

EGO DEFENSE MECHANISM OF GERARD CONLEY AS HOMOSEXUAL IN GERARD CONLEY'S *BOY ERASED: A MEMOIR OF IDENTITY, FAITH AND FAMILY*

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ABSTRACT

This study is concerned with identifying and reviling the internal and external conflicts, the role that the id, ego, and superego play in conflict development, and the kinds of ego defense mechanisms used by Gerard Conley in *Boy Erased: A Memoir* to resolve conflicts he experiences. It utilizes Kenney William's literary theory to convey internal and exterior conflict. This study also applies psychoanalytic theory to discuss the id, ego, superego, and ego defense mechanisms. The outcome suggests that Gerard experienced four types of man vs. the self-conflict. Man vs. Man and Man vs. Society is the external conflicts that Gerard encounters. This study also showed that each conflict has four wishes in Gerard's id: Admitting his sexuality, needing love and seeking love, expressing his sexual identity, and wishing to get freedom. The superego of Gerard causes him to feel guilty and ashamed of his sexuality. The ego works within himself by repressing or postponing the id and prefers to act following the superego. This study disclosed 6 (six) ego defense mechanisms that Gerard employed. It contains sublimation, regression, rationalization, displacement, reaction formation, and intellectualization.

Keyword: Psychoanalysis, Internal and External Conflict, Id, Ego and Superego, Ego Defense Mechanism, *Boy Erased: A Memoir*.

INTRODUCTION

When the self or the ego is tension and unable to resolve the dispute, the ego defense mechanism becomes a mechanism that every person uses. It serves as a strategy to lessen the discomfort of the conflict (Cramer, 2008). In his psychoanalytic theory, Sigmund Freud stated that the defense mechanism created by the ego has several from, such as repression, denial, sublimation, projection, displacement, introjection, regression, and reaction formation. Sigmund Freud argued that the ego needs mechanism of defense to survive (Freud, 2000). As a result, dealing with conflict becomes embedded in human nature. Both can be caused by a character's opposition to themselves, by a character's opposition to other character or their environment. According to Sigmund Freud, a person's conflict is because by the interaction of three different forces: the id, ego, and superego. Desire, which propels or motivates the ego to do action, locates the id. The parent internalizes the superego, which is a moral principle. The entity that will mediate between them is the ego (Siegfried, 2014).

Homosexual people (Lesbian and Gay) still face difficulty to express themselves openly. The traditional norms set boundaries and govern how males are viewed (Thompson et al., 1985). A young boy openly homosexual in his family may encounter difficulties because it is seen as against morality, tradition, and belief. According to Liboro, homosexuals have their perspective and a negative picture of themselves because of how people behave toward lesbians and gay people and their beliefs (McCann et al., 2020). It shows the oppressive conflict that

homosexuals experience. The conflict may cause people to use defense mechanisms. The stress of understanding same-sex attraction and coming out with the conflict is the focus of Butler and Astbury's study, which involved 18 Lesbian and Gay subjects. They employ ego defense mechanism (Butler & Astbury, 2008).

Today, these issues have depicted in movies or novels. *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family* depicts a homosexual adolescent who lives in a religious family. This memoir story clearly shows how Gerard, the main character, struggles with his sexuality in a discriminative and unsupportive environment.

There three problem statement that has been formulated, as follow:

- 1.) What are the internal conflict and external conflict experienced by Gerard Conley as seen in *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family*?
- 2.) How do the id, ego and superego of Gerard Conley contribute to the conflict?
- 3.) What ego défense mechanisms of Gerard Conley are found to overcome the conflict in *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family*?

METHODOLOGY

LITERATURE & MEMOIR

Literature, according to Abram, is strongly tied to artistic and imaginative works like drama, prose fiction, and poetry, among other things. However, literature can also describe a nonfiction literary work typically recognized as a philosophy, history, or science book in a broader meaning (Abrams, 2009). Literature is an art form resulting from the human imagination expressed through written or printed works. Poetry and prose are distinguished in fictional prose, which includes novels and short tales. A literary form based on facts and history, nonfiction works like memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies sometimes incorporate novelistic elements.

