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**Family Relations in D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*: A
Psychoanalysis Reading**

Dissertation submitted as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of *Master* in
Literature and Civilization

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this research paper to my dear mother and father who sacrificed their life to instruct, guide, and support me to open my eyes and see my place in this world

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Abstract

This research work aims to analyze and understand the relationships within the novel *Sons and Lovers* including the relation between the members of the family –The Morels- or the relationship with those around them. It also examines through a psychological reading of the events and the actions of the characters which result in a proper comprehension of Sigmund Freud's theory about the origin and the concept of Oedipus complex and its major effects on individuals' minds and emotions. The research paper investigates the development of the protagonist identity and personality, discovers the main reasons behind the phenomena of mother fixation by studying the relationship in the novel, in addition to the psychological analysis on *Sons and Lovers* relying on Psychology theories like Oedipus Complex and Mother Fixation.

Keywords: family members, Oedipus complex, psychological analysis, *Sons and Lovers*, relationships

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General Introduction

General Introduction

In the 20th century, the writer David Herbert Lawrence tried his best to illustrate human bond and pursuit individual's mind and soul in his work, which attracted the attention of the literary world. *Sons and Lovers* told the story of a working-class family-the Morels. Gertrude Copard and William Morel met at a Christmas party. After a short acquaintance, the couple fell in love and got married. Mrs. Morel, who was socially superior to her husband-who was a miner drinking heavily – was disillusioned by her husband's reality, behavior and short temper, which includes drinking, gambling, and physical violence. Therefore, she paid all her attention to her sons, especially the two eldest William and Paul.

The mother-son unconventional relationship Mrs. Morel had with her sons mainly Paul lead him to develop a sexual feeling for his mother while increasing hostility towards his father. As the protagonist Paul grows up, this deeper- than –usual connection with his mother affected Paul's affection with yet another two women: Miriam and Clara. The very dominating motherly emotions influenced Paul's personality into developing a psychological phenomenon named the Oedipus complex.(*Freud's Psychosexual Stages of Development*, 2019.p.2)

Through the study of D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, Sigmund Freud's Oedipus complex theory acts as a vital issue in the novel. Lawrence depicts a different sort of the odd and unusual male to female relationship in general or mother-son relationship in specific.

According to Freud, a man usually falls in love for the first time in his life with his mother's image. When he grows up a little, his superego gets activated. (Superego is that part of the psyche which is unconscious). As he grows older, his superego is suppressed by ego (ego is the conscious part of the psyche). (*The Oedipus complex in Sons and Lovers. Annals of Language and Literature*,2019. p.7) In the novel, the protagonist Paul was trapped by the conflict between his ego and superego. This attachment has a very disastrous effect on the mental state of Paul.

Moreover, understanding the nature of human relationships in the novel, either it concerns the morel family or their entourage, will track back into the main character's personality and the Psyche. In this vein, the current research paper aims to shed light on the

familial relationship and analyze the unconventional family relationship through a psychological approach. To investigate what is mentioned above, it is crucial to ask the following research questions:

1. How did Psychoanalysis began and affected Literature alongside the concept of Oedipus complex?
2. How does D. H. Lawrence characterize both of the relationships between the sexes and the environment in *Sons and Lovers*
3. How does the mother's fixation effected on Paul's unconscious personality construction?

• To find answers to these research questions, the following hypotheses are being suggested:

- 1) Psychoanalysis and the concept of the Oedipus complex may psychology and Literature.
- 2) D .H .Lawrence may provide an analysis of the familial relationships presented in the novel as well as the society where the novel took place.
- 3)) The heroine fixation of her son may affect his personality development.

This dissertation is conducted through the reading of the novel *Sons and Lovers* in both the printed and electronic forms relying on Freud's Psychoanalytic Approach. Also, the researcher investigated Lawrence's works such as *The White Peacock* and *The Letters*, which gave an in-depth look, and helped understanding the author himself. As well as the electronic versions of essays and articles shared by students and professors all over the world concerning the literary criticism and analysis of D.H. Lawrence's works mainly *Sons and Lovers*.

This dissertation compromises of three chapters to provide a detailed analysis of psychology and Literature taking *Sons and Lovers* as a case in point. The first chapter presents a study of Psychoanalysis aims to highlight its echo on literary study and criticism, also, to uncover the phenomenon of Oedipus complex theory by Sigmund Freud and emphasis on its origin, development, as well as to mention the stages of sexual development. The second

chapter is devoted to discovering internal interactions within the Morels. In addition to the investigation of both environment and society of the novel.

The third and final chapter tackles personality constriction by diving deep into individual sub consciousness, the mother fixation in addition to literary criticism of *Sons and Lovers*, and its harmony with the Freudian theory, which discusses the idea of disturbance of sexual polarities.

One of the limitations of this research paper-faced was the difficulty of understanding some medical and psychological terms.

In conclusion, David Herbert Lawrence's masterpiece, *Sons and Lovers* aroused great sensation in the 20th century Literature by tackling explicitly sensitive themes about love and sexuality, which were considered the head of its time. The writer tried his absolute best to narrate the novel from a different perspective to give the reader a broader view about the characters' personality, emotions, thoughts, and memories, in addition to his fluency in creating a sense of floating between past and present while reading his book.

**CHAPTER ONE: HISTORICAL
BACKGROUND AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF
FREUD'S THEORY *THE OEDIPUS
COMPLEX***

VI. Chapter One: Historical Background and Psychological Overview

1.1 Introduction

1.2 The Establishment of Psychoanalysis

1.3 Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism

1.4 Origin of Oedipus Complex

1.4.1 *Greek Mythology*

1.4.2 *Psychology*

1.5 Stages of Development

1.5.1 *Oral stage (0-18 months)*

1.5.2 *Anal stage (18-36 months)*

1.5.3 *Phallic stage (3-6 years)*

1.5.4 *Latent stage (6 years – puberty)*

1.5.5 *Genital stage (puberty - death)*

1.5 Conclusion

1.1. Introduction

The 19th century era of Literature witnessed increasing attention that was devoted to examining Freudian approaches of psychology. Writers began to develop new and creative styles of writing in content and structure due to the massive impact of widespread notions of psychology like Behavioral, neuropsychology, and psychodynamic theories. The father of psychology Sigmund Freud had his fair share of gratitude for his known methods about human mind construction (Id, ego, and superego) and the development of sexual personality- which is being considered as his significant contributions in the field of psychology- and are being used as a base ground in modern writing, which created closeness between the character and the reader, where he or she can sense the characters' thoughts, memories, internal struggle, and even their darkest secrets. Through applying one of his theories Oedipus complex, in particular, to analyze *Sons and Lovers*, it is crucial to investigate the establishment of the field of Psychoanalysis. Then, the development of Psychoanalysis to become a school of Literary Criticism, and the substantial role of Sigmund Freud in creating a relation between psychology and mythology for a closer understanding of the origin of the phenomenon Oedipus complex. Finally, the research paper tackles the discussion about Freud's study on the development of sexual stages.

The first chapter investigates the foundation of the Psychoanalysis field depending on the theories of leading psychiatrists like Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Jean-Martin Charcot, and Hermann Rorschach. Then, the applying and conducting the effect of these theories and guiding books and approaches on past, contemporary, and modern piece of writing relying on Sigmund Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, *The Ego and The Id*, *Three Essays of Sexuality*.

Afterward, the research paper investigates the origin of the Oedipus complex through the study of the Greek mythology focusing on *Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton, and Robert Graves' *The Greek Myths*. Until the adaptation of the term in psychology by Sigmund Freud in his book *Three Essays of Sexuality*, where he revealed the stages of sexual development from birth until death, and the results of anxiety and overindulgence in child emotional and sexual life. The study was being conducted by the

psychoanalytic approach in the beginning and then it is being shifted to a descriptive style in both the third and fourth titles of the chapter. The chapter starts with an introductory paragraph where all the elements of the first chapter of the dissertation are covered briefly. The first title undercovers the foundation of Psychoanalysis from scratch. The second title explored the effect of Psychoanalytic therapy on literary criticism. The third however, aims to explain the concept of the Oedipus complex, the fourth and the last highlights the five stages of sexual development as mentioned by Sigmund Freud himself. And finally, the first chapter is concluded with a general conclusion that summarizes the major points of the first chapter.

