

Psychoanalysis: Neurotic Needs of “Shigeo Kageyama” in the Manga Mob Psycho 100

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Abstract. The discussion in the research on the neurotic needs of Shigeo Kageyama, the protagonist character from the Japanese webcomic Mob Psycho 100. Shigeo is portrayed as a teenager with psychic abilities who is still going through his puberty phase. The aim of this research is to describe Shigeo's neurotic needs using Karen Horney's psychoanalytic theory. The research method used in this study is qualitative descriptive research method, which is a research method that utilizes qualitative data and is described descriptively. Based on the analysis results, it is known that Shigeo's needs include the need for affection, a partner, life restrictions, and personal achievement, etc.

Keywords: horney, mob, neurotic, needs, psychoanalysis

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Manga (漫画, まんが) is one of the literacy media in the form of comics or graphic novels originating from Japan (Merriam 2009). The word "manga" comes from 漫画 (まんが), consisting of the kanji 漫 (まん, man) which means irregular or free, and 画 (が, ga) which means picture or brush strokes. Thus, the literal meaning of manga is "free drawings" or "irregular strokes" (Thompson 2007). Japanese popular culture, or pop culture, has successfully gained international attention (Yolana 2010). The popularity of manga stems from the diversity of types and genres read by almost everyone of all ages (Norris 2011, 252). Through the diversity of ages, various types of manga emerge categorized according to the demographic age of the readers such as Shōjo manga, Shōnen manga, and Seinen manga. The word Shōnen (少年, しょうねん) means "young boy", which is then used to categorize the target demographic group with an age range of 9 to 18 years old and specifically male gender (McCarthy 2014). One of the manga categorized as Shōnen demographic is Mob Psycho 100. Mob Psycho 100 tells the story of a teenage boy named Shigeo Kageyama, nicknamed "Mob", who has extremely powerful esper or psychic abilities. However, this power can become uncontrollable if Shigeo does not suppress his emotions since childhood, which then leads Shigeo to grow up as a teenager who always suppresses his feelings, resulting in a different personality from other children.

As stated by Wiyatmi (2011), the content of literary works reflects the life of society so that the characters in literary works can be analyzed using the help of psychological science. Not exempt from Mob Psycho 100 manga with the main character Shigeo Kageyama. Shigeo Kageyama's personality of always suppressing his feelings makes the author interested in researching the neurotic needs possessed by Shigeo using Karen Horney's psychoanalytic theory. The purpose of this study is to describe the neurotic needs present in the character of Shigeo in the manga Mob Psycho 100..

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Karen Horney was a former follower of Freudian theory who later developed different ideas that are considered radical by other experts compared to Freud's thoughts (Alwisol, 2009; 141). According to

Alwisol (2009; 141), Horney developed a procedure for holistic personality recognition by considering the human mind in its entirety in terms of experience and totality.

Basic Anxiety dan Basic Hostility

Fear is the root of basic anxiety, arising from an increased sense of danger and helplessness in a hazardous world. The aspect of hostility originates from anger, resulting from anticipating danger and developing suspicion towards others. Horney's theory of neurosis serves as the foundation for psychological disorders that trap individuals in endless repetitive patterns of thought, leading to increasingly suppressed and unproductive behaviors over time (Alwisol, 2009; 142,143).

Interpersonal Conflict

Conflict is a natural part of human life, often arising from opposing forces. The difference between normal conflict and neurotic conflict lies in the level of defense used. Normal individuals use various strategies to cope with rejection, hostility, and competition, while neurotic individuals compulsively use unproductive defense strategies. Individuals with basic anxiety may start life with severe conflicts between security and emotional freedom. Horney in Alwisol (2009: 144) proposed 10 neurotic needs, which arise from efforts to find solutions to disturbances in human relationships.

The need for affection and acceptance

An irrational urge to fulfill social norms and win the approval of others. Individuals are highly sensitive to rejection and hostility from others, as well as feelings of hostility within themselves, and strive to behave according to others' expectations in hopes of being well accepted by them.

The need for a partner willing to take over life

Attempting to connect with a strong partner due to a lack of self-confidence. Fear of being alone and abandoned is one of these desires, along with excessive gratitude for affection.

The need to restrict life to a narrow border

Often, neurotics try to adapt by placing themselves last and only accepting minimal outcomes. They belittle their own abilities and are reluctant to seek help from others.

The need for power

The two greatest needs of neurotic individuals are power and affection. The desire for power, the need for it, the worship of it, the contempt for weakness, and the need for prestige and possession—these indicate a drive to reject feelings of stupidity or weakness and to control others—are typically accompanied by a desire to dominate others.