A memoir is a straightforward portrayal of personal experiences. Novels and memoirs are both examples of literary art. Sometimes it might be challenging to distinguish between the creative and the factual (Couser, 2011). It is an expressive and sensitive genre (Holmgren, 2003). The purpose of life writing is to preserve and share the author's experiences

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONFLICT

The internal and external conflicts are examined using Kenney's theory of literature. The plot of the story has conflict as an inherent aspect. Thus, the plot's ongoing struggle served to heighten the tension. In fiction, Kenney distinguishes between internal and exterior conflict (Kenney, 1966). The internal conflict pits a character against themselves in a man vs. self-conflict. One or more oppositions might create internal conflicts, such as desire, reality, duty, and belief. A character experiences external conflict at odds with the outside world, which is seen as a barrier. There are three different types of it. First, a conflict between characters that contradicts one another is called "man vs. man" (arguing, debating, abusing, and fighting). Second, the conflict between man and society involves a character who disagrees with the social environment. It is about how social norms and regulations restrict a character's desires and disappoint their goals. It can occur in families, institutions, and social situations and involves other societal issues, including oppression. Thirdly, the conflict between man and nature occurs between characters who experience diseases or natural disasters that go against who they are.

PSYCHOANALYSIS

Psychoanalysis studied how people's minds function. It is a branch of clinical psychology that focuses on the mind's hidden meanings, conflicts, and unconscious mental processes (Kenny, 2017). In other words, psychoanalysis concentrates on or explores how the mind works, which is considered a complex system that experiences conflict. Interpretation is a tool used in psychoanalysis to access, suspect, and bring knowledge about subconscious memories to the conscious mind.

PSYCHE APPARATUES: THE ID, EGO AND SUPEREGO

This study also involves Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, which emphasizes the id, ego, superego, as well as ego defense mechanism. These three organizations in the human mind have various roles but are connected. Conflict is created by this interaction, which also reveals a person's behavior. The instincts and desires that constantly demand and encourage people to be pleased are included in the id. An individual's primary goal, desire, needs, and wants are reflected in the id. The demand is often unrealistic since it is placed in the unconscious (Freud, 1989b). The ego moderates the superego, reality, and the id. By acting on it, the ego can satisfy the id's desires. In addition, the ego has the power to repress and postpone the id in order to prevent punishment and errors. Therefore, realistically, the action makes sense and is realistic. Deal with the superego as well, as this agency is constantly in conflict and tension because it directs the ego to act morally (Ewen, 2014). The superego results from internalizing moral values from a parent, religious, or authority. Internalizing moral values from a parent, religion, or authority leads to the development of the superego. This organization examines and determines whether an individual's thoughts or decisions were correct or incorrect. When the ego acts unacceptably, the superego will punish itself as a feeling of guilt. On the other hand, a person's actions following the social standard can also make them feel proud.(Freud, 1989a).

EGO DEFENSE MECHANISM

The ego defense mechanism is created by the ego when this agency cannot cope with the conflict or anxiety. The ego defense mechanism diverts the unpleasant feeling caused by internal and external pressure (Bateman & Holmes, 2002). Sigmund Freud created various kinds of this unconscious process. Repression is forced the threatening voice to the most unconscious level. This technique may help someone forget the individual unpleasant or traumatic experience. Reaction Formation suppresses a potentially dangerous feeling by displaying the adverse reaction, lowering anxiety. Displacement is a mechanism used to communicate an unwanted emotion through a more secure subject (human, animal, or item) unaffected by the emotion. Projection is employed by linking their undesirable impulses, such as hostility, and believing these feelings belong to other people. By believing the opposite of the truth, which threatens the ego, denial is used to eliminate undesirable thoughts. Rationalization is a mechanism that justifies the unacceptable action using logical reason to decrease the feeling of guilt (Ewen, 2014). Intellectualization avoids threatening thoughts and acts rationally. It separates unpleasant feelings through rational thought and concentrates on people's issues (Cariola, 2017). Undoing is a mechanism that reverses a person's action to get rid of the guilt-inducing emotion (Ewen, 2014). Introjection is a mechanism that people use unintentionally to internalize the beliefs or values of another (Ikiugu & Ciaravino, 2007). Regression is a mechanism used to distract from the conflict's stressors by acting immaturely. Last but not least, sublimation transforms unwanted behaviors like aggression or sexual behavior into more socially acceptable behaviors like sports (Ewen, 2014)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONFLICT

This part will discuss the result of the finding data, which focuses on the internal and external conflict. The result is that Gerard experienced four types of internal conflict and two kinds of external conflict. This finding will be discussed below:

INTERNAL CONFLICT

Internal conflict is a conflict in which there is opposition in an individual's mind. Here, the writer found four types of internal conflict from the data collected. First, the internal conflict faced by Gerard is about struggling to admit his sexuality to his parent. It can be seen in this sentence:

... He had explained to Brandon and the other boy that continuing their sinful behavior would turn them against God, expel them from the Kingdom of Heaven. (Conley, 2016, p. 76)

... I hardly knew what I was doing. I wanted to tell them everything: about why I broke up with Chloe, about how I was just like Brandon. I wanted to tell them, but I didn't have the right words. (Conley, 2016, p. 77)

The above sentence shows how Gerard's desire and reality cause him to endure internal conflict. By discovering Brandon, Chloe's brother, in a bed with other guys and presuming they had engaged in "sinful behavior," Gerard witnesses his father rejecting homosexuality. His family does not support homosexuality in this household. It goes against his wish to tell the truth to them about his sexual orientation in his family. This contradiction shows that Gerard struggles to admit to his parents.

Second, Gerard struggle with his religious belief. It happened when Gerard visited Caleb's college dorm, a senior art student who caught his attention. It can be seen in this sentence:

"Why would God give me so many feelings if he didn't want me to feel them? Why would God be such a jerk?" (Conley, 2016, p. 305)

"I have to go," I said, standing up. Caleb's words were buzzing in my ears. I wanted so badly to believe him, but I was afraid of what would happen if I did.(Conley, 2016, p. 310)

It indicates that Gerard wants to accept Caleb's opinion and thinks that being gay is a gift from God that people are free to experience. Therefore, he aspires to accept his sexuality openly. However, he fears it and rejects Caleb's viewpoint since it contradicts his beliefs. This works against Gerard's desires and beliefs, which causes him internal conflict.

Thirdly, Gerard experiences internal conflict as he struggles with his commitment to erasing his sexuality. It is shown in the following:

Perhaps part of the reason I couldn't sleep well at night was that I'd never, before this moment, truly emptied myself of all sin. Without my Moleskine or my books or video games, stripped down and without distraction, I was forced to confront the ugliest, most shameful parts of myself.(Conley, 2016, p. 83)

It indicates that when Gerard fulfills the Moral Inventory program, he experiences internal conflict. The LIA program now restricts Gerard's life to activities associated with his interest. Additionally, Gerard continues to fulfill his commitment by participating in MI activities, which makes him feel guilty.

The last is Gerard's struggle with his choices to be himself. Following his activity in the LIA program. Gerard believed that the program was unreasonable and that he had lied to his family. It is seen in the following:

“Are you hungry?”

“No.” *I can tell all of this to you later, after the ceremony. I just have to wait for the right moment...*

... “I’ll pull into Sonic. What do you want?” “Just some fries.” *But I’m afraid of losing you. I’m afraid of what I’ll become if I lose you. I’m afraid because I think I’ve already lost God.* (Conley, 2016, p. 223)

It shows Gerard's desire to inform his mother of his own and the LIA program's lies. However, Gerard is also concerned that his parents will reject and not accept homosexuality. His belief that he does not want to lose his relationship with God is also affected. Gerard has believed that his God has already heard and is not responding to his prayer to be pure as a heterosexual. His desire is at odds with reality and his belief, which causes this contradiction.