1.2. The Establishment of Psychoanalysis

For most of the 19TH, nervous disorders like Hysteria been approached from the perspective of biology. Doctors treated mental ailment depending on body organs. And they believed that mentally diseased patients' mostly hysterical people "women" had something to do with the productive female organ. Consequently, Hysteria was being believed to be an affliction that was suffered exclusively by the females. However, French Doctor and neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot challenged the theory of Hysteria in mid-1880. Charcot's argued that Hysteria was a result of inherited brain damage, and as such, the disease could be found both in males and females. Even though Freud was amazed by the French neurologist's innovative method in curing his clients using Hypnosis. He did not agree with Charcot's attribution on Hysteria, Freud believes that Hysteria was a psychological disease and it cannot be traced back to a specific problem in the patient's body. On the contrary, the cure can be achieved only if the doctor looked into the patient's mind rather than studying his or her biological organs. From this standpoint, Freud gave his significant concentration for understanding the formation of the essential characteristics of the human mind, which resulted in inventing the classic Psychoanalysis establishment that completely transformed the way the human brain is perceived.

Many psychologists believe that Psychoanalysis was the beginning of Psychotherapy. Psychoanalysis theories believe that human personality could be divided into two parts: the conscious and the unconscious mind. These parts are always in conflict. Ultimately, the mature human behavior is the compromise between these two.

According to Freud, in order to cure a patient, the doctor allows the client to talk freely to a certain point so that the doctor reaches the forcefully repressed memory of a past trauma,

which the patient's mind refuses to acknowledge. Then, the repressed memory is brought to consciousness, remembered, and confronted, leading to a release in the patient's emotions, which results in a talkative effect, and finally curing the patient. So, the role of the doctor was to listen carefully to his or her patients, help them interpret and identify the memory even if the traumatic repressed memory were under the root suffered.

This discovery led Freud to believe that the ability to repress a memory, incident, or experience so deep means the human mind consists of large areas beyond what humans can grasp. These areas which could be approached indirectly were identified by Freud as The Unconscious. Psychoanalysis suggests that the human Psyche (mind) comprises of three parts: the Id, Ego, and Superego.

Id: it is the most substantial and most primal part of the self. It consists of all the basic instincts, wants, and desires. It is instinctual and impulsive.

Superego: it is the morality center that differentiates between right and wrong based on a person's learning of what is socially acceptable or not.

Ego: it is the practical part. It makes sense of the gathered information and gives a final diction about human behavior. (*The Ego and The Id*, 1919)

The psychoanalysis theory claims that the conflict between the desire to ravage and social order results in the development of the Defense Mechanism to keep the Id settled. Meanwhile, it keeps the human safe from guilt and anxiety a person would feel if they ever gave in to their enormous desires. However, when the Defense Mechanism became too restrictive, the unconscious conflict becomes too intense. As a result, the individual began to show signs for mental illness.

Now, since the unconscious exists beyond the pale of the conscious mind, it is complicated to diagnose or to know anything about it directly. Freud however, realized that the Psyche could be approached by dreams. (Freud's *New Model of the Mind*, 1986. p.8)

Usually, dreams are located between the consciousness and the unconsciousness in the Grey Zone. Thus, when a person goes to sleep, the boundaries between the two parts are relaxed, and the limbo is exposed between the conscious and the unconscious. Therefore, dreams get generated within this limbo and during wakening, plus, the boundaries of the consciousness crystallize again, which results in humans remembering the dream or at least,

some part of it. Freud discovered this process that he called “The Royal Road to the Unconscious,” which animates all human mental life. (*The Interpretation of Dreams*, 1899)

The most important aspect of Psychoanalysis is to have the client engage in Free Association; the client’s share their most incoherent, impulsive, and most trivial thoughts. However, human defenses would not open up to a stranger. Therefore, the Swiss psychiatrist Hermann Rorschach established his famous inkblots and word association to help the patients with the Free Association. The minute the patient is capable of following this approach, the fastest he or she can recall dreams of childhood memories, even if they are been perceived as threatening. (*Historical context for Wittig’s of Sigmund Freud*, 2008. p.5)

Additionally, one of the techniques used in Psychoanalysis is uncovering Transference. As the client talks, the analyst pays attention to the content of the Free Association while examining their speech for unconscious clues. If the client felt resistance talking about someone or something, and shifted that statement in an anger way toward someone or something else instead, the analyst will explore the nature of the relationship that connects the patient with that particular something or someone that he or she tries to avoid, help the patient gain an insight into these unconscious thoughts by identifying Defense Mechanism, determine the underlying impulse, and replace it with a more controlled expression of aggression. (Gray, 1998, *A Life for Our Time*.)

Despite the lack of controlled outcome studies on Psychoanalysis, its higher goal is to make the human conscious of its unconscious. In present times, Psychoanalysis could be viewed as a subjective and unscientific field with the least tangible evidence. Although clients who received Psychoanalysis or behavioral therapy for four months period shown comparable improvement, unlike those clients with Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, or Borderline Personality Disorder who are considered poor candidates for classic Psychoanalysis. (*What is Psychoanalysis*, 2017. 7:07-8:17)

1.3. Psychoanalysis Literary Criticism

The beginning of the Twentieth century was characterized by an opening up of a new number of new fields of inquiry. Each area generated distinct schools of literary theory, and each one had its own sets of critical vocabulary and key ideas such as the Freudian school, De Saussure’s, as well as Demand Husserl’s phenomenology.

The foundation of psychoanalytic theory can be traced back to 1886, where Freud popularized a new form of therapy. Treatment for mental health disorders that is based on talking to make the repressed trauma of childhood reappear itself again without damaging a person's adult life. This new field of theoretical approach affected science, philosophy, politics, arts, and most importantly Literature where it was been referred to as Psychoanalytic Literary Theory. This field had a leading role in becoming the most dominant schools of Literary theories throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.

Freud's methods spread among writers, mainly his famous patients, the Bloomsbury Group after WWI. The concept of utilizing Psychoanalytic theory on Literature was been based on the analysis, examination, and the study of different pieces of writing from a psychological perspective applying theories and concepts from psychology to literary works. It began from the idea established by Sigmund Freud in 1930 who contributed significantly to the advancement of psychology shifting from rigid focus to more abstract ideas. When it comes to literary pieces, the primary purpose of the concept is to look beyond the superficial in the analysis of literature:" Sometimes a symbol is just a symbol... except when it's not".

Freud's lasting theories which spread in and out of the European continent. Writers and artists fed on his ideas and used it as a platform for their works. Most precicely the theory of Oedipus and Electra complex. Like the work of D. H. Lawrence *Sons and Lovers* that is being tackled in this research paper, the theory of Three-Part of Psyche (the Id, the Ego, and the Superego) in Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesmen*, and Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*, the Transference Phenomenon, human sexuality, and Bisexuality: "All human are innately bisexual."(Freud, 1913), in addition to Carl Jung Archetype's theory, where he claimed in his study for myths and religions of past and present culture that the psyche is not a product for personal experiences, instead it contains elements which are pre-personal or Tran-personal and are common to all.

Psychoanalytic literary criticism gains its popularity due to the inspiration of Surrealism Sigmund Freud at the end of the Victorian era, and by the beginning of the Roaring Twenties, it can be applied to any example of Literature. It aims to dive into the character's conscious and unconscious; consequently, any character can be analyzed psychologically. From significant work writings resembling Shakespeare's plays such as Hamlet and Macbeth until contemporary and modern literature. It can even include movies and cinematic characters

like Alfred Hitchcock's movies "Psycho." The critic can see, dive, and unveil the secrets of character's wants, desires, needs, dark secrets, fantasies, and memories.

