



“How Does the Dictatorship and Democratic Leadership Styles Affect the Two Main Characters in *Lord of the Flies*?”

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ABSTRACT

This paper demonstrates to which extent the dictatorship and democratic leadership styles affect the fates and the decisions of the two main characters in *Lord of the Flies* namely, Ralph and Jack.

It first analyzes the relationship between the psychoanalysis theory and leadership styles in *Lord of the Flies*. Then, it provides few definitions and viewpoints about the democratic and tyrant leaders. Following that, it relates Ralph’s democratic leadership and the dictatorship rule of Jack to the Freud’s divisions of personality types in his psychoanalytic theory. Finally, it clarifies how Ralph’s Ego and Jack’s Id affect their leadership behaviors, decisions and outcomes on the island.

1. Introduction

The modern novelist William Golding, who earned the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983, wrote *Lord of the Flies*. It was first published in 1954; this novel had become the best sellers in the world. Moreover, this success had a great impact on the writer's creative style since he dealt with the creation of the utopian and dystopian societies at the same time by two characters. Further, Golding discussed leadership symbols, allegories and adventure story (Davis, 2019, p. 252)

Moreover, *Lord of the Flies* represents the change into savagery of a group of English schoolboys portrayed on a desert island without adult supervision owing to a plane crash. As the young boys, manage to take care of themselves and anticipate the hope

to survive. However, the boys are soon controlled by the fear in their hearts. Therefore, this island is divided into two groups; the first one represents a civilization, which is led by Ralph, who insists on civilization values. Whereas, the second group characterizes barbarity which is led by Jack; who wishes to enjoy freedom and get the benefit from hunting and brutality. (Bloom, 2012, p. 7)

Furthermore, the schoolboys are rescued from slavery to be obedient on the island. According to Mukherjee and Purohit, the text embodies multiple interpretations rather than just a theoretical battle between darks and violent unconscious forces namely, the Id and the Superego. In addition, the characters of Jack, Piggy, Ralph, and Simon reveal a struggle between democracy of Ralph and Piggy and the dictatorship in sociological analysis. In this way, the conflict between Ralph and Jack exemplifies the clash between Apollonian pleas for presenting ego and Dionysian rage to break it. They conclude that this novel depicts the myth of childish innocence and disproves our belief that children are divine. As the same time, it discusses Michel de Montaigne's theory of power and authority. (Wu, 2009, p. 119)

This paper diagnoses the signs of dictatorship and democratic leadership styles and how do they influence the behaviors of Ralph and Jack on the island.

1.1 Psychoanalysis Theory and Leadership Styles

Sigmund Freud promoted psychoanalytic theory at the end of the nineteenth century from 1885 to 1939. As it began in Europe first and later spread throughout the world. It is primarily concerned with comprehending the internal part of the individual's mind to solve psychological problems. (Schultz, 2017, p. 286)

Additionally, the psychoanalytical theory is used as a remedy for the psychological difficulties of the people. It could be related to different aspects of human life. This theory allows people to realize their unconscious desires, their hidden inclinations, to recognize their flaws and rebuild their self-confidence. Freud made this theory an innovative therapy through negotiation and his openness. As he noticed that the primary reasons for these psychological illnesses are not obvious, he thought that the solution is to make an experiment; in which he conversed with those patients and

listened to them. He freed them to speak out about whatever concerns and worries that came to their minds. (McLeod, 2019)

Equally important, Golding's *Lord of the Flies* is directly associated to the psychological aspects of the humans. It investigates the issue of evilness from different perspectives. Further, it could be an overview of Freud's psychoanalytic theory. (Atarsia, 2018, pp. ,22-23)

To explain, Ralph was an elected Leader. The boys are collected together for an assembly at the beginning of the novel. It is at this gathering that Ralph is elected as leader. As Ralph was the one to blow the conch that was used to call everyone for a meeting. This action revealed the leadership skills in him or at least someone whom people will initially listen to. In addition, Ralph is concentrated on building a strong plan to survive the deserted island. He is the most active to initiate a plan to survive among other boys. His call for everyone to contemplate a way out and unite could signify the first sign in him as a leader. (Alida, 2017)

As he states, "Listen, everybody. I've got to have time to think things out. I can't decide what to do straight off. If this isn't an island we might be rescued straight away. So, we've got to decide if this is an island " (Flies, 2009, p. 22)