EXTERNAL CONFLICT

External conflict is conflict which appears outside the character and there is a barrier of the purpose of the character. The writer found two kinds of external conflict Gerard experienced from the data collected: man vs. man and man vs. society.

First this will discuss Gerard faces conflict with the blonde hair boy. The argumentation lies in the activity program. It can be seen in this sentence:

When no one ended the silence, I stood up from my seat. “I’m not angry,” I said. “I don’t understand why I have to be angry.” ...

... “You’re making it complicated. What you feel is anger because your father hasn’t accepted you. You need to come to terms with that. You need to scream at him, tell him how you really feel.” (Conley, 2016, p. 323)

Gerard disapproves of the actions that cause him to scream and be angry at his father. Because he does not feel anger toward him, Gerard feels it goes against his actual feelings. To cure Gerard of his homosexuality, the boy with blonde hair urges him to display anger. Gerard could not accept this idea, which led to the disagreement.

Second, Gerard also faces a conflict between man vs. society. First, in the form of discrimination that he faces in college. It can be seen in this sentence:

When I told the Presbyterian pastor at our college what David had done to the fourteen-year-old boy, she told me to stay quiet. That I had no real evidence, ..., ... I was too embarrassed to admit that I hadn’t been strong enough to fend him off, and I was worried that she would interpret this weakness as a submission to homosexuality. (Conley, 2016, p. 133)

By asking him to remain silent after Gerard reported David's sexual assault of a 14-year-old kid to the Presbyterian pastor in his college, it is proven that Gerard was the victim of discrimination. Gerard does not have any relevant evidence. Therefore, the response appears disappointing. He chooses to keep this a secret rather than notify her if Gerard is also the victim. He fears the pastor would assume that he has bowed to homosexuality and feels ashamed to be a man who cannot resist rape. This results from Gerard's inability to communicate the truth due to the opposing perspective.

THE ID, EGO, SUPEREGO

Sigmund Freud believes that conflict in the human mind results from the interaction between three agencies. The conflict Gerard experiences through psychoanalytic theory is also a result of the interaction between the id, ego, and superego. This part will analyze the contribution of these agencies that caused the conflict.

THE ID

The id is the agency which contain instinct to seek what the individuals wants, desire or motivation. Gerard shows four wishes or desires in each conflict that demand to be satisfied. First, Gerard's id shows the wish to admit his sexuality toward his parent. This wish appears to his parent since he experienced the first puberty. It can be seen in this sentence:

... and I would sometimes even fantasize about the whole place going up in flames, our little family huddled outside while the walls collapsed in slow motion ... It was just that the need to tell my parents something—anything—was overpowering, and at the time I didn't have a proper language for it. (Conley, 2016, p. 58)

How he imagines his house getting devoured by flames shows how intense the impulse to tell his parents is. Since puberty, Gerard has needed to admit as gay, but he has chosen to repress his id and keep this emotion hidden. He wanted to admit his parent was ignored until the instinct kicked up again. It shows how much Gerard wants tell them that he is gay, so they will know and understand why he left Chloe.

Second, Gerard's id needs and seek love from his parent. It shows when Gerard is in conflict with the staff about the activity. Third, Gerard shows how his id needs love from his parent. It can be seen in this sentence:

... I thought of how we were usually only ever a digit or two away from each other, a feat that felt like a miracle. I wanted to tell the group that there were things I'd never understand about my father. There were things that could never be translated into words. But I loved him. (Conley, 2016, p. 323)

It shows that Gerard's demands for fulfillment and parental love are always met. Gerard acts toward others the way his father does. He spends time with his parents, which makes him feel like a miracle and satisfies him. It shows how much Gerard needs his parents' love. Additionally, when the staff asks him to display anger toward his parent to abstain from homosexual behavior, he feels the need to explain to them how much he truly loves his father.