Psychiatrists of the late 19th century, such as Havelock Ellis and Richard Von Kraft Ebing were affected by the historical, scientific, and philosophical movement of the second half of the nineteenth century the same as Freud. Unlike them, Sigmund Freud created a distinct field of human inquiry that helped in shaping, shifting, and creating a unique kind of approach to literature. Freud developed the basis of psychoanalysis in a time of intense conservatism. He preached about sexuality and desires and shocked his society, who considered his ideas strange due to the high standards of morality, which prevented any discussion about sexual morality or sexuality in general.

1.4. Origin of Oedipus Complex

The theory of Oedipus complex was originally extracted from the Greek mythology before its adaptation by Sigmund Freud in the field of Psycho therapy. The following passages investigate its origin from both sides the Greek Myths and Psychoanalysis

1.4.1. Greek Mythology

In one of Greek kingdoms, a boy was born to the king and his beautiful queen. In a visit to Apollo's temple by the king to see the oracles. He was told a prophecy in which the heir of the royal throne will cause the death of the king himself and the ruin of the entire family. The king convinced the queen that for the good of all, the child's life must come to an end. The little boy was delivered to the servant to pierce his feet and leave for the wild animals. However, the servant handed him to a shepherd passing by, whom he treated his wounds and named him Oedipus, which means (the one with swollen feet). The shepherd, in turn, was extremely poor. Therefore, he gave him to the king and queen of Corinth who was childless, and they adopted him as their son. Growing as the crowded prince, Oedipus lived a comfortable life knowing, he will be the heir to the throne. However, during a celebration, one of the noblemen insulted Oedipus through bringing his true origin. Despite his father Polybus not to mind the words of a drunk man. Oedipus decides to visit the Oracle of Delphi for the truth, where she prophesized that he will kill his father, marry his mother, and leave a shameful descent. In fear of the dreadful prophecy, he left Corinth.

In a narrow crossroad of Greece, he fought with a gentleman, because of Oedipus' youth and strong physic he was able to defeat and kill all the opponents but one who manages to escape. Proud with his recent victory, Oedipus headed to the kingdom of Thebes, where the Sphinx (women's head, lion body, and eagle wings) killed every man and controlled the city. The sphinx gave Oedipus a riddle if he got the wrong answer, she will devour him, and if not she will throw herself off a cliff. The riddle was: "In the morning, I have four legs, at noon two, and when the twilight comes I have three. Among all creatures it is the only that can change its number of legs but the greater the number the lower, its speed and strength" (*The Story of Oedipus: The King of Thebes*, 2019, 5:44-6:03)

Oedipus answer was" human being," in childhood he crawls on his arms and legs, in the middle of his life he walks on two legs, and at the end of his life, he has to rely on a cane. It was the correct answer which leads to free the city, and as a reward, the counselor Creon crowned him the king of Thebes, and gave him the hand of his sister the queen Jocasta, who was a widow.

After years on the throne, the plague attacked. The Oracle of Delphi says its punishment because the killer of Laius- the former king and first husband of Jacosta- who is still free. After investigations, Oedipus found that he is the one who killed the king Laius, who was his true birth father and he is married to his mother, Jocasta. After hearing this horrible truth, his wife hanged herself; he pierced his eyes, and was accompanied by his daughter Antigone to exile.

1.4.2. Psychology

The term Oedipus complex was used by the father of psychology Sigmund Freud, where he related a story from Greek mythology to psychosexual analyses of the human being to investigate the mother-son fixation and Vis versa. It appears in the phallic stage between the age of 3 to 6 years old of a child's life due to excessive or decreasing attachment from parents to the child. Therefore, the child is stuck, which creates a disorder in his sexual and psychological development. Oedipus complex is when a child begins developing sexual feelings toward his mother, and holds hostility to his father. The boy progresses a mental stage of his sexual identity. He begins to have unconscious sexual desires for his mother, where he sees himself more suitable for motherly affection and love, and at the same time, he wants to

get rid of his father, whom he considers as a rival. The female version is the Electra complex. Where a girl holds aggression for the same-sex parent and excessive love and attention for the opposite sex. The fixation in the phallic stage results in abnormal family arrangements to satisfy different parts (Freud, 1905).

1.5. Stages of Sexual Development

Each psychosexual stage is associated with a particular conflict that must resolve before the individual can successfully advance to the next stage. The resolution of each of these conflicts requires the expenditure of sexual energy, and the more energy expended in a particular stage the more important characteristics of that stage remain with the individual as he or she matures psychologically (McLeod, 2019).

1.5.1. Oral stage (0-18 months)

The libido is centered in a baby's mouth. it gets much satisfaction from putting all sorts of things into it to satisfy the libido. The mouth is vital for eating. However, the infant derives pleasure from oral stimulation through gratifying activities such as tasting, and sucking, because the infant is entirely dependent on caretakers who are responsible for feeding him, and together, they develop a sense of comfort and trust through all sorts of stimulation. The primary conflict of this stage is the weaning process. The child must become less dependent on his parents\caregivers. Once the infant successfully overcomes it, he will proceed to the next stage of development.

1.5.2. Anal stage (18-36 months)

The primary focus of the libido is controlling the bladder. The child now is fully aware that they are persons in their own right, and their wishes can bring them into conflict with the demands of the outside world. In other words, their ego has developed, where the major obstacle is "toilet training" and the way parents approach this determining success. At this stage, the parents are imposing restrictions on when and where the children can defecate. The nature of this first conflict with authority can determine the child's future relationship with all forms of authority. Parents who utilize praise and rewards for using the toilet at the appropriate time encourage positive outcomes and help children feel comfortable and

productive. Freud emphasizes that positive experience guiding this stage serves as a basis for people to become competent, productive, and creative adults. (Kendra, 2019)

1.5.3. Phallic stage(3-6 years)

In this period of a child's life, his sensitivity becomes concentrated. A child's new source of pleasure is in the genitals and masturbation. "The very impressions which we have forgotten have none the less left the deepest traces in our mental life" (Freud, 1905, *Three Essays of Sexuality*). Children began discovering the differences between males and females. This sets in motion the conflict between erotic attraction, resentment, rivalry, jealousy, and fear which Freud called the Oedipus complex in boys and the Electra complex in girls, which corresponds to the development of superego(source of conflict that copes with sexual feelings) which involve the child adopting the characteristics of the same-sex parents; for boys, it includes copying, and joining in masculine father type behavior, and for girls, it includes copying and joining feminine and mother type behavior.(Kendra, 2019)

1.5.4. Latent stage (6 years – puberty)

No psychosexual development occurs during this stage. Freud thought that most sexual impulses are been repressed during the latent phase, and sexual energy could be sublimated toward areas such as school work, hobbies, and friendship. Much of the child's energy is directed into developing new skills, and acquiring new knowledge, and this stage is important in the development of social communication skills, and self-confidence. (Kendra, 2019)

1.5.5. Genital stage (puberty – death)

It begins in puberty, and its onset causes the libido to become active. It is a time of adolescent sexual experiment and the successful resolution of which is settling down in a loving one-to-one relationship. Unlike earlier stages, the individual's sexual instinct and needs are been directed to heterosexual pleasure rather than self-pleasure. If the other stages are been completed successfully, the individual should be emotionally and psychologically well balanced. The goal of this stage is to establish a balance between various life areas. (Kendra, 2019)

Some people were not able to leave one stage and proceed to the other because their needs were very satisfied, which is called overindulgence. Unlike others who lack some

aspects in one of their stages from caregivers or their entourage, in general, this resulted in frustration. The combination of frustration and overindulgence create the fixation. Until the conflict is been resolved, the individual is stuck in a particular stage.

1.6. Conclusion

Sigmund Freud established Psychoanalysis in attempt to help the individuals identify and accept their defenses and create more forgiving one that allows mature expression of their desires. As a result, psychologists, alongside Freud popularized the concept of the consciousness and the unconsciousness to the world, which paved the way for artists, writers, theorists, and philosophers to focus on these innovative theories and approaches. In turn, they apply it to their works, which caused an extended and international spreading wave of these thoughts then and now. From curing Hysteria using Hypnosis to detailing the stages of sexual development, until the establishment of the Oedipus complex; Freud was and still a remarkable figure in Psychotherapy which landed him the name “The Father of Psychoanalysis.”

