

**INNER CONFLICT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE GODFATHER NOVEL by
MARIO PUZZO (1969): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree of
Education in English Department School Teacher Training and Education**

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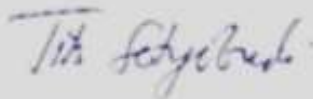
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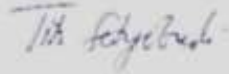


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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji bagaimana konflik batin dalam *The Godfather* karya Mario Puzo mampu mengubah karakter seseorang tanpa disadari. Konflik Internal, didirikan oleh Wellek dan Warren, dan Kepribadian, yang diprakarsai oleh Sigmund Freud, adalah dua metodologi yang digunakan dalam studi *The Godfather* ini. Karakter utama dalam perspektif *The Godfather* dipengaruhi oleh berbagai elemen, termasuk posisinya dalam keluarga dan keputusan yang diambilnya saat keluarganya mengalami masalah, menurut penelitian tersebut.

Kata Kunci: Konflik Internal, Pendekatan Psikoanalitik, *The Godfather*.

Abstract

The aim of this research is to examine at how inner conflict in Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* has the capability to change a person's character without them realizing it. And this Internal Conflict, established by Wellek and Warren, and Personality, initiated by Sigmund Freud, are the two methodologies used in this study of *The Godfather*. The main character in *The Godfather*'s perspective is influenced by various elements, including his position in the family and the decisions he makes while his family is having troubles, according to the study.

Keyword: Internal Conflict, Psychoanalytic Approach, *The Godfather*.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Godfather is a novel by Mario Puzo, published in 1969 by Signet. Puzo's most famous work, *The Godfather*, was first published in 1969 after he heard jokes about the Mafia organization during his time working in the world of dime journalism. He later said in an interview with Larry King that his main motivation was to make money. He owns it, having written 2 books that received excellent reviews, but not in sufficient numbers. As a civil servant with five children, he wanted to write something that would interest people. By being the number one bestseller for months on *The New York Times Best Seller List*, Mario Puzo found his target audience. The book was later developed into a film, *The Godfather*, directed by Francis Ford Coppola. The film received 11 Academy Award nominations, winning three of them, including an Oscar for Puzo for Best Adapted Screenplay. Coppola and Puzo then teamed up to create sequels to *The Godfather*, *The Godfather Part II* and *The Godfather Part III*.

The researcher chooses *The Godfather* as the object of the research because in these novel talks about a Mafia family. Corleone family fights a mob war with the Five Families of the New York Mafia in the years after World War II. After Don Vito Corleone is shot by men working for drug dealer Virgil "The Turk" Sollozzo, Corleone's two sons, Santino ("Sonny") and Michael, must run the family business with the help of consigliere Tom Hagen and the two caporegimes Clemenza and Tessio . When Michael murders Sollozzo and Captain McCluskey, a police officer on the drug lord's payroll, the conflict escalates into a full-scale war which results in Sonny's murder and Michael's promotion to the head of the family. Under his retired father's tutelage, Michael orchestrates a plan to relocate the Corleone family's power base to Las Vegas . This culminates in the murder of all of the family's enemies, including his brother-in-law Carlo Rizzi, who played a part in Sonny's murder. Michael then sells the family's businesses in New York and moves the family to Las Vegas. The novel had an epic tale that produced a fantastic storyline, story and information. In this story, Michael Corleone, the main character, transformed his character into 180 degrees that he doesn't want to be a bad guy and enter the U.S. Before and after he returned home to attend his sister marriage during World War 2, Army, his father was attacked by Sollozo after failed transaction because Vito Corleone declined the offer from the Sollozo and Tattaglia family, he took possession of the bussiness of Vito Corleone.

2. METHOD

In analyzing the novel *The Godfather*, the researcher used method employed descriptive qualitative method. The word qualitative implies an emphasis on the qualities of entities and on processes and meanings that are not experimentally examined or measured in terms of quantity, amount, intensity, or frequency. Qualitative researchers stress the socially constructed nature of reality, the intimate relationship between the researcher and what is studied, and the situational constraints that shape inquiry. Such researchers emphasize the value-laden nature of inquiry. They seek answers to questions that stress how social experience is created and given meaning. In contrast, quantitative studies emphasize the measurement and analysis of causal relationships between variables, not processes. Qualitative forms of inquiry are considered by many social and behavioural scientists to be as much a perspective on how to approach investigating a research problem as it is a method.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Kinds of Internal Conflict

This study classifies the internal conflict into four types based on Kurt Lewin's concept of approach and avoidance tendencies, *approach-approach conflict*, *approach-avoidance conflict*, and *multiple approach-avoidance conflicts*.

3.1.1 Approach-Approach Conflict

Michael was the youngest boy in this family. He is Vito's favourite son. Michael was chosen to become the selected heir to manage the family business. At the mature ages, Michael faced two life choices that should take before he started it all. The first choice is he wanted to involve in World War 2 as a Marine Corps volunteer. The second choice, he stayed with his family and co-manages family business. But he chose the first option.

