

The Repression of Percy Jackson in the Lightning Thief Novel (2005)

Merry Rullyanti and Ice Inda Rukmana

University of Dehasen Bengkulu

Abstract

The purpose of this research are: (1) To analyze what are the repression of Percy Jackson, (2) To analyze what cause the repression of Percy Jackson, (3) To analyze how Percy Jackson overcome his repression. this research uses theory by Jacques Lacan namely the imaginary and the symbolic, this research uses the descriptive qualitative method because it does not use research data such as number. The result of this research are: (1) the repression of Percy Jackson is divided into two kinds of the imaginary and the symbolic, where in the imaginary Percy Jackson has repression from the past that made him depression and in symbolic Percy Jackson have repression from what he saw and he heard is a symbol from monster and gods, Percy was depression when he experiencing it. (2) The cause of repression of Percy Jackson because he is as son of Poseidon (god of sea), that should not be allowed to have children of human. (3) Percy Jackson against the repression of him, he returns the stolen lightning bolt from Zeus and thwart World War III.

Keywords: *The Lightning Thief*, repression, the imaginary, the symbolic.

Introduction

There are many ways to express the idea. One of the ways to express idea are by a literature. According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1997, p.5) said the literature should be creative, an art and what researcher can produced. While according Robert and Hendry (1993, p.1) literature that composition that tell stories dramatize situation, express emotion and analyze and advocate ideas. Based the meaning of literature, the researcher can make a conclusion of literature is a creative work to express many feeling and ideas in many action, like novel, drama, poetry etc. One of many ways to analyze literature is using the psychoanalytic theory. In this research, the researcher will use theory psychoanalytic by Jacques Lacan about what is psychoanalytic and how to analyze that.

Repression as the way the brain defends itself against thoughts and feelings it finds objectionable by keeping those feeling, thoughts, and images away from the consciousness, as these thing are incompatible with the individual's ego. In his 1914 work, on the "History of the Psycho-analytic Movement" Freud argues that repression is : the corner stone on which the whole structure of psychoanalysis rests" . (Sigmund Freud).

In this novel, we can see many problems in main character. The first, Percy Jackson always disqualify from his school because the people perception that he is strange and naughty. Many people said he is trouble maker in his school before, so he was moved to Yancy Academy. The second problem, Percy had problem with his friend in Yancy Academi, he look Mrs. Buds was transformed to be a monster and she want to kill him. The third, when Zeus accuse he is a thief.

The researcher will analyze the repression of Percy Jackson through psychoanalysis method. The researcher choice *The Lightning Thief* because the story was interesting especially about psychology conflict of Percy Jackson in handle his many problems in 12 years. Based on the problem and the background, so researcher choose as a title is **The Repression of Percy Jackson in *The Lightning Thief Novel* (2005)**

The purpose to complete this research, the researcher will focus to the analyze the repression of Percy Jackson through Rick Riordan Novel *The Lightning Thief* (2005), where in the novel he has many problems from monsters and else like internal or external. So, researcher will describe what the repression in main character, what cause the repression and how Percy overcome the repression.

The analysis of this research is to give the student deep understandings about psychoanalysis theory, and expected significance to the students of the literary generally and to researcher particularly. The researcher hope this research can add collecting reference for next researcher, this research can be previous study for next student, can add collecting data in library.

Conceptual Review

Psychoanalysis is the study of mind, this is a process in which subconscious beliefs are explored to release energy for conscious life. Based on many definition of Psychoanalysis before, the researcher choose analyze the psychoanalysis theory of Jacques Lacan

Jacques Lacan said the theory of the two registers of the Imaginary, the Symbolic, forms the skeletal framework for the various concepts and phases of most of his intellectual itinerary. His characterizations of each of the two registers, as well as of their relations with each other, undergo multiple revisions and shifts over the many years of his labors. The Imaginary, the Symbolic can be thought of as the three fundamental dimensions of psychical subjectivity a Lacan. Furthermore, scholars sometimes segment Lacan's evolution into three main periods, with each period being distinguished by the priority of one the register: the early Lacan of the Imaginary (1930s and 1940s), the middle Lacan of the Symbolic (1950s).