Once they decide to escape the abandoned island, they set a fire at the top of a mountain to increase the opportunity of being seen by the boats. Ralph holds to the idea of escape and tries to keep the fire going throughout the story, even when the main responsibility shifted to Jack. One major difference between Ralph and Jack could be in the desires as leaders. Ralph wanted to keep the fire going in order to survive the island. While Jack was mainly having fun and not doing any advantageous action to help the rescue plan to succeed. (Posey, 2017, p. 1)

Consequently, it can be argued that according to psychological theory of Freud, the key actions of Ralph and Jack reveal their inner thoughts and intentions. Ralph's persistence of surviving himself and other boys determine his abilities as a successful

and loyal leader. In contrary, Jack's carefreeness and selfishness reveal his dishonesty and failure as a leader.

2. Materials and methods

This paper uses a qualitative research model. It mainly explores the leadership styles through the lens of psychoanalytical approach in *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. It does this by choosing suitable passages and occurrences that would reveal the individual duties and behaviors towards leadership. The research is primarily concerned with the psychoanalytical sides of the two main characters namely; Ralph and Jack in relation with their leadership attitudes.

2.1 What is the difference between the leadership and a leader?

Firstly, according to Joseph Rost, leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. Great leaders possess a profound social intelligence, a keenness for change. Above all, a vision that allows them to set their sights on the things that truly merit attention. In one hand, Leadership is frequently regarded as one of the vital and effective responses to the nearly global challenges and phenomenon.

Probably, leadership can be defined in a variety of ways. As Rost defines leadership as "an influence relationship among leaders and collaborators who intend significant changes that reflect their mutual purposes" (Antonio Marturano, 2007, p. 3)

While Kouzes and Posner believe it is "the art of mobilizing others to want to struggle for shared aspirations" (Associates., 2004) Moreover, these and other definitions reveal common themes of influence, change, and leader-follower collaboration. Day and Antonakis (2012) clarified that the leadership procedure includes the leader's personality and manners, the follower's awareness of the leader and the context within which the interaction takes place. (Ghazali, 2015, p. 149)

While Warren Bennis once stated that "leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality" (Mannan, 2019, p. 2). Meantime, According to John C. Maxwell, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and reveals the way" (Sanfillppo, 2019)

Whereas, Morgan Jacob believes that a leader is a person who influences a group of people towards the achievement of a goal. Further, the leader works on the principles, purposes in an individual and communal level. Along with that, the leader is someone who can see how things can be improved and gathers people to move toward that better vision. (Morgan, 2020, p. 2)

Hence, it can be said that leaders work toward making their vision a reality by being able to motivate people and prioritizing their wellness. In addition, one can reckon that leaders ought not to come from the same family or walk in the same footsteps. Future leaders may be more diverse, bringing with them a variety of viewpoints. Others may disagree with this definition. The most important point is that organizations 'internal definitions of leadership are consistent and these terms are related to each other either directly or indirectly.

2.2 Psychoanalytical Theory and Leadership Styles in *Lord of the Flies*

According to Ryenolds, Ralph's leadership style in *Lord of the Flies* is more democratic and egalitarian. He respects everyone's opinion, distributes work fairly among the boys, and protects those who are vulnerable. Ralph is a good role model. However, he had spent a hard time motivating the boys to complete their assignments. (Ryenolds, 2020).

Ralph could be the best representative of the Ego Personality, which Freud defined as the ego progresses from the id and confirms that the desires of the id can be stated in a manner adequate in the actual world. (Cherry, 2019) As Ralph acts as a responsible gatherer of the boys and he wills to take action for the good of all. His rationale is his core impulse on how to find a way to escape the deserted island.

Jack might be symbolic of the Id Personality, which Freud defined. As Freud explains the Id as the group of "unknown and unknowable forces" that affects the ego, the natural and animal side of our being. (Dion, 2012, p. 92) Jack is a ruthless tyrant who leads in a dictatorial manner. He employs fear, intimidation, and threats. The moment Ralph blows into it, the boys are scattered together. As a sequence, it is a golden time that makes Ralph appear to be the clear choice for a leader. Therefore, it is easy to

understand why the boys sneak towards him; their first impression was a reason for setting him, "The conch trailing from one hand, his head bowed on his knees" (Golding, *Lord of the Flies*, 2016).