Third, Gerrard's id has the desire to express his sexual identity openly. It can be seen when he spends the night with Caleb in his dorm:

My skin was going to split open. So here it is, I thought. Here was the skin I so wanted to shed, vibrating with anticipation ... reveal a version of me that had lain dormant beneath my church self so many years. (Conley, 2016, p. 305)

It indicates that Gerard is satisfied when he can disclose his identity to Caleb, a homosexual. The falsehood Gerard creates due to his environment and his id must expose sexual identity. It is shown by his desire to reveal his actual skin, which indicates homosexuality freely. Finally, Gerard's id yearns for release.

Four, Gerard's id is wish to get freedom. It can be seen during staying in the LIA program to erase his sexuality. Gerard sees the people in the dining hotel room are enjoying the morning time. Gerard suddenly missed his life before attend to LIA program.

I wanted to join all these other people in their obliviousness, in their laughter, in the casual flip of the newspaper, digest the morning the way I had so many other mornings. (Conley, 2016, p. 83)

It shows the id in Gerard's desire for freedom. When Gerard is still caught up in his morning ritual, he fantasizes about returning to his regular life. It occurs when he observes guests laughing or freely reading newspapers in the hotel's dining room.

THE SUPEREGO

The superego is the agency which judge both right of wrong of individual behaviour. The superego in Gerard is shown by two feelings: pride or shame and guilt. The feeling of pride is shown when Gerard act as society accepts.

First, the superego gives feeling pride when Gerard decides to be a good student in front of his parent and the LIA group.

Despite how pointless I suspected many of LIA's activities were, I took pride in knowing them so well after just one day, in being the first of the newbies to memorize all the steps. It was a role that felt comfortable, being the good student. (Conley, 2016, p. 85)

He is happy to recall every program step to obliterate his sexuality. Gerard feels proud of himself since he did what he really should, according to the superego. The superego of Gerard believes that erasing his sexuality is the right path to take.

Second, the superego gives the feeling of shame and guilt as a punishment for Gerard's feeling as homosexual. It can be seen after the rape he experienced by David. Gerard feels shame and guilt about himself and the environment's reaction:

... I was too embarrassed to admit that I hadn't been strong enough to fend him off, and I was worried that she would interpret this weakness as a submission to homosexuality. (Conley, 2016, p. 133)

It reveals that Gerard feels guilty for being unable to prevent rape, which is the superego's punishment. As a result of Gerard's weakness in self-defense, the superego punishes him. It might have been brought on by internalizing the prevailing male ideal. If the pastor believes Gerard has subordinated his sexuality, he also feels guilty. The guilt is a result of the superego's control over the action of speaking up because it may lead to negative perceptions, such as prejudice toward homosexuality.

The feeling of guilt also appears when Gerard wants to tell his mother about the irrational activity done by the LIA program. It can be seen in this sentence:

"Just some fries." *But I'm afraid of losing you. I'm afraid of what I'll become if I lose you. I'm afraid because I think I've already lost God.* (Conley, 2016, p. 223)

It reveals how Gerard's superego makes him feel bad when he wants to tell his mother. It is brought about by the superego, which recognizes that the behavior is wrong and causes guilt, loss, and rejection of his parent and God.

THE EGO

The ego is between the id, the external world's reality, and the superego. The task is to ensure safety by moderate between these agencies. During the conflict experienced by Gerard, the ego's decision or action tends to postpone and repress the id.

