

An Analysis on Achievement Motivation Developed in the Main Character of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

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Abstract

This study focuses the analysis on the main character's achievement motivation, and the drives that influence him to support his achievement as well as the consequence related with anxiety disorder after reaching or developing his achievement. To elaborate the idea, descriptive qualitative method is employed. In addition, to get additional information related to analysis library research is used. In order to achieve the objectives of the research, this study applies two approaches. This writing applies objective and psychodynamic approach. The final conclusion of this research completely proves that Victor is an achievement motivated person which can be seen from his desire by studying hard that release from his internal drive and the external drive emerges from his family attention and his lectures that always support him in developing his potency. Victor suffers from one anxiety disorder named panic disorder after creating human being. This panic attacks emerges, since the human being or the monster takes revenge to him as the monster cannot live like other human being.

Key Words: achievement motivation, anxiety disorder, character, characterization

Introduction

If people wish something, they must struggle to acquire it. The result whether success or not counts on his or her motivation. In theory of motivation, someone that wants to get high quality of his need is called achievement motivation. Henry Murray in Buskit (1990:339) describes that achievement motivation is the description of person to overcome obstacle, to exercise power, to strive to do something difficult as well and quick as possible.

The reflection of achievement motivation can be perceived from the story of Frankenstein written by Mary Shelley Wollstenecraft. The story of Frankenstein is indeed long and well portrayed. The commencing of Victor Frankenstein's life is, all through; the story of happy and undiminished childhood filled with the love from his parents and adopted sister of who is his utmost adoration. However Victor Frankenstein's thirst for knowledge obliges him to leave home.

As he grows mentally, he finally reaches his goal and applying his knowledge by creating human being. Human being created by Victor, is perpetually facing the fear in eyes of human when looking upon him; this ultimately drives him to search out revenge and causes his creator damage. He succeeds in his task and kills Victor's family and finally his dead creator in the ship of R Walton, who at last leaves the monster in the lands of north to die.

Achievement motivation which discussed in this analysis highlighted on Victor Frankenstein as the main character that psychologically tells his motivation in reaching his potency and the consequences obtained from his creativity. At the first time he wishes to be a person that is able to be advantageous person for the world by his discovery. In fact his achievement brings many tragedies in his life especially anxiety disorder that always comes in his mind because of terror from his creation.

Over the years behavioral scientist have observed that some people have an intense need to achieve; others, perhaps the majority, do not seem to be as concerned about achievement.

Achievement motivation was proposed by personality theorist Henry Muray (1893). He included the need for achievement among his list of human motives; he defines the achievement motivation as to accomplish something difficult. To master, manipulate or organize physical objects, and independently as possible. To overcome obstacle and attain a high standard (Muray in Peterson, 1988: 326)

McClelland in his research (Accel-Team.com) depicts that Achievement-motivated people have certain characteristics in common, including:

1. The capacity to set high (stretching) personal but obtainable goals.

They set moderately difficult but potentially achievable goals. In Biology, this is known as the overload principle. In weight lifting, for example, strength cannot be increased by tasks that can be performed easily or that

cannot be performed without injury to the organism, strength can be increased by lifting weights that are difficult but realistic enough to stretch the muscles.

2. The concern for personal achievement rather than the rewards of success. Another characteristic of achievement-motivated people is that they seem to be more concerned with personal achievement than with the rewards of success. They do not reject rewards, but the rewards are not essential as the accomplishment itself. They normally do not seek money for status or economic security.
3. The desire for job-relevant feedback (how well am I doing?) rather than for attitudinal feedback (how well do you like me?). A desire by people with a high need for achievement to seek situation in which they get concrete feedback on how well they are doing is closely related to this concern for personal accomplishment. Consequently, achievement-motivated people are often found in sales jobs or as owners and managers of their own businesses.

Furthermore, Mc Clelland has tried to understand the origins of achievement motivation, particularly in terms of parental and cultural influences. His research in this area has led him to study parent-child interactions and cultural practices in the number of different nations. According to Mc Clelland in Buskist, there are several of his more important and interesting findings listed below:

1. Achievement motivation is usually acquired in early childhood. Children who are generally have parents who encourage them in positive ways to succeed at difficult tasks and who reward them for their successes. These children usually also have parents who have encouraged them to be creative in finding ways to accomplish difficult goals rather than urging them to quit.
2. Parents who place emphasis on achievement and success in school or at work tend to have children with the same kinds of values.
3. Cultures that have strong economies generally have folktales and children's storybooks containing themes relating to achievement, such as hard work and productivity.
4. Cultures in which there is civil unrest, such as labor strikes and political protests tend to have young people who are high in nAch (need of Achievement). One reason for this finding may be that in some countries, there is little or no opportunity or those who are in high in nAch to achieve (Buskist, 1990:340)

Psychologist distinguishes two kinds of motivation based on the drive toward behavior. The first is intrinsic motivation; it arises from the internal of an individual. The second is extrinsic motivation: it comes from the external of an individual. (Irwanto, 1991:217)

Purwanto in Wiguna (2002:2-3) in his book depicts these two kinds of drives. Intrinsic drive is the drive that covers from inherent condition for instance talent, interest, intelligent, attention, and motivation attitude. Meanwhile, extrinsic drive is the drive that covers from the outside, for instance family, friends, teachers and society.