Eventually, it can be said that Ralph demonstrates a clear image of confidence and strength. Ralph's Ego promotes building a powerful and rational personality, and therefore it positively influences the other people in the island to follow him. While the actions of Jack could be the result of his carefreeness and irrationality, which is best described in the psychoanalysis theory of Freud. Jack's irrational character and violence aroused fear and created uncivilized groups of people on the island.

2.3 Ralph as a Democratic Leader

According to Kendra Cherry, the democratic leader is the responsible person in deciding who stays in the group and who participates in the decision-making process. Further, Cherry adds that the democratic leadership style has been found to be one of the most effective ways of ruling. It leads to higher productivity, better contributions from group members, and increasing group morale. (Kandra, 2021) Moreover, Lee states that a democratic leader lets various people contribute in the decision-making process. This category of leadership can be seen in a wide variety of contexts, from businesses to education to governments. (Lee, 2020) However, according to Srivastava, a democratic leader invites teammates to engage in decision-making and provide input. Although the majority of decisions are made by the leader, he or she has the ultimate word. (Srivastava, 2021)

Hence, it can be stated that Ralph's performance during the story incidents portray the character of a democratic leader. As he suggests to the boys to elect a leader by voting in an autonomous process. This is a sign of a democratic organization that Ralph wished to apply on the island. Additionally, after the election, Ralph is the selected leader on the island and he makes public speeches by using the conch shell to gather the boys.

However, Ralph's democratic rule may have also weakened him to fight back and resist his opponents. To illustrate, when Jack challenges Ralph's authority, he is in most cases unwilling to fight back and use violence. Perhaps he could challenge Jack

physically and defeat him last of completely, whereas he did not. This attitude could also be a weakness in Ralph's leadership character as he could use negotiation if not force to come to an agreement with the other opposing party. Finally, he decides to escape the brutality and barbarism of Jack and fails in retrieving the civilization values to the island.

2.4 Jack's Savagery and Dictatorship

According to Catherine S, dictatorship is a type of government wherein one person or a small group of people use absolute power in all the political decisions. While dictatorships are forms of government in some countries, dictatorships are seen as dangerous and cruel by non-dictator régimes due to the way they treat their residents. (Catherine, 2020)

Additionally, Keith Miller states, "a dictator leader tends to make decisions that are based on their own moral codes. They combine their experiences, observations, and ideas together to create judgments. These judgments are then used to maintain absolute control over the group, often using rewards and punishments to generate loyalty". (Miller, 2019)

However, according to Longley a dictator is a political leader who uses absolute power over a part of the world. Dictatorships are countries ruled by dictators. Modern dictators, from Adolf Hitler to Kim Jong-un, are regarded as among the most ruthless and dangerous rulers in the history. Moreover, the phrase was first implemented to magistrates of the ancient Roman Republic who were given extraordinary powers temporarily to deal with emergencies. (Longly, 2019)

Therefore, Jack is the opposite personality of Ralph in the novel and he represents a world of hunting, tactics and tyranny. It can be stated that Jack represents a tyrannical leader and a realm of savagery and bloodshed. He takes pleasure in beating and killing more than eating meats as Hassan Al-Saidi¹ states "He has outwitted living things forced their will upon it and taken away its life like satisfying drink" (Al-Saidi¹, 2011, p. 7).

His barbarism reaches its peaks as he orders the hunters not only to kill pigs only but also to kill his companions, namely Simon, Piggy and nearly Ralph. As Alastair Niven puts it: "Jack represents more completely than anyone else in the novel the theme of

reversion savagery and he finds that behind the who covers of point and mask. He can accept more self-confidence” (Niven, 2010, p. 48).