CHAPTER TWO:
UNDERSTANDING
HUMAN
RELATIONSHIPS IN
SONS AND LOVERS

VII. Chapter Two: Understanding Human Relationships in *Sons and Lovers*

2.1. Introduction

2.2. Relationships in *Sons and Lovers*

2.2.1. Internal (family) Relationship

2.2.2.1. Father vs. Mother Relationship

2.2.2.2. Father vs. Kids Relationship

2.2.2.2.1. Walter Morel vs. William and Paul

2.2.2.2.2. Walter Morel vs. Annie and Arthur

2.2.2.3. Mother vs. Kids Relationship

2.2.2.3.1. Gertrude Morel vs. William and Paul

2.2.2.3.2. Gertrude Morel vs. Annie and Arthur

2.3. Study of *Sons and Lovers* Environment

2.4. Conclusion

2.5.

2.1. Introduction

The English novelist and poet David Herbert Lawrence is considered one of the great modernist writers alongside James Joyce and Virginia Woolf. The writer's unconventional style, which was revealed as pornographic for its sexuality, especially in his novels, paved the way for him to be one of the most revolutionary English writers.

In *Sons and Lovers*, the writer applied his own experiences and aspects of life in the novel, which was considered a semi-autobiographical, where he tackled the presence of (the Morels) a struggling family whose father is a miner and the mother is an educated housewife. After a year of marriage, the couple loving and caring relationships changed drastically due to Mr. Morel's drinking habits from one part and the absence of emotional fulfillment from Mrs. Morel's part, which increased the fights between them to include their helpless little ones over time. Thus, the mother contained the boys, mostly William and Paul, with her love and affection. The tighter than usual bond led the boys -Paul- in particular, to establish an unhealthy relationship with two women Meriam and Clara, to fill the void which his mother created.

Throughout the study of D .H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, it is seen that the writer aimed to reveal the strange mother-son relationship along with other human relationships through the storyline. It paved the way for critics to analyze the character's personality from a psychological approach depending on Freud's theory, the *Oedipus complex*. In addition to the study and analysis of the late 19th century environment in which the writer Lawrence's witnessed and lived in.

The following chapter the research paper is to demonstrate the nature of the novel *Sons and Lovers* characters' in order to understand the type of human bond that connects each person to another, as well as to the effect of each character's personality, actions, words, and thoughts in the construction of another character's identity. In addition to the study of *Sons and Lovers* environment through the focus of the natural and social image in the characters' lives.

2.2. Relationships in *Sons and Lovers*

2.2.1. Family Relationships (internal)

There is no doubt that *Sons and Lovers* is a study of family relationships. Lawrence emphasizes on human connection between the members of the Morels, which will be conducted as follow:

2.2.1.1. *Father vs. Mother Relationship*

Gertrude Copard and Walter Morel as any young couple got married after they fall in love. After a year of marriage, that feeling deteriorated. Walter drank, and Gertrude disapproved. His behavior exaggerated to involve verbal and physical violence; he beat his wife, humiliated her, kicked her in the middle of the night, and locked her outside while she was pregnant with his third child. From that moment on, Gertrude's feelings changed; she became colder and felt more isolated and distanced from her husband. To make matters worse, he acted like it was not his fault in the first place;

She would have felt sorry for him, if he had once said, "Wife, I'm sorry." But no, he insisted to himself it was her fault. And so he brocks himself. So she merely left him alone. There was his deadlock of passion between them, and she was strong. (Lawrence, 2004, p.45)

The class difference and poverty also contributed to killing any attraction and love that she once had for her Walter. Mostly after the incident of her discovering the unpaid bills and the fact that the house is not his as he claimed;

“I found these in the pocket of your wedding coat. Haven’t you settled the bills yet?”

“No. I haven’t had a chance.”

“But you told me all was paid. I had better go into Nottingham on Saturday and settled them. I don’t like sitting on another man’s chairs and eating from an unpaid table.”

He did not answer. (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004, p.17)

Meanwhile, Walter felt that emptiness daily, that he is not and he will never be enough. He was ashamed after he kicked her out, and he could sense the cold, carelessness, and the alienation from his wife. As a result, he found himself in alcohol and spirits as a therapy and an escape. His wife know the consequences of such action, but preferred to ignore the idea;” Somewhere far away inside her, she felt indifferent to him and his suffering. It hurt her most of all, this failure to love him, even when he aroused her strong emotions. She brooded awhile.” (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004, p.89)

2.2.1.2. Father vs. Kids Relationship

2.2.1.2.1. William and Paul vs. Mr. Morel

Because of the emptiness in the married life, Mrs. Morel gave all her attention to her sons William and Paul. This overindulged treatment from maternal side led the boy to develop a feeling of hostility towards their father; both of them considered him as an ill-equipped person who torn the family apart because of his drinking habits. Despite the father’s full awareness of his outcast, Mr. Morel liked if he was a bit involved with his family;” He would dearly have liked the children to talk to him, but they could not.” (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004, p. 66) However, William believes that he must rush for his mother's rescue; he was involved in a fistfight with his father to protect her from him.

Paul and Walter’s relationship, on the other hand, was characterized by aggressiveness and abuse, since childhood, Paul’s weak physic-unlike his athletic brother - prevented him from being with his peers. Instead, he preferred the company of his sister Annie.

His sensitiveness was not his most likable criteria for his father. As a consequence, Paul did not involve his father in his achievements or his art; he would rather lose the prize than share it with his father.

2.2.1.2.2. Annie and Arthur vs. Mr. Morel

In *Sons and Lovers*, the primary emphasis is on the nature of the boys' relationship with their parents. However, through the analysis of the characters, there were hints about Mr. Morel and the rest of the family, it was evident that the Morel considered the head of the family as an embarrassment and did not involve him in any family matters. It is why Arthur

was considered the knit of the family. He was more involved with his father and represented the refuge of Mr. Morel to a certain extent because they both have something in common, which is hard work.

Annie, on the one hand, is a "tomboy." She was unable to connect with her father more than the boys did; her relationship with him was dull and silent until the day of her marriage when her father revealed some protective material.

2.2.2.3. Mother vs. kids Relationship

2.2.2.3.1. Mrs. Morel vs. William and Paul

The relationship that united Gertrude with her sons was abnormal and controversial for sure. It was characterized by possessiveness, jealousy, and disapproval. Mrs. Morel trapped her sons emotionally to be the ideal figure in their lives. First, it began with William; from the beginning she considered him hers only. It started when her husband cut his hair where she completely lost it, then followed by her disapproval of his date until his engagement, where she sets boundaries of her interaction with his fiancée Louisa. Mrs. Morel wanted a better life for him, she did not want him to struggle, and her principal purpose was his education and successful carrier. William succeeded in breaking free from his mother's bond by choosing a girl, who is entirely different from her, which brock her heart to a certain extent. In the sixth chapter, "Death in the Family," William said: "you know, she's not like you, mother. She's not serious. She can't think" (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004, p. 119)

. In contrast to William, Paul was the center focus of her attention particularly after William's death, and he felt sick with pneumonia. Paul slept in the same bed with his mother Mrs. Morel played the role of the force in Paul's life, which controlled his emotional and psychological aspects of life.

2.2.2.3.2. Mrs. Morel vs. Annie and Arthur

As was mentioned previously, Paul and William caught the full attention of their mother which left the rest of the family on their own, like his father, Arthur was centered with care in the first years. Later on, things changed mostly because Arthur showed signs of

independence since youth, where he joined the army force instead of mining or an office job. The same for Annie, she was a tomboy who was confident to play with other kids.

For such reasons why her mother did not interact with her much like most girls, the two women rarely been spotted together doing females activities, the healthy mother-daughter relationship was not constructed; it is probably because the significant focus was dedicated to Paul.