Individuals who experience an abnormally high amount of anxiety often feel overwhelmed, immobilized, and unable to accomplish the task at hand. People with too much anxiety often suffer from one of the anxiety disorders, a group of mental illness. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH.nih.gov) of America divides six varieties of Anxiety disorder, namely panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post traumatic disorder, social phobia, specific phobia, and generalized anxiety disorder.

One of mental illnesses in which a person experiences repeated, unexpected panic attacks and persistent anxiety about the possibility that the panic attacks will recur, is panic disorder. People with panic disorder have feelings of terror that strikes suddenly and repeatedly with no warning. They can not predict when an attack will occur, and many intense anxieties between episodes, worrying when and where the one will strikes.

If people are having a panic attack, most likely their heart will pound and they may feel sweaty, weak, faint or dizzy. Their hand may tingle or feel numb, and they might feel flushed or chilled. They may have nausea, chest pain or smothering sensations, a sense of unreality, or fear of impending doom or loss of control, they may genuinely believe they are having a heart attack or losing your mind, or on the verge of death. Panic disorder is often accompanied by other serious conditions such as depression, drug abuse, or alcoholism and may lead to a pattern of avoidance of places or situations where panic attacks have occurred.

In analyzing the problems, intrinsic element that I employ is character and characterization. As it will assist me to know further about the main's character personality life, here are the theories of character from Abrams:

Character is the person presented in a dramatic narrative work who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with morale and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say-the dialogues and by what they do- the action (Abrams, 1953:20).

To comprehend the behavior of the character characterization theory is used, characterization is defined as “the process by which an author create character. To support this definition, I apply characterization theory from Tarigan.

Tarigan (1991:133-134) delineates seven points of explaining the character. Here are some delineations of the character in detail.

1. Physical description
It describes the physical appearances of character such as the clothes worn, how he looks will bear a resemblance to his characteristic.
2. Portrayal of thought stream of conscious thought
It describes the way of character’s thought and shows how the character manages his emotion and feeling.
3. Reaction to events
It describes about how the reaction of characters to event that happens around him or her.
4. Direct author analysis
The author analyzes the character and the condition around it.
5. Discussion of environment
The author describes the condition around the character likes houses, streets and general overview of environmental circumstances around the character.
6. Reaction of other characters about the character
The author describes about the other character’s point of view to the main character in the story or character feedback to other character’s comments and points of view.
7. Conversation of others about character.
The other characters talk about the condition of the main character in a story; thus, readers directly obtain the impression and other thing about the main character.

Method

In analyzing a literary work, we need theories in order we can analyze the literary work deeper and more focus. As Abrams mentions there are four theories to analyze literary work namely mimetic, pragmatics, expressive, and objective. This research uses objective approach.

Objective theory is considered to be proper approach to analyze the novel. It is applied by M.H. Abrams to the view, which holds the work to be most significant as an object in itself, independence of the facts of its composition, the actuality it imitates, its author’s stated intention, or the effect it produces on its audience (Holman, 1981:305)

The most influential approaches in psychology today are generally labeled biological approach, psychodynamic approach, behavioral approach and cognitive approach. In this analysis, I apply psychodynamic approach.

Psychodynamic approach or known as psychoanalytic presumes that behavior and mental processes reflect constant, dynamic, and often unconscious struggles within each person. These struggles are varied and complex, but they usually involve conflict between the impulse to satisfy instinct or wishes (for food, sex, or aggression for example) and the restrictions imposed by society (Bernstein, 1998: 10).

Discussion

1. Victor Frankenstein as an Achievement Motivated Person

As defined by Henry Muray, achievement motivation is the desire for significant accomplishment, for mastering skills or ideas, for controlling, and rapidly attaining a high standard. Victor Frankenstein covers the view from Murray above. He has desire to master the natural philosophy, and the characteristics of Victor Frankenstein are obviously stated in this novel as well.

Here, I found some strong evidences that Victor Frankenstein is achievement-motivated person. In this novel, victor entirely covers these characteristics; namely the capacity to set high personal but obtainable goals, the concern for personal achievement rather than the rewards of success, and the desire for job-relevant feedback.