First, how his ego of Gerard represses his id shows when Gerard has a motive to tell his parent about his sexuality. It can be seen in this paragraph:

"I want you to see something," I said ... I wanted to tell them, but I didn't have the right words. I wanted to let them know that something was wrong, that I had been trying to

ignore a part of me but that I wasn't going to ignore it any longer. I was going to fix it. (Conley, 2016, p. 77)

However, the pressure on the superego, which judges him, is too much for the ego to handle when his father rejects homosexuality by expressing displeasure. It is practically hard for him to reveal his sexual orientation because his father is a Baptist preacher and has made it plain that he disapproves of homosexuality. Therefore, Gerard's ego suppresses the id by remaining silent and trying to change his sexuality, which is also impacted by the superego.

Second, Gerard's ego represses the id is also shown when he decides to leave Caleb and follows his parents' decision to erase his sexuality. It can be seen in this sentence:

"I have to go," I said, standing up. Caleb's words were buzzing in my ears. I wanted so badly to believe him, but I was afraid of what would happen if I did. (Conley, 2016, p. 310)

It shows a significant influence Gerard's superego has on his behavior. Even though Gerard feels comfortable with Caleb, his ego decides to leave once he decides to erase his sexuality. He decides to leave because of his guilt about God's punishment. The ego's action during the conflict Gerard experienced tends to postpone and repress the id.

Third, Gerard's ego represses the id by joining the LIA program and following each program. It can be seen when Gerard starts to doubt the activity done in the LIA. Nevertheless, he is still following the rule:

"The more confused you feel, the closer you get to the source of childhood trauma," Smid had said earlier that morning ... I was being carried out by an undertow into shoreless waters, lost in this constant questioning of my past. (Conley, 2016, p. 137)

It comes in for his confusion and sense of emptiness as he tries to fit into the reality of the outside world and the superego's controlling his actions. Still, Gerard gives each task his best effort.

Last, Gerard's ego finally obeys the id to get freedom and decides to leave the LIA program. It can be seen in this sentence:

I wasn't going to cry. I wasn't going to let them make me cry. I kept my eyes on the doorway of the auditorium, never looking back at J.

If I kept focusing on each step, I thought I might have the strength to reach the door. (Conley, 2016, p. 324)

Gerard receives the id that it would be unpleasant for him to yell at his parent. Gerard's ego leaves the program after receiving the right timing and an object to serve as an "exit door" due to the tension in the id. It is evident when Gerard slowly exits the classroom while maintaining his concentration that his ego, which had previously suppressed his desire for freedom, has now obeyed it.

EGO DEFENSE MECHANISM

Ego defense mechanisms protect the self from discomfort caused by tension from the id, the realities of the outside world, or the superego. Gerard's ego develops six different ego defense mechanisms as a result of confrontation with his id, the outside world, and the superego. It includes Sublimation, regression, rationalization, displacement, reaction formation, and intellectualization. These findings will be discussed below:

SUBLIMATION

Gerard's ego adopts sublimation as a running activity as a defense mechanism against the tension brought about by adjusting reality and the superego's command to carry out the activity. It can be seen in this sentence:

The night before, while filling out my Addiction Workbook, I'd gotten so confused by the questions that I'd sneaked out of the hotel room sometime after midnight to jog a few laps around the suburban neighborhood, ... I could concentrate long enough on my confusion to question it. (Conley, 2016, p. 139)

Because the ego cannot identify the childhood trauma that made him gay, doubt and confusion set in. However, the ego must write it so Gerard can carry out the task per the superego's command. The ego uses sublimation to direct his confusion and doubt while feeling confused by making him run. It is evident that following the running action, his feelings become clearer and more focused.

REGRESSION

Regression is Gerard's ego created after the conflict with the staff regarding the program. Even though the ego has obeyed the id to leave the program, Gerard's id is still anger toward the staff. It can be seen in this sentence:

I grappled for the plastic airbag cover in front of me, digging my fingernails into the cracks, tugging ... I pictured the cover as my father's chest: his heart billowing out, exploding, deflating. (Conley, 2016, p. 326)

It shows how Gerard's ego creates regression due to the tension. Gerard pulls and hugs the car's plastic airbag as if it were his father's chest in an immature act. He pretends the plastic airbag on his father's chest is more comfortable and convenient.