Sons and Lovers shed light on the familiar relationships between working class families. The Morel's as any other family in the mining town Bestwood faced poverty which was the source of many problems between husband and wife. However, the endless financial struggle in addition to the intellectual and religious conflict led to the breakdown of the family unit.

2.3. Study of Sons and Lovers Environment

The English novelist David Herbert Lawrence witnessed the age of English empire collapses. Britain gradually lost the economic and politic leadership, which resealed in a great change of the English society. The loss of faith in religion and the deterioration of moral standards led to the establishment the Realist movement

The late 19th century writers know the depth of the destructive effect of the industrial revolution on the human soul which was based on the exploitation of the workers and the robbery on natural resources. Therefore, writers like T. S. Eliot, Hardy, and Dickens did their best to describe the dark side of materialism on the individual and society, as in the case of D. H. L Lawrence in his work *Sons and Lovers*.

The blind chase of material wealth and decline of Christian faith in the beginning of the 20th century reached its peak. This modern disease was situated in the core of Lawrence's society. As a responsible realist writer. Lawrence aims to find a treatment using his writing to stand up for the social evil launched by industrial civilization. (*An Interpretation of the Natural Scenes in Sons and Lovers*, 2014. p.1)

Unlike different realist authors who tried to illustrate the cruel truth of lower class workers' exploitation by criticizing the social and political conditions of their society.

Lawrence focused on the destructive influence of industrialism upon human bond and soul. The auto-biographical novel *Sons and Lovers* -situated in Bestwood-portrays working class with an insight on Paul Morel's encounter with natural elements and shaping the psychological mentality making it realist novel.

The invasion of industrial revolution suffocated the Morel's dreams, love, and lives. For instant, the heavy burden on the miner Walter Morel led to the loss of his known sense of human. The mother Gertrude who was deprived from her husband's love turns to her children whom she prevents from maintaining adult relationships and normal lives. Her ultimate purpose was raising her children from working class into middle class. Thus, she always pushes them away from the mines and to the white collar jobs; William pursuits his career in London, Annie is a teacher and Paul is an office worker. (*Fictionalizing the Autobiography in D. H. Lawrence's Sons and Lovers*, 2015. p.12)

Lawrence depicts everyday situation in contemporary setting with truth and transparent language like the breakdown of family unit, men women relationship, rebellion of female characters eats... which classifies the novel as a modern piece of writing. In *Sons and Lovers*, Lawrence indirectly criticized the repression of individual desires by established authorities. He described the coalminers as "ants into the earth." (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004. p.7) the lower class workers were considered as products in the hand of the Bourgeoisie population and the destructive outcome that follows through such cold-hearted exploitation. i.e. Lawrence implies that the industrial and commercial revolution is plagued with death. As in the case of William and his mother Mrs.Morel.

Sons and Lovers study the growth of the individual consciousness within a repressive social environment. In the case of Paul Morel, he devoted his soul and mind to his mother. She is the center of his universe. He wishes if they were the two of them together." Why can't a man have a younger mother" (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004 .p.65) the unusual and stage mother son relationship is considered incest in the British society, a forbidden relationship that should be punished. But in a time of Christian morals fall, Lawrence presents human nature and sexuality in an explicit fashion. (*Social criticism in English Novel: Dickens to Lawrence*, 1976. p.4)

Throughout the reading of Lawrence's novel, the apple of natural images and symbols is spotted clearly. Lawrence uses poetic language to portray the beauty of nature. Nature for Lawrence is the source of power that enables people to forget their miseries and reach a transcendental land of hope. (*An Interpretation of the Natural Scenes in Sons and Lovers*, 2014. p.4) unlike in his description for industrial scenes which are depicted as dark, horror, and death. Through the storyline, he repeats words such as flowers, moon, stars, farm, sky etc... That has powerful influence on human psychology. The beauty of nature stands out and purifies the person from the industrial production that frustrates and prevents the human from obtaining pleasure.

In conclusion, *Sons and Lovers* represent the childhood memories of Lawrence himself, the daily struggle of his family, and the society of the working class in which he lived. Lawrence tried to create an imaginative world to portray several social realities like family relationship, poverty, and exploitation and manifest directly in his environment to reach a sense of social purpose

2.4 Conclusion

Throughout the reading of *Sons and Lovers* and analysis of characters' personalities, it was revealed that most of the characters held emptiness within. Some filled it with spirits, some with abnormal love to reach an emotional fulfillment, some through sexual affairs, and others with God and religion. This novel depicts the extent of the turbulent time Lawrence witnessed and his pursuit to portray the relationship between the sexes in his environment, depending on his own life experiences.

CHAPTER THREE:
PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE
IN *SONS AND*
LOVERS

VIII. Chapter Three: Psychological Atmosphere in *Sons and Lovers*

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Paul Morel Personality Construction

3.3 Mother Fixation

3.4 Psychological Criticism of *Sons and Lovers*

3.5 Conclusion

1.1.Introduction

The prominent English novelist David Herbert Lawrence is considered one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. His autobiographical novel *Sons and Lovers* explores the human nature through unconventional, sensitive, and frank discussions of topics of sexuality, psychology, and religion which contradicted the British social norms.

Lawrence shifted very far from social convention using dateable theories of psychology like the Oedipus complex and mother fixation. That is considered as a rich source of material for the examination of personality construction and development.

The third chapter begins with introductory paragraphs when it covers the main elements of the final chapter of the research paper. The first title of the third chapter explores Paul Morel personality construction, where the personality of the protagonist is investigated from childhood to adulthood, his love life, and his relationship with his father relying on the novel quotes, the analysis of Paul's personality. The second intitled The Psychological Atmosphere (Mother Fixation) explores the personality of the heroine Gertrude Morel. She is the character which all the other characters revolve. The examination of her personality analysis depends on her flashbacks, her relationship with her surroundings, mainly her young son Paul. Whom she loves, is passion about, and possesses over his mind and soul. The third title rely on the psychoanalytic criticism of the the 1913's novel *Sons and Lovers*. Finally, the chapter is concluded by paragraph which summarizes the principal element of the chapter, and then it is followed by a general conclusion that consists of the main elements that conclude the research paper.

3.2. Paul Morel Personality Construction

Since a young age, the protagonist Paul Morel was a sensitive, delicate, and a tender child who made his mother treat him differently. His constant illness with bronchitis increased Mrs. Morel's attention, protection, which helped her maintain her mental balance after William's death. For Paul, he found peace under his mother's wings knowing that she loves him more than any of her other children. (*Characterization in the Novel Entitled Sons and Lovers by D. H. Lawrence, 2015. p.196*) Therefore, the mother's exaggerated protective attitude toward him encourages his fixation since a young age "Paul loved to sleep with his mother; sleep is still most perfect, in spite of hygienists when it is shared with a beloved." (*Sons and Lovers, 2004. p.67*)

As he grows up, Paul begins to do everything for his mother, since she was the source of his love and pleasure. “In the end, they shared everything without knowing.”(*Sons and Lovers*, 2004. p.112) The fact that he was happy in his mother’s arms made him reject his father and wish him dead (early signs of Oedipus complex), more precisely, after the incident in the mines and his drunk returns to the house.

As he grows older, Paul begins to develop, and starts focusing on himself. Due to his mother’s efforts who pushes him into passion and romance, and shifts his attention from the mines into art and literature. He finds a young companion “Miriam” and engages in an office job, which help developing his social skills. In this period, his approaches Miriam in two different ways: as her teacher, and through his art. By the time the two spend together, their relationship begins despite Paul’s denial for his feelings. *Sons and Lovers:*” I do like to talk to her but I don’t love her.”(2004, p.251)

During puberty, Paul becomes emotionally independence with a self-chosen mate. Mrs.Morel expresses her disapproval on the young couple’s relationship in many occasions. She is insecure toward Miriam, and thinks that she will suck her son’s soul dry till he has none of his own left. (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004. p.196), while infect, Mrs. Morel’s strong spiritual hold upon her son is the one that sucks the life out of Paul and prevents him from being a man (like his brother William.) The battel between Gertrude Morel and the Miriam Leivers begins, while Paul is the object. Thus, the conflict between his mother and girlfriend causes interpersonal conscious conflicts in Paul.