"But Michael was twenty-one years of age and nothing could be done against his own willfulness. He enlisted and fought over the Pacific Ocean. He became a Captain and won medals. In 1944, his picture was printed in Life magazine with a photo layout of his deeds." (The Godfather, 1969:11).

As evidenced by this data, Michael's decision to volunteer for the Marine Corps was a wise one because it was honourable labor as a national hero. It has positive value because becoming a national hero is to give our service to the country.

3.1.2 Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict

Michael Corleone expresses his loyalty to his family through sacrifice and finds true meaning in his life. This is how it started Michael evolves and becomes Don Corleone. After the death of Vito Corleone, Michael started to realize all of his plan. Revenge the other mafia family.

After Don Vito's recovery, he officially announced that he would be semiretirement, and Michael's takeover of the family business. Michael gave all decisions, order, anything else as like other's Don do. But we already know, before he joined the family business, he was a good boy. Now, Michael turning into a cold person. As he planned before his father die, Michael wanted to attack other's Don who dominate and powerful in New York area, they were Barzini and Tattaglia. And also killed Carlo, Connie's husband.

“He put three bullets in Barzini’s barrel chest before the other three men unfroze enough to dive for cover. By that time, Neri had darted into crowd and around the corner, where the car was waiting for him.” (The Godfather,1969:465).

Michael decided killing Barzini because he know after Vito was gone, he wanted to tear down Michael’s dynasty. But Michael was smarter than him because Michael was predicted it before. And Barzini was the mastermind of murdered Sonny through Carlo which make some drama with Connie and make him so angry and trigerred. That is why Michael planned assassination to him.

3.1.3 Approach-Avoidance Conflict

The third conflict explains Michael's internal conflict about his decisions. Michael had issues because his father was shot by two gunmen, but on the other hand, he wanted to involve other family members to end the battle, but Sonny underestimated him. We can see Michael's character evolving in this proof, which surprises Sonny.

Michael lit a cigarette. “I can help out,” he said. “No, you can’t,” Sonny said. “The old man would be sore as hell if I let you get mixed up in this.” Michael stood up and yelled. “You lousy bastard, he’s my father. I’m not supposed to help him? I can help. I don’t have to go out and kill people but I can help. Stop treating me like a kid brother. I was in the war. I got shot, remember? I killed some Japs. What the hell do you think I’ll do when you knock somebody off? Faint?” (The Godfather, 1969:91).

From the evidence above, this study finds that there are two goals that Michael faces. The first goal is the end of Corleone family war against Sollozo and Tataglia’s family. This goal has positive value because the trouble came from Sollozo which not satisfied with Vito’s decision.

3.1.4 Double Approach-Avoidance Conflict

As described above, high risk of job also means high return or high income too in it. In this case, Michael’s father, Vito Corleone, had an offer from the drug dealer named Sollozo or also known as “The Turk”. Virgil Sollozo is the relatives of the Tattaglia’s family. They cooperate in sale of narcotics. Tattaglia’s family ensure Sollozo’s safety in doing business. But he wanted to enlarge his business, that is why he come to Corleone’s family to offer some business. As like this evidence,

“... The profits in your business are huge but so are the risks. Your operation, if I were part of it, could damage my other interests. It’s true I have many, many friends in politics,

but they would not be so friendly if my business were narcotics instead of gambling. They think gambling is something like liquor, a harmless vice, and they think narcotics a dirty business. ... ”. (The Godfather,1969:71).

We all know if narcotics are the next level of crime and it is so dangerous if we dealing with those things. In this point, Vito refused Sollozo's offer because of his business are too dangerous for Vito's family and his other politics relations. Vito built his business and grow his connection for so long, that is why he choose to refuse the business offer. If he accepted the offer, the high risk was he would lose his politics connection but his business would grow up because of the profit of selling narcotics are so big. And if he rejected the offer, his business was just normal without increasing income because of his olive oil and gambling business was too old for his next generation and lower income, but it had lower risky than narcotics business and more safety for his family. But his rejection causes more conflict after it, which make Luca Brasi dead, also he had shoot. And his youngest child, Michael, sacrifice his personality, became another person, when he started to resolve this conflict.

3.2 discussion

The researcher would explain about the internal conflicts that faced by Michael Corleone by these four theories.

3.2.1 The Internal Conflicts That Faced by Michael Corleone

a. Approach-approach conflict.

Michael's decision to volunteer for the Marine Corps was a wise one because it was honourable labor as a national hero. It has positive value because became national hero is give our service to the country. We show our nationalism when we live it. Then in the second option, run the family business is a good choice too. We can stay at home, give our more time to family is a positive thing to do. The positive value if Michael chooses the second option, Michael can be closer to his family, and running family business is a tradition that must always be carried out.

b. Avoidance-avoidance conflict.