2. The Capacity to Set High (stretching) Personal but Obtainable Goals

The characteristic of achievement-motivated person is characterized in setting which are moderately difficult but potentially achievable goals. The novel incredibly verifies how moderately he studies. He narrates that the science taken by him is full of contradictory theories and he applies it in desperate manner. It is shown in these following sentences.

And thus for a time I was occupied by exploded system, mingling like unadep. A thousand contradictory theories and floundering desperately in a very slough of multifarious, guided by an ardent imagination and childish reasoning. (*Frankenstein*: 43, Lines: 27 - 30)

Victor is distinctly achievement-motivated person since the subject that was taken by him is moderately difficult to learn. It needs moderate ability in studying. At this point, he can satisfy himself to master the science especially chemistry by studying ardently. It is obviously stated when he tells his dreadful experiences to R Walton.

In other studies you go far as others have gone before you, an there is nothing more to know; but in a scientific pursuit there is nothing more to know; but in scientific pursuit there is continual food for discovery and wonder, a mind of moderate capacity, which closely pursues one study, must infallibly arrive at great proficiency in that study; and I, who continually sought the attainment of one subject of pursuit, and was solely wrap up in this,... (*Frankenstein*: 55, Line: 1 - 4)

3. The Concern for Personal Achievement rather than the Reward of Success

Achievement-motivated person is that the person seems to concern more on personal achievement than with the rewards of success. In developing his achievement motivation, Victor quickly can master knowledge in two years

...improved so rapidly that at the end of two years, I made some discoveries in the improvement of some chemical instruments, which procured me great esteem and admiration at university (*Frankenstein*: 55, Lines: 4-8)

The sentences above show that Victor obtains rewards from his university great esteem and admiration as the result of his ability in making some discoveries of some chemical instruments. Victor also does not seek money for status or wealthy for his life. For him, wealthy is lower object of his orientation. His goal would like throwing a disease from human being; it is apparently proved in the following sentences.

Wealth is an inferior object, but what glory would attend the discovery. If I could banish disease from the human being. It is apparently proved in the following sentences. (*Frankenstein*: 43, Lines: 17-20)

4. The Desire for Job-Relevant Feedback

Victor characterizes as a person who intends to know his realization how far he can apply his knowledge that existed in his mind. Thus, he applies himself to create human being. The representation of human being, in this case, has shown the proof how well he has master natural philosophy as the term that he takes.

I doubted at first whether I should attempt the creation of a being like myself, or one of simpler organizations: but my imaginations was too much exalted by my first success to permit me to doubt as complex and wonderful as man (*Frankenstein*: 57, Lines: 18-28).

A desire by person with a high needs for achievement to seek situation in which he gets concrete feedback on how well he is doing is closely related to this concern for personal accomplishment. The evidence that Victor possesses this characteristic can also be seen though these sentences.

The leaves of that year had withered before my work drew near to a close; and now everyday showed me more plainly how well I had succeeded (*Frankenstein*: 60, Lines: 26-28).

Victor, in developing the creation of his achievement motivation, shows that he does not want to get appraising but to clarify whether he has succeeded or not in his obsession. The evidences above explain that Victor incredibly shows his desire toward his job relevant.

5. The Drives of Victor Frankenstein in Developing the Creation of his Achievement Motivation

In developing his achievement motivation, Victor possesses what he calls "a thirst for knowledge". This of course is the fundamental human need necessary to one's survival. Victor's desire to learn; therefore, it is driven by nothing as insubstantial as curiosity. It is instead the precondition of his very being, this explanation was described below.

My father was not scientific, and I was left to struggle with a child's added to a student's thirst for knowledge (*Frankenstein*: 43, Lines: 12-14).

Internal drives of Victor can be also seen from his desire of science, especially natural philosophy. Natural philosophy is something that develops Victor's motivation to reach his goal.

Natural philosophy is the genius that has regulated my fate: I desire, therefore in this narration, to state those facts which led to my predilection for that science (*Frankenstein*: 41, *Lines*: 24-26).

Spirit is a term that always exists in Victor's mind in developing his creation purchase. He is never lazy to study. Besides, in raising his motivation, Victor has a sense of self-confidence to reach his orientation that he keeps in his mind and a hard working person is reflected in his life in improving his achievement motivation. His striving works bring him into the success of discovering the cause of generation and life.

The astonishment which I had at first experienced on this discovery soon gave place to delight; to arrive at once at the summit of my desire was the most gratifying consummation of my toils (*Frankenstein*: 56, *Lines*: 26-29).

Victor gets full of attention from his parents in learning the horizons of the world from his early children. Victor's father actually concerns with his son advance, his father who encourages his independence from an early age and praise him for his successes. It shows in these sentences, when Victor reads Cornelius Agrippa, his father asks him to leave Principles of Agrippa, and asks him to internalize a modern system of science that had been introduced.