1. The Imaginary, the Imaginary with the restricted spheres of consciousness and self-awareness. It is the register with the closest links to what people experience as non-psychoanalytic quotidian reality. Who and what one "imagines" other persons to be, what one thereby "imagines" they mean when communicatively interacting, who and what one "imagines" oneself to be, including from the imagined perspectives of others all of the preceding is encompassed under the heading of this register. Such a description indicates the ways in which the Imaginary points to core analytic ideas like transference, fantasy, and the ego
2. The Symbolic, made possible because of your accept of the name of the father those laws and restrictions that control bath your desire and the rules of communication. Lacanian symbolic basis of resources provided by structuralism. Tied to natural language as characterized the register of symbolic refers to the customs, institutions, laws, mores, norms, practices, rituals, rules, traditions, and so on of cultures and society.

According to Freud (1895) repression is the way brain defends itself against thought and feelings it finds objectionable by keeping those feeling, thoughts, and images away from the consciousness as these things are incompatible with the individuals ego.

Analysis

1. The Imaginary

The imaginary in this novel is when Percy Jackson get problem with Hades, Percy remembered what his friends had done for him, and that is make he most confused of this problem So this is repression for him, when he could not choice between his mother or his friends. Such the following sentence:

“stop t, both of you!” I felt like my heart was being ripped in two. They had both been with me through so much. I remembered Grover dive-bombing Medusa in the statue garden, and Annabeth saving us from Cerberus; we’d survived Hephaestus’s Waterland ride, the St. Louis Arch, the Lotus Casino. I had spent thousands of miles worried that I’d be betrayed by a friend, but these friends would never do that. They have done nothing but save me, over and over, and now they wanted to sacrifice their lives for my mom.” (p.239)

The cause of this problem is Percy Jackson must to choose who to him for help, because he just have three pearl ball to run of Hades, but he does not know whom to please, and Hades know that, such the following sentence:

“only three,” Hades said. “What a shame. You do realize each only protects a single person. Try to take your mother, then, little godling. And which of your friends will you leave behind to spend eternity with me? Go on. Choose. Or give me the backpack and accept my terms.” (p.238)

The solve problem, Percy was thinking what his mother want. He leaved his mother with Hades and he brought his friend out from Hades, he went to fight Ares because he knew Ares has lying them, and he knew Hades had help someone to shatter world. Like this sentence:

*“I turned and face my mother. I desperately wanted to sacrifice myself and use the last pearl on her, but I knew what she would say. She would never allow it. I had to get the bolt back to Olympus and tell Zeus the truth. I had to stop the war. She would never forgive me if I saved her instead. I though about the prophecy made at Half-Blood Hill, what seemed like a million years ago. You will fail to save what matters most in the end
“im sorry,” I told her. “I’ll be back. I’ll find a way.” (p.239)*

2. The Symbolic

The symbolic in this novel is The gods of Greek accuse him a stealing the Lightning of Zeus, there is a repression where Percy Jackson has a big

problem, when gods accuse him as a steal, and he thought his father use him to help their problem. Such the following sentence:

”patience and listen, child,” Chiron said. “Zeus had good reason to be suspicious. The forges of the Cyclopes are under the ocean, which gives Poseidon some influence over the makers of his brother’s lightning. Zeus believes Poseidon has taken the master bolt, and now secretly having the Cyclopes build an arsenal of illegal copies, which might be used to topple Zeus from his throne. The only thing Zeus wasn’t sure about was which hero Poseidon used to steal both. Now Poseidon has openly claimed you as his son. You were in New York over the winter holidays. You could easily have snuck into Olympus. Zeus believes he has found his thief.” (p.106)

This is a symbol because the master bolt is a symbol from the god of thief. Percy is a son of Poseidon, this is the cause of the problem, because god can not to take weapons from the other gods, so Zeus though Poseidon use his son to took it. Such the shown following sentence:

“for days, I’d been half expecting a summons to the Big House. Now that I was declared a son of Poseidon, one of the Big Three gods who weren’t supposed to have kids, I figured it was a crime for me just to be alive. The other gods had probably been debating the best way to punish me for existing, and now Mr. D was ready t deliver their verdict.” (p.102)