Meanwhile, Paul assures for his mother that Miriam and himself are not together: “we are friends not lovers.”(*Sons and Lovers*, 2004. p.204) It does not stop Mrs.Morel from pulling her son toward herself by playing sympathy.” You know, I never had a husband, not really...” (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004. p.251) with this statement Mrs.Morel wins Paul, and in his unconscious, he can fill the position for her and play the role of a surrogate husband. In the first part of *Sons and Lovers* (2004) Paul clearly claims:” I am the man of the house.”p.13 Dr.Yudhista says:” the novel is basically about sons and lovers or more precisely about sons as “Lovers.” p.88 in the novel, the sons gradually becomes the lovers of their mother without any physical or sexual touch. (*Mother Fixation in Sons and Lovers*, n.d. p.9)

The quality of a man's relationship determines the quality of his life. For Paul and Miriam's relationship, it was doomed to end. From the moment it begins Miriam's emotions outgrow for Paul. She was fascinated by his art and, eyes and hands. Despite her disbelief in the physical love. Unlike Paul who thinks love as a terrible sense of death, and the principle source of disillusion, bitterness, and satisfaction. (*Characterization in the Novel Entitled Sons and Lovers by D. H. Lawrence, 2015. p.198*) When he is with Miriam, he hesitates between being with her and loving her. He loses his temper easily in her company, and blames her for the division inside of him.

In order to fulfill his physical needs, Miriam's sacrifices her love to Clara. She is a separated woman in her thirty. Clara is a strong passionate woman who's like Gertrude Morel is unhappy in her marriage. She seduces Paul, and succeeds in separating him from Miriam. Clara pushes Paul to explore himself, try new things, and inspires his creativity. He fails to establish a bond with Miriam so he breaks off with her, which devastates her, and return to Clara a new free man from his experience with Miriam, which leads into a passionate affair. The mother does not interfere with this relationship because of its temporary nature. Clara knows that Paul's mother is the strongest power in his life. Even though his body is with her or any other women, the soul is been held by Mrs. Morel. Most likely, Clara had a futuristic vision that Paul is very attached to his mother, and he will reach out to her when they began drifting apart. This happened indeed.

In the period of his mother's illness, Paul realized that his mother is the reason why he does not a happy life. His mother had a possessive power over him which he could not fight. As a defense mechanism he pushes women so that he is not too much involved. He separates with Miriam, become cold in his relationship with Clara. Finally, in a liberate move to free himself from Mrs. Morel's dominance. He overdoses his mother with morphine. Which leaves Paul in a dramatic psychological transformation after her death? (Ruwan, 2016. p.2)

Sons and Lovers by D. H. Lawrence depict the story of a son who is much devoted to his mother. It pointed out the feeling that depicts the life of Paul Morel's personality. A character that was consumed by sadness, that results in the failure of his relationships with the opposite sex. And the circle of the mother-son bond, which he is not unable to

surpass, nor he is aware of its outcome. The only way for Paul to survive in life is by a self-realization and an understanding of human relationship, in addition to emotional and mental maturity.

3.3. Mother Fixation

Throughout the story line of the novel *Sons and Lovers* it was evident that the nature of mother-son relationship took a different turn. The mother, Mrs. Morel and her two sons the eldest, William then later on, Paul share a close and a strange bond. It begins when Mrs. Morel alleviates her husband-Walter- who does not share any intellectual nor religious stand points. As Barbara Schapiro claimed:” Gertrude was originally attracted by Walter because he presented precisely what she (and her father) lacked- spontaneous, emotional, and sensual expressiveness” (*The Dread and Repulsiveness of the Wild: D. H. Lawrence*, 1999. p.154). The personality clash between the married couple led the wife to outcast her husband from the family were he had no natural position, and raise their children to see the life as well as their father from the eyes of their mother, while she depend on them for companionship in their growth.

Among the human relations, man and woman relationship is the most important for humanity and *Sons and Lovers* demonstrates this bond when it shows the life of the Morel’s family. The story revolves in a specific between a mother and a son, and very distinct and different husband and wife. Because of the social stigma of being different, Mr. and Mrs. Morel were unable to play the role of parents efficiently. (*Mother Fixation in Sons and Lovers*, n.d. p.6) Instead of talking out their problems, Gertrude Morel ignores her husband while Walter Morel neglects her. Therefore, the lack of communication under one roof impacts the Morel children who are exposed to two different treatments, which create a sense of divided loyalty. As a consequence, Mrs. Morel detailed control over her children’s life led to the creation of a Solo-family; where the total dependence of the members of the family relied on the mother, which had a direct effect upon the psychological and natural development of her children’s personality, mainly Paul. (*Mother Fixation in Sons and Lovers*. n.d. p.5)

Gertrude Morel is the central women character in *Sons and Lovers* which all characters revolve. Her narcissistic and protective possessiveness character led to substitute her

husband emotionally by her eldest son first, then by Paul to satisfy her narcissistic needs through her child.

Since the birth of William, Mrs. Morel tends to make up for her dissatisfaction and in fulfillment with her husband through an exclusive closeness with William who's presence gave her faith in life, enriches her dreary and lonely soul, and fought the bitterness that she could not bear, and the more her love for William grew, the more she despises her husband. (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004, p.49) In an attempt to find reparative measures to make up for the feeling of humiliation and shame. . (*Vision and Excessive Love of a Narcissist Mother in D. H. Lawrence's Sons and Lovers*, 2019. p.4)

In conclusion, the novel's heroine Gertrude Morel succeeded in making her children see the life from her eyes, know the depth of her struggle by taking her side, and understand the human relationship relying on her personal perspective. However, she was responsible for the destruction of her marriage with Walter Morel due to her rigid Puritanism and philosophical thinking. Which resulted in a growing feeling inside of her ; that in order to make up for her self-esteem and gain importance, emotional satisfaction, and fulfillment in her life, she must prioritize and over possess her boys heart which prevents them from having a normal development and a healthy relationship either with the opposite sex or with their own father.

3.4. Psychological Criticism of *Sons and Lovers*

The Freudian theories had a huge impact during the late Victorian Literature and the beginning of the modern era. The English novelist D. H. Lawrence was greatly influenced by Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytic theory "the Oedipus Complex". This brought controversy into both of modern fictional work and the field of Psychology. In his 1913's autobiographical novel *Sons and Lovers*, Lawrence characterized Paul Morel as a sensitive man who is much devoted to his mother and hostile toward his father, Walter Morel.

Under the accumulation of childhood repressed memories and the mother's powerful influence of her mind and thoughts upon her son, in addition to her strong spiritual bondage, Paul is unable to establish a healthy adult relationship with any women

The major dominant theme in Lawrence's masterpiece is the notion of Oedipus complex. Out of the four Morel children, Paul is the one who shows most signs of oedipal complexity. Since his birth, Mrs. Morel took promise on herself to love her third child unconditionally: "with all her force, with all her soul she would make up to it for having brought it into the world unloved" (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004. p.41) the protective nature of the care giver increased in a house of violence and mental abuse:" the mother is unsatisfied and angry with the coal miner, because he not only fails to live up to her bourgeois idea, but also hurt her in body and mind." (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004. p.30) As an unconscious reflect, Mrs. Morel overdoses Paul with protection and the affection that was supposed to address her husband. (*Contrast Between Jacosta and Mrs. Morel*, 2012. p. 19)

Unlike the Greek story of Oedipus, Paul is conscious about his relationship with his mother. He is more comfortable with in his bond with his mother more than in any other relation with Miriam or Clara... As for Mrs. Morel, she became sexually involve with her own child without any feelings of regret or shame. This abnormal mother-son relationship caused the sexual polarities in Paul's Psyche and mother Fixation for Gertrude Morel. (Sofo, 2012. p.19)