After Don Vito's recovery, he officially announced that he would be semiretirement, and Michael's takeover of the family business. Michael gave all decisions, order, anything else as like other's Don do. But we already know, before he joined the family business, he was a good boy. Now, Michael turning into a cold

person. As he planned before his father die, Michael wanted to attack other's Don who dominate and powerful in New York area, they were Barzini and Tattaglia. And also killed Carlo, Connie's husband.

The negative value that Michael earn from that decision he taken was the changing of his personality which more ruthless. And after the murderer of Carlo, now Connie became a widow because of her husband was killed by her brother. Also, Michael became dishonest to Kay, he lied about Carlo's died and said that he did not kill Carlo.

c. Approach-avoidance conflict.

Michael understands he shouldn't be involved because of the privilege, but he truly wants to help, based on the evidence above. He was simply a young boy, the youngest child who received more attention from his father, Vito Corleone's one and only son who did not join the mafia family. However, he wishes to make several changes, but he is unaware that this will affect his personality. Finally, he gets involved and shows that he is deserving. This goal has a negative value because Michael is supposed to kill people, which will cause more difficulties. He became a fugitive, which is why, after his execution, he escaped to Sisilia and lived there for several years until the war ended.

d. Double Approach-Avoidance Conflict

We all know if narcotics are the next level of crime and it is so dangerous if we dealing with those things. In this point, Vito refused Sollozo's offer because of his business are too dangerous for Vito's family and his other politics relations. Vito built his business and grow his connection for so long, that is why he choose to refuse the business offer. If he accepted the offer, the high risk was he would lose his politics connection but his business would grow up because of the profit of selling narcotics are so big. And if he rejected the offer, his business was just normal without increasing income because of his olive oil and gambling business was too old for his next generation and lower income, but it had lower risky than narcotics business and more safety for his family. But his rejection causes more conflict after it, which make Luca Brasi dead, also he had shoot. And his youngest child, Michael, sacrifice his personality, became another person, when he started to resolve this conflict.

3.2.2 Personal Structure of Michael Corleone

The researcher would explain about the personality of Michael Corleone before he takes a part in family business and before changes into different person. Michael had a good personality since he was young. He knows his family are mafia, but he does not want involve in it.

Michael refuses his father order about to run the family business, that was his father plan before. But he had his own way to serve the country and join the World War II.

3.2.3 The Internal Conflict That Influenced the Main Character Personality

Michael goes to Las Vegas to meet his brother Freddie and also meet Moe Greene to discuss the business in Vegas. After Michael take the leadership of decision and as a Don replace Vito Corleone, Michael thinks that the business that build by his father before is getting out of date and he want to change the business which more produce money and more definite for his family's future. The decision which Michael take first is to buy the casino that belongs to Moe Greene. But in the negotiation, Moe Greene said rude to Michael and he cursed at the Corleone family. And his brother Freddie warn about what was Michael said to Moe Greene, but his answer was surprisingly Moe Greene and Fredo at the same time. And that was look he is not the Michael at the past, he was completely change.

We know that other family member surprised and feel the change of Michael personality. Michael already knew that Carlo Rizzi was help with Sonny's murder, but he wanted to Carlo said the answer clearly in front of Michael and proves he's guilty. And because he was the Don now, he wanted to clear all the enemy and betrayer who even existed in his family. After his brother's murder Sonny, Michael found out who was the mastermind behind it all, and Carlo Rizzi is the one part of Sonny's death. And after Michael became the Don, he also braves of made the decision. That's totally different from Michael at the first story begin which gentler, innocent and more like living normally than join the mafia family business.

Michael now became a cold handed and coldhearted person. The changing was 180 degrees from the beginning story. Michael is a former marine. He is not involved in the family business. He having chosen his own separate path for a family as close as the

Corleones, Michael's distance makes him something of an outsider. He also being dishonest to Kay. He lied about what he was doing, after Connie explain all of it and make Kay realize what her husband done.

4. CLOSING

After analyzing the Godfather novel with using a psychoanalytic approach. The researcher can describe the internal conflict of the main character, Michael Corleone after collecting data using this approach. The Godfather is an attractive and exciting novel for adult who has read it. In addition to the crime story told here, there are many actions and moral value inside it. The first is about the internal conflict that faced by the main character, Michael Corleone. The internal conflict started from his father refused the Sollozo offer because Don Vito Corleone had his own reasons. Michael has a variety of issues that cause him to change his personality, such as his father being attacked by other mafia groups and his brother insulting him because he is unable to assist in the solution of family problems. Michael's other side emerges as he seeks vengeance and demonstrates his capability. Then Michael imposed vengeance on his father's enemies. Michael took over as Don from his father and continues to run the family business. And the current Michael isn't as good as the one who started the story.

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