For the overcome his problem, Percy must go on from there, he has a mission to solve this problem, because Chiron said if the thief of Zeus not came back in 11 days, Zeus will do the world war III, and Percy is a caused. So this is a sentence overcome the problem:

*“ I had brought this storm to Half-Blood Hill. Zeus was punishing the whole camp because of me. I was furious.
“so I have to find the stupid bolt,” I said, “and return to Zeus.”
(p.107)*

Based on the finding before, the researcher have found some repression in imaginary and symbolic, cause the repression in main character and how overcome his repression. In those repression of them the researcher divide to imaginary and symbolic, where the imaginary is repression in mental Percy Jackson, where the repression appears when he thought about something in past, and when he remembered it can make his afraid, sad, angry. And the symbolic of repression is when main character confused what he saw, what they said, because he is not believe in the real world there are gods that exist only in myth. So the symbolic can make he confused, he considered he a strange, he is not normal. Like a dyslexia Percy think he is a stupid and not normal because he different from his friend, but it is a symbolic because every a Half-Blood has a dyslexia they can only read a Greek language.

But the general problem from this novel is when Percy accused by gods as *The Lightning Thief* of Zeus, and Zeus threatening if his Lightning not come back in several days, he will perform world war III between gods and human. This is a big problem of Percy because he does not know about the Lightning, and he know the gods are strong so if he made a problem whit them that is not good for him, this is seriously a problem. And then the general cause of all his problem in repression because he is a son of Poseidon. Poseidon is one of three gods who has most power than other gods, in the last time Poseidon with his brothers make agreement, where they should not have children of human because the offspring of gods and humans will have greater strength than other Half-Blood. So if one of them have children of human, they children will killed by other gods. To avoid the word war III, Percy was received an offer of Chiron to look for a thief and will return on time to Zeus.

The Lightning Thief is a fantasy novel because this story about the gods of Greek mythology in era modern. And the plot in this novel is flashback, the flashback is an interjected scene that takes the narrative back in time from the current point in the story Flashbacks are often used to recount events that happened before the story's primary sequence of events to fill in crucial back story. Where the story peeling past stories associated with the modern era, so the imaginary is suitable to analyze in this novel, in which the imaginary is something that is created by the subject of the ego of the past in the shadow of her own or of those around him. And then the ending of this novel makes the reader is ambiguous ending, because Percy Jackson can solve all of problem, he can help his mother, he wants to derail world war III made by Zeus, but the last chapter Percy know his friend Luke was help a Cronos (the gods of gods) to rise from death, Luke gone from Camp Half-Blood for help Cronos destroy the world. The writer was using ambiguous ending because this is a sequel novel, where the sequel novel is a narrative, documental, or other work of literature, film, theatre, television, music, or game that continues the story of, or expands upon, some earlier work. In the common context of a narrative work of fiction, a sequel portrays events set in the same fictional universe as an earlier work, usually chronologically following the events of that work. So, readers will be curious about what will happen in the next novel.

Conclusion

After analyzing the research finding, the researcher found the result of this study is the repression of Percy Jackson. It divided into two kinds are the imaginary and symbolic, where the imaginary of Percy Jackson when he remembered the past time and made him depress like a angry and sad, and the symbolic is when he saw or heard something strange of around, it made him confused and not believe. The researcher found the cause of repression in this novel is Percy Jackson as a son of Poseidon and how Percy Jackson had overcome his repression in this novel Percy went to looking for Zeus's lightning. The repression is a part of psychoanalysis, where it is a comprehensive theory about human nature, motivation, behavior, development and experience. In this research the researcher used psychoanalytic theory by Jacques Lacan to analyze the repression of main character in *The Lightning Thief* by Jacques Lacan.

REFERENCES

- Freud, S. "Project for Scientific Psychology", Standard Edition, Vol 1. Hogarth Press, 1963, 1895.
- Gilbert, Elliot. *The World of Mystery Fiction*. Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green State University Popular Press. 1983
- Wellek, R. & Warren, A. *Theory of Literature*. New York: Harcourt Brace Javanovich, . 1997
- (1988a [1975]) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book I: Freud's Papers on Technique 1953–1954*, ed. J.-A. Miller, trans. J. Forrester, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.