr. Kamal. So she visits Dr. Kamal and during the session she shares her feelings and her past. As writer Patricia Waugh describes to psychoanalysis, "The therapy evolved from the initial observation that patients were relieved of their neurotic systems by recalling the memory of certain events and ideas related to infantile sexuality" (199).

During the process of the treatment the patient was led to recall all the past memories that are important and that related with infant sexuality. Through recalling memory of the certain events and ideas related to infantile sexuality patients forget their neurotic disorder. Patients unfold everything about his/her life though that is unnecessary. Each and everything should be expressed by the patient that helps in the treatment. As, the character Megan also expresses all her past events in front of the doctor during the therapy session. She wants to unfold those things, "I need to tell someone, just once. Say the words out loud. If it doesn't come out me of me, it'll eat me up. The hole inside me, the one they left, it'll just get bigger and digger until it consumes me" (218). Megan wants to share her story with someone, unless she

shares her story that makes her broken, incomplete. She lives with suffocation. She need intimate person in her life that she can share her every things to make herself relief. So that she share all her past events with doctor. Again Patricia writes:

With the analyst, the patient repeats repressed affective experiences.

Symptoms, mental illness, and even normal mental life remain inexplicable for

Freud without the hypothesis that unconscious mental activity permanently

determines, gives a form to and participate in our conscious life. (199)

Patient repeats his/her experiences. Our unconscious mental activities are the main part that shape or take part in our conscious life. Repressed experiences which are expressed by the patient show the condition of the conscious life of the patient. So, Freud assumed that unconscious activities are the reflection of the conscious life.

Describing the human personality Freud has described to superego as, “The super-ego is however, not simply a residue of the earliest object-choice of the id; it is also an energetic reaction-formation against those choices. Its relation to the ego is not exhausted by the precept”(3968). So the superego works as the controller over id and ego. Therefore we can say that superego is all about the moral value exist in the present. It is rules and regulation of society that control people in such a way to maintain balance in the society. So that superego is a moral value that guides human personality in the right way. All those social taboos are the superego that restricted the person going against the society. It is based on the notion of right and wrong. But today's society is far from this. The novel shows the same. There in the novel we see illegal relation, murder, betray etc., which is against the moral value.

Husband keeps an illegal relation with other women though he has already got married. Tom has a sexual relation with Megan, “so we got into the car and drove to

Corly, to the woods. It was a place we sometimes used to go, if we hadn't got a room. Do it in the car" (392). Tom in the novel is a male character who was husband of Rachel now after divorce with her he married Anna and having a relationship with Megan makes her pregnant and kills her to keep secret of her pregnancy. He asks Megan to abort, 'Have an abortion, he says.' I mean, if it's your husband's, do what you want. But if it's mine, get rid of it. Seriously, let's not be stupid about this. I don't want another kid.' Here the characters are betraying their partners. Megan is also a married woman. She is a wife of Scott but having a relationship with Tom and being pregnant. Tom kills Megan, "He's coming towards me. He has something in his hand"(387). Tom hits Megan's head with a stone and she falls down, she dies on the spot and Tom buried her dead body in the jungle. Tom kills Megan very fiercely, whom he keeps relations with illegally. He has not killed Megan only but a new life that is blooming into Megan's womb. It's too cruel that people become too selfish for their desire; they only give value to their desire. People forget all morality which destroys all social values. Therefore character in the novel highly guided by the sexual force libido. So the this libido, id which has the animalistic character makes a human being animal like. According to the Freud the human being are guided by this sexual energy and in front of this force, superego also cannot censure the function of the id and ego. Hence, superego is sometime judgment less for id and ego. Superego prohibits id and ego to fulfill their wish.

The events take place in the novel shows the fall of morality of today's society. The characters are having an extra affair, betraying their partner. Rachel is a divorced woman, attached with Megan and Scott's love life, making them an idol couple. But the murder of Megan brings fluctuation to her idol couple. Meanwhile she meets Scott to help him to find out the murderer and at the same time the frequent

meetings become the reason to have a relationship. Rachel and Scott forgot their limits and they have a sexual relation, “on Saturday morning, after we slept together, it’s still there” (31). It is also against the moral value of our society. At the end of the novel Rachel kills her husband Tom, “I jam the vicious twist of the corkscrew into his neck”(402).

This research deals with events and behaviour of characters in the novel *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. Characters and the events are interpreted with the psychoanalytical view of point. Through the novel characters go under repressed desire force of id and ego that the behaviour and the event are not under the force of superego. After interpreting the behaviour and the events in the novel superego do not have a function in this modern society. There is a betrayal in that pure husband and wife relationship. Tom keeps illegal relations with other women. Megan keeps an illegal relationship with Tom though she is a wife of Scott. Tom kills Megan for his own sake, after fulfilling his wish. Rachel kills her husband Tom at last. These all events show the fall of superego in modern society. It is to interpret that failure of the superego in the novel. The value of society falling down day by day that causes crime, violence, corruption and betrayal in this modern society. Thus the superego is worthless in the modern period.

Finally, novelist presents the real picture of the modern society through the character and the event in the novel. And it is the reality that human desire is primary rather than relation and the social values. There for this research with the Freudian theory of psychoanalysis as the theory of human mind and deals with the dynamic of human mind that the human mind is directly or indirectly guided by the unconscious mind and this unconscious mind is the store house of repressed desire, wish, thought. The individual are guided by their suppressed desire, wish, feeling and needs.

Works Cited

- Gonzalez, Carla Rodriguez. "Geographies Of Fear in The domestic Noir: Paula Hawkins's *The Girl On The Train*." *Miscelánea: A Journal of English and American Studies*, vol. 56, 2017, pp. 109-127.
- Goodson, Ivor F, and SchertoR.Gill. "The Concept of Narrative." *Counterpoint*, vol. 386, 2011, pp. 3-16.
- Hawkins, Paula. *The Girl on the Train*, Black Swan, 2015.
- McLeod, S. A. "Id, Ego and Superego." *Simply Psychology*, 25 September 2019, retrieved from <https://www.simplypsychology.org/psyche.html>
- Freud, Sigmund. *The Ego and the ID, Complete Work*, Oxford University, 2010.
- Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today*. Taylor and Francis Group, 2006.
- Vijay P, Vijayakumar M. "Feminist Theory: An Extension of the Internecine Struggling Woman and the Married Ingenue in Paula Hawkins's *The Girl on the Train*." *The Journal of Creative Reviews*, vol. 7, no. 19, 2020, pp. 3655-3660.
- Surprenant, Celine. "Literary Theory and Criticism, 'Freud and Psychoanalysis'" by Patricia Waugh, Oxford University, 2006, pp. 199-209.