The need to exploit others

Afraid of using authority excessively and using intelligence to exploit and dominate others. Besides fearing being exploited, neurotics often choose people based on how they can be utilized or manipulated.

The need for social recognition and prestige

The need to gain the highest level of respect from society. Many individuals with fundamental anxiety strive to become the most important, number one, or the center of attention.

The need to be an admirable person

Due to their excessive self-confidence, neurotic individuals seek admiration for this image rather than their true selves. Continuous growth of self-esteem also requires constant reinforcement from the acceptance and admiration of others.

The need for personal ambition and achievement

Due to feelings of insecurity, they force themselves to be the best and feel the need to outdo others to prove their superiority.

The need for self-sufficiency and independence

When dissatisfied neurotics are unable to form loving and satisfying relationships with others, they often isolate themselves, cultivating a reluctance towards attachment, and lead a lonely life. They demonstrate their ability to survive without others by having a strong desire for solitude.

The need for perfection and flawlessness

Neurotics demonstrate superiority and self-esteem by relentlessly pursuing perfection. They strive tirelessly to hide their flaws from others because they fear making mistakes.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this study is qualitative descriptive method. Utilizing the understanding from Moloeng (2005:4) that qualitative descriptive method involves research using data in the form of words and images. *Mob Psycho 100* focuses its story around the psychological conditions and emotions of Shigeo Kageyama. The data collection technique employed involves gathering dialogue excerpts and scenes related to the conditions and emotions that demonstrate Shigeo Kageyama's neurotic needs, and classifying the data according to Karen Horney's theory of neurotic needs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of the analysis of Shigeo Kageyama's neurotic needs in *Mob Psycho 100* indicates that Shigeo has 5 main neurotic needs: the need for affection and acceptance, the need for a partner willing to take over his life, the need to confine life within narrow limits, the need to be admired, and the need for personal ambition and achievement.

Need for affection and acceptance



茂夫：こうやって罪れる僕だつて本当の僕せ、まだ認めたくないの？

Shigeo : *Kō yatte abareru bokudatte hontō no bokuda. Mada mitometakunai no?*

Shigeo : My wild movements like this, this is the real me. Are you still unwilling to acknowledge my existence?

The scene and dialogue excerpt depict the emotions that Shigeo has suppressed for years, which finally manifest into a new consciousness attempting to take over Shigeo's original body.

The dialogue occurs within Shigeo's mind. Shigeo's emotions are trying to gain recognition from Shigeo, who has been trying to suppress his emotions for years. This scene illustrates interpersonal conflict between Shigeo and his own mind, showing Shigeo's self-rejection. This action is an irrational attempt for him to be accepted by those around him, evolving into self-rejecting behavior.

Need for a partner willing to take over life



靈幻：え、お前、俺が困るから すぐ来いって言ったら 入部しないの？

茂夫：ええ、まあ。 約束は先に した方が優先 じゃないですか。

靈幻：お前は別に 入部したい訳じゃ ないのか？

茂夫：そーですね

靈幻：じゃあすぐ来いよ。帰宅部の下校の早さを見せつけてやれ。

Reigen: *e , omae , ore ga komarukara sugu koi tte ittara nyūbu shinai no ?*

Shigeo: *ē , mā . yakusoku wa saki ni shita hō ga yūsen janaidesu ka*

Reigen: *omae wa betsuni nyūbu shitai wake janai no ka ?*

Shigeo: *so desune .*

Reigen: *jā sugu koiyo . kitakubu no gekō no haya sa o misetsuketeyare .*

Reigen: So you want me to say that I need you here now and you don't want to join?

Shigeo: I promised you first, so you have my priority, right?

Reigen: But you also don't really want to join this club, do you?

Shigeo: Yeah, that's right.

Reigen: Well then, show them how fast a non-club kid can get home from school.

The scene and dialogue excerpt revolve around Shigeo calling Reigen because he is reluctant to accept an invitation to join a club.

Based on the dialogue, Shigeo's lack of self-confidence is evident as he hesitates to make a firm decision. Instead, he calls Reigen to seek a strong reason to decline the club invitation, thus relying on Reigen to take over the interactions he has with others. Shigeo's attitude of asking for Reigen's help to convey his refusal to join the club indicates that Shigeo has a neurotic need for a partner willing to take over his life.