Through applying Freud's theory of Three Part of Psyche, it is evident that Clara represents the Id. She is the one who's responsible for Paul's pleasure and joy, unlike Miriam who plays the role of his Superego. She is his moral center who causes Paul the feeling of regrets, denial, and shame. As for his mother, Gertrude Morel, she represents the sound if logic. She is the most practical and responsible individual which he returns for for guidance and final decision. Mrs. Morel is Paul's ego. (Personal analysis)

Sons and Lovers is a study of human relationship. The novel projects the first twenty five years of Lawrence's persona struggle between life and death. Throughout his book, Lawrence reexamined his childhood memory, his bond with his mother Lydia, the society in which he grew up, and the psychological effect of his mother upon his sexuality. On the evident on the novel, both Lawrence as an author and Paul as a character appear to handle the deepest feels toward their mothers. In the novel, Paul admits that the spiritual and psychological struggle between the unconscious e love for his mother and his needs for sexual experience, in addition his attraction for his girlfriend, have jeopardies his relationship to failure, and damaged the development of his personality as a man. Paul is aware of the destructive influence of his

mother, he blames her for it when he cried bitterly to his mother:” I shall never meet the right women as long as you are living” (*Sons and Lovers*, 2004. p.246)

He is completely aware that his incapability to develop any satisfactory relationship with the opposite sex goes back to his mother’s dominance. Therefore, in contrast to the Greek myth of Oedipus, Paul kills his mother and but not his father in an attempt to free himself from her strong bondage. (Ruwan, 2016)

In the open end of the last chapter of the novel, Paul is surrounded by darkness and silence. He is drowned in sorrow after Gertrude Morel’s death. After losing the meaning of life, he heads toward the city. As a sign of liberating himself from the remains of the existing attachment of his Mother. Partly, he is relieved. But deep in his heart Paul knows that he cannot survive without his mother. In Lawrence’s writings, the characters rarely have a happy ending, as for Paul, he has no closure. His mother was the center of his life, and without her he is lost.

3.5. Conclusion

Sons and Lovers presents a real life experience of a character’s journey since the childhood of the protagonist until his adulthood relaying on the personal aspects of D. H. Lawrence’s life. It is devoted to understand the human relationships explicitly through uncovering the Mother-son relationship in a new way, focusing on the Greek Mythology and Sigmund Freud’s theory the oedipal complex. In the novel, the controversial issue of Mrs. Morel and her sons William and Paul in particular remains threatening to their personal, emotional, psychological, and sexual development which effects on their lives in the near future. More specifically, when they start to show signs of emotional independence with a self-chosen mate. The more they want to be free, the more she pulls them toward her. For a mother who prays for her son’s happiness, she caused a great deal of sorrow.

IX. General Conclusion

The writer David Herbert Lawrence tried his best to illustrate human bond and pursuit individual's mind and soul in his work. In his fictional work *Sons and Lovers* he tells is a story of a woman who lavishes her children with a great amount of love, affection, and attention which results in a devastating consequences in their relationship in specific, and their adulthood in general. And the fact that her sons are conscious of the damaging and unhealthy influence of their mother makes it difficult to escape. Where the mind is silent and the psyche remains still. According to Lawrence in his *Letters* he believes that the physical love and soul must be balanced, or else the body will collapse because there is no body distinct from the soul. He emphasizes on the importance of human unity if the "otherness" of others is respected.

In his fascination with human emotions, Lawrence says: "Our civilization has almost destroyed the natural flows of sympathy between men and women, men and men, and women and women, and it is this that I want to restore in life". (*the Collective Letters of D. H. Lawrence*, 1962. p.235)

Sons and lovers are considered one of the modern works that had a visionary sight of reclaiming the hard reality of a working class family. The novel aroused great sensation in the literary world despite its pornographic content that contradicted the British norms and values. In his book, Lawrence describes the daily life of the Morel, struggle, conflicts, and notably emotions in a vivid style. His emphasis on human sentiments goes back to his love for nature and romance. Lawrence method to depict the feeling of lost, sorrow, happiness, pride, anger, and fulfillment is through a deep dive and a direct contact with the human soul. Because the moment an individual came in touch with his feelings and reclaims it as they are, it is the moment when he achieves the real freedom

Finally, this research paper aims to investigate the field of psychotherapy and its outcome the late 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, the study of human relationship and the environment where the novel took place, and last the psychological atmosphere of identity construction and other fixation as well as the psychological criticism of the realist novel *Sons and Lovers*

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Appendix One: D. H. Lawrence's Biography

David Herbert Lawrence was the fourth of five children to Arthur John Lawrence and Lydia Lawrence. He was born on September 11; 1885, in the small mining town of Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, in English Midlands, which appears as Bestwood in *Sons and Lovers*. Lawrence's mother, Lydia, who came from a more refined and better-educated background, was an intellectual and intelligent teacher who left the work field to take care of her children. Her father was an engineer before the middle-class family fell into financial bankruptcy. Her love for literature as opposed to her husband's illiteracy, who was an ignorant and uneducated heavy drunk coal miner who barely knew how to write his name.

Consequently, Lydia gave her sons the best education possible to improve their lives and raise themselves from the working class. As she was determined to separate her kids from their father as from becoming drinkers, and short temper miners. Lydia's task to upraise her son's social life had a significant role in Lawrence's life afterward. He attended Beauvard Board School at the age of seven and was followed by his County scholarship winning in 1898. After finishing high school, David worked as a junior clerk for three months.

By 1901, the Lawrence family faced death within the family where his elder brother Ernest died, soon after, David had a severe attack of pneumonia. After his recovery, Lawrence formed a friendship with Jessie Chambers, whom he met at Hagg's Farm, worked as pupil-teacher beside her where they discussed books ceaselessly, while used to send her *The White Peacock* drafts. Jessie witnessed hostility from Mrs. Lawrence despite the growing strained relationship which affected David deeply.

In December 1910, his mother died, and he told Jessie that he and his mother were extremely close: "*we loved each other like a husband and wife.*" (The Letters of D. H. Lawrence, 1928, P.9). Lawrence saw his mother as a sensitive and sarcastic woman who spent her life with a drunken man who did not deserve her.

In 1912, Lawrence ran away with Frieda Weekly, who saw her "*the most wonderful women in England.*" She was the wife of a German professor at Nottingham University College and a mother of three

In 1913, Lawrence published *Sons and Lovers*; however, the novel was banned in England for its explicit pornographic content, which contradicted the British norms and values. From the period of 1914 to 1930, Lawrence visited and lived in England, Scotland, Italy, France, Germany, and Austria, which allowed him to extend his literary genres; he wrote essays, short stories, four novels, and travelogues. By 1925, Lawrence was diagnosed with Tuberculosis; four years later, he suffered from severe asthma and died on March 02; 1930, in Vence, France.

Appendix Two: Characters

Morel Walter: A coal miner with strong physic, he fell in love with Gertrude Copard and soon after proposes to her to be her husband. He turns to alcohol than abusing his wife physically, which affects his entire family afterward.

Gertrude Copard: Cold strength women and a mother of four. She became unhappy in her marriage after and despised her husband because of his drinking habits. Therefore, she devoted herself to her children, especially William and Paul.

William Morel: athletic, handsome, and educated young man who succeeds in escaping from the mining community and start a successful carrier.

Paul Morel: skinny, sensitive, and calm person. He is the artist of the family. He looks up to his brother William. He tries to balance his love for his mother with his relationship with Meriam and Clara.

Meriam Leivers the only daughter of the levers family and Paul's first love. A shy and sensitive young lady with strong religious believes. She was ready to sacrifice herself for others.

Clara Dawes: Paul works colleague whom he engages in an affair despite the age gap (6 years). She is a passionate, mysterious, and straight forward woman.

Lily Westerns: William's empty-headed fiancé. The morels are less impressed with her. She treats Annie poorly. Eventually, William became sick of her as well.

Annie Morel: the only daughter of the Morels. She is a tomboy; probably she does not connect well with her mother. In the end, she and Paul give their mother overdoses of morphine to end her suffer.