RATIONALIZATION

Gerard's ego uses rationalization when he faces conflict with the Presbyterian pastor in the college. It can be seen in this sentence:

... I believed my silence was due punishment. I didn't tell her about what he had done to me, ... (Conley, 2016, p. 132)

As was discussed above, the pastor's reaction to Gerard's report of the rape that David committed left him feeling disappointed, embarrassed, and guilty. Gerard justifies his behavior by claiming that the pastor's order to remain silent is a punishment. This is true, despite Gerard's arguments for why he chose to remain silent. Gerard truly has to speak up since he is a victim. Gerard genuinely uses this justification to get over his feelings of guilt and shame if he has to admit that he was a victim of rape. He has reasonable cause to remain silent in order to avoid feeling ashamed.

DISPLACEMENT

Gerard uses displacement to overcome conflict. Gerard uses displacement when the ego receives tension from the id, which demands to admit his sexuality toward the parent. However, the ego represses the id by keeping silent and trying to fix it.

"I want you to see something," I said.

In the center of the bathtub sat my PlayStation, its two controllers curled up beside it like sleeping cats ...

I slid back the clear plastic shower curtain and turned the knob for the shower... (Conley, 2016, p. 77)

By breaking the PlayStation in the bathtub and overflowing the shower, Gerard's ego releases the tension that the id has built up. His need to acknowledge his sexuality, which he has always suppressed, is the emotion he is experiencing; PlayStation is a safer object.

REACTION FORMATION

Reaction formation is used after Gerard's ego decides to follow the decision of his parent to erase his sexuality. The ego of Gerard starts to develop reaction formation to cover the id in himself. It can be seen in this sentence:

“He’s probably told half the town by now,” my father continued.

He’d probably told people I had tried to sleep with him.

“I don’t care what he tells people,” I said. “He’s not a Christian.” (Conley, 2016, p. 168)

His father asks him that David might have revealed his son's homosexuality to most of the town. David triggers hostility and rage in Gerard's id. Gerard believes David overstated that he tried to sleep with David and informed others about it. Gerard responds by informing his father that he does not care what David says about him to other people. He uses it as a means of concealing his hostility against him.

INTELLECTUALIZATION

After choosing to do well in school rather than giving in to the need to tell his mother the truth to get freedom, The id of Gerard begins to feel angry toward God and cannot control this feeling. As he continued participating in the LIA program, Gerard realized he had not known himself and started developing his intelligence. It is evident in the following:

One thing was certain: I didn’t want to act too quickly, alert the LIA staff to my intentions. I knew they would immediately inform my parents, and my parents would then be forced to suggest that I stay longer ... (Conley, 2016, p. 275)

The ego that faces the tension in the id, which blames God, changes and becomes the demand for freedom. His act can be the intellectualization of Gerard of separating the threatening thought from the id and trying to find a way to leave the LIA program. Nevertheless, he thinks rationalists that he will act as a good student, but the purpose is to get freedom as soon as possible. He predicts that the staff will call his mother if they know, so he acts patiently.

CONCLUSION

The writer might conclude that Gerard, a homosexual living in a religious family, has experienced several conflicts, both internal and external. Using Kenney's theory, the writer identifies two types of external conflicts, such as man vs. man and man vs. society, and four types of internal conflict related to his sexuality. The id, ego, superego, and ego defense mechanism theories developed by Sigmund Freud were employed in this study. As a result, Gerard Conley's id, ego, and superego each contribute, putting him in conflict with how these agencies interact. Gerard's id often represses and postpones ego decisions. In addition, Gerard's strong superego was also absorbed due to his religious upbringing, environment, and Christianity. This investigation can demonstrate that people, particularly homosexuals, employ ego defense techniques to resolve conflicts. Six different types of ego defense processes have been observed in Gerard's case, as described in the memoir, including sublimation, regression, rationalization, displacement, reaction creation, and intellectualization.

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