Need to restrict life to a narrow border



律: 事故の責任を 背負いこんでから 兄さんは変わった。怒ったり 笑ったり・・・小さい頃は もっと気持ちを、表に出してたのに・・・自分から超能力をせることもなくなってしまった・・・

Ritsu: jiko no sekinin o seoikonde kara nisan wa kawatta . okottari warattari ... chīsai koro wa motto kimochi o , hyō ni dashitetanoni ... jibun kara chō nōryoku o miseru koto mo nakunatteshimatta ...

Ritsu: After taking responsibility for the incident at that time, you changed. You laughed hysterically... When we were kids, you showed more of your emotions... In the end, you didn't even let people see your psychic powers...

The scene and monologue depict Ritsu attempting to calm down Shigeo, who is unconscious and rampaging, posing a danger to many people.

Ritsu tries to remind Shigeo that since the incident they experienced together, where Shigeo unintentionally hurt Ritsu while trying to protect him from a malicious individual, Shigeo has always suppressed his emotions. The monologue illustrates Shigeo's emotional containment behavior to gain a sense of security and control, yet it creates a constant state of suppressed emotions. This is compounded by Shigeo's low self-esteem regarding his own abilities.

Need to be an admirable person



茂夫: み・・・見られてる・・・? すれ違う女子がこっちの方をチラチラ見ている?・・・見てる・・・間違いなく

茂夫: ちょっと モジモジした感じとか・・・隣の人とヒソヒソ話しながらこっちを見てる・・・

Girl 1: 影山君 カッコいいね・・・

Girl 2: うん・・・律君 爽やかで・・・

茂夫: これはもしかして・・・

Girl 3: シゲオ君 カッコいい・・・(幻聴)

茂夫: やっぱり・・・いや・・・間違いなく・・・いな・・・モテてる・・・

Shigeo: mi ... mirareteru ...? surechigau joshi ga kocchi no hō o, chirachira miteiru ? ... miteru ... machigainai

Shigeo: chotto mojimoji shita kanji toka ... tonari no hito to hisohiso hanashinagara kocchi o miteru

Girl 1: kageyama kun kakkoīne ...

Girl 2: un ... tadashi kun sawayaka te ...

Shigeo: kore wa moshikashite ...

Girl 3: shigeo kun kakkoī ... (genchō)

Shigeo: iya ... machigainaku ina ... moteteru ...

Shigeo: They... they're looking at me? Is that girl glancing at me? She's looking at me... no doubt about it...

Shigeo: He looks a bit shy... He's chatting with his neighbor while looking at me...

Girl 1: Kageyama is so cool...

Girl 2: Yes... Ritsu looks very handsome.

Shigeo: is this real ?

Girl 3: Shigeo, you're so cool... (imagination)

Shigeo: No... there's no mistake... I'm popular.

The scene depicts Shigeo feeling that he is becoming popular because many girls are talking to him.

As Shigeo and his younger brother walk home together, many girls look in their direction. Shigeo, who lacked confidence when he was younger, now feels popular and tries to show inflated self-esteem

without introspection and rational perspective. Shigeo's attitude demonstrates the need to be admired by others for recognition and acceptance.

Need for personal ambition and achievement



茂夫: 僕は自分を 変えるために、肉体改造部に入部しました。

Shigeo: boku wa jibun o kaeru tame ni , nikutai kaizōbu ni nyūbu shimashita .

Shigeo: I joined the body improvement club to change myself.

The scene and monologue depict Shigeo exercising with the body improvement club members to have an athletic and fit body.

Starting with Shigeo's disappointment upon seeing the girl he likes paying attention to another guy who can run faster than him, Shigeo eventually joins the sports club to attain an athletic and fit body, hoping to match the man who caught the attention of the girl he likes. This illustrates Shigeo's neurotic need for personal ambition and achievement, driven by feelings of disappointment and inferiority.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that Shigeo Kageyama has 5 neurotic needs, namely the need for affection and acceptance, the need for a partner willing to take over his life, the need to confine life within narrow limits, the need to be admired, and the need for personal ambition and achievement. In the need for a partner willing to take over his life, Shigeo requires someone like Reigen who can take over aspects of life that Shigeo cannot handle due to his lack of confidence. Shigeo's need for affection and acceptance is manifested in his behavior of emotional restriction to be accepted by those around him, resulting in strong feelings of self-hatred. In the need to confine life within narrow limits, Shigeo believes... For the need to be admired, Shigeo exercises vigorously to make his body look more athletic, stemming from feelings of disappointment and inferiority he felt as a child. Shigeo's neurotic need to be admired by others, stemming from his low self-confidence, leads to inflated self-esteem without self-introspection. In Shigeo's need to confine himself, stemming from insecurity, he restricts his emotions to feel secure, ultimately leading to devaluing his own abilities and a constant sense of suppression.

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