As Golding describes the dictatorship in the personality of Jack as,

"He sits up upon a long throne painted and garlanded like an idol. There were piles of meat on green makes on renal leaves near him and fruit and coconut shells full of drink and power lay on brown swell on his sore arms authority sat on his shoulder chattered in his ear like an ape" (Golding, Lord of the Flies, 2021)

Hence, it can be said Jack's fury and ferociousness reaches the climax in the novel. He portray a character of a dictator leader as he seizes the absolute power and maintains control throughout the story over his followers. The Id character of Jack does not only reveal to us how far the human desires and actions could go when they are set free. Nevertheless, as Kristen Olsen explains that if we set the story in the context of its social background of world war II, it is not hard to find out that the two main characters in the novel are based on the politicians in that era. To explain, Perhaps Ralph's personality is close to Chamberlain and Jack to Hitler. Although this sort of comparison is seemingly surprising to us, yet it is reasonable. Chamberlin was a British prime minister before the war who took a policy of opposition towards Hitler's aggression and violence in his diplomatic party, which finally caused the greatest tragedy in the history of the world. (Kirsten, 2000, p. 23)

Finally, we can argue that Golding's novel represents the Ego and Id types of personalities sketched by Sigmund Freud. As Ralph always attempts at problem solving using rational decisions and communal voting on the different matters. His use of conch shell as a leader is probably a symbol of democracy and unity. While Jack's leadership and behaviors depicts the Id character in him. As he continuously uses surveillance and violence to make his decisions work and push people to follow his words. His dictator kind leadership reveal to us how human ambitions, greed, and lead to creating a barbaric type of personality and a community free from peace and civilization values.

2.6 Conclusion

It can be concluded that in *Lord of the Flies* there are two kinds of leadership personalities namely, democratic and leadership. These two styles of leadership are sketched through the two main characters in the novel whom are democratic leader Ralph and Jack, the tyrant leader. Moreover, Ralph wishes to create a utopian society ruled by democratic principles. Whereas, Jack attempts at creating a dystopian society that is governed in savage and uncivilized method. It can be argued that uncivilized instinct of Jack comes from his Id's irrational characteristics. While Ralph's ego behaviors could be the symbol of democracy and civilization. Finally, although the other boys were divided in dissimilar group at the beginning of the novel and they have elected Ralph to be their leader. They did not follow him as a leader until the end of the novel. Perhaps this was due to, in some circumstances, Ralph's weak personality and indecisiveness. As a result, the weakness of Ralph's personality as a leader changed the mindset of the boys to accept Jack as their leader, which led to their downfall and devastation.

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پوخته

ئەو تووژبەنەوێهێه کۆبیر دەخاتە سەر شیوازەکانی سەرکردایەتی دیکتاتۆری و دیموکراسی که کاردەکاتە سەر چارەنوس و بڕیارەکانی که سایەتیه سەرەکیەکانی رۆمانی گەورە می‌شەکان، که ئەوانیش رالف و جاکن. تووژەر له سەرەتادا پەيوەندی نیوان تیۆری دەروونشیکاری و شیوازەکانی سەرکردایەتی له رۆمانی گەورە می‌شەکان شیدەکاتەو. دواتر تووژەر باسی چەند پیناسە و تیرپوانینیک ی شیوازەکانی سەرکردایەتی دەکات. هاوکات، ئەو پەيوەندی به ههیه که رالف سەرکردەیهکی دیموکراته و جاکیش سەرکردەکی دیکتاتۆره به گوێرهی دابه‌شکاری جوهرەکانی که سایەتی تیۆری دەروونشیکاری زانای دەروونناس فرۆید. له کۆتایدا، ئەو باسی ئەو دەکات چۆن خو ویستی رالف و خو پەرستی جاک کاریگەری له سەر رهفتاری سەرکردایەتی، بڕیارەکان و دەرئەنجامەکانی ناو دورگه که هه‌بووه.

الملخص

هذه الورقة تتناول تأثيرية الدكتاتورية؛ فضلاً عن أساليب القيادة الديمقراطية على مصائر وقرارات الشخصيتين الرئيسيتين رالف و جاك. هذا، وفي البدء تحلل هذه الورقة البحثية العلاقة بين نظرية التحليل النفسي وأساليب القيادة في فيلم Lord of the Flies. ، ومن ثم تقدم نبذة مختصرة من التعريفات ووجهات النظر حول القيادة الديمقراطية والطاعة، ثم تعالج مسألة بقيادة رالف الديمقراطية والحكم الدكتاتوري لجاك، وكذلك انقسامات فرويد لأنواع الشخصية في نظريته في التحليل النفسي. وفي النهاية، بينت الورقة أثر هوية القيادة لرالفا و جاك على سلوكياتهم القيادية وقراراتهم ونتائجهم على الجزيرة.