If, instead of this remark, my father had taken the pains to explain to me that the principles of Agrippa had been entirely exploded, and that a modern system of science had been introduced, which possessed much greater powers than the ancient, because the powers of the latter were chimerical, (*Frankenstein*: 42, *Lines*: 3-7)

Victor's family is hold important role in actualizing his ambition of knowledge. Before having been gone to Ingolstadt, actually Victor has own decision to study merely in his hometown, Geneva. However, Victor's father intends him to study to another custom to reach his achievement.

I had hitherto attended the school of Geneva; but my father thought it necessary, for the completion of my education, that I should be made acquainted with other customs than those of my native country (*Frankenstein*:53, *Lines*:1 - 6)

6. Panic Disorder Influences Victor Frankenstein after Developing the Creation of his Achievement Motivation.

Victor suffers one of anxiety disorder that is panic disorder. After accomplishing his creation, he has feelings of terror that strikes suddenly and repeatedly with no warning. He cannot predict when an attack will occur, and many intense anxieties between episodes, worrying when and where the next one will strike. He fears of impending doom or loss of control. He genuinely believes he is having a heart attack or losing his mind or on the verge of death, to know further how anxiety influences his life after accomplishing his creation, let us perceive the following evidences.

The monster as the representation of his creation, makes him runs his life anxiously, he feels terror in his daily life after creating that evil person and he can not control his life. Anxiety begins in Victor after accomplishing his creation to be alive. He awakens at the same moment that the creature awakens. The moment the creature's eyes open, Victor's own eyes are opened to the horror of his project.

... for this I had desired with an ardor that far exceeded moderate. But now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished. And breathless horror disgust filled my hearth. (*Frankenstein*: 62, *Lines*: 24-27)

The monster kills all people close to him, likes his brother William, his friend Henry Clerval. It creates panics disorder that always comes to his mind. For two month Victor lies in a delusion of fever and confusion. He cries out that he is the murderer, and begs his attendants to aid him in apprehending the monster.

... But sleep did not afford me respite from thought and misery; my dreams presented a thousand objects that scared me. Towards morning I was possessed by a kind of nightmare; I felt the friend's grasp in my neck, and could not free myself from it; groans and cries rung in my ears. (*Frankenstein*: 198, *Lines*: 1-12)

This panic is getting increase if he can not create a second monster; the monster is going to kill his wife in the night of his wedding.

... And then I thought again of his words "I will be with you on your wedding night" that was the period fixed for the fulfillment of my destiny. In an hour I should die, and at once satisfy and extinguish his malice. (*Frankenstein*: 182, *Lines*: 1-4)

The terror that is always given to Victor is accomplished. It occurs in the night of Victor wedding. The monster does not kill Victor, but he kills his wife, Elizabeth. He finds Elizabeth lying strangled upon the bed. The print of the monster's finger was still fresh upon her neck and he loses hopes of future happiness. No being in all creation is as miserable as him. Victor has no memory of the time that immediately followed the death of his father. As the result, he takes the revenge to kill the monster till he pursues the monster in the North Pole and meets R Walton.

R Walton saves him from his bad condition during his pursuing the monster. Victor tells all the story of his achievement motivation to him and the consequences that he gets after developing the creation of his achievement motivation. Victor finally passed away after narrating his story.

His voice became fainter as he spoke; and at length, exhausted by his effort, he sunk into silence. About half an hour afterwards he attempted again to speak, but was unable; he pressed my hand feebly, and his eyes closed forever, while the irradiation of a gentle smile passed away from his lips. (*Frankenstein: 235, Lines: 3-7*)

Afterwards, the monster comes to the ship of R Walton. He frankly speaking tells that he has made Victor suffers from accumulating of horror, accumulating of wretchedness and accumulating of despair. The creature ruefully remarks that he does not expect to find any sympathy from R Walton: he then leaves the ship in the darkness of North Pole.

Conclusion

The characteristics of achievement motivated person are proven, Victor can persuade himself to master the science especially chemistry by studying ardently, Victor obtains rewards from his university great esteem and admiration as the result of his ability in making some discoveries of some chemical instruments, Victor also does not seek money for status or wealthy for his life, for him wealthy is lower object of his orientation, and the representation of human being in this case has shown the proof how well he has master natural philosophy as the term that is taken by him.

Victor has a high motivation to achieve; it can be seen from his desire by studying hard that release from his internal drive. Meanwhile, the external drive emerges from his family attention and his lectures that always advise him in mastering natural philosophy.

The success of Victor in mastering natural philosophy is proven by the creation of human being. However, Victor suffers from one anxiety disorder named panic disorder. This panic attacks emerges, since the human being or the monster takes revenge to him as the monster can not live like other human being. He always provides terrors by killing his family, his friend and his beloved wife. Finally, he himself passes away when pursuing the monster till North Pole.

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