

lit203 second assignment The Rocking-Horse Winning

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Submission date: 17-Dec-2019 10:47PM (UTC+0200)

Submission ID: 1236162215

File name: 109772_195353_Shrook_Abelmohsen_Hanafy_Ahmed_lit203_second_assignment_The_Rocking-Horse_Winning_149398_201684342.docx (16.92K)

Word count: 1010

Character count: 4673

The effect of mother son relationship on both of them

² “The Rocking-Horse Winner” is a story written by D.H Lawrence in 1926. The story is about a disassembled family, a wife and a husband were married with love but their love turned to dust because of money. ² Paul’s mother was always think that they are unlucky and the poorest branch in their family. She thinks that her husband is unlucky because he could not bring a lot of money to her. She also considered her children as one of the reasons of their poorness as they consume money. She saw that her life does not fit the social stature she wanted. This mother has a child called Paul. Paul could see in his mother’s eyes that she does not love him. He started to do his best to bring money to his mother searching for the love from her. He consumed his brain too much to be having a super natural power that gives him the ability to predict the future. Paul succeeded in predicting the winner horse and succeeded in bringing more money to his mother, but he failed to attract her attention or make her loves him. The over consuming of Paul’s brain bring him an Anxiety which leads to his death. The story could be analyzed from Psychoanalysis perspective. ² Psychoanalysis is a method of psychological theory and therapy which explores the relationship between conscious and unconscious elements in the mind to treat mental disorders (Ferenczi, 68). “The Rocking-Horse Winner” portrays the sublimation of Paul’s mother, and the Anxiety of Paul. First, Paul’s mother sublimated her negative feelings to seem like a positive feelings. Sublimation is changing negative urges into positive, socially accepted behaviour (Deri, 325-334). She repressed her hatred to her children and acts as she is love them very much and extra caring of them in front of people (Sajjad, 41) ¹ “Everybody else said of her: “She is such a good mother. She really loves her children.” The reason why Paul’s mother does not love her children is that she considered them as a reason the lack of their money (Miles,20). She considered their school and needs decreases their money and reduces their standard of living, ¹ “Her children were growing up, they would have to go to school. There must be more money,

there must be more money.” Due to the repression of Paul’s mother feelings, she started to have Anxiety due to her repeated thoughts of money and poorness. This Anxiety leads her to have a low self esteem as a core issue. She saw herself as she is lower than the all, they are very unlucky and poor, and they are the lowest and poorest branch in their family and could not live in a high posture and social stature as in the story: “Mother,” said the boy Paul one day, “why don't we keep a car of our own? Why do we always use uncle's or a taxi?” “Because we're the poor members of the family,” said the mother”. It was not enough for her to be satiated by this thoughts, she also tried to make her child Paul believe that they are unlucky.

Furthermore, Paul repressed his knowledge that his mother does not love him. Due to this repression he infected with Anxiety (Becker, 55-63). He does his best to satisfy his mother and make her love him. Paul started to ride his rocking horse that gives him the super power to predict with the horse that will win the race very hard and devote his mind to know the future “You'll break your horse, Paul!” said the nurse. “He always rides like that! I wish he'd stop!” said his sister Joan.”. He succeeded in knowing which horse will be the winner and by helping of Basset and his uncle Oscar. But in the other hand, Paul failed to win his mother’s love and care. He brings her money and waits to see any love look in her eyes but there is not. He go and ride his horse again to know the name of the upcoming horse to gain more money to the seek for his mother’s love but as usual he receives cold looks and feelings from the mother. This leads him to be insecure. All what Paul’s need is to make his mother loves him and all he gets is coldness and neglecting “I'll do what you wish, mother, so long as you don't send me away till after the Derby,” the boy said. “Send you away from where? From this house?” “Yes,” he said. “Why, you strange child, what makes you care about this house so much, suddenly? I never knew you loved it.”.

To conclude, a low self esteem mother looks about material wealth believes that her husband is an unlucky man and make her poor an could not live in a high social stature. The mother transferred her thoughts to her child Paul and makes him suffering psychologically from Anxiety. Paul tried to change his mother's thoughts and persuade her that he is lucky and bring money to her but she did not give him attention or thank his favour. Paul becomes insecure so he keep trying hard to bring a lot of money to achieve to his mother's heart but he also failed. Paul's mother was only looking for more money this money does not enough. Paul over used his mental abilities ² to Know the name of the winner horse he pressed himself till he lose the control of himself and becomes mad. He did not stop screaming "I am lucky mum, look I am lucky" till he died.

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