Arthur Morel is the youngest member of the family. He is knit and the closest to his father more than any other. He joins the army and breaks his mother's hea

Appendix Three: Themes

Family: the twisted Morel family is defied by division because of poverty, misconnection, alcohol, and hardship. As a result, the Morels were divided into two: the first part is Mr. Morel, and the second part is the rest of the family. His wife alienates Mrs. Morel, and the children take their mother's side.

Women's work and women's rights: the novel *Sons and Lovers* were set in the twentieth century, during women's right period, where they fought to change gender roles. Men's failure to understand women shows how society in general, needs to change its attitude toward the female population.

Christianity: despite D. H. Lawrence wrote his novel in a time when Christianity had an essential role in human life. Lawrence himself depicted his despise for Christian believes in the character of Meriam. Where she was characterized as a dull figure. He quoted stories from the bible to show that Christian believes they are a source of confusion and emotional pain rather than fulfillment.

Death: *Sons and Lovers* were conducted after the death of Lawrence's mother. His applying for his own experiences had reflections on the characters. Life and death are linked together in the novel. Where the story was set, the mining community was on a constant thereat with death. William's death shook the family, mostly his mother who grieved him. The aftermath of the illness of Mrs. Morel shows that death can be by choice due to the suffering Mrs. Morel endures, which leaves her son and daughter with the decision to end her suffer.

Oedipus complex: D. H. Lawrence applied Sigmund Freud's theory of Psychology in his writing to *Sons and Lovers* as a base for exploring the nature of the strange relationship between Paul and his mother. Paul fantasizes about his father's death, but he transfers his feeling elsewhere, where Meriam and Clara are the receivers. For Lawrence, he twisted the story where Mrs. Morel is saddled with it as well. She desired both her sons William and Paul romantically.

Love and passion: most relationships in *Sons and Lovers* are characterized by fulfillment either on the physical or emotional side. Mrs. Morel feels desire toward her two sons due to

the absence of contentment. Paul, in one hand, is unable to find joy with two women separately because his mother's love shadows his sentiments. Meriam is also fond of the idea of love. However, Paul feels an emotional connection with her but not a physical one and vice versa to Clara. This dilemma is irresolvable, which leaves drastic effects upon a character's personality.

Art: Paul's drawing is his escape from his family and the world. His sensitiveness was portrayed in his naturalistic style in painting. Paul's success in the art field arouses Mrs. Morel's dreams of becoming an upper-class lady.

Appendix Four: Summary

The novel *Sons and Lovers* by David Herbert Lawrence was set in 1913. It was banned in its first years of publishing due to its pornographic content. The novel was divided into two parts. The first part includes six chapters that tackle the life of the Morel family from the minute Gertrude Copard meeting with Walter Morel until the death of their eldest son William. The first part described from the mother's perspective in the beginning through the usage of flashback tunics. Where Gertrude Copard described her young life, husband, mother-in-law, daily struggle with poverty and judgments, pregnancy, kids, and the miserable married life to a drunken miner. Then, the reader witness the shift in storytelling that been tossed from one family member to another to give more comprehensive view and in-depth look to the characters' personality and their reaction to a daily event. The process of storytelling shifts from direct dialogue, conversation, letters, art, painting, and Christian believes discussion, thoughts, memories, and imaginations. By the end, the first part is concluded by the death of William and Paul's infection with pneumonia. The second part consists of eight chapters. It starts from chapter seven to chapter fifteen. This part shows the growth of all characters; from the Morels until their acquaintances. Also, the circle of characters connection gets wider by time. Though work, school, marriage, or social meetings.

The significant concentration is on Paul Morel. The novelist D. H. Lawrence focuses on the construction of the protagonist's psychosexual identity. From one chapter to another, it is noticeable that Paul's psychological and sexual strife had an impact on his surroundings as well as the development of events in a constant fight between spirituality, passion, and logic.

Paul is also trapped by his maternal love, which creates a dilemma in building a healthy relationship with the opposite sex. Miriam's spirituality and Clara's passion does not seem to fulfill or replace his mother's strong bond.

By the end of the novel, Clara and Baxter are rejoined together, and Miriam going to farming college. Paul and Mr. Morel live separately after Mrs. Morel's death, which left Paul devastated and suicidal. However, he decides to leave off suicidal thinking and walk toward the town.

Appendix Five: The Biography of Sigmund Freud

Sigmund Freud was born on May; 06th 1856 in Freiberg town in what was then the Austrian Empire. Sigmund was the son of Jacob Koloman and Amelia Freud, who was Jacob's second wife. They were a Jewish family in a Catholic city. However, due to Franz L Josef's law that permitted religious freedom, the Freud's, in addition to other Jewish names in the city were able to practice their religion freely. By 1859, Jacob's business collapsed, and the family moved to Leipzig where Sigmund had separate from his befriend and nephew John Freud who moved to Manchester, England.

A year later, the Freud's joined the mass influx of Jews from across the Austrian Empire, moving to Vienna, which was a European power center. The city was the pole of Jewish intellectuals, Hungarian aristocrats, and German artists.

After the improvement of the family's financial status, the young Freud had an inspiration for studying medicine after a public reading of Johann Wolfgang Von Goath's essays. By 1873, he enrolled at the University of Vienna as a medical student, where he was known as a brain anatomist. During his college years, he was introduced to the physician Dr. Josef Breuer whom he helped publishing a book titled *Studien Uber Hyterie* or *Studies of Hysteria*. And by the year 1881, Freud officially became a qualified medical practitioner.

In July 1884, Freud left Vienna and traveled to Paris to study under the neurologist Jean Martin Charcot who was interested in hypnosis. Freud was amazed by Charcot's method, so by 1886, he returned to Vienna and began to set up his practice, consulting on nervous diseases using hypnosis or healing by words.

Freud's will know manifestation came in 1899, which bore the German title *Dre Traumdeutang*, which was translated in English under the title *The Interpretation of Dreams*. By the mid 1890's, Freud came to believe that a person's hidden desires were at the root of many of his or her problems, and they are rooted in childhood trauma. His theory faces many challenges. One is to convince the deeply conservative society to take his wild thoughts on sexuality seriously.

By 1905, Freud published his book *Fragment of Analysis of a Case of Hysteria*, which brought him into contact with Carl Jung. In 1913, Freud claims that humans were innately bisexual, and this theory does not only apply to his patient rather it is universal.

After the outbreak of the WWI, Freud got affected both personally and professionally. On a personal basis, all three of his sons were drafted to serve in the Austro-Hungarian Army. And from the professional side, the war killed the International Psychoanalysis Movement. However, his business refreshed after the famous Bloomsbury Group; a collection of freethinking writers and artist became his treatment and helped to translate his works to the English language.

In the period of the Roaring Twenties, Freud published *Das Ich Und Das Es* or *The Ego and The Id*, which presented the world to the Three-Part Psyche. Freud focused on his daughter “Anna” to develop her skills by taking her to psychiatric conferences, and sending her in his place when cancer weakened him. By the end of Twenties, he published *Civilizations and its Discontents*; Psychoanalysis was taking place in America. And the surrealists in Paris founded an entire art movement inspired by Freud’s discoveries.

After the beginning of the Nazi regime, exactly May 10th; 1933 students gathered in State Opera, Berlin showing the fidelity to Nazism was they burn 25000 un-German books to the flames including Freud’s writings. The incident of Burning Books was only the beginning. On March 22nd; Anna Freud was arrested and brutally interrogated by Gestapo after reaching her to the streets. That spring, he secured exit Visa for 16 members of the Freud’s, and on June 6th; 1938 the Freud’s arrived in London the city that he once called:” Fog and rain, drunkenness, and conservatism.” Where he stayed till his death on September 23rd; 1939.

Appendix six: Diagram of Sexual Attraction

Age of children	Son's attraction to father	Daughter's attraction to father	Son's attraction to mother	Daughter's attraction to mother
2 years	11%	20%	77%	87%
3 years	20%	28%	61%	66%
4 years	38%	36%	57%	66%
5 years	28%	25%	57%	66%
6 years	23%	15%	68%	78%

(Valentine, 1962. p.108)

Appendix Seven: Hermann Rorschach Ink Blot Test







